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Secrets Unveiled – What Attackers Find in Embedded Systems

Roland Marx 12.12.2024



Vorstellung



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roland@presentation:~\$ whoami

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Focus Topics

- IoT System Architecture and Design
- IoT Lifecycle & Device Management
- Embedded & IoT Security







Security Solutions for IoT and Industry









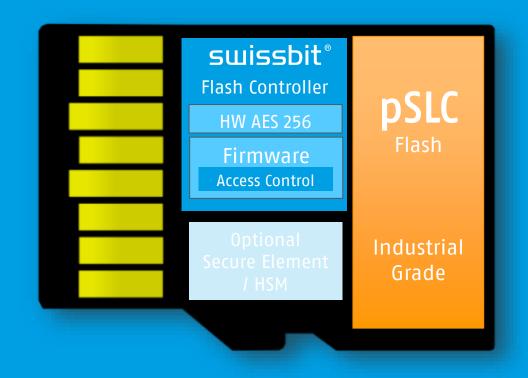


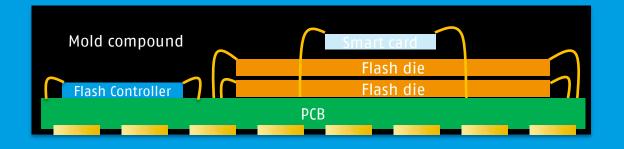
















Identity Protection

Access Control





Data Manipulation

Access Restriction



Fraud Protection

Digital Signatures



Privacy Protection

Service Solution



System Integrity

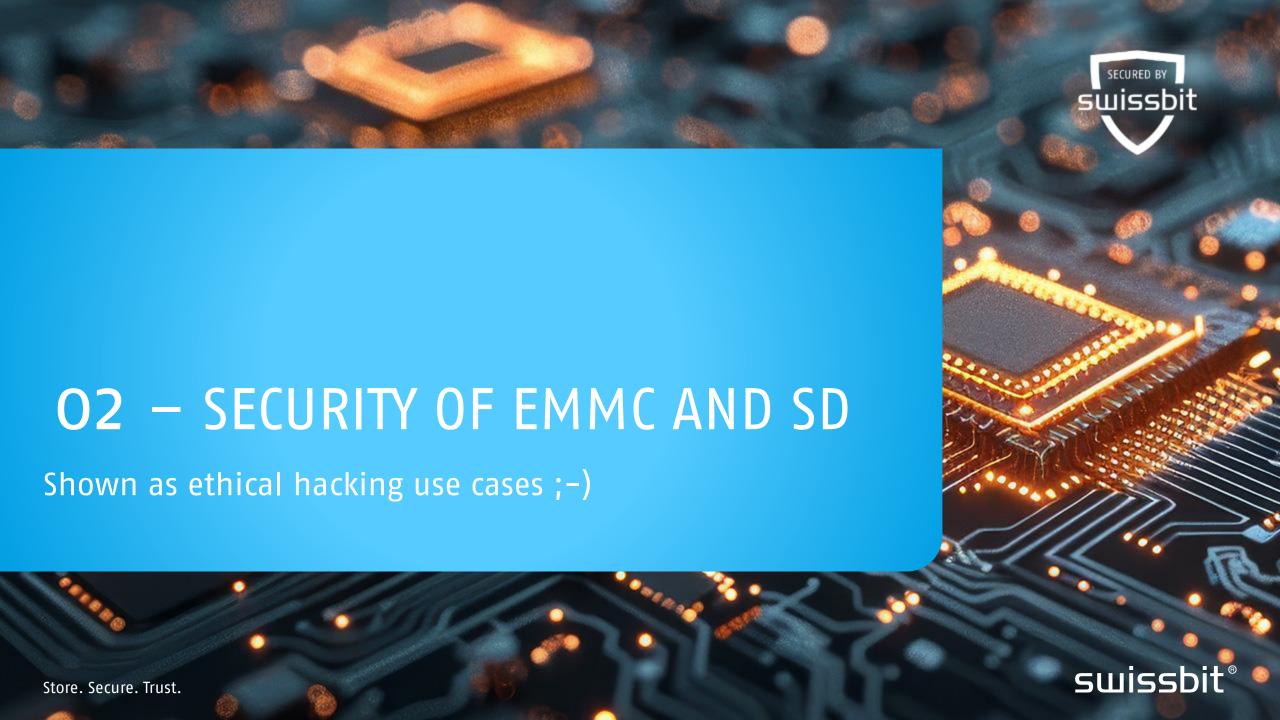
Secure Storage



Authenticity

Licensing

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Lost Password Problem

