

CSE509

Computer System Security



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Physical Security

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Physical Security

Very broad area spanning various threats beyond information security

- Commercial espionage

- Theft

- Sabotage

- Acts by foreign powers

- Terrorism

Our focus: *physical attacks against IT security*

- Complementary to non-physical attacks

- “Physical security protects people, data, equipment, systems, facilities and company assets” (Harris, 2013)*

IT Physical Security

An often-underestimated aspect of IT security

We will focus on two main areas:

Premises

How to gain unauthorized physical access to computing and networking assets

Hardware

How to compromise a device or network once physical access has been achieved

Various threat models

Outside attacker, insider threats, spouse, ...

Physical Penetration Testing

Main focus is usually on technology-oriented countermeasures

Firewalls, intrusion detection systems, AV, access control, ...

What good are these if an attacker can just walk into a building and compromise an unlocked terminal?

Physical penetration testing assesses the security weaknesses of a client's physical security

Major threats

Unauthorized access into areas

Tampering/physical access to computing devices

Access to internal networks

Theft of devices and other equipment (valuable mostly for the data on them)

Main Engagement Phases

Receiving the assignment: sign contracts and clear legal issues

Rules of engagement: negotiate what is in scope and what is off limits

Preliminary research

Human Intelligence (HUMINT): information from human sources
(innocuous interactions, social engineering, ...)

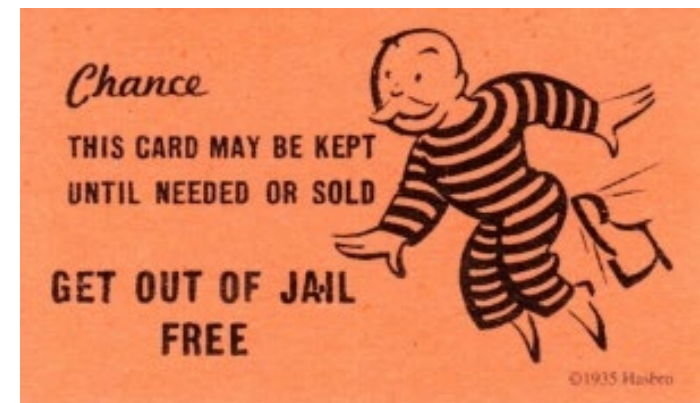
Signals Intelligence (SIGINT): interception technologies
(network sniffing, breaking into WiFi networks, RF communication, ...)

Open Source Intelligence (OSINT): information from public sources
(online directories, dumpster diving, ...)

Imagery Intelligence (IMINT): photo/video
(google maps, drones, binoculars, discrete photography, ...)

Provide documentation and legal requirements

Test plan, signed contracts, copies of **“get out of jail free” cards**,
IDs of team members, clearance information, ...



Physical Controls

Perimeter security

Guards, barriers, gates, turnstiles, door locks, ...

Badges

Simple paper/plastic, proximity tokens, magnetic cards, RFID, ...

Surveillance

CCTV, computer cameras, presence sensors, ...

Intrusion alarms

Motion detectors, security lighting, ...

Bypassing Physical Controls

Perimeter security

Tailgating/piggybacking, social engineering (delivery person, cleaning crew, new employee, etc.), lock picking, ...

Badges

Fabrication, cloning, jamming, ...

Surveillance

Blend in, avoid, jam, ...

Intrusion alarms

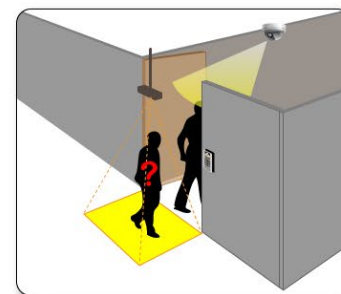
Avoid triggering (e.g., engage during working hours), disable, ...



Single Door In-Swing doors

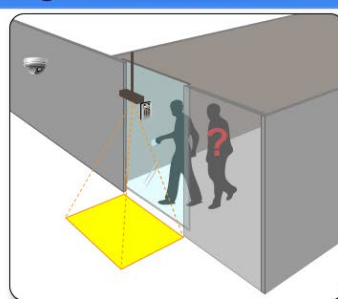


Tailgating detection



Tailgater Image recorded

Single Door Bi-Fold doors



Tailgating detection



Tailgater Image recorded



Tailgater Alarm



Badge Types

Minimal amount of data: just a small binary blob containing user-identifying information

Many different types

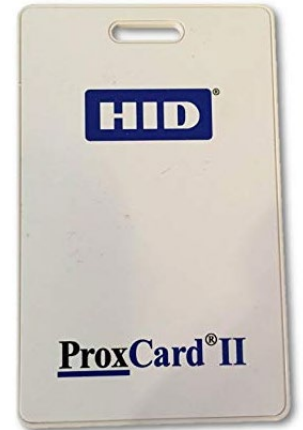
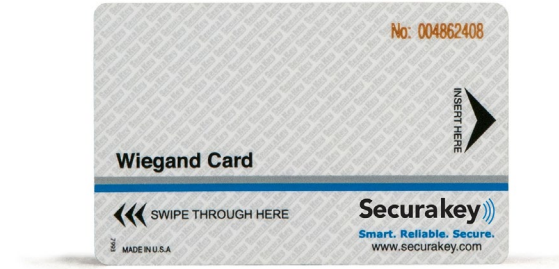
- Magnetic Stripe

- Wiegand (swipe)

- 125 kHz Prox (HID & Indala)

- MIFARE contactless smart cards

- iCLASS contactless smart cards



RFID (Radio-frequency Identification)

Uses radio waves produced by a *reader* to detect the presence of (and then read the data stored on) a *tag*

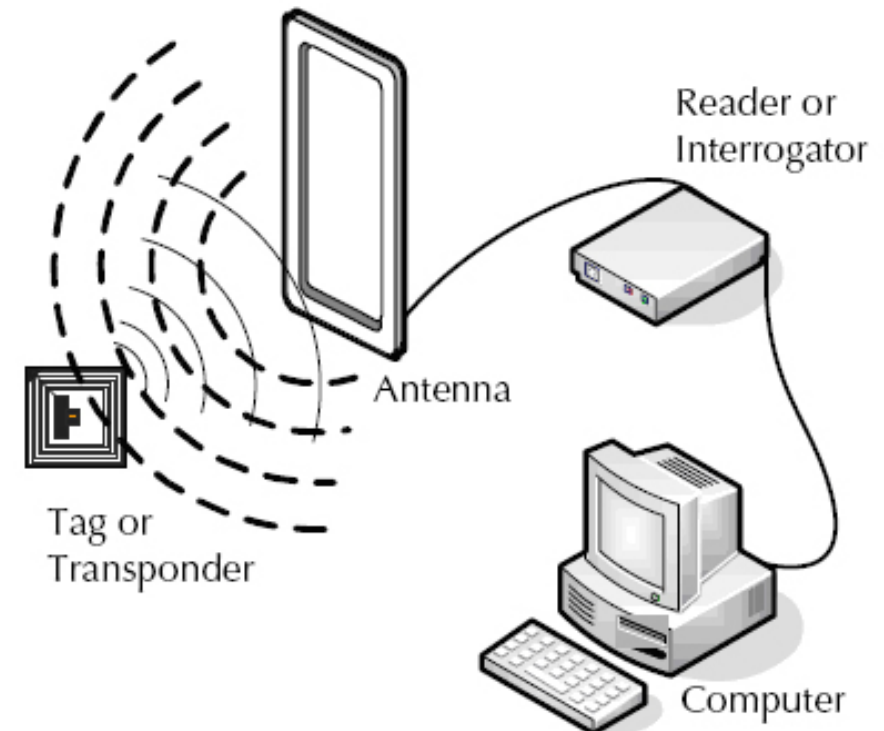
Can be embedded in cards, stickers, buttons, capsules, ...

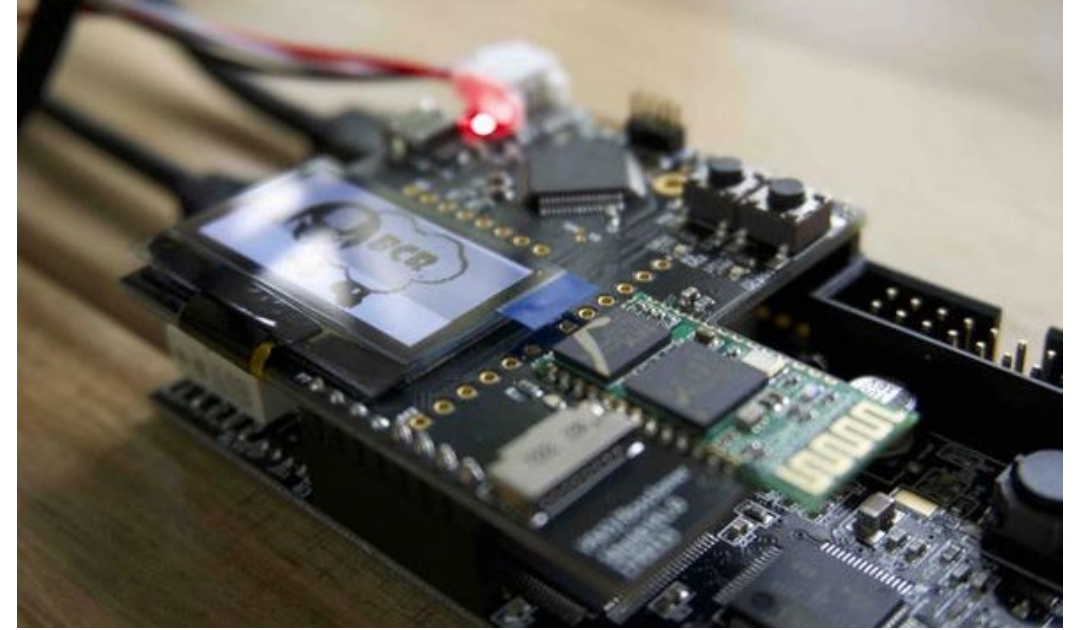
Passive

Use the interrogator's radio wave energy to relay its stored information back to the interrogator

