

IDF2013

INTEL DEVELOPER FORUM

Build Safety from Bare Metal - Practices on Hardening and Harnessing the Secure Platform

Dong Wei, Fellow, HP

Qin Long, Software Architect, Intel

Jie Shen, Senior Security Consultant, McAfee Inc.

PTAS002

Sponsors of Tomorrow: 

Agenda

- Overview of UEFI and its Security Handling
- Platform Hardening Practices
- McAfee* Endpoint Encryption and Secure Boot



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URL is on top of Session Agenda Pages in Pocket Guide

Overview of UEFI and Its Security Handling

Dong Wei

Fellow, Hewlett Packard
VP, UEFI Forum



Latest Updates from UEFI Forum

- Linux Foundation has signed the agreement to become a UEFI Forum Contributor
- UEFI 2.3.1d errata available soon
- UEFI 2.3.1c SCT Final Draft soon
- UEFI 2.4 reaches content complete
- PI 1.3 reaches content complete
- Future of UEFI with system configuration and management considerations



Real World!

Researchers find attack on Millions of printers

Can a hacker take control of your printer? Using it to sniff information from the network, steal confidential information, or even attack other machines. Researchers have found an attack impacting millions of printers around the world.

Link Discovered Between TDSS Rootkit and DNSChanger Trojan

TDSS rootkit, the sophisticated and difficult to remove malware behind many advanced attacks also appears to have helped spread the DNSChanger Trojan.

Researcher finds attack on Apple battery firmware. [Blackhat 2011]

The firmware used to control the charging of Apple's laptop batteries could be attacked by malware. Allowing the attacker to potentially override safety mechanism which could lead to an attack.

Is Mebroot the stealthiest Rootkit in the world?

Federal agents raided unnamed operators of the Rustock "botnet" vast network of computers around the globe infected with malicious software that allows distribution of huge volumes of spam.

Advanced Persistent Attacks: BIOS Rootkit - "Mebromi"

Hamza Sirag, Nihant Boudugula, Rishabh Gupta
Graduate School of Computer Science, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

1. Abstract

As cyberspace has evolved malware has also evolved. According to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, malware is defined as malicious software that consists of programming (code, scripts, active content, and other software) designed to damage, deny, or

vulnerabilities associated with Mebromi, the tools that take advantage of those technological vulnerabilities, mitigation of the technological vulnerabilities, future of advanced persistent attacks, future of BIOS targeting, and provide a conclusion summarizing our research.

DE MYSTERIIS DOM JOBSIVS: EFI ROOTKITS

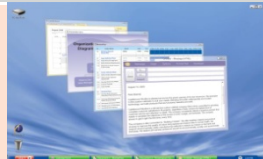
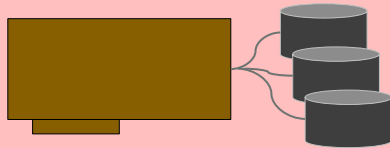
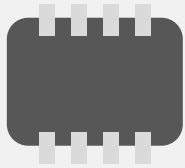
SNARE
@ SYSCAN SINGAPORE
APRIL 2012



