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HARDWARE SECURITY MODULE ADAPTER SYSTEM, METHOD AND DEVICE

Abstract

A hardware security module system, method and device including one or more security meshes that cover portions of a circuit board including the encryption/decryption component for determining if an unwanted physical access of the circuit board is occurring and disabling or erasing the hardware security module to prevent the unauthorized access of encryption data.

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Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of the co-pending U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 63/396,642, filed Aug. 10, 2022, and titled “PCI SECURITY HSM ADAPTER,” which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to circuits including encryption/decryption components such as hardware security modules (HSM). More particularly, the present invention relates to adapters for enhancing security of circuits including encryption/decryption components.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The security of data stored in electronic circuitry has become an important issue. Highly sensitive information such as encryption/decryption software keys (e.g. stored in encryption components), financial data, PIN numbers, passwords, and access codes are frequently the target of unauthorized access. One method used in attempting to access this data is the physical penetration of the printed circuit board assembly containing electronic components such as processors, logic circuits, or other circuits or components, as well as various memory devices used to store programs or data. Exposed address and data lines within the printed circuit board assembly may allow access to sensitive data. The penetration of the physical package may be brought about through chemicals, drilling, separation, etc. In addition, X-rays and other known techniques may allow non-destructive penetration into the physical package.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] A hardware security module system, method and device including one or more security meshes that cover portions of a circuit board including the encryption/decryption component for determining if an unwanted physical access of the circuit board is occurring and disabling or erasing the hardware security module to prevent the unauthorized access of encryption data (e.g. encryption keys stored on the encryption/decryption component). Specifically, each trace forming the web of the meshes is able to be electrically coupled with a plurality of mesh contact pads and a plurality of circuit board contact pads such that in order to disable one trace of the mesh an intruder would need to short circuit/bypass each of the plurality of mesh contact pads electrically coupled to that trace in series. Further, the system, method and device is able to include a heat dissipating plate coupled to the circuit board under the security mesh that spreads out heat generated by the circuit board (e.g. the CPU, encryption/decryption component, a mesh controller and/or other components well known in the art) such that the heat is not centralized in any one location as it is transferred from the circuit board to the mesh covering the circuit board. As a result, the heat dissipating plate helps the components of the circuit board not overheat or cause damage to the mesh. Indeed, the mesh hinders heat transfer, but by spreading out the heat generated by the components with the dissipating plate, the system provides the advantage of being able to continuously get enough heat to dissipate through the mesh and off the board to prevent overheating. Moreover, the system, method and device is able to include one or more rigid mesh covers that cover and protect the outside of the meshes from damage and are able to include channels having compressing bodies therein that elastically provide a firm compression between each of the contact pads of the meshes and each of the contact pads of the circuit board when the cover is secured to the circuit board.

[0005] A first aspect is directed to a hardware security module system. The system comprises a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, an encryption/decryption component for encrypting/decrypting data, a mesh controller, a central processing unit (CPU) electrically coupled with the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller and a plurality of board contact pads, a first flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of first metal traces electrically coupled with a plurality of first mesh contact pads, wherein the first flexible mesh is electrically coupled with the mesh controller via a first set of the board contact pads located on the top side of the printed circuit board and a second flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of second metal traces electrically coupled with a plurality of

second mesh contact pads, wherein the second flexible mesh is electrically coupled with the mesh controller via a second set of the board contact pads located on the bottom side of the printed circuit board.

[0006] In some embodiments, the first flexible mesh circuit covers a location of the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board and the second flexible mesh circuit covers a location of the encryption/decryption component on the bottom side of the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the mesh controller transmits electrical signals through and receives return electric signals from the first and second metal traces of the first and second flexible mesh circuits via the board contact pads and the first and second mesh contact pads. In some embodiments, each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller travel through both the first flexible mesh circuit and the second flexible mesh circuit before returning to the mesh controller. In some embodiments, the mesh controller deletes encryption keys maintained by the encryption/decryption component when signals received from one or both of the first and second flexible mesh circuits deviate from expected values. In some embodiments, first mesh contact pads are distributed along a perimeter of the first flexible mesh circuit and the board contact pads of the first set of the board contact pads are positioned around the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board such that each of the first set of board contact pads aligns with one of the first mesh contact pads.

[0007] In some embodiments, the system further comprises a rigid heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and a second side having a central recess for receiving the first flexible mesh circuit, wherein the second side couples to the first flexible mesh and the top side of the printed circuit board such that the first flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the system further comprises a rigid bottom cover having a first face including a central cavity for receiving the second flexible mesh circuit, wherein the first face couples to the second flexible mesh and the bottom side of the printed circuit board such that the second flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the first face of the rigid bottom cover and the bottom side of the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, the system further comprising a plurality of compressing bodies each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, wherein each of the bases is positioned within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels.

[0008] In some embodiments, when the first flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of the first mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the first mesh contact pads against one of the first set of board contact pads with which the different one of the first mesh contact pads is aligned. In some embodiments, the system further comprises a rigid metal heat dissipator plate coupled to the top side of the printed circuit board between the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller and the first flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller throughout the plate. In some embodiments, a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the first flexible mesh where the first flexible mesh couples to the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the printed circuit board further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both the mesh controller and the encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.

[0009] A second aspect is directed to a method of implementing a hardware security module system. The method comprises providing a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, an encryption/decryption component for encrypting/decrypting data, a mesh controller, a central processing unit (CPU) electrically coupled with the encryption/decryption

component and the mesh controller and a plurality of board contact pads, electrically coupling a first flexible mesh circuit with the mesh controller via a first set of the board contact pads located on the top side of the printed circuit board, the first flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of first metal traces electrically coupled with a plurality of first mesh contact pads and electrically coupling a second flexible mesh with the mesh controller via a second set of the board contact pads located on the bottom side of the printed circuit board, the second flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of second metal traces electrically coupled with a plurality of second mesh contact pads.

[0010] In some embodiments, the first flexible mesh circuit covers a location of the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board and the second flexible mesh circuit covers a location of the encryption/decryption component on the bottom side of the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the method further comprises, with the mesh controller, transmitting electrical signals through and receiving return electric signals from the first and second metal traces of the first and second flexible mesh circuits via the board contact pads and the first and second mesh contact pads. In some embodiments, each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller travel through both the first flexible mesh circuit and the second flexible mesh circuit before returning to the mesh controller. In some embodiments, the method further comprises deleting encryption keys maintained by the encryption/decryption component with the mesh controller when signals received from one or both of the first and second flexible mesh circuits deviate from expected values. In some embodiments, first mesh contact pads are distributed along a perimeter of the first flexible mesh circuit and the board contact pads of the first set of the board contact pads are positioned around the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board such that each of the first set of board contact pads aligns with one of the first mesh contact pads.

[0011] In some embodiments, the method further comprises coupling a second side of a rigid heat sink cover to the first flexible mesh and the top side of the printed circuit board such that the first flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, the rigid heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and the second side having a central recess for receiving the first flexible mesh circuit. In some embodiments, the method further comprises coupling a first face of a rigid bottom cover to the second flexible mesh and the bottom side of the printed circuit board such that the second flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the first face of the rigid bottom cover and the bottom side of the printed circuit board, the rigid bottom cover having the first face including a central cavity for receiving the second flexible mesh circuit. In some embodiments, the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, further comprising positioning a plurality of compressing bodies, each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels.

