

Uncover, Understand, Own

REGAINING CONTROL OVER YOUR AMD CPU



Uncover



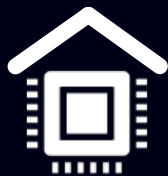
Christian Werling
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Understand



Alexander Eichner
Technische Universität Berlin



Own



Robert Buhren
Technische Universität Berlin



Uncover

REVERSE-ENGINEERING AN UNKNOWN SUBSYSTEM

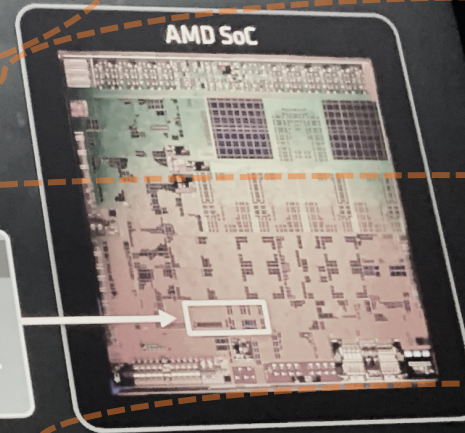
AMD SECURE PROCESSOR ¹

A Dedicated Security Subsystem

- AMD Secure Processor integrated within SoC
 - 32-bit microcontroller (ARM Cortex-A5)
- Runs a secure OS/kernel
- Secure off-chip NV storage for firmware and data (i.e. SPI ROM)
- Provides cryptographic functionality for secure key generation and key management
- Enables hardware validated boot

Hardware Root of Trust Provides Foundation for Platform Security

Root of Trust
AMD Secure Processor



Server & Desktops
(Epyc & Ryzen)

integrated since 2013

undocumented,
proprietary firmware

required for Secure
Boot

acts as **trust anchor**

¹ Formerly known as Platform Security Processor (i.e. PSP)

Applications

SECURE ENCRYPTED VIRTUALIZATION

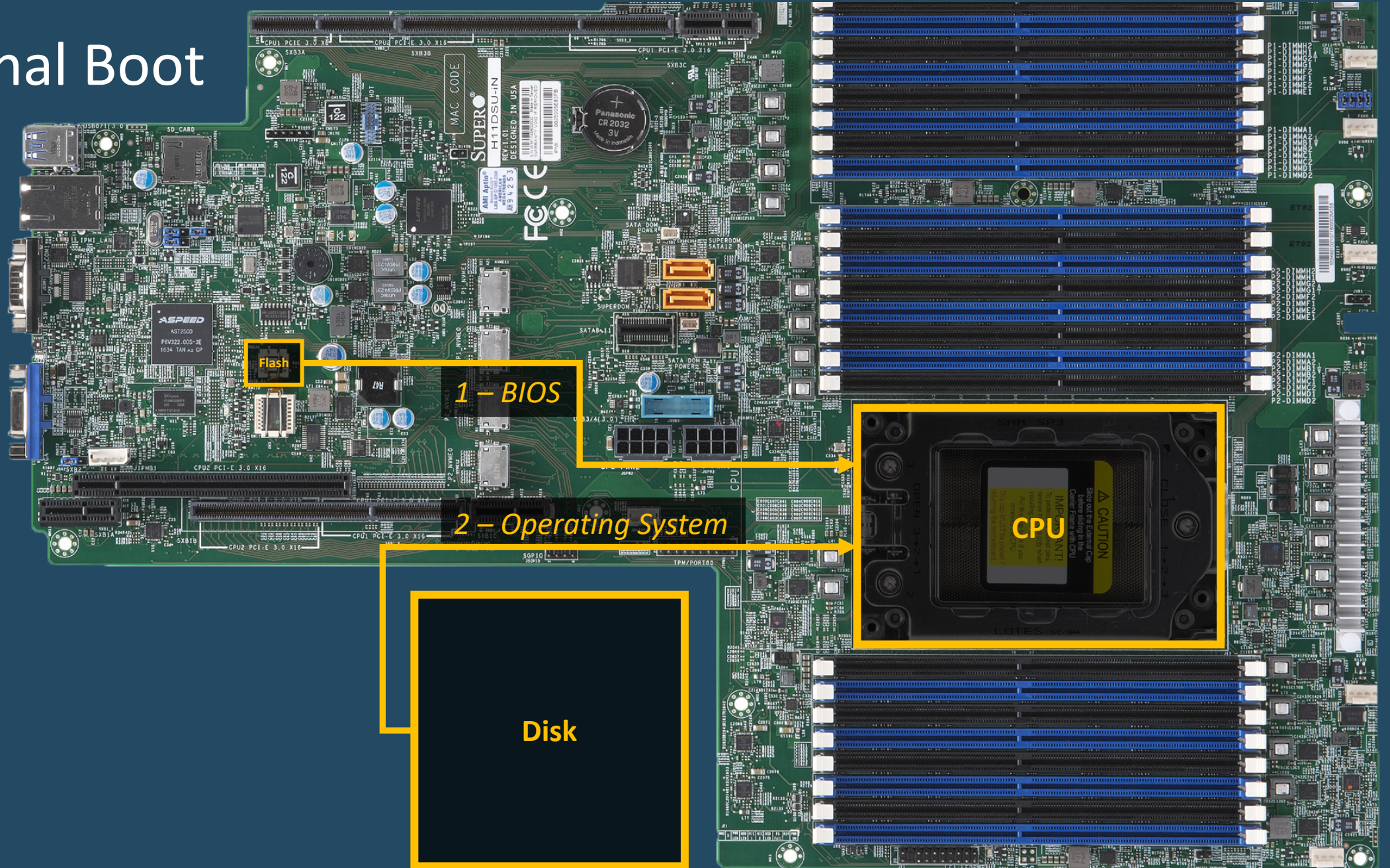
- **SEV** protects virtual machines in **untrusted** physical locations (e.g. data centers)
- The **PSP** acts as **remote trusted entity** for the Cloud customer
- PSP promises to **protect VM memory** from the **hypervisor** and even **physical access**

TRUSTED EXECUTION ENVIRONMENT

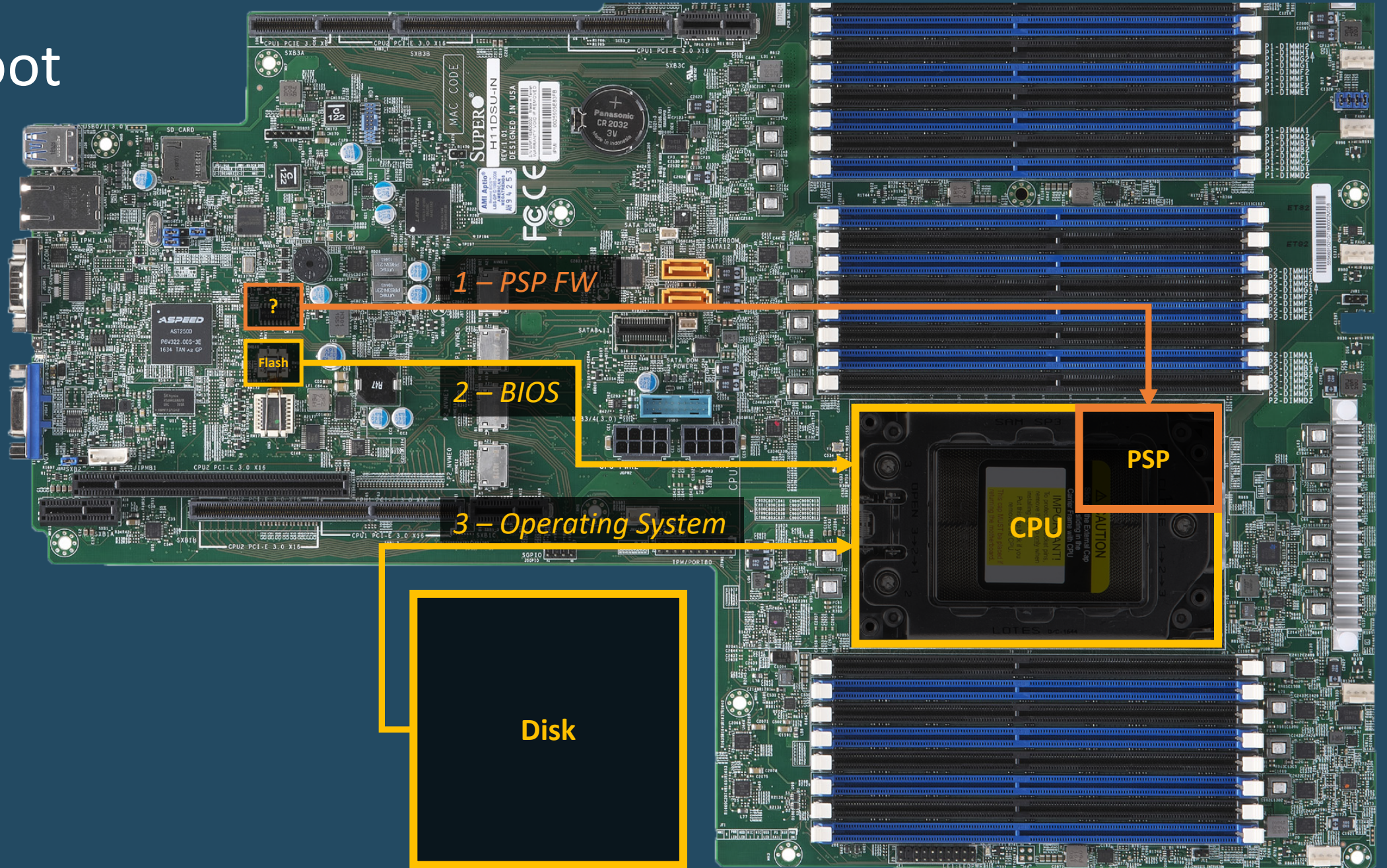
- Linux to support **PSP TEE API** (kernel patch pending)
- The **PSP** acts as a **black box** inside **your** system that is **trusted by an external entity** (e.g. Netflix)
- This enables DRM on **untrusted** systems like Linux

*The PSP runs code you
don't know and don't control.*

Traditional Boot

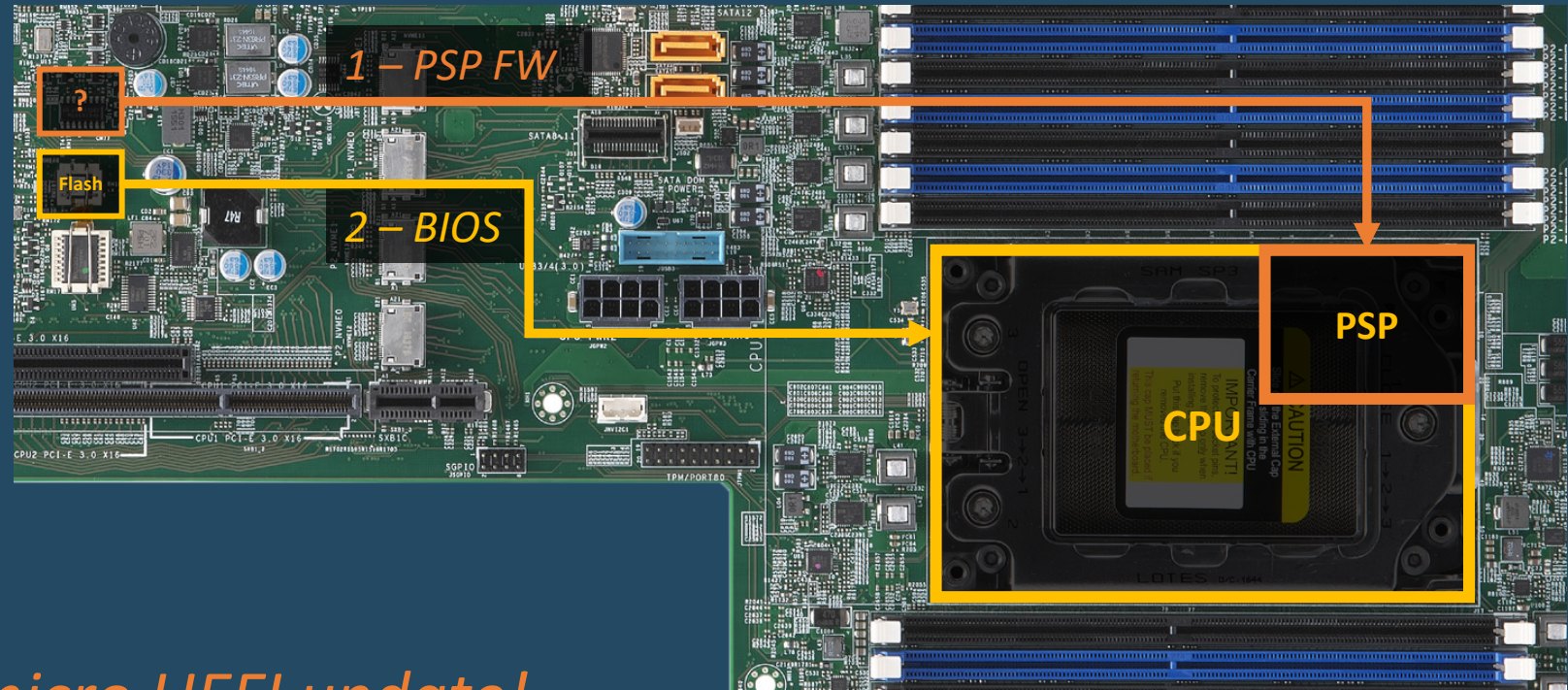


AMD Boot



Where is the PSP Firmware loaded from?

- The BIOS is stored in **SPI flash memory**
- It contains all **code and data used by the BIOS** during boot up
- Data is arranged according to the UEFI image specification



Let's inspect a Supermicro UEFI update!

UEFITool 0.26.0 - Supermicro_H11DSU9.715

Structure

| Name | Action | Type | Subtype |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|
| ▼ UEFI_image | | Image | UEFI |
| Padding | | Padding | Non-empty |
| ▶ 8C8CE578-8A3D-4F1C-9935-896185C32DD3 | | Volume | FFSv2 |
| Padding | | Padding | Non-empty |
| ▶ 8C8CE578-8A3D-4F1C-9935-896185C32DD3 | | Volume | FFSv2 |
| ▶ 8C8CE578-8A3D-4F1C-9935-896185C32DD3 | | Volume | FFSv2 |

Information

Full size: 1000000h
(16777216)

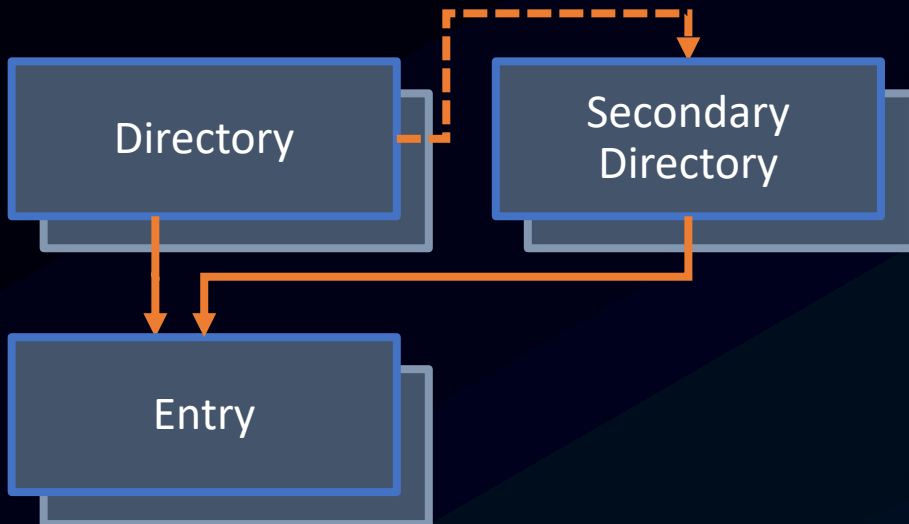
Messages

```
parseFile: non-empty pad-file contents will be destroyed after volume modifications
```

```
$ binwalk -A Supermicro_H11DSU9.715
```

| DECIMAL | HEXADECIMAL | DESCRIPTION |
|----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 489764 | 0x77924 | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| 489836 | 0x7796C | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| 489852 | 0x7797C | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| 489868 | 0x7798C | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| 489964 | 0x779EC | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| 489976 | 0x779F8 | ARM instructions, function prologue |
| [...] | | |
| 14405063 | 0xDBCDC7 | Intel x86 instructions, nops |
| 14405071 | 0xDBCDCF | Intel x86 instructions, nops |
| 14405079 | 0xDBCDD7 | Intel x86 instructions, nops |
| 14405087 | 0xDBCDDF | Intel x86 instructions, nops |
| 14405095 | 0xDBCDE7 | Intel x86 instructions, nops |
| [...] | | |

