arm

Under Lock and Key: Using Hardware Protected Keys with the Linux Crypto API

Embedded Linux Conference Europe

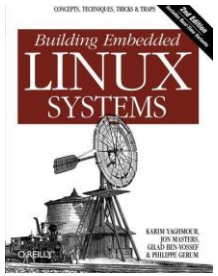
Gilad Ben-Yossef

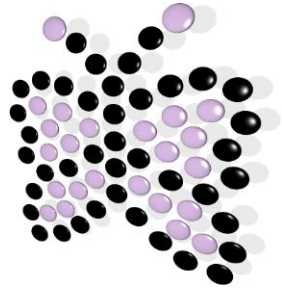
30 October 2019

Who Am I?

- I'm Gilad ben-Yossef.
- I'm a principal Software Engineer at Arm.
- I work on applied cryptography and security of the upstream Linux kernel in general and maintain the arm® TrustZone® CryptoCell® Linux device driver.
- I have been working in various forms with and on the Linux kernel and other Open Source projects for over twenty years.
- I have co-authored “Building Embedded Linux Systems” 2nd edition from O’Reilly.



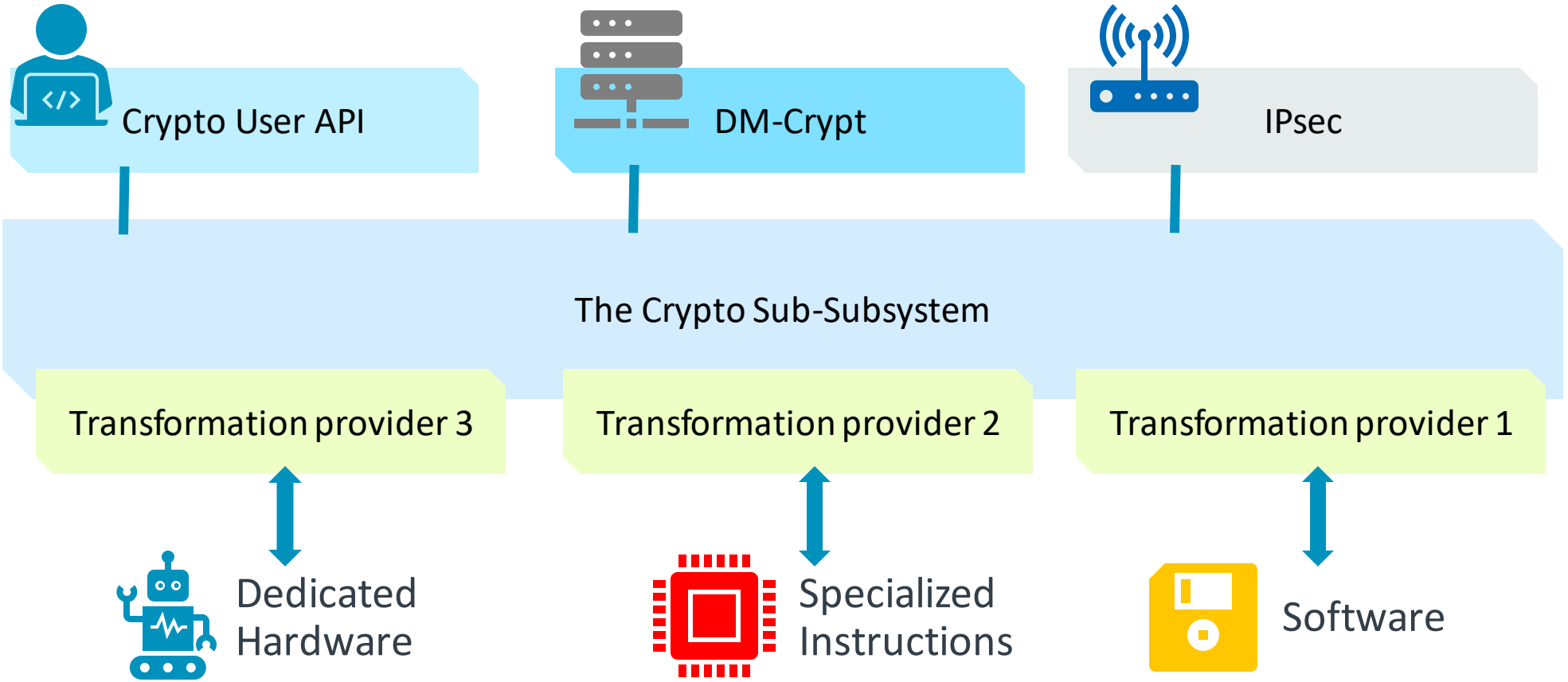



arm

The Linux Cryptography Sub-System

Or the Linux Crypto API, in short



arm

Crypto API Usage Example

```
tfm = crypto_alloc_skcipher("xts(aes)", 0, 0); // Get a handle of a transformation that handles XTS mode of AES.

err = crypto_skcipher_setkey(tfm, key, sizeof(key)); // Set the key to be used for all subsequent operations

req = skcipher_request_alloc(tfm, GFP_KERNEL); // Get a request handle

skcipher_request_set_callback(req, CRYPTO_TFM_REQ_MAY_BACKLOG | CRYPTO_TFM_REQ_MAY_SLEEP,
                              crypto_req_done, &wait); // Set the callback function to be called when done

skcipher_request_set_crypt(req, &sg, &sg, datasize, iv); // Set the input, output and initial vector buffers
ret = crypto_skcipher_encrypt(req); // Start the operation

err = crypto_wait_req(ret, &wait); // Wait for the operation to finish
crypto_free_skcipher(tfm); // Free things up
skcipher_request_free(req);
```

/proc/crypto

```
gby@gby:~$ cat /proc/crypto
name         : crc32
driver       : crc32-pclmul
module       : crc32_pclmul
priority     : 200
refcnt       : 1
selftest     : passed
type         : shash
blocksize    : 1
digestsize   : 4
```

Generic name

Driver's name

Priority

```
name         : xts(aes)
driver       : xts-aes-aesni
module       : aesni_intel
priority     : 400
refcnt       : 1
selftest     : passed
type         : ablkcipher
async        : yes
blocksize    : 16
min keysize  : 32
max keysize  : 64
ivsize       : 16
geniv        : <default>
```

