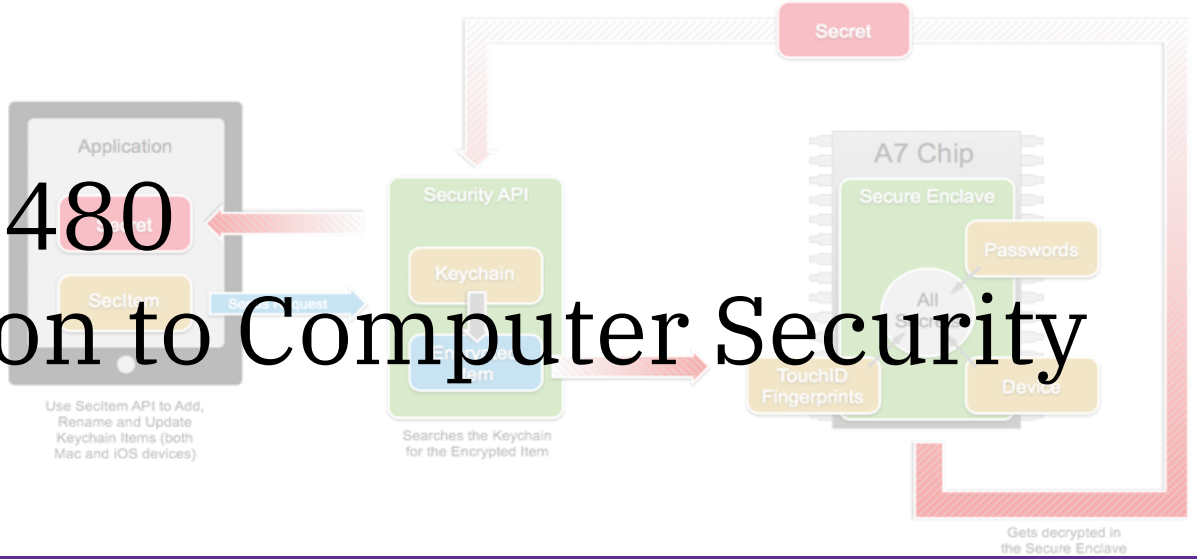
CSCI-UA.9480
Introduction to Computer Security