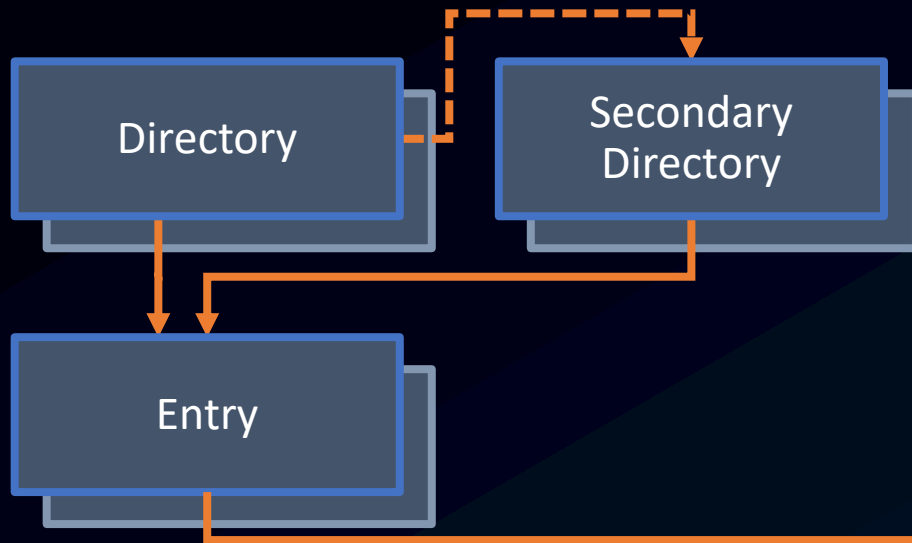
FIRMWARE FILE SYSTEM



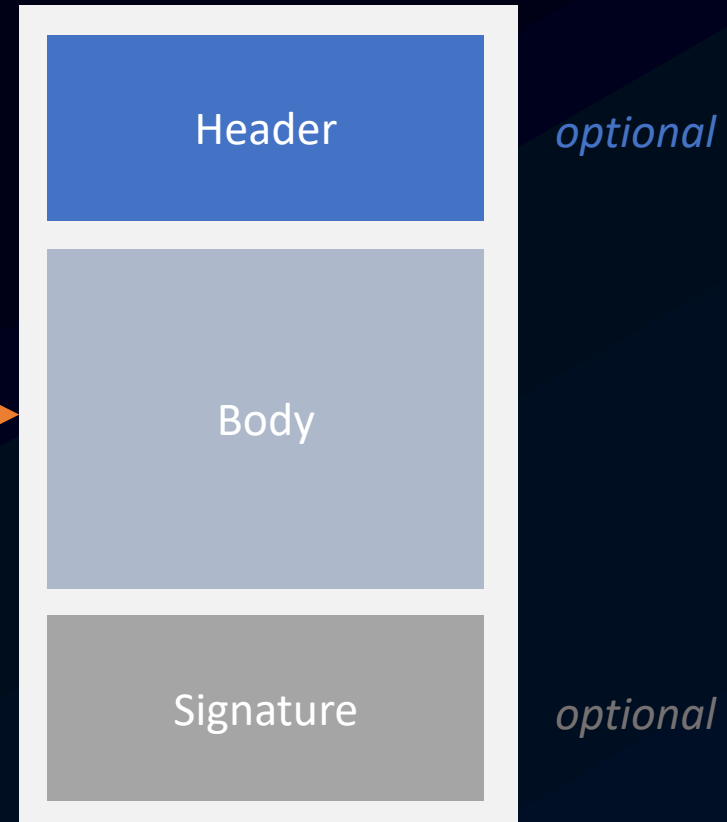
```

Supermicro_H11DSU9.715
0076FD0 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0076FE0 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0076FF0 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0077000 24 Magic 50 4 Checksum 7 10 Count 00 A004?0000
0077010 000?Type 00 400?Size 000 00 Address F 0000?0000
0077020 010?Type 000 00000?100 009414FF 00000000
0077030 0300?0000 80E70000 007707FF 00000000
0077040 08000000 40E10100 005F08FF 00000000
0077050 0A000000 40030000 00410AFF 00000000
0077060 12000000 40560000 00450AFF 00000000
0077070 21000000 10000000 009C0AFF 00000000
0077080 24000000 000C0000 009D0AFF 00000000
0077090 30000000 200C0000 00A90AFF 00000000
00770A0 31000000 20C00000 00B60AFF 00000000
00770B0 32000000 F0B80000 00770BFF 00000000
00770C0 33000000 70DE0000 00300CFF 00000000
00770D0 34000000 A0F10000 000F0DFF 00000000
00770E0 35000000 A0F00000 00010EFF 00000000
00770F0 36000000 40C00000 00F20EFF 00000000
0077100 40000000 Pointer to Secondary Directory 00000000
0077110 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0077120 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0077130 FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF
0x76FCD out of 0x1000000 bytes
  
```

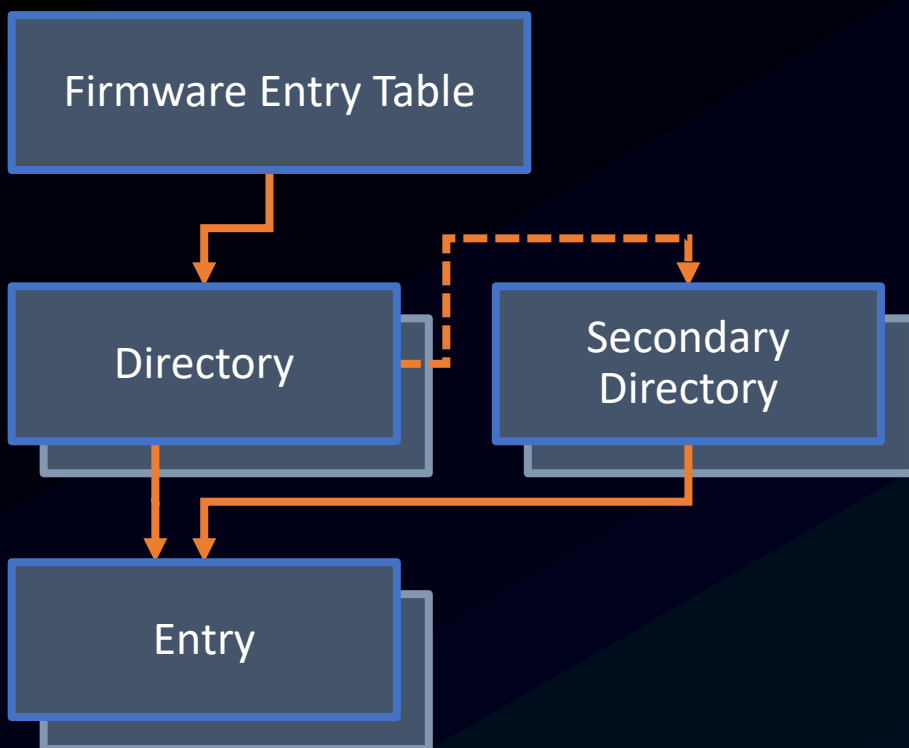
FIRMWARE FILE SYSTEM



File



FIRMWARE FILE SYSTEM



Firmware Entry Table

- FET begins with specific byte sequence (AA55AA55)
- Lists pointers to firmware blobs (e.g. directories) inside the UEFI image
- Earlier versions of the FET are documented in source code of the **Coreboot Project**

```
$ psptool Supermicro_H11DSU9.715
```

| Directory | Addr | Type | Magic | Secondary Directory |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------|---------------------|
| 0 | 0x77000 | PSP_NEW | \$PSP | 0x149000 |

| Entry | Address | Size | Type | Magic/ID | Version | Info |
|-------|----------|---------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 0 | 0x77400 | 0x240 | AMD_PUBLIC_KEY~0x0 | 1BB9 | | |
| 1 | 0x149400 | 0xe780 | PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER~0x1 | \$PS1 | 0.7.0.73 | signed(1BB9), verified |
| 2 | 0x77700 | 0xe780 | PSP_FW_RECOVERY_BOOT_LOADER~0x3 | \$PS1 | FF.7.0.73 | signed(1BB9), verified |
| 3 | 0x85f00 | 0x1e140 | SMU_OFFCHIP_FW~0x8 | | 4.19.7D.0 | compressed, signed(1BB9), verified |
| 4 | 0xa4100 | 0x340 | OEM_PSP_FW_PUBLIC_KEY~0xa | 2793 | | |
| 5 | 0xa4500 | 0x5640 | SMU_OFF_CHIP_FW_2~0x12 | | 4.19.7D.0 | compressed, signed(1BB9), verified |
| 6 | 0xa9c00 | 0x10 | WRAPPED_IKEK~0x21 | | | |
| 7 | 0xa9d00 | 0xc00 | SEC_GASKET~0x24 | \$PS1 | 13.2.0.9 | compressed, signed(1BB9), verified |
| 8 | 0xaa900 | 0xc20 | ABL0~0x30 | 0BAR | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 9 | 0xab600 | 0xc020 | ABL1~0x31 | AR1B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 10 | 0xb7700 | 0xb8f0 | ABL2~0x32 | AR2B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 11 | 0xc3000 | 0xde70 | ABL3~0x33 | AR3B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 12 | 0xd0f00 | 0xf1a0 | ABL4~0x34 | AR4B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 13 | 0xe0100 | 0xf0a0 | ABL5~0x35 | AR5B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 14 | 0xef200 | 0xc040 | ABL6~0x36 | AR6B | 18.11.12.11 | compressed, signed(2793), verified |
| 15 | 0x149000 | 0x0 | !PL2_SECONDARY_DIRECTORY~0x40 | | | |

| Directory | Addr | Type | Magic | Secondary Directory |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|---------------------|
| 1 | 0x149000 | secondary | \$PL2 | -- |

| Entry | Address | Size | Type | Magic/ID | Version | Info |
|-------|----------|---------|------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 0 | 0x149400 | 0xe780 | PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER~0x1 | \$PS1 | 0.7.0.73 | signed(1BB9), verified |
| 1 | 0x159400 | 0x1e140 | SMU_OFFCHIP_FW~0x8 | | 4.19.7D.0 | compressed, signed(1BB9), verified |

PSPTOOL

Python-based

Command-line interface

Parsing

Extraction

Manipulation

Decompression

Signature verification

PEM export of keys

Duplicate detection

Signature update

Python API

GPLv3



Display, extract, and manipulate PSP firmware inside UEFI images

| Commit | Message | Time |
|----------|------------------|--|
| cwerling | Update README.md | Latest commit fef1bed 3 days ago |
| | bin | Finally discard legacy psptool and rename psptool2 to psptool 4 months ago |
| | psptool | Show MD5 sums of Entries in verbose mode (-v) 4 months ago |
| | .gitignore | Finally discard legacy psptool and rename psptool2 to psptool 4 months ago |
| | LICENSE | Add GPLv3 license 7 months ago |
| | README.md | Update README.md 3 days ago |
| | setup.cfg | Update configs to upload to PyPI 2 months ago |
| | setup.py | Update configs to upload to PyPI 2 months ago |

README.md

PSPTool

PSPTool is a Swiss Army knife for dealing with firmware of the **AMD Secure Processor** (formerly known as *Platform Security Processor* or **PSP**). It locates AMD firmware inside **UEFI images** as part of BIOS updates targeting **AMD platforms**.

It is based on reverse-engineering efforts of AMD's **proprietary filesystem** used to **pack firmware blobs** into **UEFI Firmware Images**. These are usually 16MB in size and can be conveniently parsed by **UEFITool**. However, all binary blobs by AMD are located in padding volumes unparsable by UEFITool.

PSPTool favourably works with UEFI images as obtained through BIOS updates.

