



THE EVOLUTION OF THREAT ACTORS: FIRMWARE IS THE NEXT FRONTIER

ALEX MATROSOV
@MATROSOV

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ME

- Founder and CEO at **BINARLY**
- 20+ years doing all shades of cyber
- Break a few times CPU's and GPU's
- Dedicating all my free time to surfing







Festi Botnet Analysis & Investigation

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Security Industry Visibility Point

Modern Persistence Techniques



Types of Persistence

blindspot

AV/EDR Endpoints

Hardware

Firmware

Boot Sectors

Boot Loaders

File System

OS Kernel

OS User Space

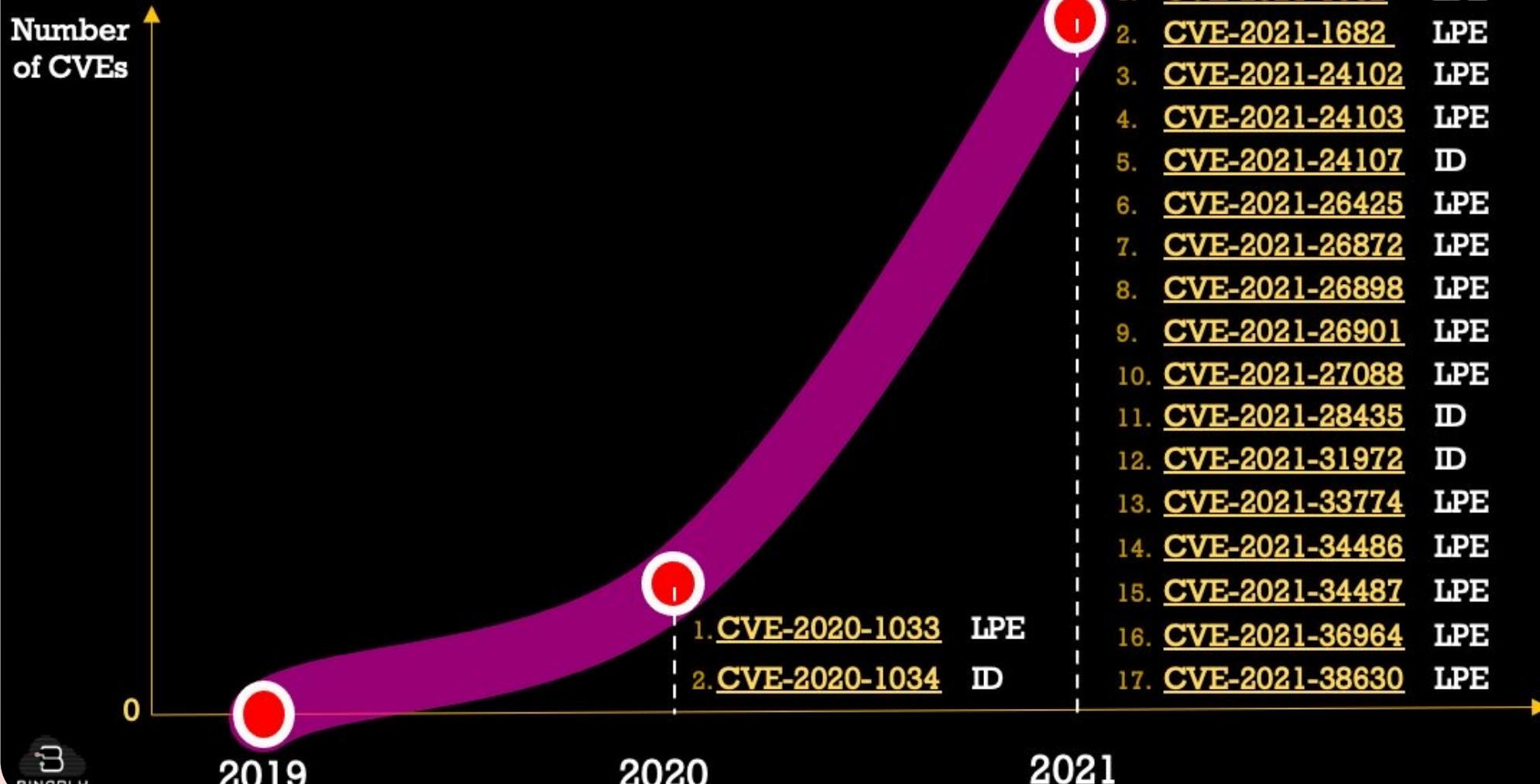
Memory

HW/FW Persistence

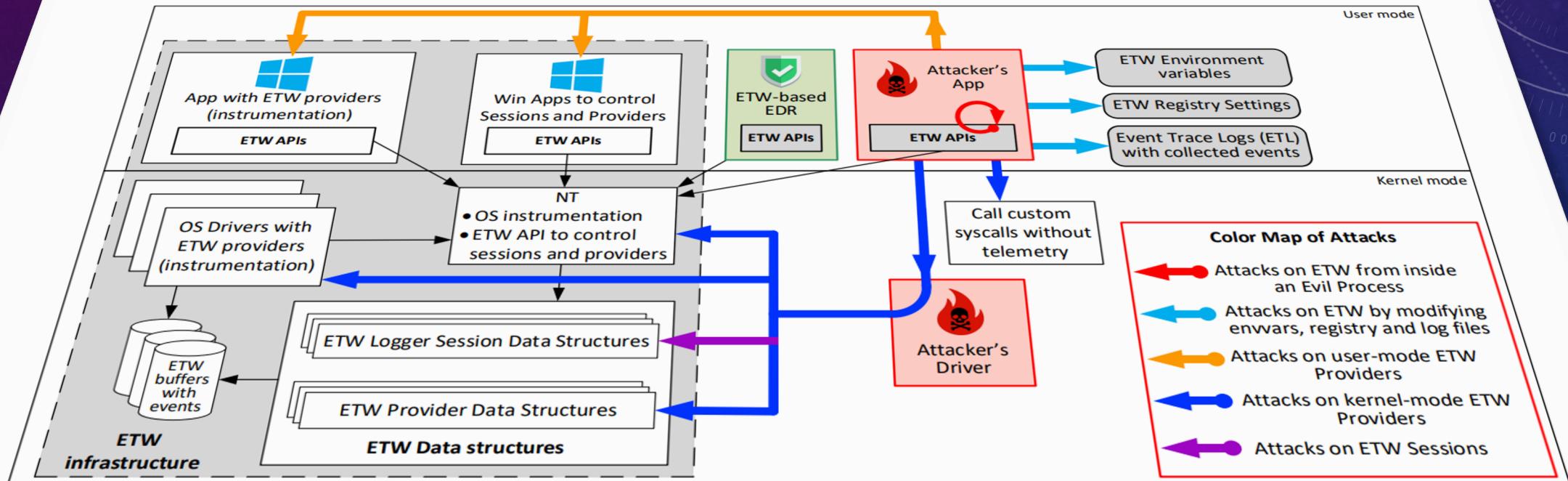
Reboot/Shutdown Persistence

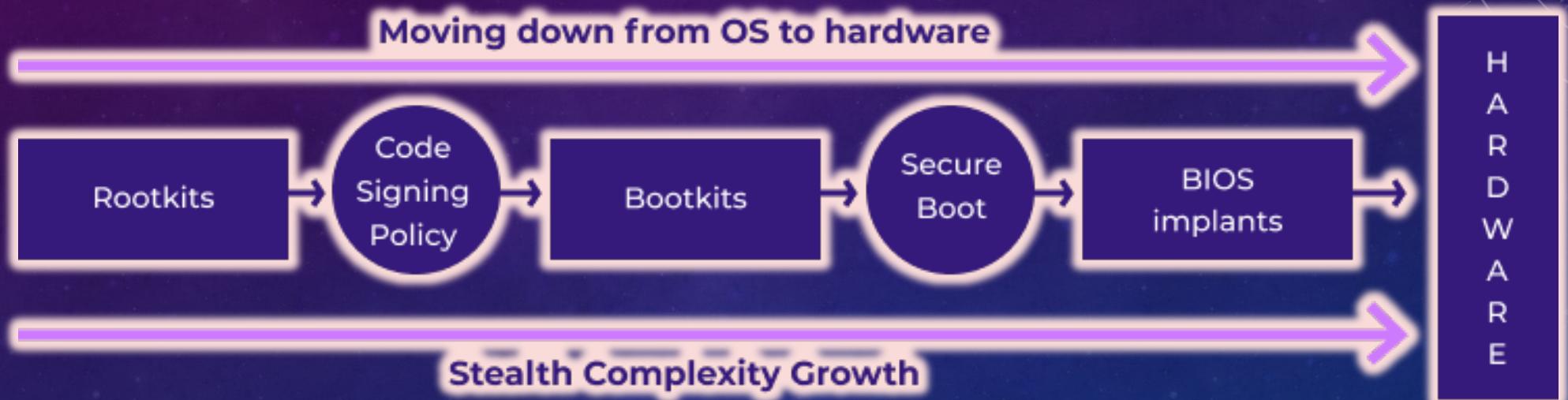
Sleep/Hibernate Persistence

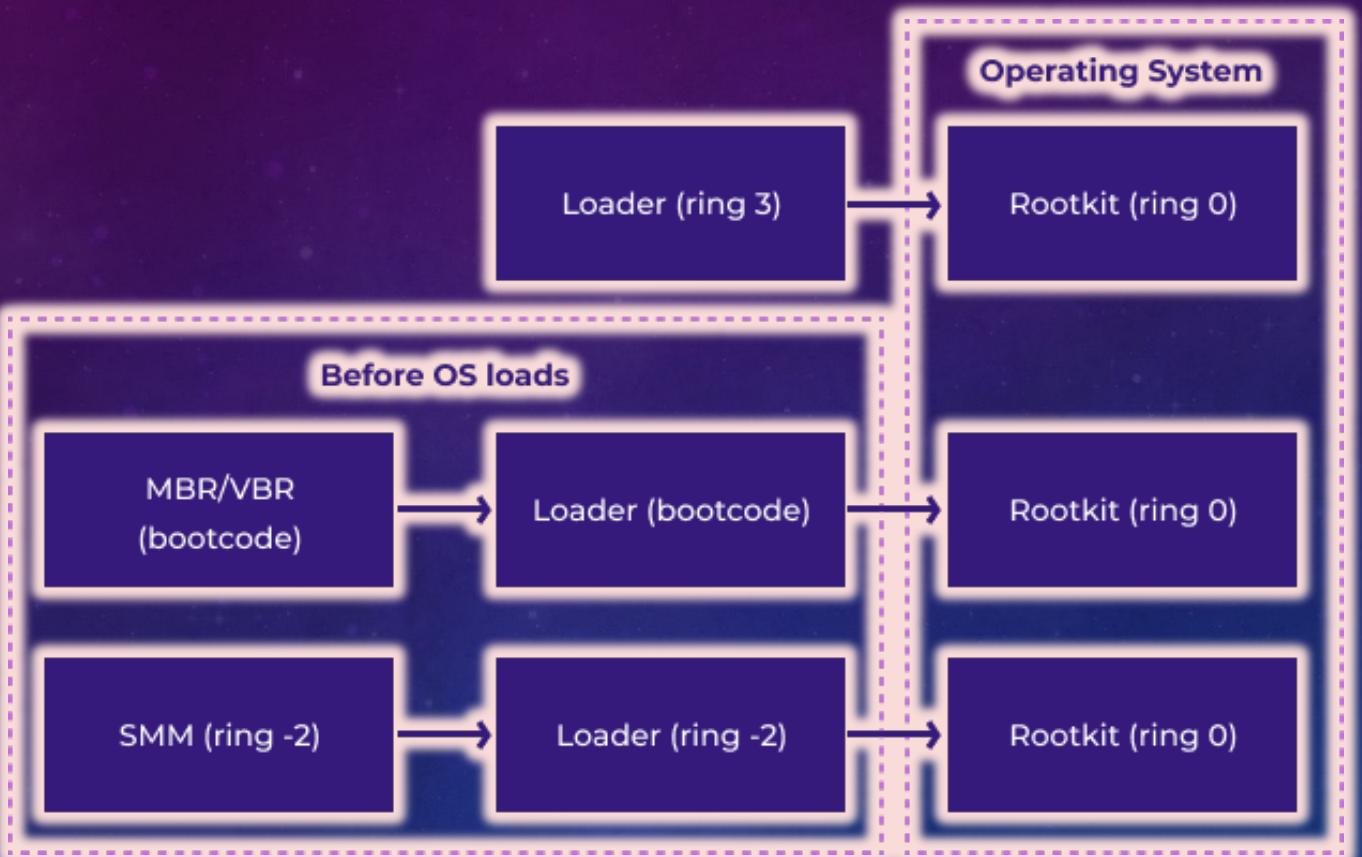
ETW IS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE OF BUG HUNTERS



