

Automated Provisioning with SecureBoot and Foreman

Jan Löser



THE Linux & Open Source Company!



About Me

Jan Löser

- IT consultant at ATIX AG since 2022
- 15+ years experience in (professional) Linux

Focus

- Security/hardening (Secure Boot, Measured Boot)
- DevOps, Automation
- openSUSE & vim user

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Agenda

Introduction to Secure Boot

- Provisioning with Foreman (so far)
- Host Specific Network Boot Files in Foreman
- Status & Outlook

- Part of the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) specification
- Ensures the authenticity of software which is loaded and executed by the firmware utilizing cryptographic mechanisms ("Chain of Trust")
- Not without controversy
 - MS is certificate authority (at least by default)
 - Kernel ok, but initrd?
 - More complexity, more code, more bugs, more potential attack vectors for attackers



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FACEPALM GOES HERE ---

Secure Boot is completely broken on 200+ models from 5 big device makers

Keys were labeled "DO NOT TRUST." Nearly 500 device models use them anyway.

DAN GOODIN - JUL 25, 2024 6:00 PM UTC



UEFI-Schwachstelle LogoFAIL: Secure Boot mit manipulierten Bootlogos umgehbar

Sicherheitsforscher habe Schwachstellen beim Verarbeiten von Bootlogos auf BIOS/UEFI-Ebene entdeckt. Angreifer können Systeme kompromittieren.



(Bild: LuckyStep/Shutterstock.com)

03.12.2023, 14:45 Uhr Lesezeit: 2 Min. Security

Von Dennis Schirrmacher





SHOP SUPPORT

Q My Account 🕄 💻 👻 English 👻

Support

Certain BIOS versions may include an AMI Test Key that could compromise Secure Boot protections

Lenovo Security Advisory: LEN-7806 Potential Impact: Secure boot may be compromised by an attacker with local access Severity: High Scope of Impact: Lenovo-specific RSS

= 😚 reddit 🛛 Q 🔹 r/MSL_Gaming 🛽 Search in r/MSL_Gaming

r/MSI_Gaming • 2 yr. ago MSI_TechK MOD

•••

MSI Statement on Secure Boot

MSI implemented the Secure Boot mechanism in our motherboard products by following the design guidance defined by Microsoft and AMI before the launch of Windows 11. We preemptively set Secure Boot as Enabled and "Always Execute" as the default setting to offer a user-friendly environment that allows multiple end-users flexibility to build their PC systems with thousands (or more) of components that included their built-in option ROM, including OS images, resulting in higher compatibility configurations. For users who are highly concerned about security, they can still set "Image Execution Policy" as "Deny Execute" or other options manually to meet their security needs.

In response to the report of security concerns with the preset bios settings, MSI will be rolling out new BIOS files for our motherboards with "Deny Execute" as the default setting for higher security levels. MSI will also keep a fully functional Secure Boot mechanism in the BIOS for end-users so that they can modify it according to their needs.

仍 Alert!

BootHole: Bugs im Bootloader Grub gefährden Linux und Windows

Angreifer könnten sich in den Boot-Prozess einklinken und quasi unsichtbare Schadsoftware einschleusen – trotz Secure Boot.



(Bild: Eclypsium)

30.07.2020, 15:36 Uhr Lesezeit: 2 Min. Security

Von Jürgen Schmidt



> Part of the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) specification

Ensures the authenticity of software which is loaded and executed by the firmware utilizing cryptographic mechanisms ("Chain of Trust")

Not without controversy

- MS is certificate authority (at least by default)
- Kernel ok, but initrd?
- More complexity, more code, more bugs, more potential attack vectors for attackers
- SecureBoot changes require physical access to the system
- SecureBoot is **not** Measured/Trusted Boot (keyword "TPM")



Signature Basics





Certificates contain the public key portion!



Signatures in the Wild

Is this Thing On?

UEFI?

```
1 xps:~ # readlink -f /sys/firmware/efi/efivars/
2 /sys/firmware/efi/efivars
```

SecureBoot?

```
1 xps:~ # od --address-radix=n --format=u1 /sys/firmware/efi/efivars/SecureBoot-*
2 6 0 0 0 1
```

Easier!