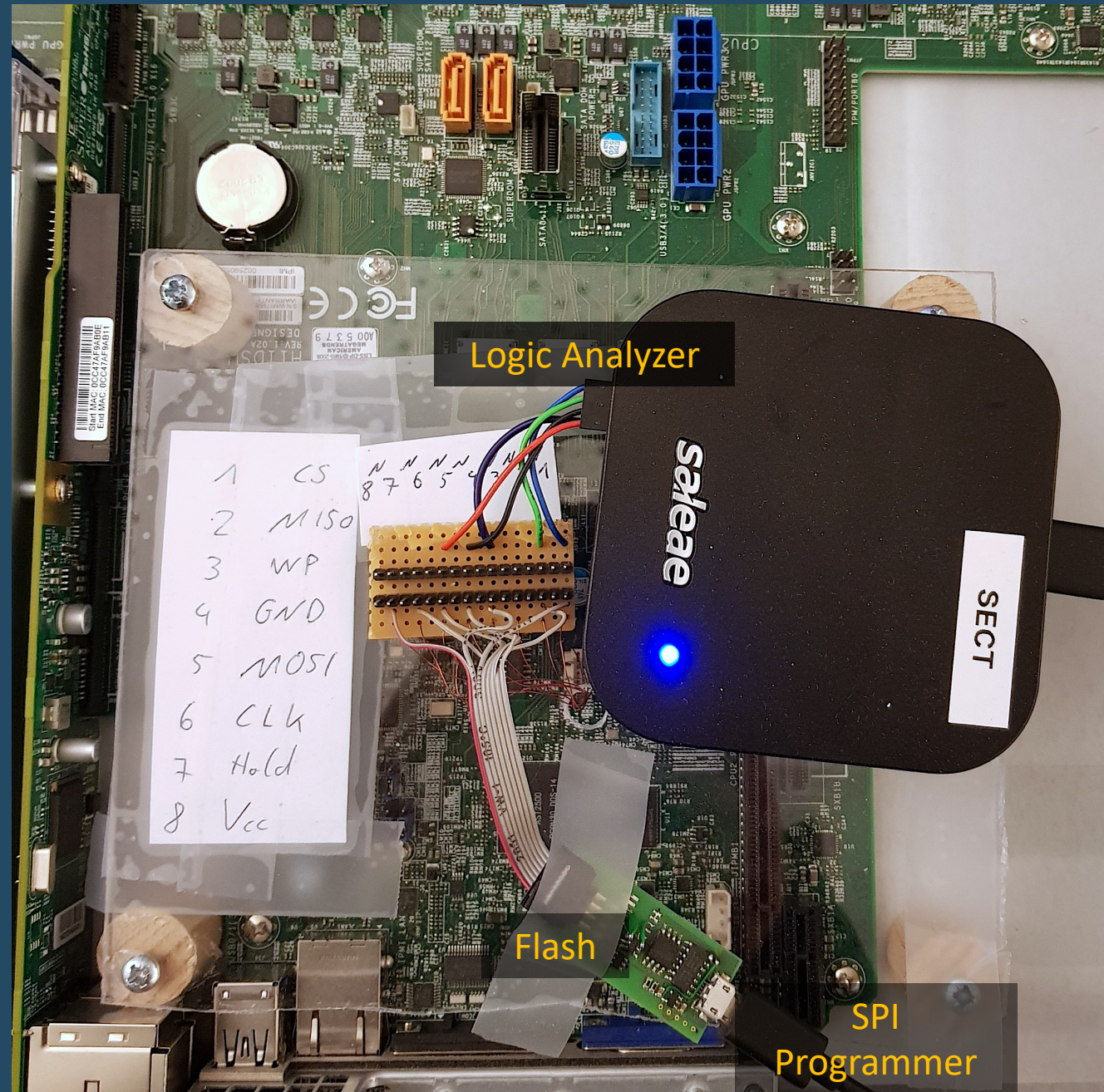
Installation

You can install PSPTool either through **pip**,

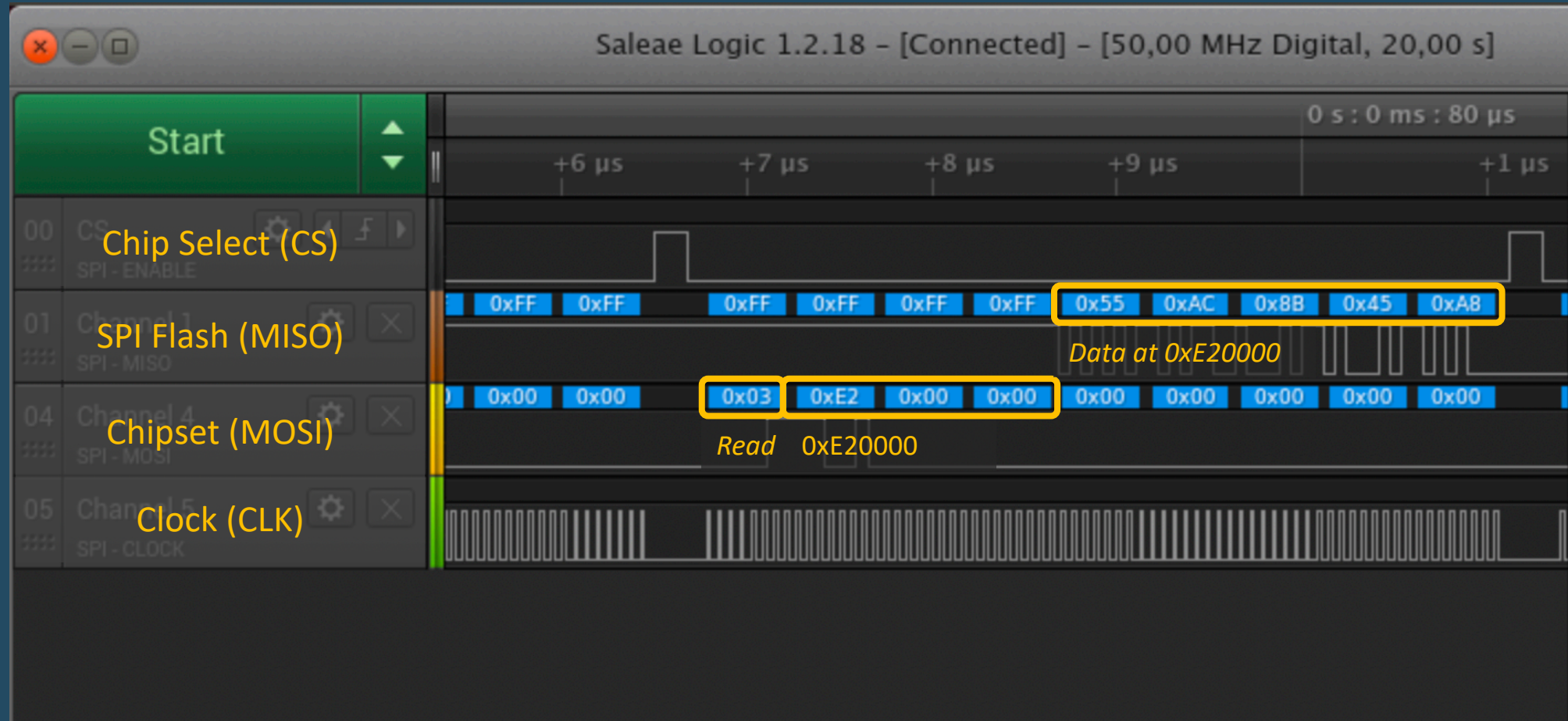
```
pip install psptool
```


*The PSP runs code you
don't know and don't control.*

SPI Programming and Tracing



SPI Programming and Tracing



PSPTRACE

Python-based

SPI command parsing

Correlate file system information

Aggregate duplicate reads

GPLv3

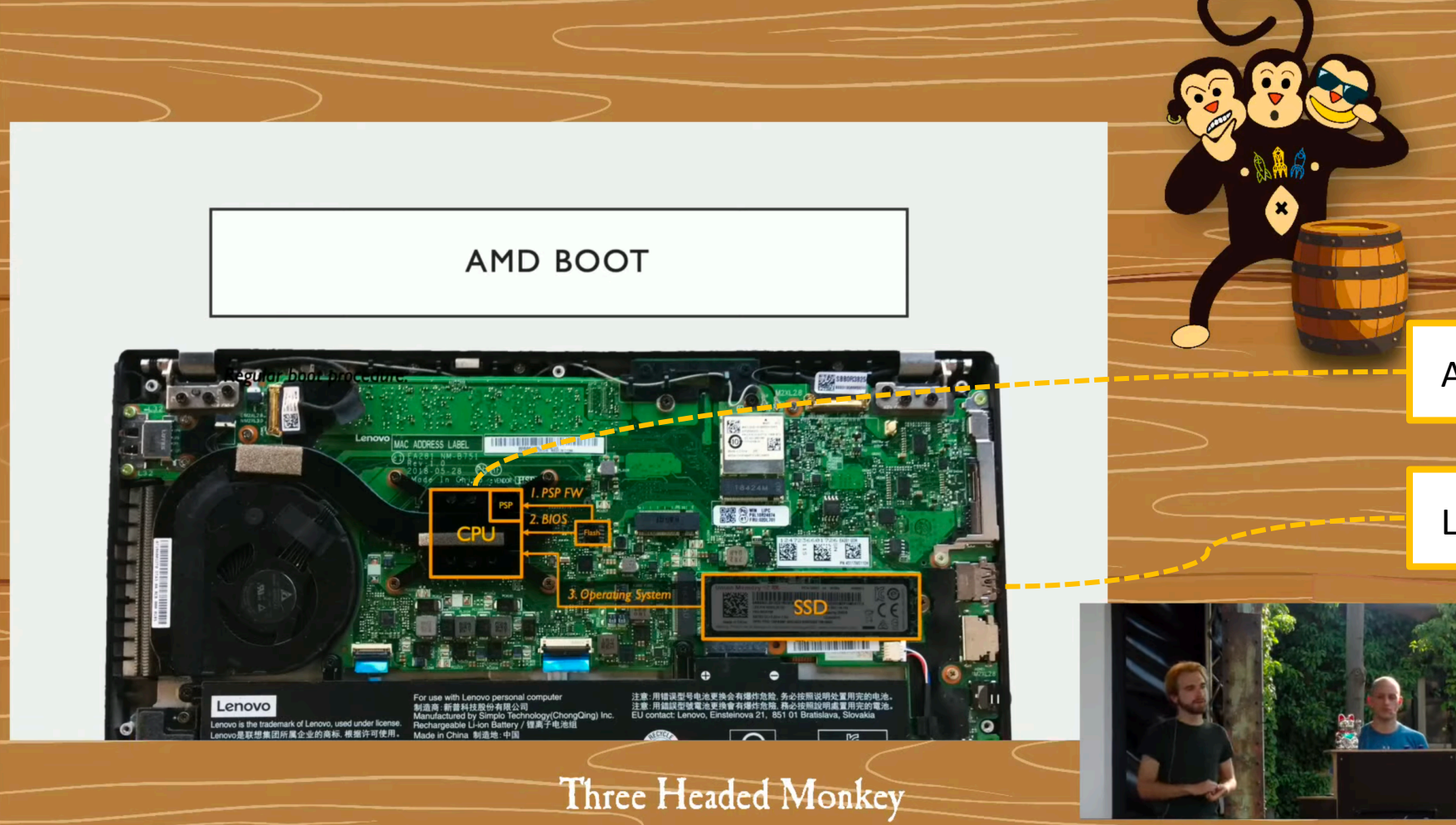
Aggregate consecutive reads

```
$ psptrace -o Supermicro_SPI_trace.txt Supermicro_H11DSU9.715
```

| No. | Lowest access | Range | Type |
|------|---------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 0 | 0xE20000 | 0x000040 | Firmware Entry Table |
| 41 | 0x077000 | 0x00012a | PSP_DIRECTORY |
| 112 | 0x077400 | 0x000240 | AMD_PUBLIC_KEY |
| 181 | 0x149400 | 0x00d780 | PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER |
| | | | ~ 3415 μ s delay ~ |
| 7083 | 0x149000 | 0x000180 | PL2_SECONDARY_DIRECTORY |
| | | | ~ 67 μ s delay ~ |
| 7094 | 0x117000 | 0x000160 | BHD_DIRECTORY |

[...]

More details on our hardware setups: Watch our talk from CCCamp19



The image shows a disassembled laptop with the internal components labeled. A white box at the top contains the text "AMD BOOT". A yellow dashed line points from the AMD Ryzen 5 Pro 2500U processor to a yellow box on the right. Another yellow dashed line points from the SSD to another yellow box on the right. The laptop's internal components are labeled with orange boxes and arrows: "CPU", "1. PSP FW", "2. BIOS", "3. Operating System", and "SSD". The laptop's battery is visible at the bottom with the "Lenovo" logo and some text. A cartoon illustration of a three-headed monkey is in the top right corner. A small video thumbnail in the bottom right corner shows two people at a presentation.

AMD BOOT

AMD Ryzen 5 Pro 2500U

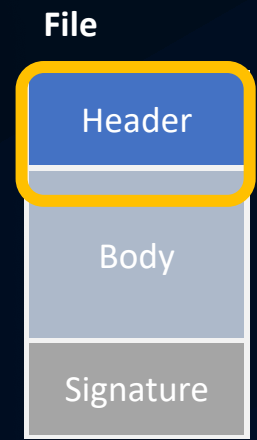
Lenovo Thinkpad A285

Three Headed Monkey

Cryptographic protections on files

- Files are **protected** by a **signature**
- Header field determines the according **PublicKey¹**
- **AMD Root Public Key** for signature checking is loaded from Flash, but protected by **hash in ROM**

```
bootloader.bin **OVERWRITE MODE**
0000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0010 24505331 40C60000 00000000 00000000 $PS1@.
0020 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0030 01000000 00000000 60BBA67E 1A434C6B `..~ CLK
0040 9807BC8D FDB41F40 00000000 00000000 . .... @
0050 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0060 37000800 FFFFFFFF 00010000 40C80000 7 .... @.
0070 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0080 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0090 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00A0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00B0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00C0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00D0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00E0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00F0 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
0100 18F09FE5 18F09FE5 18F09FE5 18F09FE5 .....
0110 18F09FE5 00F020E3 14F09FE5 14F09FE5 .....
0120 3C010000 CC020000 70020000 D0020000 < . . p .
0130 DC020000 E8020000 00030000 101F11EE . . . . .
0140 021AC1E3 101F01EE 88029FE5 100F0CEE . . . . .
0150 6B0000EB 700000EB 2200A0E3 500F02EE k . p . " . . P .
0160 74029FE5 100F02EE 70D29FE5 70229FE5 t . . . p . . p . .
0170 32FF2FE1 303F11EE 013A83E3 303F01EE 2 . / . 0 ? . . : . 0 ? .
0180 100F13EE 5C029FE5 100F03EE 58C29FE5 . \ . . . X . .
0190 100F11EE 010A80E3 040080E3 0200C0E3 . . . . .
01A0 010080E3 100F01EE 1CFF2FE1 D2F021E3 . . . . / . . ! .
01B0 38029FE5 00D0A0E1 D1F021E3 00D0A0E1 8 . . . . . ! . . .
01C0 D7F021E3 00D0A0E1 DBF021E3 00D0A0E1 . . ! . . . . ! . . .
01D0 53F021E3 18D29FE5 18C29FE5 1CFF2FE1 S . ! . . . . / .
01E0 030090E8 1EFF2FE1 0C0080E8 1EFF2FE1 . . . / . . . / .
01F0 04029FE5 000090E5 000050E3 0200001A . . . . P .
0200 00F020E3 03F020E3 00F020E3 1EFF2FE1 . . . . . / .
0210 F05F2DE9 0050A0E3 155F07EE D050A0E3 . _ . . P . . . P . .
```



¹ <https://developer.amd.com/wp-content/resources/55766.PDF>

Early PSP Boot Procedure

On-Chip
Bootloader

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

```
$ pspttrace -o Supermicro_SPI_trace.txt Supermicro_H11DSU9.715
```

| No. | Lowest access | Range | Type |
|------|---------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 0 | 0xe20000 | 0x180007 | Firmware Entry Table |
| 41 | 0x077000 | 0x00012a | PSP_DIRECTORY |
| 112 | 0x077400 | 0x000240 | AMD_PUBLIC_KEY |
| 181 | 0x149400 | 0x00d780 | PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER |
| | | | ~ 3415 μ s delay ~ |
| 7083 | 0x149000 | 0x000180 | PL2_SECONDARY_DIRECTORY |
| | | | ~ 67 μ s delay ~ |
| 7094 | 0x117000 | 0x000160 | BHD_DIRECTORY |

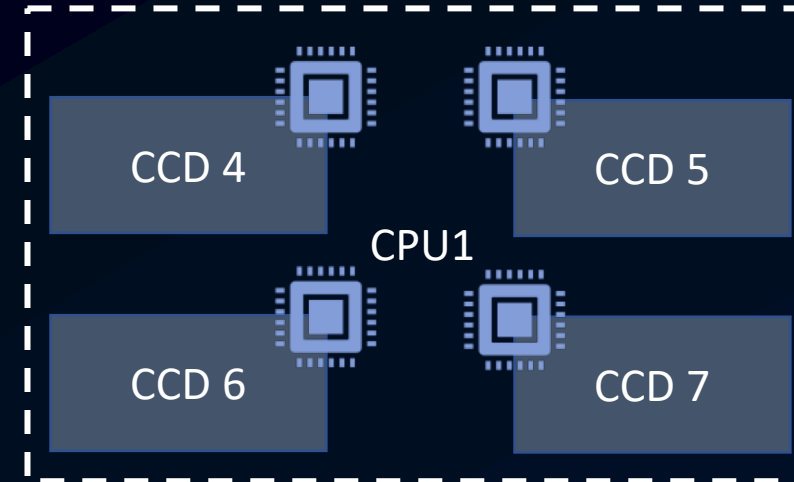
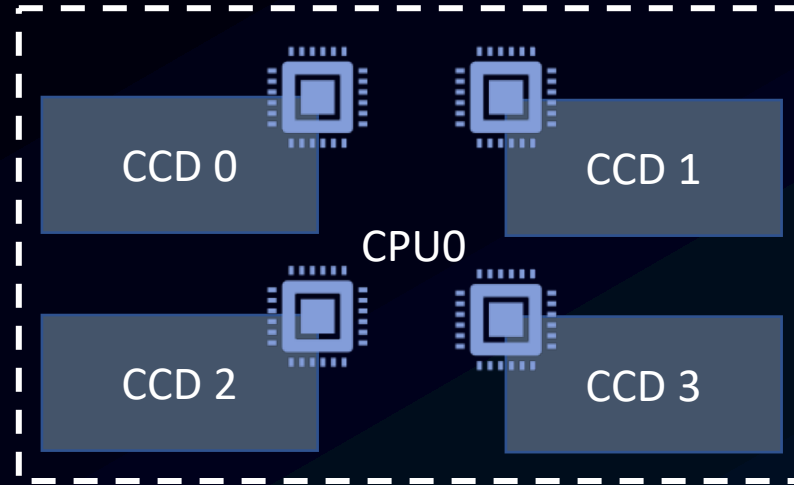
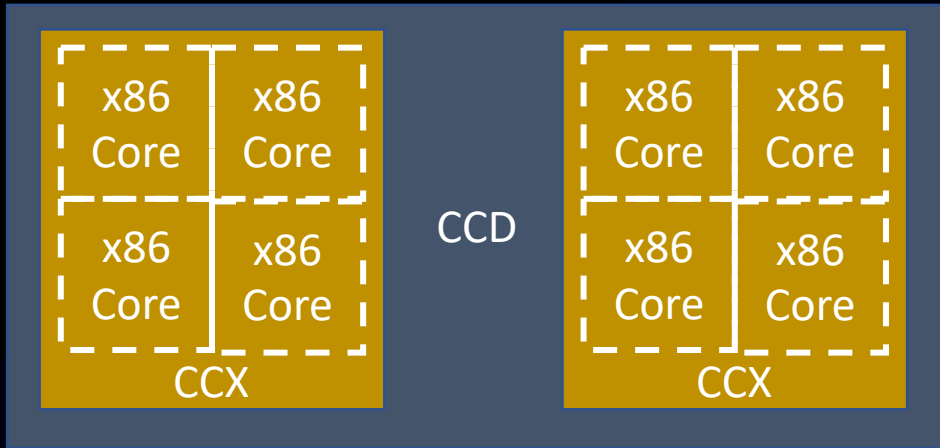
1. Load PSP_DIRECTORY
2. Load AMD_PUBLIC_KEY
3. Verify AMD_PUBLIC_KEY
4. Load PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER
5. Verify with AMD_PUBLIC_KEY

1. Initialize PSP
2. Load more directories
3. Load and verify **applications**



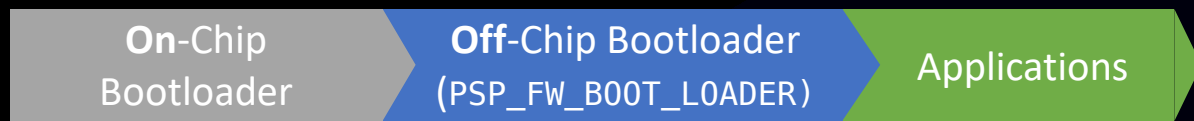
Understand

HOW DEEP DOES THE RABBIT HOLE GO?

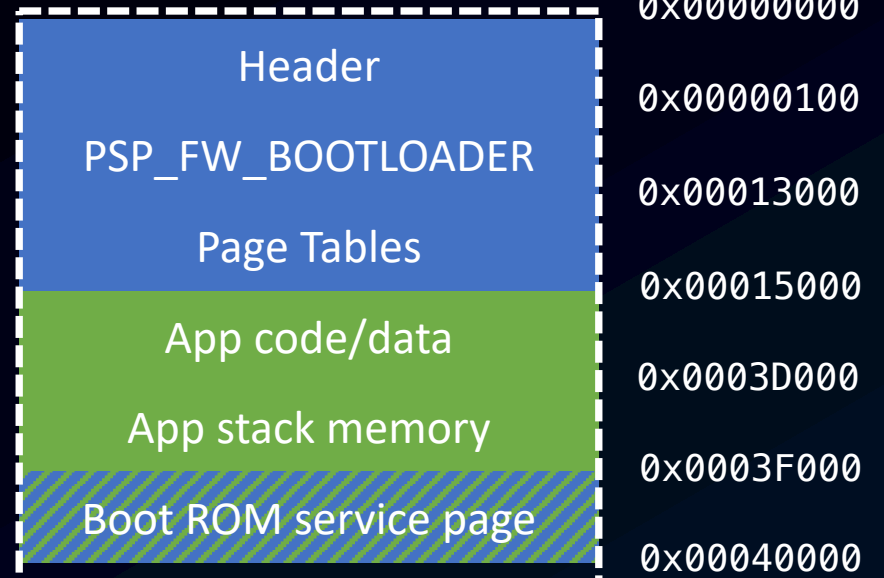


ONE PSP TO RULE THEM ALL ...

