

The Firmware Supply-Chain Security is broken!

Can we fix it?

SPEAKER

Alex Matrosov

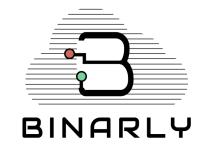
Alex Ermolov

Kai Michaelis

Richard Hughes

BINARLY - Pasadena, CA

https://www.binarly.io



Protect Devices from emerging firmware and hardware threats using modern artificial intelligence.

Provide an advanced analytics platform for Security Operations Center and Incident Response teams for enhanced visibility into the enterprise device infrastructure.



founders@binarly.io

IMMUNE - Bochum, Germany

https://www.immu.ne/



Provies **attestation as a service** for data center and edge compute.

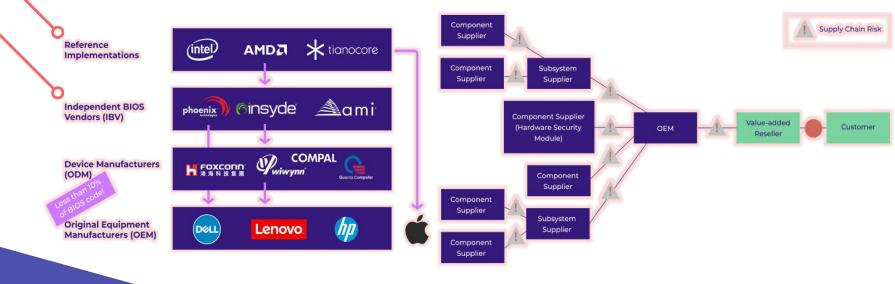
In depth analysis of firmware, provisioned hardware configuration and boot chain.

Provides **firmware monitoring and risk assessment** across the whole server fleet.



contact@immu.ne

Supply Chain complexity keeps 1-days unfixed for years





Firmware Vulnerability Disclosure Time

Combination of vulnerabilities creates a successful attack vector for compromising firmware:

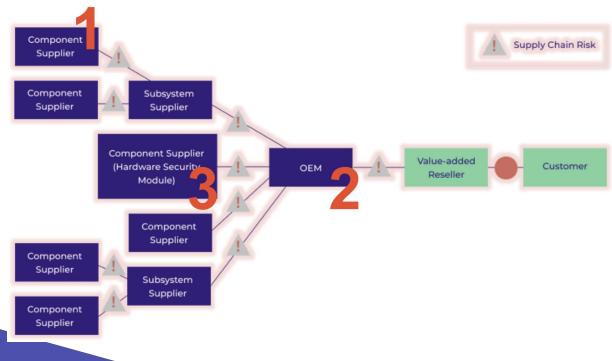
- 1. Privileges Escalation
- 2. FW storage write-protection bypass
- 3. HW-based trusted boot bypass

Patch delivery timeline could be different for each vulnerability in the attack vector.

A single vulnerability could be replaced by another one (not necessarily equal impact) to support the attack vector.



Supply Chain security failures points





AMI UsbRt vulnerability is a perfect example of supply chain complexity

The vulnerability lifetime in Intel devices

2016 INTEL-SA-00057

2020
INTEL-SA-00439
CVE-2020-0572

2021
CVE-2021-26943

2017
INTEL-SA-00084

INTEL-SA-00367

INTEL-SA-00084 CVE-2017-5721

INTEL-SA-00367 CVE-2020-12301

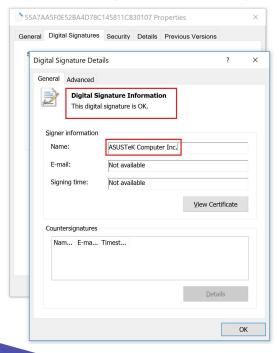
! Any device that uses the AMI UsbRt could be vulnerable to the very same bug

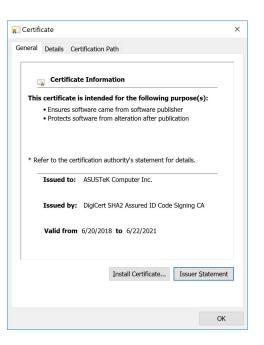


From reporting the firmware vulnerability to the fix usually takes around 6-9 months or more



Lack of transparency into supply chain







An Investigative Update of the Cyberattack

By Sudhakar Ramakrishna

May 7, 2021 | Security SolarFocus





Lack of security in the supply chain

Computer giant Acer hit by \$50 million ransomware attack

By Lawrence Abrams









Lack of security in the supply chain

"Acer routinely monitors its IT systems, and most cyberattacks are well defensed. Companies like us are constantly under attack, and we have reported recent abnormal situations observed to the relevant law enforcement and data protection authorities in multiple countries."