NYU

Session 3.3
Systems Security and Isolation

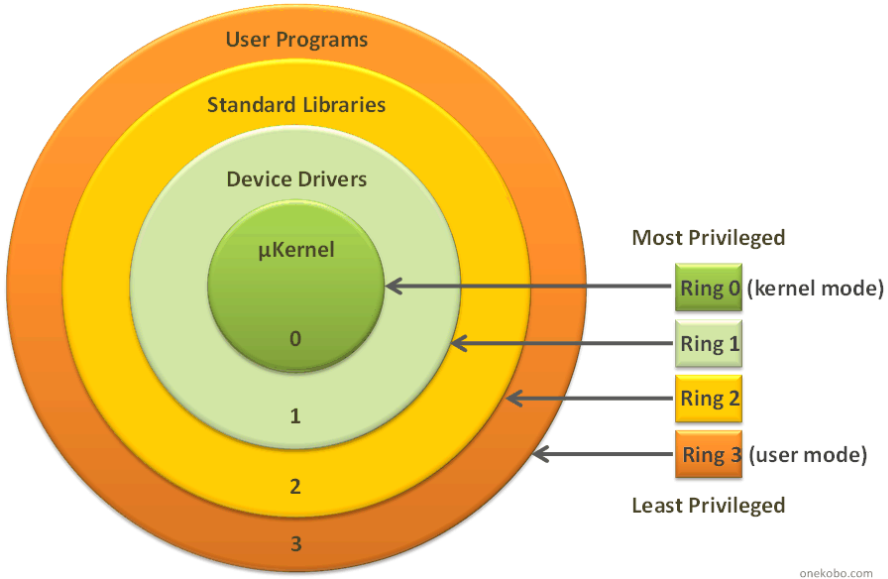
Prof. Nadim Kobeissi

Operating System Security Basics

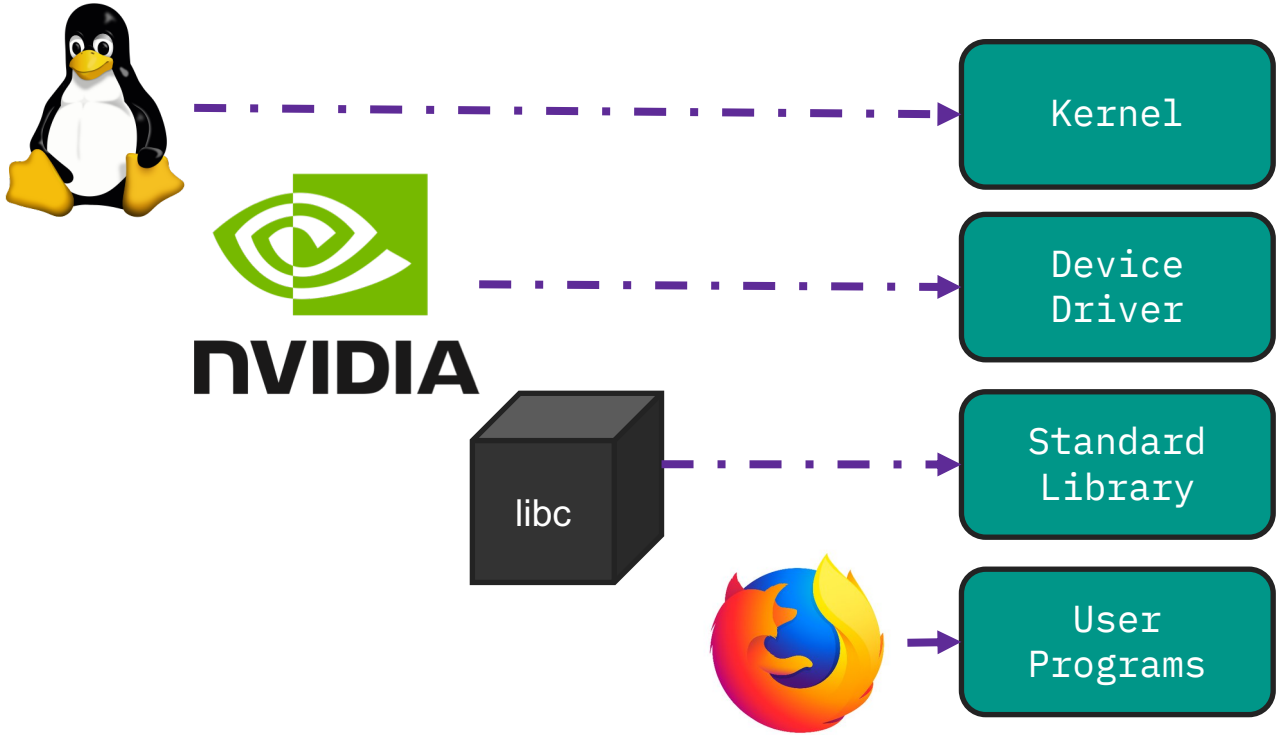
3.3a

Operating systems: protection rings.

- Kernel runs in Ring 0.
- Device drivers run in Ring 1.
- Standard libraries run in Ring 2.
- User programs run in Ring 3.