Active

Battery powered to increase range

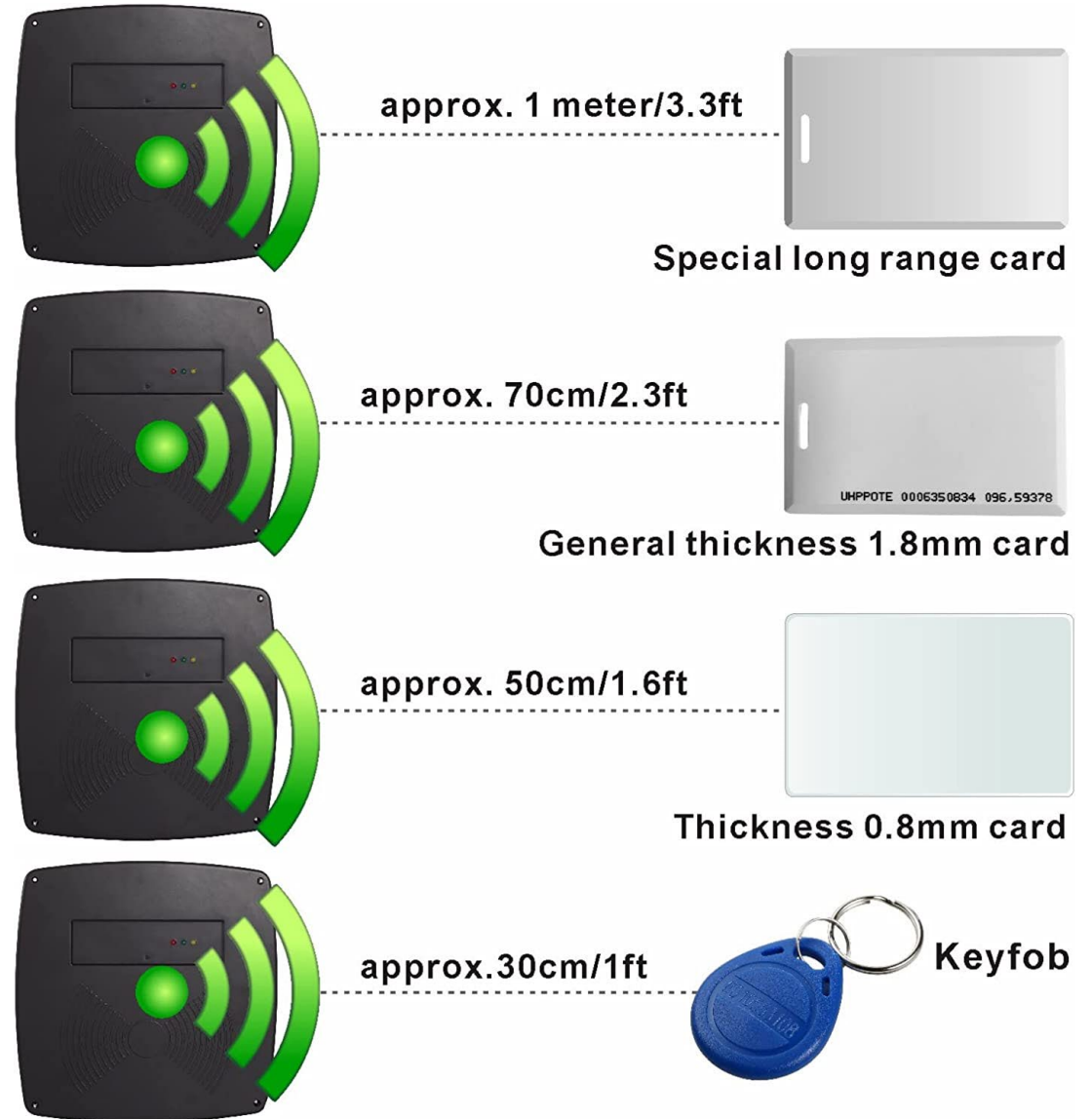




“The Boscloner Premium Kit includes everything you need to start capturing and cloning RFID out of the box”

Support for the most widely used RFID technology (125kHz HID Proxcard)

Capturing and cloning of RFID cards from up to three feet away



NFC (Near-field Communication)

Subset of RFID: designed to be a secure form of data exchange

Modern smartphones support NFC: payments, access control, data transfer, ...