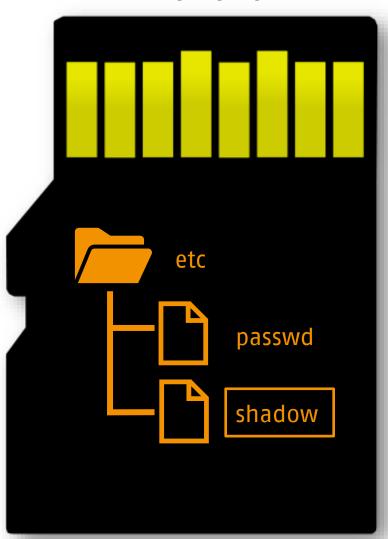
"Oh F*!#… did I change the password for this RPI?"



How to reset the password of a Rpi?



Where are they anyway?

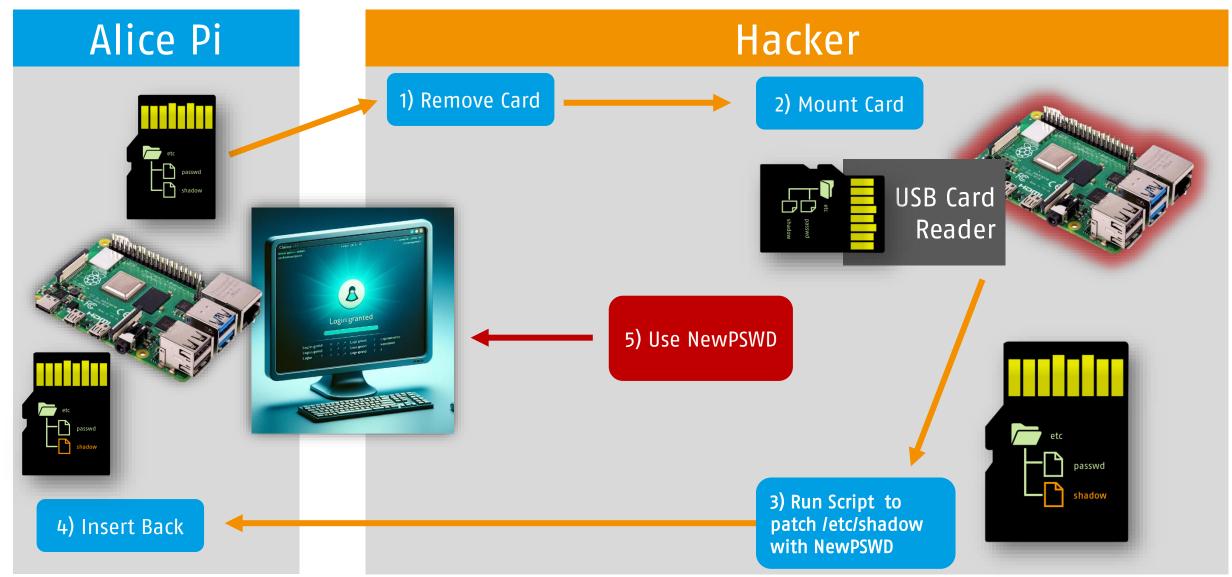


Example Entry in /etc/shadow

johndoe:\$6\$SALT\$encryptedpassword:18020:0:99999:7:::

- Username: johndoe
- Password: An encrypted password where \$6\$ indicates the type of hash (SHA-512 in this case), followed by SALT and the actual hashed password.
- Last Change: The password was last changed on the 18,020th day since January 1, 1970.
- Minimum Age: No minimum age is set (0 days).
- Maximum Age: The password must be changed every 99999 days.
- Warning Period: The user receives a warning 7 days before the password expires.
- Inactivity Period: Not specified (the field is empty, indicating no limit).
- Expiration Date: Not specified (the field is empty, indicating the account does not expire).
- Reserved Field: Empty.