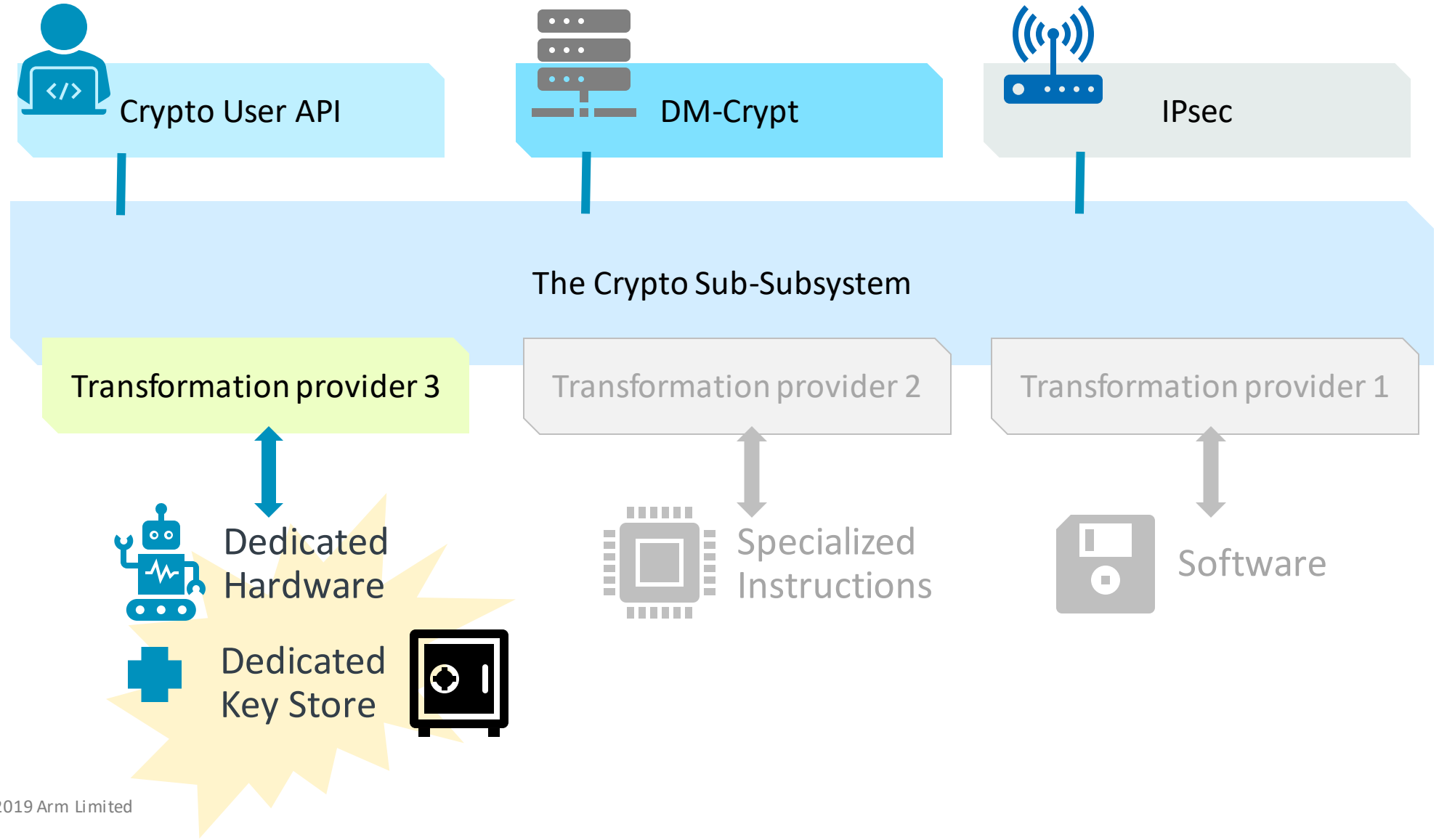
Wait, back up a little…

```
// Set the key to be used for all subsequent operations
err = crypto_skcipher_setkey(tfm, key, sizeof(key));
```

… where is the key stored?
In RAM, like everything else.


What if someone gains access to my device and steals my key?

