

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

Tarjei Mandt (@kernelpool)

Mathew Solnik (@msolnik)

David Wang (@planetbeing)



About Us

- **Tarjei Mandt**
 - Senior Security Researcher, Azimuth Security
 - tm@azimuthsecurity.com
- **Mathew Solnik**
 - Director, OffCell Research
 - ms@offcellresearch.com
- **David Wang**
 - Senior Security Researcher, Azimuth Security
 - dw@azimuthsecurity.com

Introduction

- iPhone 5S was a technological milestone
 - First 64-bit phone
- Introduced several technological advancements
 - Touch ID
 - M7 motion coprocessor
 - Security coprocessor (SEP)
- Enabled sensitive data to be stored securely
 - Fingerprint data, cryptographic keys, etc.

Secure Enclave Processor

- Security circuit designed to perform secure services for the rest of the SOC
 - Prevents main processor from gaining direct access to sensitive data
- Used to support a number of different services
 - Most notably Touch ID
- Runs its own operating system (SEPOS)
 - Includes its own kernel, drivers, services, and applications

Secure (?) Enclave Processor

- Very little public information exists on the SEP
 - Only information provided by Apple
- SEP patent only provides a high level overview
 - Doesn't describe actual implementation details
- Several open questions remain
 - What services are exposed by the SEP?
 - How are these services accessed?
 - What privileges are needed?
 - How resilient is SEP against attacks?

Talk Outline

- Part 1: Secure Enclave Processor
 - Hardware Design
 - Boot Process
- Part 2: Communication
 - Mailbox Mechanism
 - Kernel-to-SEP Interfaces
- Part 3: SEPOS
 - Architecture / Internals
- Part 4: Security Analysis
 - Attack Surface and Robustness

Hardware Design

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

SEP's ARM Core: Kingfisher

- Dedicated ARMv7a “Kingfisher” core
 - Even EL3 on AP's core won't doesn't give you access to SEP
- Appears to be running at 300-400mhz~
- One of multiple kingfisher cores in the SoC
 - 2-4 Other KF cores - used for NAND/SmartIO/etc
 - Other cores provide a wealth of arch knowledge
- Changes between platforms (A7/A8/A9)
 - Appears like anti-tamper on newer chips

Dedicated Hardware Peripherals

- SEP has its own set of peripherals accessible by memory-mapped IO
 - Built into hardware that AP cannot access
 - Crypto Engine & Random Number Generator
 - Security Fuses
 - GID/UID Keys
- Dedicated IO lines -
 - Lines run directly to off-chip peripherals
 - GPIO
 - SPI
 - UART
 - I2C

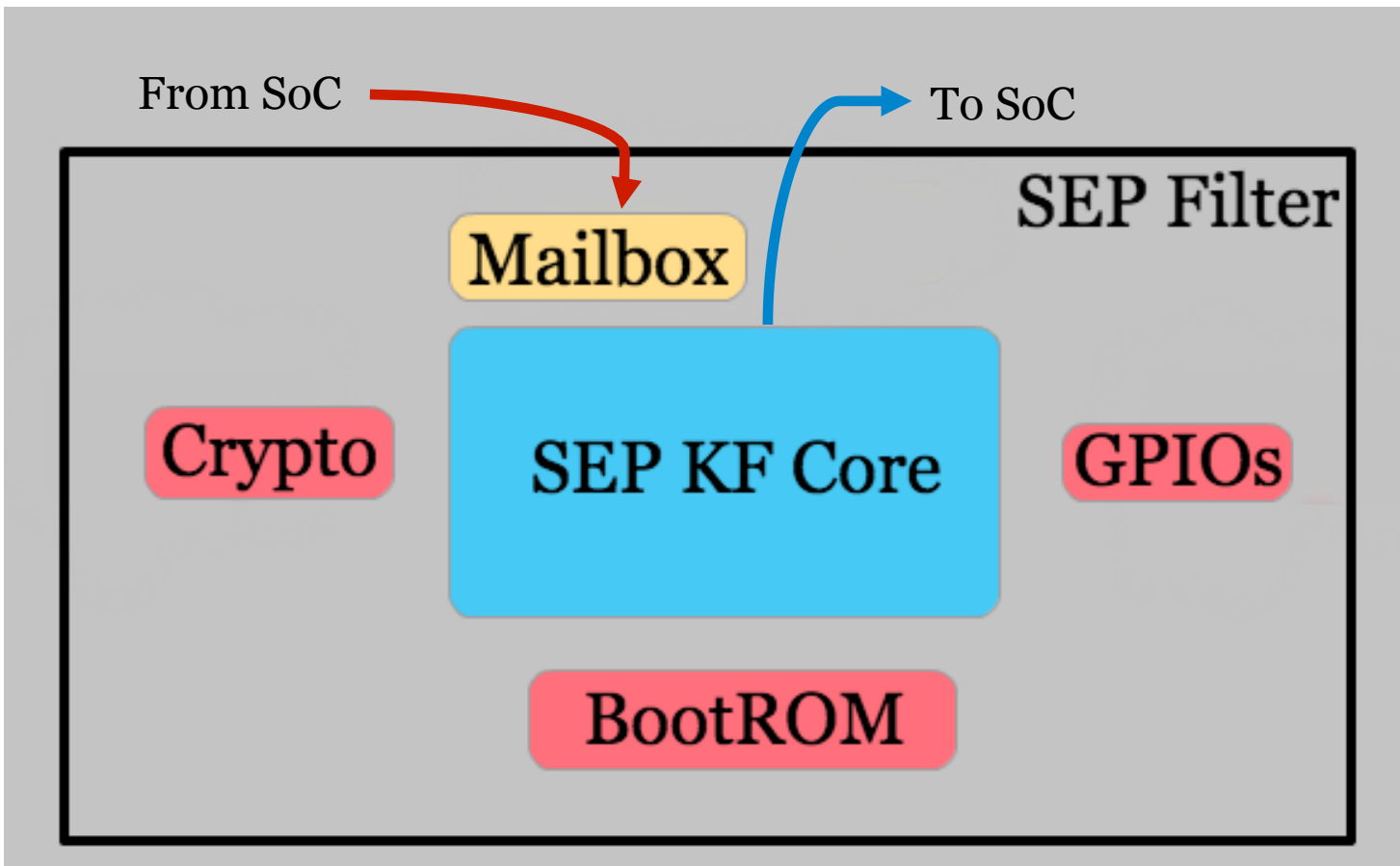
Shared Hardware Peripherals

- SEP and AP share some peripherals
- Power Manager (PMGR)
 - Security fuse settings are located in the PMGR
 - Lots of other interesting items
- Memory Controller
 - Can be poked at via iOS kernel
- Phase-locked loop (PLL) clock generator
 - Nothing to see here move along...
- Secure Mailbox
 - Used to transfer data between cores
- External Random Access Memory (RAM)

Physical Memory

- Dedicated BootROM (and some SRAM)
 - BootROM physically located at `0x2_0dao_0000`
- Uses inline AES to encrypt external RAM
 - Most likely to prevent physical memory attacks against off SoC RAM chips (iPads)
- Hardware “filter” to prevent AP to SEP memory access
 - Only SEP’s KF core has this filter

SEP KF Filter Diagram



Boot Process

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

SEP Initialization - First Stage

- AP comes out of reset. AP BootROM releases SEP from reset.
 - This is irreversible. No hardware register to reset or stop SEP accessible by AP.
- Initially uses 4096 bytes of static RAM for stack and variables.
- Uses page tables in ROM.
 - Needs Large Physical Address Extension.
- Starts a message loop.

SEP Initialization - Second Stage

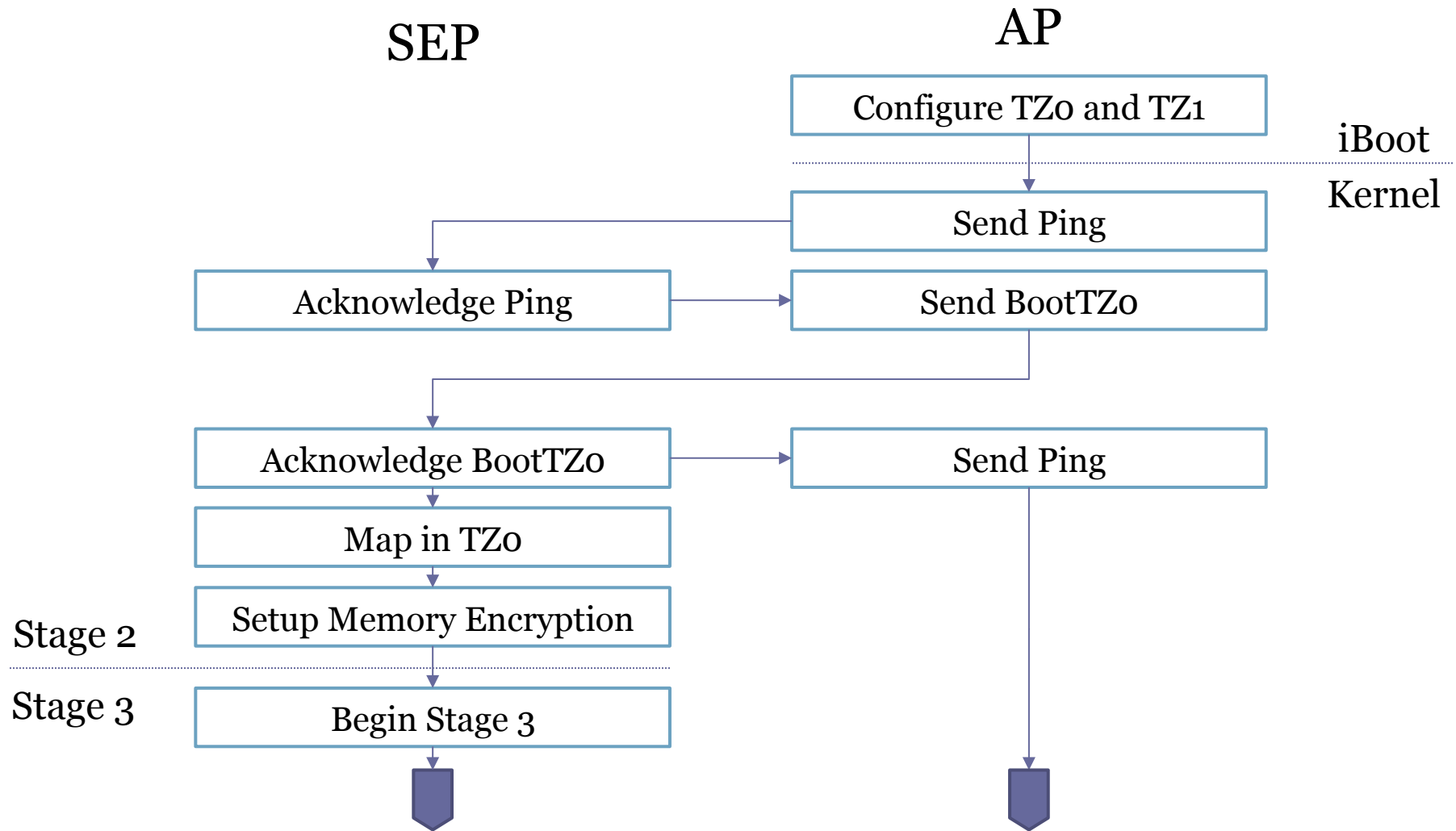
- Listens for messages in the mailbox.
- 8-byte messages that have the same format SEPOS uses.
- All messages use endpoint 255 (EP_BOOTSTRAP)