"We have been continuously enhancing our cybersecurity infrastructure to protect business continuity and our information integrity. We urge all companies and organizations to adhere to cyber security disciplines and best practices, and be vigilant to any network activity abnormalities." - Acer.



Lack of security in the supply chain

Gigabyte Breached by Ransomware Group AvosLocker – Data up for sale

By Madeleine Hodson in Cyber Security News

Published: October 21, 2021



Lack of transparency into supply chain

- Complex, intransparent firmware supply chain
 - Lots of 3rd party suppliers
 - Lack of widespread use of software BOM
- Extremely long disclosure timelines
 - From months to a year
- Security vs. regular support
 - No SLA: no updates
 - Limited ability to notify end users
- Needs outside effort to fix the update problem
 - LVFS finally creates concise story for non-Windows platforms

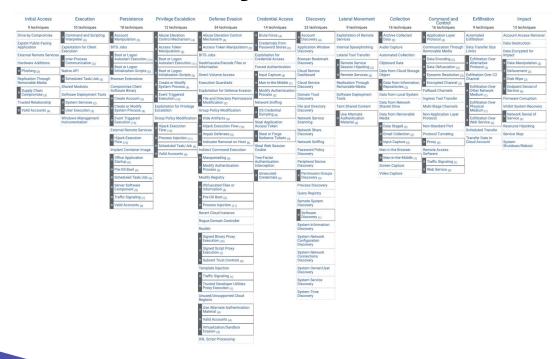


What are vulnerability classifications

- Enumeration of (common) vulnerabilities
 - Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)
 - MITRE ATT&CK Framework
- Shared vocabulary
 - Exchange IOC, techniques
- Knowledge base
 - Red Teaming
 - Defence assessment
- Systematization
 - Research

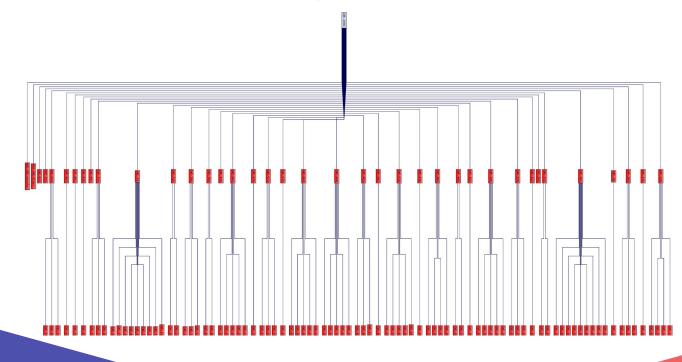


What are vulnerability classifications





What are vulnerability classifications





Why Another Spec?

CWE

- CWE-1236: Improper Neutralization of Formula Elements in a CSV File
- CWE-79: Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')
- CWE-1310: Missing Ability to Patch ROM Code

MITRE ATT&CK:

T1495: Firmware Corruption

o T1542: Pre-OS Boot



Why Another Spec?

CWF

- CWE-1236: Improper Neutralization of Formula Elements in a CSV File
- CWE-79: Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page

Modify System Image

Some vendors of embedded network devices provide cryptographic signing to ensure the integrity of operating system images at boot time. Implement where available, following vendor guidelines. [1]

- MITRE ATT&CK:
 - o T1495: Firmware Corruption
 - o T1542: Pre-OS Boot



Why Another Spec?

CWE

 CWE-1236: Improper Neutralization of Formula Elements in a CSV File

network access or local access. Such a vulnerability is often termed "remotely exploitable". An example of a network attack is an RPC buffer overflow.

