

# Advancing **Windows** Security

Bluehat Shanghai 2019 | David "dwizzle" Weston | Microsoft OS Security Group Manager

早上好 上海！



## Windows is evolving....

### Windows for PCs

Familiar desktop experience  
Broad hardware ecosystem  
Desktop app compat



### Windows on XBOX

10 Shell experience  
Unique security model  
Shared gaming experience



### Windows on IOT

Lean core platform  
Azure connected  
Runtimes and Frameworks



### Windows for ...

Form factor appropriate  
shell experience  
Device specific scenario  
support



## One Core OS

Base OS  
App and Device Platform  
Runtimes and Frameworks

**All code executes  
with integrity.**

**User identities  
cannot be  
compromised,  
spoofed, or stolen.**

**Attacker with  
casual physical  
access cannot  
modify data or  
code on the device.**



**Malicious code  
cannot persist on a  
device.**

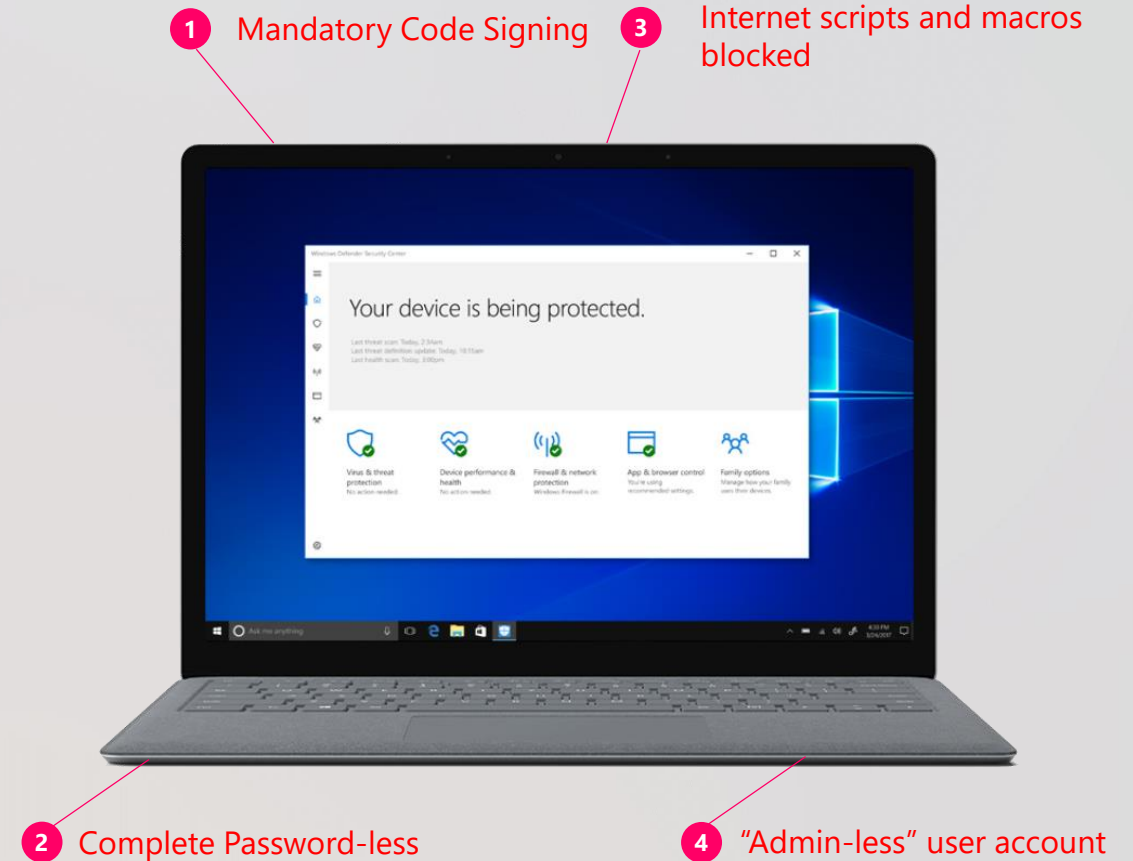
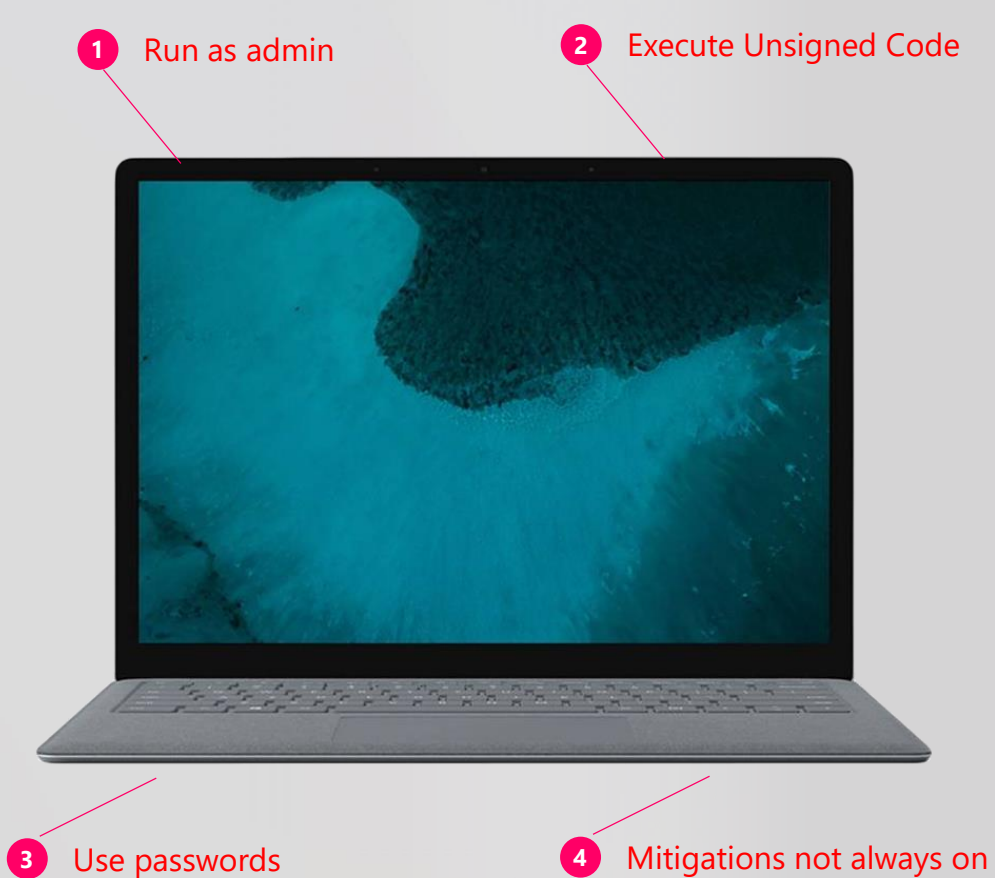
**Violations of  
promises are  
observable.**

**All apps and  
system  
components have  
only the privilege  
they need.**



# Increasing Security

Windows 10 S



**10 S: Millions of installs, no widespread detections of malware**

**All code executes with integrity.**

## Windows 10 S

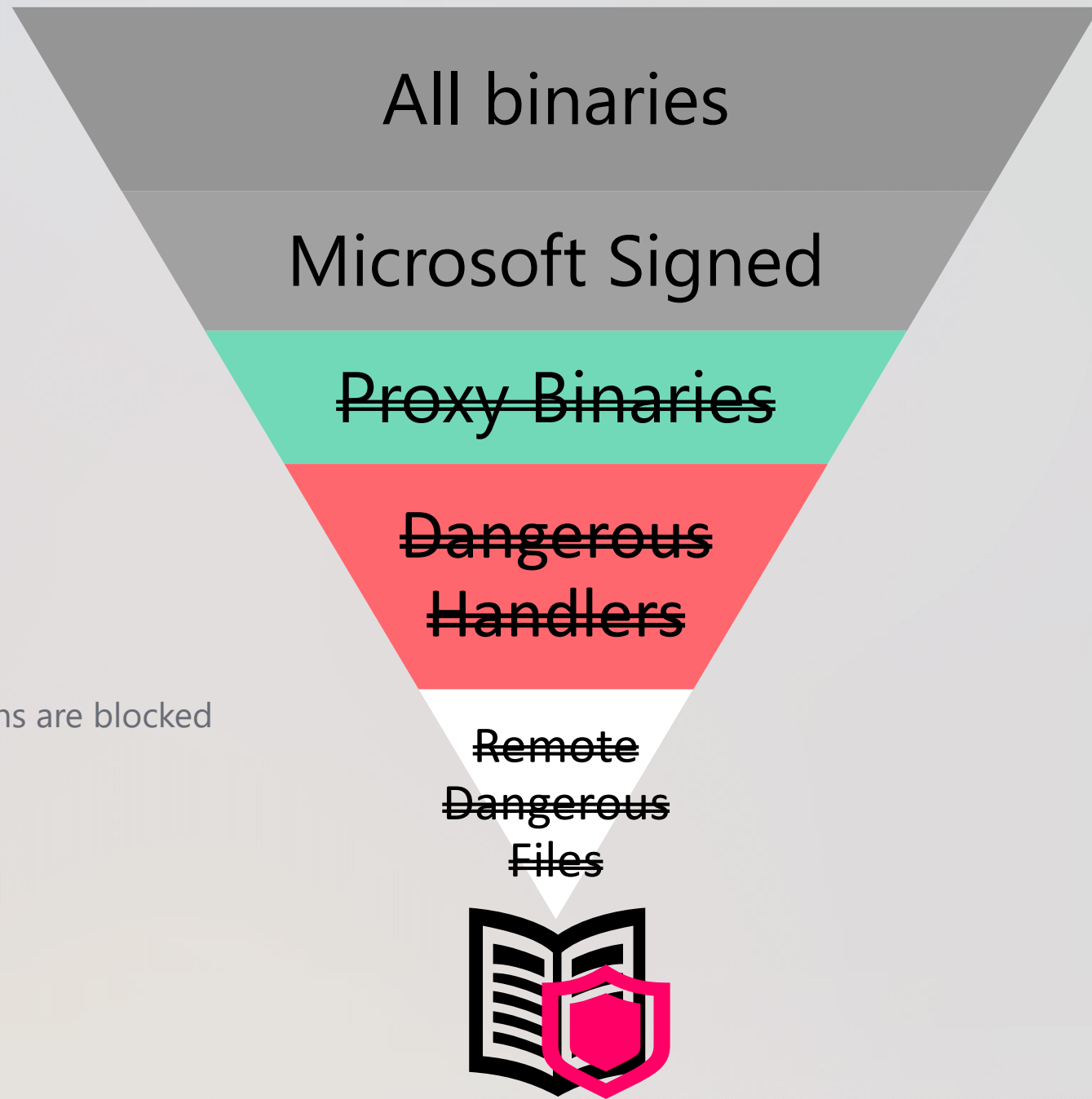
### Code Integrity Improvements

CI policy removes many "proxy" binaries

Store signed only apps (UWP or Centennial)