Opcode	Description
1, 2	“Status check” (Ping)
3	Generate nonce
4	Get nonce word
5	“BootTZo” (Continue boot)

Memory Protections

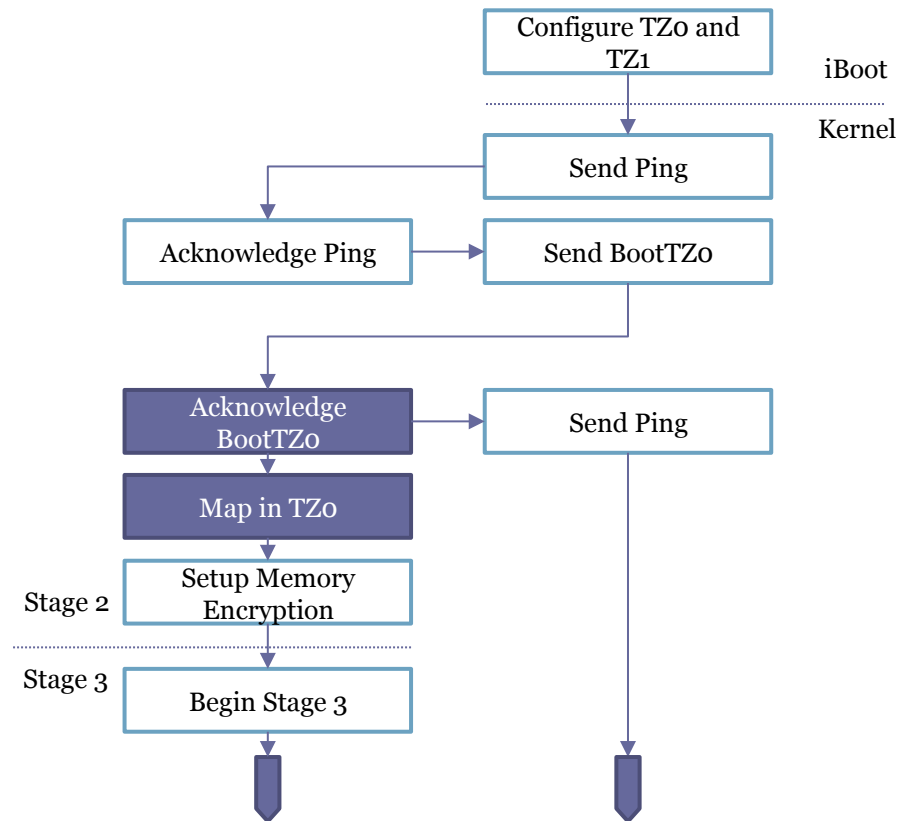
- SEP needs more RAM than 4096 bytes of SRAM, so it needs external RAM.
- RAM used by SEP must be protected against AP tampering.
- Two regions configurable by AP are setup:
 - TZ0 is for the SEP.
 - TZ1 is for the AP's TrustZone (Kernel Patch Protection).
- SEP must wait for AP to setup TZ0 to continue boot.

SEP Boot Flow



SEP Memory Protection Bootstrap

- SEP doesn't take AP's word for it that TZO is locked.
 - Checks hardware registers for lock.
 - Then reads size and address of TZO from other hardware registers.
- Impossible to change these hardware registers after TZO is locked.
- Spin processor on failure.



Memory Encryption Modes

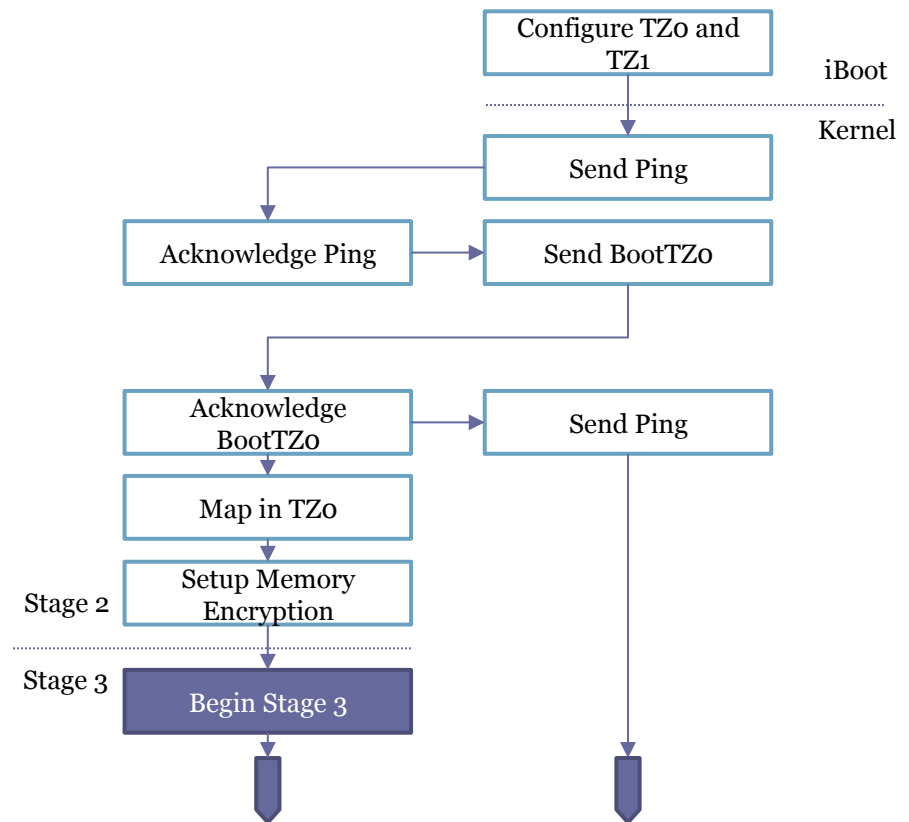
- Appears to support ECB, CBC, and **XEX**.
- Capable of AES-128 or **AES-256**.
- Supports two channels.
 - BootROM uses channel 1.
 - SEPOS uses channel 0.
- All access to certain ranges of physical addresses get encrypted/decrypted transparently.
 - After boot, SEPOS has all page mappings into the encrypted range (except for hardware regs and memory shared with AP).

Key Generation

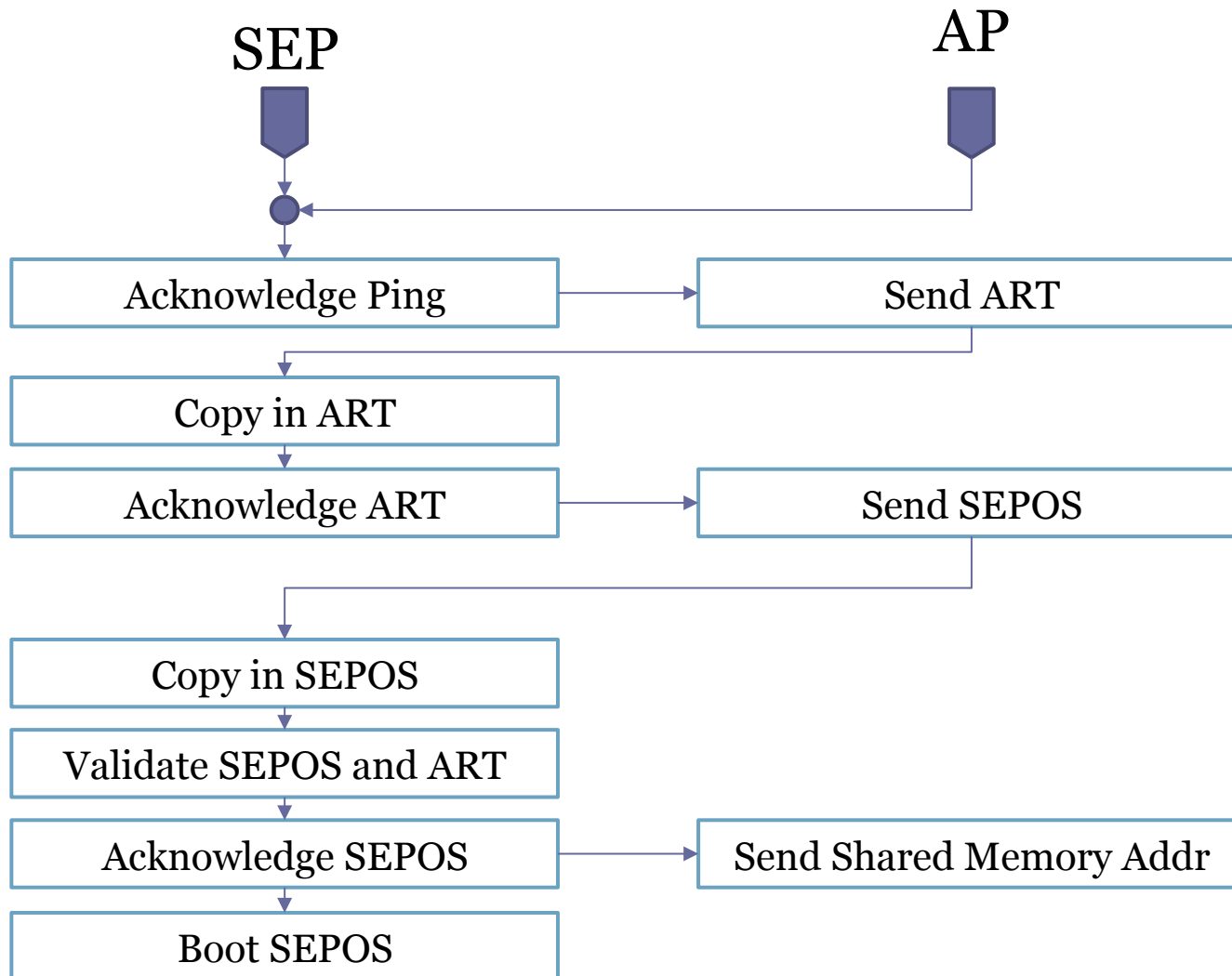
- Keys are generated by “tangling”:
 - True Random Number Generator output
 - Static “type” value.
- With protected (unreadable) registers:
 - UID, GID, Seed A, Seed B.
 - Seed B tangled with UID == GenID_2B
- Encrypt the following using GenID_2B to generate key:
 - [4 byte magic = 0xFF XK1][4 bytes of 0s][192-bits of randomness]