Built-in encryption and authentication protocols

Much shorter range: up to 4cm

Higher data transfer rate: up to 424 Kbit/s

Bi-directional communication



In essence

RFID: wireless barcodes

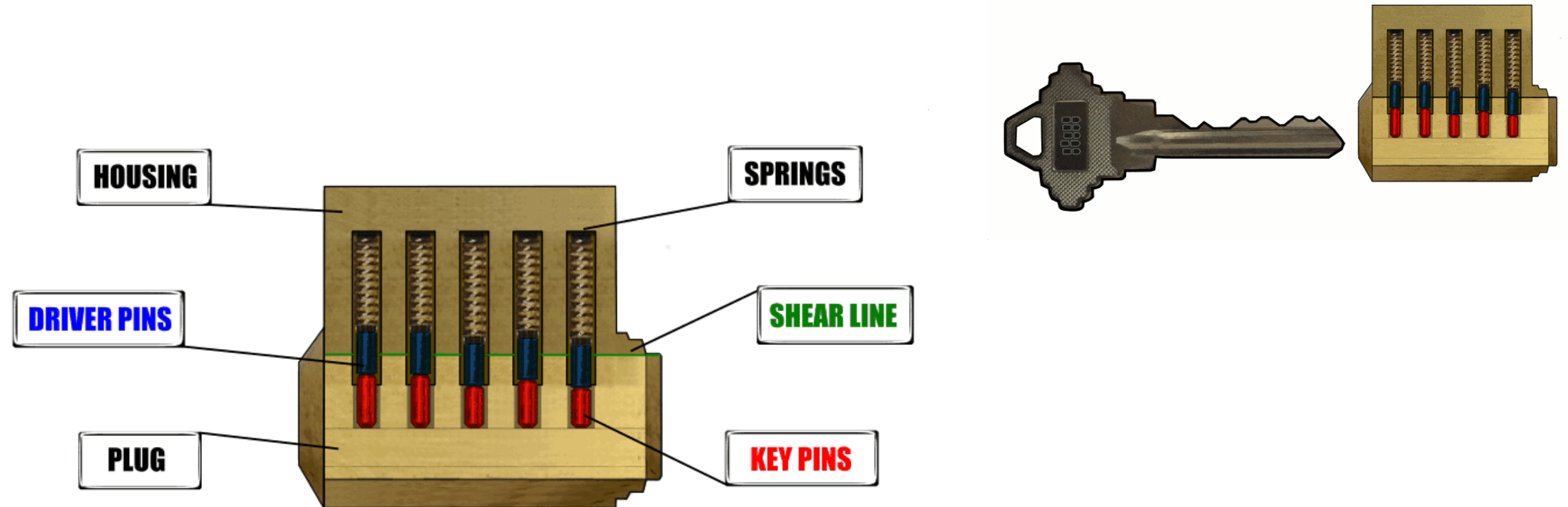
NFC: wireless smartcards



Lock Picking

Non-destructive way to open a lock without using its key

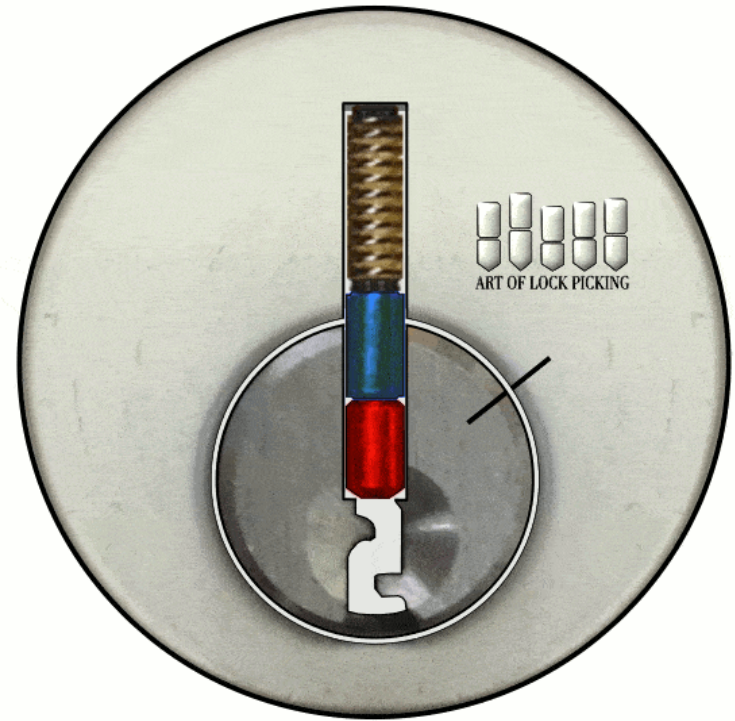
Most common type: pin tumbler lock



Lock Picking: Tension Wrench

Bent piece of metal acting similar to the key: leverage to turn the plug

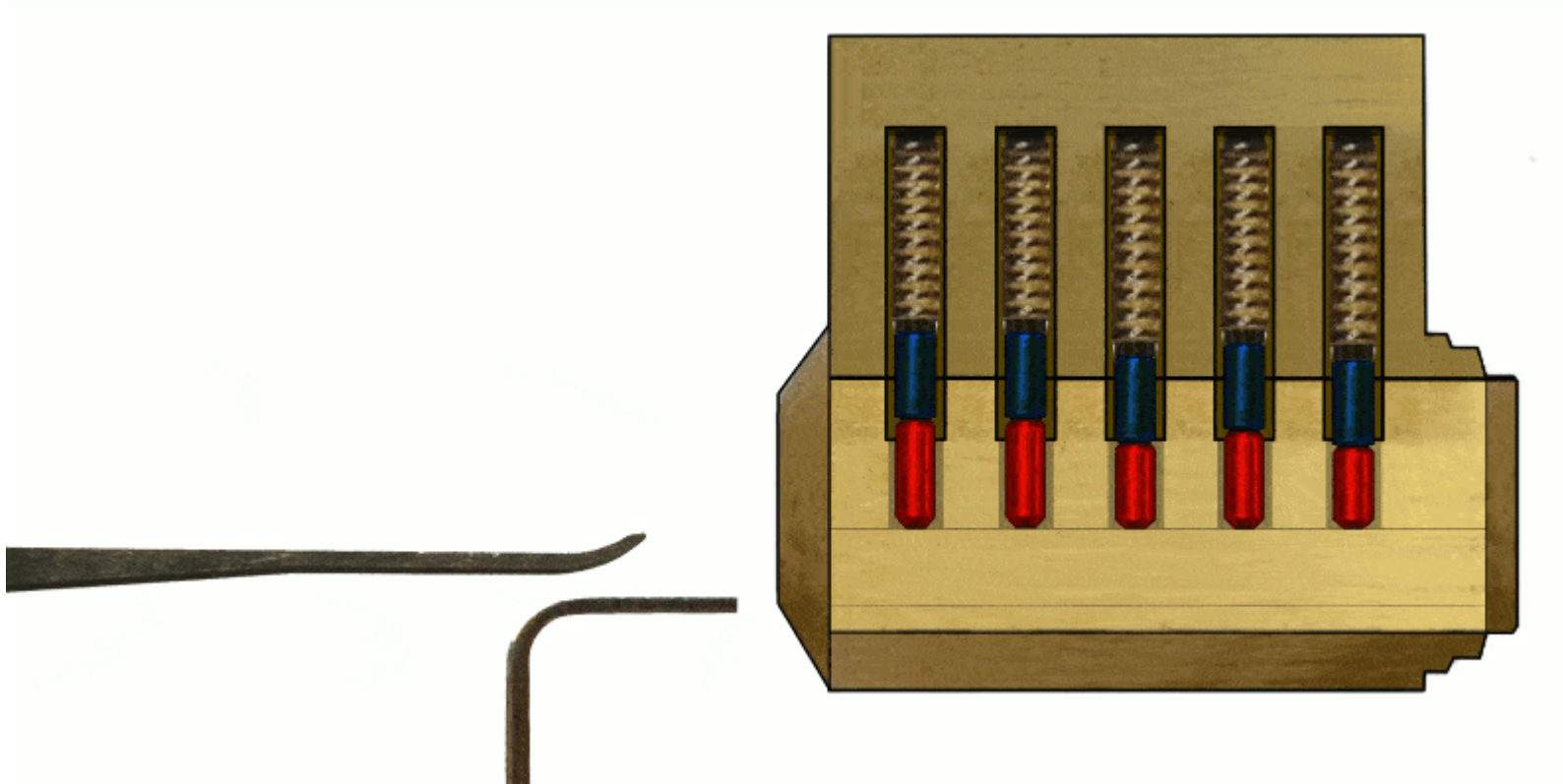
Helps keeping the pins at the shear line during picking



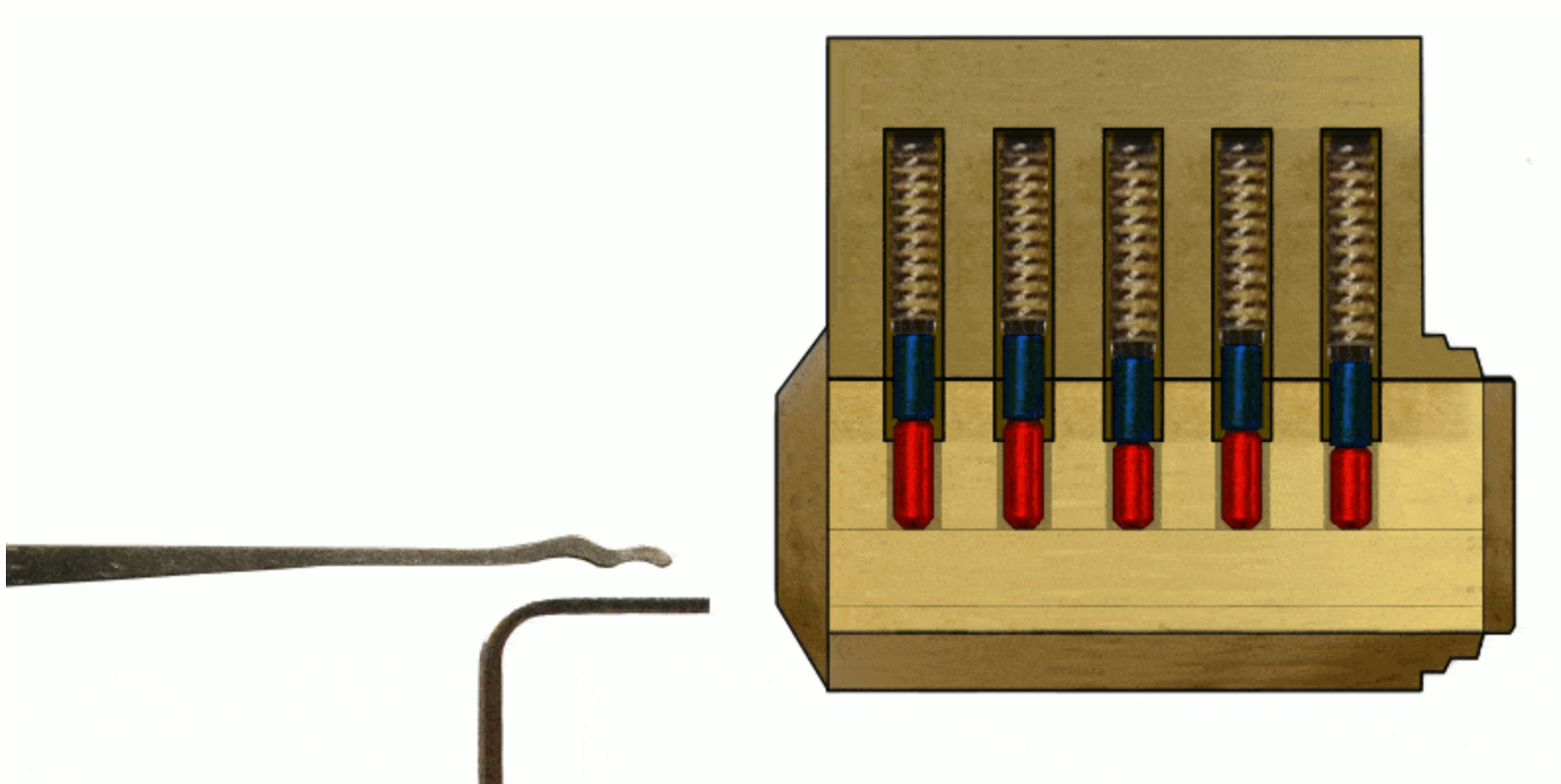
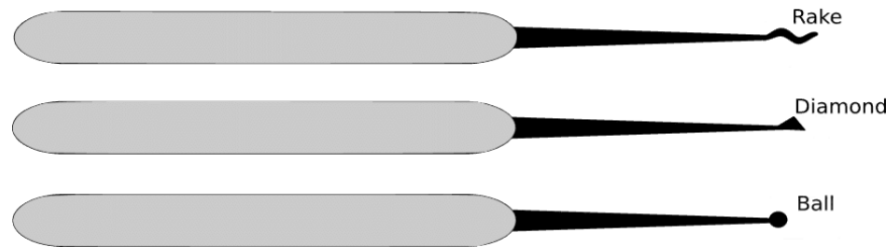
Technique #1: Single Pin Picking



Binding pin



Technique #2: Raking



Key Cloning

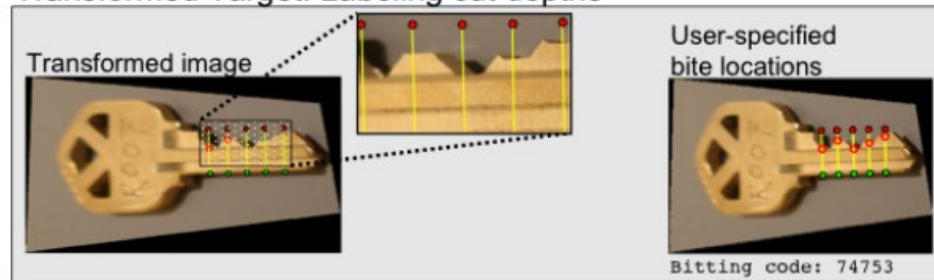
Reference Key



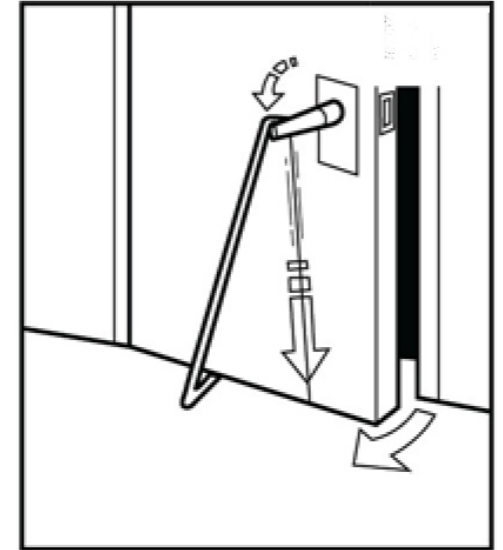
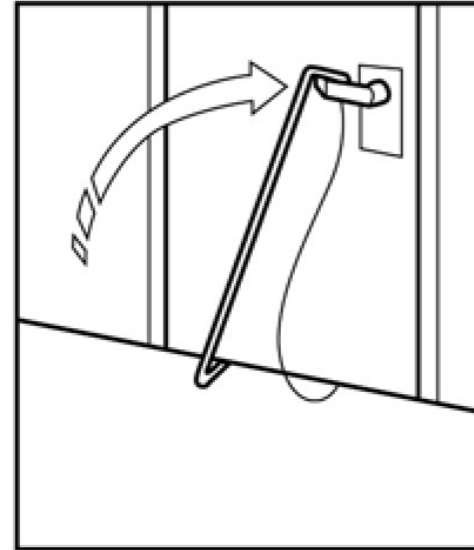
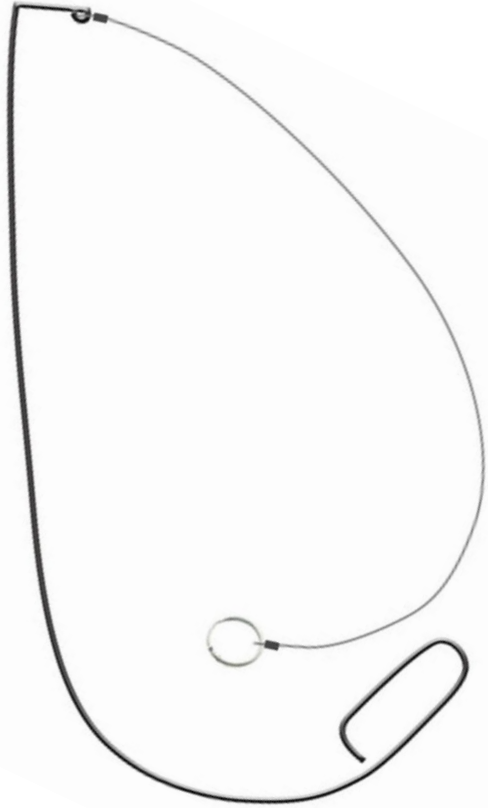
Target Key: Labeling key points