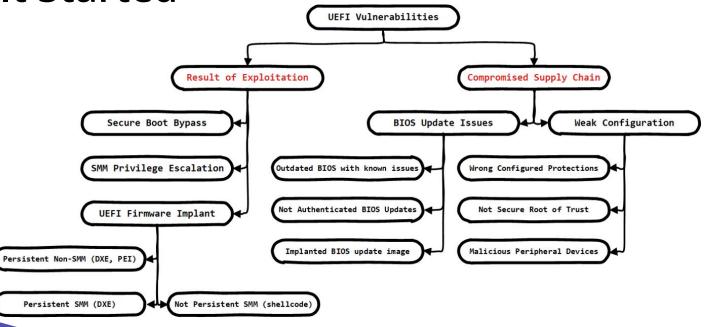
	o (ML (0) Improper Noutralization of Input During Moh Dage
Local (L)	A vulnerability exploitable with only <i>local access</i> requires the attacker to have either physical access to the vulnerable system or a local (shell) account. Examples of locally exploitable vulnerabilities are peripheral attacks such as Firewire/USB DMA attacks, and local privilege escalations (e.g., sudo).
Adjacent Network (A)	A vulnerability exploitable with adjacent network access requires the attacker to have access to either the broadcast or collision domain of the vulnerable software. Examples of local networks include local IP subnet, Bluetooth, IEEE 802.11, and local Ethernet segment.
Network (N)	A vulnerability exploitable with network access means the vulnerable software is bound to the network stack and the attacker does not require local

11495: Firmware Corruption

T1542: Pre-OS Boot



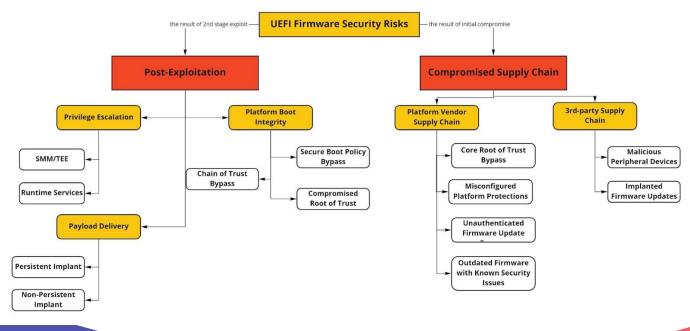
Firmware Vulnerabilities Classification: How It Started



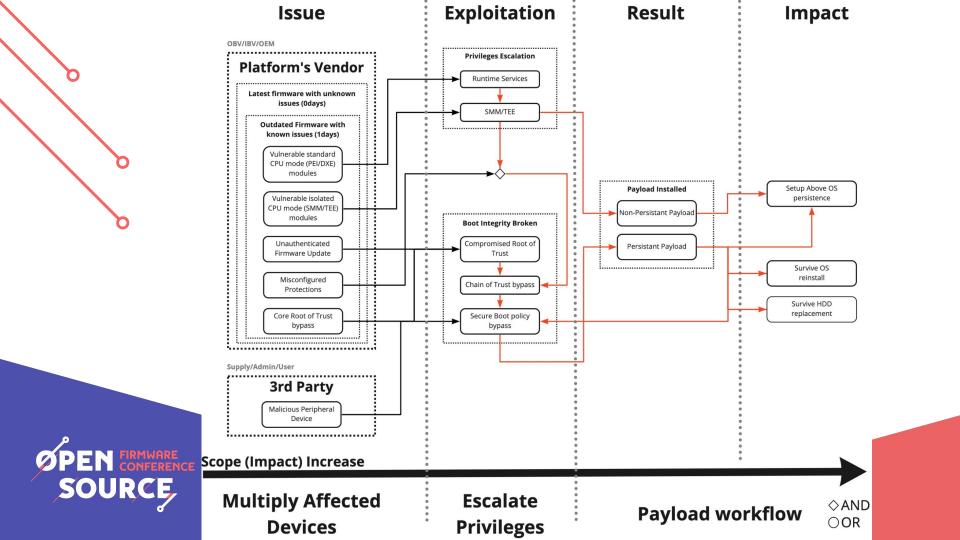


https://medium.com/firmware-threat-hunting/uefi-vulnerabilities-classification-4897596e60af

Firmware Vulnerabilities Classification: Based on Impact







Disclosing and getting fixed the vulnerability is one side of the problem.

Another it's deliver this patch at scale to many systems in the field.