assurance

Assets & Threats

Reset



Assets

BIOS Flash

Hardware protection

System BIOS

- PEI recovery
- SMM, UEFI Core
- PK, KEK, CRTM

Option ROMs

UEFI drivers

Network Boot

IPv6 for the cloud

Pre-OS UEFI application

OS Boot loader

Threats

ROM Swap
Bit rot

Erase flash part
Overwrite flash part

Erase op ROM
Overwrite op ROM

Network attacks

Spoof UEFI application

Different colors for different vendors



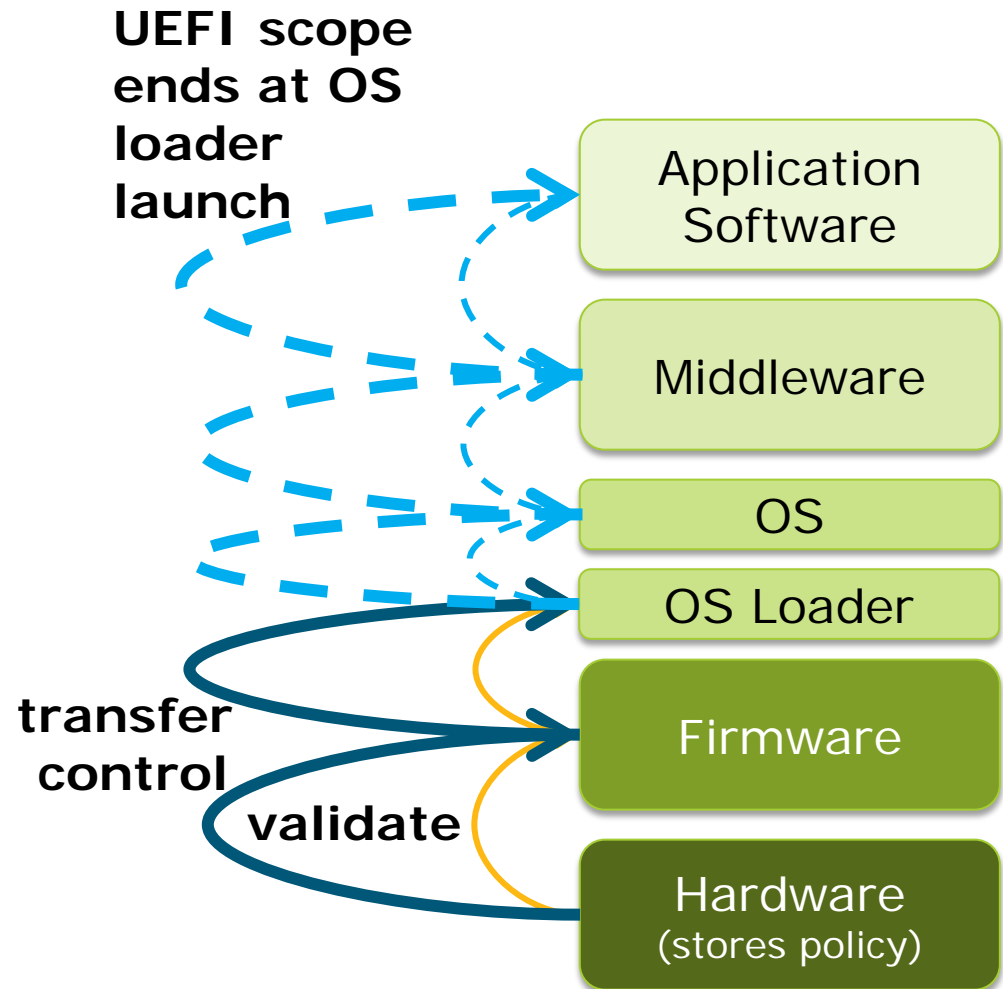
UEFI Security – Motivation & History

- As OS becomes more resistant to attack, the threat targets the weakest element in the chain
- History
 - Phoenix* initiated the discussion on the need for secure boot
 - USST (UEFI Security Sub-team) formed to address the topic
 - The secure boot architecture was defined in the UEFI 2.3 Specification
 - Microsoft* contributed additional capabilities for UEFI 2.3.1 Specification
 - Append support for the authenticated variables
 - Timestamp-based authenticated variable for roll-back protection
 - Authenticode specification for use in UEFI
 - UEFI Secure Boot support in Windows* 8

UEFI Security Enabling is an Industry Effort

UEFI Secure Boot: Enforcing Boot Policy

- The concept of UEFI secure boot is to have each component in the chain be **validated and authorized** against a given policy before allowing it to execute
- UEFI secure boot policy implementations can range from digital signatures to preloaded hash values...



Securing the Stack from Bare Metal

- UEFI 2.3.1 security enhancements specifically address the “secure boot” issue
- Securing the firmware itself further strengthens the UEFI Secure Boot concept
 - *How is the firmware update protected?*
 - *How is the firmware put into “admin mode”?*
- NIST has created *BIOS Protection Guidelines*
 - Secure Flash* update requirements
 - Maintain firmware core root of trust
- UEFI 2.3.1 contains the framework to develop secure Flash update



Platform Hardening Practices

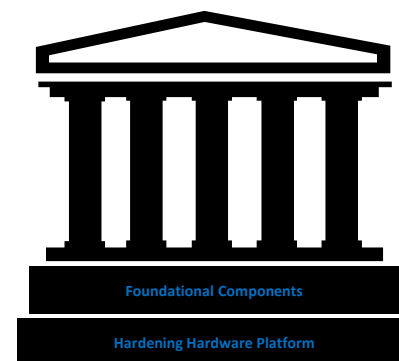
Qin Long

Software Architect, Intel Corporation



Design in Security From the Start

- Practice defense in depth
 - Use several protection layers when designing and implementing security mechanisms
- Do not rely on security by obscurity
- Fail intelligently, Fail Safe and Fail Secure
 - Don't provide hints to hackers (e.g., by disclosing information on failure)
 - Log errors and failures for auditing
- Check all return values
- Keep security critical code short and simple



Development Practices – Code Review

- Avoid unsafe calls (e.g., gets() equivalent)
- ASSERTs that should be error checking
- Check for valid input and reject everything else
- Perform sanity checks and bound checks – Check Type, Length, Range, Format
- Validate as much and as deep as possible to prevent unintended errors if code is changed; balance against coding time/performance
- Be careful of boundary conditions (e.g., off-by-one errors, array indices) and conditionals (e.g., reverse logic)
- Don't implement your own crypto algorithms or protocols

Defensive Coding – Adding Robustness

- Validate input before using
 - Network packet
 - On-disk data structures/GPT
 - UEFI Variables
 - Device paths
- Storing secrets
 - Avoid if possible
 - Clear buffers to zero when done
- Key management
 - Access control storage to PI elements. SMM based authenticated variable driver in Intel® UDK2010.
- Fuzz testing
 - SCTs (Self-Certification Tests) – positive testing “Does it work with expected input”?
 - Fuzzing is negative testing “What happens with unexpected input?”