Transformed Target: Labeling cut depths



Under The Door Tool



Anti-theft Systems

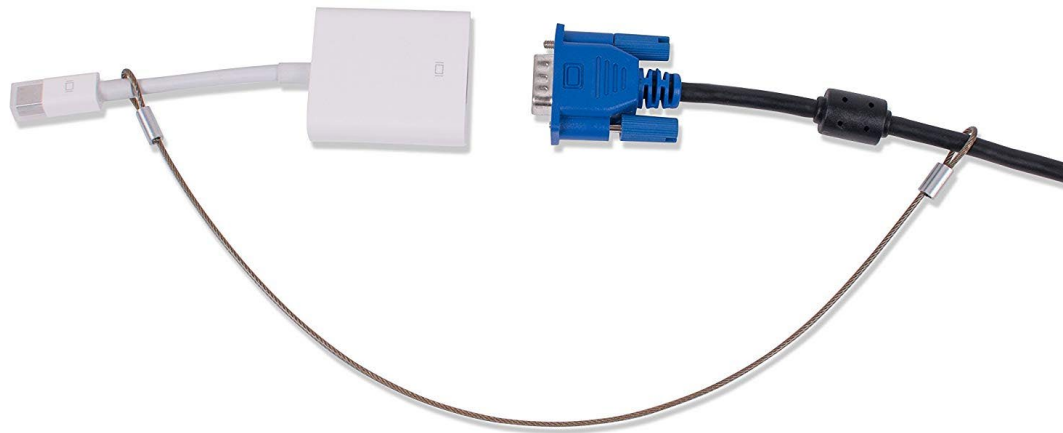
Kensington locks

Tracking tags

Forensic marking

Find my iPhone

...



Physical Access

Machine

- Plug malicious USB stick, hardware keylogger, ...
- Bypass boot process (F8 in Windows, `init=/bin/sh` in Linux)
- Boot from ~~CD~~/USB and read unencrypted data off the HD
- Physical memory attacks (DMA, cold boot, ...)
- Malicious devices/peripherals (physically plug device, ship “gift” device, ...)
- Walk off with machine/HD (steal it or return it back)

Network

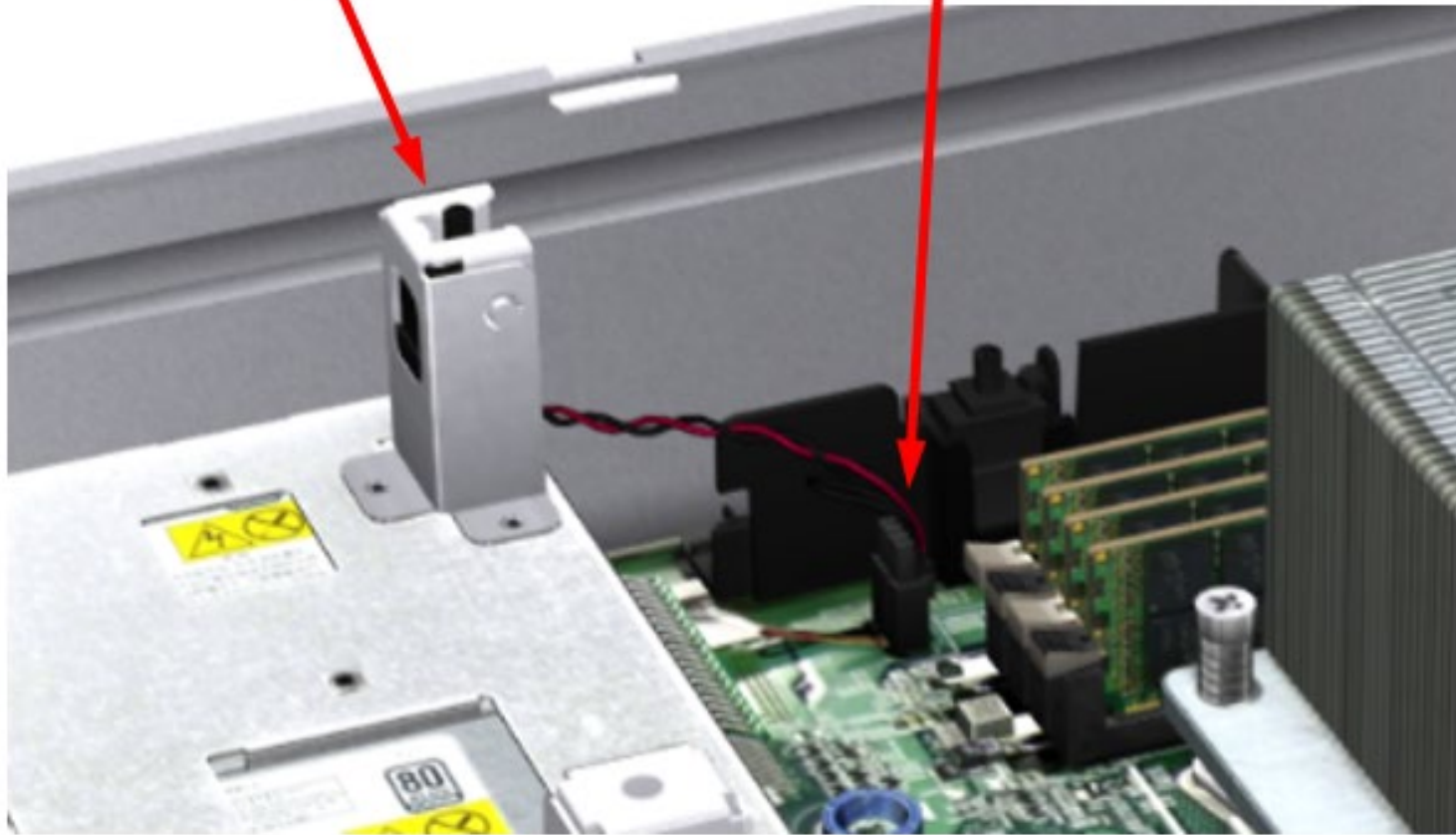
- Plug a new device into the internal network (e.g., Raspberry Pi)
- Bring a rogue access point
- Sniff traffic (WiFi, network tap, ...)

Space

- Install spy cameras (e.g., pointing to keyboards/screens), mics, long-range RF readers, ...

Chassis intrusion
switch

System board
connector



Linux Root Access

1. As soon as the boot process starts, press ESC to bring up the GRUB boot prompt
2. When GRUB prompt appears, press "e" to edit the first boot option
3. Find the kernel line (starts with: `linux /boot/`)
4. Add `init="/bin/bash"` at the end of the line
5. Press CTRL-X or F10 to boot and enjoy root access

```
mount -rw -o remount /  
passwd user
```


Filesystem-level Encryption

`/home` folder, individual files, encrypted partition, ...

Not sufficient protection if not applied for all files

Infect non-encrypted executables, copy files when decrypted, ...

Full Disk Encryption

Everything is encrypted (incl. swap file, temp files, ...)

Destroying the key “erases” all the data

Still not bulletproof

Cold boot attacks: steal key from memory

Suspend/sleep mode: some data may remain unencrypted

Keyloggers and similar threats are still effective

Example: iOS Data Protection

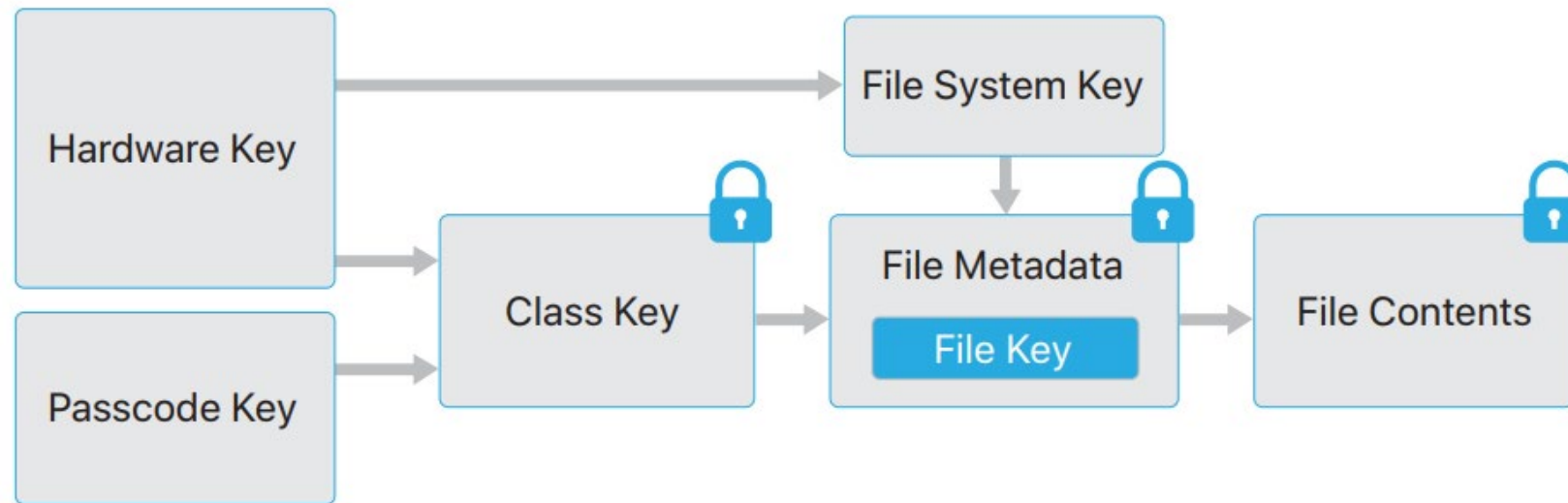
Per-file encryption by assigning each file to a class

Each file's content is encrypted using a unique per-file key

File metadata is encrypted separately through the secure enclave

Per-file key is encrypted with one of several “class keys”

Derived from the user passcode and some hardware secrets embedded in the CPU



iOS Data protection classes

Complete protection: class key is protected with a key derived from the user passcode and the device UID

Discarded shortly after device is locked (10 sec, if the Require Password setting is Immediately)

Protected Unless Open: class key is protected using public key encryption

Some files may need to be written while the device is locked (e.g., mail attachment being downloaded, taking a picture while locked)

Protected Until First User Authentication: same as Complete Protection, but key stays in memory when locked

Similar to desktop full-volume encryption: protects data from attacks that involve a reboot

No protection: class key is protected only with the UID

Since all keys stored on the device, main benefit is just fast remote wipe

Cold Boot Attacks

DRAM retains its content for several seconds after power is lost

Cold reboot (just hit the restart switch): OS doesn't have the chance to cleanup anything

- Immediately boot a lightweight imaging tool (instead of the normal OS) to dump DRAM contents

Alternative: physically remove the DIMMs (preferably after freezing them to maintain low temperature)

- Then plug them to a compatible machine



Figure 5: Before powering off the computer, we spray an upside-down canister of multipurpose duster directly onto the memory chips, cooling them to -50°C . At this temperature, the data will persist for several minutes after power loss with minimal error, even if we remove the DIMM from the computer.