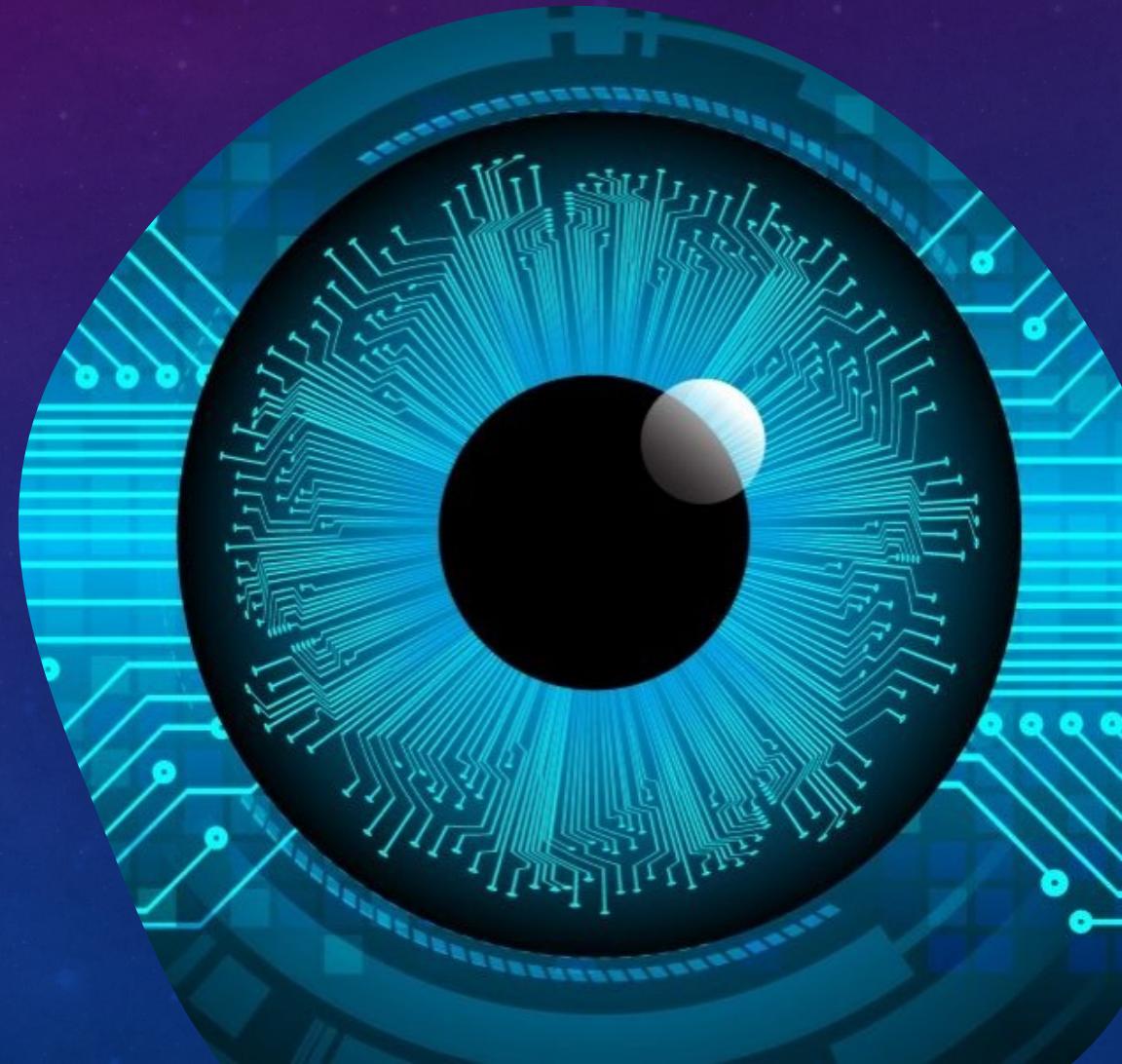
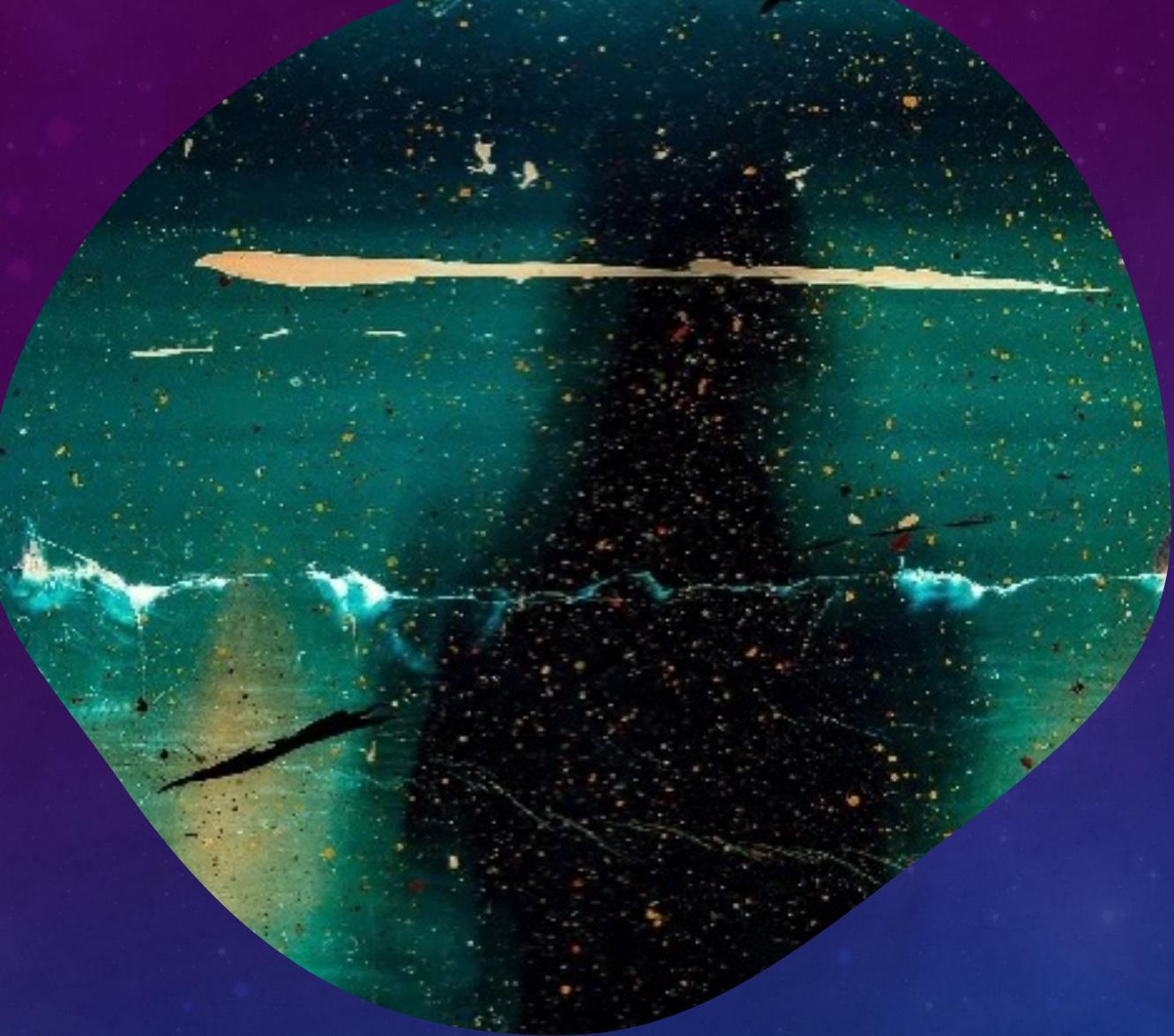
Threat Modeling ETW







```
.text:00000000000002BD    lea    rax, [rsp+arg_8] ; DataSize
.text:00000000000002C3    mov    r9d, 1          ; DataSize
                            lea    rdx, VendorGuid ; VendorGuid
                            mov    [rsp+38h+Data], rax ; Data
                            mov    rax, cs:gRT_368
                            lea    rcx, VariableName ; "fTA"      5-year old indicator
                            lea    r8d, [r9+6]      ; Attributes
                            mov    [rsp+38h+arg_8], 0
                            call   [rax+EFI_RUNTIME_SERVICES.SetVariable] ; gRT->SetVariable()
                            ; EFI_STATUS(EFIAPI * EFI_SET_VARIABLE) (IN CHAR16 *VariableName
                            ; VariableName  A Null-terminated string that is the name of the
                            ; VendorGuid   A unique identifier for the vendor.
                            ; Attributes    Attributes bitmask to set for the variable.
                            ; DataSize     The size in bytes of the Data buffer. Unless this
                            ;              is zero, then a SetVariable() call with a DataSize of zero will not cause
                            ;              any memory to be written.
                            xor    eax, eax
                            add    rsp, 38h
                            retn
.text:00000000000002E9 _ModuleEntryPoint endp
f6xf:00000000000002E1    .qbnjseufuþboiuf  eaqb
f6xf:00000000000002E1    lefn
f6xf:00000000000002E1    qbb  38h
f6xf:00000000000002E1    xol  e9x` e9x
f6xf:00000000000002E1    ? CSEU 9 P6CAFUTSOT() CRTF RTIU 9 D9I92116 OI ESO MTT UOC
```