It's not just functional verification

Example of Safe Versus Unsafe Code

Example: Validate all input

```
PartEntry = AllocatePool (PrimaryHeader->NumberOfPartitionEntries  
                          * sizeof (EFI_PARTITION_ENTRY));  
Status = DiskIo->ReadDisk (  
    DiskIo,  
    MediaId,  
    MultU64x32(PrimaryHeader->PartitionEntryLBA, BlockSize),  
    PrimaryHeader->NumberOfPartitionEntries * (PrimaryHeader->SizeOfPartitionEntry),  
    PartEntry  
);
```

Problem:

- The memory is allocated with **A**
- However, ReadDisk block is with **B**
- Buffer overflow occurs when the code reads a GPT with **C**

Fix:

```
PartEntry = AllocatePool (PrimaryHeader->NumberOfPartitionEntries  
                          * PrimaryHeader->SizeOfPartitionEntry);
```

Rationale for Input Validation

UDK2010 example:

<http://edk2.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/edk2/trunk/edk2/MdeModulePkg/Universal/Disk/PartitionDxe/Gpt.c>

Technologies – Putting it Together

Reset



Assets

BIOS Flash

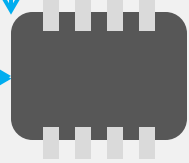
Hardware protection

Threats

ROM Swap
Bit rot

Intel®
Silicon

TCG Measurements into PCRs 0..7

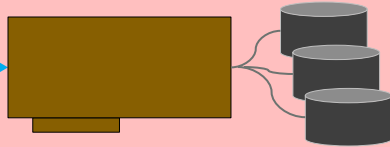


System BIOS

-PEI recovery
-SMM,UEFI Core
-PK, KEK, CRTM

Erase flash part
Overwrite flash part

SP800
-147
Capsules



Option ROMs

UEFI drivers

Erase op ROM
Overwrite op ROM

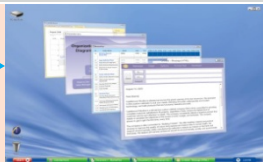
UEFI
2.3.1c



Network Boot

IPv6 for the cloud

Network attacks



Pre-OS UEFI application

OS Boot loader,

*McAfee**

Endpoint Encryption

Spoof UEFI application

Different colors for different vendors



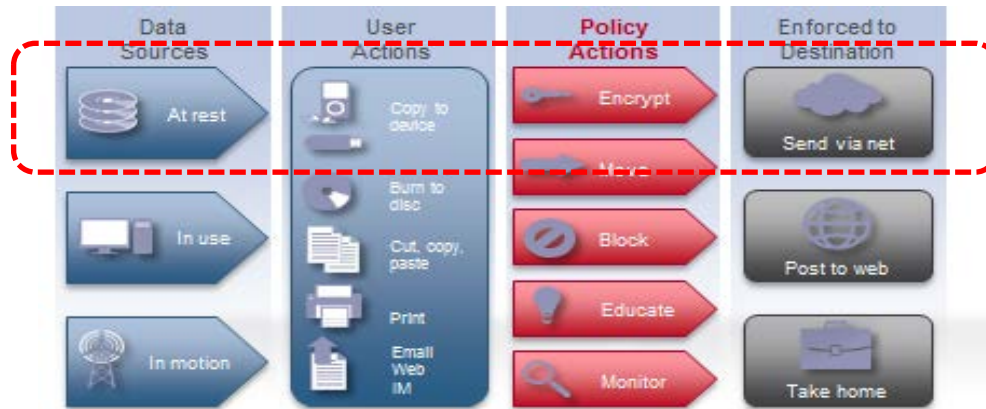
McAfee* Endpoint Encryption & Secure Boot

Jie Shen

Senior Security Consultant, McAfee Inc.

Product Overview

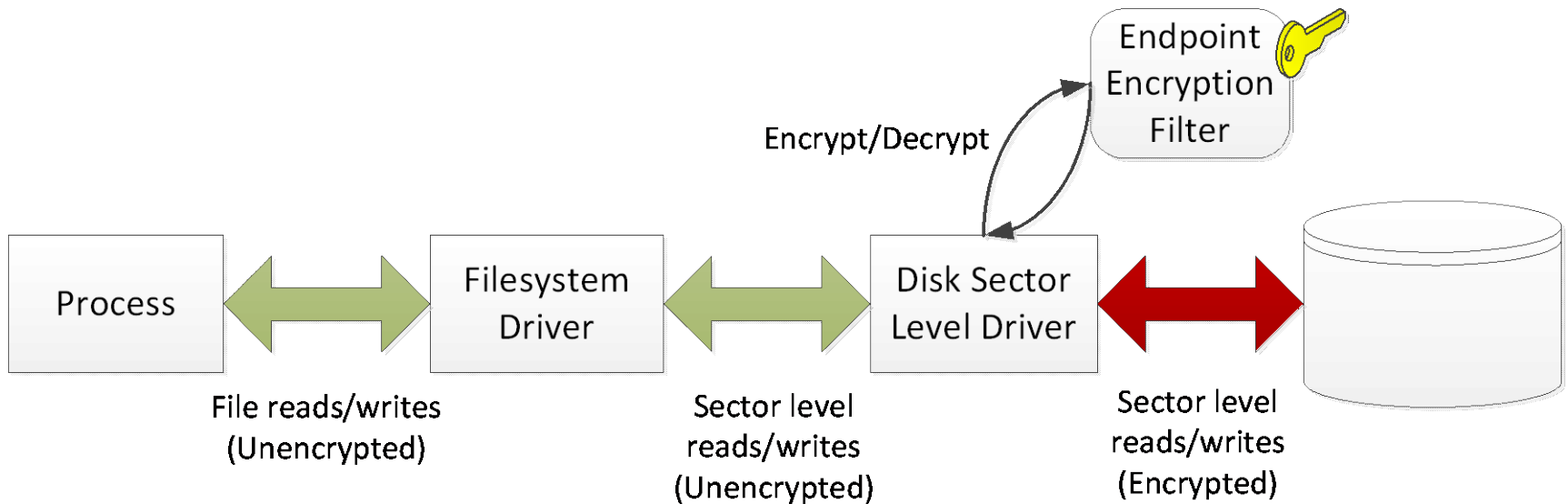
- McAfee* endpoint encryption is a Full Disk Encryption product
 - Provides “data at rest” protection