"Lest We Remember: Cold Boot Attacks on Encryption Keys." J. Alex Halderman, Seth D. Schoen, Nadia Heninger, William Clarkson, William Paul, Joseph A. Calandrino, Ariel J. Feldman, Jacob Appelbaum, Edward W. Felten. USENIX Security 2008

DMA Attacks

Direct memory access (DMA) allows peripheral devices to access RAM

Copying data through the CPU would be much slower

FireWire, eSATA, PC Card, Thunderbolt, USB, PCI, ...

A malicious device can directly access part or all of physical memory

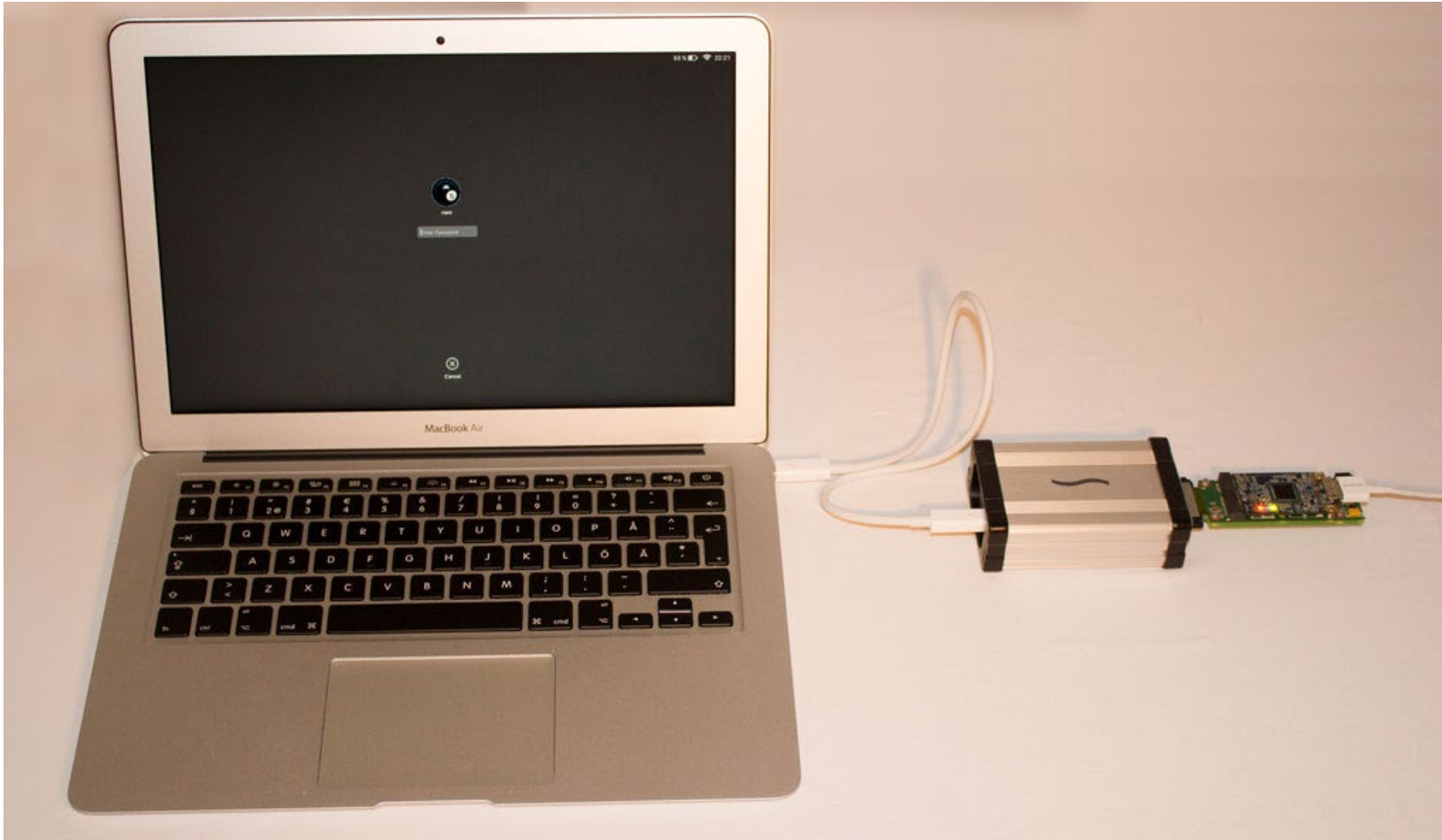
Bypass OS security mechanisms, lock screen, ...

Read data, install malware/rootkits/backdoors, ...

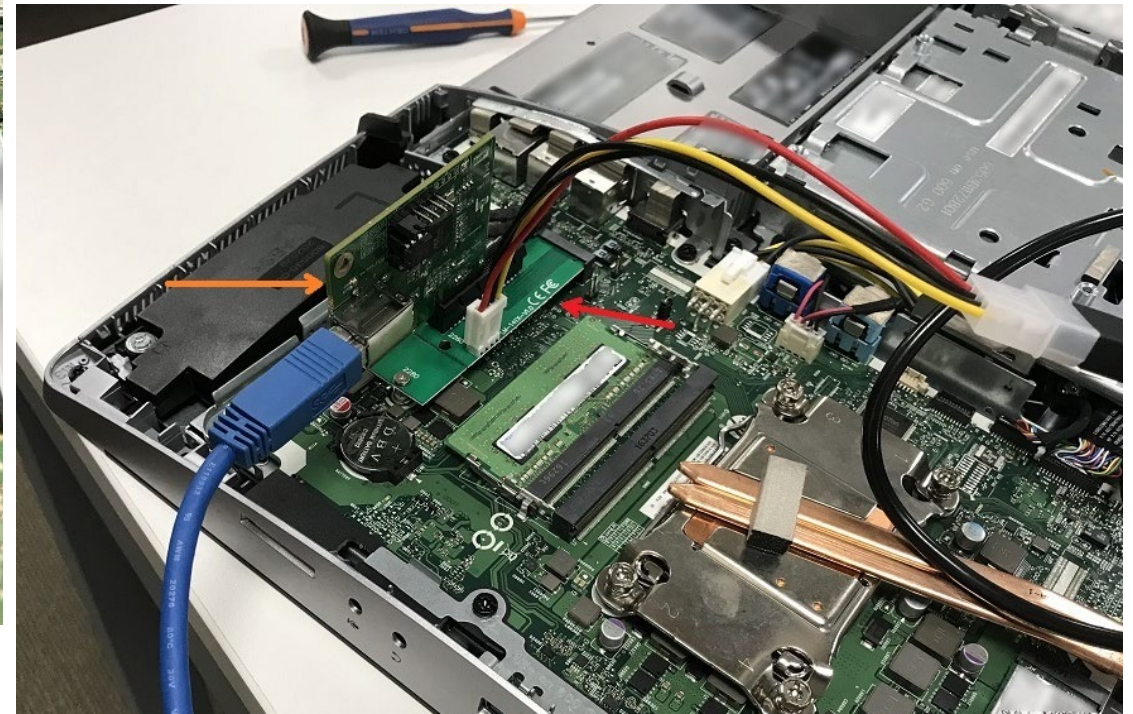
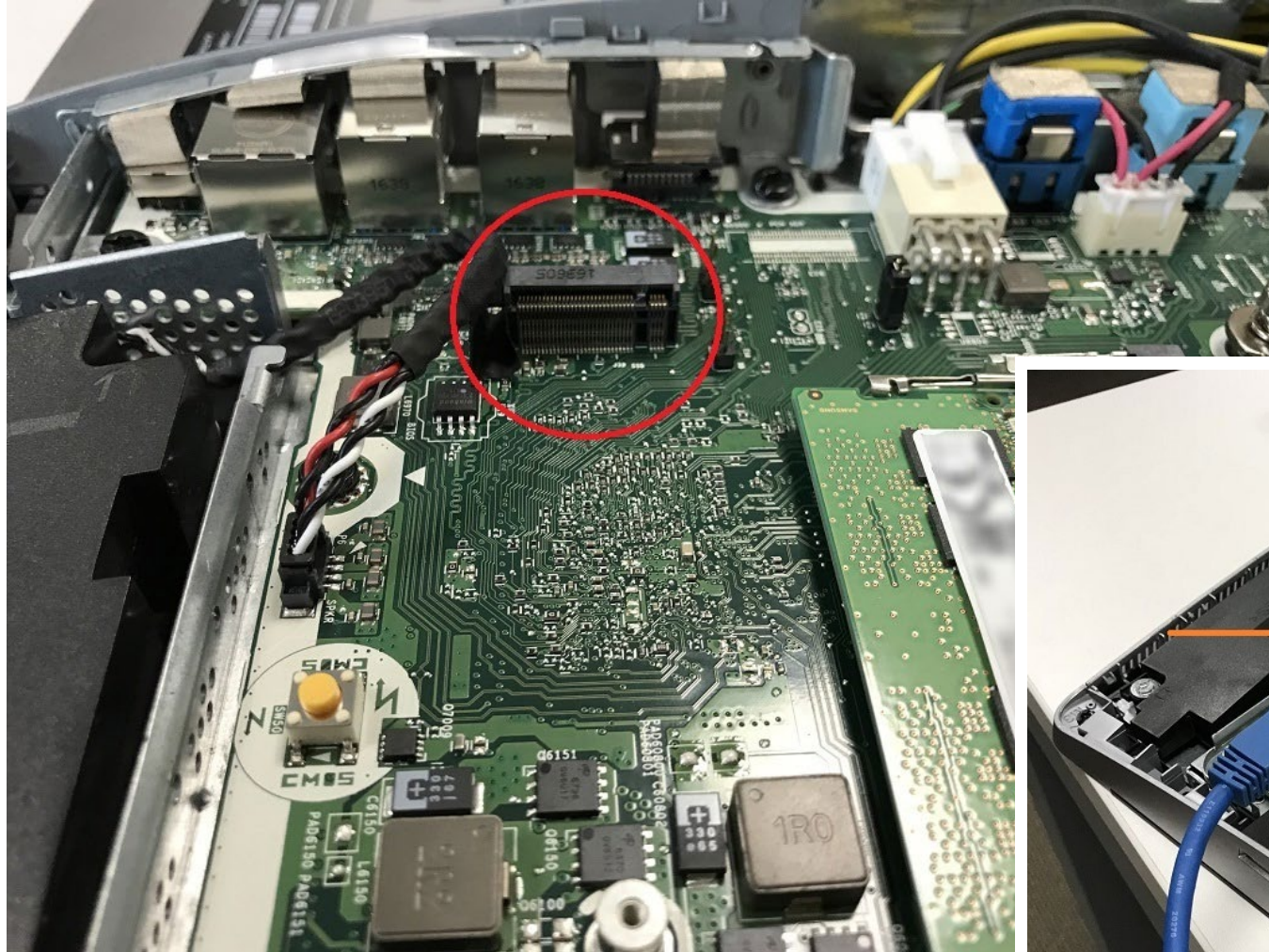
IOMMU provides some additional protection (recent CPUs)