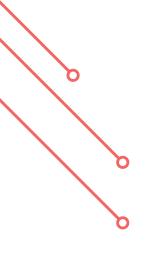
Intel BSSA DFT case study

```
EvLoadTool(host, syscg, &ConfigIndex, &ImageBase);
if ( TotalConfigs )
  ConfigIndex = 0;
    EvLoadConfig(ConfigIndex, host, syscg, TotalConfigs, &v14);
    v5 = *(v14 + 4);
      = v14 + 4 * v5 + 8;
      v7 = (v14 + 8);
        *(v6 + *v7++) += v6;
      while ( v5 ):
    Entry = GetPEEntry(host, ImageBase);
    Entry(Ppi, v6);
    sub FFE6667E(host);
    result = ++ConfigIndex;
  while ( ConfigIndex < TotalConfigs );
  Entry = GetPEEntry(host, ImageBase);
  return sub_FFE6667E(host);
```

- These hidden features of Intel BSSA were designed to run arbitrary unsigned code blobs stored in EFI variables.
- To make matters worse, Intel BSSA DFT is a part of the reference code.
- Intel BSSA DFT was intended to be used for debugging or testing purposes only.

https://www.binarly.io/posts/Attacking_(pre)EFI_Ecosystem





Vendor Name	Vendor Advisory	CVE	URL
Intel	INTEL-SA- 00525	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/security- center/advisory/intel-sa-00525.html
Dell	DSA-2021-146	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-us/000189473/dsa- 2021-146-dell-client-platform-security-update-for-intel-bssa- vulnerability
Nvidia	NV-5213	CVE-2021-0144	https://nvidia.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/5213
Lenovo	LEN-61893	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.lenovo.com/eg/en/product_security/ps500424 intel-bssa-dft-advisory
HP	HPSBHF03736	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.hp.com/za-en/document/ish_4168405- 4168434-16/hpsbhf03736
HPE	HPESBHF04171	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.hpe.com/hpesc/public/docDisplay? docLocale=en_US&docId=hpesbhf04171en_us
Supermicro	no vendor ID	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.supermicro.com/en/support/security_Intel-SA- 00525
F5	K08593253	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K08593253



Binarly FwHunt vs Intel BSSA DFT

```
meta:
 name: INTEL-SA-00525 (CVE-2021-0144)
 namespace: Intel BSSA DFT detection tool
 url: https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/security-center/advisory/intel-sa-00525.html
   - name: EFI_PLATFORM_INFO_GUID
   - value: 1E2ACC41-E26A-483D-AFC7A056C34E087B
   - name: EFI STATUS CODE SPECIFIC DATA GUID
   - value: 335984BD-E805-409A-B8F8D27ECE5FF7A6
   - name: EFI STATUS CODE DATA TYPE DEBUG GUID
   - value: 9A4E9246-D553-11D5-87E200062945C3B9
   - name: EFI_PEI_READ_ONLY_VARIABLE2_PPI_GUID
   - value: 2AB86EF5-ECB5-4134-B5563854CA1FE1B4
   - name: EFI PEI PCD PPI GUID
    value: 01F34D25-4DE2-23AD-3FF336353FF323F1
   - name: EFI PEI READ ONLY VARIABLE2 PPI GUID
   - value: 2AB86EF5-ECB5-4134-B5563854CA1FE1B4
     - name: LocatePpi
wide_strings:
 1: syscq
 2: toolh
hex_strings:
 1: 56e8......593c01....80be....000000
 2: 6a006a0268be00000056e8
   # 68 BE 00 00 00
```

```
const EFI GUID gSsaBiosVariablesGuid
E8 FF EE 43 78 A9 DC 41+gSsaBiosVariablesGuid dd 43EEFFE8h
                                                                         ; Data1
9D B6 54 C4 27 F2 7F 2A
                                                                    DATA XREF: EvLoadTool+65+0
                                                                    EvLoadConfig+7410
                                                                    ExecuteTargetOnlyCmd+74+o
                                                                    SsaBiosLoadStatus+8310
                                         dw 0A978h
                                                                    Data2
                                         dw 41DCh
                                                                    Data3
                                          db 9Dh, 0B6h, 54h, 0C4h, 27h, 0F2h, 7Eh, 2Ah; Data4
(*PeiServices)->LocatePpi(PeiServices, &gReadOnlyVariable2Guid, 0, 0, &ReadOnlyPpi);
ZeroMem(syscg_stack, 2048);
ReadOnlyPpi->GetVariable(ReadOnlyPpi, L"syscg", &gSsaBiosVariablesGuid, 0, &DataSize, syscg_stack);
syscg = AllocatePool(DataSize):
memcpy 0(syscg, syscg stack, DataSize);
TotalConfigs = *(syscg + 0x10);
```

