

# Distributed OS

Hermann Härtig

**Authenticated Booting,  
Remote Attestation, Sealed Memory  
aka „Trusted Computing“**

## Understand principles of:

- Authenticated booting
- The difference to (closed) secure booting
- Remote attestation
- Sealed memory

## Non-Goal:

- Lots of TPM, TCG-Spec details  
→ read the documents once needed

# Some terms

- Secure Booting
- Authenticated Booting
- (Remote) Attestation
- Sealed Memory
- Late Launch / dynamic root of trust
- Trusted Computing / Trusted Computing Base
  
- **Attention:** terminology has changed

# Trusted Computing (Base)

## Trusted Computing Base (TCB)

- The set off all components, hardware, software, procedures, that must be relied upon to enforce a securit policy.

## Trusted Computing (TC)

- A particular technology compromised of authenticated booting, remote attestation and sealed memory.

# TC key problems

- Can running certain Software be prevented?
- Which computer system do I communicate with ?
- Which stack of Software is running?
  - In front of me?
  - On my server somewhere?
- Can I restrict access to certain secrets (keys) to certain programs?

# Trusted Computing Terminology

## Measuring

- “process of obtaining metrics of platform characteristics”
- Example for metric: Hash- Codes of SW

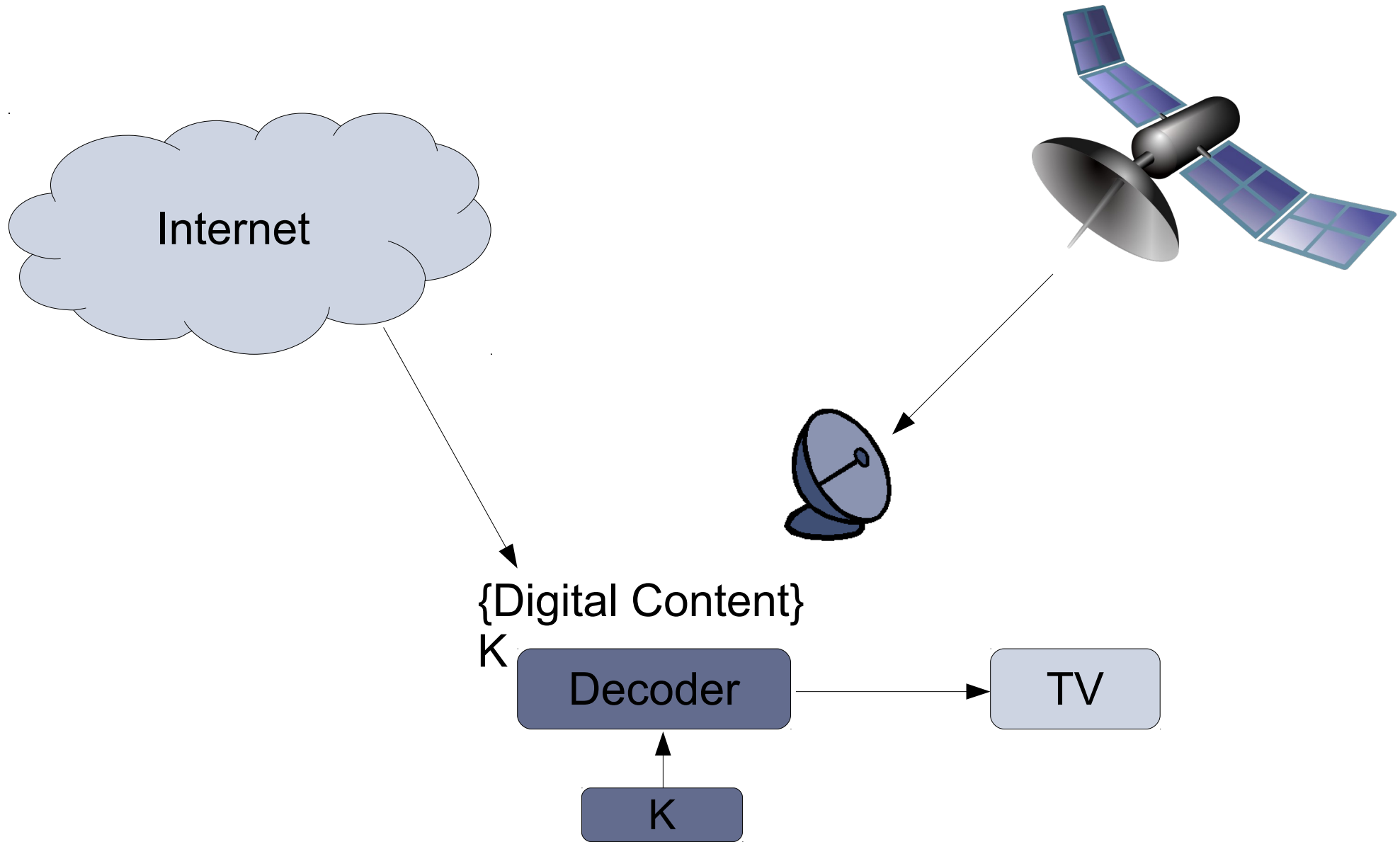
## Attestation

- “vouching for accuracy of information”

