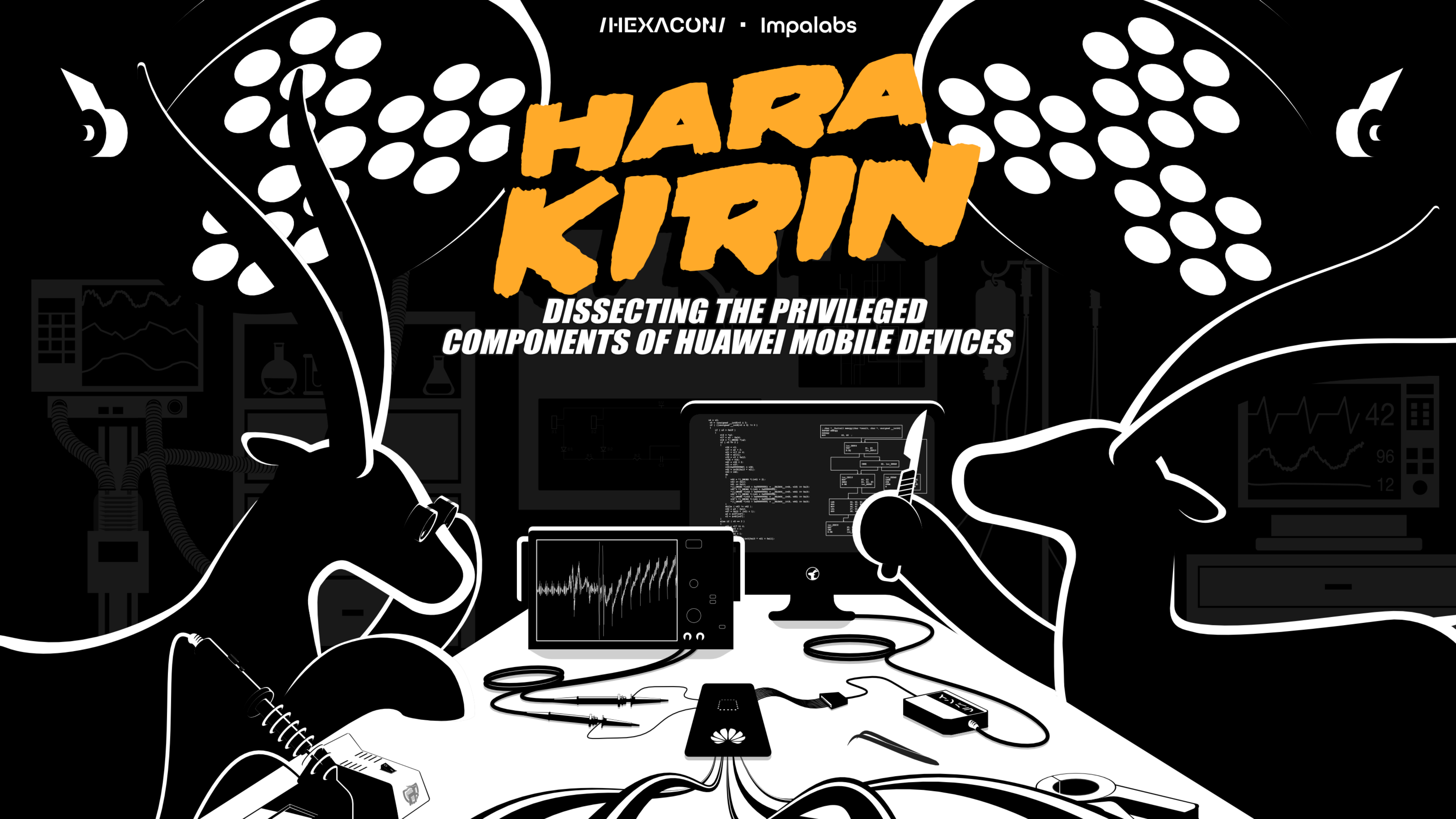


# HARA KIRIN

***DISSECTING THE PRIVILEGED  
COMPONENTS OF HUAWEI MOBILE DEVICES***



# About Us



**Maxime Peterlin – @lyte\_\_**  
Security researcher & Co-founder



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Security researcher & Co-founder