Reversing Modern Malware and Next Generation Threats



```
loc_1016602C:  
058 pop    rax  
050 sub    rax, (offset loc_1016602C - offset _ModuleEntryPoint)  
050 mov    rbx, ds:(off_10166012 - 10166000h)[rax]  
050 call   $+5
```



```
loc_1016603F:  
058 pop    rax  
050 add    rax, (offset loc_10166086 - offset loc_1016603F)  
050 mov    [rax+4], rbx  
050 call   $+5
```



```
loc_1016604D:  
058 pop    rax  
050 sub    rax, (offset loc_1016604D - offset _ModuleEntryPoint)  
050 mov    rbx, ds:(qword_10166002 - 10166000h)[rax]  
050 mov    rdx, rbx  
050 call   $+5
```



```
loc_10166063:  
058 pop    rax  
050 sub    rax, (offset loc_10166063 - offset _ModuleEntryPoint)  
050 mov    rbx, ds:(qword_1016600A - 10166000h)[rax]
```

Verifying: ..\..\resources\kaspersky_bl_1.efi
Signature Index: 0 (Primary Signature)
Hash of file (sha256): 81D8FB4C9E2E7A8225656B4B8273B7CBA4B03EF2E9EB20E0A0291624ECA1BA86

SIGNING Certificate Chain:

Issued to: Microsoft Corporation Third Party Marketplace Root
Issued by: Microsoft Corporation Third Party Marketplace Root
Expires: Sat Oct 06 05:09:33 2035
SHA1 hash: 05861FDE0CCACD6EEC8D91DB6E0F22C257748532

Issued to: Microsoft Corporation UEFI CA 2011
Issued by: Microsoft Corporation Third Party Marketplace Root
Expires: Sun Jun 28 04:32:45 2026
SHA1 hash: 46DEF63B5CE61CF8BA0DE2E6639C1019D0ED14F3