YARA rules that are NOT tailored to effectively cover UEFI firmware code specifics

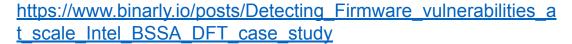
EvLoadTool(host, syscg, &ConfigIndex, &ImageBase);

The Firmware Hunt (FwHunt) rule format was designed to scan for known vulnerabilities and verify that an affected OEM vendor has patched the issue in its latest update.



Binarly FwHunt vs Intel BSSA DFT







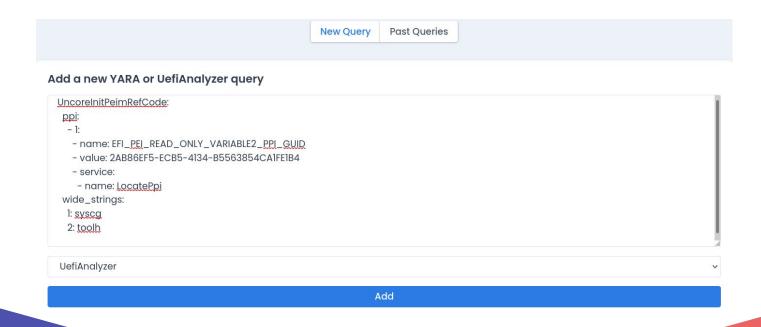
UEFI Firmware IOC hunt

```
uefi_r2 analysis result
                                                                                                         FwHunt rule preview
Item
                                                       Description
                                                                            UncoreInitPeim:
                                                                              meta:
> ppi list
                                                       List of PPI
                                                                                 name: ...
v quids
                                                       List of GUIDs
                                                                                 namespace: ...
  > 0
                                                                                 description: ...
                                                                               guids:
                                                                                   - name: EFI PLATFORM INFO GUID
       name: EFI_STATUS_CODE Add to rule A_GUID
                                                                                   - value: 1E2ACC41-E26A-483D-AFC7A056C34E087B
        value: 335984BD-E805-409A-B8F8D27ECE5FF7A6
   > 2
   > 3
   > 4
                      Help
                                                                                                                                                  Save
```



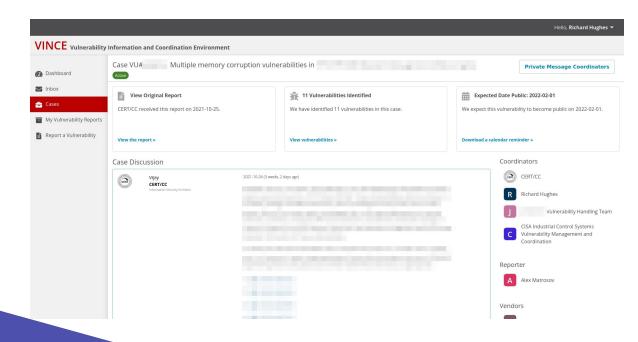
https://github.com/binarly-io/fwhunt-ida https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0-le7z_ojE