[0012] In some embodiments, when the first flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of the first mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the first mesh contact pads against one of the first set of board contact pads with which the different one of the first mesh contact pads is aligned. In some embodiments, the method further comprises coupling a rigid metal heat dissipator plate to the top side of the printed circuit board between the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller and the first flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller throughout the plate. In some embodiments, a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the first flexible mesh where the first flexible mesh couples to the printed circuit board. In some embodiments, the printed circuit board further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both

the mesh controller and the encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.

[0013] A third aspect is directed to a hardware security module adapter. The adapter comprises a substrate including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, an encryption/decryption component for encrypting/decrypting data, a mesh controller, a central processing unit (CPU) electrically coupled with the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller and a plurality of substrate contact pads, a flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of first metal traces electrically coupled with a plurality of first mesh contact pads, wherein the flexible mesh is electrically coupled with the mesh controller via a first set of the substrate contact pads located on the top side of the substrate and a rigid heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and a second side having a central recess for receiving the flexible mesh circuit, wherein the second side couples to the flexible mesh and the top side of the substrate such that the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the substrate.

[0014] In some embodiments, the flexible mesh circuit covers a location of the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the substrate. In some embodiments, the mesh controller transmits electrical signals through and receives return electric signals from the first metal traces of the flexible mesh circuit via the substrate contact pads and the first mesh contact pads. In some embodiments, each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller travel through the flexible mesh circuit, the substrate contact pads and traces within the substrate before returning to the mesh controller. In some embodiments, the mesh controller deletes data stored in the encryption/decryption component required to generate encryption keys when signals received from the flexible mesh circuit deviate from expected values. In some embodiments, first mesh contact pads are distributed along a perimeter of the flexible mesh circuit and the substrate contact pads of the first set of the substrate contact pads are positioned around the encryption/decryption component on the top side of the substrate such that each of the first set of substrate contact pads aligns with one of the first mesh contact pads.

[0015] In some embodiments, the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, further comprising a plurality of compressing bodies each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, wherein each of the bases is positioned within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels. In some embodiments, when the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the substrate, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of the first mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the first mesh contact pads against one of the first set of substrate contact pads with which the different one of the first mesh contact pads is aligned. In some embodiments, the adapter further comprises a rigid metal heat dissipator plate coupled to the top side of the substrate between the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller and the flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit, the encryption/decryption component and the mesh controller throughout the plate. In some embodiments, a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the flexible mesh where the flexible mesh couples to the substrate. In some embodiments, the substrate further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both the mesh controller and the encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.

[0016] A fourth aspect is directed to a security module system. The system comprises a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, means for encrypting/decrypting data, means for controlling both first and second means for securing the means for encrypting/decrypting data, means for processing data and first means for electrically coupling the first and second means for securing with the means for controlling, wherein the means for processing is electrically coupled with the means for encrypting/decrypting data and the means for controlling, the first means for securing including first means for forming a first conductive web

electrically coupled with second means for electrically coupling the first means for forming the first conductive web with a first portion of the first means for electrically coupling positioned on the top side of the printed circuit board and the second means for securing including second means for forming a second conductive web electrically coupled with third means for electrically coupling the second means for forming the second conductive web with a second portion of the first means for electrically coupling positioned on the bottom side of the printed circuit board.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] FIG. 1A illustrates a top perspective view of a hardware security module system according to some embodiments.

[0018] FIG. 1B illustrates a bottom perspective view of a hardware security module system according to some embodiments.

[0019] FIG. 1C illustrates an exploded top perspective view of a hardware security module system according to some embodiments.

[0020] FIG. 2A illustrates a top perspective view of the printed circuit board according to some embodiments.

[0021] FIG. 2B illustrates a bottom perspective view of the printed circuit board according to some embodiments.

[0022] FIG. 2C illustrates a top view of the printed circuit board according to some embodiments.

[0023] FIG. 2D illustrates a bottom view of the printed circuit board according to some embodiments.

[0024] FIG. 3A illustrate a bottom perspective view of the top mesh according to some embodiments.

[0025] FIG. 3B illustrate a front view of the top mesh according to some embodiments.

[0026] FIG. 3C illustrate a side view of the top mesh according to some embodiments.

[0027] FIG. 3D illustrate a bottom view of the top mesh according to some embodiments.

[0028] FIG. 3E illustrate a bottom detail view of the circled portion 3E in FIG. 3D according to some embodiments.

[0029] FIG. 4A illustrates a top perspective view of the heat sink cover according to some embodiments.

[0030] FIG. 4B illustrates a bottom perspective view of the heat sink cover according to some embodiments.

[0031] FIG. 4C illustrates a top view of the heat sink cover according to some embodiments.

[0032] FIG. 4D illustrates a side view of the heat sink cover according to some embodiments.

[0033] FIG. 4E illustrates a bottom view of the heat sink cover according to some embodiments.

[0034] FIG. 4F illustrates a side cross sectional view of the heat sink cover at the cross sectional line 4F shown in FIG. 4E according to some embodiments.

[0035] FIG. 4G illustrates a bottom perspective view of the heat sink cover including channels according to some embodiments.

[0036] FIG. 4H illustrates a bottom view of the heat sink cover including channels according to some embodiments.

[0037] FIG. 4I illustrates a top perspective view of a compression element according to some embodiments.

[0038] FIG. 4J illustrates a bottom perspective view of a compression element according to some embodiments.

[0039] FIG. 5A illustrates a top perspective view of the bottom cover according to some embodiments.

[0040] FIG. 5B illustrates a bottom perspective view of the bottom cover according to some embodiments.

[0041] FIG. 5C illustrates a top view of the bottom cover according to some embodiments.

[0042] FIG. 5D illustrates a side view of the bottom cover according to some embodiments.

[0043] FIG. 5E illustrates a bottom view of the bottom cover according to some embodiments.

[0044] FIG. 5F illustrates a side cross sectional view of the bottom cover at the cross sectional line shown in FIG. 5E according to some embodiments.

[0045] FIG. 5G illustrates a bottom perspective view of the bottom cover including channels according to some embodiments.

[0046] FIG. 5H illustrates a bottom view of the bottom cover including channels according to some embodiments.

[0047] FIG. 5I illustrates a top perspective view of a compression element according to some embodiments.

[0048] FIG. 5J illustrates a bottom perspective view of a compression element according to some embodiments.

[0049] FIG. 6A illustrates a top perspective view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0050] FIG. 6B illustrates a bottom perspective view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0051] FIG. 6C illustrates a front view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0052] FIG. 6D illustrates a side view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0053] FIG. 6E illustrates a top view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0054] FIG. 6F illustrates a bottom view of the heat dissipator plate according to some embodiments.

[0055] FIG. 7 illustrates a method of implementing payment card industry compliant hardware security module system according to some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0056] In the following description, numerous details are set forth for purposes of explanation. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will realize that the invention can be practiced without the use of these specific details. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and features described herein.