**Impalabs – @the\_impalabs**  
French offensive security company  
Reverse engineering, vulnerability research, exploit development

Website – <https://impalabs.com>  
Blog – <https://blog.impalabs.com>



# Outline

● Introduction

● Bootchain

● Hypervisor

● Secure Monitor

● Secure Kernel

● Trusted OS

● Trusted Applications

● Conclusion



The background is a dark gray field filled with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons. These icons represent various technological and scientific concepts, including computer monitors, keyboards, smartphones, circuit boards, lightbulbs, clouds, and storage devices. The icons are scattered across the entire background, creating a dense, textured effect.

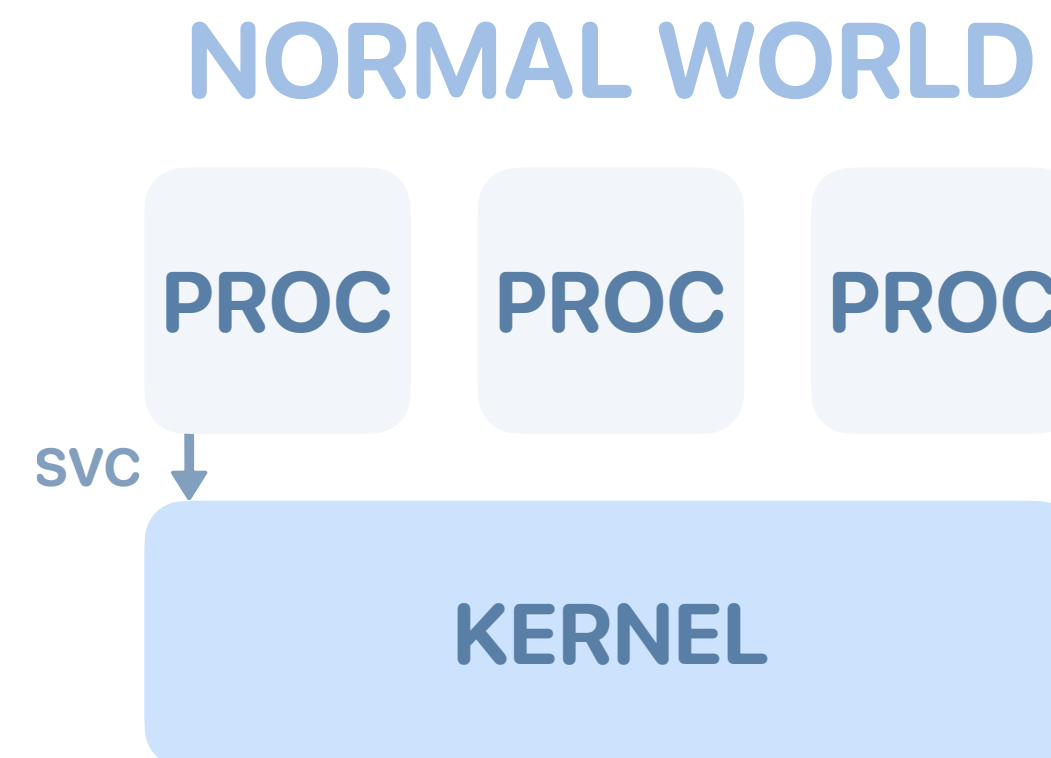
# Introduction



# Android Device Architecture

## Kernel-Based Security

- ▶ **Access control** to resources from user space is enforced by the kernel
  - Address space isolation
  - Preemptive multitasking
  - Peripherals access restriction
- ▶ **Single point of failure**
  - Breaching kernel defenses results in full system compromise