1 xps:~ # mokutil --sb 2 SecureBoot enabled



- Platform Key (PK):
 - Root-of-trust anchor embedded into the system firmware
 - Certificate installed by the hardware/platform vendor on the system
 - Establishes trust between the hardware vendor and the firmware that runs on it
 - To modify PK a valid signature of the PK is required (self-signed)
- Key Exchange Key (KEK):
 - Establishes trust between the hardware vendor and the operating system
 - To modify KEK a valid signature of the PK is required

🛛 🞲 U	EFI
PK	
1	,
KEK	
¥	Ļ
dbx	db



- Signature Database (db):
 - Database containing trusted signatures and certificates for third-party UEFI components and boot loaders
 - To modify db a valid signature of the KEK is required
- Forbidden Signature Database (dbx):
 - Database of signatures and certificates used for revoking previously trusted boot components so they can no longer run during bootup
 - To modify dbx a valid signature of the KEK is required

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Where is This shim Born?

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- Complete lifecycle management tool for physical and virtual hosts
- Easy to automate repetitive tasks, quickly deploy applications, and proactively manage hosts
- Provisions hosts
- Upstream project for orcharhino (ATIX) and Red Hat Satellite
- Recently celebrated its 15th birthday



The Foreman

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The Foreman













GRUB2 configuration:

```
# This file was deployed via 'AutoYaST default PXEGrub2' template
1
2
3
   set default=0
   set timeout=10
4
5
6
   menuentry 'AutoYaST default PXEGrub2' {
7
     linux boot/sles-12-sp5-local-RwgLJDBLRnmP-linux ramdisk size=65536 install=http://foreman.
          foreman.test/pulp/isos/ATIX/Media/Media/custom/Media/SLES_12_SP5/ autovast=http://
          foreman.foreman.test:8000/unattended/provision textmode=1
8
     initrd boot/sles-12-sp5-local-RwgLJDBLRnmP-initrd
9
   3
10
   . . .
```





```
1 er
```

4

```
    error: bad shim signature.
    error: you need to load the kernel first.
    3
```

```
Press any key to continue...
```

That is a great pity! But understandable by design, isn't it?





Let's check the DHCP filename option:

```
1
    . . .
   host suselinux.foreman.test {
2
3
     dvnamic:
     hardware ethernet 00:50:56:b4:ee:9b:
4
5
     fixed-address 192.168.145.118;
6
            supersede server.filename = "grub2/shimx64.efi";
7
            supersede server.next-server = c0:a8:91:0a;
8
            supersede host-name = "suselinux.foreman.test":
9
10
   host ubuntu foreman test {
11
     dvnamic:
12
     hardware ethernet 00:50:56:f4:ae:97:
13
     fixed-address 192.168.145.116:
14
            supersede server.filename = "grub2/shimx64.efi";
            supersede server.next-server = c0:a8:91:0a;
            supersede host-name = "ubuntu.foreman.test";
   3
    . . .
```



Let's check the grub2/shimx64.efi on the TFTP server:

- 1 [root@foreman ~]# strings /var/lib/tftpboot/grub2/shimx64.efi | grep ",shim,"
- 2 shim,4,UEFI shim,shim,1,https://github.com/rhboot/shim
- 3 shim.almalinux,3,AlmaLinux,shim,15.8,security@almalinux.org

Why AlmaLinux?

```
1 [root@foreman ~]# . /etc/os-release ; echo $PRETTY_NAME
2 AlmaLinux 8.10 (Cerulean Leopard)
```











Go for it!

```
kernel_lockdown.7
```



Why?

```
1 [root@fdi ~]# mokutil --sb
2 SecureBoot enabled
3 [root@fdi ~]# mokutil --list-enrolled | grep Issuer
4 Issuer: CN=CentOS Secure Boot CA 2/emailAddress=security@centos.org
```

1 xps:~ # pesign -S -i /tmp/almalinux8-mirror-tb70qghGi6RT-vmlinuz | grep name 2 The signer's common name is AlmaLinux OS Foundation

Somehow expected.