LVFS Yara and UEFI R2 scanning



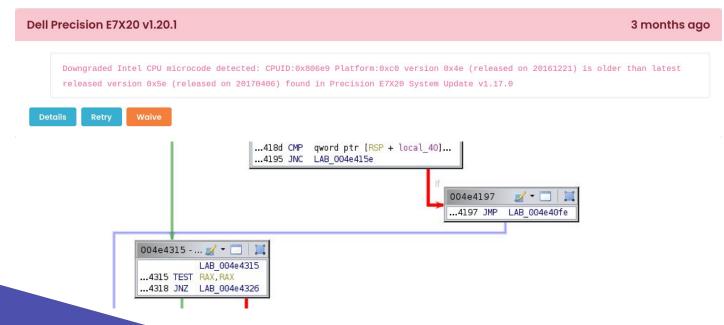


Use LVFS to find affected vendors & devices



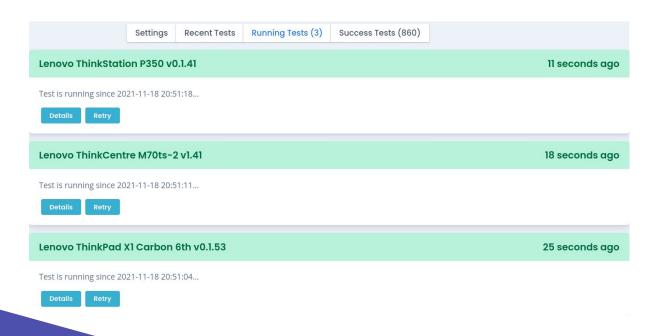


Detect µcode downgrade, and **CVEs too?**





The LVFS run all rules on all firmware





Open Source Tooling

Converged Security Suite

https://github.com/9elements/converged-security-suite

- fwhunt and uefi_r2
 https://github.com/binarly-io/uefi_r2
- efiXplorer
 https://github.com/binarly-io/efiXplorer
- LVFS (Linux Vendor Firmware Service)
 https://fwupd.org







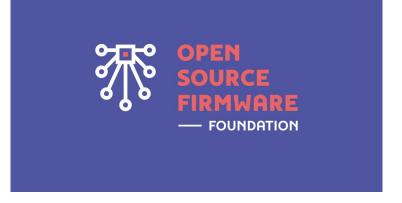




How to get involved?

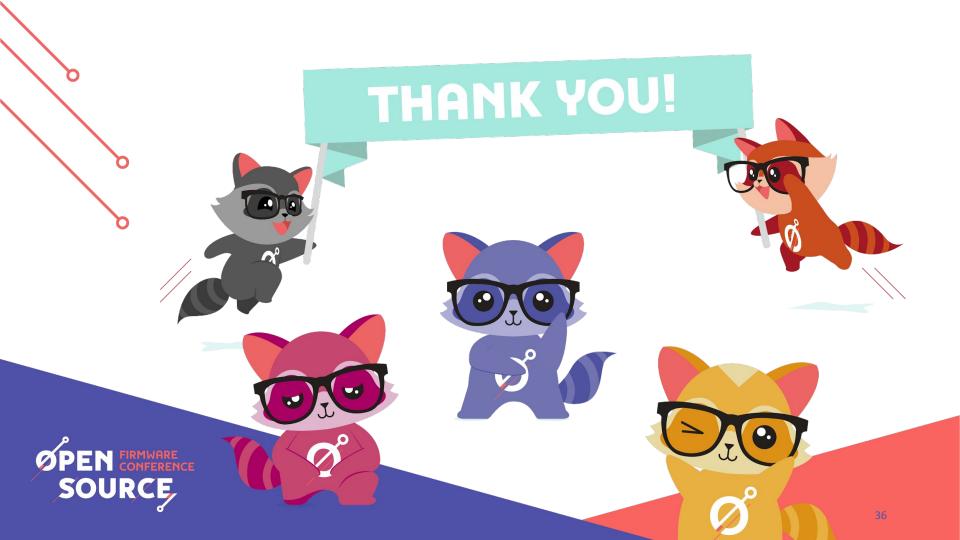
- Firmware Security Workstream
 - Specification and Guidelines
 - Incident Response and Disclosure recommendations
 - Supporting the vendors
 - Open Source Tooling
 - Documentation

Join us now



opensourcefirmware.foundation





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Who are we?
```

Company Intro (immune, binarly)

OSFF Workstream (immune)

Problem Statement

Firmware Vulnerabilities Disclosure Timeline - Binarly

Explain the exploitation path - Binarly

AMI UsbRt and Intel BSSA DFT case studies - Binarly

What are vulnerability classifications? - immune

Lack of transparency/ independent verification of updates / supply chain - immune

How do we solve this situation?

Why Another Spec? - immune/Binarly

Short explanation of the classification (in-depth in the workshop) - Binarly

IOC FwHunt - Binarly

LVFS to verify what is out there (c.f. lack of transparency) (Richard)

Open Source Tooling (Pentesting, Provisioning in the supply chain) - immune

How to get involved?

Concrete Action Points (Alex, Philipp)

Link to application form (relevant skills?, time commitment?) (Alex, Philipp)