[0057] Embodiments are directed to a hardware security module system, method and device including one or more security meshes that cover portions of a circuit board including the encryption/decryption component for determining if an unwanted physical access of the circuit board is occurring and disabling or erasing the hardware security module to prevent the unauthorized access of encryption data (e.g. encryption keys stored on the encryption/decryption component). Specifically, each trace forming the web of the meshes is able to be electrically coupled with a plurality of mesh contact pads and a plurality of circuit board contact pads such that in order to disable one trace of the mesh an intruder would need to short circuit/bypass each of the plurality of mesh contact pads electrically coupled to that trace in series. Further, the system, method and device is able to include a heat dissipating plate coupled to the circuit board under the security mesh that spreads out heat generated by the circuit board (e.g. the CPU, the encryption/decryption component, a mesh controller and/or other components well known in the art) such that the heat is not centralized in any one location as it is transferred from the circuit board through the mesh to the mesh covers covering the circuit board and out of the system. Moreover, the system, method and device is able to include one or more rigid mesh covers that cover and protect the outside of the meshes from damage and are able to include channels having compressing bodies therein that elastically provide a firm compression between each of the contact pads of the meshes and each of the contact pads of the circuit board when the cover is secured to

the circuit board.

[0058] As a result, the system, method and device provide the advantage of instead of having a single mesh contact pad for each trace at a single location (thereby creating a single centralized attack point), using multiple trace contact points distributed around the mesh and circuit board for each trace, requiring a series of bypasses distributed around the mesh just to disable a single trace of the mesh. Also, the system, method and device provide the advantage of preventing heat damage to portions of the security mesh that are adjacent to heat generating components by absorbing the heat into the plate and spreading the heat over the larger area of the plate as it is transferred to the mesh. Further, the system, method and device provide the advantage of using compressing bodies that enable the use of conductive adhesive to electrically detachably (non-permanently) couple the mesh contact pads to the circuit board contact pads due to their compression of the mesh and circuit board pads together. Moreover, the compressing bodies further provide the advantage of acting as an anti-lift attack mechanism. In particular, if an attacker were trying to pry the covers/meshes up from the circuit board in order to access the contact pads, the compression makes accessing these pads more difficult and/or makes lifting the cover high enough (to overcome the compression) to access a pad more likely to electrically disconnect another pad connection thereby alerting the circuit of the intrusion (where the security signal is lost and the encryption data is able to be zeroized before it can be accessed).

[0059] FIGS. 1A-C illustrate a top perspective view, a bottom perspective view and an exploded top perspective view of a hardware security module system **100**, respectively, according to some embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 1A-C, the hardware security module system **100** comprises a printed circuit board (or printed circuit board assembly) **102**, a top mesh **104a**, a bottom mesh **104b**, a top cover **106a**, a bottom cover **106b** and a heat dissipator plate **108**. Alternatively, one or more of the top mesh **104a**, the bottom mesh **104b**, the top cover **106a**, the bottom cover **106b** and the heat dissipator plate **108** are able to be omitted. The heat dissipator plate **108** is physically coupled to a top side of the printed circuit board **102** adjacent and/or in contact with one or more heat generating components of the circuit board **102** (e.g. central processing unit **206**, mesh controller component/circuit/microchip **208**, encryption/decryption component **212**, memory **210**, power supply, integrated circuit/microchip or other components). In some embodiments, the plate **108** is coupled to the printed circuit board **102** by a plurality of screws.

[0060] The top mesh **104a** is physically coupled to the top side of the printed circuit board **102** over the encryption/decryption component **212**, the mesh controller **208** and/or the heat dissipator plate **108**. In particular, a perimeter of the top mesh **104a** is physically coupled to a perimeter of the printed circuit board **102** that surrounds at least the encryption/decryption component **212**, mesh controller **208** and/or heat dissipator plate **108** on the top side of the board **102**. Similarly, the bottom mesh **104b** is physically coupled to the bottom side of the printed circuit board **102** under the encryption/decryption component **212**, mesh controller **208** and/or heat dissipator plate **108**. In particular, a perimeter of the bottom mesh **104b** is physically coupled to a perimeter of the bottom of the printed circuit board **102**, the perimeter surrounding the portion of the board **102** under at least one of the encryption/decryption component **212**, mesh controller **208** and/or heat dissipator plate **108** on the bottom side of the board **102**. As a result, the bottom mesh **104b** is able to protect against drilling through the bottom of the board **102** to access the components covered by the top mesh **104a**. In some embodiments, the memory **210** is able to be positioned on the bottom of the board **102** such that it is covered by the bottom mesh **104b**. In some embodiments, the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are able to be detachably (e.g. non-permanently) coupled to the printed circuit board **102** such that decoupling of the meshes **104a**, **104b** does not damage the printed circuit board **102** (although it will alert the mesh controller **208** to disable access to the encryption data and/or keys stored in the encryption/decryption component **212** as described herein).

[0061] In some embodiments, some or all of the encryption/decryption component and/or mesh controller (including traces coupled thereto) are exposed on the bottom side of the printed circuit

board within the perimeter. Alternatively, the encryption/decryption component and/or mesh controller (including traces coupled thereto) are not exposed on the bottom side, but the bottom mesh **104b** is able to protect them from any drilling through the bottom side of the board **102** to access them on the top side. In some embodiments, some portions of the perimeter of the top and/or bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are coupled to the board **102** via a non-conductive adhesive whereas other portions of the perimeter of the top and/or bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are coupled to the board **102** via a conductive adhesive (to facilitate electrical coupling between the board contact pads and mesh contact pads as described in detail below). Alternatively, other methods of conductively and/or non-conductively coupling the top and/or bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** to the board **102** are able to be used. In some embodiments, the top and/or bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are flexible printed circuits having the features described herein.

[0062] FIGS. 2A-D illustrate a top perspective view, a bottom perspective view, a top view and a bottom view of the printed circuit board **102**, respectively, according to some embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 2A-D, the printed circuit board **102** comprises a substrate **202** including a plurality of conductive contact pads **204**, a central processing unit (CPU) **206**, a mesh controller **208**, memory **210** and an encryption/decryption component **212** all electrically coupled together via one or more conductive traces/contact pads deposited on and/or through the substrate **202** thereby enabling the operation of the circuit as described herein. Although for the sake of clarity the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** are described herein and illustrated in FIGS. 2A-D as separate components, it is understood that the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** are able to be two functions/modules/elements of the same component that performs both of their functions. For example, a single microcontroller unit (MCU) or other computing unit of the circuit board **102** is able to include an encryption/decryption element (hardware and/or software) that performs the encryption/decryption functions described herein and a controller element (hardware and/or software) that performs the mesh controlling functions described herein.

[0063] In such embodiments, communications described herein between the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** are internal communications within the single component and communications described herein to/from the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** to/from other elements are communications to/from the single component to/from the other elements. Similarly, in such embodiments the electrical and/or physical coupling described herein between the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** are internal electrical and/or physical coupling within the single component and electrical and/or physical coupling described herein of the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** with other elements are electrical and/or physical coupling of the single component with the other elements. Further, in such embodiments instead of covering at least multiple positions on the printed circuit board **102** with the meshes **104a**, **104b** in order to cover the position of the mesh controller **208** and the position of the encryption/decryption component **212**, a single position of the single component including both the mesh controller **208** and the encryption/decryption component **212** is able to be covered as described herein.