# Android Device Architecture

## Security Hypervisor

### ► CPU virtualization

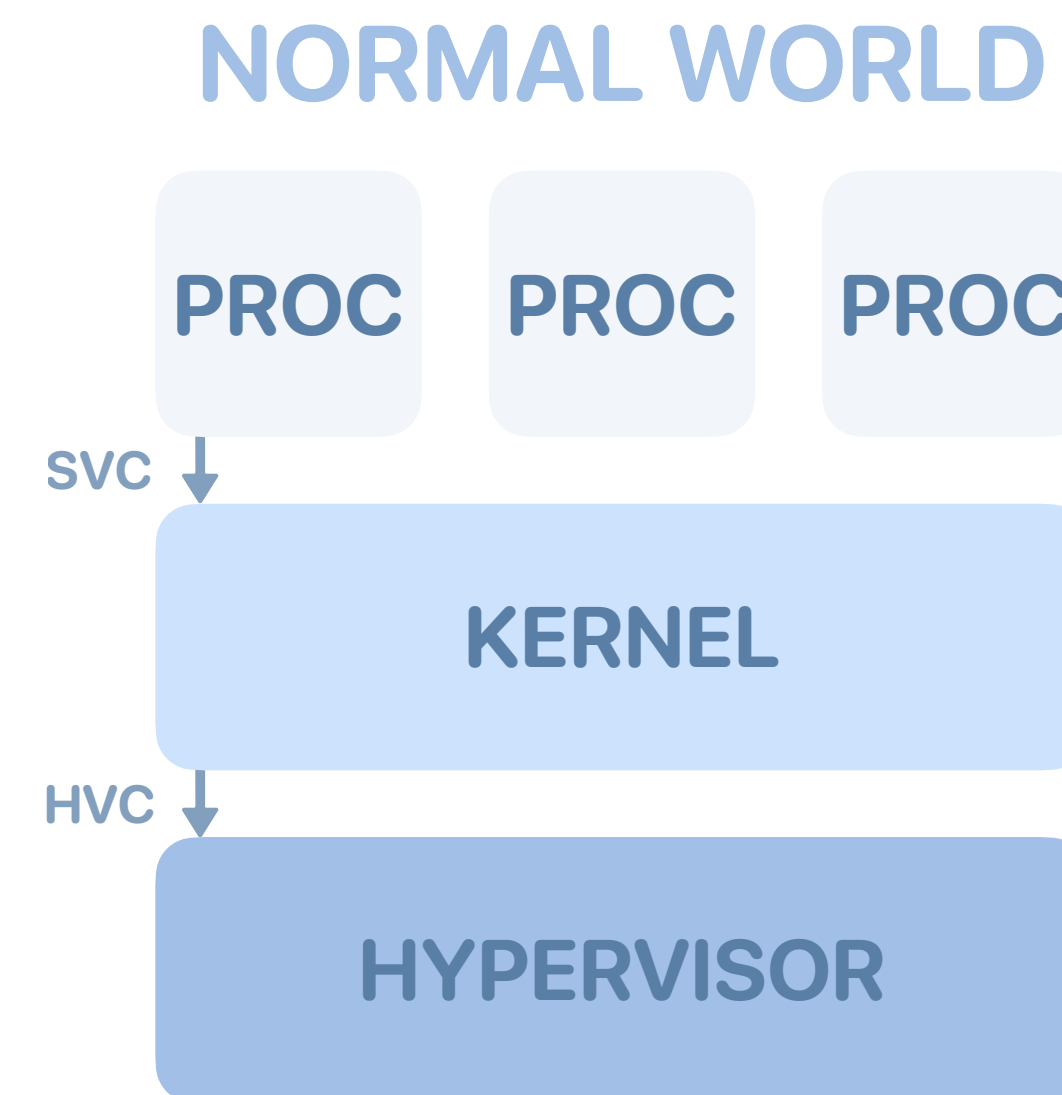
- Traditionally used to execute multiple operating systems in parallel on the same device
- Leveraged on Android devices to enhance system security instead

### ► ARM virtualization extensions

- Additional privilege level
- Memory access restrictions
- Exceptions interception

### ► Protects **critical data structures** at run time

- Credentials, security contexts, page tables, etc.