Workaround Foreman Discovery Image & kexec

Build your own FDI based on target OS!





Workaround Foreman Discovery Image & kexec

- Build FDI based on target OS/distribution
- We did it for Ubuntu Focal with KIWI (appliance builder)
- Downsides
 - We are committed to Ubuntu only per subnet (when FDI is booted via network)
 - Additional maintenance effort (especially with multiple OSs)
- Building an ISO and make it running needs some effort at the beginning







Host Salt States Ansib	le Roles Operating System Interfaces Puppet ENC Parameters Additional Information
Architecture *	х86,64 ж
Operating system *	Deblan 12 x *
Build Mode	Chable this host for provisioning
Media Selection	Spread Context QB At Mode Select the invasidiance with the wide to serve to provide this heat. Character Wigned Content for Bipmed Educator Regionalizations of 24 Models of an other media.
Media *	Debtan 12 local x *
Synced Content	*
Partition Table *	Preseed default LVM x *
PXE loader 🛈	Grub2 UER SecureBoot x *
Custom Partition Table	
	What ever text(or ERB template) you use in here, would be used as your OS disk layout options if you want to use the partition table option, delete all of the text from this field
Root Password *	Password must be 8 characters or more.
Provisioning Templates	∅ Resolve
	Display the templates that will be used to provision this host







What do we know at the time of host creation?

- The target OS & version
- SecureBoot state (PXE loader)
- The host's MAC address (= host specific identifier)

What do we need?

- OS specific boot files (shim+GRUB2 EFI binaries)
- File structure on TFTP server providing host specific boot files (shim+GRUB2 EFI binaries)
- DHCP filename option considering host specific values

The bootloader universe directory:

```
[root@foreman tftpboot] # tree bootloader-universe/
1
   bootloader-universe/
2
3
    · _ _
       pxegrub2
4
         -- sles
5
            -- default
6
                 `-- x86 64
7
                      -- boot.efi -> grubx64.efi
8
                      -- boot-sp.efi -> shimx64.efi
9
                      -- grubx64.efi
10
                     -- shimx64 efi
11
         -- ubuntu
12
             -- 20.04
                -- x86_64
13
14
                     -- boot.efi -> grub.efi
15
                     -- boot-sp.efi -> shim.efi
16
                      -- grub.efi
17
                     -- shim efi
            -- default
18
                -- x86_64
19
20
                     -- boot.efi -> grubx64.efi
21
                     -- boot-sp.efi -> shimx64.efi
22
                      -- grubx64.efi
23
                     -- shimx64.efi
```

TFTP file structure:

```
[root@foreman ~]# tree /var/lib/tftpboot/host-config/00-50-56-b4-ee-9b
/var/lib/tftpboot/host-config/00-50-56-b4-ee-9b/
`-- grub2
[ -- boot.efi -> ../../../bootloader-universe/pxegrub2/ubuntu/default/x86_64/grubx64.efi
[ -- boot-sb.efi -> ../../../bootloader-universe/pxegrub2/ubuntu/default/x86_64/shimx64.efi
[ -- grub.cfg-00:50:56:b4:ee:9b
[ -- grub.cfg-00-50-56-b4-ee-9b
[ -- grub.cfg-00-50-56-b4-ee-9b
[ -- grubx64.efi -> ../../../bootloader-universe/pxegrub2/ubuntu/default/x86_64/grubx64.efi
[ -- os_info
] -- shimx64.efi -> ../../../bootloader-universe/pxegrub2/ubuntu/default/x86_64/shimx64.efi
```

2

3

4

5 6

7

8

9

10

11

12

DHCP filename option:

```
1
    . . .
   host suselinux.foreman.test {
2
3
     dvnamic:
     hardware ethernet 00:50:56:b4:ee:9b:
4
5
     fixed-address 192.168.145.118;
6
            supersede server.filename = "/host-config/00-50-56-b4-ee-9b/grub2/boot-sp.efi":
7
            supersede server.next-server = c0:a8:91:0a;
8
            supersede host-name = "suselinux.foreman.test":
9
10
   host ubuntu.foreman.test {
11
     dvnamic:
12
     hardware ethernet 00:50:56:f4:ae:97;
13
     fixed-address 192.168.145.116:
            supersede server.filename = "/host-config/00-50-56-f4-ae-97/grub2/boot-sp.efi":
14
15
            supersede server.next-server = c0:a8:91:0a;
            supersede host-name = "ubuntu.foreman.test";
16
17
   3
18
    . . .
```