[0064] A first portion of the conductive contact pads **204** are able to be distributed on a top side of the substrate **202** such that they form a perimeter around at least the encryption/decryption component **212** and the mesh controller **208** on the top side. A second portion of the conductive contact pads **204** are able to be distributed on a bottom side of the substrate **202** mirroring the locations of the first portion of pads **204** on the top side. Alternatively, one or more pads of the second portion of pads **204** are able to not mirror the location of the first portion of pads **204** as long as they still form a perimeter at least around the section of the bottom side opposite where the encryption/decryption component **212** and the mesh controller **208** are located on the top side (and/or sections where the encryption/decryption component **212**, the mesh controller **208** and/or portions thereof are exposed/accessible from the bottom side). As a result, the contact pads **204**

form (matching or non-matching) perimeters on both the top and bottom side of the substrate **202** that each surround the location of the encryption/decryption component **212** and the controller **208** on the board **102**. In some embodiments, the contact pads **204** are able to surround additional components of the board **102** such as the CPU **206** and/or other components described herein. [0065] As shown in FIG. 2, the board **102** comprises **96** contact pads **204** on each side of the substrate **202** (for a total of **192**), grouped into sets of six pads **204** symmetrically positioned along the perimeters of each side. Alternatively, the substrate **202** is able to comprise more or less total pads **204**, more or less pads **204** on each side (such that the top and bottom sides have equal or unequal amounts of pads **204**), pads **204** grouped into larger or smaller sets (or not grouped at all) and/or positioned along different perimeters (as long as the perimeter still surrounds the encryption/decryption component **212** and the controller **208**). The contact pads **204** are able to be gold contact pads or other types of conductive contact material. In some embodiments, each of the contact pads **204** is electrically isolated from each other of the contact pads **204** except for through one or more of the other components of the circuit board **102** such as the mesh controller **208** and/or the security meshes **104a**, **104b** when coupled to the pads **204**.

[0066] The encryption/decryption component **212** is able to be a computing component (hardware and/or software) that safeguards and manages cryptographic keys and provides cryptographic processing (e.g. using a cryptographic module). For example, the encryption/decryption component **212** is able to be a physical computing component that provides tamper-evident and intrusion-resistant safeguarding and management of digital keys and other secrets, as well as crypto-processing. Alternatively, the encryption/decryption component **212** is able to be other types of hardware security modules known in the art. As described above, the encryption/decryption component **212** is coupled with at least the CPU **206** and the mesh controller **208** for providing encryption/decryption functions of the circuit board **102** including the storing, generating and/or maintaining of encryption keys.

[0067] The mesh controller **208** is able to be a microcontroller or other type of hardware controller and/or a software controller. The mesh controller **208** is operatively coupled with at least the contact pads **204** of the board **102** and the encryption/decryption component **212** for transmitting signals through the meshes **104a**, **104b**, detecting signals from the meshes **104a**, **104b** (via the contact pads **204**) indicating an intrusion attempt, and disabling access to, deleting and/or otherwise protecting the encryption data (e.g. encryption keys, data used to generate encryption keys, or other encryption data) stored in the encryption/decryption component **212**. The encryption/decryption component **212** and/or the mesh controller **208** are able to operate in conjunction with and/or independently of the CPU **206** and/or the memory **210**. In particular, although shown separately and in a single location in FIG. 2, the memory **210** is able to be located in multiple locations, shared memory, dedicated memory and/or wholly or partially internal memory of the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or the controller **208**.

[0068] In some embodiments, one or more of the components of the printed circuit board **102** are able to be combined in to a single component and/or divided into multiple components with the overall functionality of the printed circuit board **102** remaining the same. In some embodiments, the printed circuit board **102** is able to comprise one or more additional components such as, but not limited to, power sources, network interfaces, resistors, capacitors, inductors, transistors, physical ports and/or other components known in the art. Similarly, the substrate **202** is able to include a plurality of additional contact pads and/or conductive traces (not shown) for electrically coupling one or more of the embedded components, surface mounted components and/or other components of the printed circuit board **102** together to enable operation of the circuit.

Alternatively, one or more of the components are able to be omitted. In some embodiments, the printed circuit board **102** is an LS2-PCI security HSM adapter. Alternatively, the printed circuit board **102** is able to be other types of devices including an encryption/decryption component **212**. In some embodiments, the board **102** comprises one or more fastener-receiving elements (e.g.

screw-receiving nuts fixed to the board) positioned on the substrate **202** for receiving fasteners (e.g. screws) to secure the cover **106a**, top mesh **104a** and/or other components to the circuit board **102**. [0069] FIGS. 3A-E illustrates a bottom perspective view, a front view, a side view, a bottom view and a bottom detail view of the top mesh **104a**, respectively, according to some embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 3A-E, the top mesh **104a** comprises a flexible body **302** including a plurality of printed or embedded electrically conductive traces **304** each electrically coupled with two or more of a plurality of conductive mesh contact pads **306**. The mesh contact pads **306** are exposed on at least one side of the flexible body **302** such that they are able to be electrically coupled with the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102**. The flexible body **302** is able to form a pocket or cavity that fits around the components (and/or heat dissipating plate **108**) within the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102**. The size, shape and/or perimeter of the flexible body **302** is able to match the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102** such that the perimeter of the flexible body **302** (and its mesh contact pads **306**) is able to couple to the perimeter of the top side of the circuit board **102** as described above. Similarly, the mesh contact pads **306** are able to be shaped and/or positioned along the perimeter of the flexible body **302** of the mesh **104a** such that they form the same pattern and/or relative positioning on the flexible body **302** as the pattern and/or relative positioning of the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102**.

Additionally, the quantity and/or grouping of the mesh contact pads **306** is able to match the quantity and/or grouping of the contact pads **204** on the top side of the circuit board **102**. As a result, the coupling of the mesh **104a**, **104b** to the printed circuit board **102** is able to create an electrical connection between the mesh contact pads and the board contact pads **204** with which they align. In some embodiments, a conductive adhesive is used to couple the portions where the mesh contact pads and the board contact pads **204** meet in order to facilitate the electrically conductive coupling between the aligned pads. Alternatively, the body **302** of the top mesh **104a** is able to be larger than the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the top side of the board **102**, as long as the mesh contact pads **306** are still positioned on the body **302** in the same position relative to each other such that they each are still able to simultaneously align with a different one of the contact pads **204** on the top side of the board **102** when the top mesh **104a** is coupled to the board **102**.