## Sealed Memory

- binding information to a configuration

# DRM: Trust ./. No Trust in end user

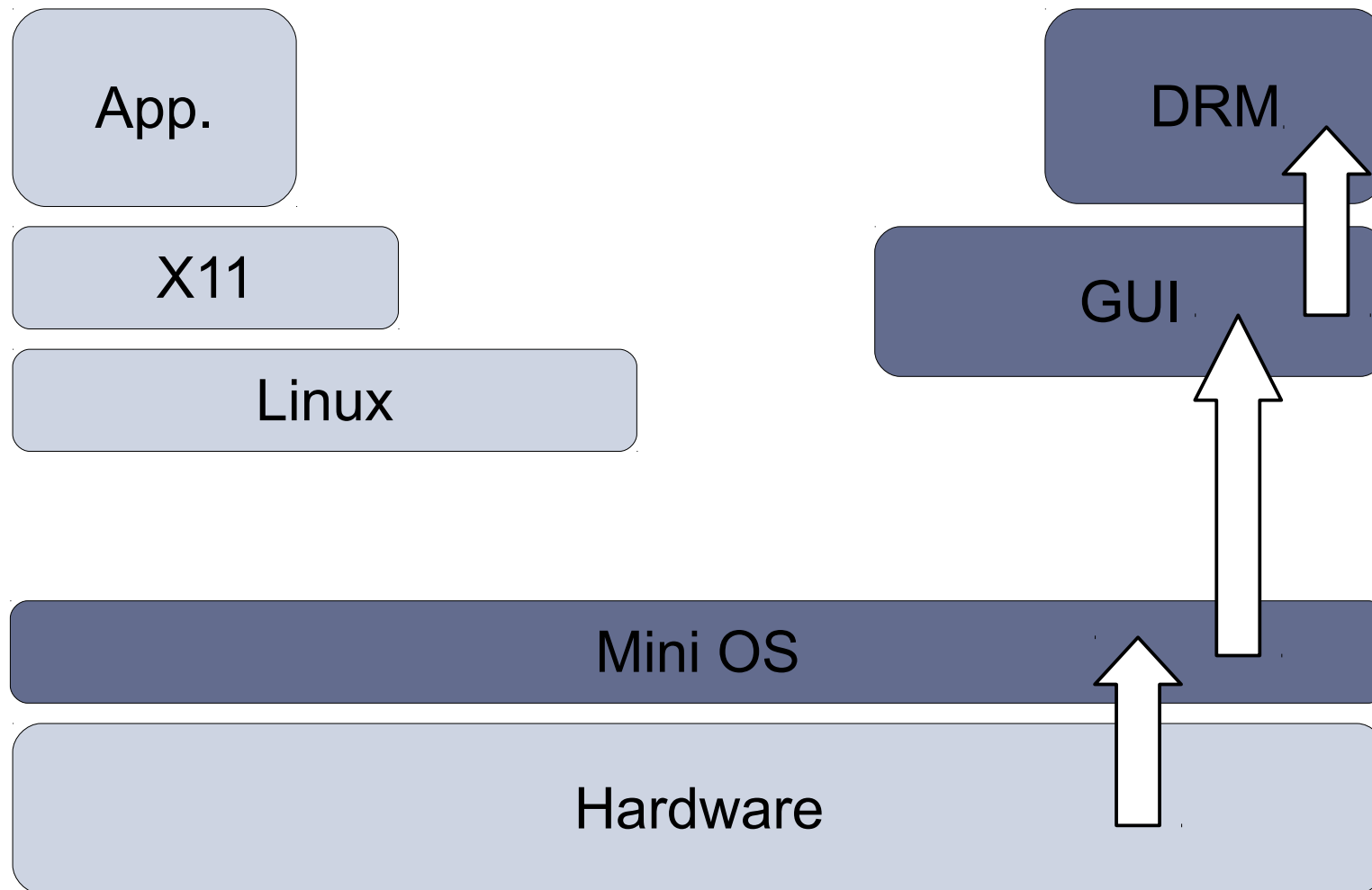


# An example application: DRM

- „Digital Content“ is encrypted using symmetric key
- Smart-Card
  - contains key
  - authenticates device
  - delivers key only after successful authentication
- Assumptions
  - Smart Card can protect the key
  - „allowed“ OS can protect the key
  - OS cannot be exchanged



# Secure Booting / Authenticated Booting



# Notation

- $SK^{priv} SK^{pub}$  Asymmetric key pair of some entity S
  - $\{ M \}XK^{priv}$  Digital Signature for message M using the private key of signer X
  - $\{ M \}YK^{pub}$  Message encrypted using public concealment key of Y
- $H(M)$  Collision-Resistant Hash Function
- Certificate by authority Ca:  
 $\{ ID, SK^{pub}, \text{other properties} \} CaK^{priv}$

# Notation

Note:

- “ $\{ M \}_{Sk^{priv}}$  Digital Signature”

is short for:  $encrypt(H(M), Sk^{priv})$

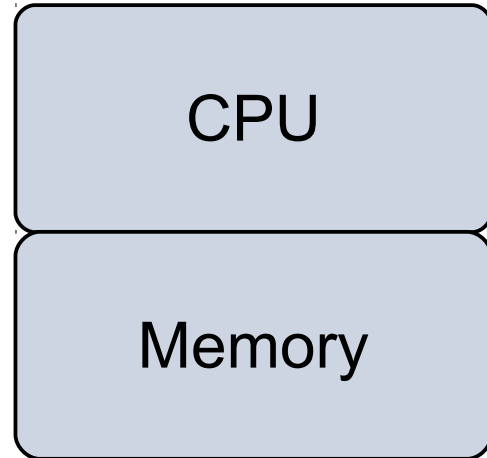
- “ $\{ M \}_{Sk^{pub}}$  Message concealed ...”

does not necessarily imply public key encryption for all of  $M$  (rather a combination of symmetric and asymmetric methods )

# Identification of Software

- Program vendor: Foosoft FS
- Two ways to identify Software:
  - $H(\text{Program})$
  - $\{\text{Program, ID- Program}\}FSK^{\text{priv}}$   
use  $FSK^{\text{pub}}$  to check the signature must be made available, e.g. shipped with the Program
- The „ID” of SW must be made available somehow.

# Tamperresistant black box (TRB)



Non-Volatile Memory:

Platform Configuration Registers:

# Ways to “burn in” the OS or secure booting

- Read- Only Memory
- Allowed H(OS) in NV memory preset by manufacturer
  - load OS- Code
  - compare H(loaded OS code) to preset H(OS)
  - abort if different
- Preset  $FSK_{pub}$  in NV memory preset by manufacturer
  - load OS- Code
  - check signature of loaded OS-Code using  $FSK_{pub}$
  - abort if check fails

# Authenticated Booting (AB)

## Phases:

- Preparation by Manufacturers (TRB and OS)
- Booting & “Measuring”
- Remote attestation

# Authenticated Booting (AB)

CPU

Memory

Non-Volatile Memory:

“Endorsement Key” EK  
preset by Manufacturer

Platform Configuration Registers:

Hash-Code obtained during boot



# Vendors of TRB and OS

- TRB\_generates key pair: „Endorsement Key“ (EK)
  - stores in TRB NV Memory:  $EK_{priv}$
  - emits:  $EK_{pub}$
- TRB vendor certifies:  $\{“a valid EK”, EK_{pub}\}TVK_{priv}$
- OS-Vendor certifies:  $\{“a valid OS”, H(OS)\}OSVK_{priv}$
- serve as identifiers:  $EK_{pub}$  and  $H(OS)$

# Booting & Attestation

## Booting:

- TRB “measures” OS- Code (computes  $H(\text{OS-Code})$ )
- stores in PCR
- no other way to write PCR

## Attestation:

- Challenge: nonce
- TRB generates Response:  $\{\text{PCR}, \text{nonce}'\}E_{K^{\text{priv}}}$

# Remaining problems

- Now we know identities:  $H(\text{loaded-OS})$  and  $EK^{\text{pub}}$
- Problems to solve:
  - OS versioning
  - Remote attestation on each message (what about reboot ?)
  - not only “OS” on platform (SW stacks or trees)
  - Privacy: remote attestation always reveals  $EK^{\text{pub}}$
  - Black box to big
  - Sealed memory

# AB (Variant 2, allow OS versions)

CPU

Memory

Non-Volatile Memory:

“Endorsement Key” EK  
preset by Manufacturer

Platform Configuration Registers:

**OSK<sup>pub</sup> used to check OS**

# Vendors of TRB and OS

- TRB\_generates key pair:
  - stores in TRB NV Memory:  $EK_{priv}$
  - emits:  $EK_{pub}$
- TRB vendor certifies:  $\{\text{"a valid EK"}, EK_{pub}\}TVK_{priv}$
- OS-Vendor certifies:  $\{\text{"a valid OS"}, OSK_{pub}\}OSVK_{priv}$
- and signs OS-Code:  $\{\text{OS-Code}\}OSK_{priv}$
- serve as identifiers:  $EK_{pub}$  and  $OSK_{pub}$

# Booting & Attestation (Variant 2)

## Booting:

- TRB checks OS- Code using some **OSK<sup>pub</sup>**
- stores **OSK<sup>pub</sup>** in PCR
- no other way to write PCR

## Attestation:

- Challenge: nonce
- TRB generates Response: {PCR, nonce'}E<sub>K<sup>priv</sup></sub>

# AB (Variant 3, check for reboot)

- attestation required at each request:
  - $\{\text{PCR}, \text{nonce}'\}_{\text{EK}^{\text{priv}}}$
  - PCR:  $H(\text{OS})$  bzw.  $\text{OSK}^{\text{pub}}$
- always requires access to and usage of EK
- race condition!