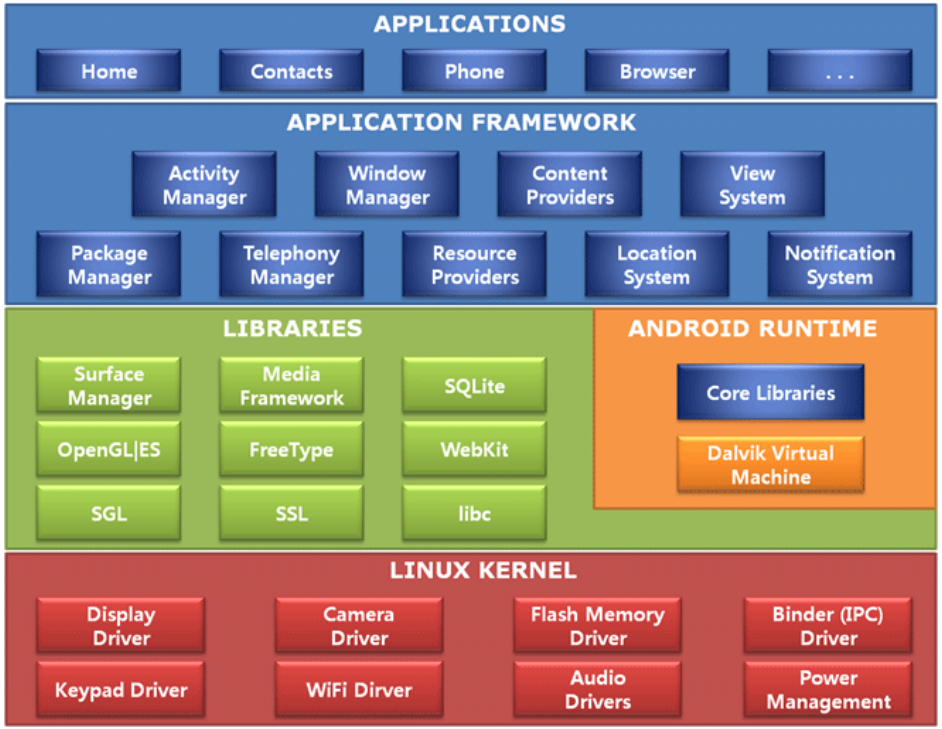


Examples.



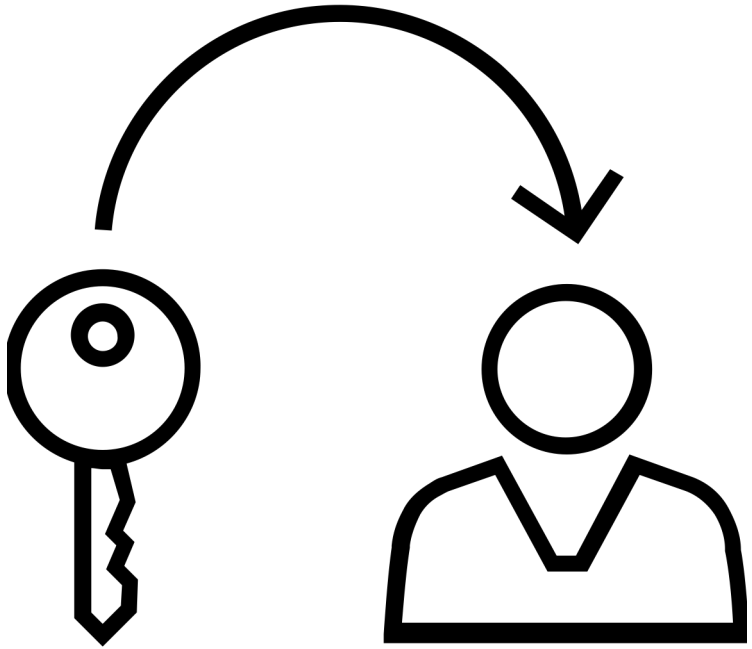
What's managed by an operating system?

- *Subjects*: Users and processes.
- *Objects and resources*: Files (system integrity), hardware I/O (devices, private data), scheduling, network access...
- In Linux:
  - /dev: Devices.
  - /etc: Configuration files
  - /usr: Libraries, etc.



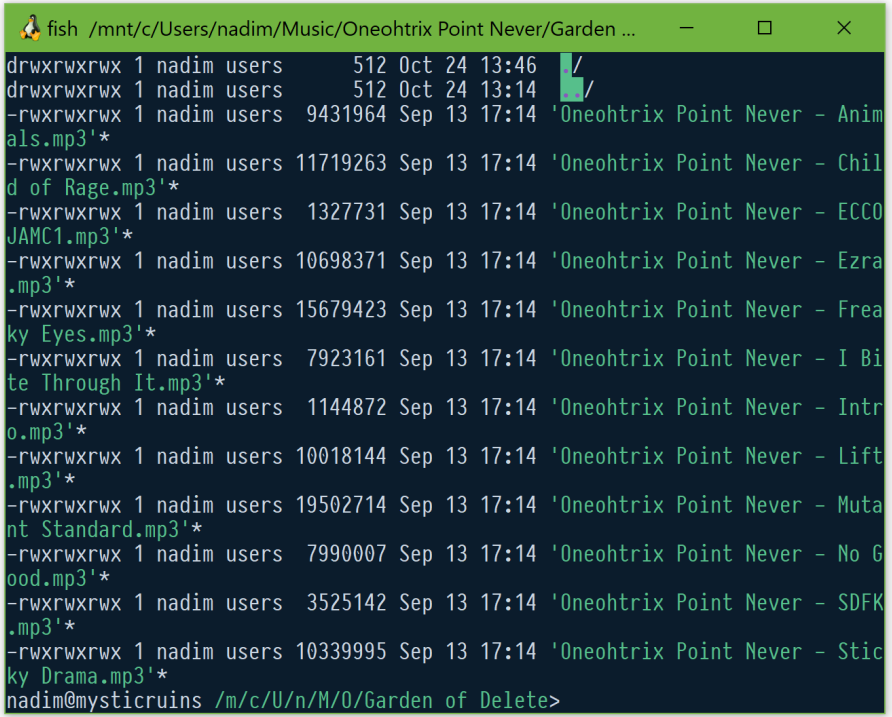
Principle of least-privilege.