[0070] The mesh traces **304** are electrically isolated from each other and form a serpentine or other pattern throughout the flexible body **302** thereby creating a web that blocks an intruders attempts to penetrate the flexible body **302** with contacting one or more of the traces **304** thereby detectably disturbing electrical signals transmitted through the traces **304** and/or contact pads **306** (via the mesh controller **208**). For the sake of clarity, only a single trace **304** forming an abbreviated serpentine pattern is labeled and shown in FIG. 3D. However, it is understood that a plurality or all of the contact pads **306** are able to be coupled to a trace **304** and each of the multiple traces **304** are able to form elaborate serpentine pattern or other patterns throughout large portions of the mesh **302** (starting and ending at a different contact pad **306**) in order to form the web (having a sufficient density to prevent penetration of the mesh without severing one or more traces and/or disturbing electrical signals transmitted through the traces). In some embodiments, the flexible body **302** comprises a plurality of layers wherein one or more of the traces **304** form their pattern through each of the layers. In particular, in such embodiments the direction of a majority of the traces **304** in a section of a first layer of the body **302** are able to be perpendicular to the direction of a majority of the traces **304** in a section of an adjacent layer of the body **302** (that aligns with the section in the first layer) thereby forming a “cross-hatch” when observing the traces **304** of the sections of the two layers together. Additional layers and non-parallel directions of traces **304** in adjacent layers are able to be used to create increasingly dense webs within the body **302** of the mesh **104a**.

[0071] In some embodiments, the body **302** is able to be a flexible printed circuit including the

embedded and/or printed mesh traces **304** and mesh contact pads **306**. In some embodiments, the mesh traces **304** are able to be silver ink traces and the body is able to be polyester. Alternatively, the one or more of the mesh traces **304** are able to be formed by other conductive materials and/or the body **302** is able to be formed of one or more other materials or a combination thereof. Although as shown in FIG. 3, the mesh **104** comprises a plurality of traces **304** each coupled with a subset of **96** mesh contact pads **306**, more or less traces **304** and/or contact pads **306** are able to be used with each trace **304** coupled to equal or unequal sized subsets of the mesh contact pads **306** (wherein each contact pad **306** is at most integrally electrically coupled with a single one of the traces **304**). In some embodiments, the body **302** is able to comprise one or more screw holes for receiving screws used to couple the cover **106a** to the circuit board **102**.

[0072] The bottom mesh **104b** is able to be substantially similar to the top mesh **104a** except for the differences described herein. For example, if the shape, size, quantity and/or perimeter formed by the second contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the board **102** differs from that of the first contact pads **204** on the top side of the board **102**, the bottom mesh **104b** is able to correspondingly differ in body shape, body size, mesh contact pad **306** quantity and/or body perimeter from the top mesh **104a** in order for the contact pads and/or body **302** of the bottom mesh **104b** to align with the shape, size, quantity and/or perimeter formed by the second contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the board **102**. Similarly, the pocket within the body **302** of the bottom mesh **104b** is able to be sized and shaped to receive the components of the printed circuit board **102** within the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the board **102** (rather than those on the top side as with the top mesh **104a**).

[0073] When mesh contact pads **306** of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are electrically coupled with the contact pads **204** of the top and bottom of the printed circuit board **102**, along with the internal traces of the substrate **202** and the mesh controller **208**, the traces **304** of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** form a plurality (e.g. four) electrical paths. Each of these electrical paths serially electrically couple the mesh controller **208** (e.g. via board **102** traces coupled thereto) with a plurality of the mesh contact pads **306** in one or both of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b**, one or more traces **304** in one or both of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b**, a plurality of the board contact pads **204** in on one or both of the top side and the bottom side of the board **102** and then back to the mesh controller **208** (e.g. forming an electrical loop). As a result, the mesh controller **208** is able to transmit electrical signals through the electrical paths through one or both of the meshes **104a**, **104b** and receive the signals back as they complete their electrical loop. This provides the advantage of enabling the mesh controller **208** to determine if there has been an attempted intrusion based on a deviation of the received signals from their normal parameters. For example, if an intruder attempts to access the components of the circuit board **102** (e.g. the encryption/decryption component **212** or the controller **208** itself), any electrical signal changes caused by the intrusion will be detected by the controller **208** which can then shut down, secure, or otherwise protect the data within the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or other components. Additionally, because of the use of multiple contact pads **306/204** positioned in multiple locations (with the electrical paths/loops including multiple pads/locations), the system provides the advantage of instead of having a single mesh contact pad for each trace at a single location (thereby creating a single centralized attack point), requiring a series of bypasses distributed around the mesh just to disable a single trace (or path) of the mesh.

[0074] FIGS. 4A-F illustrate a top perspective view, a bottom perspective view, a top view, a side view, a bottom view and a side cross sectional view of the heat sink cover **106a**, respectively, according to some embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 4A-F, the heat sink cover **106a** comprises a base **402**, one or more cooling fins **404** extending from the base **402**, a receiving cavity **406** and one or more fastening apertures **408**. Alternatively, one or more of the cooling fins **404** and/or fastening apertures **408** are able to be omitted. For example, fins **404** are able to be omitted such that the heat sink cover **106a** is substantially similar to the bottom cover **106b** if heat dissipation is

not necessary for the cover **106a**. The heat sink cover **106a** is able to be rigid in order to provide physical protection to the top mesh **104a** and the top side of the printed circuit board **102** when they are within the receiving cavity **406** and the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**. In some embodiments, the heat sink cover **106a** is able to be formed by metal. Alternatively, the cover **106a** is able to be formed by one or a combination of materials such as metals, plastics, or other materials.

[0075] The receiving cavity **406** is able to be sized such that the pocket of the top mesh **104a** and the components (and/or heat dissipating plate **108**) within the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102** fit within the cavity **406** when the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**. The size, shape and/or perimeter of the base **402** is able to match the perimeter formed by the mesh contact pads **306** on the top mesh **104a** as well as the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the top side of the printed circuit board **102** such that, when the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**, the perimeter of the base **402** presses the perimeter of the top mesh **104a** (and/or the mesh contact pads **306**) against the perimeter of the top side of the printed circuit board **102** (and/or the board contact pads **204**).

[0076] The top mesh **104a** is able to be coupled within the receiving cavity **406** and to the perimeter of the base **402** of the heat sink cover **106a** via a non-conductive adhesive. Further, the heat sink cover **106a** is able to couple to the board **102** via one or more fasteners (e.g. screws) that extend through the fastening apertures **408** (through the holes within the top mesh **104a**) and into fastener receiving elements (e.g. screw-receiving nuts fixed to the board) of the printed circuit board **102**. In some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 4G and 4H, the perimeter of the base **402** is able to comprise one or more channels **410** and one or more elastic compression elements or bodies **414** positioned within each of the channels **410** for increasing the compression of the mesh contact pads **306** against the contact pads **204** of the circuit board **102** when the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**. In particular, as shown in FIGS. 4I and 4J, the elastic compression elements **414** are able to comprise a slab **418** and one or more bumps or protrusions **416** that extend away from one side of the slab **418**. The slab **418** is sized such that it fits within the corresponding channel **410** and is flush with the surface of the base **402** that immediately surrounds the channel **410**. Additionally, the bumps **416** are aligned with the contact pads **204**, **306** of both the top mesh **104a** and the printed circuit board **102** when the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**. As a result, the bumps **416** extend beyond the surface of the base **402** surrounding the channel **410** and are compressed between the channel **410** and the board contact pads **204** when the cover **106a** is coupled to the board **102**. The bumps **416** (and their elastic properties) thereby provide the advantage of applying increased pressure and better contact between the mesh contact pads **306** and the board contact pads **204** (and/or the conductive adhesive therebetween).