## Instead:

- create new keypair on every reboot:
  - $\text{OSrunningAuthK}^{\text{priv}}$   $\text{OSrunningAuthK}^{\text{pub}}$

# Booting (Variant 3)

## Booting:

- TRB checks OS- Code using some  $OSK_{pub}$
- stores  $OSK_{pub}$  in PCR
- creates OSrunningAuthK keypair
- certifies:  $\{ OSrunningAuthK_{pub}, OSK_{pub} \} EK_{priv}$



# Attestation (Variant 3)

## Attestation:

- Challenge: nonce
- OS generates response:
  - $\{ \text{OSrunningAuthK}^{\text{pub}}, \text{OSK}^{\text{pub}} \} \text{EK}^{\text{priv}}$
  - $\{ \text{nonce}' \} \text{OSrunningAuthK}^{\text{priv}}$

# Establish Secure Channel to OSRunning

## Booting:

- TRB checks OS- Code using some  $OSK^{pub}$
- stores  $OSK^{pub}$  in PCR
- creates OSrunningAuthK keypair
- creates OSrunningConsK keypair
- certifies:  $\{ OSrunningAuthK^{pub}, OSrunningConsK^{pub}, OSK^{pub} \}_{EK^{priv}}$

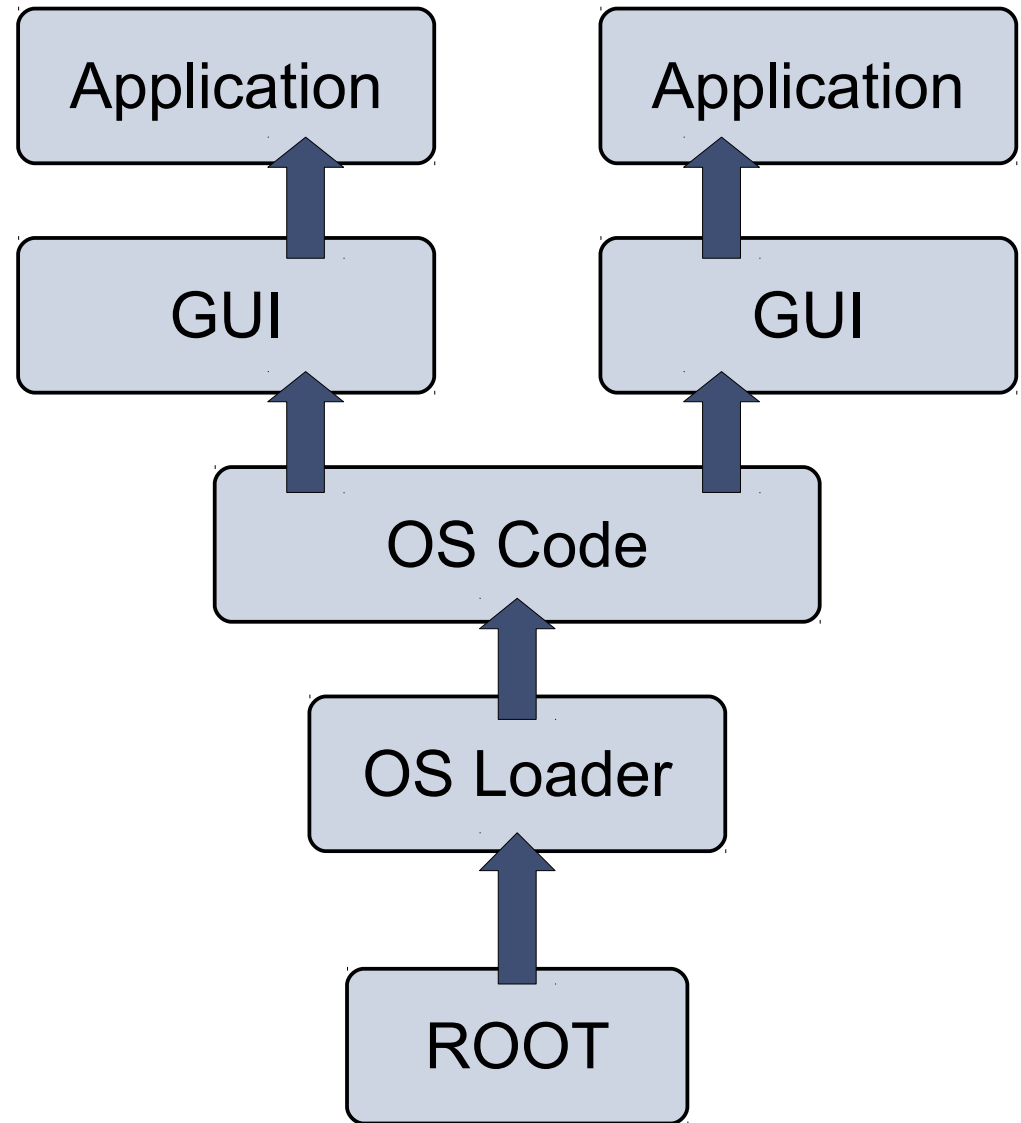
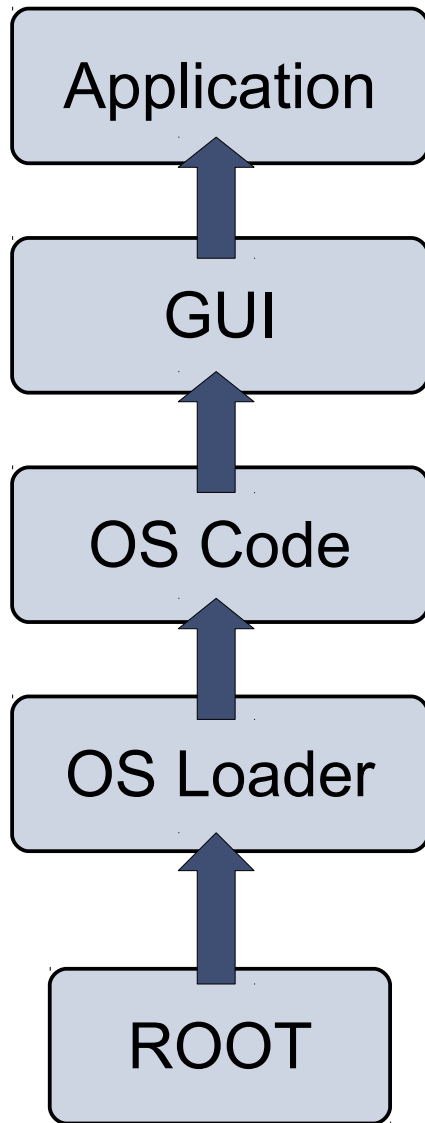
## Secure Channel:

- $\{ message \}_{OSrunningConsK^{pub}}$

# Assumptions

- TRB can protect: EK, PCR
- OS can protect: OSrunningK<sup>priv</sup>
- Rebooting destroys content of
  - PCR and Memory Holding OSrunningK<sup>priv</sup>

# Software stacks and trees



# Software stacks and trees

- “Extend” Operation
  - stack:  $PCR_n = H(PCR_{n-1} \parallel \text{next-component})$
  - tree: difficult (unpublished ?)
  
- Key pairs:
  - OS controls applications → generate key pair per application
  - OS certifies
    - { Application 1, App1K<sup>pub</sup> } OSrunningK<sup>priv</sup>
    - { Application 2, App2K<sup>pub</sup> } OSrunningK<sup>priv</sup>

# Remote Attestation and Privacy

- Remote attestation reveals platform identity:  $EK^{\text{pub}}$
- add intermediate step:
  - Attestation Identity Key (AIK)
  - Trusted third party as anonymizer (TTP)

# Remote Attestation and Privacy

CPU

Memory

Non-Volatile Memory:

**EK**    **preset by Manufacturer**  
**AIK**   **signed by third party**

Platform Configuration Registers:

# Remote Attestation and Privacy

- Generate AIK in TRB
- send  $\{ \text{AIK} \} \text{EK}^{\text{priv}}$  to trusted third party
- third party certifies:  $\{ \text{AIK}, \text{“good ID”} \} \text{TTPK}^{\text{priv}}$
- AIK used instead of EK during remote attestation, response:
  - $\{ \text{AIK}, \text{“good ID”} \} \text{TTPK}^{\text{priv}}$
  - $\{ \text{OSrunningK}^{\text{pub}}, \text{H(OS)} \} \text{AIK}^{\text{priv}}$
  - $\{ \text{nonce} \} \text{OSrunningK}^{\text{priv}}$



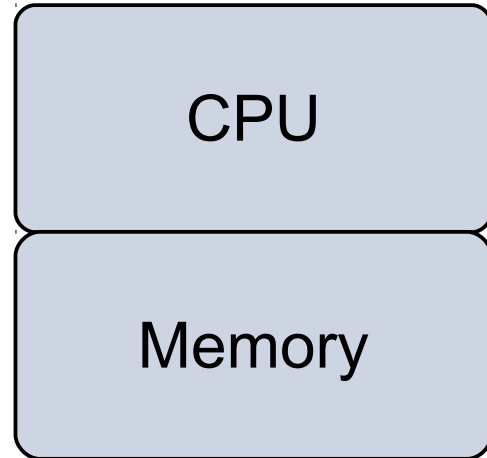
# Late Launch

- Use arbitrary SW to start system and load all SW
- provide specific instruction to enter “secure mode”
  - set HW in specific state (stop all processors, IO, ...)
  - Measure “root of trust” SW
  - store measurement in PCR
- AMD: “skinit” (Hash) arbitrary root of trust
- Intel: “senter” (must be signed by chip set manufacturer)

# Sealed Memory

- Bind sensitive information to specific configuration  
(for example: keys to specific machine, specific OS)
- Provide information using secure channels
- How to store information in the absence of communication channels?

# Tamperresistant black box (TRB)



Non-Volatile Memory:

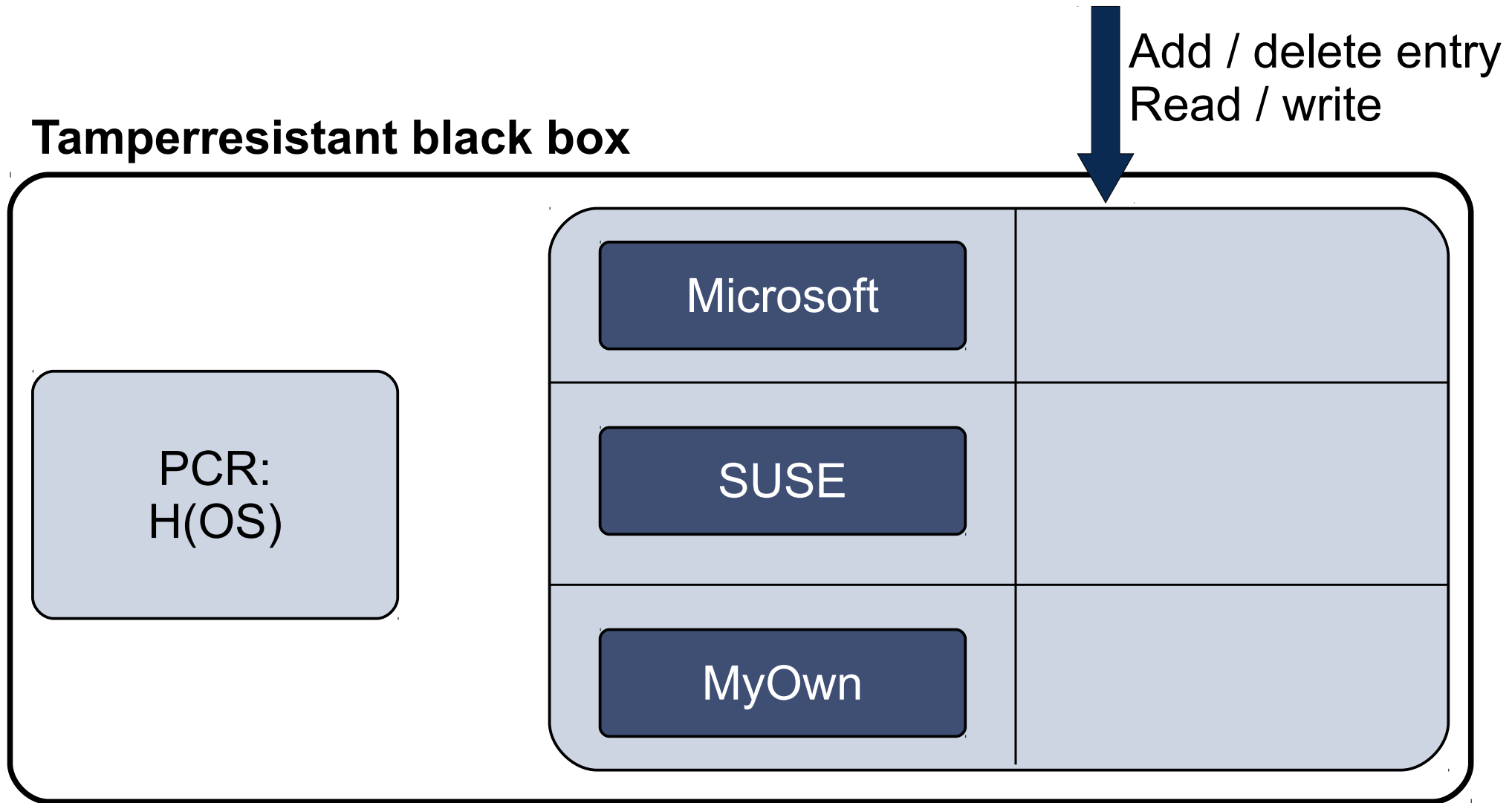
**Storage key**

Platform Configuration Registers:

**„SW-config“**

# Sealed Memory

## Tamperresistant black box



# Sealed Memory

- Seal(PCR, message):
  - encrypt(“PCR, message”, Storage-Key)  
→ “sealed message”
- Unseal(sealed message):
  - decrypt( “sealed message”, Storage-Key)  
→ “SW config, message”
  - If SW config == PCR then emit message else abort

# Sealed Memory

- Seal(SW config, message):
  - encrypt(“future SW config, message”, Storage-Key)  
→ “sealed message”
- “Storage Key” built into TPMs by manufacturer, known to nobody

# Example

- Win7: Seal („SonyOS, Sony-Secret“)  
→ SealedMessage (store it on disk)
- L4: Unseal (SealedMessage)  
→ SonyOS, Sony-Secret → PCR#SonyOS → abort
- SonyOS: Unseal(SealedMessage)  
→ SonyOS, Sony-Secret → PCR==SonyOS → ok