"Remote" file extensions that support dangerous actions are blocked

Remote Office Macros are blocked by default



## Windows 10 S

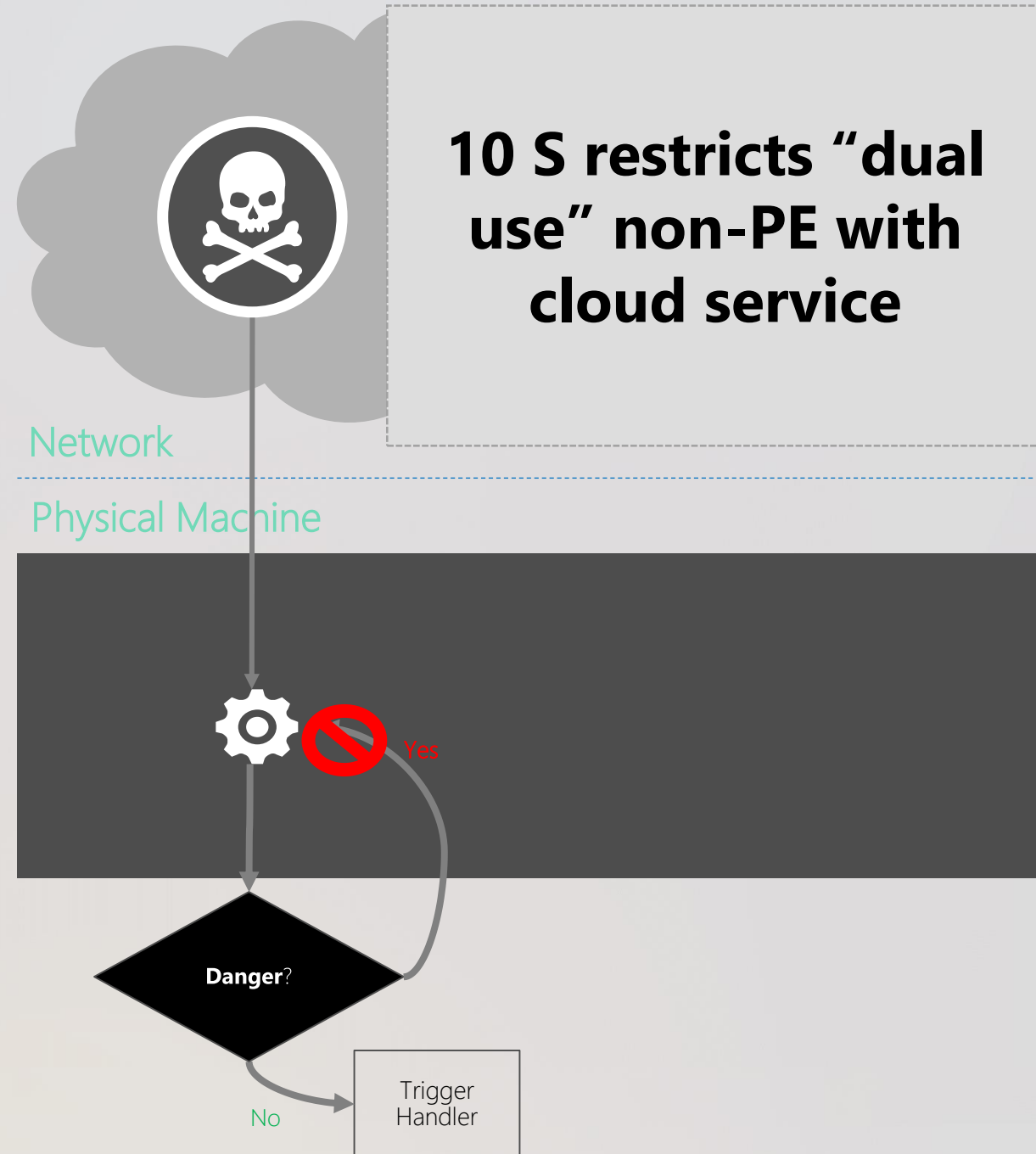
### 1<sup>st</sup> Order Code Integrity protection

A "1<sup>st</sup> order" CI bypass enables a remote attack to trigger initial unsigned code execution

10 S focuses on preventing "1<sup>st</sup>" order bypasses

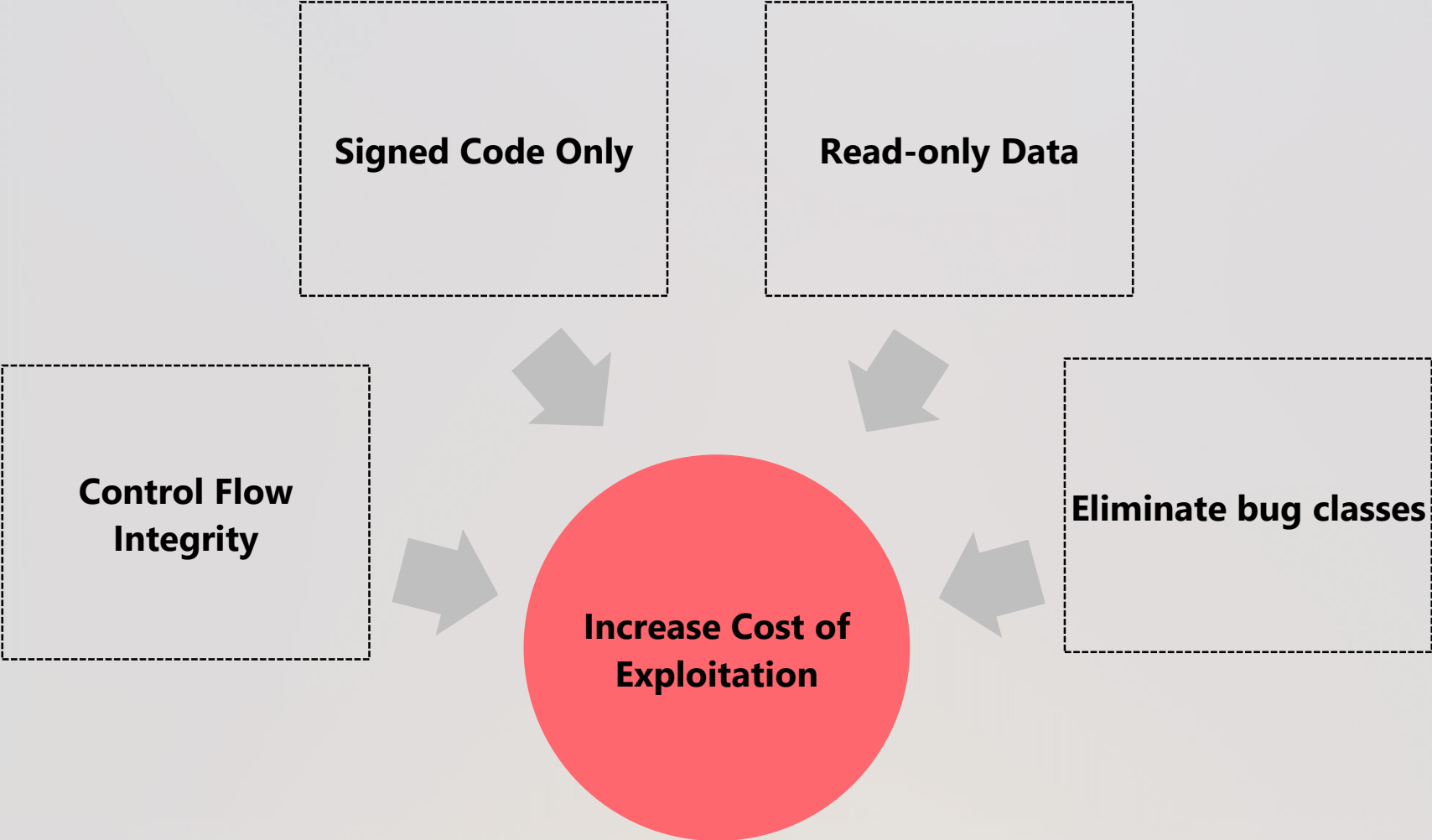
A "2<sup>nd</sup> order" bypass enabled additional unsigned code execution *after* reaching initial code execution

10 S offers less-durable guarantees for "2<sup>nd</sup> order" bypasses

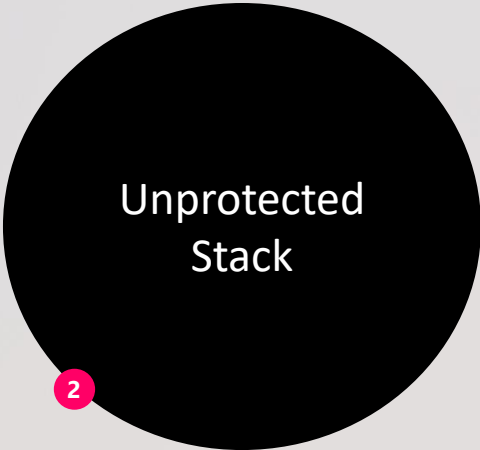
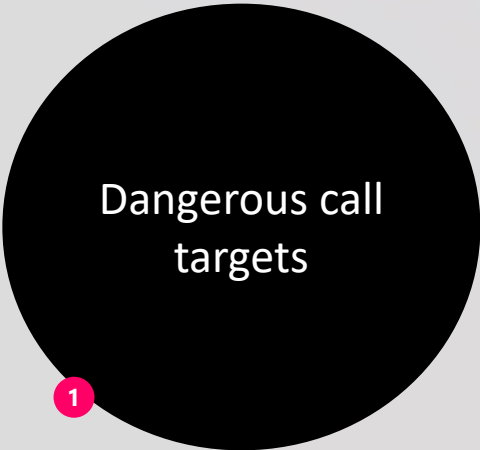




**Exploit mitigation Strategy**



# Control Flow Integrity Challenges

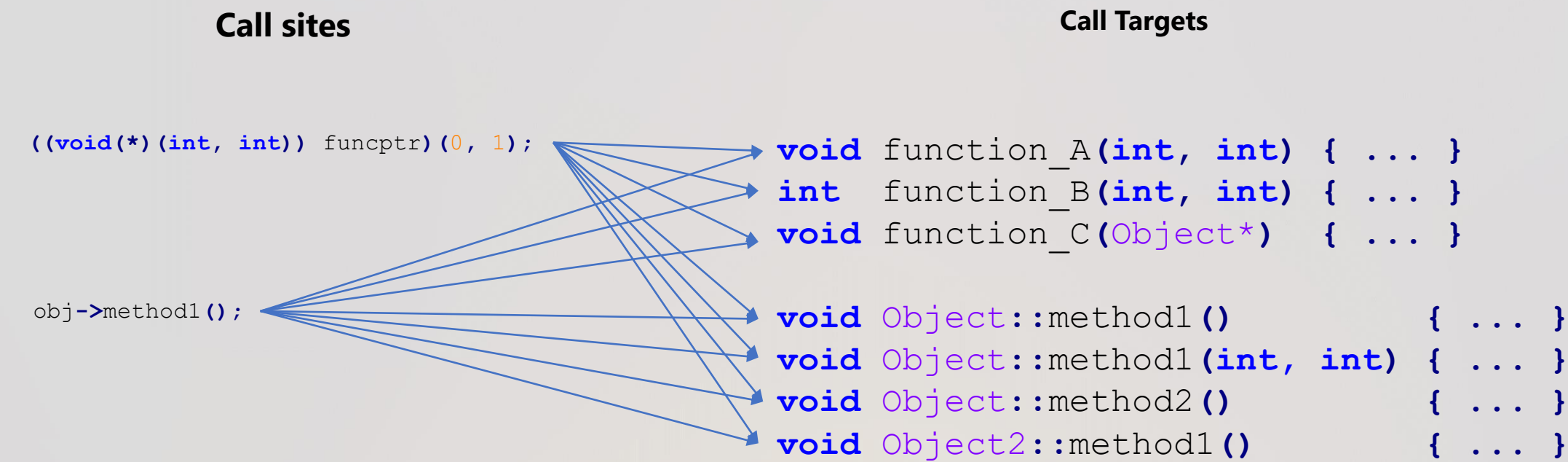


# Improving Control Flow Integrity

## CFG

First generation CFI in Windows, coarse grained for compatibility and performance