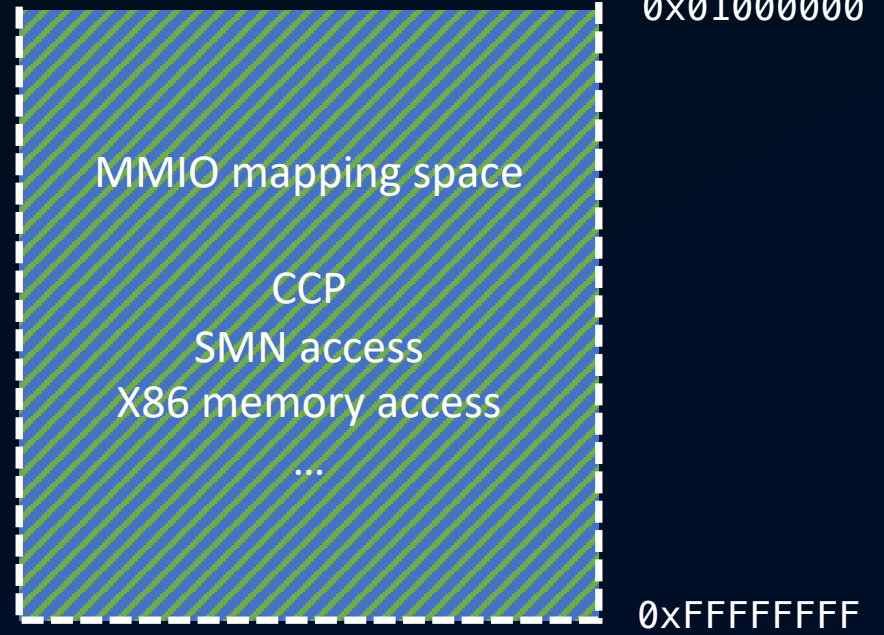
- CCX (Core Complex): Up to 4 x86 cores (8 threads)
- CCD (Core Complex Die): 2 CCX, Memory controller, etc.
- One PSP per CCD (Naples)
- PSP on CCD 0 is the Master
- Master coordinates initial bringup of platform



SRAM

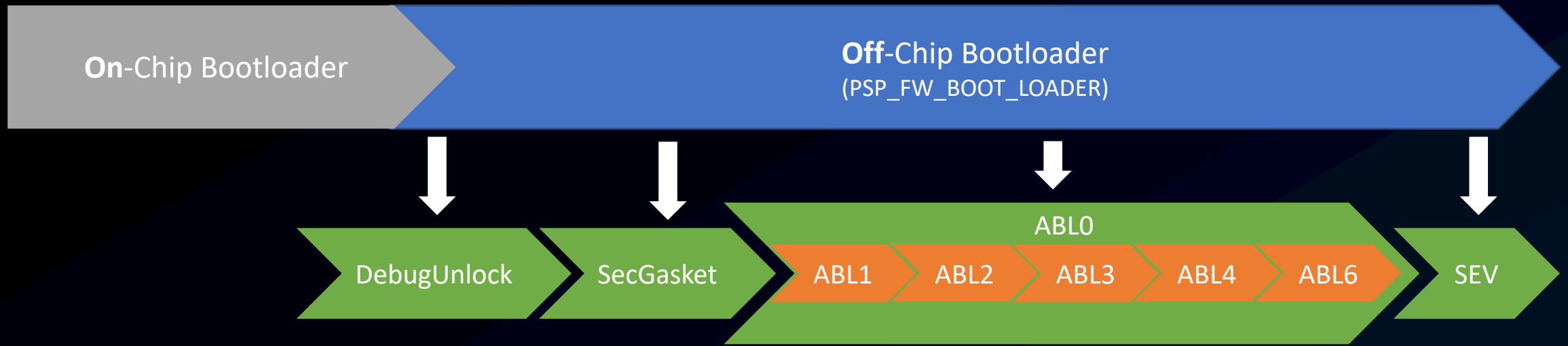


MMIO



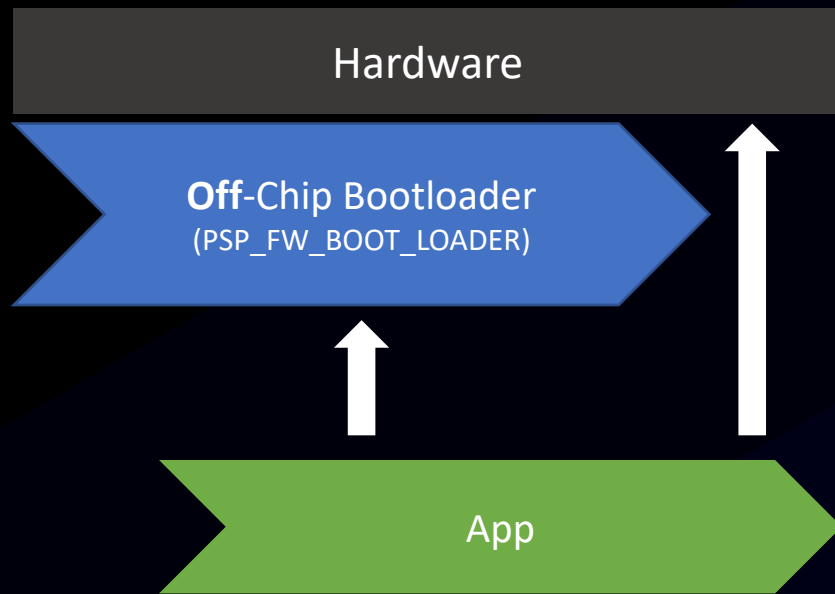
MEMORY LAYOUT

- 256KB on chip SRAM
- Code separated in SVC and USR mode parts
- USR mode parts loaded during boot and later on demand (SEV)



BOOT PROCESS

- **On-Chip Bootloader** loads **Off-Chip** bootloader from flash
- **Off-Chip Bootloader** loads and executes apps in specific order
- System is initialized by different **ABL stages**
- **SEV app** is loaded during runtime upon the **request of the OS**



THE SYSCALL INTERFACE

76 Syscalls

30 mostly reverse engineered:

- Access SMN
- Access DRAM
- Communicate with PSPs
- Query SMM region
- Busy wait
- Load entries from flash
- Invalidate/Clean PSP memory ranges

28 partly reverse engineered:

- CCP operations
- More inter-PSP communication

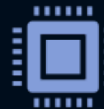
18 completely unknown

| Region | Size | WP | MPsp | Offset | RegSz | Description | Register description |
|------------|------|----|------|--------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 0x0001c880 | 128 | + | - | | | Memory protection slots | |
| | | | | 0x00 | 32bit | Slot 0: Start address of protected region X86PADDR[47:20] + 4 flags | aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa???? |
| | | | | 0x04 | 32bit | Slot 0: End address (inclusive) of protected region X86PADDR[47:20] + 4 flags | aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa???? |
| | | | | 0x08 | 32bit | Slot 0: Control register (seen 0x600000a 0x6000006) | ????????????????????????????e |
| | | | | 0x0c | 32bit | Slot 0: Unused/Reserved (no access observed anywhere) | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx |
| | | | | ... | ... | Slot 1 - 7 | ... |

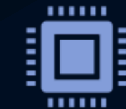
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT NETWORK (SMN)

- Hidden control network
- Dedicated address space
- PSP maps regions into own address space to access device registers

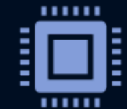
PSP



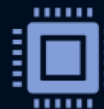
UMC



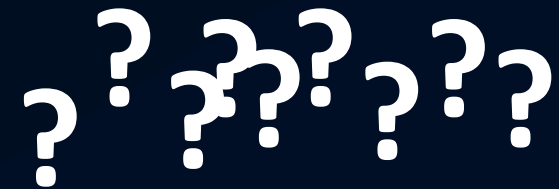
SMU

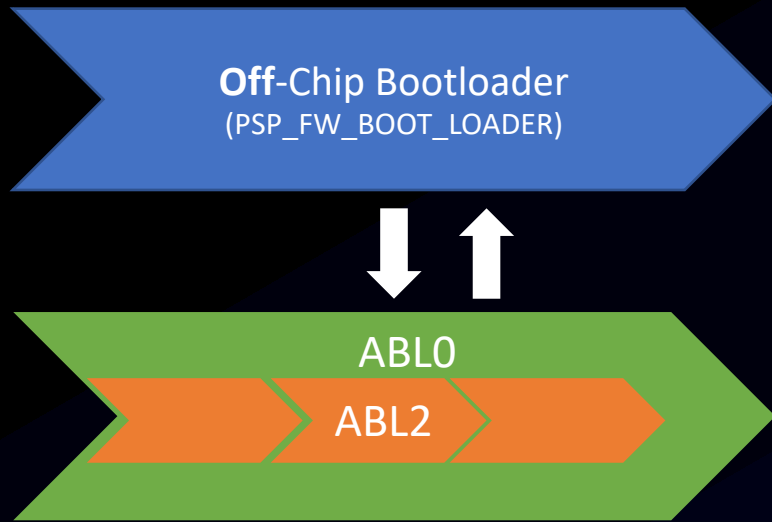


System Management Network (SMN)



x86





ENABLE DEBUG OUTPUT

- Lots of interesting debug strings
- SVC 0x6 uses string address as the first argument
- *Not* implemented in release firmware 😞

```
$ strings AR2B.bin
```

```
[...]
```

```
!!!ATTENTION: Simnow r30138 or later is required for the following polling loop.
```

```
Send following data to slaves:
```

```
mixedWithNvdimminSystem = %x
```

```
mixedWithNvdimminSocket = %04x
```

```
mixedWithNvdimminDie = %08x %08x
```

```
-----  
-----
```

```
Sync Speed Disabled - Gathering Speed Data for single die only
```

```
Master: Retrieve debug data from the slaves at debug sync point %04x
```

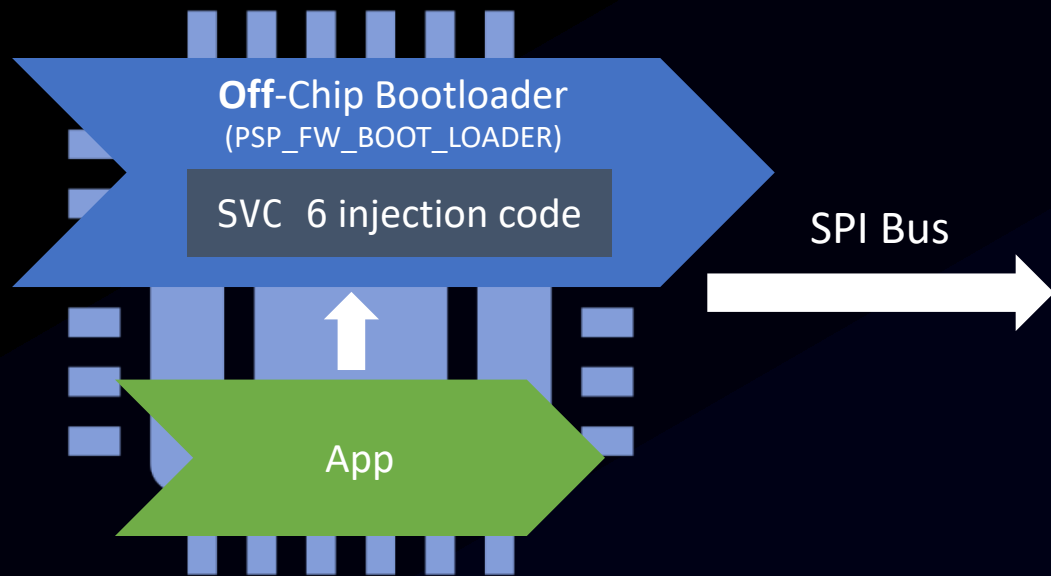
```
[...]
```

```
$ arm-none-eabi-objdump -b binary --adjust-vma 0x16000 -D AR2B.bin -m armv5 -Mforce-thumb |grep -B 5 "svc\t6"
```

```
[...]
```

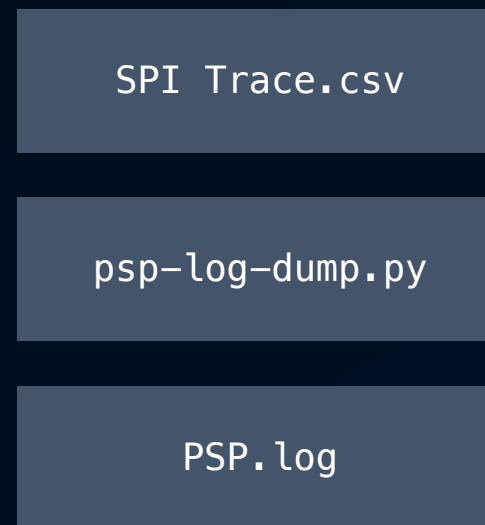
```
2191c: a0be add r0, pc, #760 ; (adr r0, 0x21c18)
```

```
2191e: df06 svc 6
```



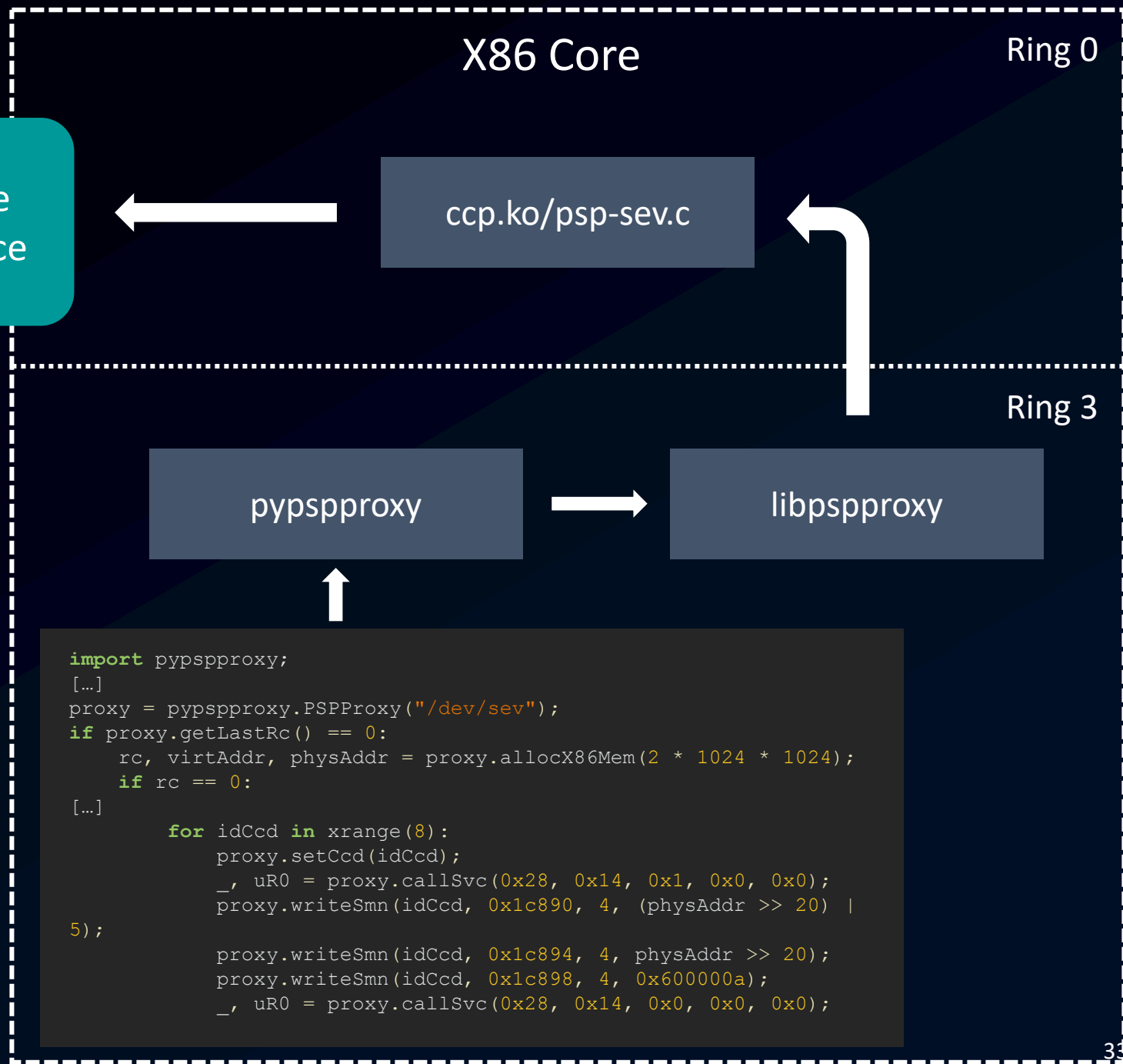
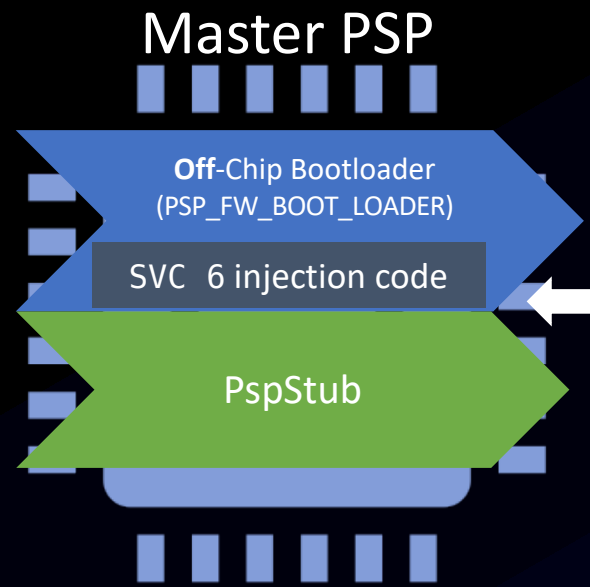
EXFILTRATING DEBUG OUTPUT

- Problem: No x86 memory available at this time
- Only known/accessible device is SPI flash
- Dump it on the SPI bus without altering flash
- Filter the SPI trace



SUCCESS!

```
[...]  
MEM PARAMS:  
    AGESA BL Heap Size : 7800  
    BottomIo : 0080  
    MemHoleRemap : 1  
    LimitBelow1TB : 1  
    UserTimingMode : 0  
    MemClockValue : 1200  
    MemRestoreCtl : 0  
    SaveMemContextCtl : 1  
    ExternalVrefCtl : 0  
    ForceTrainMode : 2  
    AMP : 0  
  
    0x00800F12 (32b)  
    0x00006031 (32b)  
    0x00800F12 (32b)  
    0x00006031 (32b)  
ZP DDR4 DRAM Initialization - Phase 2  
  
Mem Phase 2 Start  
Start PState Sync  
  
DDR Phy Initialization  
Start DDR Training using PMU  
  
Begin PMU Based DRAM Init and Training  
PspBootRomServices:SystemSocketCount: 2  
PspBootRomServices:SystemDieCount: 8  
PspBootRomServices:DiesPerSocket DieNum: 4  
PspBootRomServices:SocketId: 0  
PspBootRomServices:PhysDieId: 0  
  
    No 'UMCF' singature at FCH BiosRam offset 0  
    Sending Agesa memory test UMC MCA failure result to slave  
  
[...]
```