Translates I/O virtual to physical addresses and applies access control (similar to how the MMU translates virtual addresses from processes)

Other types of plug-and-exploit attacks are still possible (e.g., a USB device pretending to be a keyboard)



Example: retrieve FileVault2 password from suspended Mac through rogue Thunderbolt device (2016)



Example: compromise Windows 10 workstation

SSD NVMe M.2 connector (NVMe relies on PCIe): USB3 PCIe card → PCIe to M2 adaptor

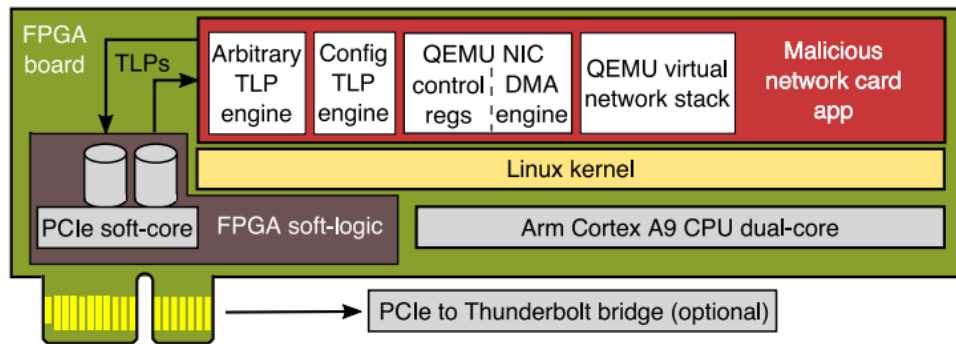
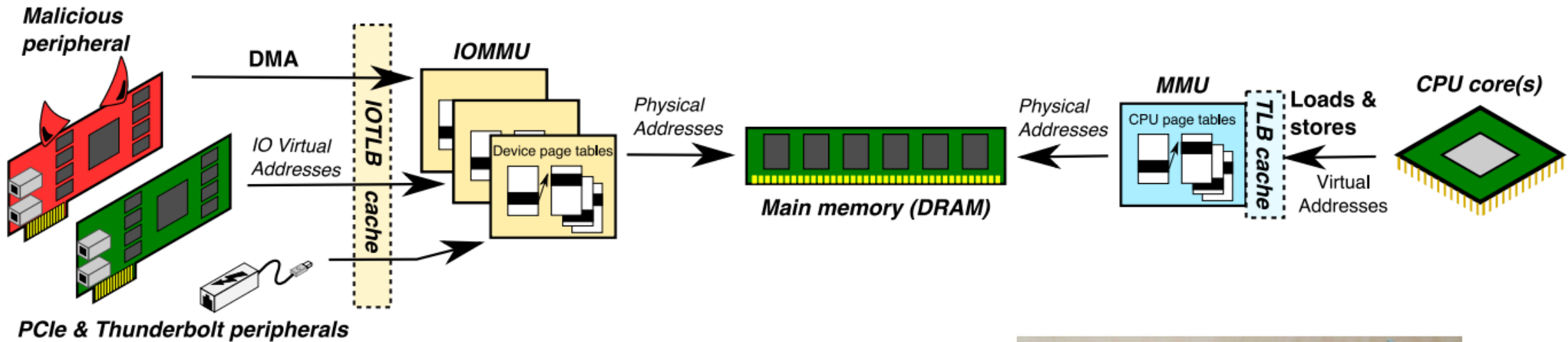


Fig. 4: Implementation of fully-functional network card using a QEMU device model running on FPGA



Fig. 1: Thunderbolt dock with FPGA implant, an implementation of our I/O-security research platform

ThunderClap: bypass IOMMU to Re-Enable DMA Attacks

Mimick the functionality of a legitimate peripheral to trick the OS into granting it access to memory

Inception <https://github.com/carmaa/inception>

PCI-based DMA physical memory manipulation tool

Supports FireWire, Thunderbolt, ExpressCard, PC Card, and any other PCI/PCIe hardware interfaces

Intrusive and non-intrusive memory access against live computers using DMA

Presents a Serial Bus Protocol 2 (SBP-2) unit directory to the victim over an IEEE1394 FireWire interface

Victim OS thinks that a SBP-2 device has connected to the FireWire port

SBP-2 devices use DMA for fast bulk data transfers (e.g., FireWire HDs, camcorders) →
DMA is enabled for the device

The tool now has full read/write access to the lower 4GB of RAM

Hardware Keyloggers

Most common type: inline connection

- Typically designed to have an innocuous appearance

- Can also be installed inside the keyboard itself

- On-device or wireless logging

Other types

- Wireless sniffers: mostly for wireless keyboards

- Malicious firmware: BIOS handles keyboard events

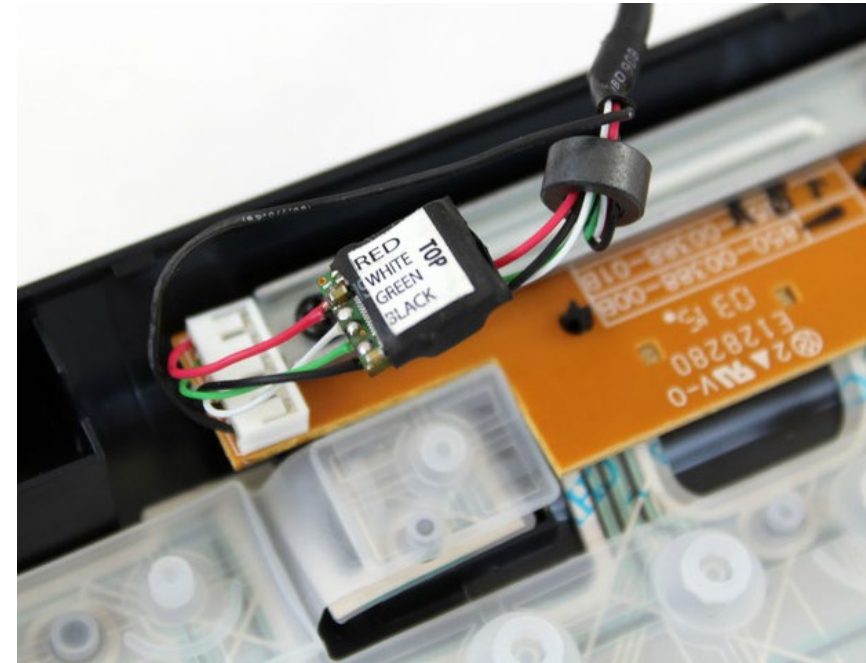
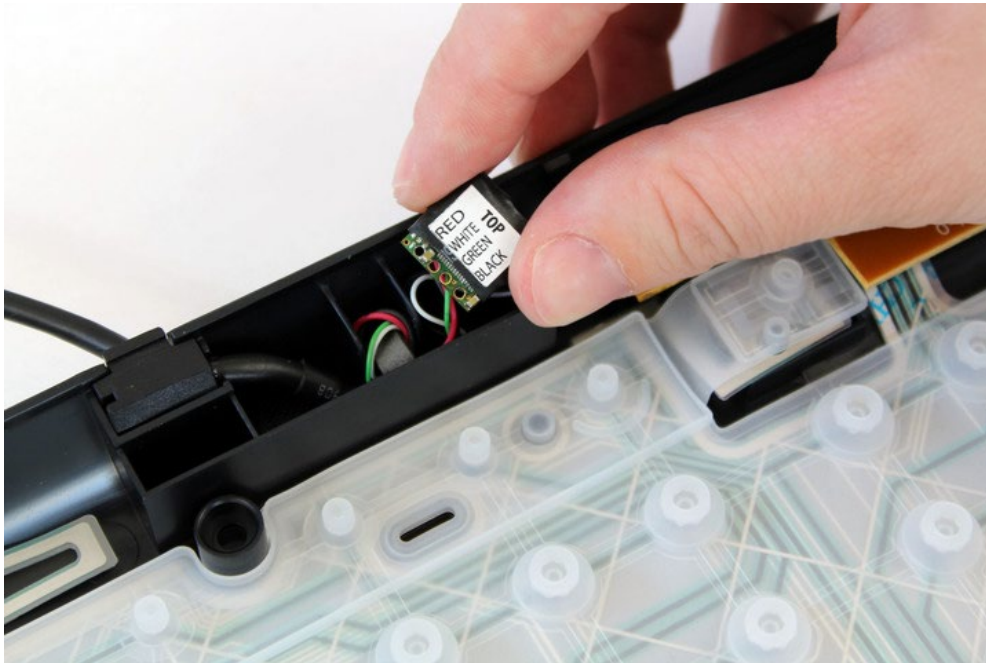
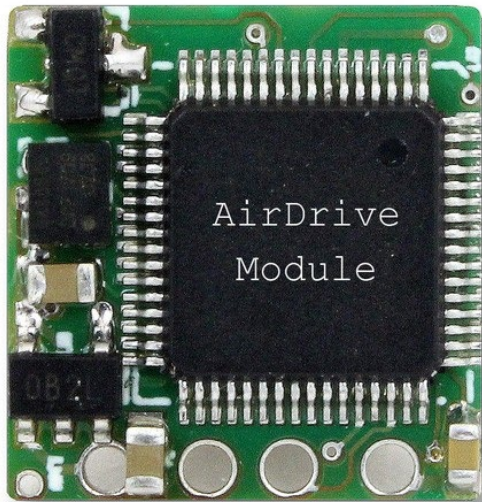
- Keyboard overlays: fake keypad (mostly used in ATM attacks)

- Side channels (mostly experimental): electromagnetic emanations, powerline leakage, sound, etc.