- Operating system data and user data is encrypted **at the sector level**
- Strong encryption algorithms protect data
 - Various methods of encrypting data are available
 - Software based AES256 CBC (Cipher Block Chaining)
 - Hardware accelerated AES256 CBC using AES-NI instructions
 - Self encrypting disks

What is Full Disk Encryption?

- Encrypts data at the sector level
 - The product has no knowledge of directories or files
 - The encryption is completely transparent to the file system
 - A disk can be partially encrypted and still operate normally; this allows the system to be encrypted online



Encrypted Disk Unlock

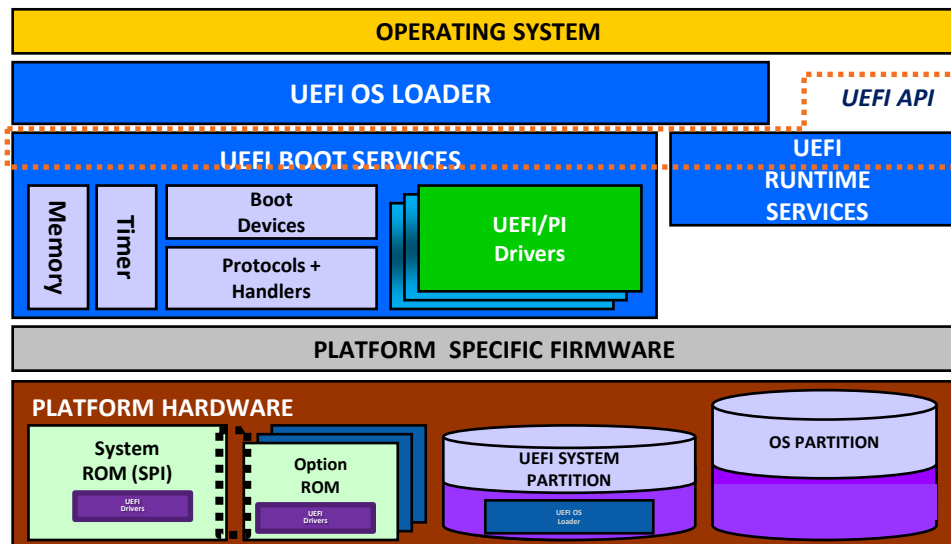
- Encrypted disk data cannot be accessed until a user authenticates and the encryption key is obtained
- Operating system kernel and critical files lie within the encrypted data on disk
- A “Pre-Boot Application” (PBA) is required to authenticate and unlock the disk



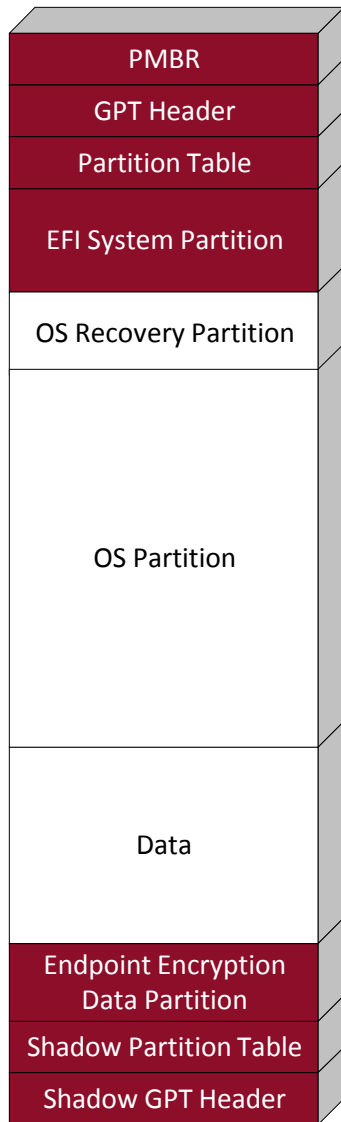
- User authenticates using token; password, smartcard, recovery process, etc.
- Once authenticated, the token releases the disk encryption key
- The disk encryption key is used to gain access to the encrypted data on disk

The McAfee* Endpoint Encryption PBA

- A UEFI application
 - Started by the UEFI Boot Manager **before** the Windows* bootloader
 - Uses **standard UEFI protocols** for GUI implementation (Graphics Output Protocol, Simple Pointer Protocol, etc.)
 - Supports USB smartcard readers and tokens using standard USB protocol