[0077] In some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 4G-4J, the channels **410** include one or more holes **412** and the back of the slabs **418** include one or more alignment rods **410** extending out from the back of the slab **418** that fit within the holes **412** of the corresponding channel **410**. As a result, the holes **412** and rods **420** facilitate the proper alignment and secure positioning of the compression elements **414** within the channels **410**. Although as shown in FIGS. 4G-4J, the compression elements **414** include two rods **420** and the channels **410** include two holes **412**, more or less rods **420** and/or holes **412** are able to be used. Alternatively, the one or more holes **412** and/or the one or more alignment rods **420** are able to be omitted. In some embodiments, the compression elements **414** are made of rubber, silicone, other elastic materials and/or a combination thereof.

[0078] FIG. 5A-F illustrate a top perspective view, a bottom perspective view, a top view, a side view, a bottom view and a side cross sectional view of the bottom cover **106b** according to some embodiments. The bottom cover **106b** is able to be substantially similar to the heat sink cover **106a** except for the differences described herein. As shown in FIGS. 5A-F, the bottom cover **106a** comprises a base **502**, a receiving cavity **506** and one or more fastening apertures **508**.

Alternatively, one or more of the fastening apertures **508** are able to be omitted. The bottom cover **106b** is able to be rigid in order to provide physical protection to the bottom mesh **104b** and the bottom side of the printed circuit board **102** when they are within the receiving cavity **506** and the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**. In some embodiments, the bottom cover **106b** is able to be formed by metal. Alternatively, the cover **106b** is able to be formed by one or a combination of materials such as metals, plastics, or other materials.

[0079] The receiving cavity **506** is able to be sized such that the pocket of the bottom mesh **104b** and the components within the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the printed circuit board **102** fit within the cavity **506** when the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**. The size, shape and/or perimeter of the base **502** is able to match the perimeter formed by the mesh contact pads **306** on the bottom mesh **104b** as well as the perimeter formed by the contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the printed circuit board **102** such that, when the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**, the perimeter of the base **502** presses the perimeter of the bottom mesh **104b** (and/or the mesh contact pads **306**) against the perimeter of the bottom side of the printed circuit board **102** (and/or the board contact pads **204**).

[0080] The bottom mesh **104b** is able to be coupled within the receiving cavity **506** and to the perimeter of the base **502** of the bottom cover **106b** via a non-conductive adhesive. Further, the bottom cover **106b** is able to couple to the board **102** via one or more fasteners (e.g. screws) that extend through the fastening apertures **508** (through the holes within the bottom mesh **104b**) and into fastener receiving elements (e.g. screw-receiving nuts fixed to the board) of the printed circuit board **102**. In some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 5G and 5H, the perimeter of the base **502** is able to comprise one or more channels **510** and one or more elastic compression elements **514** positioned within each of the channels **510** for increasing the compression of the mesh contact pads **306** against the contact pads **204** of the circuit board **102** when the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**. In particular, as shown in FIGS. 5I and 5J, the elastic compression elements **514** are able to comprise a slab **518** and one or more bumps or protrusions **516** that extend away from one side of the slab **518**. The slab **518** is sized such that it fits within the corresponding channel **510** and is flush with the surface of the base **502** that immediately surrounds the channel **510**. Additionally, the bumps **516** are aligned with the contact pads **204**, **306** of both the bottom mesh **104b** and the printed circuit board **102** when the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**. As a result, the bumps **516** extend beyond the surface of the base **502** surrounding the channel **510** and are compressed between the channel **510** and the board contact pads **204** when the cover **106b** is coupled to the board **102**. The bumps **516** (and their elastic properties) thereby provide the advantage of applying increased pressure and better contact between the mesh contact pads **306** and the board contact pads **204** (and/or the conductive adhesive therebetween).

[0081] In some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 5G-J, the channels **510** include one or more holes **512** and the back of the slabs **518** include one or more alignment rods **520** extending out from the back of the slab **518** that fit within the holes **512** of the corresponding channel **510**. As a result, the holes **512** and rods **520** facilitate the proper alignment and secure positioning of the compression elements **514** within the channels **510**. Although as shown in FIGS. 5G-J, the compression elements **514** include two rods **520** and the channels **510** include two holes **512**, more or less rods **520** and/or holes **512** are able to be used. Alternatively, the one or more holes **512** and/or the one or more alignment rods **520** are able to be omitted. In some embodiments, the compression elements **514** are made of rubber, silicone, other elastic materials and/or a combination thereof.

[0082] FIGS. 6A-F illustrate a top perspective view, a bottom perspective view, a front view, a side view, a top view and a bottom view of the heat dissipator plate **108**, respectively, according to some embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 6A-F, the heat dissipator plate **108** comprises a dissipator sheet **602** and a plurality of connection rods **604** for coupling the plate **108** to the board **102**. In some embodiments, the sheet **602** and the rods **604** are integrally formed as a single continuous piece. Alternatively, one or more of the rods **604** are able to be physically attached to the sheet **602** (e.g.

via press fitting, snap fit, threaded connection, or other methods of physical attachment). The heat dissipator plate **108** is able to fit within the pocket of the top mesh **104a** and/or the cavity **406** of the heat sink cover **106a** and be positioned over the heat generating components (e.g. the CPU **206**, the encryption/decryption component **212**, the mesh controller **208**, the memory **210** and/or other components) of the printed circuit board **102**. The sheet **602** is able to be metal or other heat conducting material or combination of materials. The sheet **602** is able to have a size, area and/or perimeter that is larger than the size, area and/or perimeter of the heat generating components of the printed circuit board **102**.

[0083] The connection rods **604** are able to facilitate connection to the substrate **202** of the board **102** (e.g. via screws that protrude through the board **102** and screw into the connection rods **604**). The connection rods **604** are able to have a height equal to slightly greater than a height of one or more of the central processing unit (CPU) **206**, the mesh controller **208**, the memory **210** and/or the encryption/decryption component **212**. Accordingly, when coupled to the printed circuit board **102**, the bottom surface of the dissipator sheet **602** is closely proximate to and absorbs heat from one or more of the heat generating components of the printed circuit board **102**. The sheet **602** then distributes the absorbed heat throughout the greater area of the dissipator sheet **602**. As a result, the dissipator sheet provides the advantage of reducing the quantity of heat transmitted to any one portion of the top mesh **104a** thereby reducing the risk of heat damage to the top mesh **104a**.

[0084] In operation, the mesh controller **208** sends and monitors periodic or continuous electrical signals transmitted through electrical paths (described above) formed by the traces **304** of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** via the traces within the circuit board **102**, the circuit board contact pads **204** and the top and bottom mesh contact pads **306**. In particular, as described above, the mesh contact pads **306** of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** are electrically coupled with the contact pads **204** of the top and bottom of the printed circuit board **102**. Accordingly, taken together with the internal traces of the substrate **202** and the mesh controller **208**, the traces **304** of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b** form a plurality electrical paths. Each of these electrical paths serially electrically couple the mesh controller **208** (e.g. via board **102** traces coupled thereto) with a plurality of the mesh contact pads **306** (in one or both of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b**), one or more traces **304** (in one or both of the top and bottom meshes **104a**, **104b**), a plurality of the board contact pads **204** (in on one or both of the top side and the bottom side of the board **102**) and then back to the mesh controller **208** (e.g. forming an electrical loop). Indeed, these serial paths/connections provides the advantage of guarding against easy removal/lifting of the covers **106a**, **106b** as lifting breaks the electrical connection of one or more of the paths. In some embodiments the controller **208** sends five separate signals through five different loops formed by the traces **304**. Alternatively, more or less signals are able to be used.