Beginning Stage 3

- After memory encryption is setup, SEP re-initializes to use encrypted memory:
 - Page tables
 - Stack
 - Data
- Begins a new message loop with no shared code between it and the initial low-capability bootstrap.



SEP Boot Flow: Stage 3



Boot-loading: Img4

- SEP uses the “IMG4” bootloader format which is based on ASN.1 DER encoding
 - Very similar to 64bit iBoot/AP Bootrom
 - Can be parsed with “openssl -asn1parse”
- Three primary objects used by SEP
 - Payload –
 - Contains the encrypted sep-firmware
 - Restore –
 - Contains basic information when restoring SEP
 - Manifest (aka the AP ticket) -
 - Effectively the Alpha and the Omega of bootROM configuration (and security)

Img4 - Manifest

- The manifest (APTicket) contains almost all the essential information used to authenticate and configure SEP(OS).
- Contains multiple hardware identifier tags
 - ECID
 - ChipID
 - Others
- Is also used to change runtime settings in both software and hardware
 - DPRO – Demote Production
 - DSEC – Demote Security
 - Others...

Reversing SEP's Img4 Parser: Stage 1

- How can you reverse something you cannot see?
 - Look for potential code reuse!
- Other locations that parse IMG4
 - AP BootROM – A bit of a pain to get at
 - iBoot – Dump from phys memory - 0x8700xx000
 - Not many symbols...
 - But sometimes it only takes 1...

```
X8, #aImg4decodecopy@PAGE ; "Img4DecodeCopyManifestHash((const Img4 "...  
X8, X8, #aImg4decodecopy@PAGEOFF ; "Img4DecodeCopyManifestHash((const Img4  
X8, [SP,#0x3C0+var_3A8]  
X8, #0x187  
loc_83D8099B4
```

(iBoot from n51)

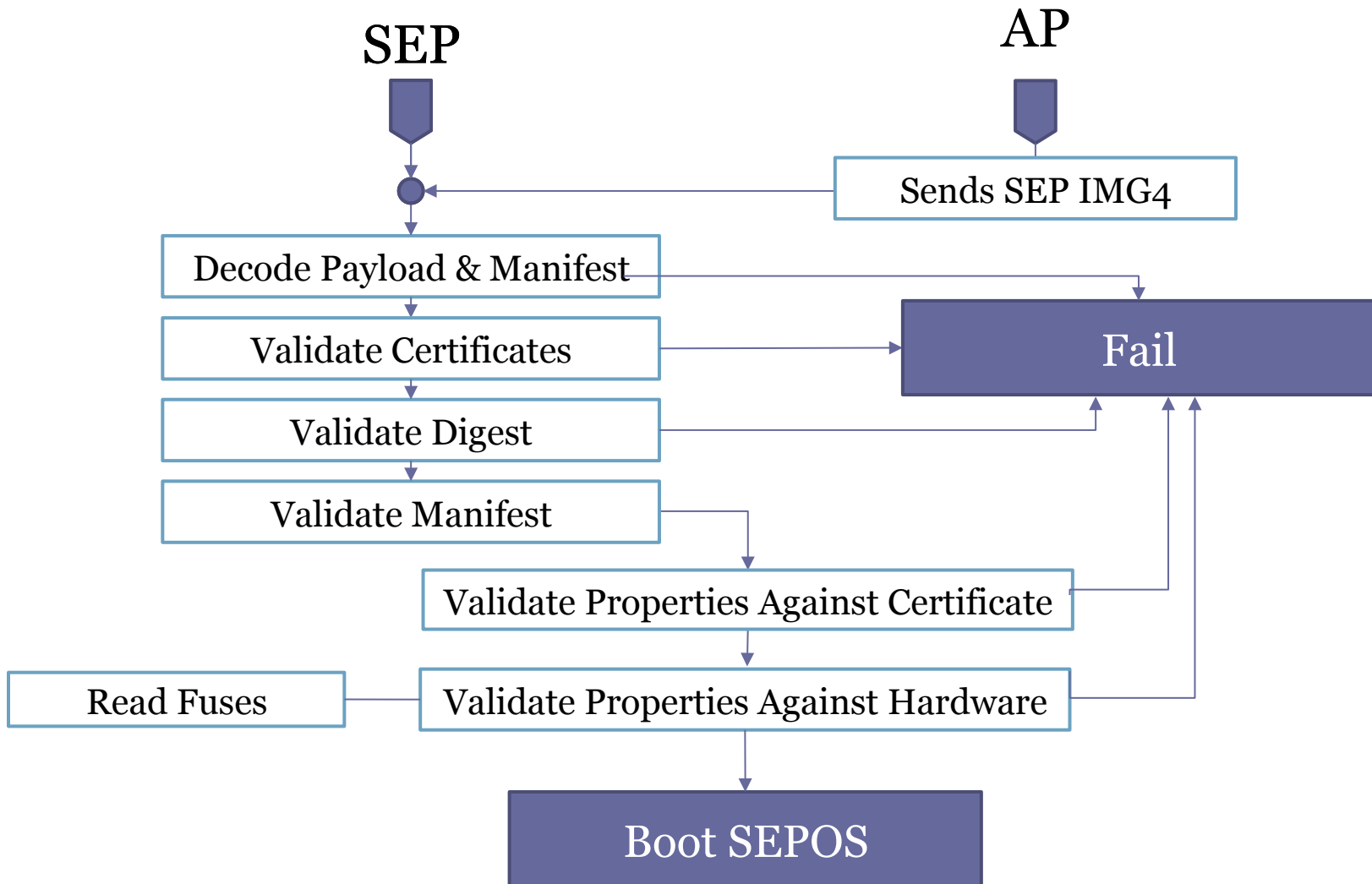
Reversing SEP's Img4 Parser: Stage 2

- Another file also contains the “Img4Decode” symbol
 - `/usr/libexec/seputil`
- Userland IMG4 parser with many more symbols
 - May not be exact – but `bindiff` shows it is very close
- From symbols found in `seputil` we can deduce:
 - The ASN'1 decoder is based on `libDER`
 - Which Apple so kindly releases as OpenSource.
 - The RSA portion is handled by `CoreCrypto`
- `LibDER + CoreCrypto = SEP's IMG4 Parsing engine`
 - We now have a great base to work with

Img4 Parsing Flow

- SEP BootROM copies in the sep-firmware.img4 from AP
- Initializes the DER Decoder
 - Decodes Payload, Manifest, and Restore Info
- Verifies digests and signing certificates
 - Root of trust cert is hardcoded at the end of BootROM
- Verifies all properties in manifest
 - Checks against current hardware fusing
- If all items pass – load and execute the payload