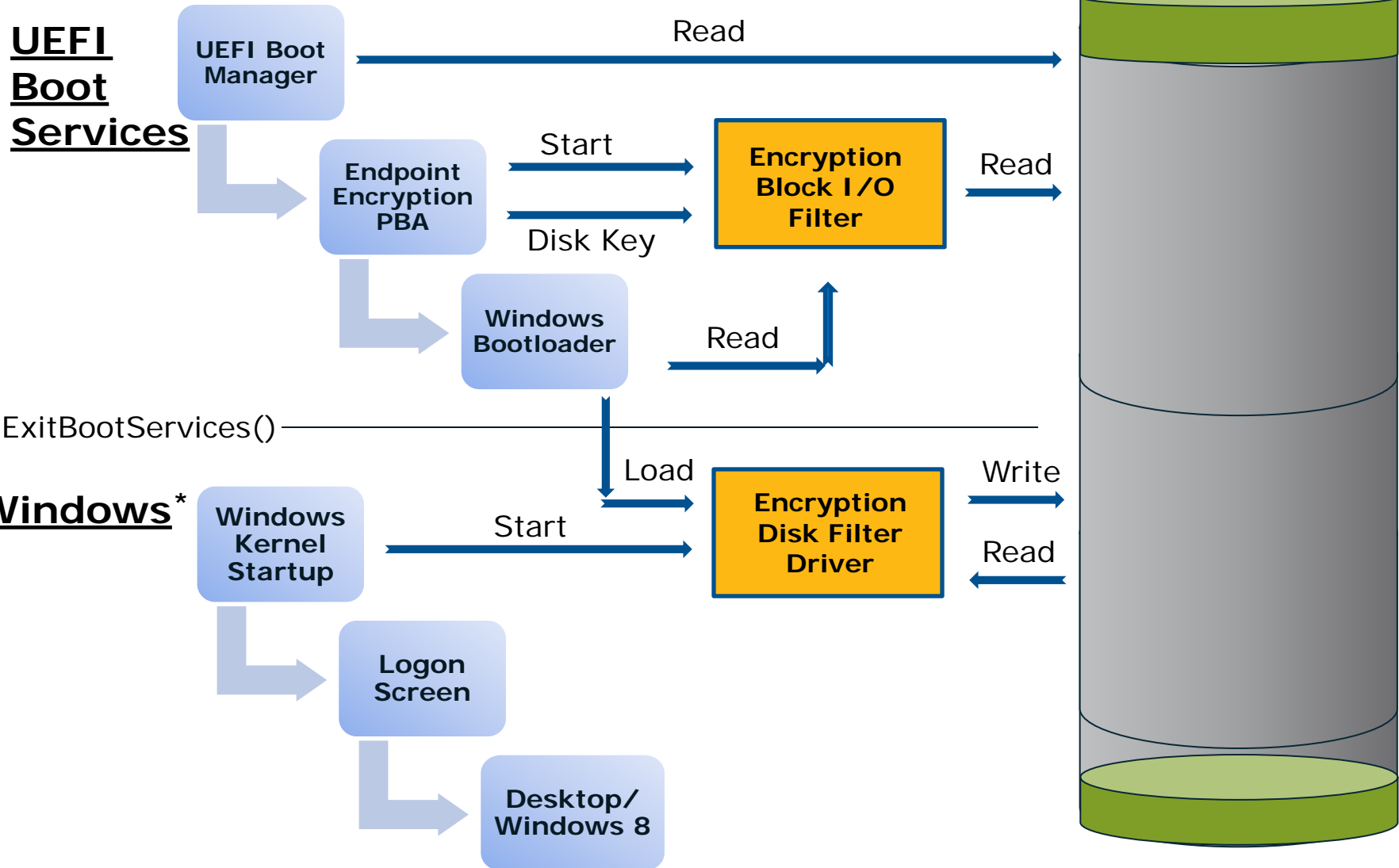


GPT Disks: What's Encrypted?



- Protective **MBR, GPT Headers and Partition Tables** cannot be encrypted
 - The data in these regions is required before the disk is unlocked
 - The disk would not be recognised as a valid GPT disk and the system would be unable to boot
- **EFI System Partition** cannot be encrypted
 - Contains the executable McAfee* Endpoint Encryption preboot application image that is run by the UEFI Boot Manager
 - Also contains the Block I/O driver that performs the sector level encryption/decryption when authenticated
- **Endpoint Encryption Data Partition** cannot be encrypted
 - Contains themes and localisation data for PBA
 - Contains database of users and token data
 - All data is required by the PBA prior to the disk being unlocked

The Boot Process



Secure Boot Provides Benefits to Endpoint Encryption

- **Without Secure Boot**, the PBA is vulnerable to malware attacks; keyloggers, denial of service
- Tamper-resistant PBA provides platform for **checking integrity of configuration files** – signed policies

Maintain the Chain of Trust!