“Export suppression” used to reduce number of call sites in specific processes (example: Microsoft Edge)



# Improving Control Flow Integrity

## Introducing: XFG

**Goal:** Provide finer-grained CFI in a way that is efficient and compatible

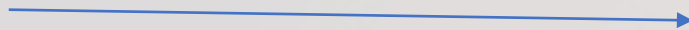
**Concept:** Restrict indirect transfers through type signature checks

### Call Sites

`((void*)(int, int)) funcptr(0, 1);`



`obj->method1();`



### Call Targets

```
void function_A(int, int) { ... }  
int  function_B(int, int) { ... }  
void function_C(Object*)  { ... }
```

```
void Object::method1()      { ... }  
void Object::method1(int, int) { ... }  
void Object::method2()      { ... }  
void Object2::method1()     { ... }
```

# Improving Control Flow Integrity

## XFG design: basics

Assign a type signature-based tag to each address-taken function

For C-style functions, could be:

*hash(type(return\_value), type(arg1), type(arg2), ...)*

For C++ virtual methods, could be:

*hash(method\_name, type(retval), highest\_parent\_with\_method(type(this), method\_name), type(arg1), type(arg2), ...)*

Embed that tag immediately before each function so it can be accessed through function pointer

Add tag check to call-sites: fast fail if we run into a tag mismatch

## CFG instrumentation: Call Site

```
mov rax, [rsi+0x98] ; load target address
call [__guard_dispatch_icall_fptr]
```

## Target

```
.align 0x10
function:
    push rbp
    push rbx
    push rsi
    ...
```

## xFG instrumentation : Call Site

```
mov rax, [rsi+0x98] ; load target address
mov r10, 0xdeadbeefdeadbeef ; load function tag
call [__guard_dispatch_icall_fptr_xfg] ; will check tag
```

## Target

```
.align 0x10
dq 0xffffffffffffffff ; just alignment
dq 0xdeadbeefdeadbeef ; function tag
function:
    push rbp
    push rbx
    push rsi
    ...
```

## Improving Control Flow Integrity

### XFG Security

C-style function pointers can only call address-taken functions with same type signature

Call-site and targets have same number of arguments, arguments and return value have same types

C++ virtual methods can only call methods with same name and type in their class hierarchy

- Can't call wrong-type overload methods**

- Can't call methods from other class hierarchies**

- Can't call differently-named methods with same type in same hierarchy**

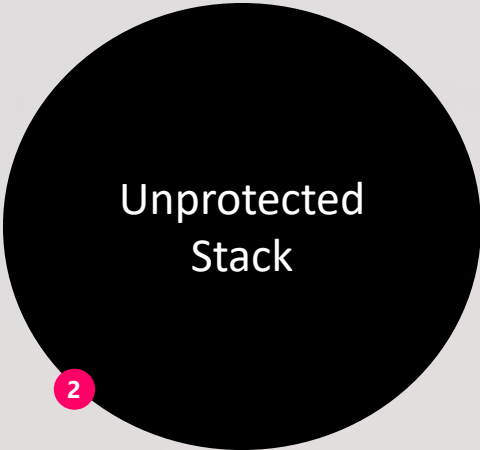
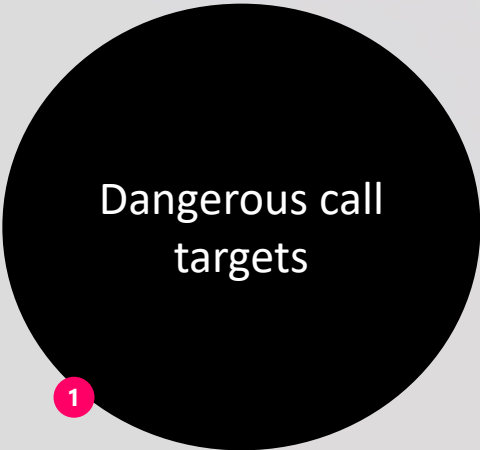
This is much stronger than CFG, although it is an over-approximation

While the use of a hash function means there could technically be collisions, that's very unlikely (especially in a useful way) on a ~55 bit hash

Glossing over a lot of implementation details here, but this is the basic idea 😊



# Control Flow Integrity Challenges

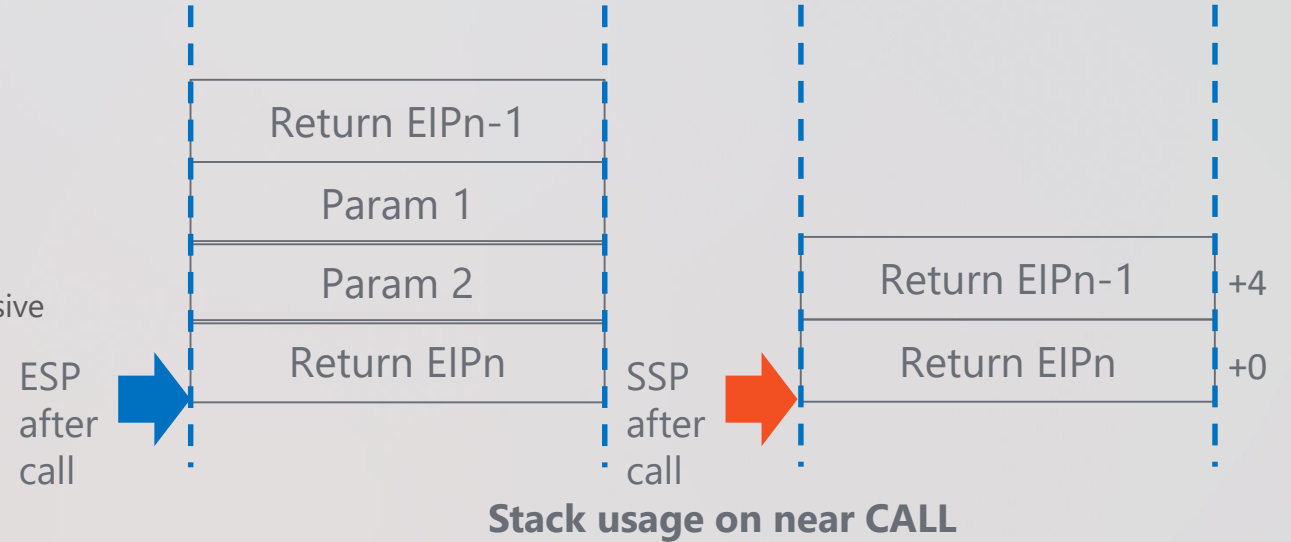


## Rearward Control Flow

### Shadow Stack Protection

Initial attempt to implement stack protection in software failed

OSR designed software shadow stack (RFG) did not survive internal offensive research



### Control-flow Enforcement Technology (CET)

Return address protection via a shadow stack

Hardware-assists for helping to mitigate control-flow hijacking & ROP

Robust against our threat model (assume arbitrary RW)

#### CET Shadow Stack Flow:

Call pushes return address on both stacks

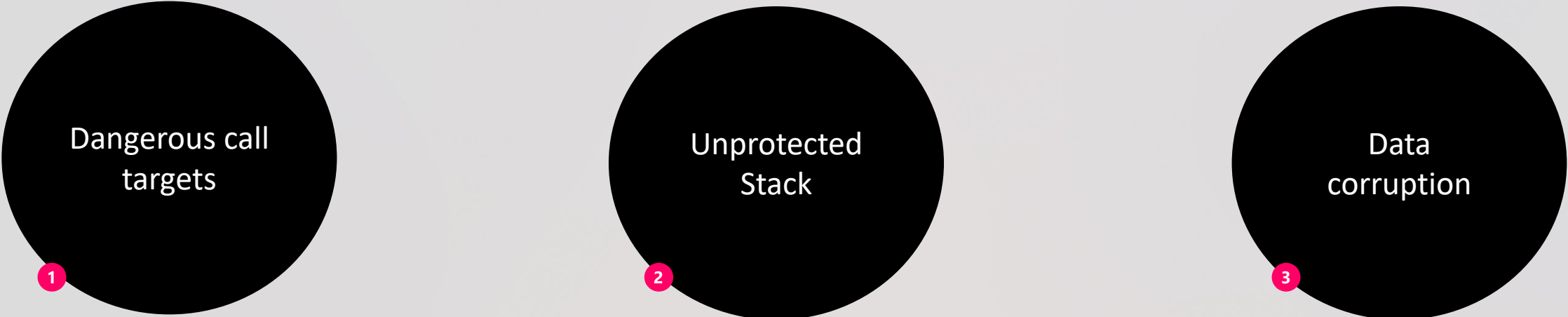
Ret/ret\_imm

pops return address from both stack

Exception if the return addresses don't match

No parameters passing on shadow stack

## Control Flow Integrity Challenges



The diagram consists of three large black circles arranged horizontally. Each circle contains a white text label. Below the bottom-left edge of each circle is a small pink circle containing a white number (1, 2, and 3 respectively). The circles are connected by a faint, light gray line that forms a wide, shallow arc passing behind them.

Dangerous call  
targets

Unprotected  
Stack

Data  
corruption

## Data Corruption Protection

## Introducing: Kernel Data Protection

**Problem:** Kernel exploits in Windows leverage data corruption to obtain privilege escalation

**Current State:** Hypervisor-based code integrity prevents dynamic code injection and enforces signing policy

Prevent code injection is not enough, kernel has many sensitive data structures

Kernel Data Protection (KDP) uses Secure Kernel to enforce immutability

fffffa83`00a08007 90	nop	
fffffa83`00a08008 e800000000	call	fffffa83`00a0800d
fffffa83`00a0800d 5e	pop	rsi
fffffa83`00a0800d 5e	pop	rsi
fffffa83`00a0800e 4883ec38	sub	rsp,38h
fffffa83`00a08012 488b4e50	mov	rcx,qword ptr [rsi+50h]
fffffa83`00a08016 488d542428	lea	rdx,[rsp+28h]
fffffa83`00a0801b ff5658	call	qword ptr [rsi+58h]
fffffa83`00a0801e 488b4e60	mov	rcx,qword ptr [rsi+60h]
fffffa83`00a08022 488d542420	lea	rdx,[rsp+20h]
fffffa83`00a08027 ff5658	call	qword ptr [rsi+58h]
fffffa83`00a0802a 488b442420	mov	rax,qword ptr [rsp+20h]
fffffa83`00a0802f 448b5e68	mov	r11d,dword ptr [rsi+68h]
fffffa83`00a08033 498b0c03	mov	rcx,qword ptr [r11+rax]
fffffa83`00a08037 488b442428	mov	rax,qword ptr [rsp+28h]
fffffa83`00a0803c 49890c03	mov	qword ptr [r11+rax],rcx
fffffa83`00a08040 33c0	xor	eax, eax
fffffa83`00a08042 4881c4d0020000	add	rsp,2D0h
fffffa83`00a08049 4831db	xor	rbx,rbx
fffffa83`00a0804c 4831ff	xor	rdi,rdi
fffffa83`00a0804f c3	ret	

Call to PsLookupProcessByProcessId to get target EPROCESS

Call to PsLookupProcessByProcessId to get SYSTEM EPROCESS

Replace target EPROCESS.Token with SYSTEM's EPROCESS.Token

**CVE-2016-7256 exploit: Open type font elevation of privilege**

Windows PowerShell

```
PS C:\Users\b33f> Capcom-DriverSigning -setValue 8  
[+] C:\CiInitialize: FFFFF80188882110  
[+] C:\CiInitialize: FFFFF80188882924  
[+] C!\g_CiOptions: FFFFF80188879850  
[+] Current CiOptions Value: 6  
[!] New CiOptions Value: 8  
PS C:\Users\b33f>
```

OSR Driver Loader

Open Systems Resources, Inc.  
105 Route 101A Suite 19  
Amherst, NH 03031  
Ph: (603) 595-6500  
Fax: (603) 595-6503  
Ver: V3.0 - Sept 6, 2007

Registry Key: evil

Driver Path: C:\Users\b33f\Desktop\evil.sys

Driver Version: 20168 Bytes

Driver File Time: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 15:11:57

Display Name: evil

Service Start: Demand

Load Group: None

Order In Group: 1

Depend On Group(s): AudioGroup, Base, Boot Bus Extender, Boot File System

Last Status: Windows cannot verify the digital signature for this file. A

MiniFilter Settings: Default Instance: Altitude: 0

AltitudeAndFlags: Flags: 0

Register Service, Unregister Service, Start Service, Stop Service

OSRLOADER

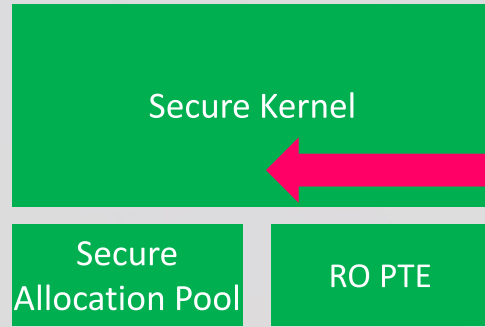
The operation completed successfully.