EXPLORING THE SMN DEVICES

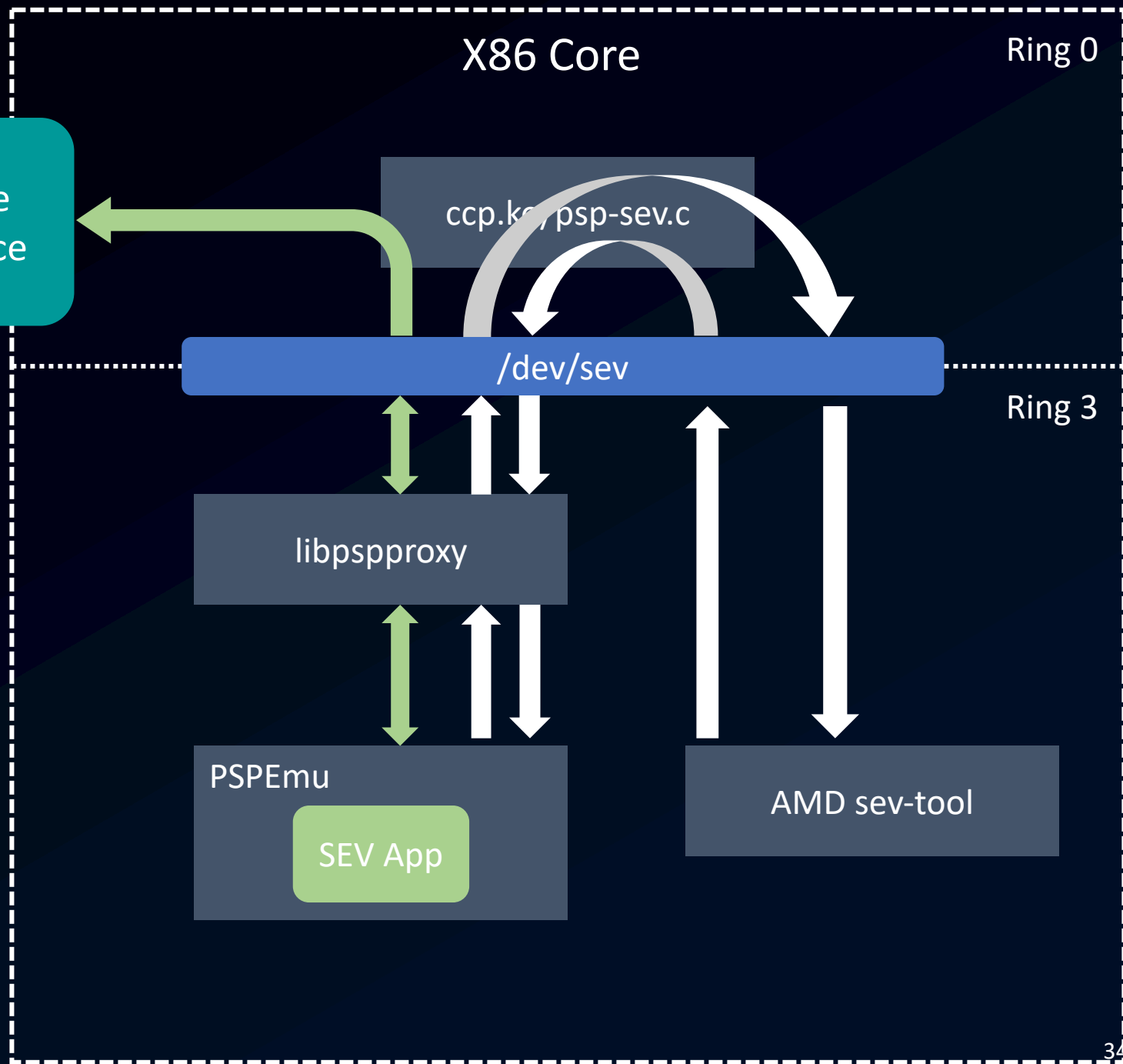
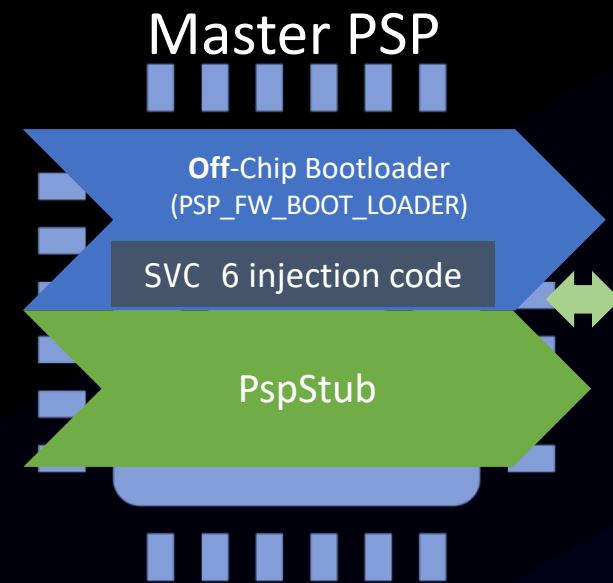
- Replace SEV app with a stub
- Executes requests on a target PSP:
 - Read/Write SMN address
 - Execute syscall
 - Read/Write PSP memory

```

import pypspproxy;
[...]
proxy = pypspproxy.PSPProxy("/dev/sev");
if proxy.getLastRc() == 0:
    rc, virtAddr, physAddr = proxy.allocX86Mem(2 * 1024 * 1024);
    if rc == 0:
[...]
        for idCcd in xrange(8):
            proxy.setCcd(idCcd);
            _, uR0 = proxy.callSvc(0x28, 0x14, 0x1, 0x0, 0x0);
            proxy.writeSmn(idCcd, 0x1c890, 4, (physAddr >> 20) |
5);

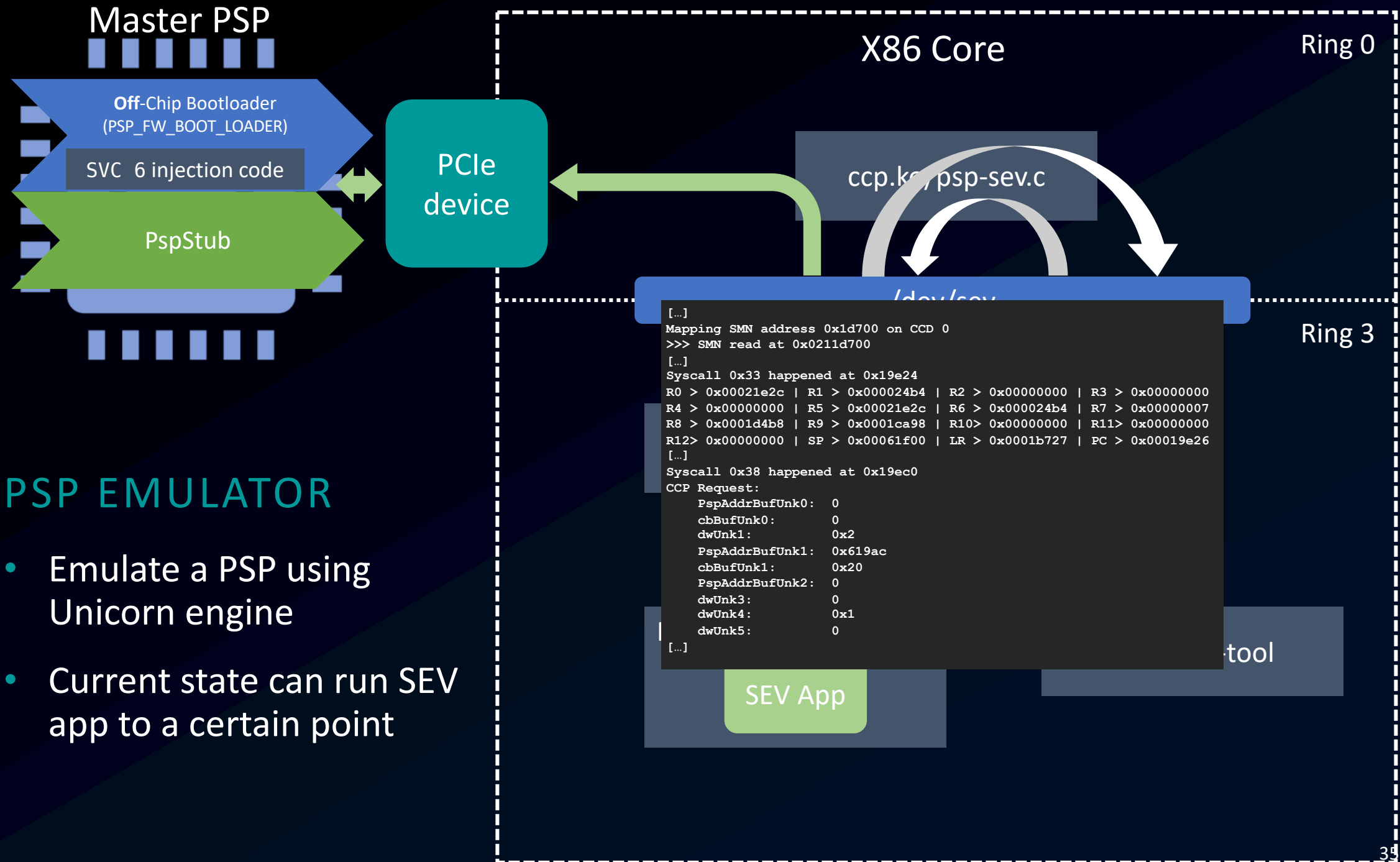
            proxy.writeSmn(idCcd, 0x1c894, 4, physAddr >> 20);
            proxy.writeSmn(idCcd, 0x1c898, 4, 0x600000a);
            _, uR0 = proxy.callSvc(0x28, 0x14, 0x0, 0x0, 0x0);

```



PSP EMULATOR

- Emulate a PSP using Unicorn engine
- Current state can run SEV app to a certain point



PSP EMULATOR

- Emulate a PSP using Unicorn engine
- Current state can run SEV app to a certain point

```
[...]
Mapping SMN address 0x1d700 on CCD 0
>>> SMN read at 0x0211d700
[...]
Syscall 0x33 happened at 0x19e24
R0 > 0x00021e2c | R1 > 0x000024b4 | R2 > 0x00000000 | R3 > 0x00000000
R4 > 0x00000000 | R5 > 0x00021e2c | R6 > 0x000024b4 | R7 > 0x00000007
R8 > 0x0001d4b8 | R9 > 0x0001ca98 | R10> 0x00000000 | R11> 0x00000000
R12> 0x00000000 | SP > 0x00061f00 | LR > 0x0001b727 | PC > 0x00019e26
[...]
Syscall 0x38 happened at 0x19ec0
CCP Request:
PspAddrBufUnk0: 0
cbBufUnk0: 0
dwUnk1: 0x2
PspAddrBufUnk1: 0x619ac
cbBufUnk1: 0x20
PspAddrBufUnk2: 0
dwUnk3: 0
dwUnk4: 0x1
dwUnk5: 0
[...]
```

Master PSP



Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

SVC 6 injection code

PspStub

PCIe device

Emulator advantages:

Allows tracing code execution and observe data flow

Later on maybe provide server functionality on desktop platforms
(SEV on Ryzen anyone?)

- Emulate a PSP using Unicorn engine

- Current state can run SEV app to a certain point

X86 Core

Ring 0

ccp.ko, psp-sev.c

Ring 3

```

[...]
Mapping SMN address 0x1d700 on CCD 0
>>> SMN read at 0x0211d700
[...]
Syscall 0x33 happened at 0x19e24
R0 > 0x00021e2c | R1 > 0x000024b4 | R2 > 0x00000000 | R3 > 0x00000000
R4 > 0x00001000 | R5 > 0x00001000 | R6 > 0x00000000 | R7 > 0x00000007
R8 > 0x00001d70 | R9 > 0x00001000 | R10 > 0x00000000 | R11 > 0x00000000
R12 > 0x00000000 | SP > 0x00061f00 | LR > 0x0001b727 | PC > 0x000019e26
[...]
Syscall 0x38 happened at 0x19ec0
CCP Request:
PspAddrBufUnk1: 0x2
PspAddrBufUnk2: 0
PspAddrBufUnk3: 0
PspAddrBufUnk4: 0x1
PspAddrBufUnk5: 0
[...]

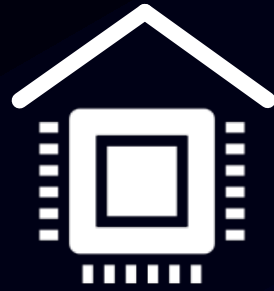
```

SEV App

tool

INTERESTED? HERE IS THE CODE

- Code will be available on <https://github.com/PSPReverse>
- Repositories
 - PSPTool Display, extract, and manipulate firmware images
 - psp-docs Documentation about hardware interfaces, syscalls
 - psp-headers Shared interface headers
 - psp-apps Build your own apps running on the PSP
 - linux Linux kernel with our modifications
 - libpspproxy Userspace PSP proxy library for the stub
 - PSPEmu Unicorn-based PSP emulator
 - sev-tool AMDs sev-tool with our modifications

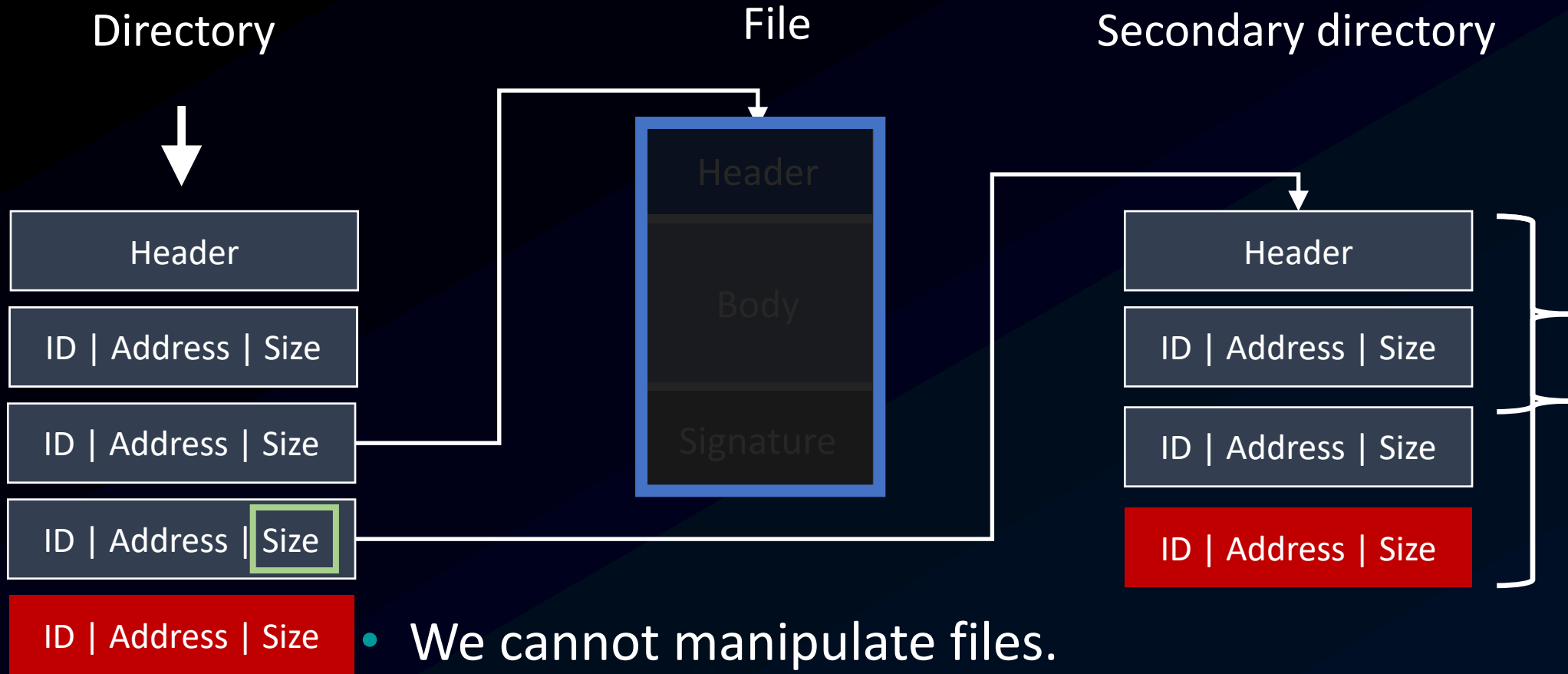


Own

PART 1:

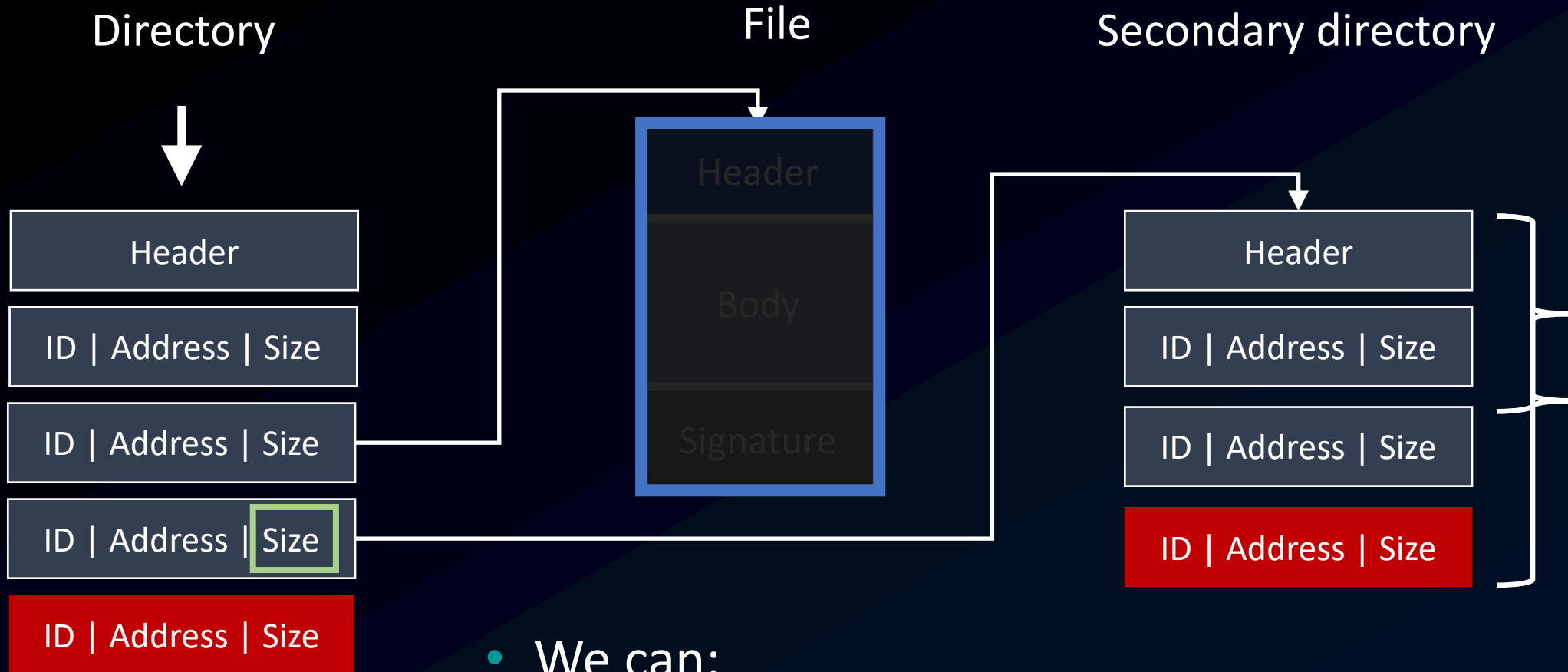
BOUNDS CHECKING IS HARD

Attacker Capabilities



- We cannot manipulate files.
- We *can* manipulate the directories!