[0085] As a result, the mesh controller **208** transmits electrical signals through the electrical paths through one or both of the meshes **104a**, **104b** and receive the signals back as they complete their electrical loop. If the mesh controller **208** determines that there has been an attempted intrusion (e.g. based on a deviation of the received signals from their normal parameters, for example, voltage falling outside a predefined range) the controller **208** is able to send a signal to the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or other components (e.g. the CPU **206**) to shut down, secure, delete or otherwise protect the data (e.g. encryption keys, key generation data) within the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or other components. Furthermore, because the electrical paths used by the mesh controller **208** span multiple contact pads **306** on different meshes **104a**, **104b** and/or different parts of the meshes **104a**, **104b** (e.g. different locations along the perimeter of the meshes) as well as multiple contact pads **204** on multiple sides of the circuit board **102**, an attacker is forced to follow and serially bypass each step of each of these long circuitous electrical paths in order to try an bypass the security provided by the meshes **104a**, **104b**. Additionally, because the disconnection of any part of the paths will be detected by the mesh controller **208** (resulting in the securing of the security data). Thus, an attacker is unable to lift

either of the meshes **104a**, **104b** until all of the serial paths have been bypassed making the intrusion attempt impractical.

[0086] FIG. 7 illustrates a method of implementing payment card industry compliant hardware security module system **100** according to some embodiments. As shown in FIG. 7, a top mesh **104a** is coupled to a rigid top cover **106a** at the step **702**. The rigid top cover **106a** is able to be a heat sink cover having one or more cooling fins. The top mesh **104a** is able to be coupled to the rigid top cover **106a** such that it at least partially fills a cavity within the top cover **106a** and its perimeter (including mesh contact pads **306**) aligns with a perimeter of the bottom of the top cover **106a**. The top mesh **104a** and the rigid top cover **106a** are coupled to the top of a printed circuit board **102** covering an encryption/decryption component **212** and/or mesh controller **208** of the printed circuit board **102** at the step **704**. The bottom perimeter of the top cover **106a** is able to press the perimeter of the top mesh **104a** against a perimeter of contact pads **204** on the top side of the board **102**. The top mesh **104a** is able to be coupled to the printed circuit board **102** such that one or more mesh contact pads **306** are electrically coupled with one or more board contact pads **204** on the top side of the board **102** (e.g. via electrically conductive adhesive). The rigid top cover **106a** is able to be coupled to the board **102** via one or more fasteners (e.g. screws) coupled through fastener holes and/or fastener receiving portions within the cover **106a** and/or the board **102**.

[0087] A bottom mesh **104b** is coupled to a rigid bottom cover **106b** at the step **706**. The bottom mesh **104b** is able to be coupled to the rigid bottom cover **106b** such that it at least partially fills a cavity within the bottom cover **106b** and its perimeter (including mesh contact pads **306**) aligns with a perimeter of the bottom of the bottom cover **106b**. The bottom mesh **104b** and the rigid bottom cover **106b** are coupled to the bottom of the printed circuit board **102** covering the portion of the printed circuit board **102** under the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or mesh controller **208** (or the encryption/decryption component **212** and/or mesh controller **208** directed to the extent they are accessible from the bottom of the printed circuit board **102**) at the step **708**. The bottom perimeter of the bottom cover **106b** is able to press the perimeter of the bottom mesh **104b** against a perimeter of contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the board **102**. The bottom mesh **104b** is able to be coupled to the printed circuit board **102** such that one or more mesh contact pads **306** are electrically coupled with one or more board contact pads **204** on the bottom side of the board **102** (e.g. via electrically conductive adhesive). The rigid bottom cover **106b** is able to be coupled to the board **102** via one or more fasteners (e.g. screws) coupled through fastener holes and/or fastener receiving portions within the cover **106b** and/or the board **102**. In some embodiments, the top and bottom covers **106a**, **106b** are coupled to the board **102** using the same/shared fasteners.

[0088] The mesh controller **208** transmits electrical signals through and receives return electric signals from the metal traces **304** of the flexible meshes **104a**, **104b** via the board contact pads **204** and the mesh contact pads **306** at the step **710**. Each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller **208** are able to travel through both of the flexible meshes **104a**, **104b** before returning to the mesh controller **208**. The mesh controller **208** deletes, alters and/or otherwise protects encryption keys (and/or other encryption data) maintained by the encryption/decryption component **212** when the signals received from one or both of the meshes **104a**, **104b** deviate from expected values at the step **712**. As a result, the method provides the advantage of providing protection for the encryption/decryption component **212** that requires an attacker to disable/bypass a plurality of contact pad **306/204** points located all around the perimeter of the meshes **104a**, **104b** in series in order to penetrate the meshes/circuit without the controller **208** securing the encryption/decryption component **212** data.

[0089] In some embodiments, the method further comprises positioning a plurality of compressing bodies **414**, **514** within channels **410**, **510** of the covers **106a**, **106b** such that the elastic bumps of the bodies **414**, **514** protrude out of the channels **410**, **510** and provide additional compression between the mesh contact pads **306** and the board contact pads **204** when the covers **106a**, **106b** are coupled to the board **102**. Thus, the method provides the advantage of facilitating a secure

electrical connection between the mesh pads **306** and the board pads **204** (and/or any conductive adhesive) by applying additional compression in those locations with the compressing bodies **414**, **514**. In some embodiments, the method further comprises coupling a rigid metal heat dissipater plate **108** to the top side of the printed circuit board **102** between the heat producing components of the circuit board **102** (e.g. central processing unit **206**, the encryption/decryption component **212** and the mesh controller **208**) and the top mesh **104a** in order to distribute heat produced by the heat producing components throughout the plate **108**. Thus, the method provides the advantage of ensuring that the heat of the printed circuit board **102** is spread out through the plate **108** and then evenly transferred to the mesh **104a**, not unevenly transferred to a small portion of the mesh **104a** risking overheating/damage to that portion of the mesh **104a**.

[0090] The hardware security module system, method and device described herein provides numerous advantages. Specifically, the system, method and device provide the advantage of instead of having a single mesh contact pad for each trace at a single location (thereby creating a single centralized attack point), using multiple trace contact points distributed around the mesh and circuit board for each trace, requiring a series of bypasses distributed around the mesh just to disable a single trace of the mesh. Further, the system, method and device provides the advantage of facilitating a secure electrical connection between the mesh pads and the board pads (and/or any conductive adhesive) by applying additional compression in those locations with the compressing bodies. Additionally, the system, method and device provides the advantage of ensuring that the heat of the printed circuit board is spread out through the plate and then evenly transferred to the mesh, not unevenly transferred to a small portion of the mesh risking overheating/damage to that portion of the mesh.