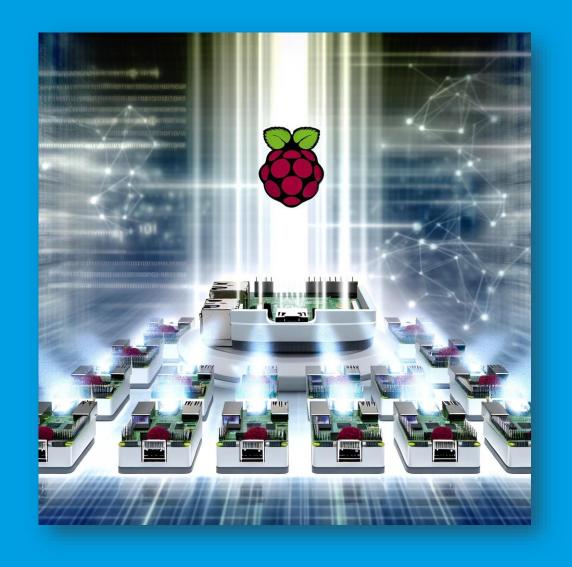
Some Password Changing Script Fu

```
# password for a user on a Raspberry Pi by modifying the /etc/shadow file on its SD card.
MOUNT POINT="/mnt/rpi"
# Function to check for the SD card
check sd card() {
   SD_CARD_PARTITION=$(ls /dev | grep 'mmcblk0p2')
   if [ ! -z "$SD CARD PARTITION" ]; then
       return 0 # SD card found
   else
       return 1 # SD card not found
# Wait for the SD card to be inserted
echo "Please insert the SD card..."
while true; do
   if check sd card; then
        echo "SD card detected."
       break
        echo "Waiting for SD card..."
        sleep 1
done
# Prompt for the username whose password should be reset
read -p "Enter the username to reset the password for (e.g., pi): " USERNAME
# Prompt for the new password
read -s -p "Enter the new password: " NEW PASSWORD
# Generate a new SHA-512 hash for the entered password
HASH=$(echo -n "$NEW PASSWORD" | openssl passwd -6 -stdin)
```

```
# Mount the SD card's Linux partition
echo "Mounting the SD card..."
sudo mkdir -p $MOUNT POINT
sudo mount /dev/$SD CARD PARTITION $MOUNT POINT
# Check if the /etc/shadow file exists
SHADOW FILE="$MOUNT POINT/etc/shadow"
if [ ! -f "$SHADOW FILE" ]; then
   echo "Shadow file does not exist on the SD card. Are you sure this is the correct partition?"
    exit 1
# Replace the password hash for the specified user in the /etc/shadow file
echo "Updating the password for $USERNAME..."
sudo sed -i "/^$USERNAME:/s|.*|$USERNAME:$HASH:18295:0:99999:7:::|" $SHADOW FILE
# Unmount the SD card
echo "Unmounting the SD card..."
sudo umount $MOUNT POINT
echo "Password reset successfully. You can now use the new password for $USERNAME on your Raspberry Pi."
```

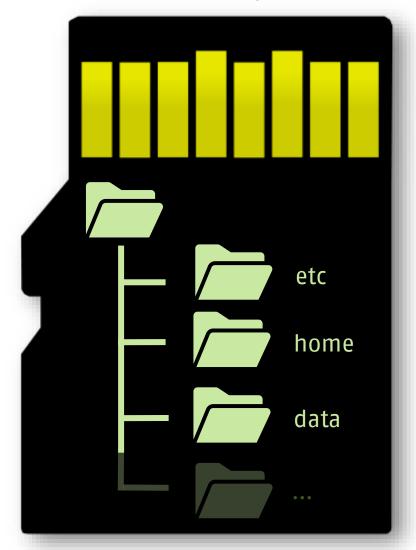
No backup no compassion

"Better quickly dump the config and important data to be able to recover!"



What should I backup?

Which folders are important







/home/

Personal directories for all system users Stores personal files, configs (e.g., .bashrc, .config)



// /root/

Home directory for the root user Contains root's files and settings



/boot/

Contains boot-related files: Linux kernel, GRUB bootloader configs



🦰 /data/

Application or industrial data sets, Database entries Can also contain specially privacy or data of monetary or business value