Img4 Parsing Flow



Communication

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

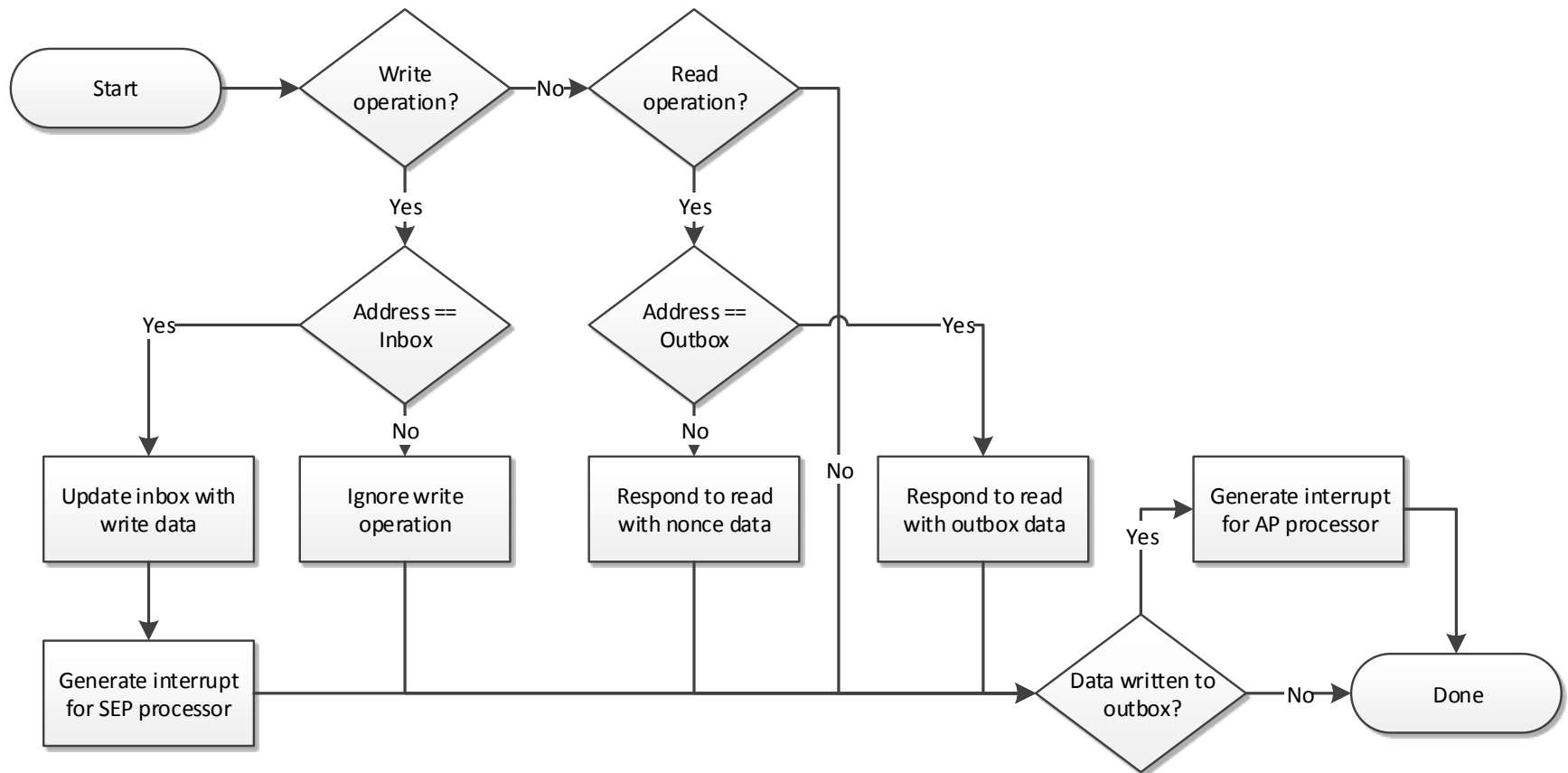
Secure Mailbox

- The secure mailbox allows the AP to communicate with the SEP
 - Features both an inbox (request) and outbox (reply)
- Implemented using the SEP device I/O registers
 - Also known as the SEP configuration space

Interrupt-based Message Passing

- When sending a message, the AP writes to the inbox of the mailbox
- This operation triggers an interrupt in the SEP
 - Informs the SEP that a message has been received
- When a reply is ready, the SEP writes a message back to the outbox
 - Another interrupt is generated in order to let the AP know a message was received

Mailbox Mechanism



Mailbox Message Format

- A single message is 8 bytes in size
- Format depends on the receiving endpoint
- First byte is always the destination endpoint

```
struct {
    uint8_t    endpoint;        // destination endpoint number
    uint8_t    tag;            // message tag
    uint8_t    opcode;         // message type
    uint8_t    param;          // optional parameter
    uint32_t   data;           // message data
} sep_msg;
```

SEP Manager

- Provides a generic framework for drivers to communicate with the SEP
 - Implemented in `AppleSEPManager.kext`
 - Builds on the functionality provided by the IOP
- Enables drivers to register SEP endpoints
 - Used to talk to a specific SEP app or service
 - Assigned a unique index value
- Also implements several endpoints of its own
 - E.g. the SEP control endpoint

SEP Endpoints (1 / 2)

Index	Name	Driver
0	AppleSEPControl	AppleSEPManager.kext
1	AppleSEPLogger	AppleSEPManager.kext
2	AppleSEPARTStorage	AppleSEPManager.kext
3	AppleSEPARTRequests	AppleSEPManager.kext
4	AppleSEPTracer	AppleSEPManager.kext
5	AppleSEPDebug	AppleSEPManager.kext
6	<not used>	
7	AppleSEPKeyStore	AppleSEPKeyStore.kext

SEP Endpoints (2/2)

Index	Name	Driver
8	AppleMesaSEPDriver	AppleMesaSEPDriver.kext
9	AppleSPIBiometricSensor	AppleBiometricSensor.kext
10	AppleSEPCredentialManager	AppleSEPCredentialManager.kext
11	AppleSEPPairing	AppleSEPManager.kext
12	AppleSSE	AppleSSE.kext
254	L4Info	
255	Bootrom	SEP Bootrom

Control Endpoint (EP0)

- Handles control requests issued to the SEP
- Used to set up request and reply out-of-line buffers for an endpoint
- Provides interface to generate, read, and invalidate nonces
- The SEP Manager user client provides some support for interacting with the control endpoint
 - Used by the SEP Utility (/usr/libexec/seputil)

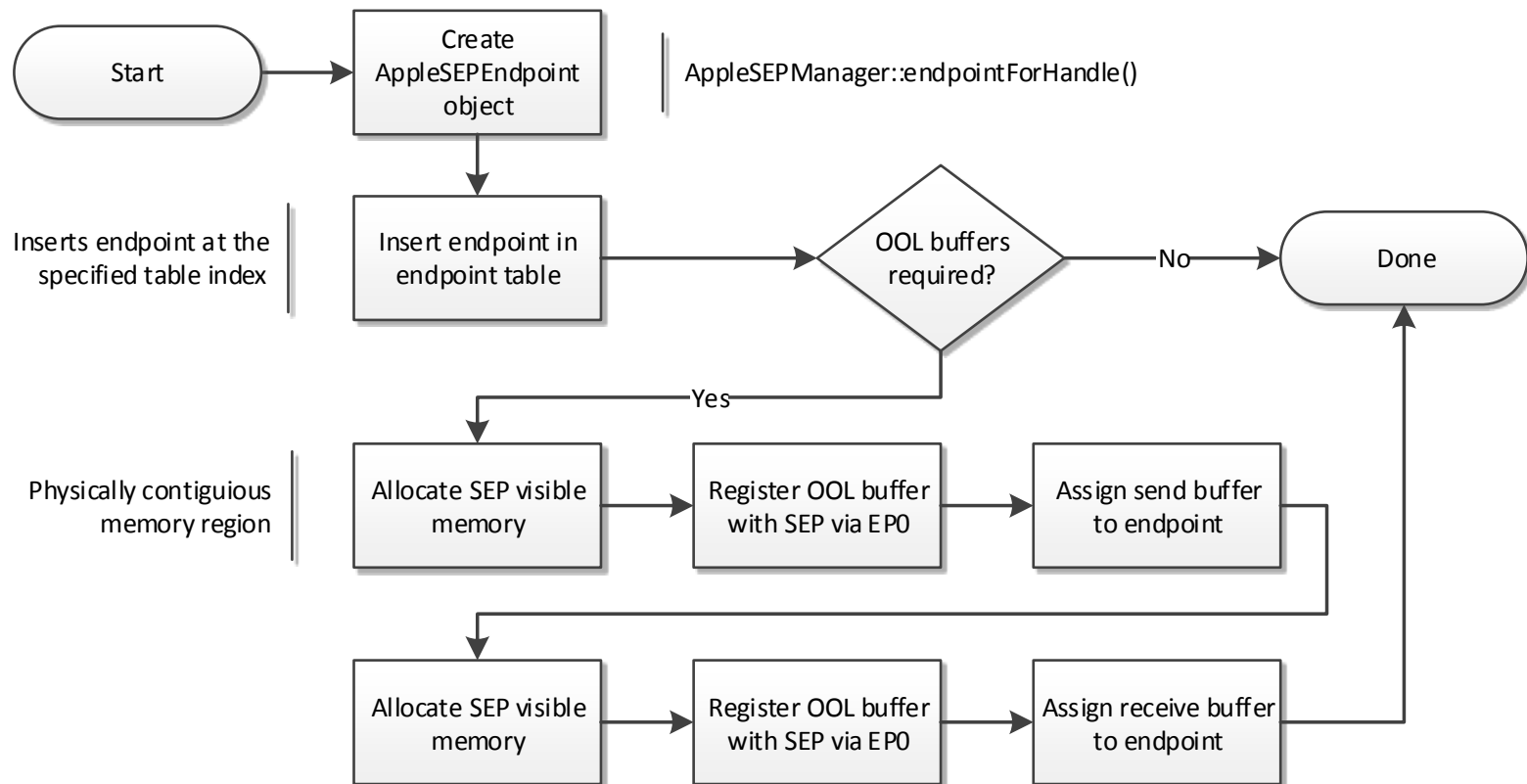
Control Endpoint Opcodes

Opcode	Name	Description
0	NOP	Used to wake up SEP
2	SET_OOL_IN_ADDR	Request out-of-line buffer address
3	SET_OOL_OUT_ADDR	Reply out-of-line buffer address
4	SET_OOL_IN_SIZE	Size of request buffer
5	SET_OOL_OUT_SIZE	Size of reply buffer
10	TTYIN	Write to SEP console
12	SLEEP	Sleep the SEP

Out-of-line Buffers

- Transferring large amounts of data is slow using the interrupt-based mailbox
 - Out-of-line buffers used for large data transfers
- SEP Manager provides a way to allocate SEP visible memory
 - `AppleSEPManager::allocateVisibleMemory(...)`
 - Actually allocates a portion of physical memory
- Control endpoint is used to assign the request/reply buffer to the target endpoint

Endpoint Registration (AP)



Drivers Using SEP

- Several drivers now rely on the SEP for their operation
- Some drivers previously located in the kernel have had parts moved into the SEP
 - `Apple(SEP)KeyStore`
 - `Apple(SEP)CredentialManager`
- Most drivers have a corresponding app in the SEP