OK

**Corrupting Code Integrity Globals (credit: FuzzySec)**

# Data Corruption Protection

VTL-1

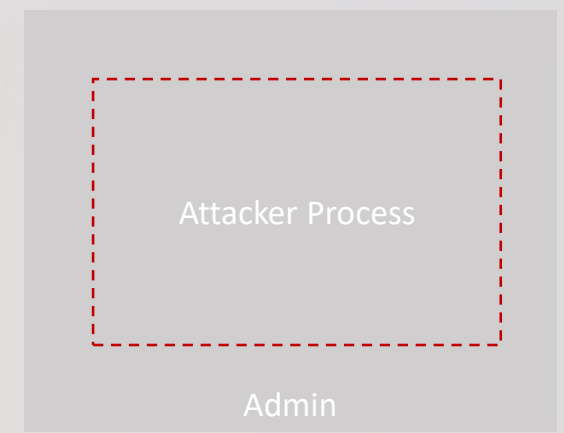
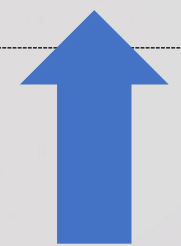
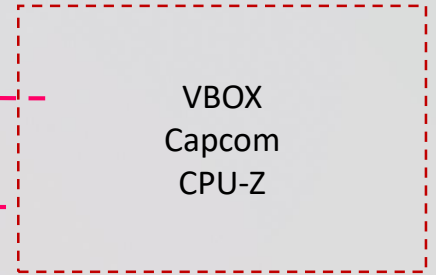
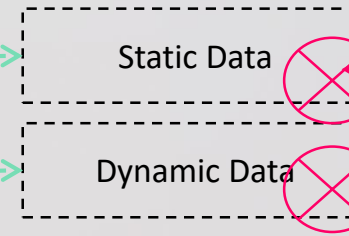


VTL-0

```
NTSTATUS MmProtectDriver (  
    _In_ PVOID AddressWithinSection,  
    _In_ ULONG Size,  
    _In_opt_ ULONG Flags);
```

Kernel Mode

User Mode



## Kernel Data Protection:

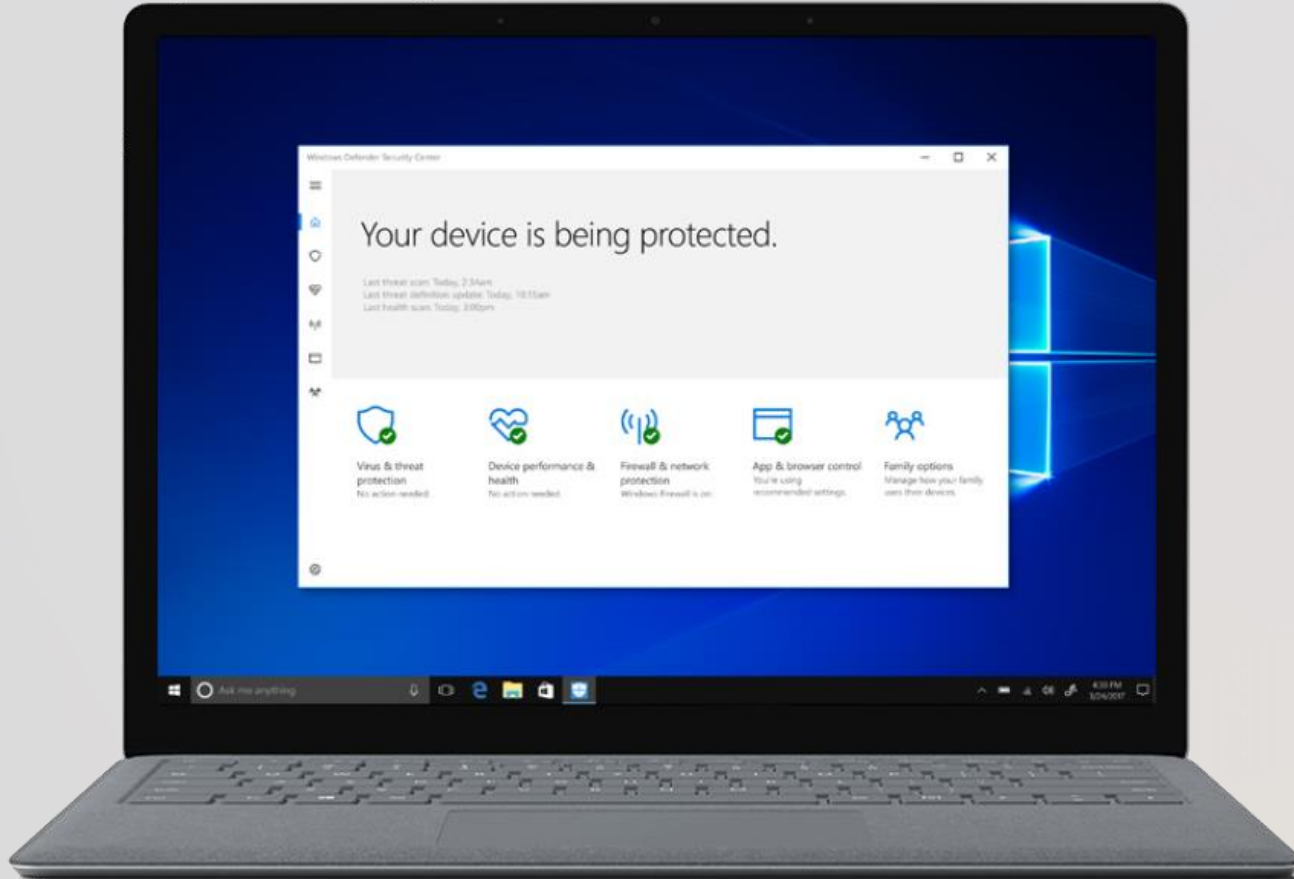
Mechanism to perform read-only pool allocations  
RO PTE Hypervisor Protected when VBS is enabled

Validation mechanism to allow callers to detect whether  
the memory they're referencing is protected pool allocation

**All apps and system components have only  
the privilege they need**



## “Admin-less” Mode



## Introducing: Admin-less

Elevation is been blocked Admin-less S mode

New standard user type can make some device-wide changes

Broker many functions which previously required elevation

Removes ability to read/write/debug, requires unlock or specific developer tools

Standard user security with much less friction

**Malicious code cannot persist on a device.**

## Firmware Security Issues

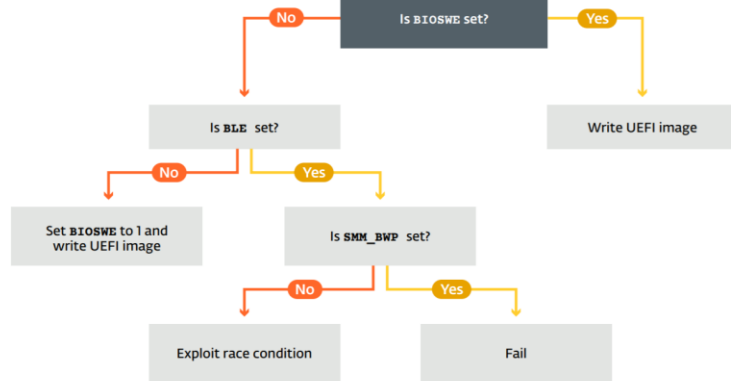
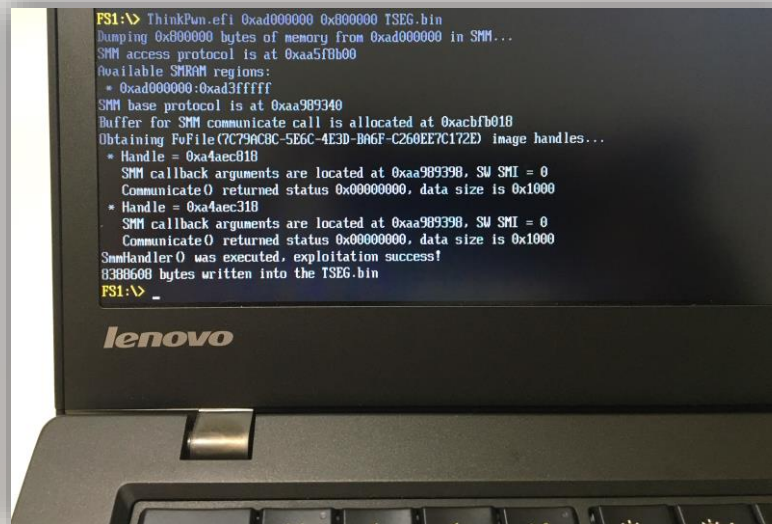


Figure 12 // Decision tree of the writing process



SMM attacks to bypass VBS

## [ESET discovers SEDNIT/APT28 UEFI malware](#)



["ThinkPWN" exploit of Lenovo firmware](#)

## Improving Boot Security

### System Guard with DRTM

Utilize DRTM (Intel, AMD, QC) to perform TCB measurements from a Microsoft MLE

“Assume Breach” of UEFI and measure/seal critical code and data from hardware rooted MLE

Measured values:

- Code integrity Policy
- Hypervisor, kernel hashes
- UEFI Vars
- Etc....

### Zero Trust

Measurements of key properties available in PCRs and TCG logs

Attest TCB components through System Guard runtime attestation + Microsoft Conditional Access + WDATP

### SMM Attacks

Can be used to tamper HV and SK post-MLE

[SMM paging protections](#) + attestation on roadmap

### Core isolation

Security features available on your device that use virtualization-based security.

**This setting is managed by your administrator.**

#### Memory integrity

Prevents attacks from inserting malicious code into high-security processes.