/etc/

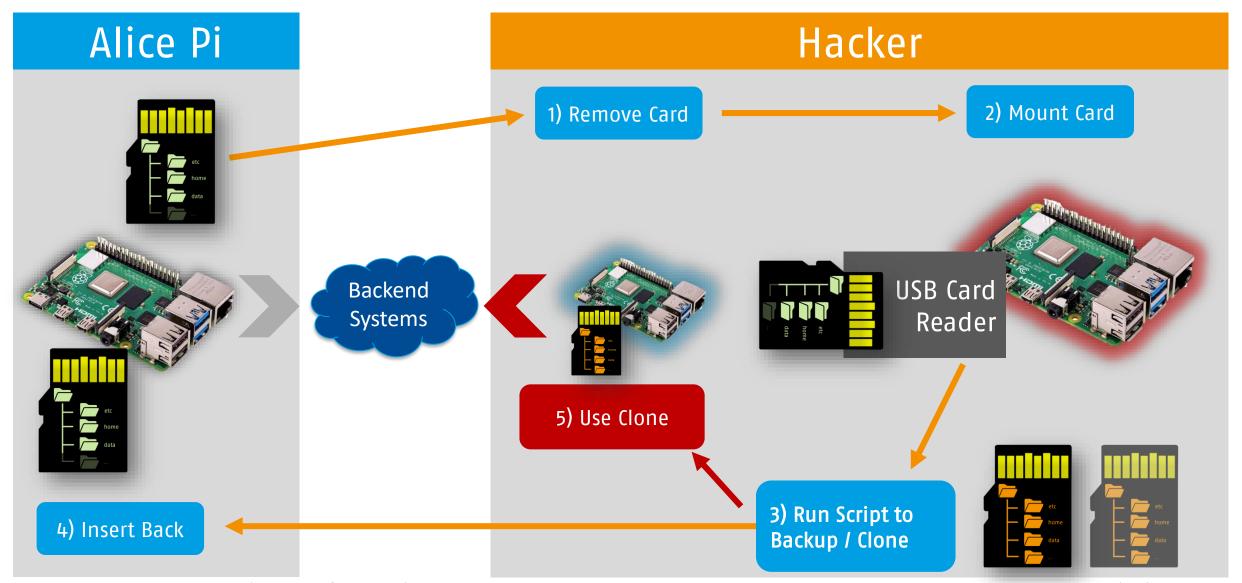
Contains all system-wide configuration files Hosts application and service configs, plus startup/shutdown scripts

/etc/passwd and /etc/shadow

Key for user management: stores account info and encrypted passwords. /etc/ssh/

Configuration files for SSH, crucial for secure remote access.





Some Password Changing Script Fu

```
BACKUP_ROOT_DIR="/path/to/backup/directory'
     MOUNT POINT="/mnt/rpi"
8 wait for sd card() {
         echo "Please insert the SD card..."
         while true: do
             SD CARD PARTITION=$(ls /dev | grep 'mmcblk0p2')
             if [ ! -z "$SD CARD PARTITION" ]; then
                echo "SD card detected."
                echo "Waiting for SD card..."
     mount sd card() {
         echo "Mounting the SD card..."
         sudo mkdir -p $MOUNT POINT
         sudo mount /dev/$SD_CARD_PARTITION $MOUNT_POINT
29 # Function to perform the backup
    backup() {
         local stage=$1
         local start time=$(date +%s)
         local date str=$(date +"%Y-%m-%d %H-%M-%S")
         local backup dir="$BACKUP ROOT DIR/$date str'
         mkdir -p "$backup dir"
                echo "Starting backup of critical configs and credentials..."
                     "/etc/network/interfaces"
                     "/home/pi/.google authenticator"
                     "/etc/shadow"
                     # Add other critical files here
```

```
for file in "${files to backup[@]}"; do
                sudo cp --parents "$MOUNT POINT$file" "$backup dir"
            echo "Starting full backup..."
             sudo cp -a "$MOUNT POINT/." "$backup dir"
            echo "Starting partial backup with /home, logs, and configurations..."
             local dirs to backup=(
                "/home"
                "/var/log"
                # Add other directories here
             for dir in "${dirs to backup[@]}"; do
                sudo cp -a "$MOUNT POINT$dir" "$backup dir'
            echo "Invalid stage selected. Exiting."
    local end time=$(date +%s)
    local elapsed time=$((end_time - start_time))
    echo "Backup completed in $elapsed_time seconds."
wait for sd card
mount sd card
# Prompt the user to select the backup stage
read -p "Enter the backup stage (1, 2, or 3): " stage
backup $stage
# Unmount the SD card
echo "Unmounting the SD card..."
sudo umount $MOUNT POINT
```