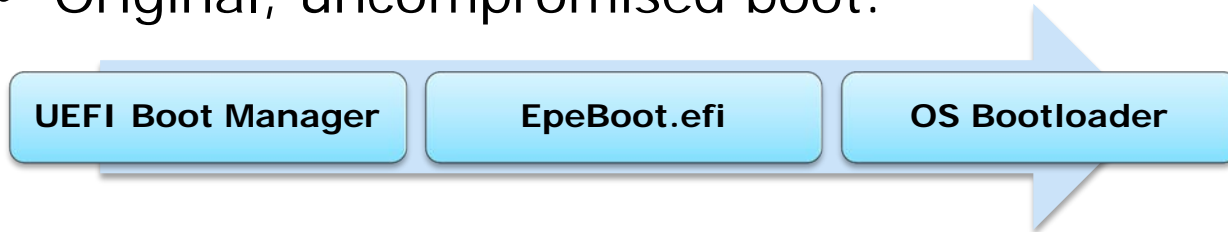
Malware Threat: Keylogger

```
A BS->LocateHandleBuffer(ByProtocol, &simple_text_input_ex_protocol_guid, NULL, &num_handles,
                          &handles);
for (i = 0; i < num_handles; ++i) {
B   BS->OpenProtocol(handles[i], &simple_text_input_ex_protocol_guid, &st, ImageHandle,
                      NULL, EFI_OPEN_PROTOCOL_GET_PROTOCOL);
C   hooked_protocols[i].st = st;
   hooked_protocols[i].orig_read_key_ex = st->ReadKeyStrokeEx;
   st->ReadKeyStrokeEx = keylogger_read_keystroke_ex;
}
D // Now chain load the original bootcode "EpeBoot.efi"
```

- All devices supporting `EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_INPUT_EX_PROTOCOL` are enumerated representing keyboards and input devices at **A**
- A pointer to each protocol is obtained at **B**
- The function pointer that is used to obtain keystrokes is replaced with a function that logs the keystrokes and chains to the original at **C**
- The keylogger application loads and executes the original subverted UEFI application at **D**

Malware Threat: Keylogger Installation

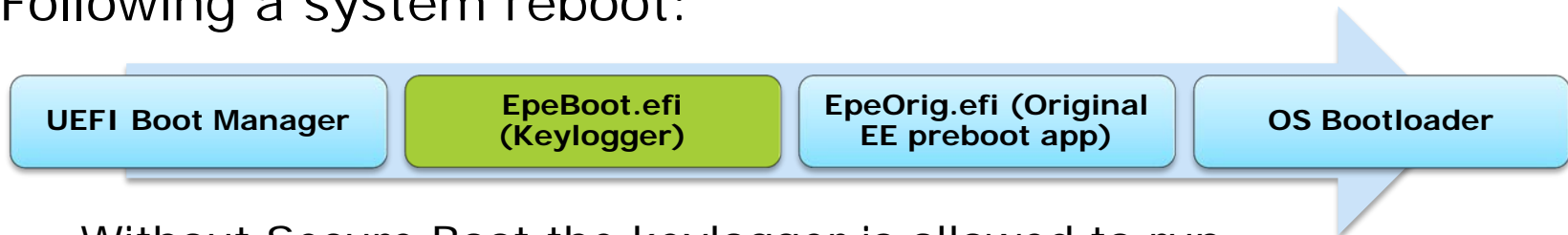
- Original, uncompromised boot:



- Without Secure Boot, installation of the keylogger is simple:

```
C:\> mountvol /s z:  
C:\> copy z:\EFI\McAfee\EpeBoot.efi z:\EFI\McAfee\EpeOrig.efi  
C:\> copy f:\keylogger.efi z:\EFI\McAfee\Epe\EpeBoot.efi
```

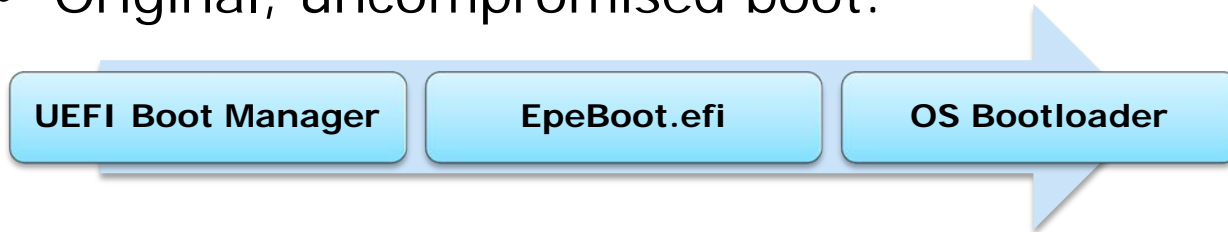
- Following a system reboot:



- Without Secure Boot the keylogger is allowed to run
- Endpoint Encryption PBA will execute but all keystrokes will be logged to disk