 On

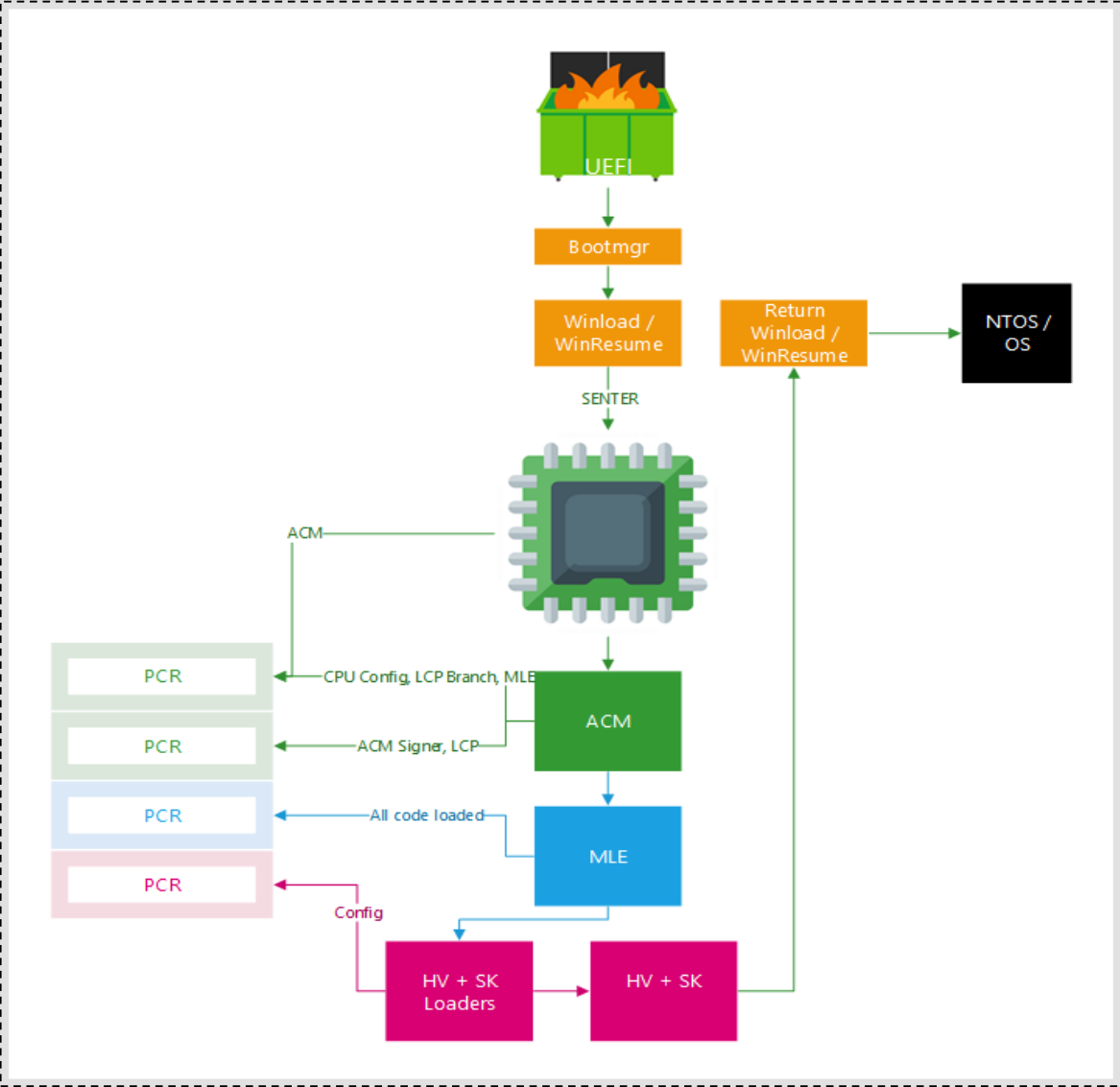
[Learn more](#)

#### Firmware protection





Windows Defender System Guard is protecting your device from compromised firmware.

[Learn more](#)

# Improving Boot Security



# Improving Boot Security

 →  →  → 

```
LoadFwImage proc near ; DATA XREF: sec801:SecSmIFlashfo
push rbp
sub rsp, 20h
mov edx, 18h ; len
mov rbp, rcx ; ptr
call IsAddressInSmram ; structure itself is checked
; instead of the buffer it describes

test al, al
jz short loc_130F

loc_1303: ; CODE XREF: LoadFwImage+4E1j
mov rax, 000000000000007h ; LoadFwImage+691j
jmp short loc_1369

loc_130F: ; CODE XREF: LoadFwImage+15fj
mov byte ptr [rbx+10h], 1
mov ndx, cs:pFwCapsuleLowMem
mov rax, cs:RomLayout
cs:SecSmIFlash.FSHandle, 0
and cs:SecSmIFlash.pFwCapsule, 0
cs:SecSmIFlash.RomLayout, rax
test ndx, ndx
jz short loc_1303
mov r8d, [rbx+0Ch] ; len
mov r9d, [rbx+8]
mov eax, edx
lea ecx, [r9+r8]
add rax, 0E01000h
add ecx, 000
cmp rcx, rax
ja short loc_1303
lea ecx, [r9+rdx] ; dst
mov rdx, [rbx] ; src
call memcpy
mov byte ptr [rbx+10h], 0
xor eax, eax

loc_1369: ; CODE XREF: LoadFwImage+21fj
add rsp, 20h
pop rbp
ret
```

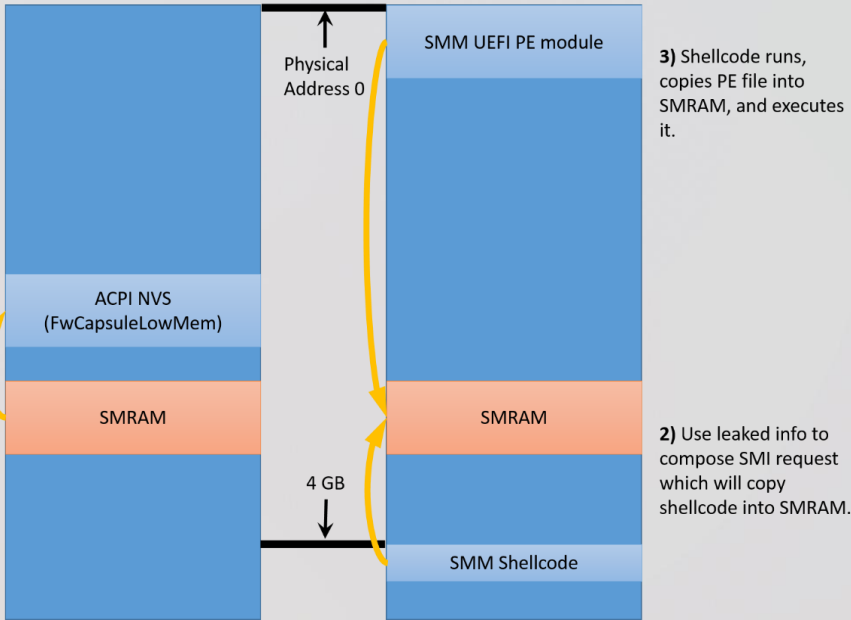
Integer Overflow (bypass check)

(nearly) arbitrary destination

fully arbitrary source



1) Leak entire SMRAM to normal RAM (within ACPI NVS).



## System Guard with DRTM

[External researchers](#) and OSR REDTEAM highlighted SMM risks for DRTM and VBS

Arbitrary code execution in SMRAM can be used to defeat Hypervisor

Malicious code running in SMM is difficult to detect

SMM vulnerabilities used in OSR REDTEAM reported to Lenovo



# Protecting SMM

## Mitigating SMM exploitation

Intel Runtime BIOS resilience provides the following security properties for SMM:

SMM entry point locked down

All code within SMM locked down

Memory map and page properties locked down

OS and HV memory not directly accessible from SMM

```
//  
// Check to see if the CPU supports the SMM Code Access Check feature  
// Do not access this MSR unless the CPU supports the SmmRegFeatureControl  
//  
if ((AsmReadMsrb64 (EFI_MSR_SMM_MCA_CAP) & SMM_CODE_ACCESS_CHK_BIT) == 0) {  
    mSmmCodeAccessCheckEnable = FALSE;  
    return;  
}
```

Table 35-34. Additional MSRs Common to Intel® Xeon® Processor D and Intel Xeon Processors E5 v4 Family Based on the Broadwell Microarchitecture

Register Address		Register Name	Scope	Bit Description
Hex	Dec			
17D1	399	MSR_SMM_MCA_CAP	THREAD	Enhanced SMM Capabilities (SMM-RO) Reports SMM capability Enhancement. Accessible only while in SMM.
	579			Reserved
	58			SMM_Code_Access_Clk (SMM-RO) If set to 1 indicates that the SMM code access restriction is supported and a host-space interface available to SMM handler.
	59			Long_Flow_Indicator (SMM-RO) If set to 1 indicates that the SMM long flow indicator is supported and a host-space interface available to SMM handler.

Smm Paging Analysis

Basic InfoResultsMemory DataParsing ErrorsAbout

Test Results

RW+X

Description:No memory range should have page attributes that allow read, write, and execute.  
Status:Success

TSEG is Reserved

Description:TSEG should be marked as EFI Reserved Memory.  
Status:Success

Conventional Memory Mapped

Description:For OS security E8ConventionalMemory should not be mapped for SMM usage.  
Status:Success

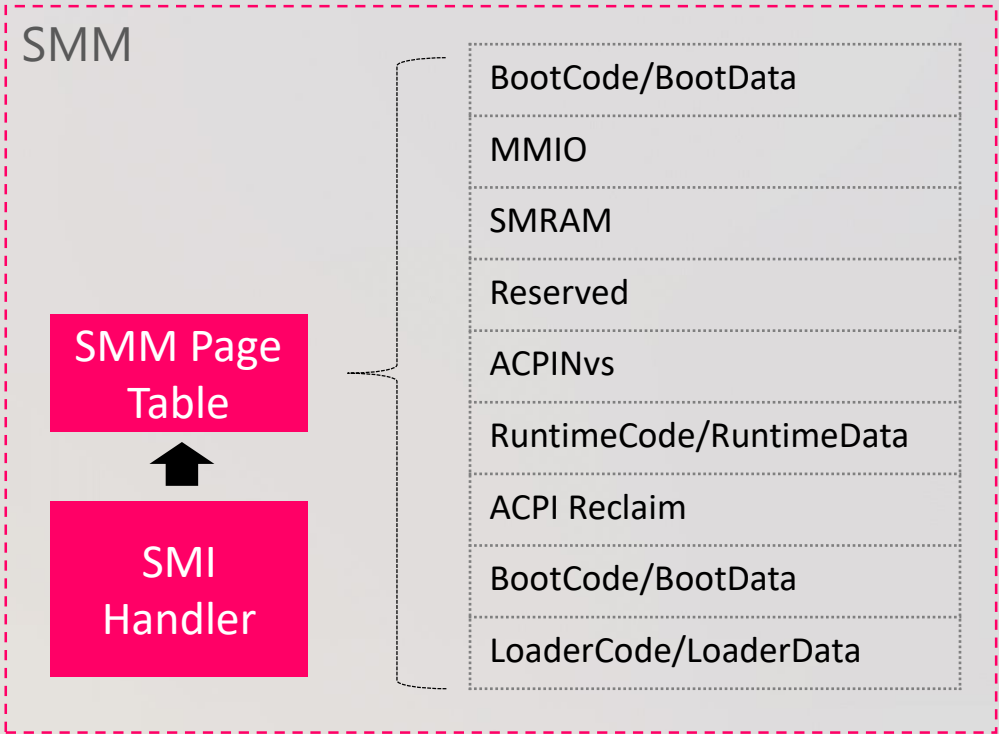
Only TSEG is executable

Description:In SMM the only memory that should be executable is within TSEG.  
Status:Success

Runtime Code RO

Description:Runtime code should be read-only or non-executable in SMM.  
Status:Success