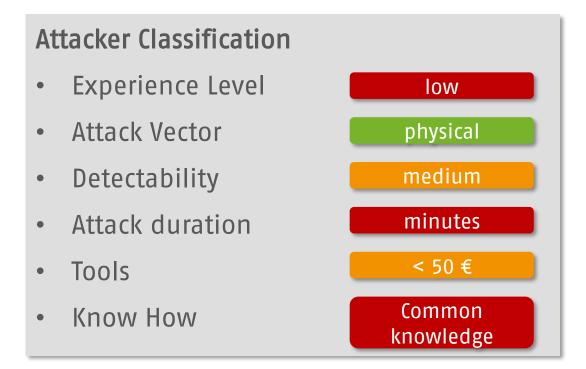
Scenario evaluation

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Local Attacker

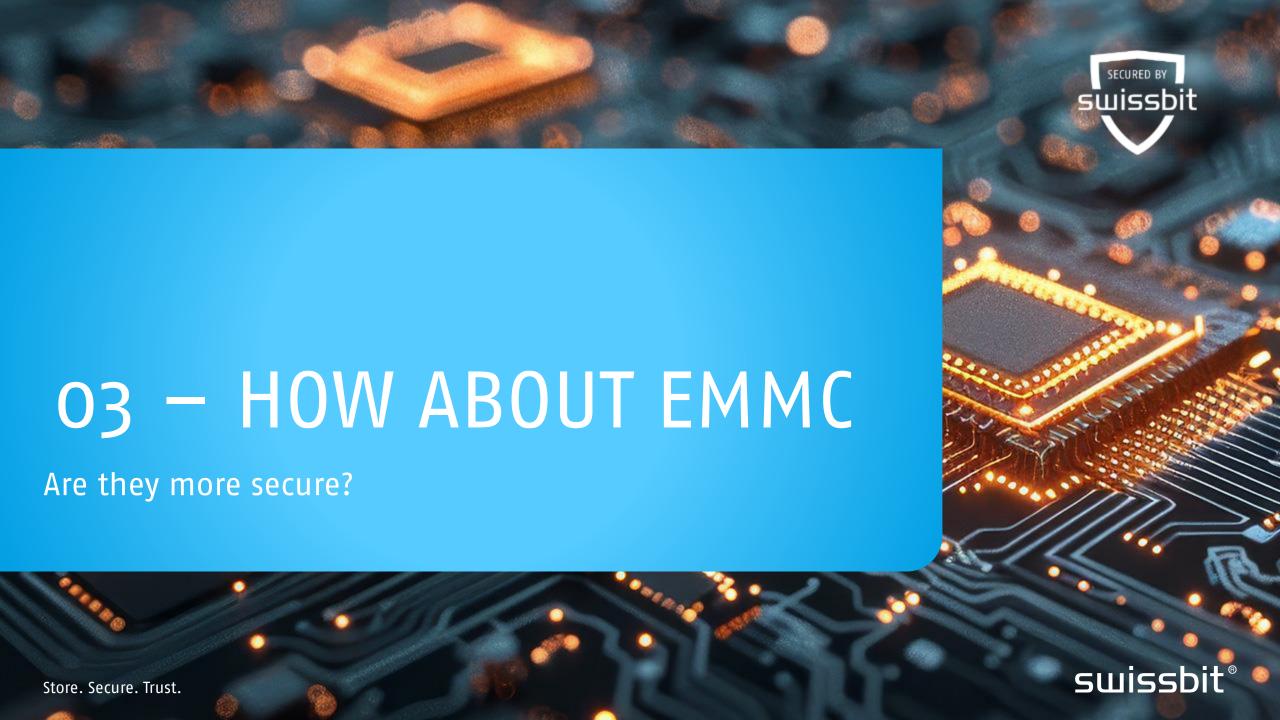


- All data on SD exposed
- All credentials cloned
- Loss of integrity (local)



Classic Mitigation

- Physical Protection
- Monitoring

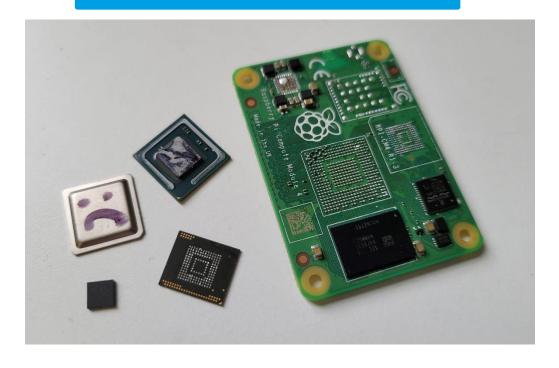


What about e.MMC

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EMMCs are mainly soldered SD cards"

e.MMCs can also be removedy



https://github.com/jeffmakes/pi-data-recovery

Often the readout interfaces are just there



https://www.jeffgeerling.com/blog/2020/how-flash-raspberry-pi-os-compute-module-4-emmc-usbboot



Security Upgrade Kit ensures business continuity



Intellectual Property



Credentials



Identifiers (Device and people)



Digital Product-License



Location



Accounts





Algorithms 1

Firmware

Configuration (Files/Flags)



Logfiles /

Logdata

Safety Functions



Sensor Data



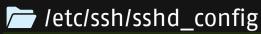
Privacy



Communication



SSH



Config that can allow root login, Ports, PubKey or PW ...

/home/USRNAME/.ssh/authorized_keys

Bunch of all public keys and constraints for login via SSH using public keys

Private keys for logging into other systems

I can enable root access, or PW-less login...