SEPOS

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

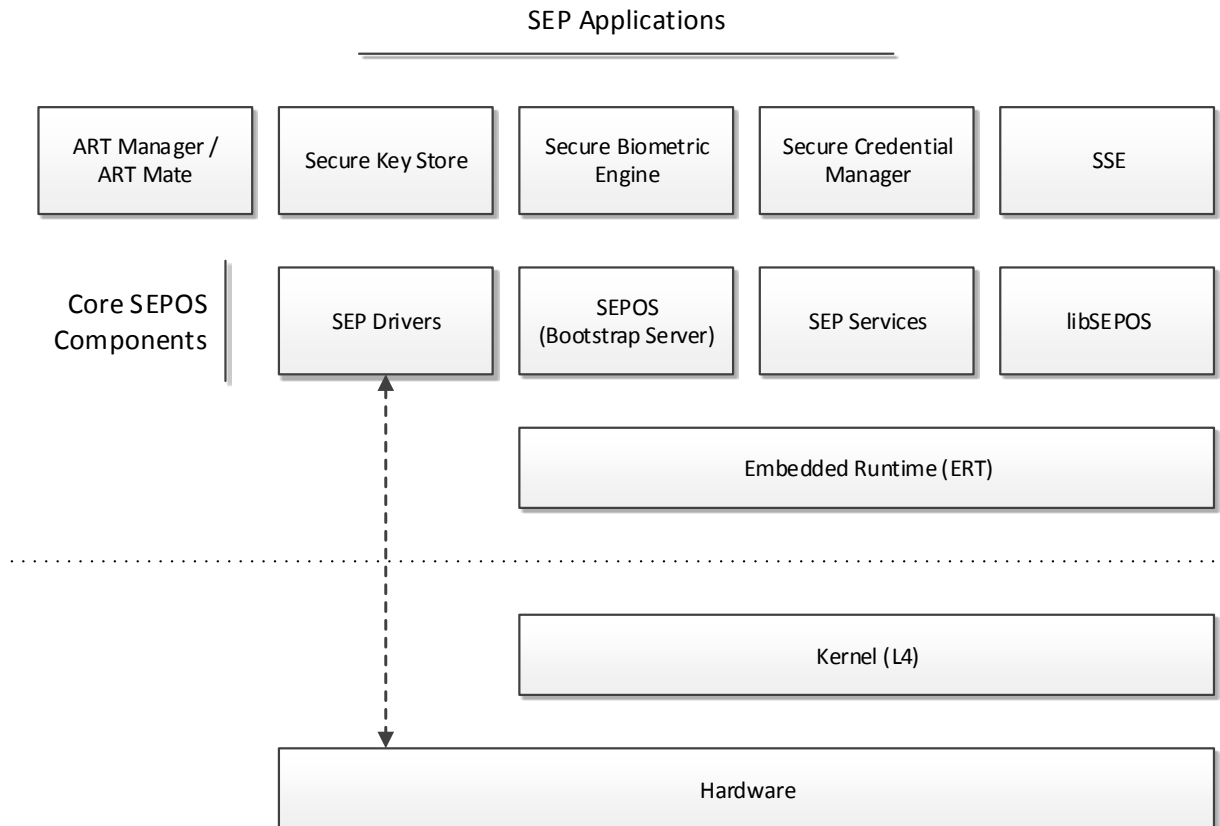
L4

- Family of microkernels
- First introduced in 1993 by Jochen Liedtke
 - Evolved from L3 (mid-1980s)
- Developed to address the poor performance of earlier microkernels
 - Improved IPC performance over L3 by a factor 10-20 faster
- Numerous variants and implementations
 - E.g. L4-embedded optimized for embedded systems

SEPOS

- Based on Darbat/L4-embedded (ARMv7)
 - Custom modifications by Apple
- Implements its own drivers, services, and applications
 - Compiled as macho binaries
- The kernel provides only a minimal set of interfaces
 - Major part of the operating system implemented in user-mode

SEPOS Architecture



Kernel (L4)

- Initializes the machine state to a point where it is usable
 - Initializes the kernel page table
 - Sets up the kernel interface page (KIP)
 - Configures the interrupts on the hardware
 - Starts the timer
 - Initializes and starts the kernel scheduler
 - Starts the root task
- Provides a small set (~20) of system calls

System Calls (1/2)

Num	Name	Description
0x00	L4_Ipc	Set up IPC between two threads
0x00	L4_Notify	Notify a thread
0x04	L4_ThreadSwitch	Yield execution to thread
0x08	L4_ThreadControl	Create or delete threads
0x0C	L4_ExchangeRegisters	Exchange registers with another thread
0x10	L4_Schedule	Set thread scheduling information
0x14	L4_MapControl	Map or free virtual memory
0x18	L4_SpaceControl	Create a new address space
0x1C	L4_ProcessorControl	Sets processor attributes

System Calls (2/2)

Num	Name	Description
0x20	L4_CacheControl	Cache flushing
0x24	L4_IpcControl	Limit ipc access
0x28	L4_InterruptControl	Enable or disable an interrupt
0x2C	L4_GetTimebase	Gets the system time
0x30	L4_SetTimeout	Set timeout for ipc sessions
0x34	L4_SharedMappingControl	Set up a shared mapping
0x38	L4_SleepKernel	?
0x3C	L4_PowerControl	?
0x40	L4_KernelInterface	Get information about kernel

Privileged System Calls

- Some system calls are considered privileged
 - E.g. memory and thread management calls
- Only root task (SEPOS) may invoke privileged system calls
 - Determined by the space address of the caller
- Check performed by each individual system call where needed
 - `is_privileged_space()`

Privileged System Calls

```
SYS_SPACE_CONTROL (threadid_t space_tid, word_t control, fpage_t kip_area,  
                  fpage_t utcb_area)  
{  
    TRACEPOINT (SYSCALL_SPACE_CONTROL,  
               printf("SYS_SPACE_CONTROL: space=%t, control=%p, kip_area=%p, "  
                     "utcb_area=%p\n", TID (space_tid),  
                     control, kip_area.raw, utcb_area.raw));  
  
    // Check privilege  
    if (EXPECT_FALSE (! is_privileged_space(get_current_space())))  
    {  
        get_current_tcb ()->set_error_code (ENO_PRIVILEGE);  
        return_space_control(0, 0);  
    }  
  
    ...  
}
```

```
INLINE bool is_privileged_space(space_t * space)  
{  
    return (is_roottask_space(space);  
}
```

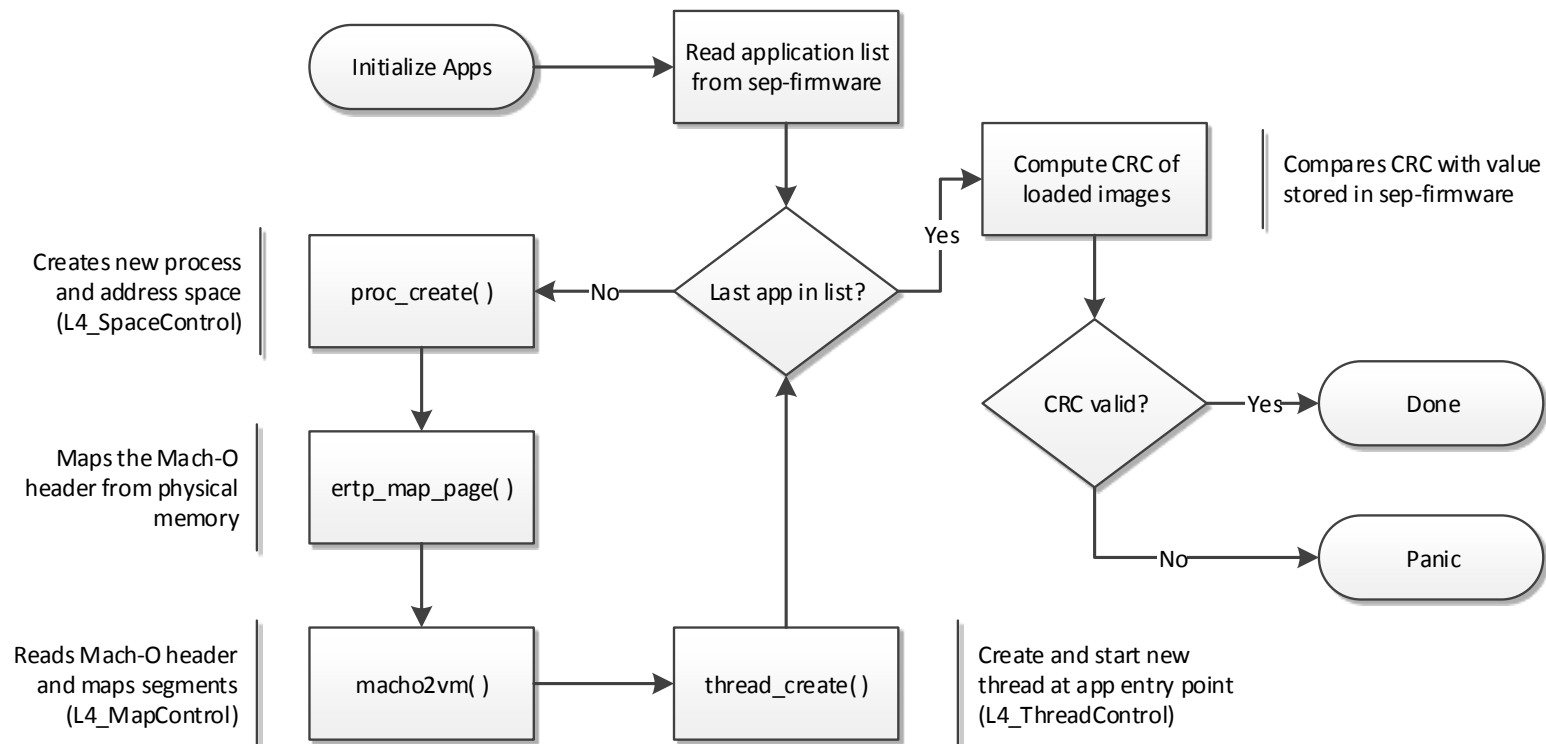
Check for root task in
L4_SpaceControl
system call

from darbat 0.2 source

SEPOS (INIT)

- Initial process on boot (root task)
 - Can call any privileged L4 system call
- Initializes and starts all remaining tasks
 - Processes an application list embedded by the sep-firmware
- Maintains a context structure for each task
 - Includes information about the virtual address space, privilege level, threads, etc.
- Invokes the bootstrap server

SEPOS App Initialization



Application List

- Includes information about all applications embedded by the SEP firmware
 - Physical address (offset)
 - Virtual base address
 - Module name and size
 - Entry point
- Found 0xEC8 bytes prior to the SEPOS binary in the sep-firmware image