Considerations:

- Keep compatibility
- Must also work with absent bootloader universe directory
- Revoked and expired certificiates
- Chainloading
 - Workflow: always boot from network, chainload local bootloader from disk if not in provisioning mode

Conditions:

Foreman must orchestrate the DHCP server



Development & Status

How it started: Provide own shim containing certificates of all major OS vendors?

- Too much maintenance effort (OS vendor key changes, shim updates, etc.)
- Would probably not have been signed
- First RFC on March 2023 in the Foreman community
- PRs are open:
 - Code changes & documentation
 - Waiting for the finishing touches and testing
 - Many thanks to Markus Reisner (ATIX Engineering)
- Bootloader universe directory must currently be created and filled by yourself

Findings:

Every OS vendor patches shim & GRUB2 differently

Status & Outlook

- We are on a good way to get it merged upstream in Foreman
 - Already available downstream in orcharhino v6.9 (release in June 2024)
- Some discussions are still ongoing regarding chainloading
 - Use boot order?
 - Preferred: Load GRUB2 binary over network, load local GRUB2 configuration from disk, boot?
- Bundle OS specific boot files and provide them in a proper way ("nboci" project)



Status & Outlook



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	fedora-40-amd64	A days ago Bee Child Manifests A 14 days ago See Child Manifests	N/A	Never	SHA256 48a342af8053	
	\sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim			~ //		

```
$ nboci pull quay.io/foreman/nboci-files/fedora
    $ tree fedora
    fedora
 3
    -- 40
 5
         `-- x86_64
 6
              -- grubx64.efi
 7
              -- initrd.img
-- install.img
 8
 9
              -- pxelinux.0
10
11
              -- shim.efi
             . . .
```

Excursus - Do I Still Have Sovereignty Over My System?

There is a way:

- Boot system in Setup Mode
- Create own key pairs
- Enroll own PK, KEK, db, dbx certificates
- Bundle kernel+initrd, add EFI stub, and sign it with own key
- Works standalone or with systemd-boot bootloader

Software:

- sbctl Secure Boot Manager
- systemd-ukify Combine kernel and initrd into a signed Unified Kernel Image





Questions?



You Have Made It!

Thank you.



Sources & Links

https://arstechnica.com/security/2024/07/secure-boot-is-completely-compromised-on-200-models-from-5-big-device-makers/ https://www.heise.de/news/UEFI-Schwachstelle-LogoFAIL-Secure-Boot-mit-manipulierten-Bootlogos-ungehbar-9547013.html https://www.reddit.com/r/MSI_Gaming/comments/10g9V3m/msi_statement_on_secure_boot/ https://www.heise.de/news/BootHole-Bugs-im-Bootloader-Grub-gefaehrden-Linux-und-Windows-4859293.html https://github.com/rhboot/shim-review https://jgithub.com/ATIX-AG/foreman-discovery-image-kiwi https://github.com/ATIX-AG/foreman-discovery-image-kiwi https://github.com/footbiole-Extensible_Firmware_Interface/Secure_Boot https://github.com/footbiolchoci https://github.com/footbiolchoci https://github.com/footbiolchoci https://github.com/footbiolchoci https://github.com/footbiolchoci

Development:

https://community.theforeman.org/t/add-secureboot-support-for-arbitrary-distributions/32601 https://community.theforeman.org/t/fc-distribution-of-netboot-files-via-ocl-registry/36791 https://github.com/theforeman-foreman-documentation/pull/2145 https://github.com/theforeman/foreman/pull/9864 https://github.com/theforeman/foreman/pull/10207 https://github.com/theforeman/foreman-pull/10207