Issued to: Microsoft Windows UEFI Driver Publisher
Issued by: Microsoft Corporation UEFI CA 2011
Expires: Sun Aug 12 03:20:00 2018
SHA1 hash: B86A425A7958003D441423D2726930D4B0424350

The signature was signed on Thu Feb 08 02:46:56 2018

Time stamp Verified

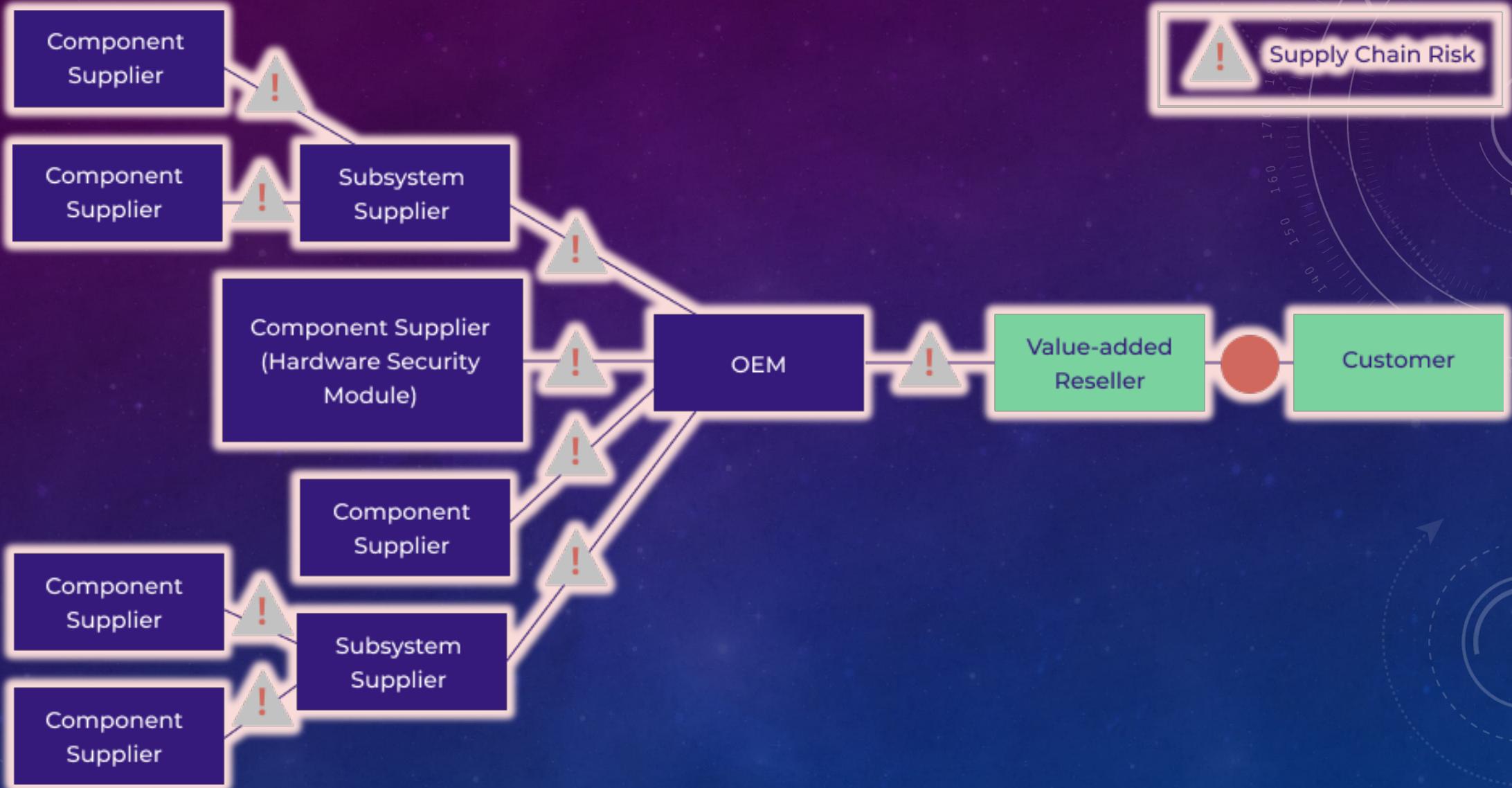
Issued to: Microsoft Root Certificate Authority 2010
Issued by: Microsoft Root Certificate Authority 2010
Expires: Sun Jun 24 05:04:01 2035
SHA1 hash: 3B1EFD3A66EA28B16697394703A72CA340A05BD5

Issued to: Microsoft Time-Stamp PCA 2010
Issued by: Microsoft Root Certificate Authority 2010
Expires: Wed Jul 02 04:46:55 2025
SHA1 hash: 2AA752FE64C49ABE82913C463529CF10FF2F04EE

Issued to: Microsoft Time-Stamp Service
Issued by: Microsoft Time-Stamp PCA 2010
Expires: Sat Sep 08 00:56:54 2018
SHA1 hash: C9ECBB482D35D994BEB68EF726A9316E8A878E32