Don't forget that cameras can record keystrokes (!)



KeyGrabber



USB Drop

Infection strategies

Social engineering: rely on user action (e.g., open file, run .exe)

HID spoofing: simulate human interface device (e.g., mouse, keyboard)

0-day: Stuxnet-level attack

Example: 297 social-engineered USB keys dropped on the University of Illinois campus → *45% of the keys phoned home*

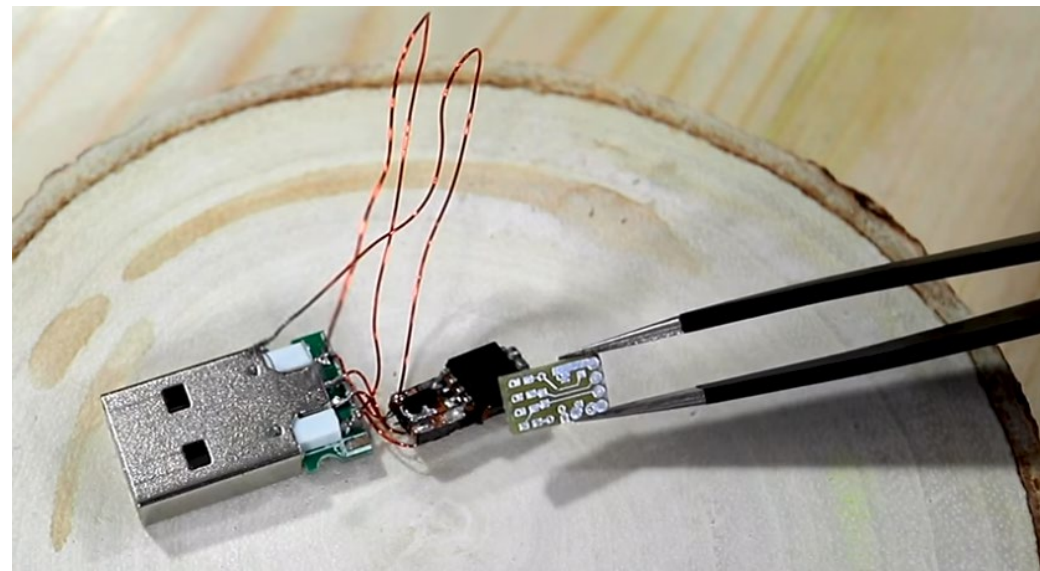
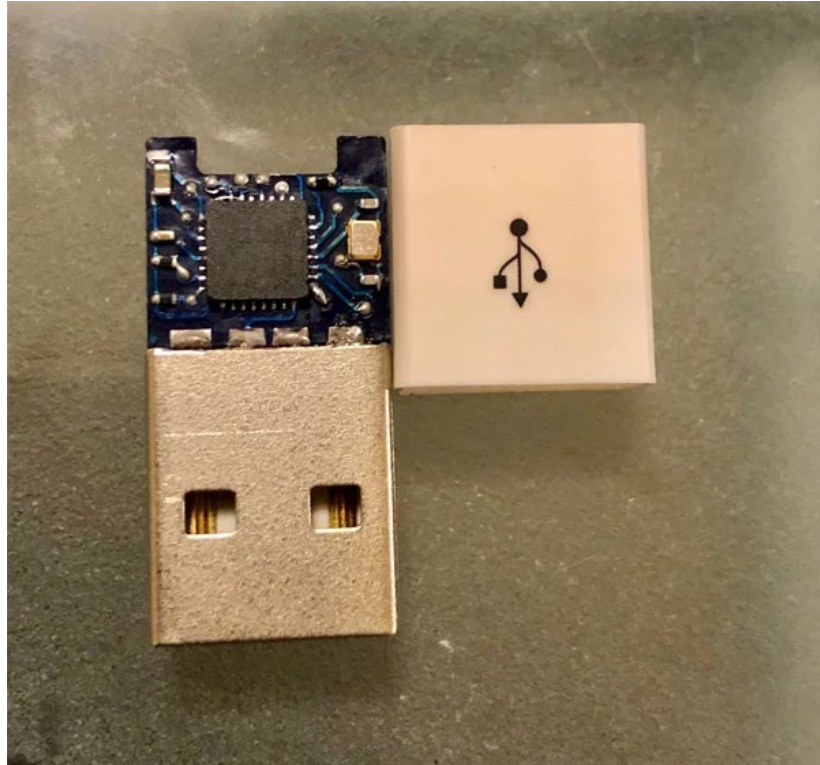


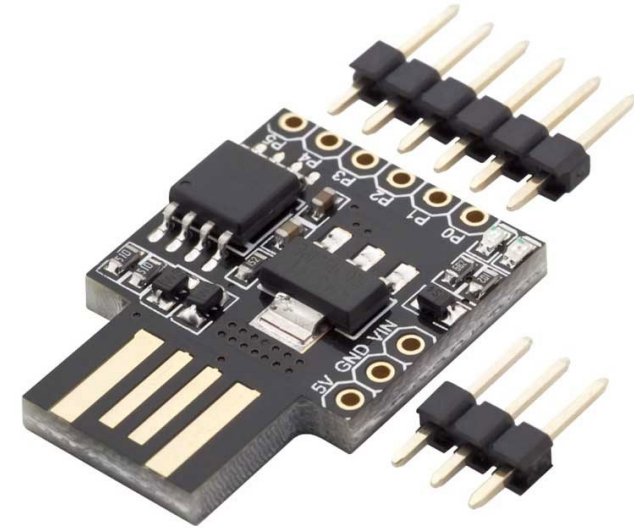
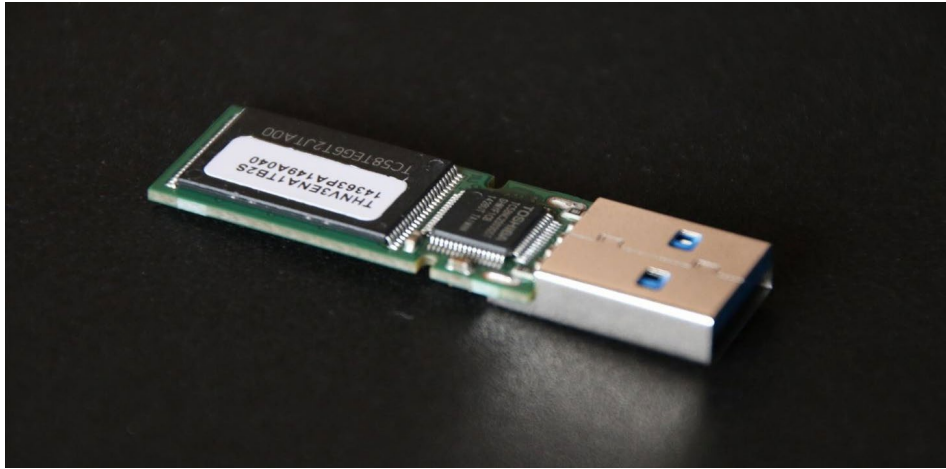
USB Rubber Ducky



```
simple ducky payload.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
REM My First Payload
WINDOWS r
DELAY 100
STRING notepad.exe
ENTER
DELAY 200
STRING Hello world! I'm in your PC!
```


Bad USB Cable





Flipper Zero

Read/clone/emulate:

Sub-GHz

125 kHz RFID

NFC

Bluetooth

Infrared

iButton

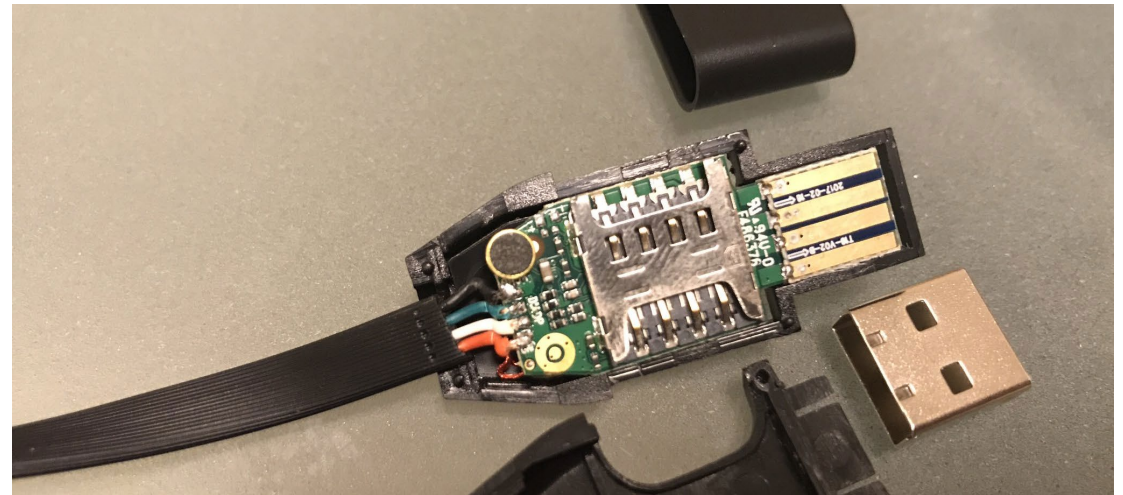
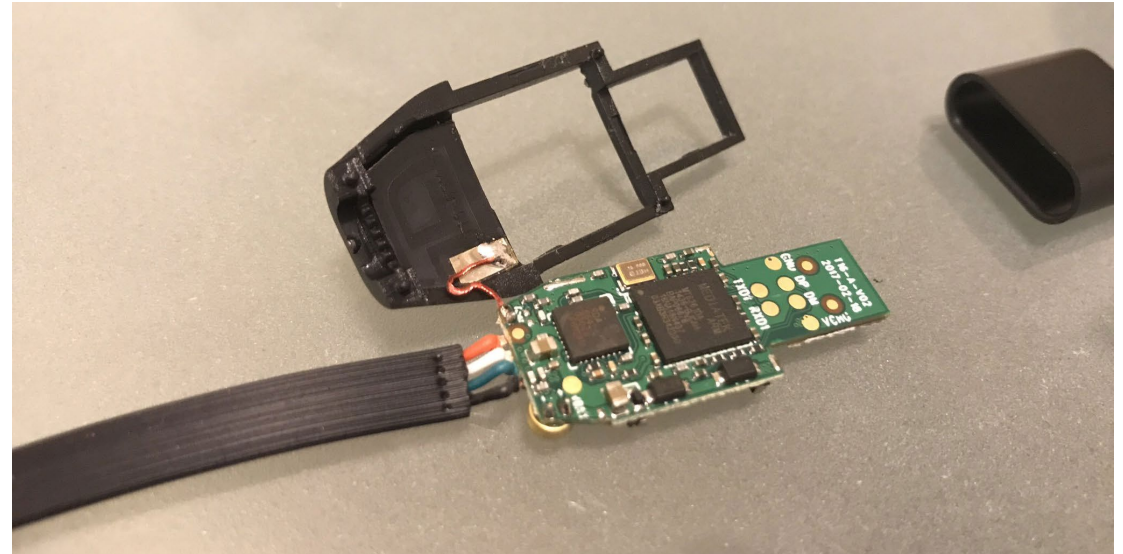
Bad USB/HID controller