- Services may need root access:
  - OpenSSH.
  - Apache, NGINX, Lighttpd…
  - Crond
  - Sendmail, Postfix
- Minesweeper does not.



POSIX permissions model.

- First letter: special mode operator.
  - d: Directory.
  - l: Symbolic link.
  - s: setuid/setguid.
  - t: sticky bit.



POSIX permissions model.

- First three letters: owner permissions.
- Second three letters: group permissions.
- Third three letters: public permissions.
- Also represented using numbers:
  - 4: read.
  - 2: write.
  - 1: execute.
  - -rwxrw-r-- = 764.

Symbolic Notation	Numeric Notation	English
`----------`	0000	no permissions
`-rwx------`	0700	**read, write, & execute only for owner**
`-rwxrwx---`	0770	read, write, & execute for owner and group
`-rwxrwxrwx`	0777	read, write, & execute for owner, group and others
`---x--x--x`	0111	execute
`--w--w--w-`	0222	write
`--wx-wx-wx`	0333	write & execute
`-r--r--r--`	0444	read
`-r-xr-xr-x`	0555	read & execute
`-rw-rw-rw-`	0666	read & write
`-rwxr-----`	0740	owner can read, write, & execute; group can only read; others have no permissions

Test your knowledge!

What does the permission code 600 represent?

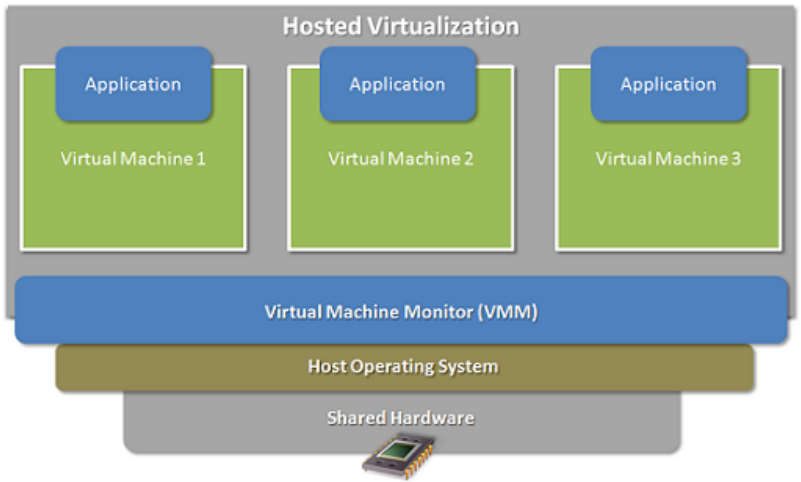
Test your knowledge!

What does the permission code 600 represent?