Allowlist who may login!
Human key won't see a fake key ;-)

Keys without passphrase can directly be used

Keys with a weak passphrase can be exported and remotely bruteforced!



PKI / Root CAs

```
swissbit@hackpi:/media/swissbit/rootfs/home/pi/.ssh $ ls /etc/ssl/certs/*pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/ACCVRAIZ1.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM SERVIDORES SEGUROS.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Actalis Authentication Root CA.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AffirmTrust Commercial.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AffirmTrust Networking.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AffirmTrust Premium ECC.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/AffirmTrust Premium.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Amazon Root CA 1.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Amazon Root CA 2.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Amazon Root CA 3.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Amazon Root CA 4.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/ANF Secure Server Root CA.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Atos TrustedRoot 2011.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Autoridad de Certificacion Firmaprofesional CIF A62634068 2.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Autoridad de Certificacion Firmaprofesional CIF A62634068.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Baltimore CyberTrust Root.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Buypass Class 2 Root CA.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Buypass Class 3 Root CA.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/CA Disig Root R2.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Certainly Root E1.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Certainly Root R1.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Certigna.pem
 /etc/ssl/certs/Certigna_Root_CA.pem
```

If you add your own CA here, the system will trust it and all derived certificates

Good example for Integrity protection!



WIFI Configs (WPA Supplicant)

WiFi Client Config



```
ctrl_interface=DIR=/var/run/wpa_supplicant GROUP=netdev
update_config=1
country=US

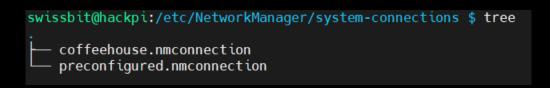
network={
    ssid="YourSSID"
    psk="YourWiFiPassword"
    key_mgmt=WPA-PSK
    priority=1
}
```

WiFi Passwords for existing Stations are stored as clear text!

/= /etc/wpa_supplicant/wpa_supplicant.conf
Storage for WiFi Settings

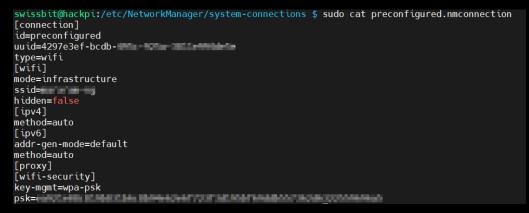


WIFI Configs (Networkmanager)



WiFi Client Config





WiFi Passwords for existing Stations are stored as clear text!

WiFi Accesspoint Config

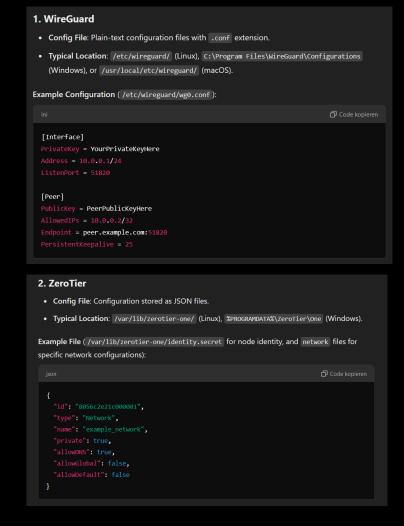


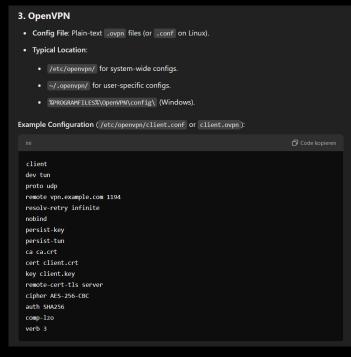
swissbit@hackpi:/etc/NetworkManager/system-connections \$ sudo cat coffeehouse.nmconnection [connection] id=coffeehouse uuid=df3704be-6df6-4ae8-b078-1adf5e68763a type=wifi autoconnect=false interface-name=wlan0 [wifi] mode=ap ssid=coffeehouse [wifi-security] key-mgmt=wpa-psk psk=WeakPassword! [ipv4] method=shared [ipv6] addr-gen-mode=default

Also AP Crenetials can be easily obtained and allow persitent access via WiFi!



VPN config examples





If the VPN settings are plaintext on the storage and not specially protected on a secure element, TPM etc.

they can be cloned and used to authenticate

Backend cannot differentiate
who is who!?
If two devices login.
Only Metadata like IPs, etc.
could help



More ideas of assets?