Malware Threat: Keylogger Installation

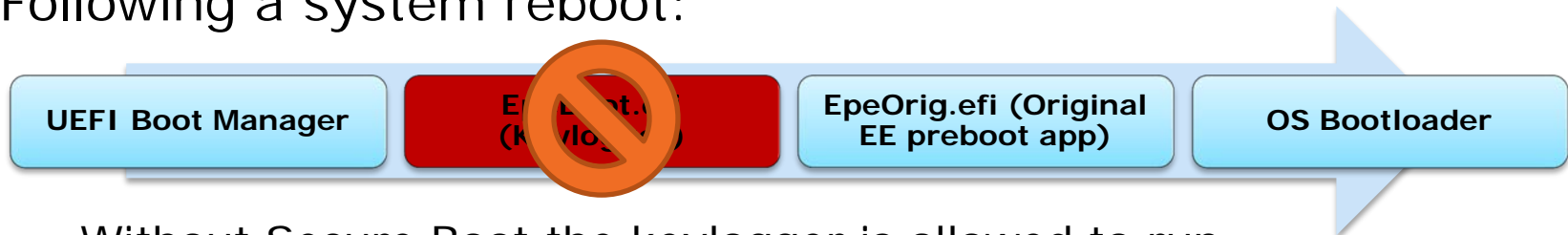
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```
C:\> mountvol /s z:  
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C:\> copy f:\keylogger.efi z:\EFI\McAfee\Epe\EpeBoot.efi
```

- Following a system reboot:

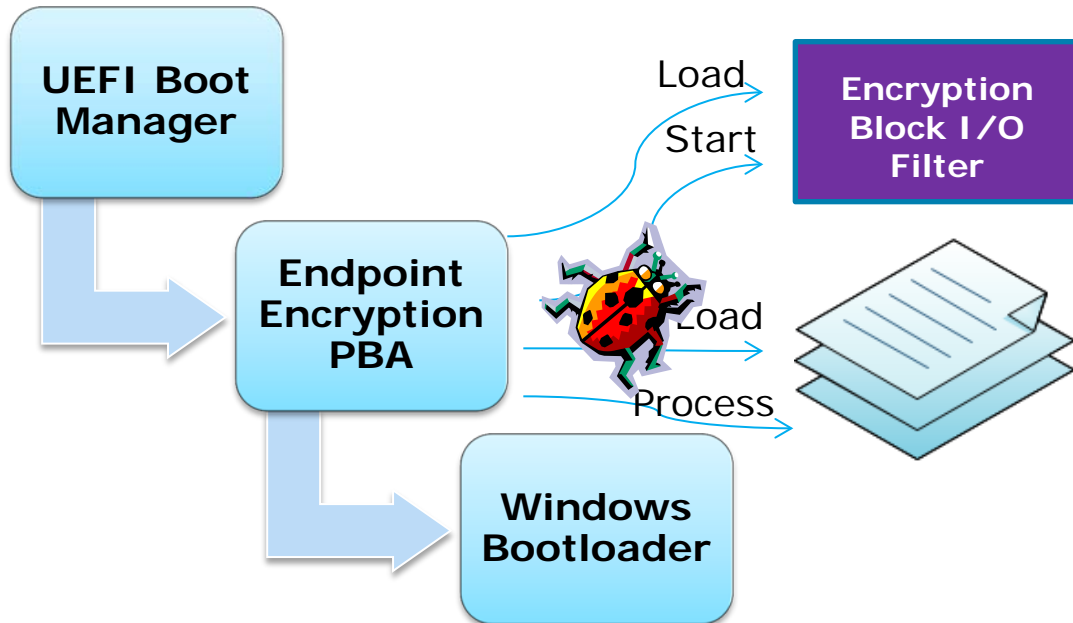


- Without Secure Boot the keylogger is allowed to run
- Endpoint Encryption PBA will execute but all keystrokes will be logged to disk

With Secure Boot, execution of the keylogger is prevented

What Can go Wrong?

- Even with Secure Boot the chain of trust can be broken if care is not taken



- Secure Boot ensures the Endpoint Encryption PBA and Windows* Bootloader are authentic
- PBA loads and executes Block I/O filter driver
- PBA loads and processes configuration and data files
- Careless coding may provide an exploitable bug to malware

Chain of Trust: Loadable Modules

- The Endpoint Encryption UEFI application allows for plugin modules
 - Used for adding support for USB smartcard readers
- **This poses a risk to the chain of trust**
 - It is the responsibility of the Endpoint Encryption UEFI application to ensure untrusted code cannot be executed
- The problem is easily solved:
 - Loadable modules are built as UEFI drivers
 - The modules are loaded using the Boot Services “LoadImage()” function
 - If the loadable module is not trusted by the platform, “LoadImage()” returns EFI_SECURITY_VIOLATION
 - **The chain of trust is maintained!**

Chain of Trust: Data Files

- Why are data files a threat to the Chain of Trust?
 - The McAfee* Endpoint Encryption PBA uses many configuration files
 - Malware may maliciously modify configuration files to attempt to crash the PBA
 - Modified configuration files can be engineered to execute malicious code
 - Common exploits overflow stack variables to modify function return address to jump to unauthorised code
 - ***The chain of trust is broken!***
- How can this be prevented?
 - **All** buffers that are populated from disk are carefully checked to prevent overflow
 - Data file signing can be used to verify authenticity of files

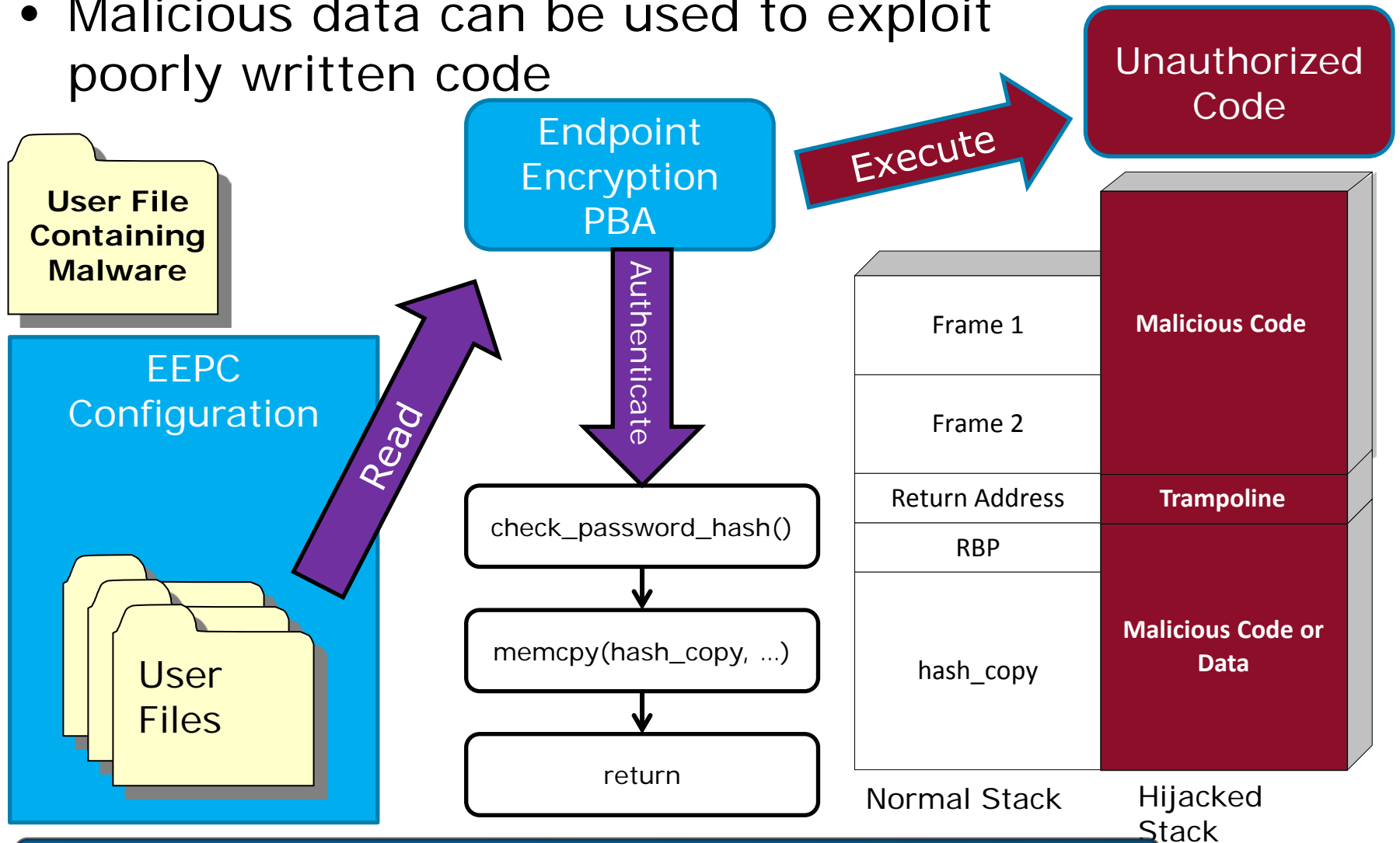
Data File Threat