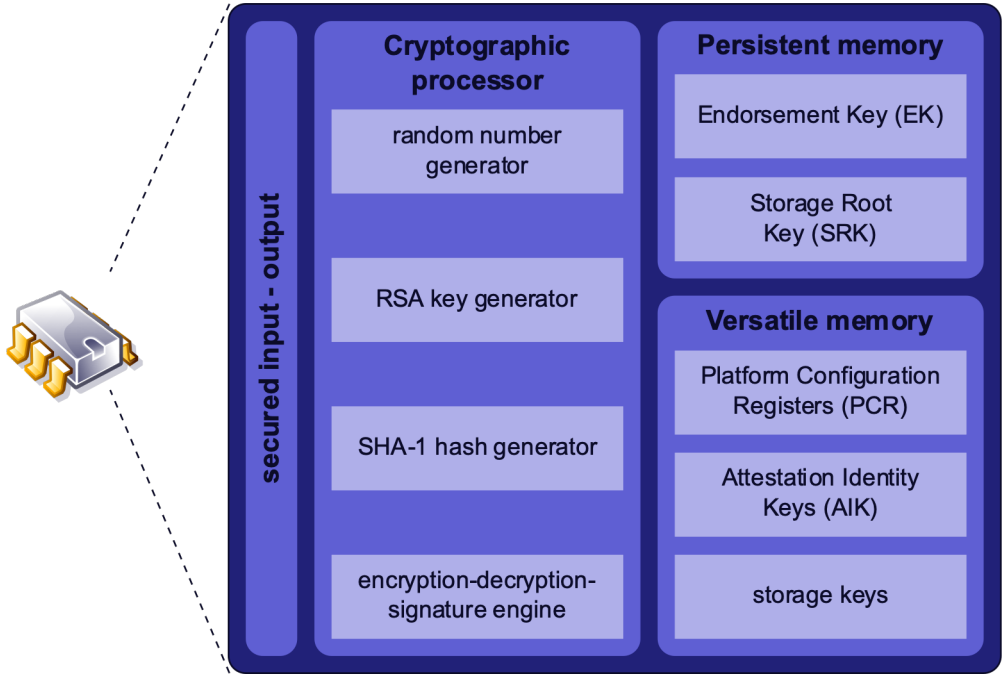
Only the owner may read or write, but not execute.
Group and public can do nothing. (-rw-------).

Isolation in operating systems.

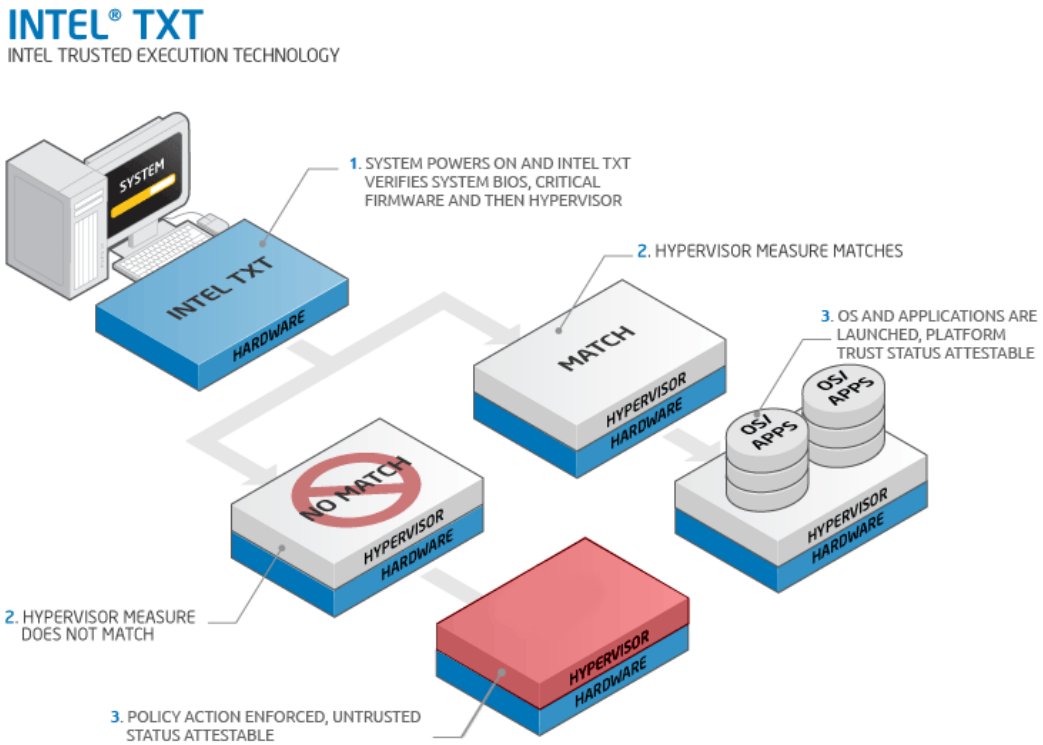
- Chroot: Limits file system view.
- FreeBSD jails, Linux containers:
  - Limit network access.
  - Limit file system, device access...
- Virtualization.