# Migration ?

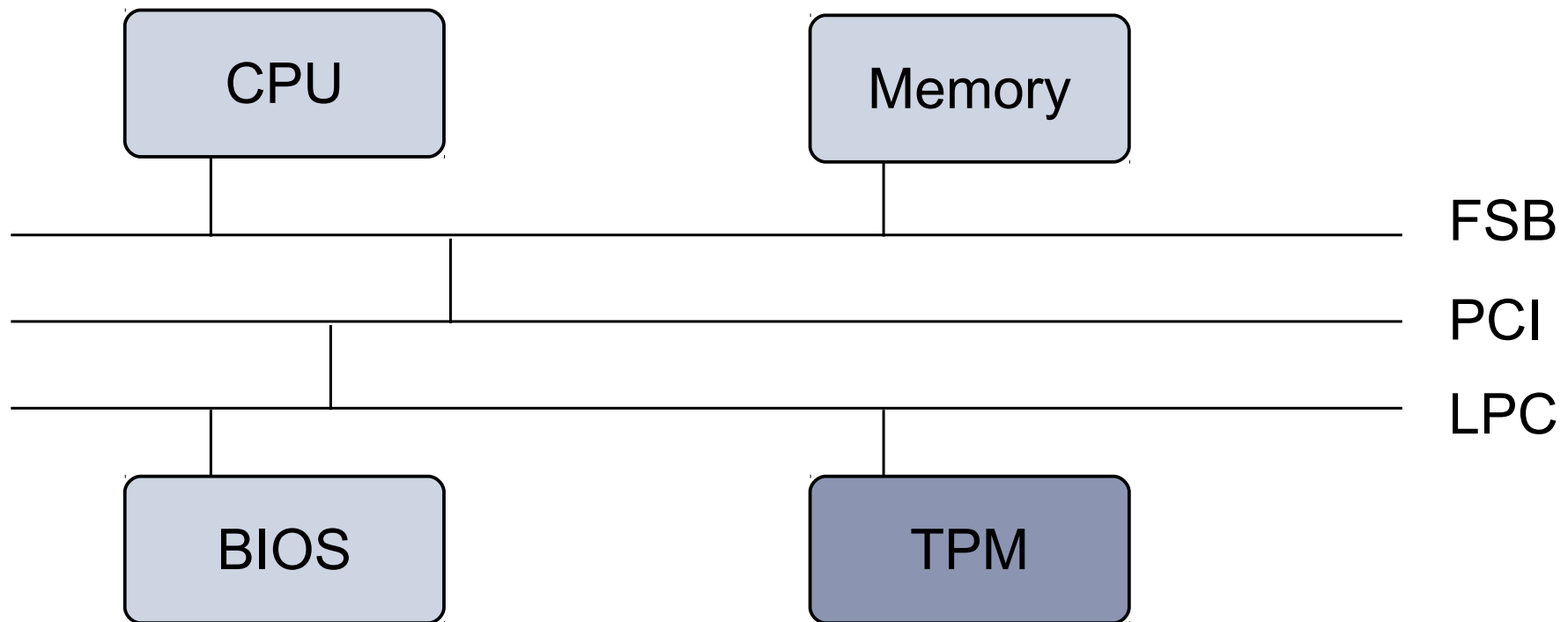
- How to transfer information from one TRB to another  
for example: key for decryption of videos
- Send information to third party  
Destroy information locally and prove to third party  
Third party provides information to another entity