```
A struct USER_DATA {  
    char    username[MAX_USERNAME_LENGTH + 1];  
    long    hash_length;  
    char    password_hash[MAX_PASSWORD_HASH_LENGTH];  
}  
  
int check_password_hash(USER_DATA* user_data, char* hash) {  
B char hash_copy[MAX_PASSWORD_HASH];  
    // Take a copy of the hash so we can modify the buffer  
    // !! No check to ensure the hash length is valid !!  
C memcpy(hash_copy, user_data->password_hash, user_data->hash_length);  
    // Perform some calculation on the copied buffer  
  
D return success;  
}
```

- Structure that mimics user file on disk is defined at **A**
- Fixed length buffer assigned on stack at **B**
- Memory copied from disk buffer to stack without validating input at **C**. Stack has been compromised.
- Return address **D** from function jumps to malicious code

Example: Malicious Data

- Malicious data can be used to exploit poorly written code



Validate all configuration and input!

Summary

- Platform security is maintained by a combination of hardware and software using many technologies and specifications
- UEFI Secure Boot is a vital part of the chain that keeps the platform protected
- Malware infiltration during the boot process is prevented by the Chain of Trust
- McAfee* Endpoint Encryption adds data security to the hardened security provided by the Secure Boot process
- Precautions need to be taken when writing software to prevent the Chain of Trust from being breached

Get More Information

- Intel UEFI Community - <http://intel.com/udk>
- UEFI Forum Learning Center
 - http://www.uefi.org/learning_center/
- Use the TianoCore [edk2-devel mailing list](#) for support from other UEFI developers
- Read the "[A Tour Beyond BIOS into UEFI Secure Boot](#)" whitepaper at tianocore.org

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