Attacker Capabilities

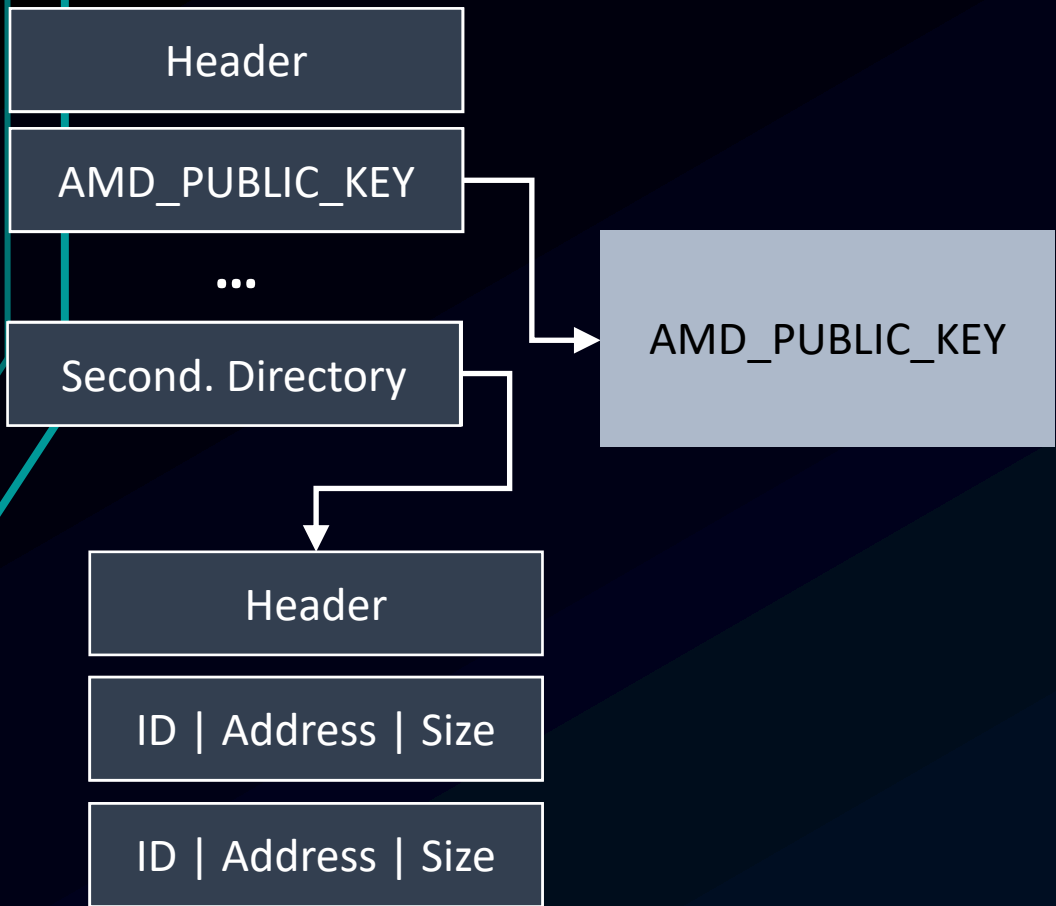


- We can:
 - Add Entries
 - Remove Entries
 - Change Entries

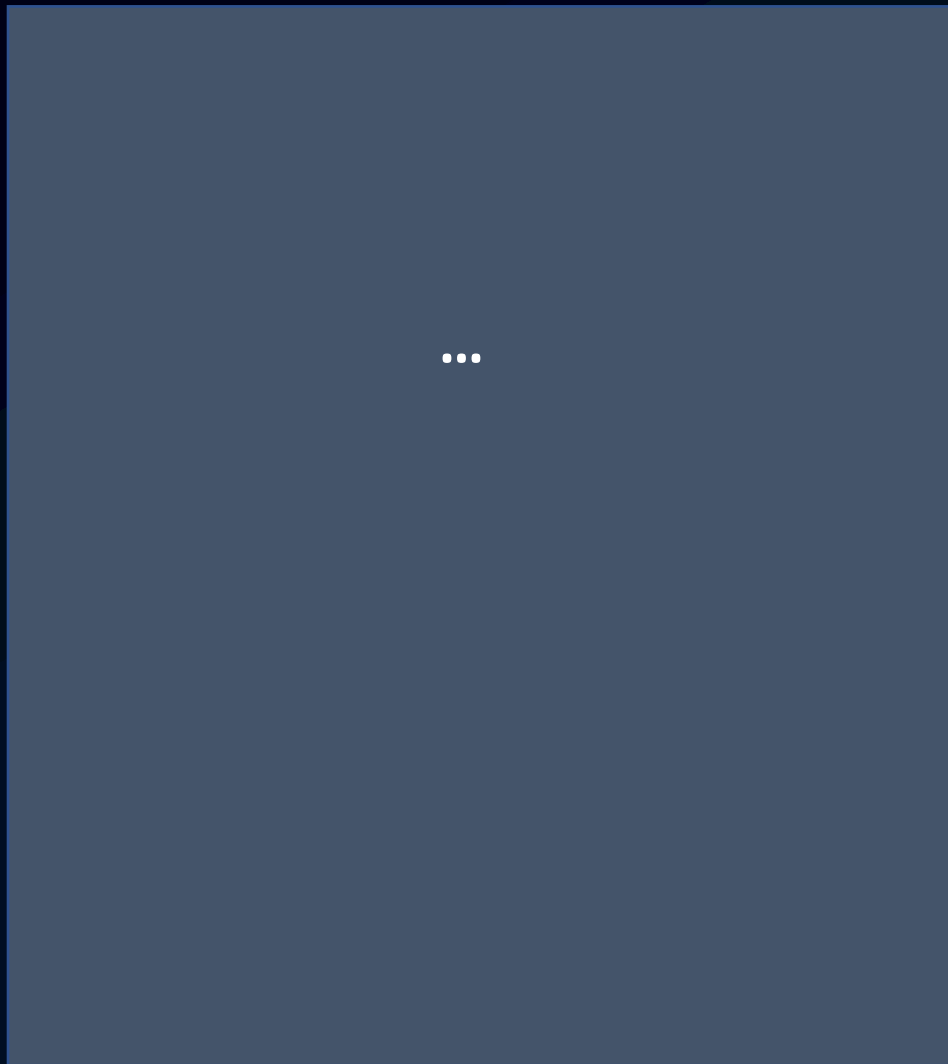
On-Chip Bootloader

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

PSP Directory



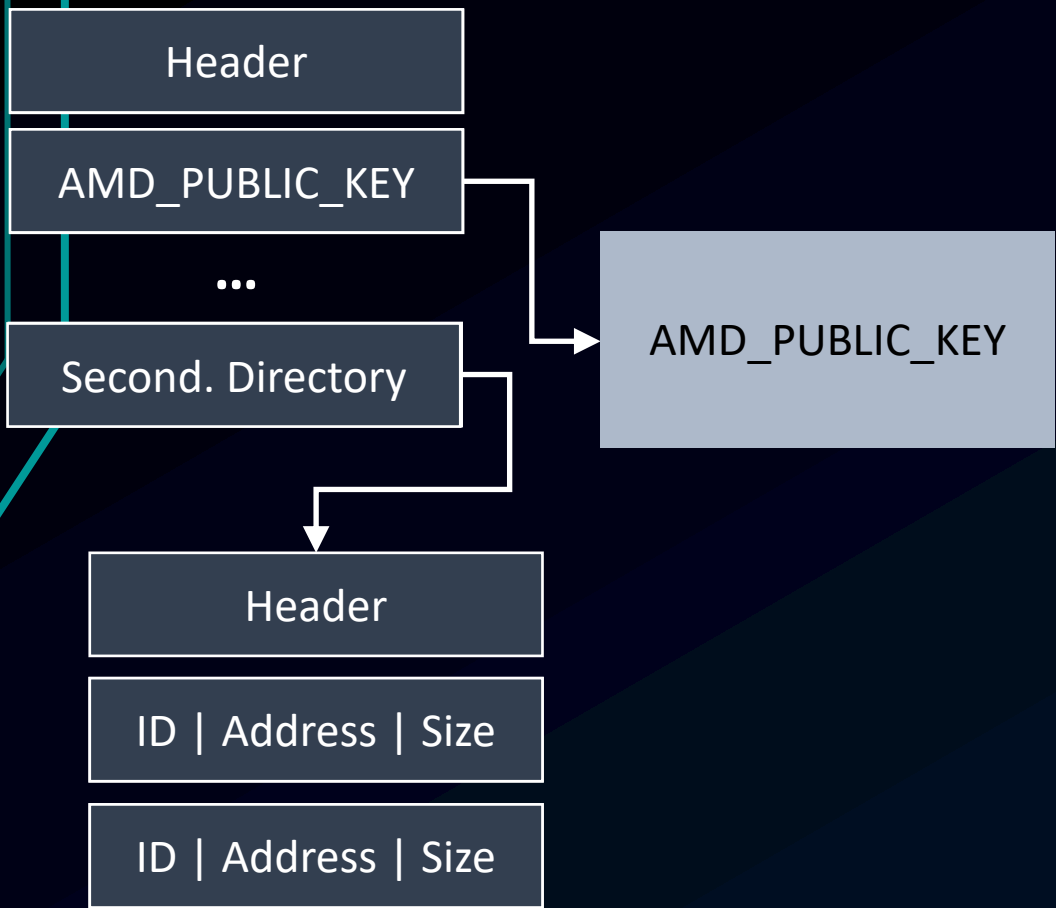
Boot ROM Service Page



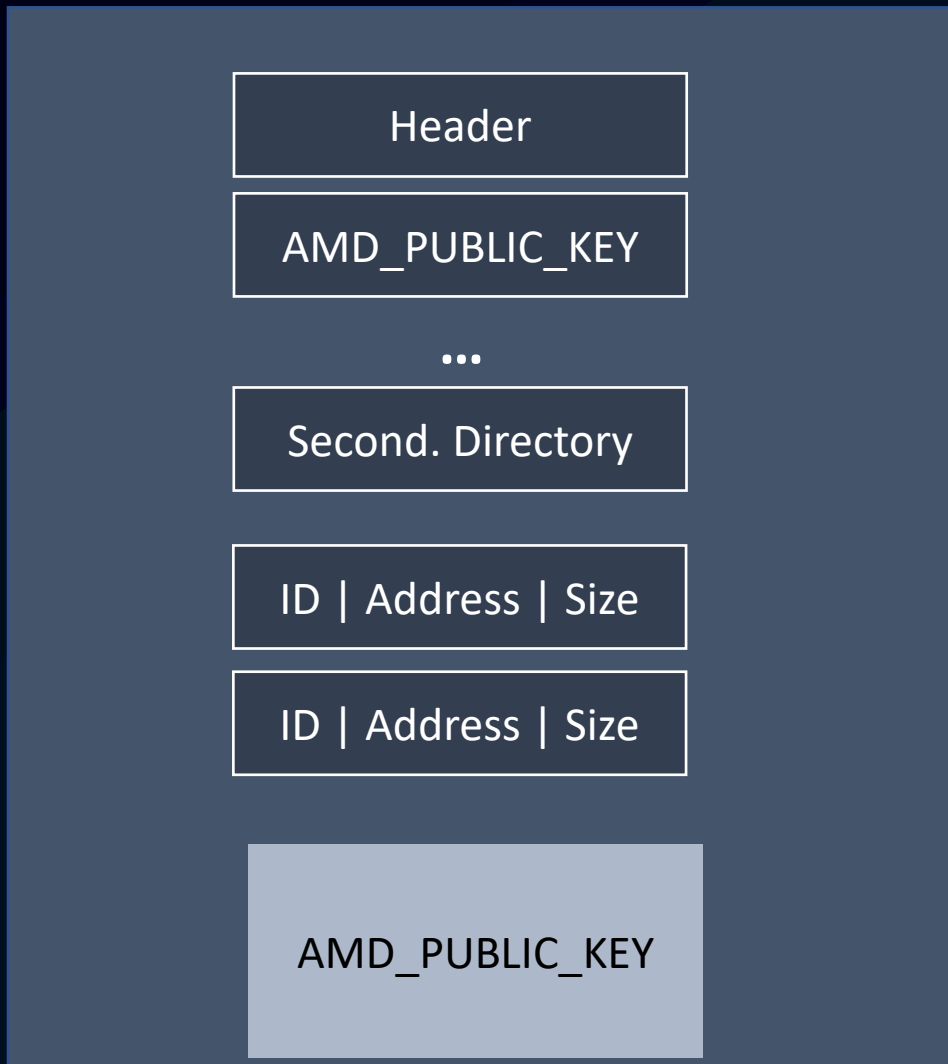
On-Chip Bootloader

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

PSP Directory



Boot ROM Service Page



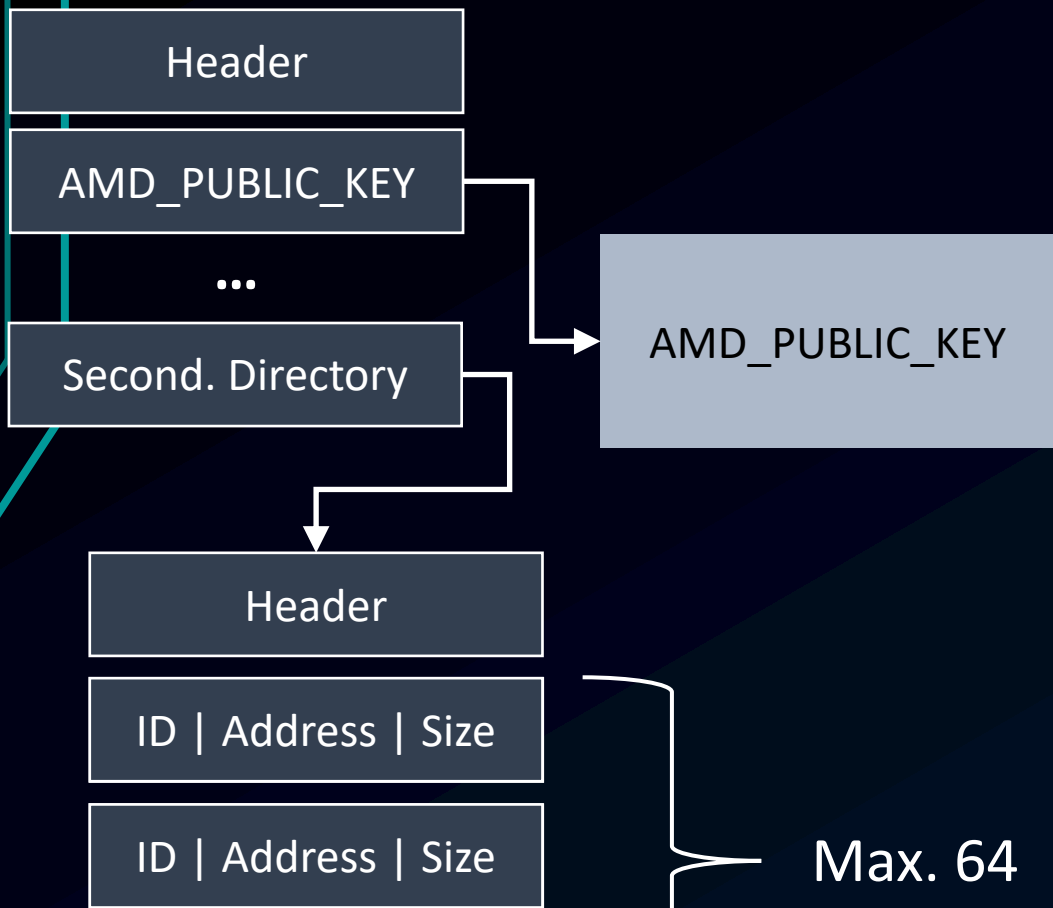


**What could possibly
go wrong?**

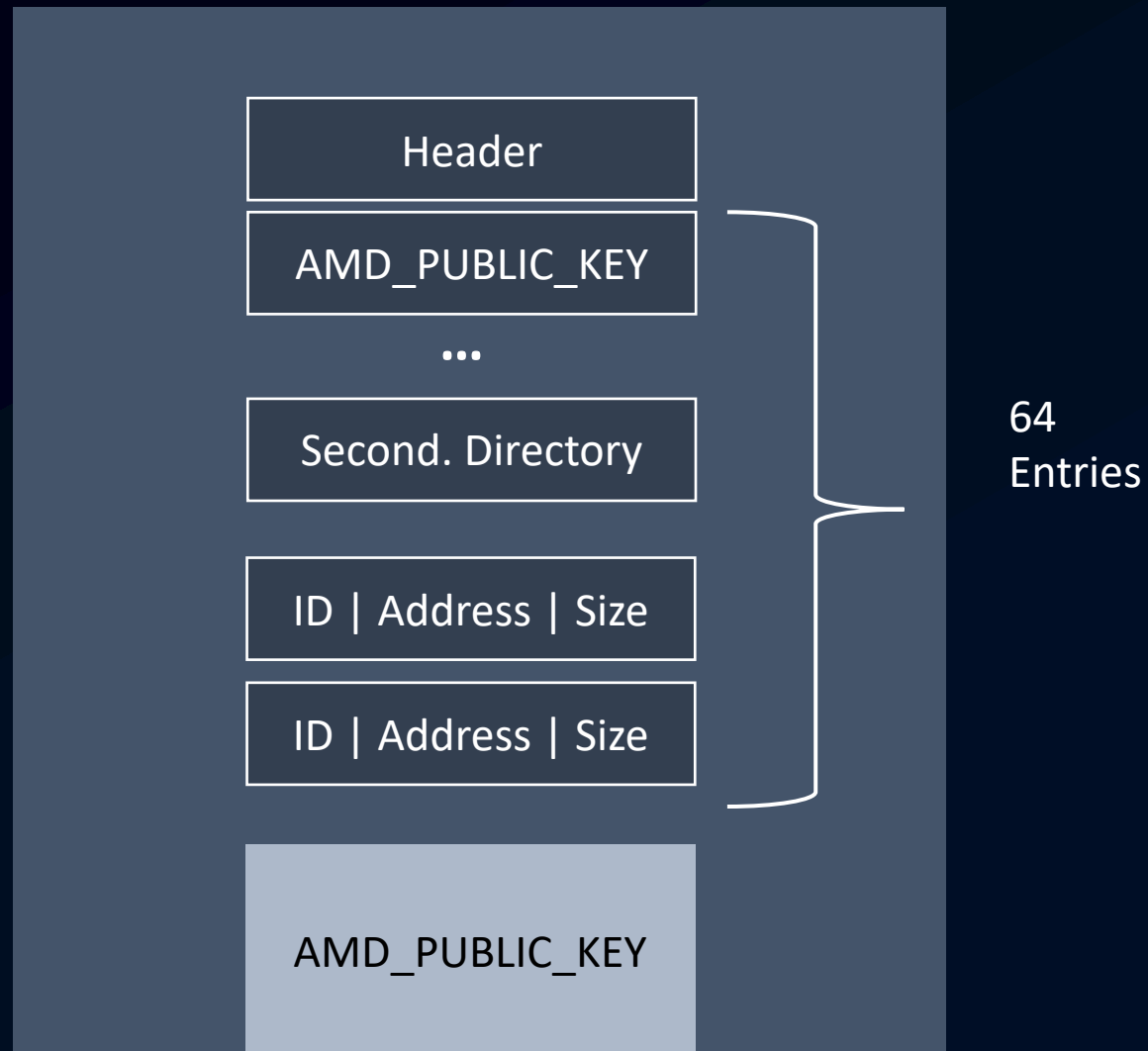
On-Chip Bootloader

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

PSP Directory



Boot ROM Service Page



On-Chip Bootloader

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

PSP Directory

Boot ROM Service Page

Header

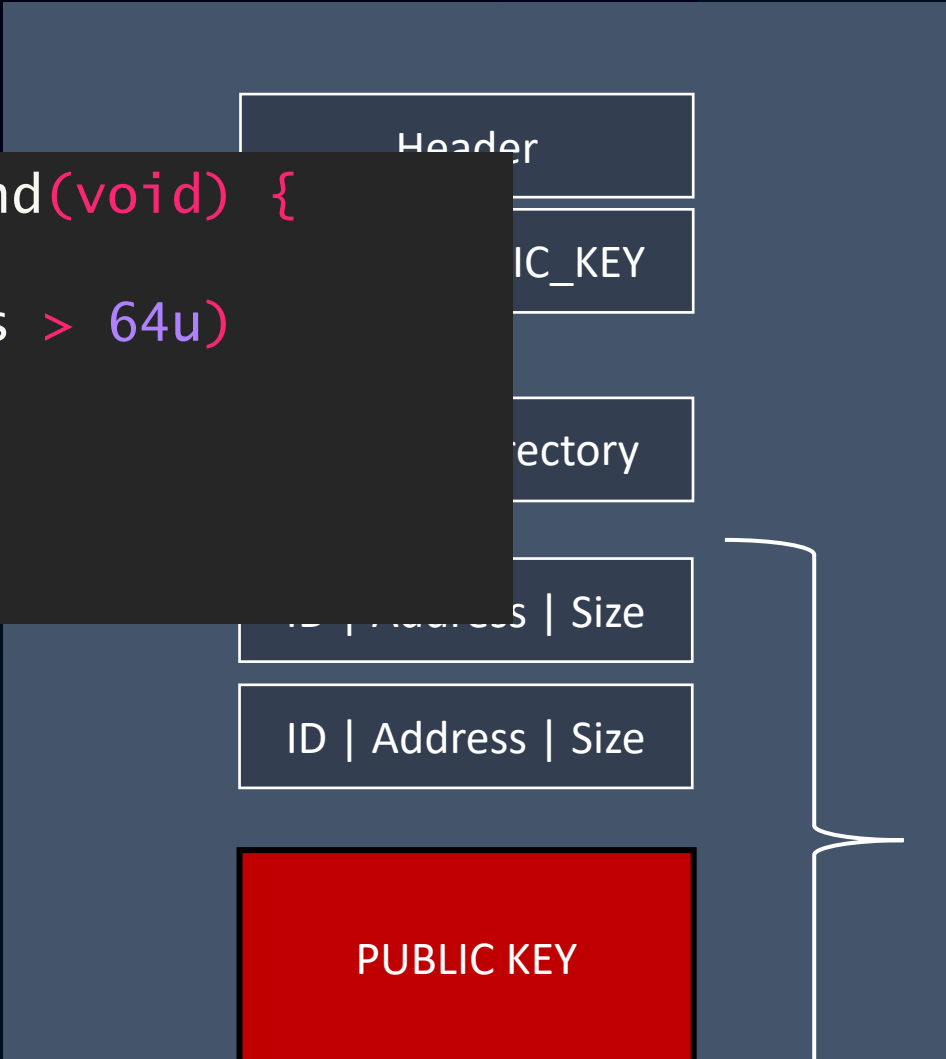
AMD_PUBLIC_KEY

...

Second. Directory

AM

```
int append_second(void) {  
    ...  
    if (nr_entries > 64u)  
        return -1;  
    ...  
    return 0;  
}
```