Browser Password

Browser History

.bash_history

Auth logs → Can be deleted?!
Need for WORM

Routing & DNS settings

Firewall Settings

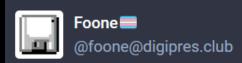
Cloud Connection Credentials

Al Model files

DB Credentials



Is this a real thing?



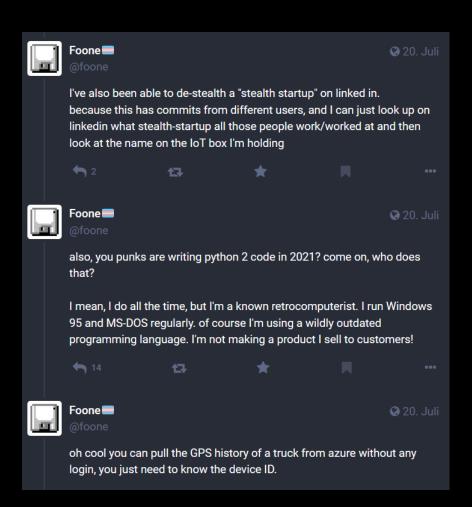
good lord. I pulled a microSD card out of a Raspi inside an IoT product and it appears they had some developer use a raspi to develop/test some software, and then they just yanked the SD card out of that machine and duped it on to all of their deployed products.

it's got .bash_history of the development process! there's git checkouts of private repos! WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?

20. Juli 2024, 08:59 · 🍪 · Web · 😝 1,1 Tsd. · 🛊 1,7 Tsd

https://digipres.club/@foone/112817523308786223

→ No security circumvented! There was none!







Ensuring secure embedded Linux systems

Protecting data e.g. IP, configurations and credentials from being stolen, copied or manipulated on any embedded Linux system



Boot drive protection

Ensure data confidentiality
of externally stored data like
security logs, privacy or
configurations on
any embedded Linux system



External storage protection

Ensure System integrity of the operating system and applications on many embedded Linux systems