[0091] While the system, method and device has been described with reference to numerous specific details, one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the invention can be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit of the invention. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the invention is not to be limited by the foregoing illustrative details. In particular, it should be noted that although not described in detail for the sake of brevity, the components of the printed circuit board **102** are able to include one or more of a network interface, a memory, a processor, I/O device(s), a bus and a storage device. The memory is able to be any conventional computer memory known in the art. The storage device is able to include a hard drive, RAM, SRAM, CDROM, CDRW, DVD, DVDRW, flash memory card or any other storage device. An example of a network interface includes a network card connected to an Ethernet or other type of LAN. The I/O device(s) are able to include one or more of the following: keyboard, mouse, monitor, display, printer, modem, touchscreen, button interface and other devices. The operating system(s), graphical user interface(s), application(s), module(s) and/or other software used to operate the printed circuit board **102** are likely to be stored in the memory and/or storage device and processed as applications are typically processed via the processor.

Claims

1. A hardware security module system, the system comprising: a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, a central processing unit (CPU) positioned on the top side and a plurality of board contact pads; and a flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of metal traces, wherein the flexible mesh is electrically coupled with a set of the board contact pads located on the bottom side of the printed circuit board.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the flexible mesh circuit covers a portion of the bottom side of the printed circuit board that is opposite a location of an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein a mesh controller transmits electrical signals through and receives return electric signals from the metal traces of the flexible mesh circuit via the board

contact pads.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller travel through both the first flexible mesh circuit and the second flexible mesh circuit before returning to the mesh controller.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the mesh controller deletes encryption keys maintained by an encryption/decryption component when signals received from one or both of the first and second flexible mesh circuits deviate from expected values.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the board contact pads of the set of the board contact pads are positioned around an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board.
7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a rigid heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and a second side having a central recess, wherein the second side couples to another flexible mesh and the top side of the printed circuit board such that the another flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board.
8. The system of claim 7, further comprising a rigid bottom cover having a first face including a central cavity for receiving the flexible mesh circuit, wherein the first face couples to the flexible mesh and the bottom side of the printed circuit board such that the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the first face of the rigid bottom cover and the bottom side of the printed circuit board.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, further comprising a plurality of compressing bodies each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, wherein each of the bases is positioned within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein, when the another flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the mesh contact pads against one of the board contact pads with which the different one of the mesh contact pads is aligned.
11. The system of claim 1, further comprising a rigid metal heat dissipator plate coupled to the top side of the printed circuit board between the central processing unit and the first flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit throughout the plate.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the another flexible mesh where the another flexible mesh couples to the printed circuit board.
13. The system of claim 1, wherein the printed circuit board further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both a mesh controller and an encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.
14. A method of implementing a hardware security module system, the method comprising: providing a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, a central processing unit (CPU) positioned on the top side and a plurality of board contact pads; and electrically coupling a flexible mesh circuit with a set of the board contact pads located on the bottom side of the printed circuit board, the first flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of metal traces.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the flexible mesh circuit covers a portion of the bottom side of the printed circuit board that is opposite a location of an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board.
16. The method of claim 14, further comprising, with a mesh controller, transmitting electrical signals through and receiving return electric signals from the metal traces of the flexible mesh circuit via the board contact pads.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh

controller travel through the flexible mesh circuit before returning to the mesh controller.

- 18.** The method of claim 17, further comprising deleting encryption keys maintained by an encryption/decryption component with the mesh controller when signals received from the flexible mesh circuit deviate from expected values.
- 19.** The method of claim 14, wherein the board contact pads of the set of the board contact pads are positioned around an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the printed circuit board.
- 20.** The method of claim 14, further comprising coupling a second side of a rigid heat sink cover to both of another flexible mesh and the top side of the printed circuit board such that the another flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, the rigid heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and the second side having a central recess.
- 21.** The method of claim 20, further comprising coupling a first face of a rigid bottom cover to both of the flexible mesh and the bottom side of the printed circuit board such that the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the first face of the rigid bottom cover and the bottom side of the printed circuit board, the rigid bottom cover having the first face including a central cavity for receiving the flexible mesh.
- 22.** The method of claim 21, wherein the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, further comprising positioning a plurality of compressing bodies, each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels.
- 23.** The method of claim 22, wherein, when the another flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the printed circuit board, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the mesh contact pads against one of the of board contact pads with which the different one of the mesh contact pads is aligned.
- 24.** The method of claim 14, further comprising coupling a rigid metal heat dissipator plate to the top side of the printed circuit board between the central processing unit and the first flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit throughout the plate.
- 25.** The method of claim 24, wherein a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the another flexible mesh where the another flexible mesh couples to the printed circuit board.
- 26.** The method of claim 14, wherein the printed circuit board further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both a mesh controller and an encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.
- 27.** A hardware security module adapter, the adapter comprising: a substrate including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, a central processing unit (CPU) and a plurality of substrate contact pads; a flexible mesh circuit including a web of a plurality of first metal traces; and a heat sink cover having a first side including a plurality of heat dissipating fins and a second side, wherein the second side couples to the flexible mesh and the top side of the substrate such that the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the substrate.
- 28.** The adapter of claim 27, wherein the flexible mesh circuit covers a location of an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the substrate.
- 29.** The adapter of claim 27, wherein a mesh controller transmits electrical signals through and receives return electric signals from the first metal traces of the flexible mesh circuit via the substrate contact pads.
- 30.** The adapter of claim 29, wherein each of the electrical signals transmitted from the mesh controller travel through the flexible mesh circuit, the substrate contact pads and traces within the substrate before returning to the mesh controller.

- 31.** The adapter of claim 30, wherein the mesh controller deletes data stored in an encryption/decryption component required to generate encryption keys when signals received from the flexible mesh circuit deviate from expected values.
- 32.** The adapter of claim 27, wherein the substrate contact pads of the first set of the substrate contact pads are positioned around an encryption/decryption component on the top side of the substrate.
- 33.** The adapter of claim 27, wherein the second side of the rigid heat sink cover has a plurality of channels positioned along a perimeter of the rigid heat sink, further comprising a plurality of compressing bodies each having a base and one or more elastic bumps protruding from the base, wherein each of the bases is positioned within one of the plurality of channels such that the elastic bumps of that base protrude out of the one of the plurality of channels.
- 34.** The adapter of claim 33, wherein, when the flexible mesh is sandwiched in between the second side of the rigid heat sink cover and the top side of the substrate, each of the bumps is compressed against a different one of first mesh contact pads thereby pushing the different one of the first mesh contact pads against one of the first set of substrate contact pads with which the different one of the first mesh contact pads is aligned.
- 35.** The adapter of claim 27, further comprising a rigid metal heat dissipator plate coupled to the top side of the substrate between the central processing unit and the flexible mesh in order to distribute heat produced by the central processing unit throughout the plate.
- 36.** The adapter of claim 35, wherein a perimeter of the rigid metal heat dissipator plate is adjacent to a perimeter of the flexible mesh where the flexible mesh couples to the substrate.
- 37.** The adapter of claim 27, wherein the substrate further comprises a microcontroller unit (MCU) and both a mesh controller and an encryption/decryption component are a part of the MCU.
- 38.** A security module system, the system comprising: a printed circuit board including a top side, a bottom side opposite the top side, means for processing data and means for electrically coupling; and the means for securing including first means for forming a conductive web electrically coupled with a first portion of the means for electrically coupling positioned on the bottom side of the printed circuit board.
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