Header

ID | Address | Size

ID | Address | Size

PUBLIC KEY

Max. 64

Header

AMD_PUBLIC_KEY

...

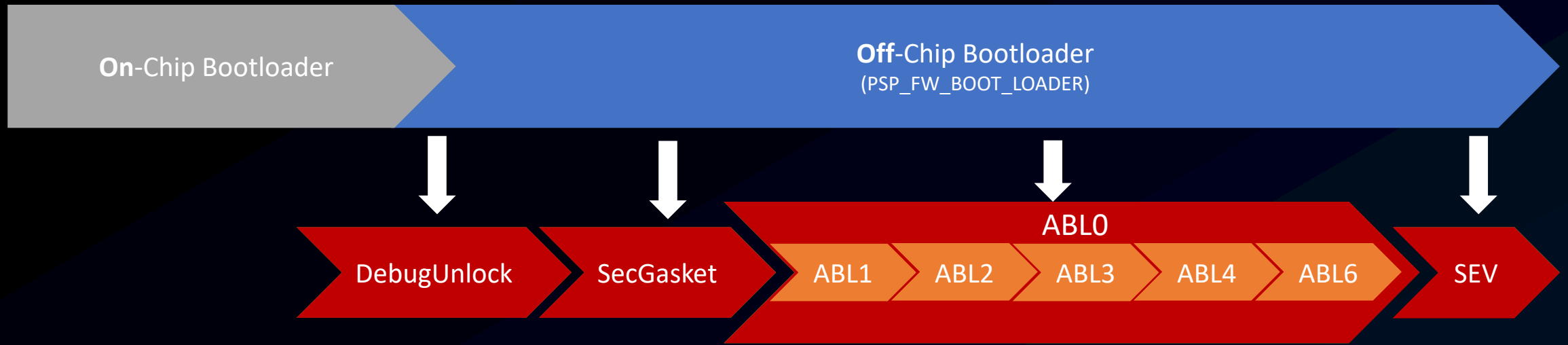
Second. Directory

ID | Address | Size

ID | Address | Size

PUBLIC KEY

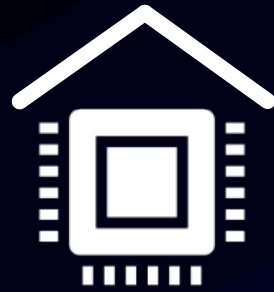
64
Entries



BOOT PROCESS

- Directory parsing takes place before loading any application.

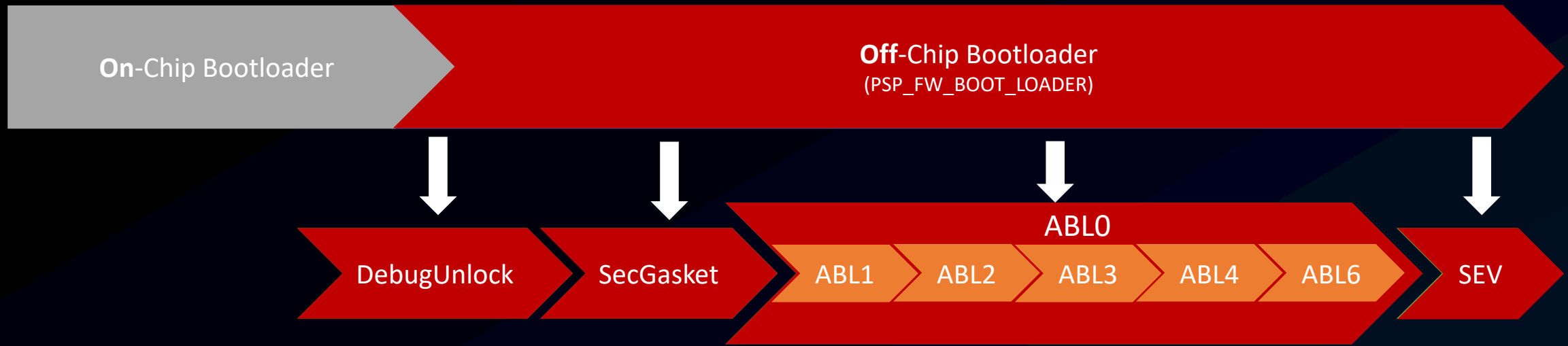
-> We control the user mode beginning from the first application.



Own

PART 2:

INPUT VALIDATION IS HARD



BOOT PROCESS

- Directory parsing takes place before loading any application.

We control the user mode beginning from the first application.

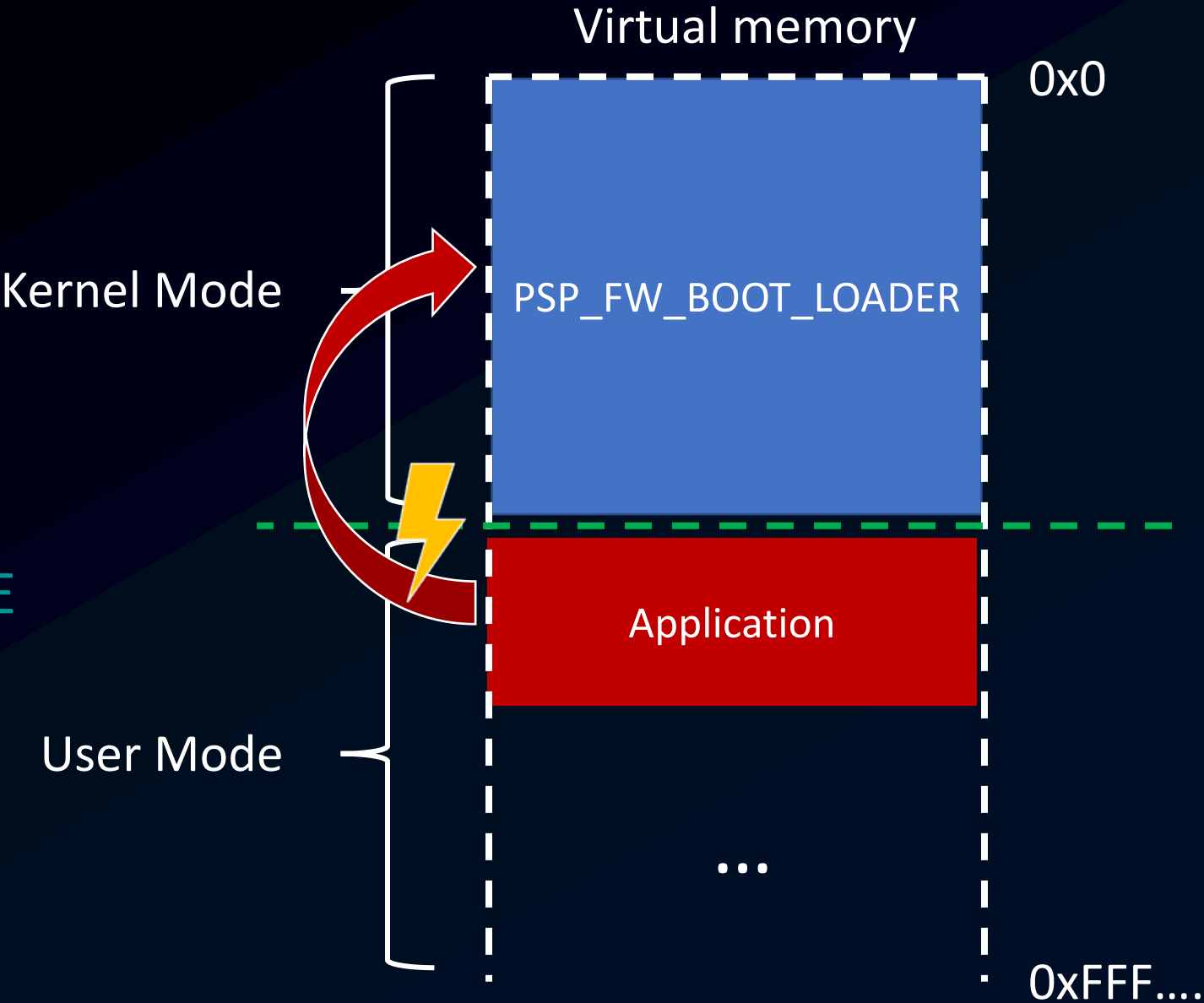
How can we take over the kernel mode?

Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

VIRTUAL ADDRESS SPACE

User space applications can't access kernel space memory.

The "split" is enforced by the Memory Management Unit



```
int copy_from_flash(void* dst, void* src, int size);
```

Flash

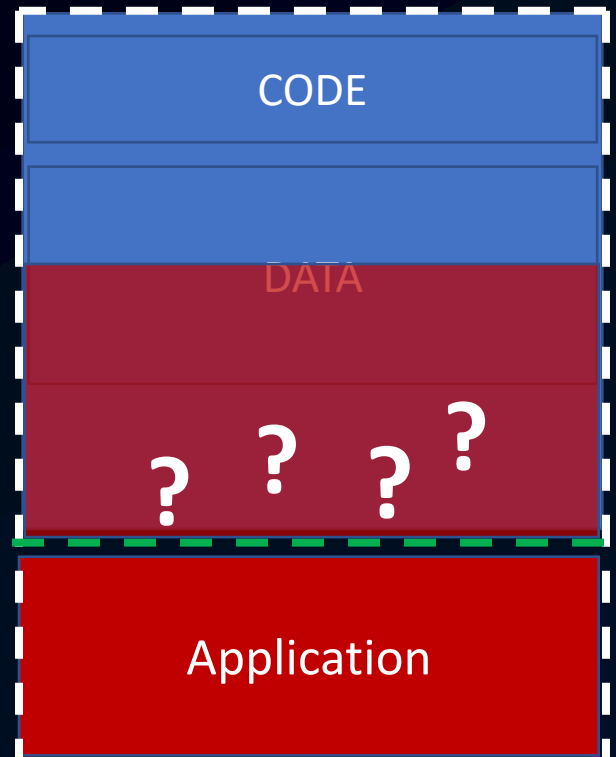
BIOS Directory



...