[SMM Paging Audit](#)



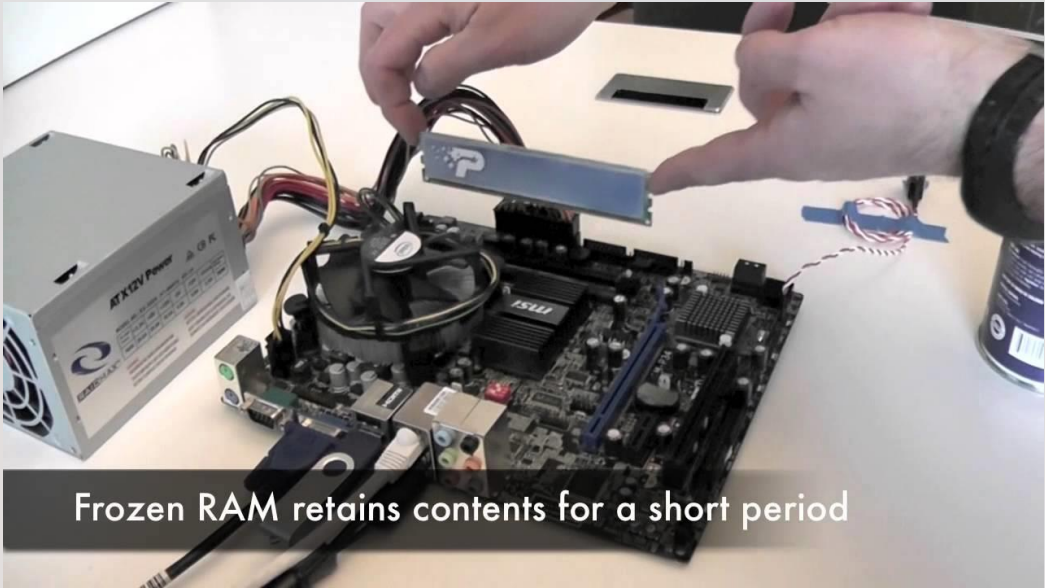
[SMM Protection](#)

**Attackers with casual physical access  
cannot modify data or code on the device.**

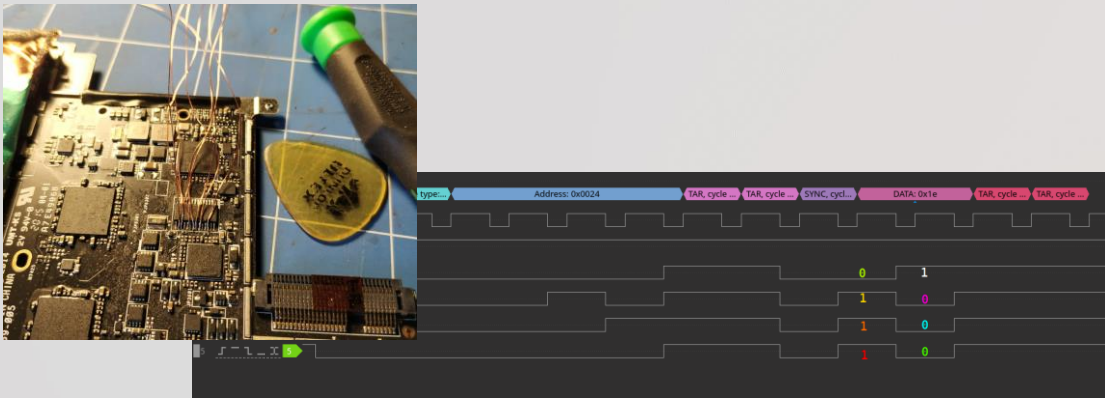
# Increasing Physical Attacks



DMA Attacks with PCILeech  
Sources: [1](#), [2](#)



Bitlocker Cold Boot Attacks  
Sources: [1](#)



LPC/SPI TPM VMK Key Extraction with Logic Analyzer  
Sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

# Windows DMA protection

## Security Goals

Prevent “evil cleaner” drive by physical attacks from malicious DMA attacks

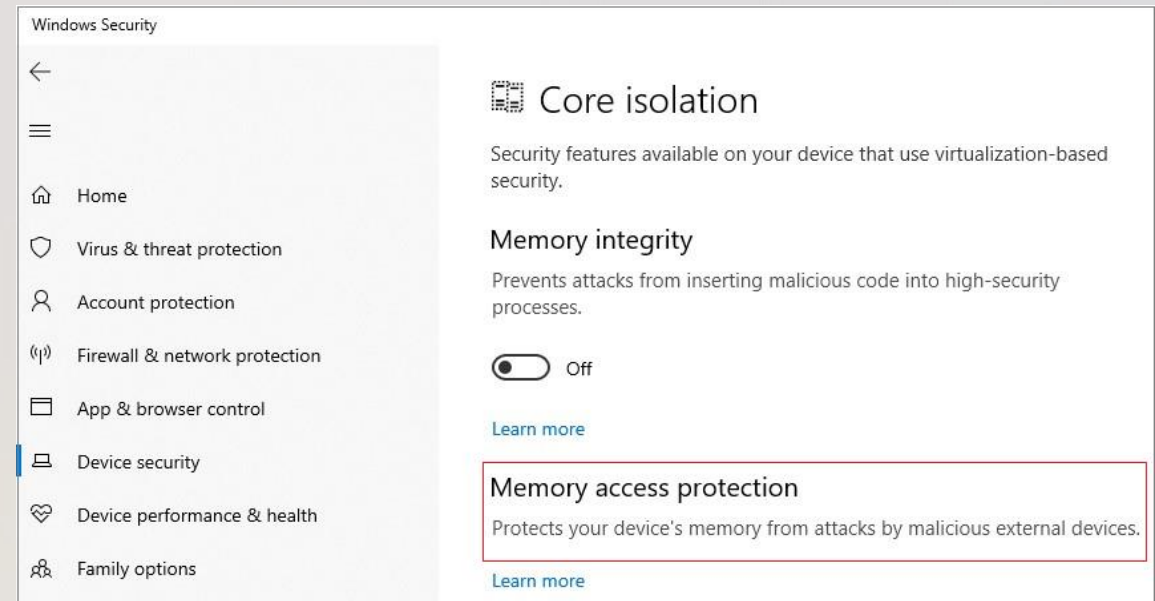
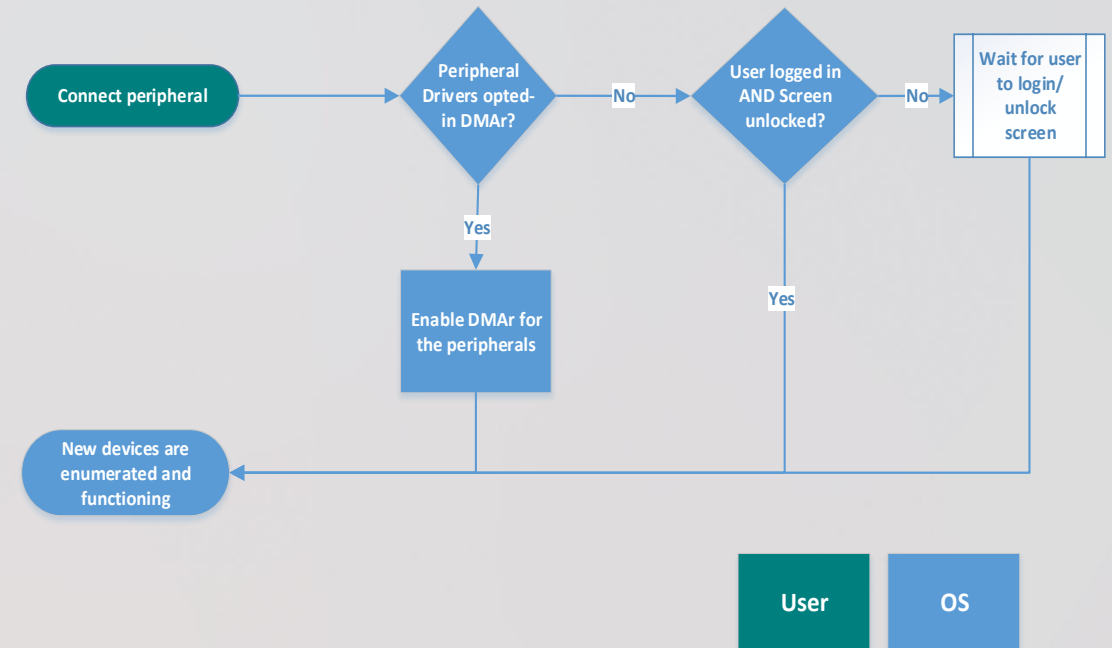
## Design Details

Use IOMMU to block newly attached Thunderbolt™ 3 devices from using DMA until a user is logged in

[UEFI can enable IOMMU and BME](#) in early boot until Windows boots (See [Project Mu](#))

Automatically enable DMA remapping with compatible device drivers

In future releases, we are looking to harden protection on all external PCI ports and cross-silicon platforms



## Windows Data Protection Under Lock



### **Locked device**

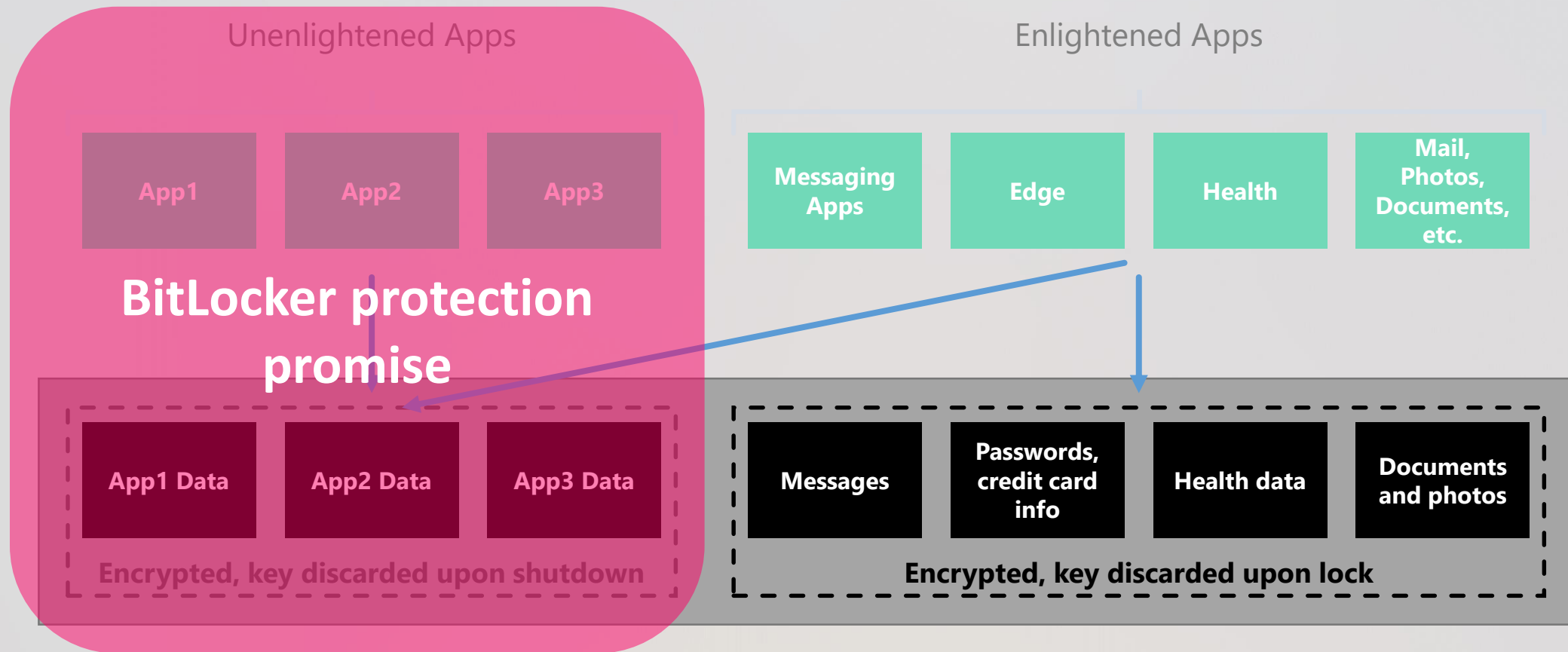
Encryption key is removed from memory



### **Unlocked device**

Encryption key is recomputed using user entropy

**Per-file encryption provides a second layer of protection at rest**  
**Key is derived from user secret (Hello, Biometric)**