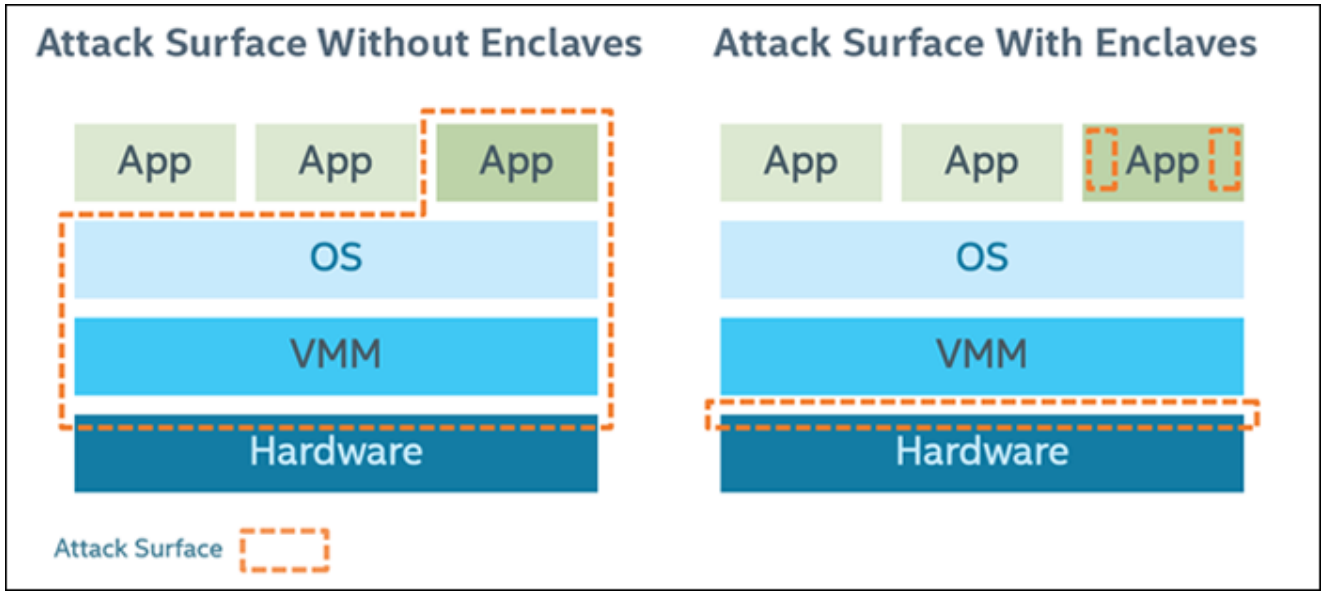
Intel Trusted Platform Module (TPM).



Intel Trusted Execution.



Intel Software Guard Extensions (SGX).



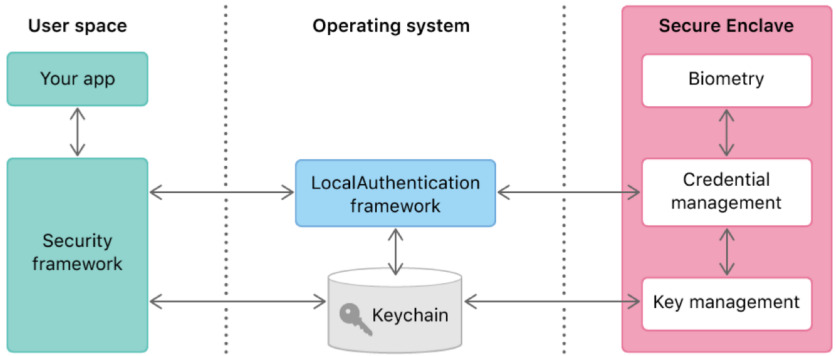
Case Study: Apple T2 Chip

3.3b

Apple T2 Chip: Secure Enclave Component.