Application List

Virtual address	Size	Entry point	Physical address (offset)		
8:3130h:	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 30 08 00	00 00 00 000.....
8:3140h:	00 70 00 00	00 A0 01 00	24 AD 00 00	53 45 50 4F	.p... ..\$-..SEPO
8:3150h:	53 20 20 20	20 20 20 20	7E B4 9A A9	69 A3 31 AD	S ~'š@i£1-
8:3160h:	AC C5 36 20	02 B4 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	-Å6&ûir'.Đ.....
8:3170h:	00 80 00 00	02 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	53 45 50 44	.€.....ðÑ..SEPD
8:3180h:	72 69 76 65	72 73 20 20	21 FD 1E 70	E2 D9 3F 8A	rivers !ý.pâÛ?Š
8:3190h:	BD 92 CF 1A	0F 09 82 BE	00 D0 0B 00	00 00 00 00	½' ï...,¾.Đ.....
8:31A0h:	00 80 00 00	00 60 01 00	A8 24 01 00	73 65 70 53	.€...`..."\$..sepS
8:31B0h:	65 72 76 69	63 65 73 20	92 5B CA 76	39 7B 30 0F	ervices '[Êv9{0.
8:31C0h:	82 3C 13 D3	6D 81 54 90	00 30 0D 00	00 00 00 00	,<.Óm.T..0.....
8:31D0h:	00 80 00 00	00 10 01 00	E0 0F 01 00	41 52 54 4D	.€.....à...ARTM
8:31E0h:	61 6E 61 67	65 72 20 20	29 DD B6 85	EC 0F 38 3C	anager)Ýŕ...ì.8<
8:31F0h:	A4 23 65 CB	88 E5 7A 7A	00 40 0E 00	00 00 00 00	¤#eË^âzz.@.....
8:3200h:	00 10 00 00	00 60 07 00	88 75 01 00	73 6B 73 20`..^u..sks
8:3210h:	20 20 20 20	20 20 20 20	FC 1A 5C 06	A6 8D 31 12	ü.\. .1.

Bootstrap Server

- Implements the core functionality of SEPOS
 - Exports methods for system, thread and object (memory) management
- Made available to SEP applications over RPC via the embedded runtime
 - `ert_rpc_bootstrap_server()`
- Enable applications to perform otherwise privileged operations
 - E.g. create a new thread

Privileged Methods

- An application must be privileged to invoke certain bootstrap server methods
 - Query object/process/acl/mapping information
- Privilege level is determined at process creation
 - Process name \geq 'A ' and \leq 'ZZZZ'
 - E.g. "SEPD" (SEPDrivers)
- Check is done by each individual method
 - `proc_has_privilege(int pid);`

sepos_object_acl_info()

```
int sepos_object_acl_info(int *args)
{
    int result;
    int prot;
    int pid;

    args[18] = 1;
    *((_BYTE *)args + 104) = 1;
    result = proc_has_privilege( args[1] );
    if ( result == 1 )
    {
        result = acl_get( args[5], args[6], &pid, &prot);
        if ( !result )
        {
            args[18] = 0;
            args[19] = prot;
            args[20] = pid;
            result = 1;
            *((_BYTE *)args + 104) = 1;
        }
    }
    return result;
}
```

Call to check if sender's
pid is privileged

Entitlements

- Some methods also require special entitlements
 - `sepos_object_create_phys()`
 - `sepos_object_remap()`
- Seeks to prevent unprivileged applications from mapping arbitrary physical memory
- Assigned to a process on launch
 - Separate table used to determine entitlements

Entitlement Assignment

```
int proc_create( int name )
{
    int privileged = 0;

    ...

    if ( ( name >= 'A ' ) && ( name <= 'ZZZZ' ) )
        privileged = 1;

    proctab[ pid ].privileged = privileged;
    proctab[ pid ].entitlements = 0;

    while ( privileged_tasks[ 2 * i ] != name )
        if ( ++i == 3 )
            return pid;

    proctab[ pid ].entitlements = privileged_tasks[ 2 * i + 1 ];

    return pid;
}
```

```
; _DWORD privileged_tasks[10]
privileged_tasks DCD 'SEPD'
; int[]
DCD 2
DCD 'ARTM'
DCD 6
DCD 'Debu'
DCD 6
DCD 0
DCD 0
```

Entitlement Assignment

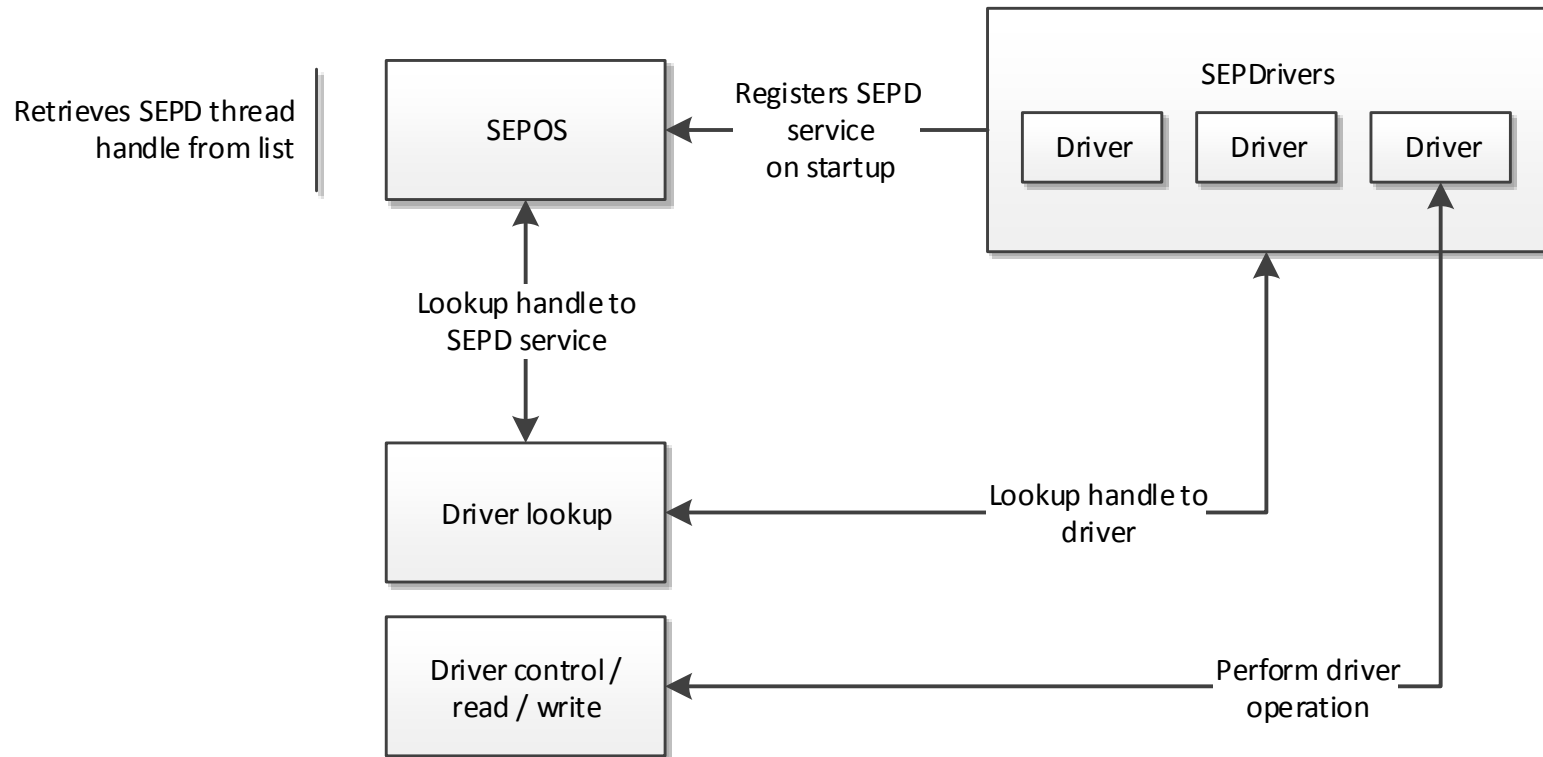
Task Name	Entitlements
SEPDrivers	MAP_PHYS
ARTManager/ARTMate	MAP_PHYS MAP_SEP
Debug	MAP_PHYS MAP_SEP

- MAP_PHYS (2)
 - Required in order to access (map) a physical region
- MAP_SEP (4)
 - Same as above, but also needed if the physical region targets SEP memory

SEP Drivers

- Hosts all SEP drivers
 - AKF, TRNG, Expert, GPIO, PMGR, etc.
 - Implemented entirely in user-mode
- Maps the device I/O registers for each driver
 - Enables low-level driver operations
- Exposed to SEP applications using a dedicated driver API
 - Includes functions for lookup, control, read, and write