**User identities cannot be compromised,  
spoofed, or stolen.**

## Improving Identity Security

### Windows Hello and NGC

Offers biometric authentication and hardware backed key storage

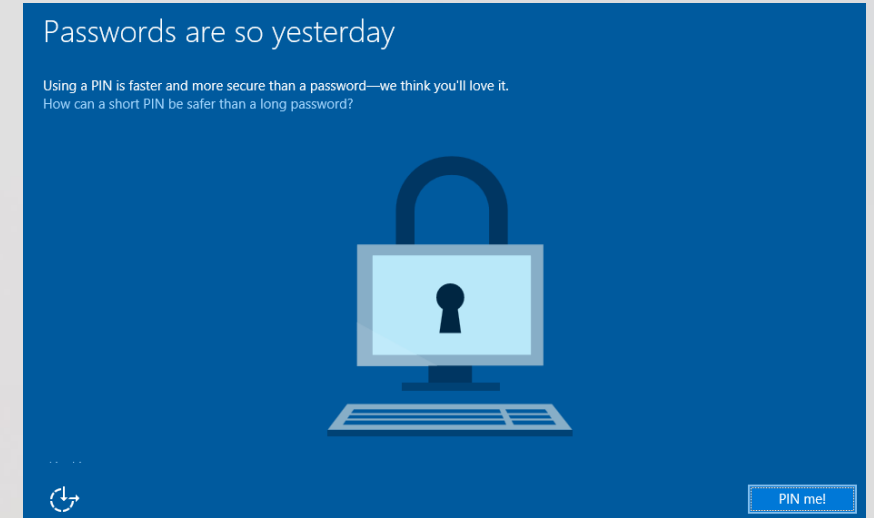
PIN vulnerable to input attacks from malicious admin

### Improving Identity Security

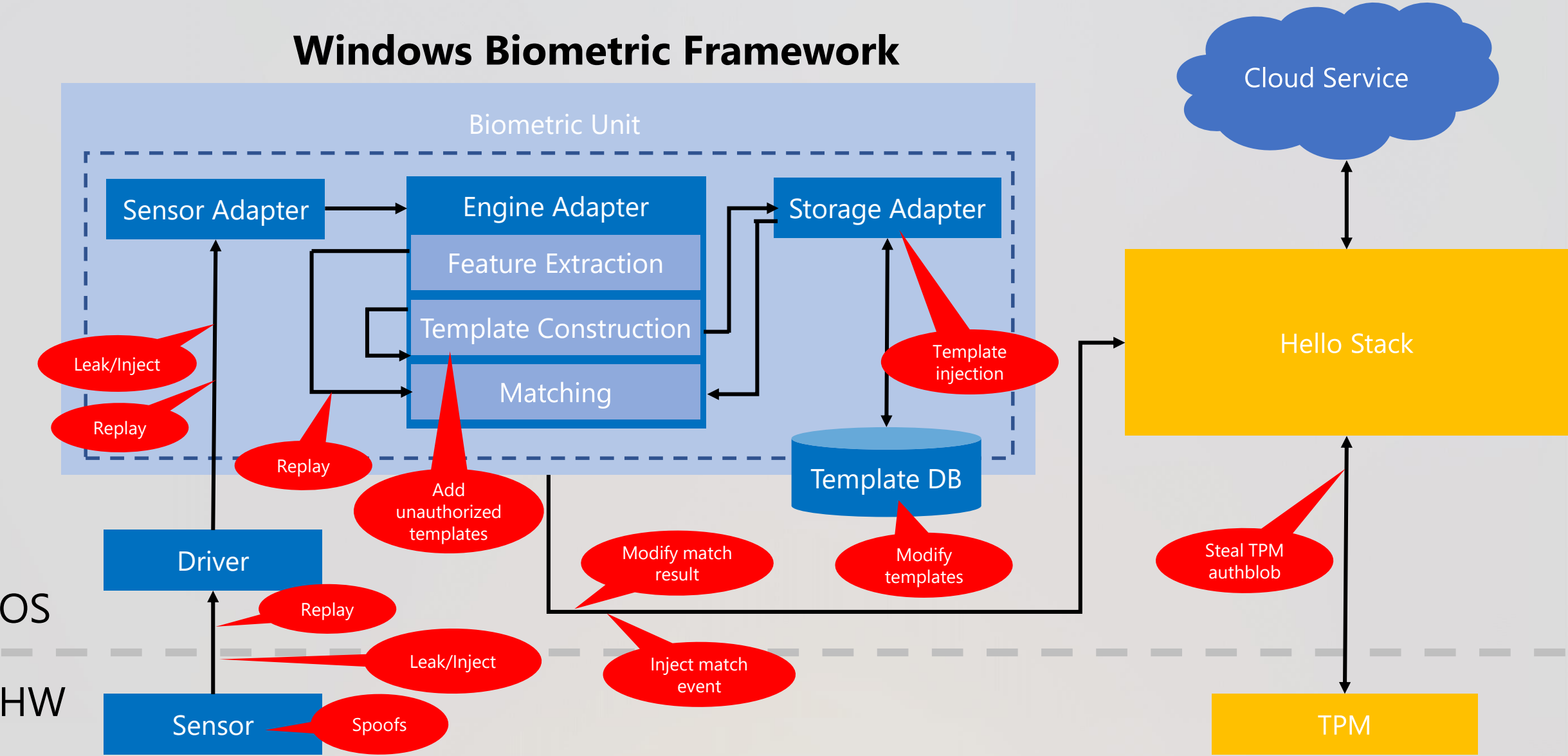
Future version of Windows include biometric hardening enabled through virtualization