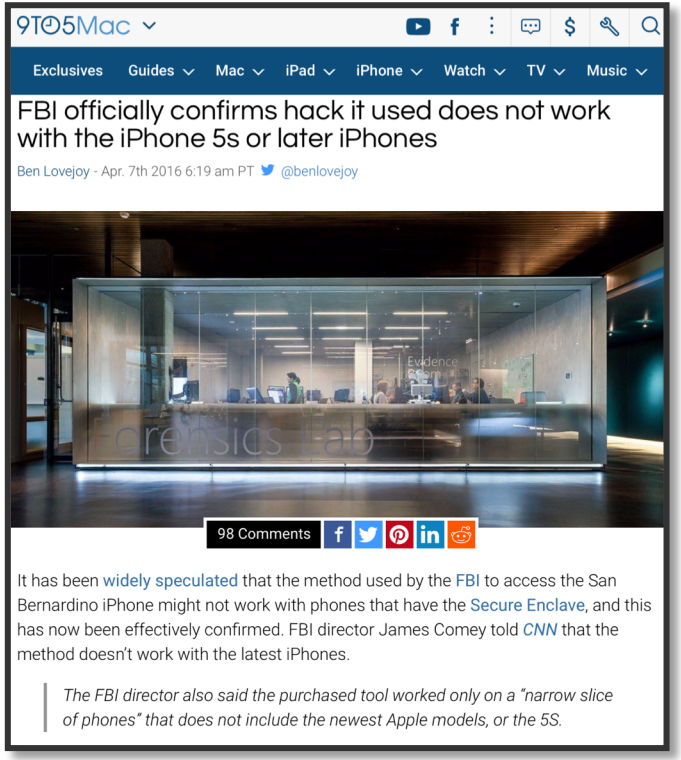
Secure enclave:

- Self-contained, independent computer with its own ”jurisdiction”.
- Encrypted memory.
- Hardware-based *true* random number generator.
- Even of system kernel/CPU is compromised, Secure Enclave maintains integrity.
- Resistant to reverse engineering/forensic analysis.



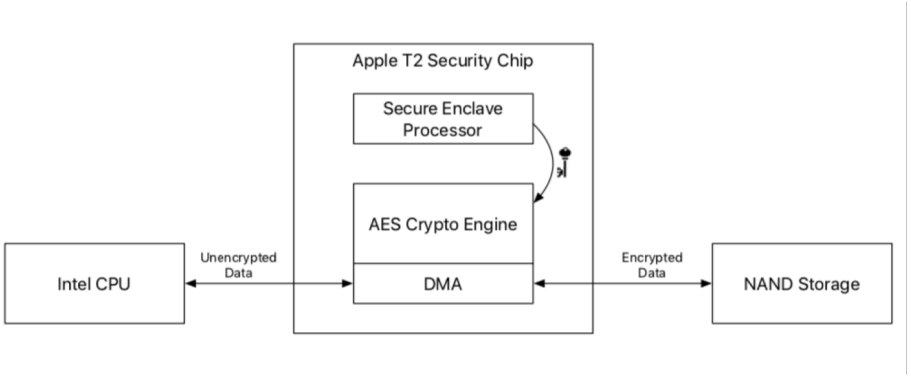
Apple T2 Chip: Secure Enclave Component.

- Design benefits:
- Hardware lock dependent on user events/password entry.
- Secure key wiping.
- Brute force attack protection.
- Fingerprint data stored inside Secure Enclave, not visible to actual device.
- Can hardware-disconnect microphone.
- Encryption keys never exposed to CPU!