Driver Interaction



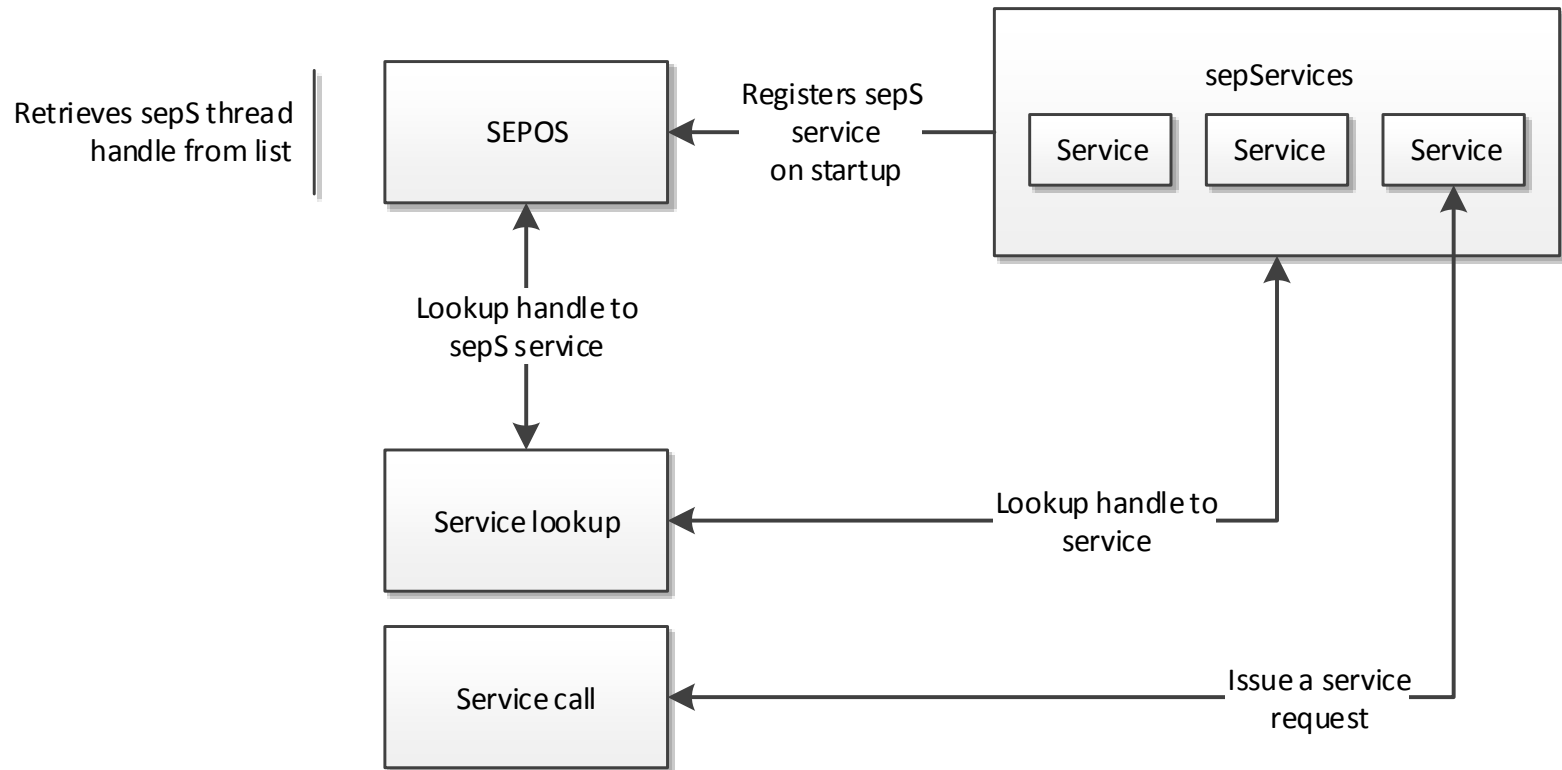
AKF Driver

- Manages AP/SEP endpoints in SEPOS
- Handles control (EPO) requests
 - E.g. sets up objects for reply and response OOL buffers
- SEP applications may register new endpoints to handle specific AP requests
 - AKF_ENDPOINT_REGISTER (0x412C) control request

SEP Services

- Hosts various SEP related services
 - Secure Key Generation Service
 - Test Service
 - Anti Replay Service
 - Entitlement Service
- Usually implemented on top of drivers
- Service API provided to SEP applications
 - `service_lookup(...)`
 - `service_call(...)`

Service Interaction



SEP Applications

- Primarily designed to support various drivers running in the AP
 - `AppleSEPKeyStore` → `sks`
 - `AppleSEPCredentialManager` → `scrd`
- Some apps are only found on certain devices
 - E.g. SSE is only present on iPhone 6 and later
- May also be exclusive to development builds
 - E.g. Debug application

Attacking SEP

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

Attack Surface: SEPOS

- Mostly comprises the methods in which data is communicated between AP and SEP
 - Mailbox (endpoints)
 - Shared request/reply buffers
- Assumes that an attacker already has obtained AP kernel level privileges
 - Can execute arbitrary code under EL1

Attack Surface: AKF Endpoints

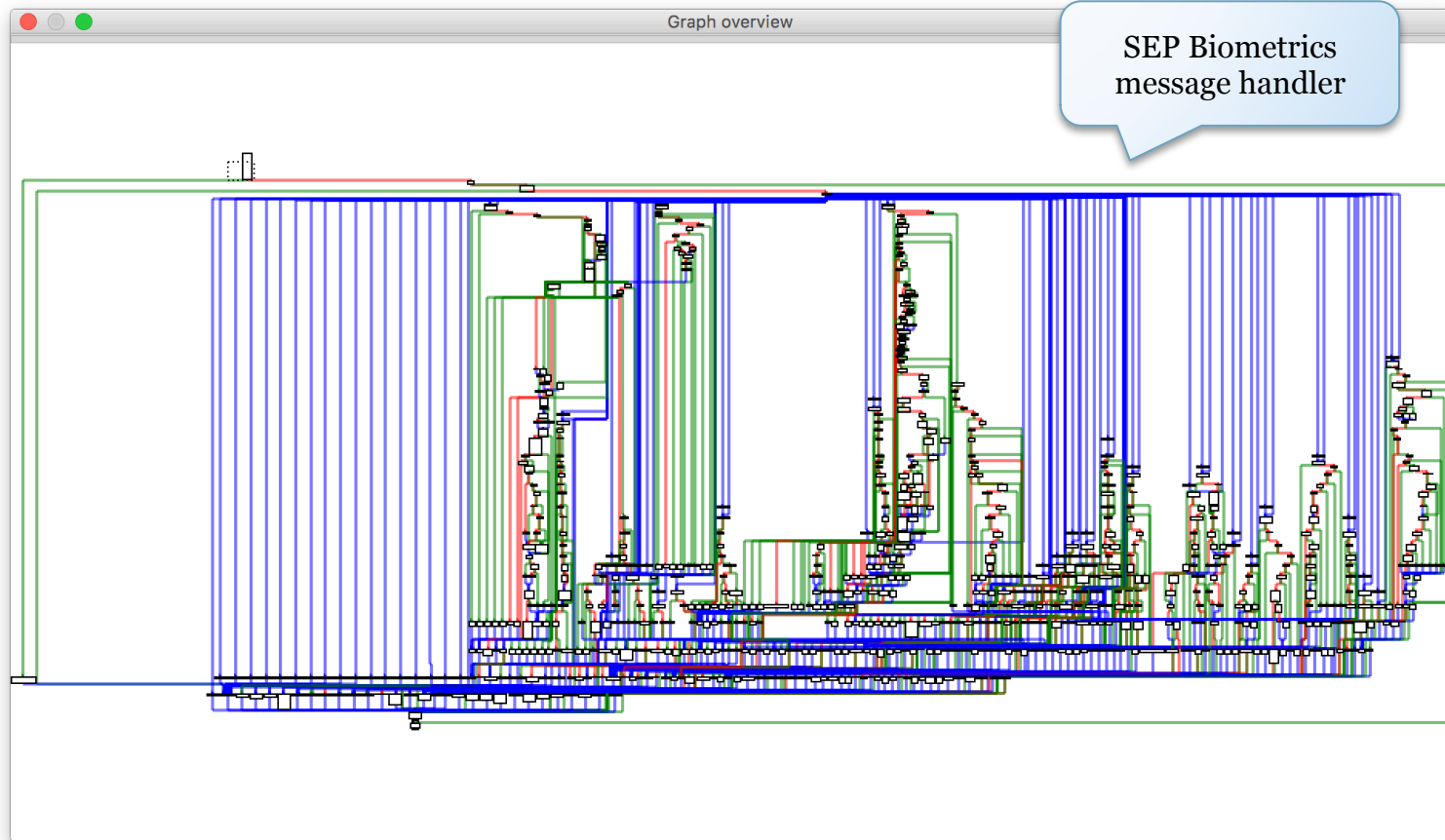
- Every endpoint registered with AKF is a potential target
 - Includes both SEP drivers and applications
- Does not require an endpoint to be registered with the SEP Manager (AP)
 - Can write messages to the mailbox directly
 - Alternatively, we can register our own endpoint with SEP Manager

Attack Surface: AKF Endpoints

Endpoint	Owner	OOL In	OOL Out	Notes
0	SEPD/epo			
1	SEPD/ep1		✓	
2	ARTM	✓	✓	iPhone 6 and prior
3	ARTM	✓	✓	iPhone 6 and prior
7	sks	✓	✓	
8	sbio/sbio	✓	✓	
10	scrd/scrd	✓	✓	
12	sse/sse	✓	✓	iPhone 6 and later

List of AKF registered endpoints (iOS 9) and their use of out-of-line request and reply buffers

Attack Surface: Endpoint Handler



Attack Robustness

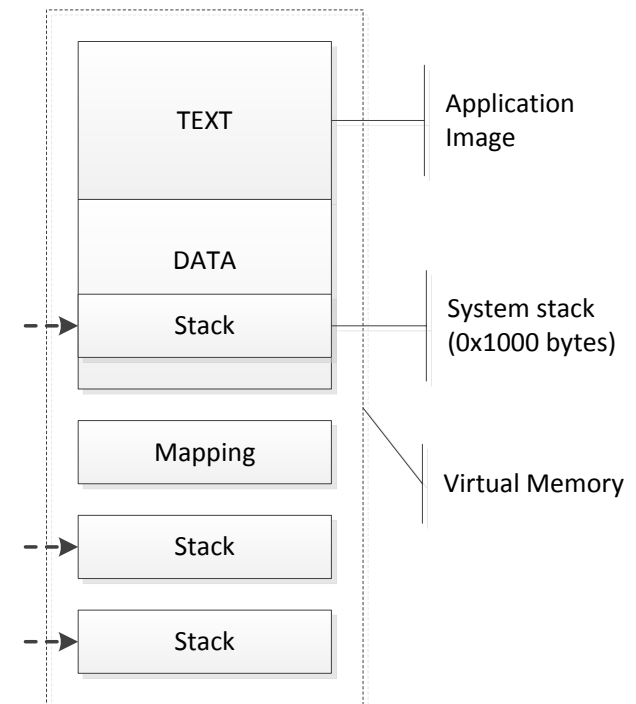
- How much effort is required to exploit a SEP vulnerability?
 - E.g. stack/heap corruption
- Determined by several factors
 - Address space layout
 - Allocator (heap) hardening
 - Exploit mitigations
 - And more

Address Space Layout

- SEP applications are loaded at their preferred base address
 - No image base randomization
 - Typically based at 0x1000 or 0x8000 (depending on presence of pagezero segment)
- Segments without a valid memory protection mask ($\neq 0$) are ignored
 - E.g. `__PAGEZERO` is never “mapped”

Stack Corruptions

- The main thread of a SEP application uses an image embedded stack
 - A corruption could overwrite adjacent DATA segment data
- Thread stacks of additional threads spawned by SEPOS are mapped using objects
 - Allocated with gaps → “guard pages”