Biometric hardening of the data path using virtualization

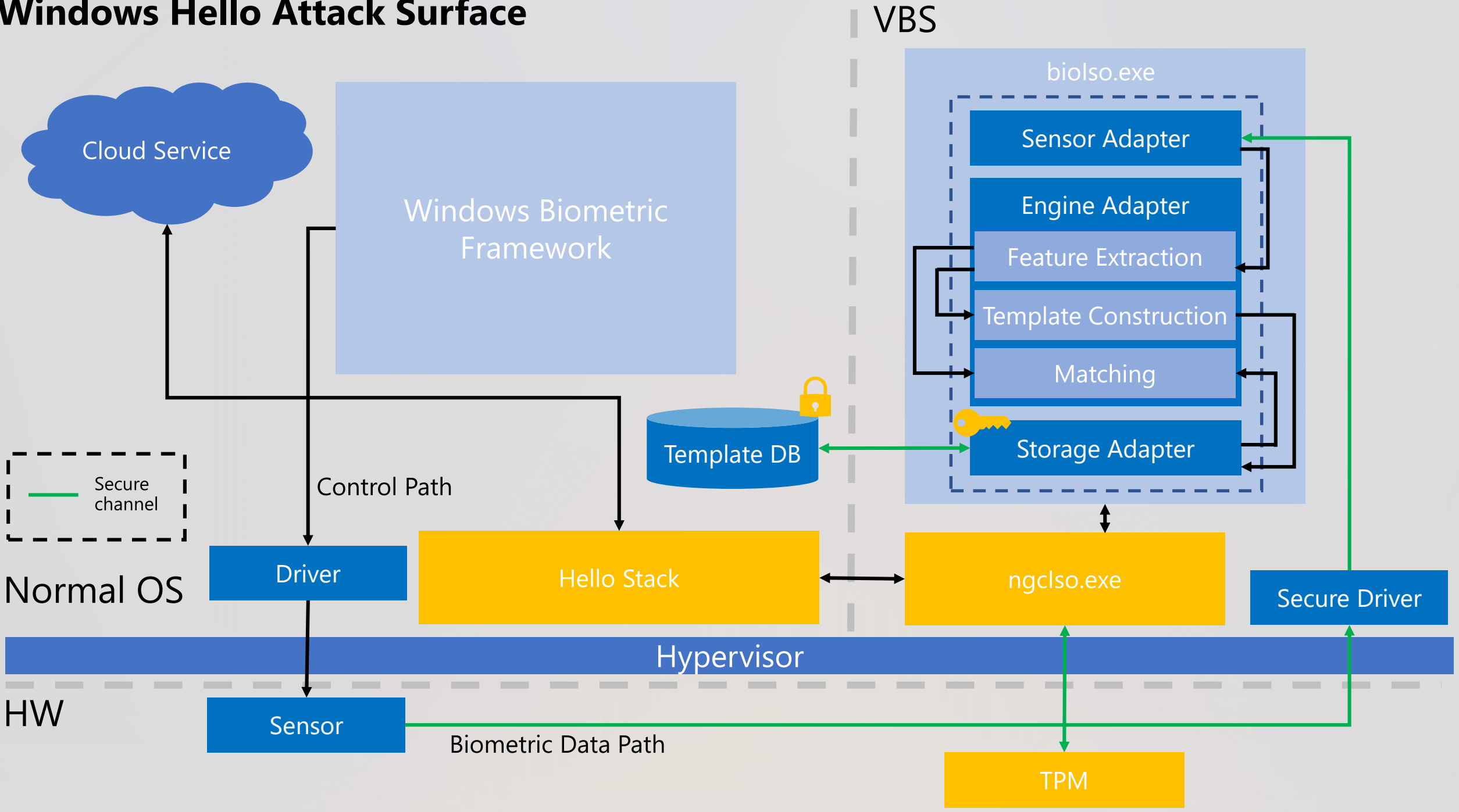
Hardening of credential release



# Windows Biometric Framework

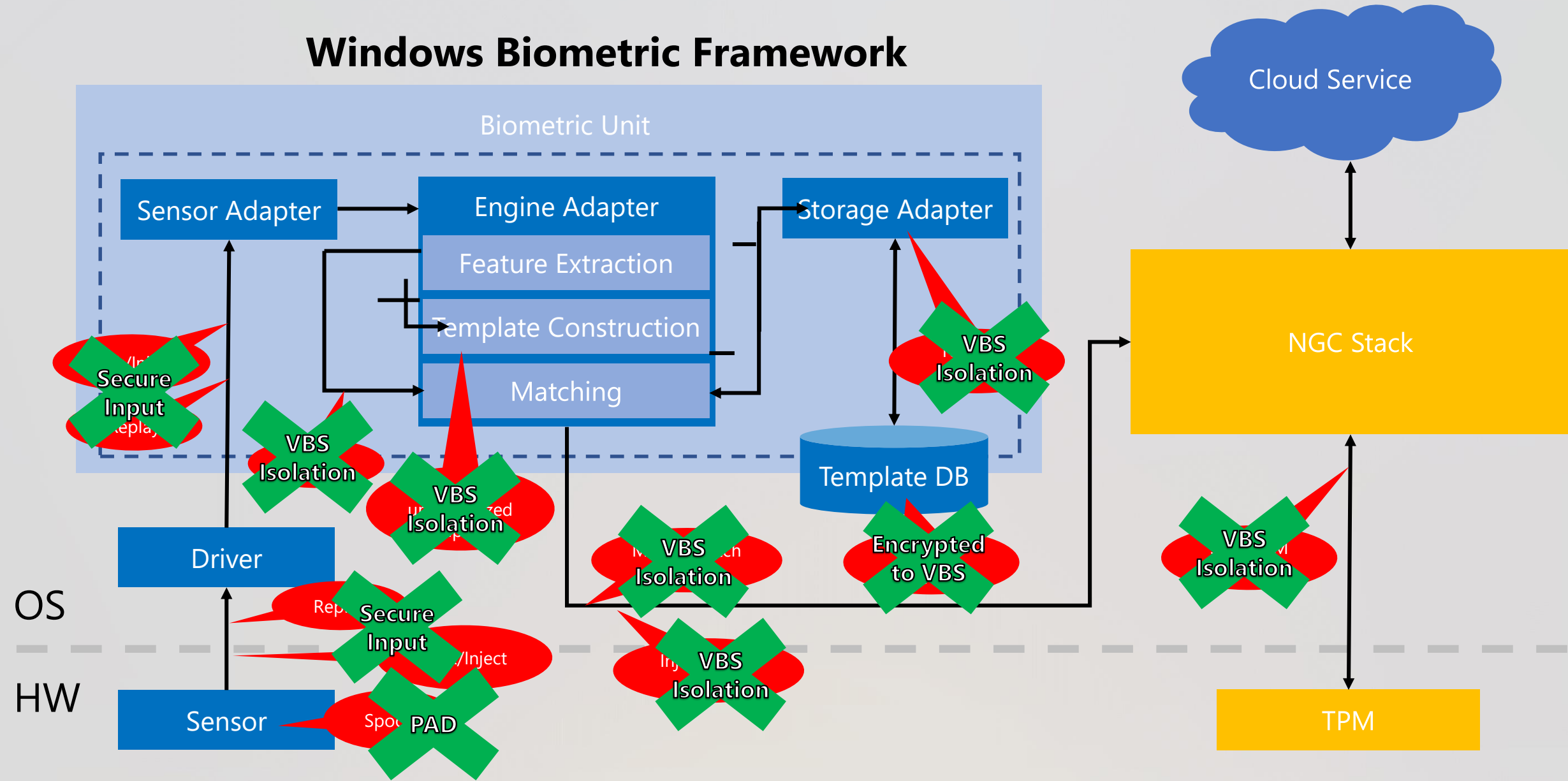


# Windows Hello Attack Surface



# Windows Hello Attack Surface

## Windows Biometric Framework



# Beyond Passwords

## A web without passwords

Staying secure on the web is more important than ever. We trust web sites to process credit card numbers, save addresses and personal information, and even to handle sensitive records like medical information. All this data is protected by an ancient security model—the password. But passwords are difficult to remember, and are fundamentally insecure—often re-used, and vulnerable to phishing and cracking.

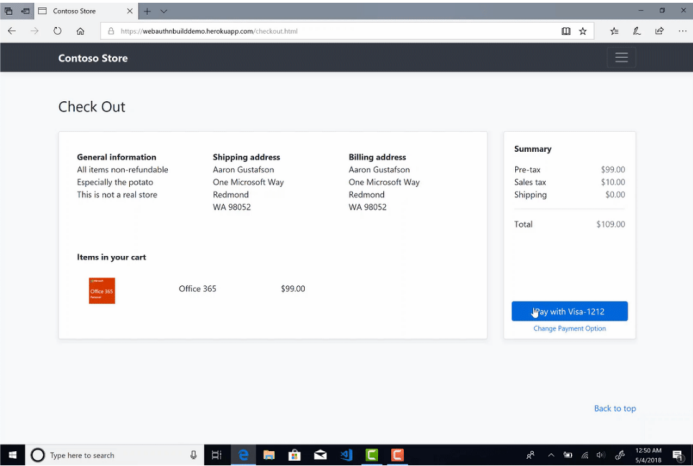
For these reasons, Microsoft has been leading the charge towards [a world without passwords](#), with innovations like Windows Hello biometrics and pioneering work with the [FIDO Alliance](#) to create an open standard for passwordless authentication – [Web Authentication](#).

We started this journey in 2016, when we shipped the industry's [first preview implementation of the Web Authentication API](#) in Microsoft Edge. Since then, we have been updating our implementation to as we worked with other vendors and the FIDO alliance to develop the standard. In March, the FIDO Alliance announced that the [Web Authentication APIs have reached Candidate Recommendation \(CR\)](#) status in the W3C, a major milestone for the maturity and interoperability of the specification.

## Authenticators in Microsoft Edge

Beginning with [build 17723](#), Microsoft Edge supports the CR version of Web Authentication. Our implementation provides the most complete support for Web Authentication to date, with support for a wider variety of authenticators than other browsers.

**Windows Hello** allows users to authenticate without a password on any Windows 10 device, using biometrics—face and fingerprint recognition—or a PIN number to sign in to web sites. With Windows Hello face recognition, users can log in to sites that support Web Authentication in seconds, with just a glance.



# FIDO Alliance and W3C Achieve Major Standards Milestone in Global Effort Towards Simpler, Stronger Authentication on the Web

April 10, 2018

*With support from Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox, FIDO2 Project opens new era of ubiquitous, phishing-resistant, strong authentication to protect web users worldwide*

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., and <https://www.w3.org/> — April 10, 2018** – The [FIDO Alliance](#) and the [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) have achieved a major standards milestone in the global effort to bring simpler yet stronger web authentication to users around the world. The W3C has advanced [Web Authentication \(WebAuthn\)](#), a collaborative effort based on Web API specifications submitted by FIDO to the W3C, to the Candidate Recommendation (CR) stage. The CR is the product of the [Web Authentication Working Group](#), which is comprised of representatives from over 30 member [organizations](#). CR is a precursor to final approval of a web standard, and the W3C has invited online services and web app developers to [implement WebAuthn](#).

WebAuthn defines a standard web API that can be incorporated into browsers and related web platform infrastructure which gives users new methods to securely authenticate on the web, in the browser and across sites and devices. WebAuthn has been developed in coordination with FIDO Alliance and is a core component of the [FIDO2 Project](#) along with FIDO's [Client to Authenticator Protocol \(CTAP\)](#) specification. CTAP enables an external authenticator, such as a security key or a mobile phone, to communicate strong authentication credentials locally over USB, Bluetooth or NFC to the user's internet access device (PC or mobile phone). The FIDO2 specifications collectively enable users to authenticate easily to online services with desktop or mobile devices with phishing-resistant security.

**Violations of promises are observable.**

## Tamper Evident Windows

### Platform Tamper Detection for Windows

Spanning device boot to ongoing runtime process tampering

Designed for remote assessment of device health

Platform approach to benefit a variety of 3rd parties and scenarios

### Hardware rooted device trust

Leverage the VBS security boundary to raise the bar on anti-tampering

Challenging to build tamper detection schemes on top of Windows

Extensible platform component that can be used via forthcoming public API





**VTL-1**

Secure Kernel

HVCI Policy

Octagon Engine

**VTL-0**

Octagon Agent

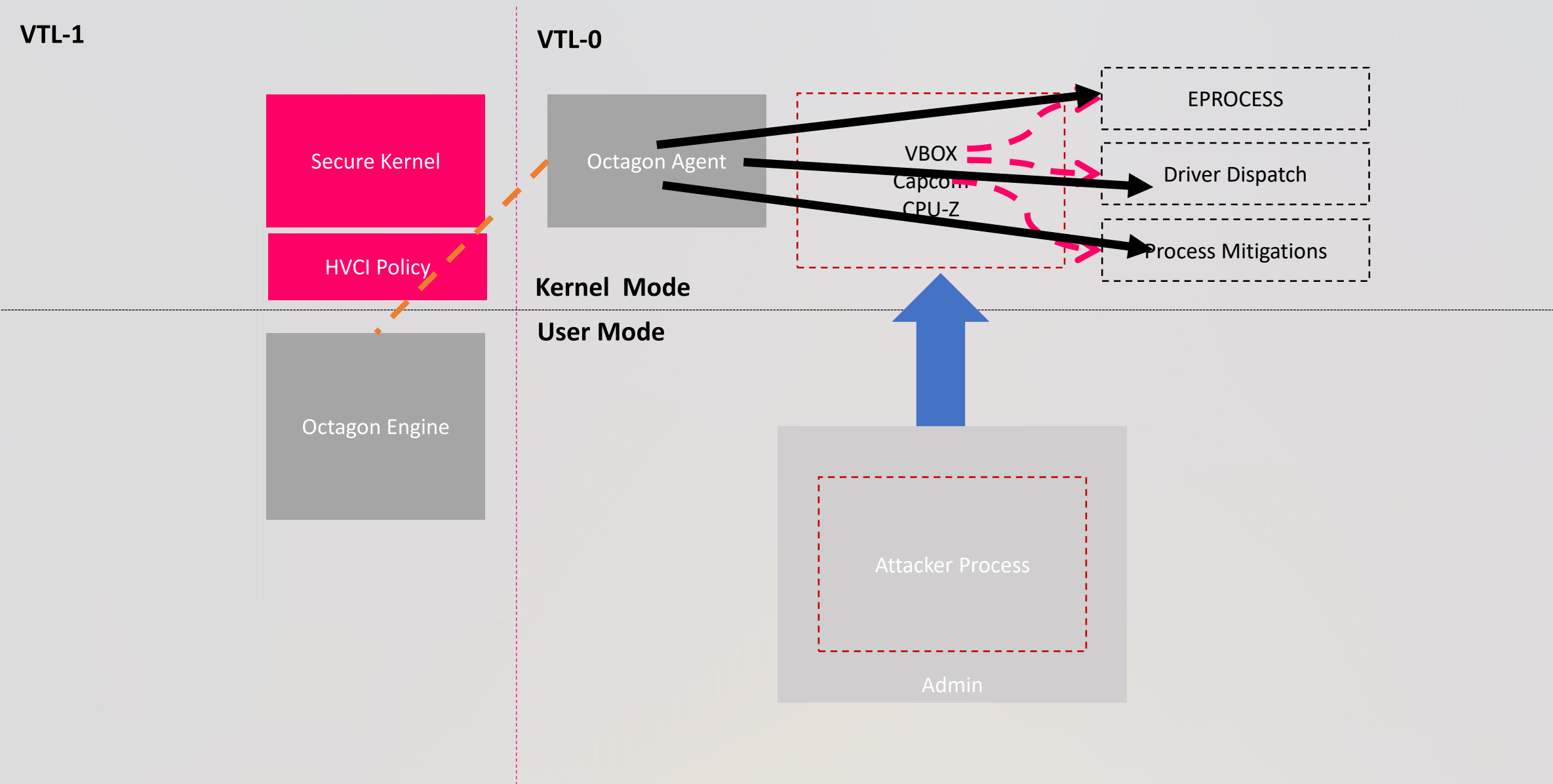
**Kernel Mode**

**User Mode**

VBOX  
Capcom  
CPU-Z

EPROCESS  
Driver Dispatch  
Process Mitigations

Attacker Process  
Admin



Closing

## Windows needs the community

## Platform features rapidly changing

Windows is evolving quickly to increase protections against new attacks

Aspirational goals to provide strong guarantees across a growing threat model

## Researchers and Community help us improve

Programs such as bug and mitigation bounty are critical

We want to work together with research communities in China and beyond to learn more about current and future attacks