SIGNED != TRUSTED

WE BLINDLY TRUST ANY
SIGNED CODE COMING FROM
TRUSTED SOURCE



Vendor Name	Vendor Advisory	CVE	URL
Intel	INTEL-SA-00525	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/security-center/advisory/intel-sa-00525.html
Dell	DSA-2021-146	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-us/000189473/dsa-2021-146-dell-client-platform-security-update-for-intel-bssa-vulnerability
Nvidia	NV-5213	CVE-2021-0144	https://nvidia.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/5213
Lenovo	LEN-61893	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.lenovo.com/eg/en/product_security/ps500424-intel-bssa-dft-advisory
HP	HPSBF03736	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.hp.com/za-en/document/ish_4168405-4168434-16/hpsbf03736
HPE	HPESBF04171	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.hpe.com/hpsc/public/docDisplay?docLocale=en_US&docId=hpesbf04171en_us
Supermicro	no vendor ID	CVE-2021-0144	https://www.supermicro.com/en/support/security_Intel-SA-00525
F5	K08593253	CVE-2021-0144	https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K08593253

**FROM REPORTING THE
FIRMWARE VULNERABILITY TO
THE FIX USUALLY TAKES
AROUND 6–9 MONTHS OR MORE**

Reference Implementations



Independent BIOS Vendors (IBV)



Device Manufacturers (ODM)

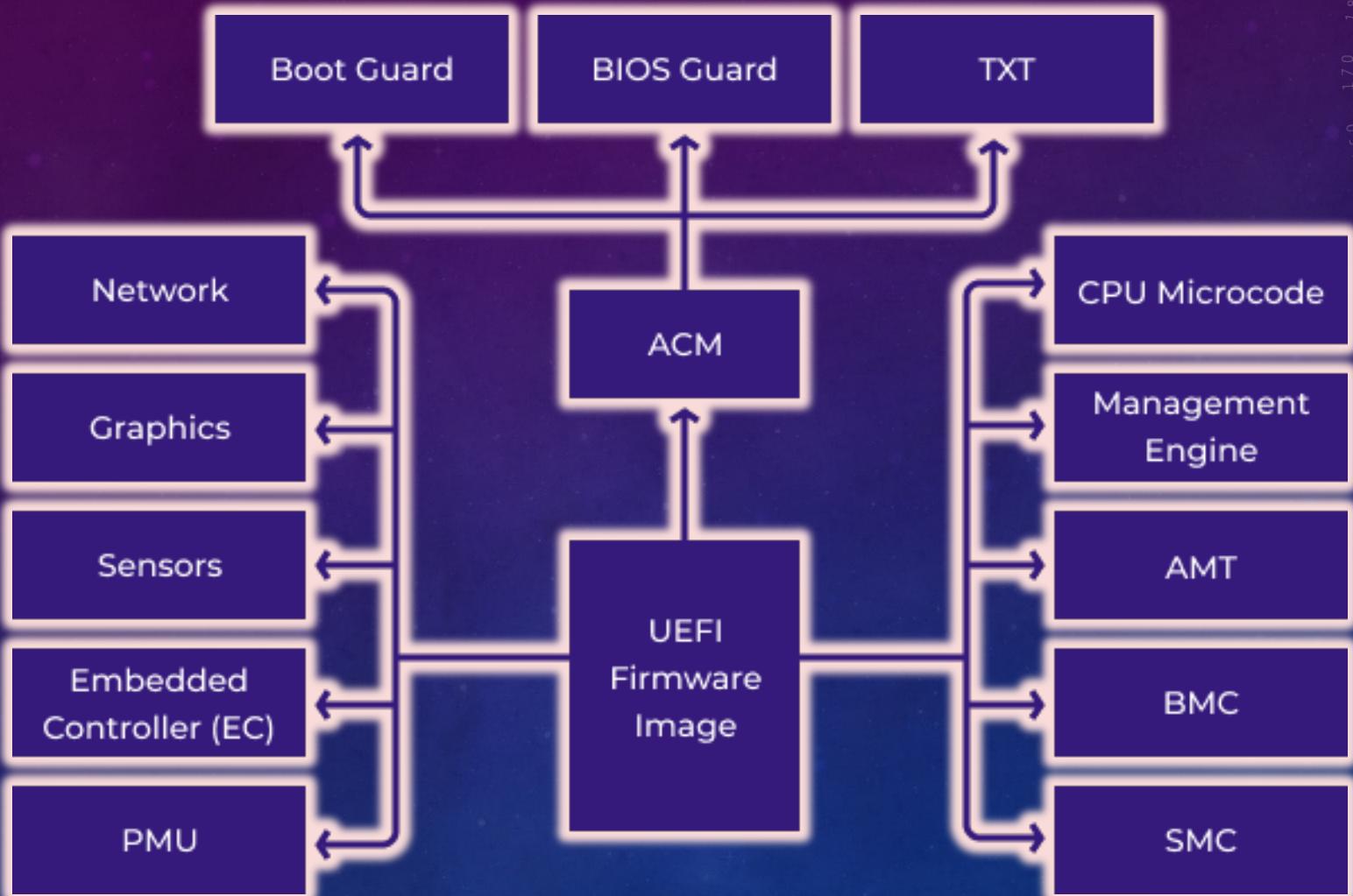
Less than 10%
of BIOS code!



Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)



**FIRMWARE SUPPLY CHAIN IS
VERY COMPLEX AND NOT 100%
CONTROLLED BY A SINGLE
VENDOR.**



Platform Boot Process

HW THREAT MODEL

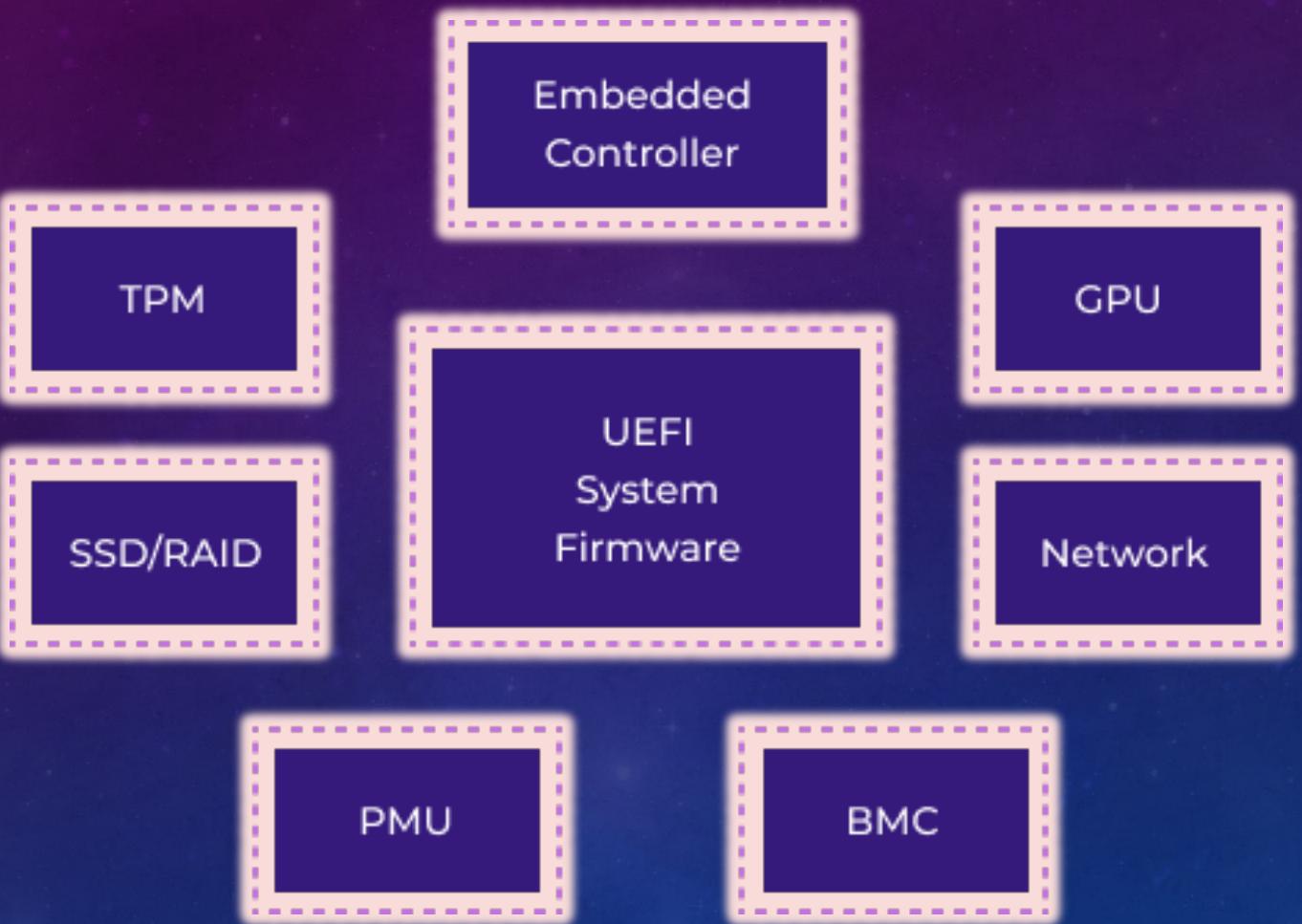
OR

FW THREAT MODEL

OR

OS THREAT MODEL

Lack of Threat Intel Signals



WE BLINDLY TRUST
EVERYTHING IS BAKED IN
SILICON





THANK YOU!

@MATROSOV