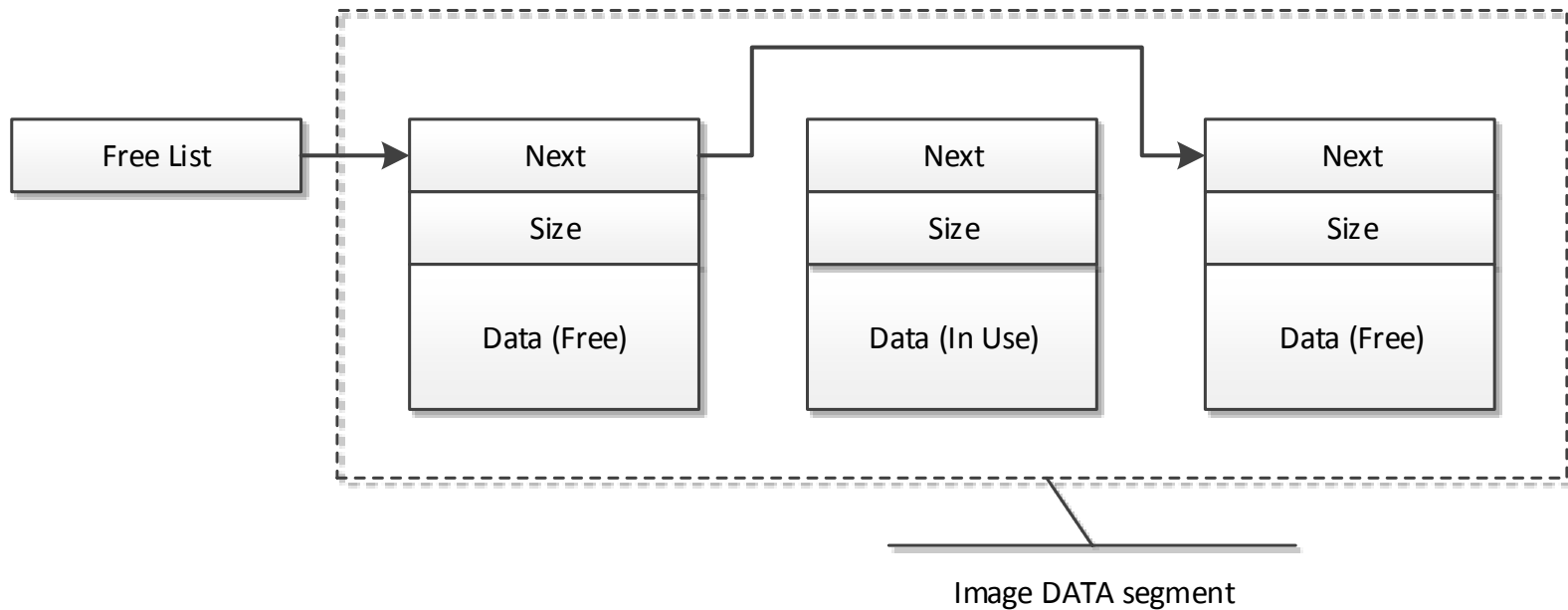
Stack Corruptions

- SEP applications are compiled with stack cookie protection
 - Cookie value is fixed to 'GARD'
 - Trivial to forge/bypass
- Stack addresses are in most cases known
 - Main thread stack is at a known address
 - Addresses of subsequent thread stacks are predictable

Heap Corruptions: malloc()

- Runtime allocator leveraged by SEP applications
 - K&R implementation
- Singly linked free list (ordered by size) with header that includes pointer and block size
 - `struct Header { void * ptr, size_t size };`
 - Coalesces adjacent elements on `free()`
- Size of heap determined on initialization
 - `malloc_init(malloc_base, malloc_top);`
 - Non-expandable

Heap Corruptions: malloc()



Heap Corruptions: malloc()

- No protection of heap metadata
 - Free list pointers can be overwritten
 - Block size can be corrupted
- Allocation addresses are predictable
 - Malloc area embedded by `__DATA` segment in application image
 - Allocations made in sequential order

No-Execute Protection

- SEPOS implements no-execute protection
- Always set when a page is not marked as executable
 - `space_t::map_fpage()`
 - Sets both XN and PXN bits in page table entries
- Non-secure (NS) bit also set for all pages outside SEP memory region

SEPOS Mitigations Summary

Mitigation	Present	Notes
Stack Cookie Protection	Yes (...)	'GARD' – mostly ineffective
Memory Layout Randomization		
User	No	
Kernel	No	Image base: 0xF0001000
Stack Guard Pages	Yes/No	Not for main thread
Heap Metadata Protection	No	
Null-Page Protection	No	Must be root task to map page
No-Execute Protection	Yes	Both XN and PXN

Attack Surface: BootROM

- Effectively only two major attack surfaces
 - IMG4 Parser
 - Memory Corruption
 - Logic Flaws
 - Hardware based
- Only minor anti-exploit mitigations present
 - No ASLR
 - Basic stack guard
 - One decent bug = game over

Attacking IMG4

- ASN.1 is a very tricky thing to pull off well
 - Multiple vulns in OpenSSL, NSS, ASN1C, etc
- LibDER itself actually rather solid
 - “Unlike most other DER packages, this one does no malloc or copies when it encodes or decodes”
 - LibDER’s readme.txt
 - KISS design philosophy
- But the wrapping code that calls it may not be
 - Audit seutil and friends
 - Code is significantly more complex than libDER itself

Attack Surface: Hardware

- Memory corruption attacks against data receivers on peripheral lines
 - SPI
 - I2C
 - UART
- Side Channel/Differential Power Analysis
 - Stick to the A7 (newer ones are more resistant)
- Glitching
 - Standard Clock/Voltage Methods
 - Others

External RAM

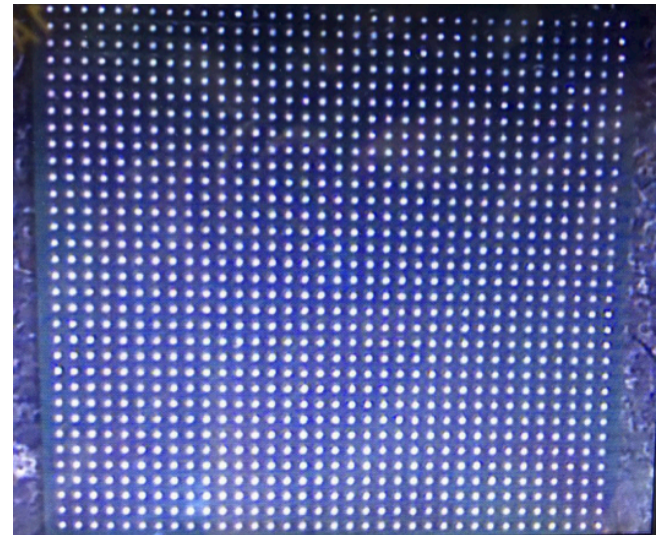
- Encrypted memory has no validation.
 - Can corrupt bits of SEP memory
- When generating the encryption key the “random component” is temporarily stored unencrypted in external RAM.
 - This may allow an attacker to influence generation of the final memory encryption key

Attacking the Fuse Array

- Potentially one of the most invasive attack vectors
 - Requires a lot of patience
 - High likelihood of bricking
- Laser could be used
 - Expensive method - not for us
- Primary targets
 - Production Mode
 - Security Mode

End Game: JTAG

- Glitch the fuse sensing routines
 - Requires a 2000+ pin socket
 - Need to bypass CRC and fuse sealing
 - “FSRC” Pin - A line into fuse array?
- Attack the IMG4 Parser
 - What exactly do DSEC and DPRO really do?



A8 SoC Pins

Conclusion

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

Conclusion

- SEP(OS) was designed with security in mind
 - Mailbox interface
 - Privilege separation
- However, SEP(OS) lacks basic exploit protections
 - E.g. no memory layout randomization
- Some SEP applications expose a significant attack surface
 - E.g. SEP biometrics application

Conclusion (Continued)

- Overall hardware design is light years ahead of competitors
 - Hardware Filter
 - Inline Encrypted RAM
 - Generally small attack surface
- But it does have its weaknesses
 - Shared PMGR and PLL are open to attacks
 - Inclusion of the fuse source pin should be re-evaluated
 - The demotion functionality appears rather dangerous
 - Why does JTAG over lightning even exist?

Thanks!

- Ryan Mallon
- Daniel Borca
- Anonymous reviewers

Bonus Slides

Demystifying the Secure Enclave Processor

SEPOS: System Methods

Class	Id	Method	Description	Priv
0	0	sepos_proc_getpid()	Get the process pid	
0	1	sepos_proc_find_service()	Find a registered service by name	
0	1001	sepos_proc_limits()	Query process limit information	x
0	1002	sepos_proc_info()	Query process information	
0	1003	sepos_thread_info()	Query information for thread	
0	1004	sepos_thread_info_by_tid()	Query information for thread id	
0	1100	sepos_grant_capability()	-	x
0	2000	sepos_panic()	Panic the operating system	

SEPOS: Object Methods (1 / 2)

Class	Id	Method	Description	Priv
1	0	sepos_object_create()	Create an anonymous object	
1	1	sepos_object_create_phys()	Create an object from a physical region	x (*)
1	2	sepos_object_map()	Map an object in a task's address space	
1	3	sepos_object_unmap()	Unmap an object (not implemented)	
1	4	sepos_object_share()	Share an object with a task	
1	5	sepos_object_access()	Query the access control list of an object	
1	6	sepos_object_remap()	Remap the physical region of an object	x (*)
1	7	sepos_object_share2()	Share manifest with task	

SEPOS: Object Methods (2/2)

Class	Id	Method	Description	Priv
1	1001	sepos_object_object_info()	Query object information	x
1	1002	sepos_object_mapping_info()	Query mapping information	x
1	1003	sepos_object_proc_info()	Query process information	x
1	1004	sepos_object_acl_info()	Query access control list information	x

SEPOS: Thread Methods

Class	Id	Method	Description	Priv
2	0	sepos_thread_create()	Create a new thread	
2	1	sepos_thread_kill()	Kill a thread (not implemented)	
2	2	sepos_thread_set_name()	Set a service name for a thread	
2	3	sepos_thread_get_info()	Get thread information	