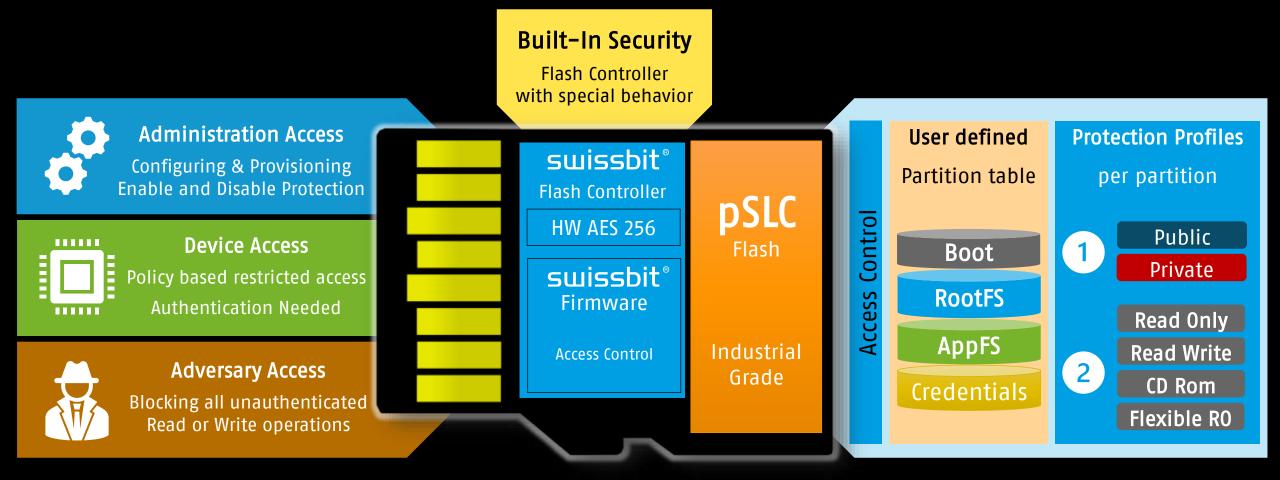


Secure boot



Security Upgrade Kit

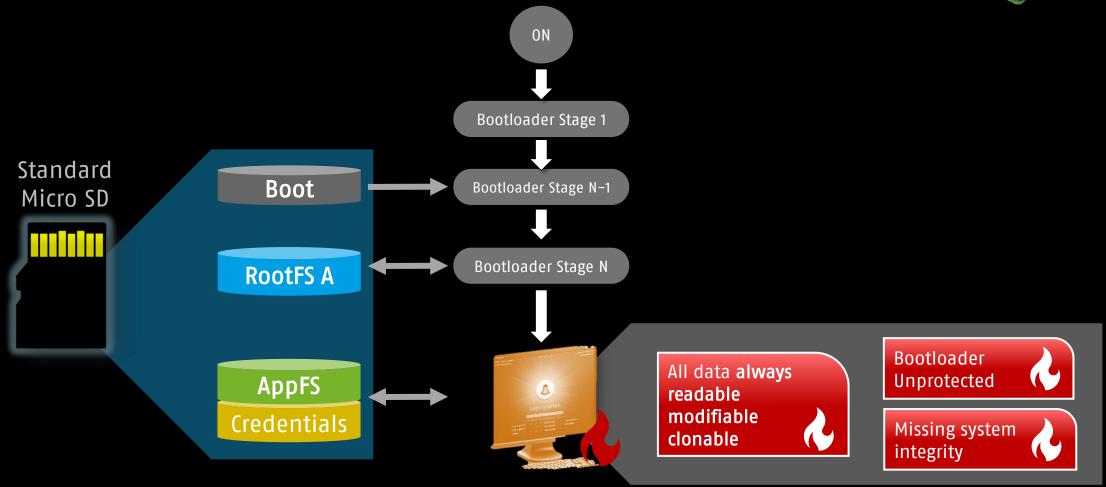
How does it work?



Standard boot flow of a RPi

No Integrity protection and Security



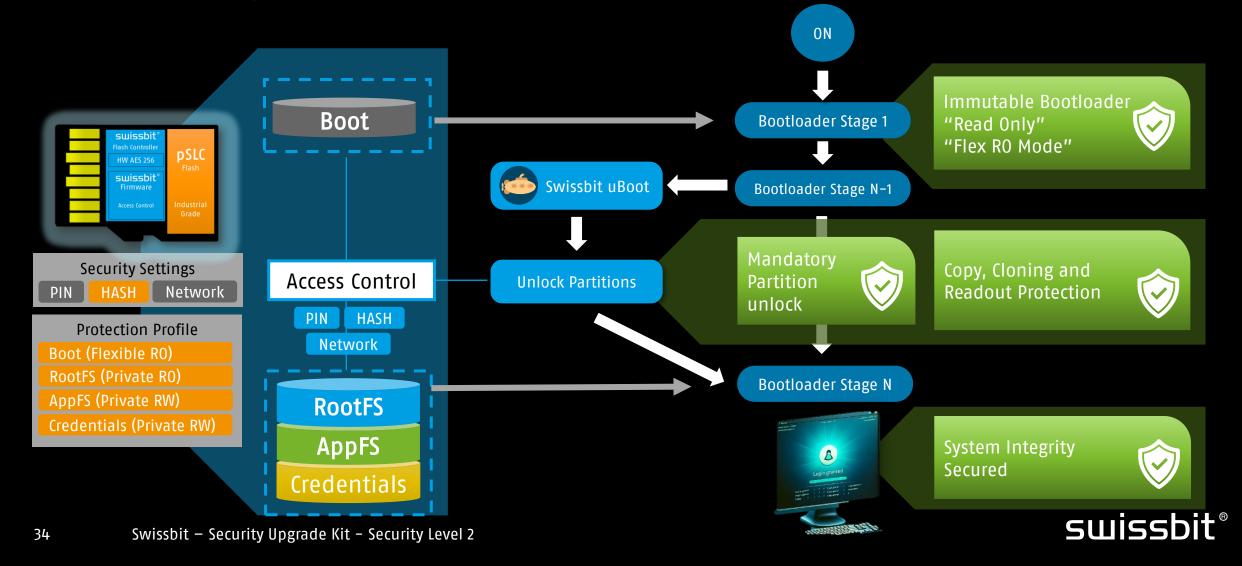




Secure External Drive

Reference Implementation





Physical and Cyber Protection for existing products



Physical Attacks

Remote Attacks

Existing Protection Options

Monitoring

Physical Protection

Software Hardening

Attack Surface Reduction

swissbit®

Security Level 2 Extra Protection Hardware Based Access Control

Readout, Cloning & Tamper Protection

Partition specific protection profiles

System Integrity *I*Secure Boot

Data Encryption

Privacy Protection

swissbit Security Level 2 16 GB PS You © 3 A1

Assets to protect on Embedded Systems

Apps

Configs

Credentials

Safety

Functionality



Raspberry Pi as reference system for embedded IoT/OT platforms



Thanks for watching



Maker, Hacker, Enthusiast linkedin.com/in/marxram/roland.marx@swissbit.com

```
-[RSA 3072]----+
  + *S* .
. o ++BoB
--[SHA256]----+
  Wishing you a secure holiday season!
  Let encryption keep your secrets safe!
```