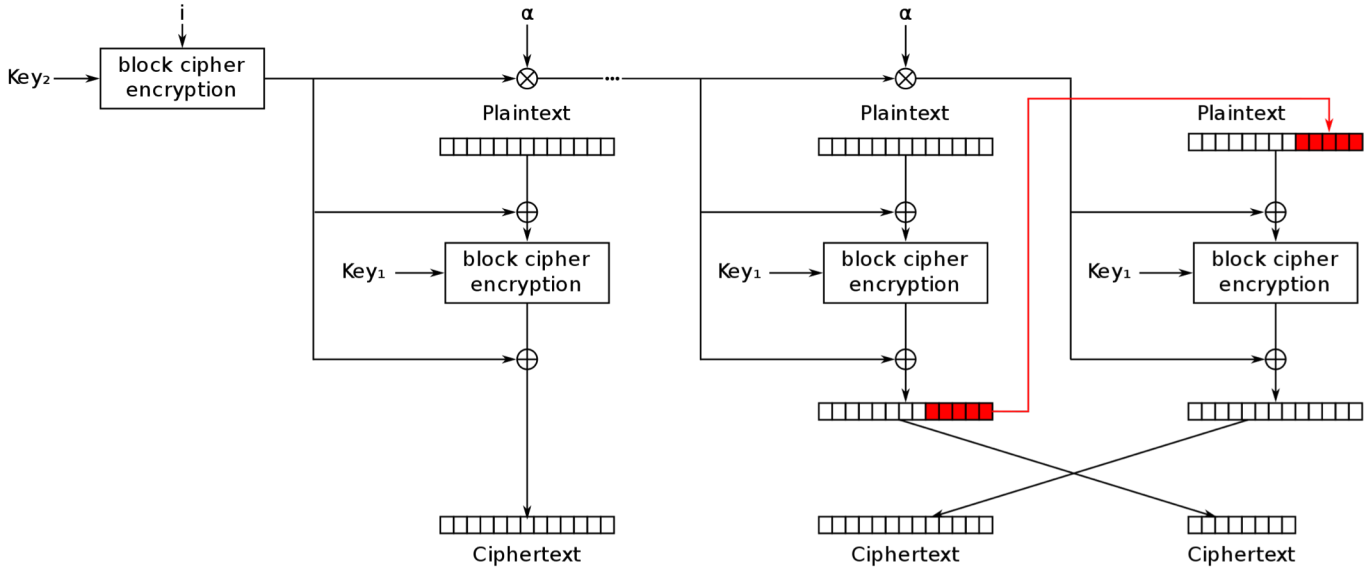


Apple T2 Chip: Core Concepts.

- File encryption engine built into the DMA path between flash storage and main system memory.
    - *DMA: Direct Memory Access (access RAM without going through CPU.)*
- Each Mac has a unique UID and AES keys baked in at the factory.
    - Secure enclave design prohibits key extraction.
    - Keys generated *within* secure enclave.



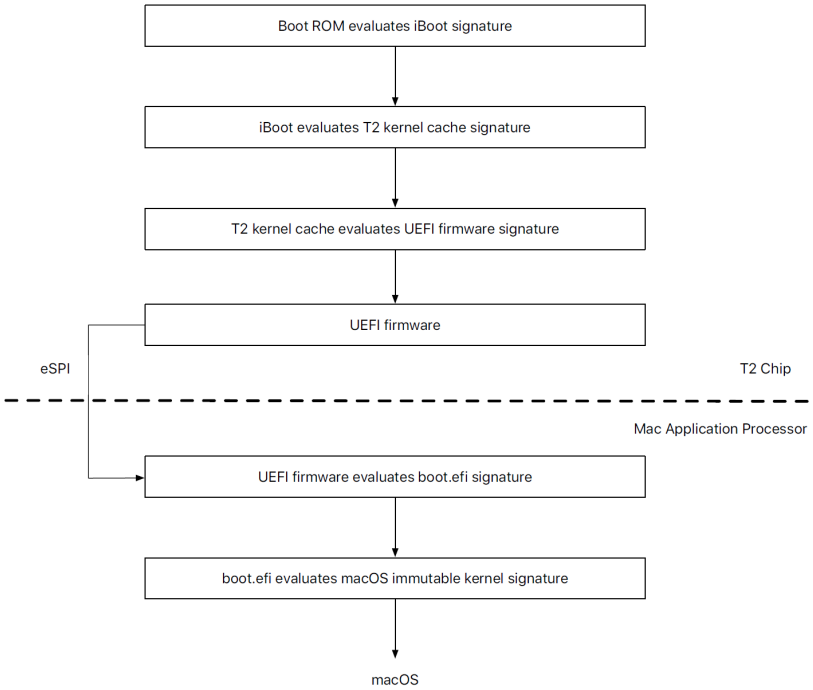
AES-XTS: Used only for disk encryption.



XEX with tweak and ciphertext stealing (XTS) mode encryption

Goal: prevent targeted malleability (easier in other modes such as CBC, CTR.)

Apple Secure Boot.



Test your knowledge!

Can you think of any daily use applications with keys that macOS would benefit from storing inside T2/Secure Enclave?

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Can you think of any daily use applications with keys that macOS would benefit from storing inside T2/Secure Enclave?

File encryption with APFS

Long-term keys for encrypted calls

Long-term keys For secure messaging

Code signing keys

Next time: Mobile Security

3.4