U2F

GPIO pins for external HW



Spy cables: hidden microphones & geolocation (\$10)



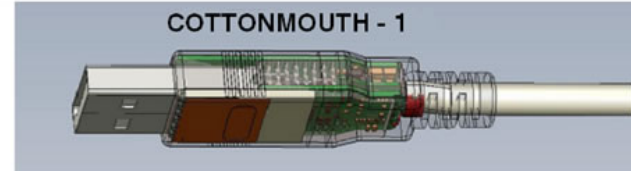


COTTONMOUTH-I

ANT Product Data

(TS//SI//REL) COTTONMOUTH-I (CM-I) is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) hardware implant which will provide a wireless bridge into a target network as well as the ability to load exploit software onto target PCs.

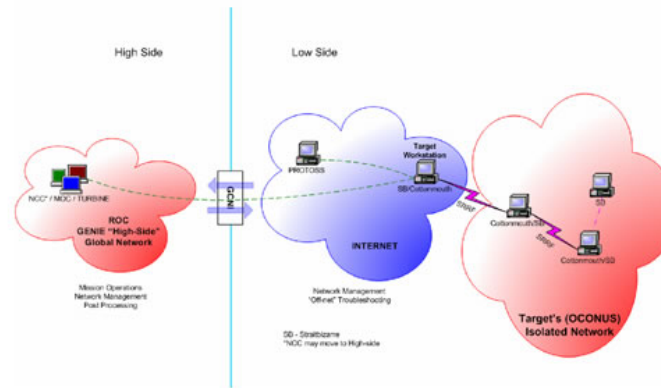
08/05/08



(TS//SI//REL) CM-I will provide air-gap bridging, software persistence capability, "in-field" re-programmability, and covert communications with a host software implant over the USB. The RF link will enable command and data infiltration and exfiltration. CM-I will also communicate with Data Network Technologies (DNT) software (STRAITBIZARRE) through a covert channel implemented on the USB, using this communication channel to pass commands and data between hardware and software implants. CM-I will be a GENIE-compliant implant based on CHIMNEYPOOL.

(TS//SI//REL) CM-I conceals digital components (TRINITY), USB 1.1 FS hub, switches, and HOWLERMONKEY (HM) RF Transceiver within the USB Series-A cable connector. MOCCASIN is the version permanently connected to a USB keyboard. Another version can be made with an unmodified USB connector at the other end. CM-I has the ability to communicate to other CM devices over the RF link using an over-the-air protocol called SPECULATION.

COTTONMOUTH CONOP
INTERNET Scenario



Status: Availability – January 2009

Unit Cost: 50 units: \$1,015K

POC: [REDACTED], S3223, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]@nsa.ic.gov
ALT POC: [REDACTED], S3223, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]@nsa.ic.gov

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52
Dated: 20070108
Declassify On: 20320108

POLICY US & WORLD TECH

Student used 'USB Killer' device to destroy \$58,000 worth of college computers

46

The former College of Saint Rose student faces up to 10 years in prison

By [Chris Welch](#) | [@chriswelch](#) | Apr 17, 2019, 3:07pm EDT

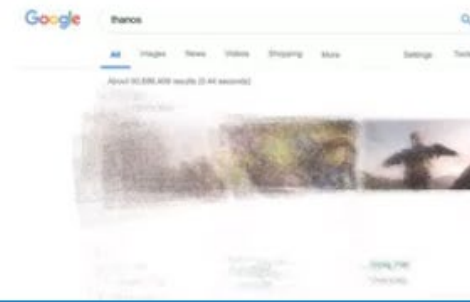
f SHARE

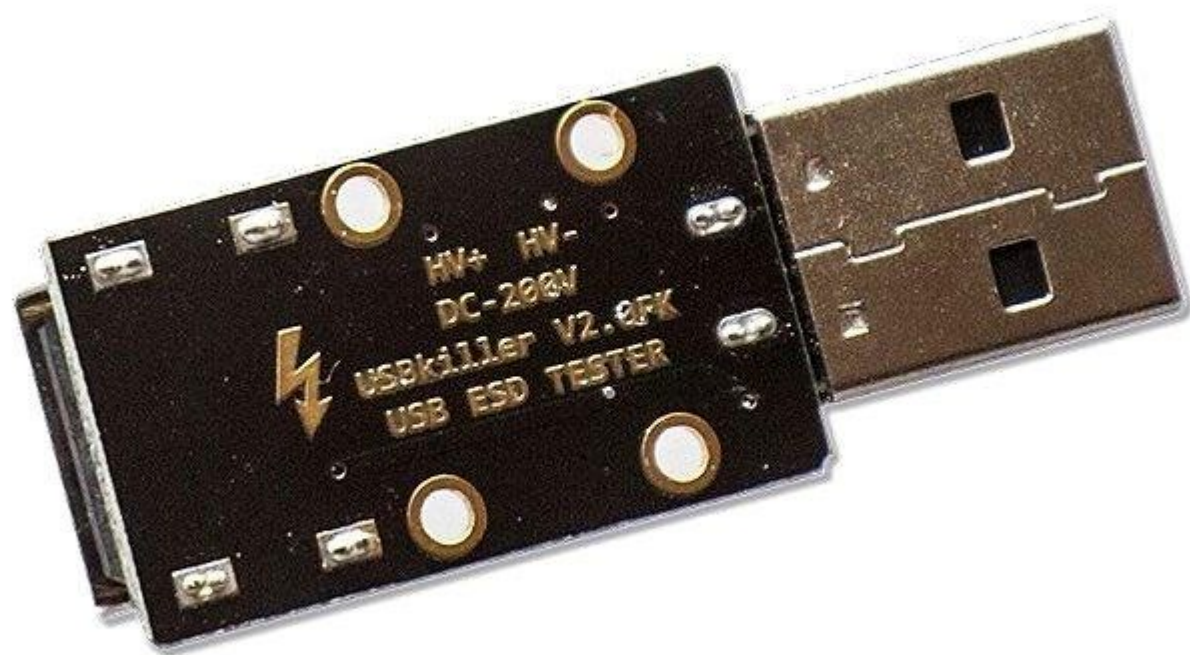


MOST READ

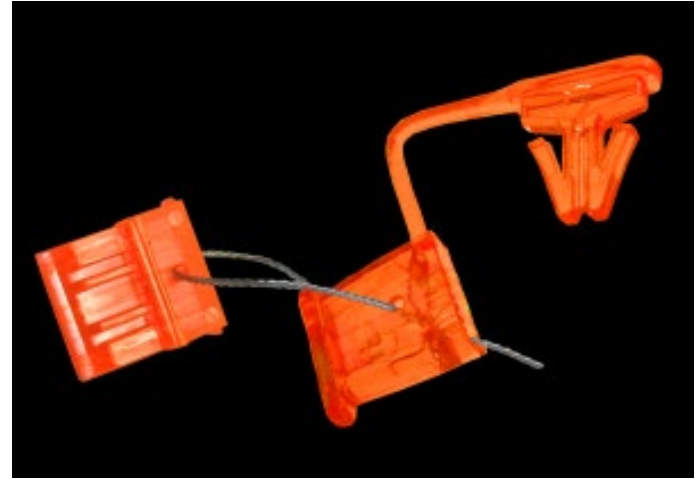


Astell & Kern announces the ridiculously powerful and pricey Kann Cube





Disable/protect USB ports



Network Sniffing and Interception



Software-defined Radio

RF communication that uses *software* to perform signal-processing tasks that are typically done by hardware

Mixers, filters, amplifiers, modulators/demodulators, ...

Can be used for a broad range of attacks

RDS Traffic Message Channel

RFID

IMSI catcher

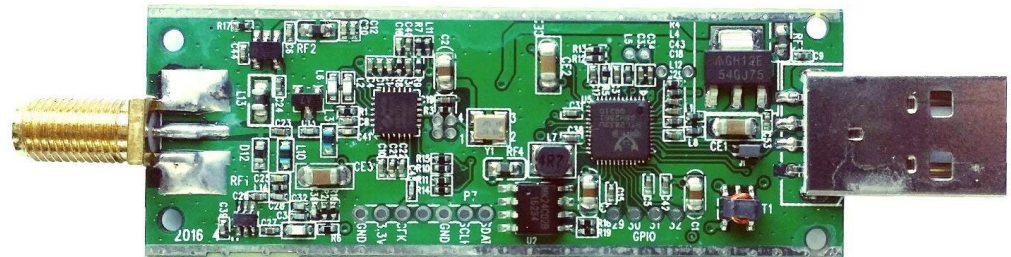
GSM sniffing

Restaurant pagers

IoT devices

Car key fobs

Medical devices



Embedded Hardware Hacking

Main steps

- Research the device
- Identify the components
- Identify debugging ports
- Dump the flash
- Extract/analyze firmware

Common ports

- JTAG: dedicated debugging port implemented as a serial interface (typically hidden or present only in early/prototype models)
- UART: serial communication easily bridged over USB via any UART-to-USB bridge