Hardware Protected keys



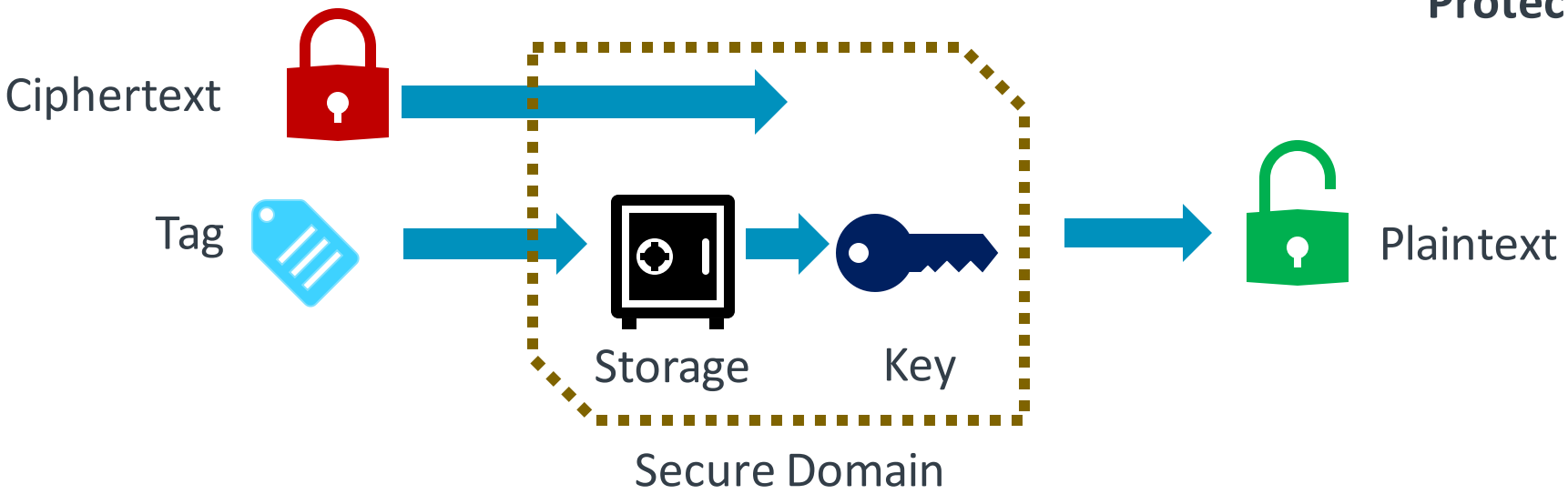
arm

From Big Iron to much smaller embedded iron

Protected Keys Usage

Plain Key Decryption

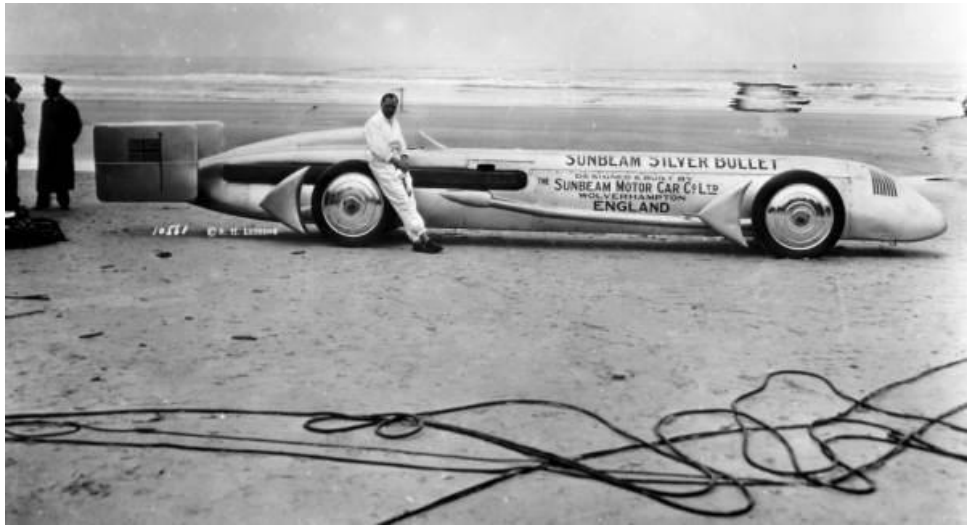
Protected Key Decryption



arm

Not a silver bullet

- Actual security depends on the security of the so called "Secure Domain"…
- Ability to use the key might be enough for attacker.
- Key provisioning and management is a problem as always.
- **A good component in a "Defense in Depths" strategy.**



Interface Details

Note: some parts are Arm CryptoCell specific

- The letter "p" is used as prefix to the generic algorithms name.
  - E.g. Use "paes" for Protected Key AES
- Because the tag value are implementation specific, use of a driver specific name is preferred over generic name, where possible.
  - E.g. Use "xts-paes-ccree" instead of "xts(paes)"
- Instead of the normal key, provide a tag appropriate for the implementation
  - E.g.

```
struct cc_hkey_info {
  u16 keylen;      /* Length of actual key in bytes*/
  u8 hw_key1;      /* First key index */
  u8 hw_key2;      /* Second key index (optional) */
} __packed;

#define CC_HW_KEY_SIZE sizeof(struct cc_hkey_info)
```

Example: DM-Crypt with protected keys

```
# dmsetup create my_encrypted_volume \ <-- name of volume
   --table "0 $(blockdev --getsz /dev/sdb) \ <-- start and end offset of volume
              crypt \                          <-- use the DM-Crypt target
               capi:xts(paes)-plain64 \        <-- use the xts(paes) kernel cipher with 64 bit IV
               00200100 \                      <-- use 256 bit AES keys from indices 0 and 1
               0 /dev/sdb 0"                   <-- No IV offset, no volume offset
```

Note: cryptsetup can also be used if you want to password protect the key index with PKDF

Thank You
Danke
Merci
谢谢
ありがとう
Gracias
Kiitos
감사합니다
धन्यवाद
شكرًا
תודה