Virtual memory

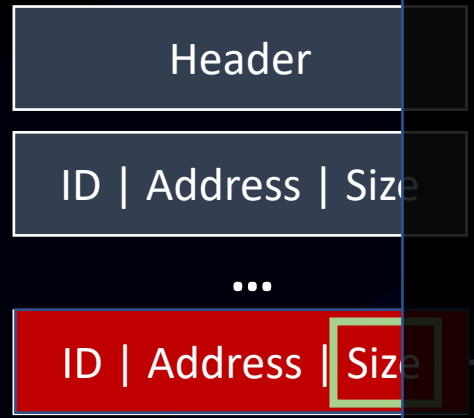


```
int copy_from_flash(void* dst, void* src, int size);
```

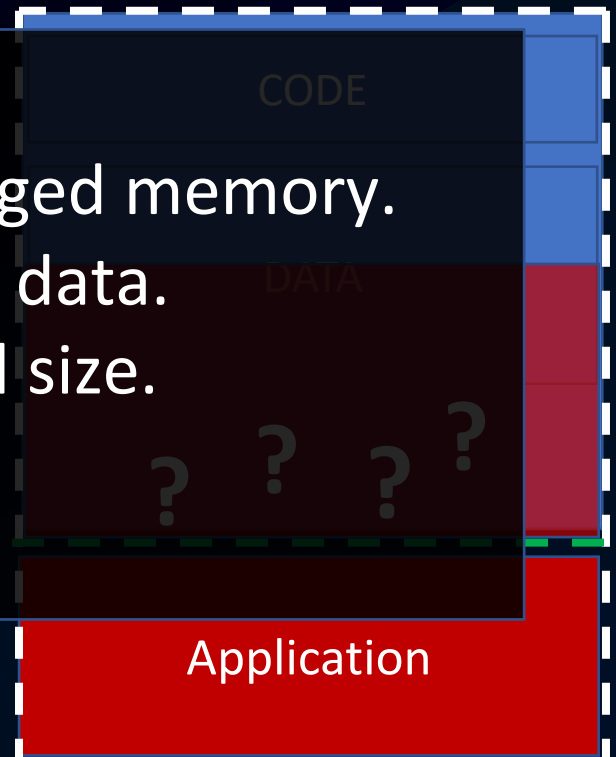
Flash

Virtual memory

BIOS Directory



Copy operation into privileged memory.
Attacker controlled data.
Attacker controlled size.



```
int copy_from_flash(void* dst, void* src, int size);
```

Flash

BIOS Dir

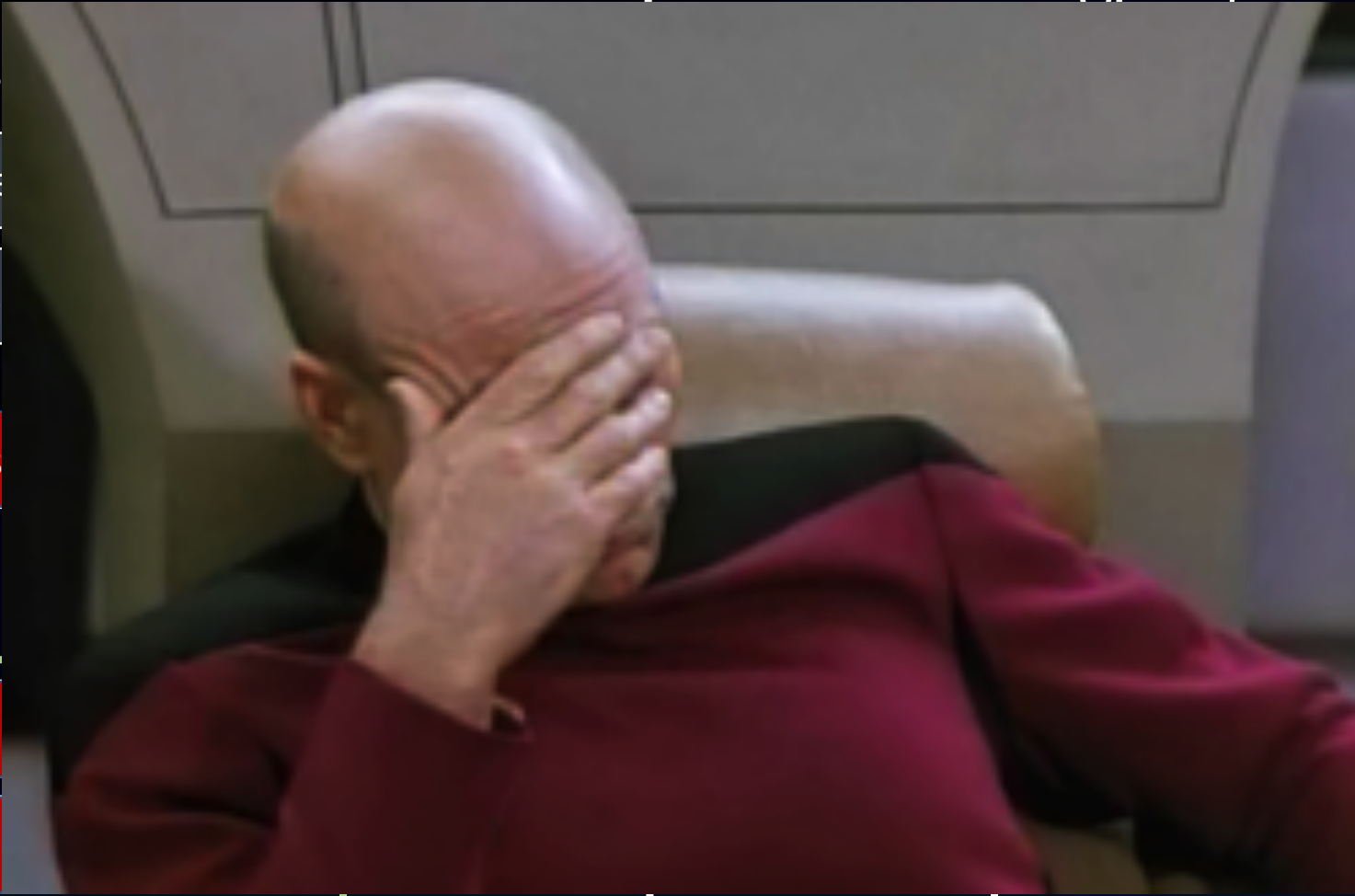
Head

ID | Address

...

ID | Address

| |
|---------------------|
| |
| ID |
| ID Address Size |
| PAGE TABLES |



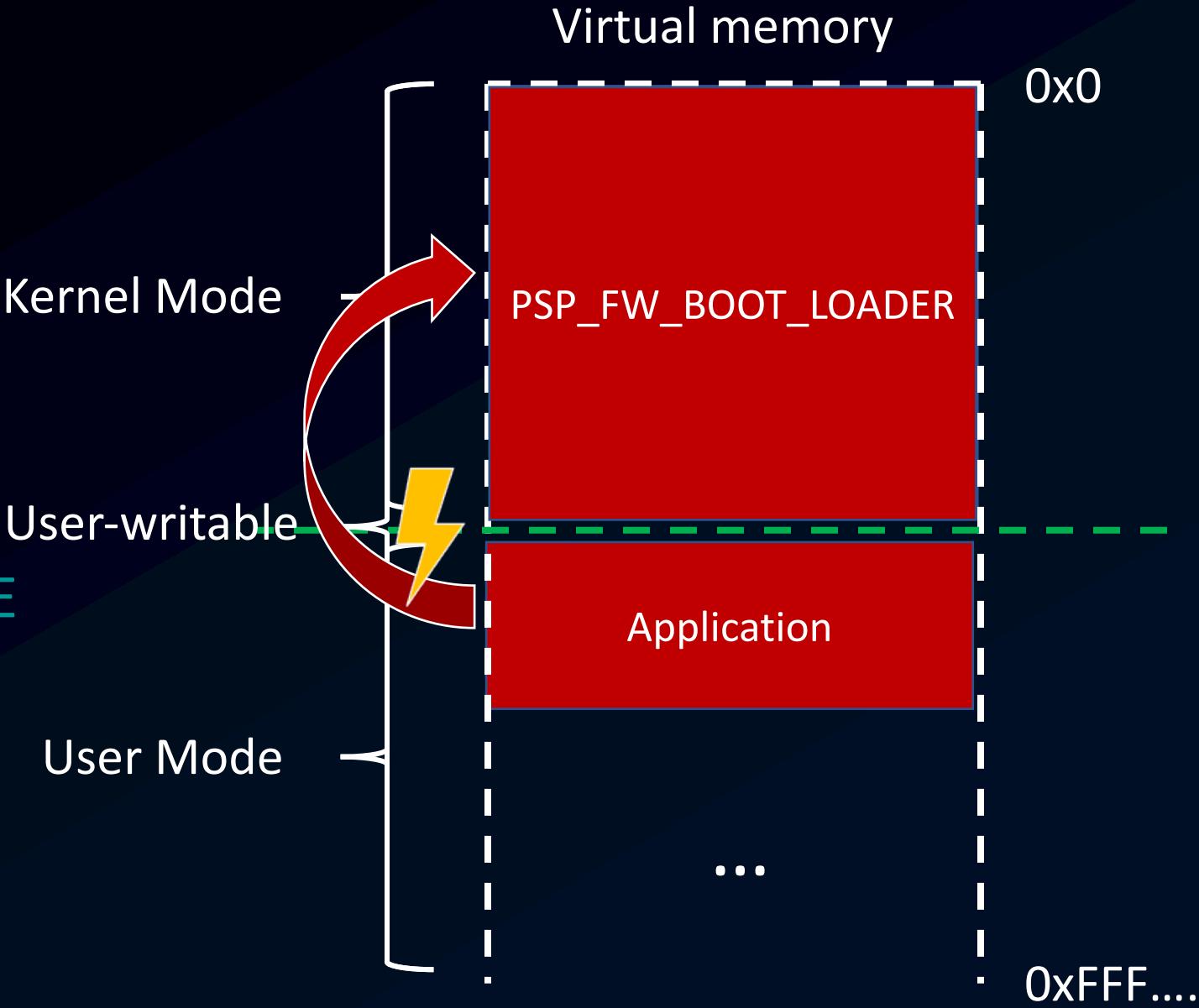
Memory

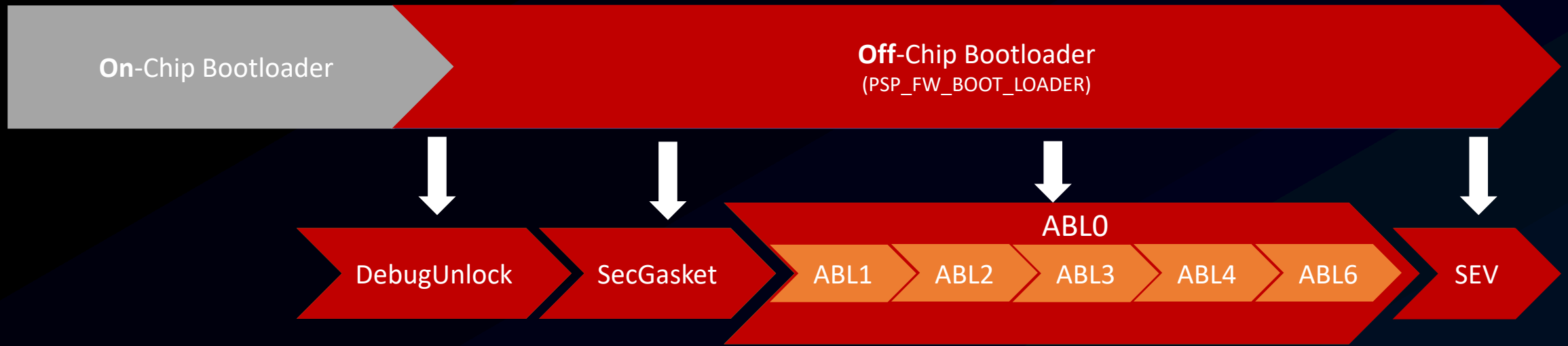


Off-Chip Bootloader
(PSP_FW_BOOT_LOADER)

VIRTUAL ADDRESS SPACE

Overwriting the page tables allows us to declare all memory as user-writable.





BOOT PROCESS

- Directory parsing takes place before loading any application.
- > We control the user mode beginning from the first application.
- > We control the kernel mode beginning from the first application.

AMD has fixed these issues!



The PSP does *not* implement roll-back prevention.

We can always re-flash a vulnerable firmware.

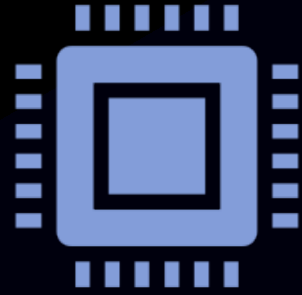
BOOT PROCESS

- Directory parsing takes place before loading any application.

AMD has fixed these issues!

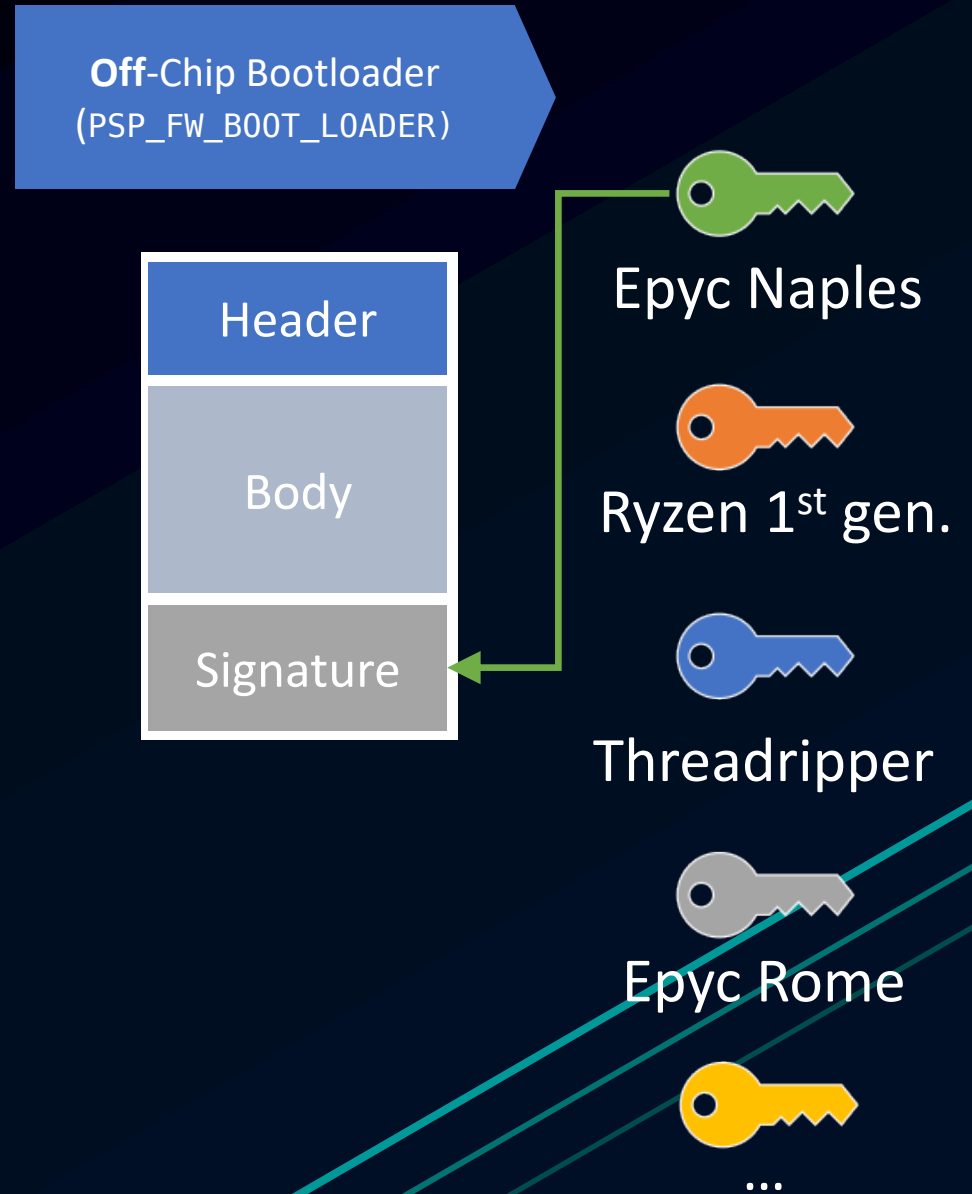
-> We control the user mode beginning from the first application.

-> We control the kernel mode beginning from the first application.



Affected Systems

- Epyc Naples (Zen1)
 - Proven with our setup
- Ryzen 1st gen.
 - *probably*
- The rest
 - ???



Is this an (security) issue?

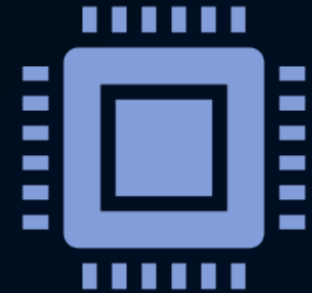
Depends ...

- Physical access is required (UEFI flashing)

Issue for:

- Secure boot.
- Trusted Execution Environment.
- Secure Encrypted Virtualization (SEV)
 - Paper: Insecure Until Proven Updated

Buhren, Robert, Christian Werling, and Jean-Pierre Seifert. "Insecure Until Proven Updated: Analyzing AMD SEV's Remote Attestation." Proceedings of the 2019 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security. ACM, 2019.

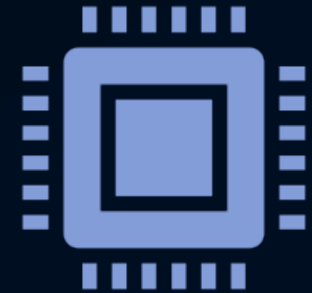


This is an opportunity!

Gain more insight into the PSP!

Allows further research on other subsystems

- PSP loads **SMU firmware**
- PSP allows access to **SMM code**
- PSP loads **UEFI code**





Idea

By [Adrien Coquet](#), FR

magnifier

By [Desainer Kanan](#), ID

UNCOVER, UNDERSTAND, OWN

Regaining Control Over Your AMD CPU

THANK YOU

Christian Werling
Security Research Labs

Alexander Eichner
Technische Universität Berlin

Robert Buhren
Technische Universität Berlin



Security
Research
Labs

Technische
Universität
Berlin



Security in Telecommunications

Further details

- **Github repository** <https://github.com/PSPReverse>
- **Reverse engineering** Talk at Camp'19
Dissecting the AMD Platform Security Processor
<https://media.ccc.de/v/thms-38-dissecting-the-amd-platform-security-processor>
- **Cloud security** Paper at CCS'19
Insecure Until Proven Updated: Analyzing AMD SEV's Remote Attestation
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1908.11680>
- Linux TEE kernel patches: <https://lkml.org/lkml/2019/10/23/449>