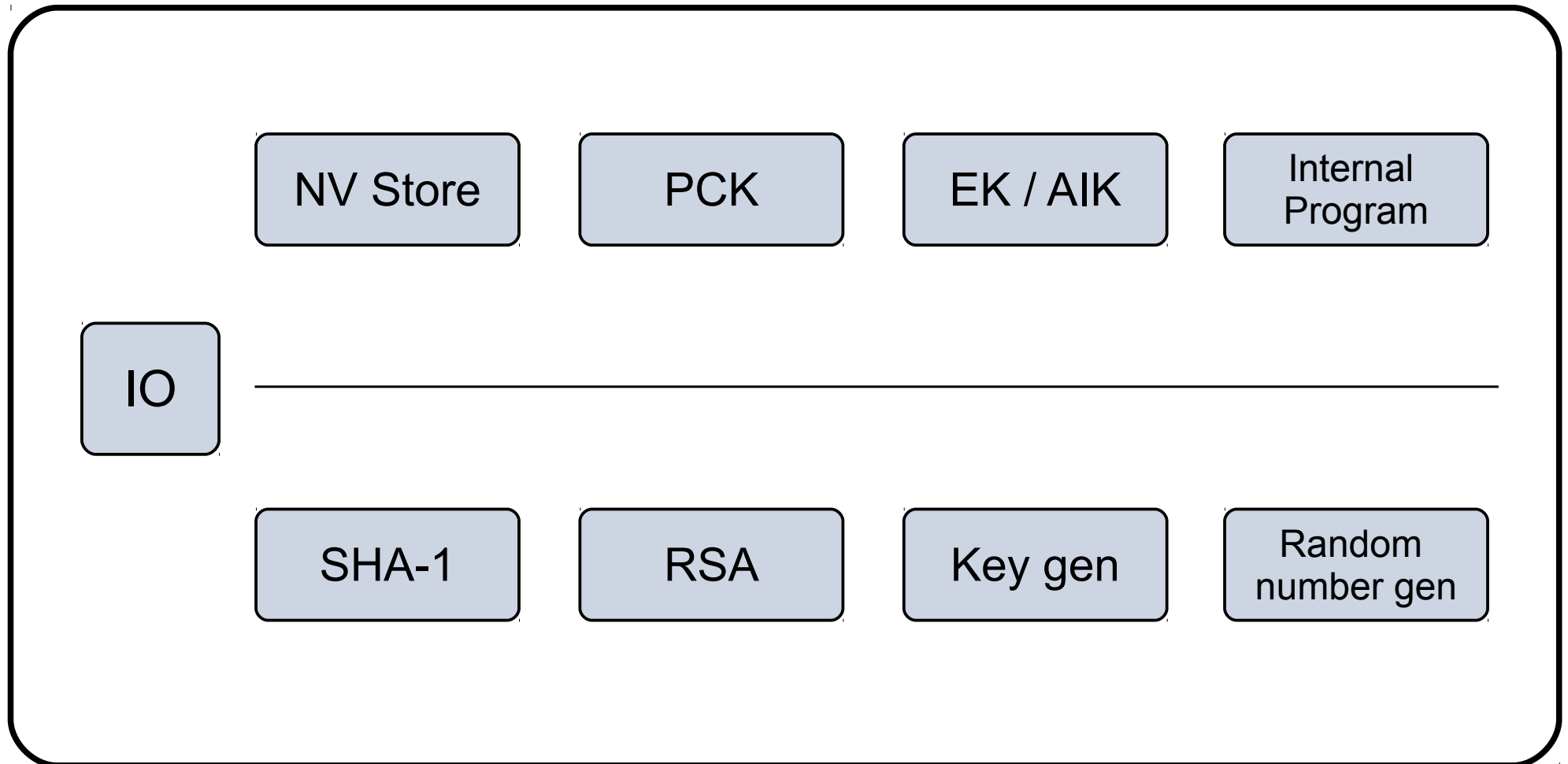


# Tamper Resistant Box ?

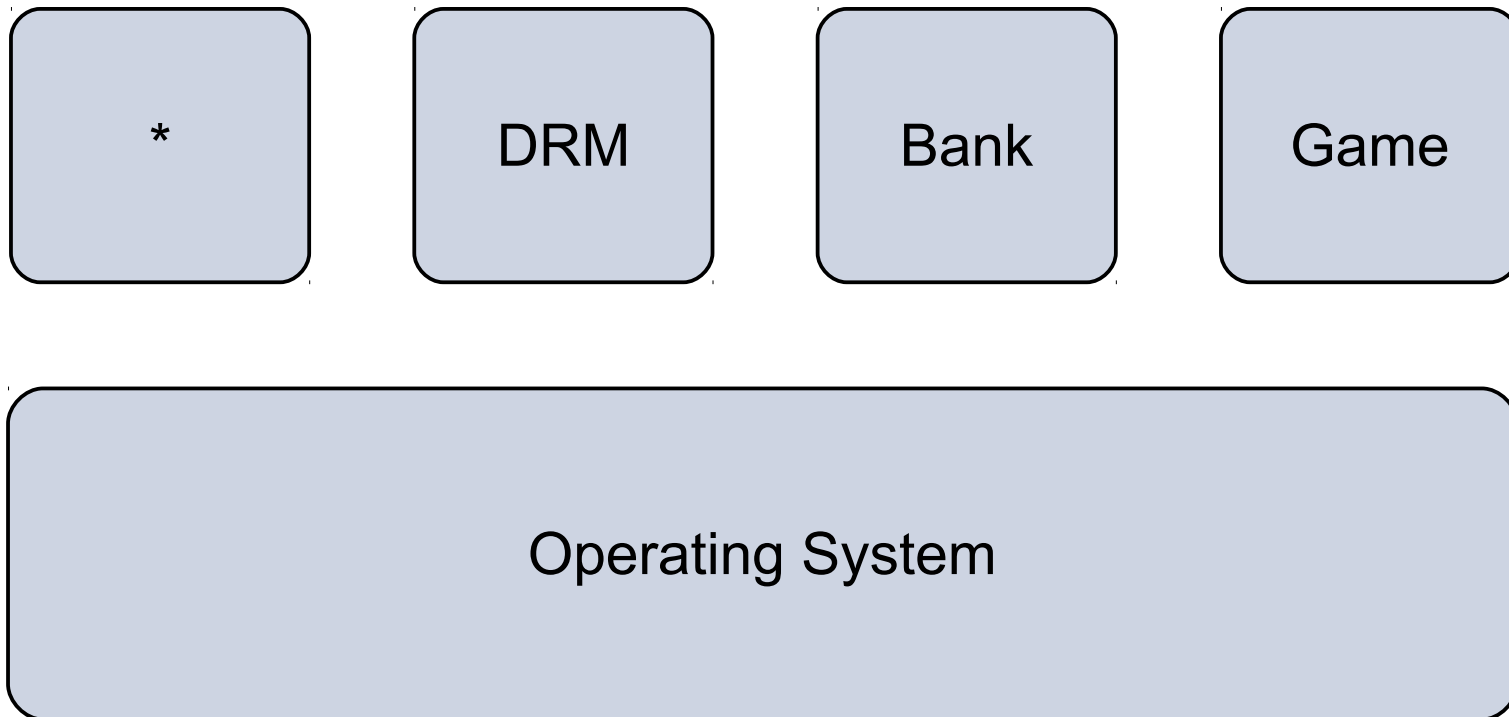
- Ideally, includes CPU, Memory, ...
- In practise
  - very rarely, for example IBM 4758 ...
  - separate “Trusted Platform Modules” replacing BIOS breaks TRB

# TCG PC Platforms





# Usage Scenarios and Technical Risks



# Technical Risks

## Hardware:

- Authenticity, Integrity, Tamper-Resistance
- Protection of CPU-priv  
Integrity of RKey-OS-pub

## Operating System

- Protection of keys (OSRunning, ...), Content, ...
- Isolation Applications
- Assurance

## Side Channels !

# References

- Specifications:

[https://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/groups/TCG\\_1\\_3\\_Architecture\\_Overview.pdf](https://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/groups/TCG_1_3_Architecture_Overview.pdf)

- Important Foundational Paper:

Authentication in distributed systems: theory and practice

Butler Lampson, Martin Abadi, Michael Burrows, Edward

Wobber

ACM Transactions on Computer Systems (TOCS)