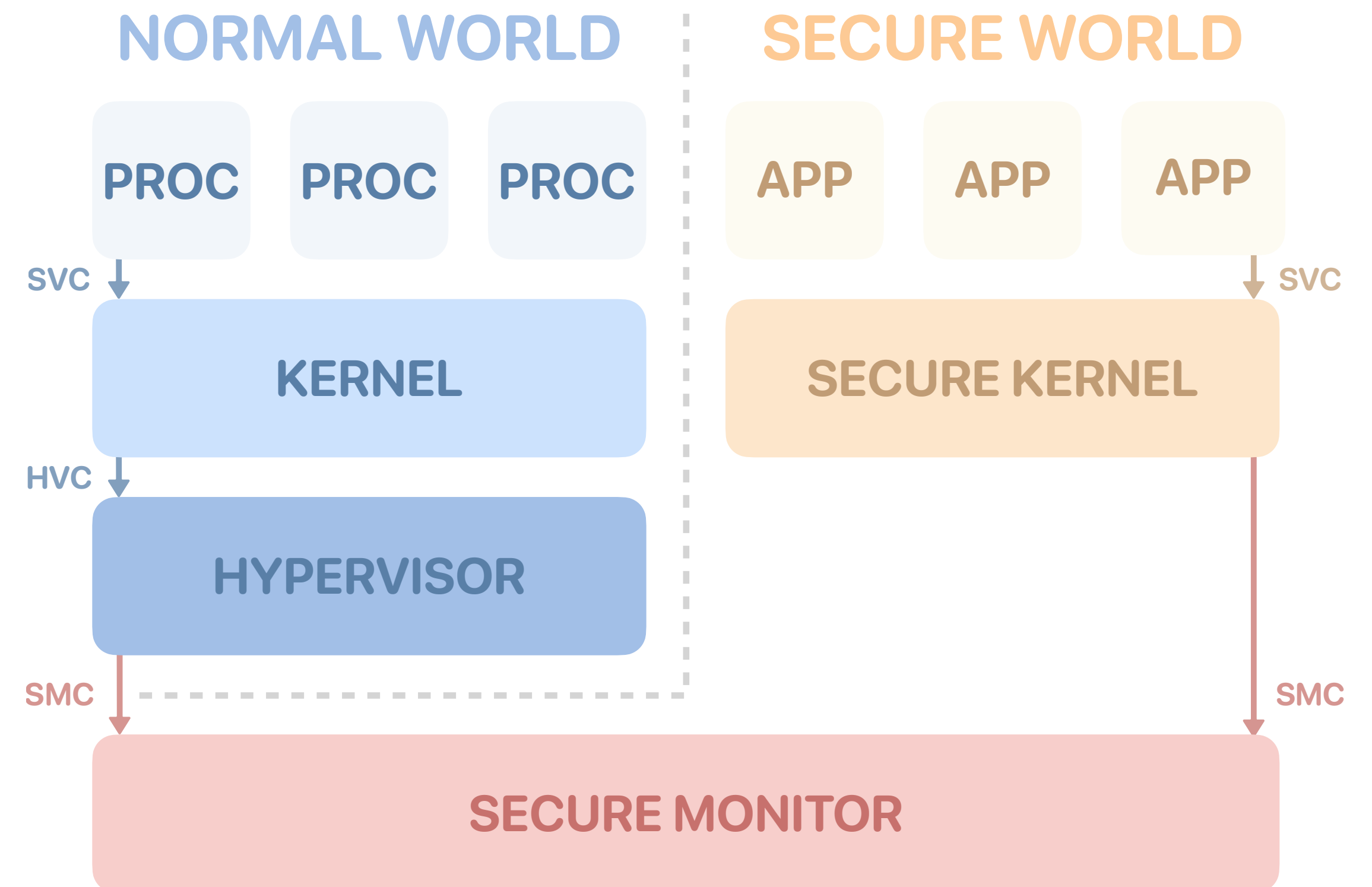




# Android Device Architecture

## TrustZone for Cortex-A

- ▶ System-wide **hardware separation**
  - An untrusted **Normal World** and a trusted **Secure World**
  - Access to secure hardware resources from non-secure software is prohibited
  - Inter-world communications through the **Secure Monitor**
- ▶ TrustZone and Secure Boot are used to create a **Trusted Execution Environment (TEE)**
  - Authentication (e.g. for encrypted filesystem)
  - Mobile payment, secrets management, etc.
  - Content management (DRM)

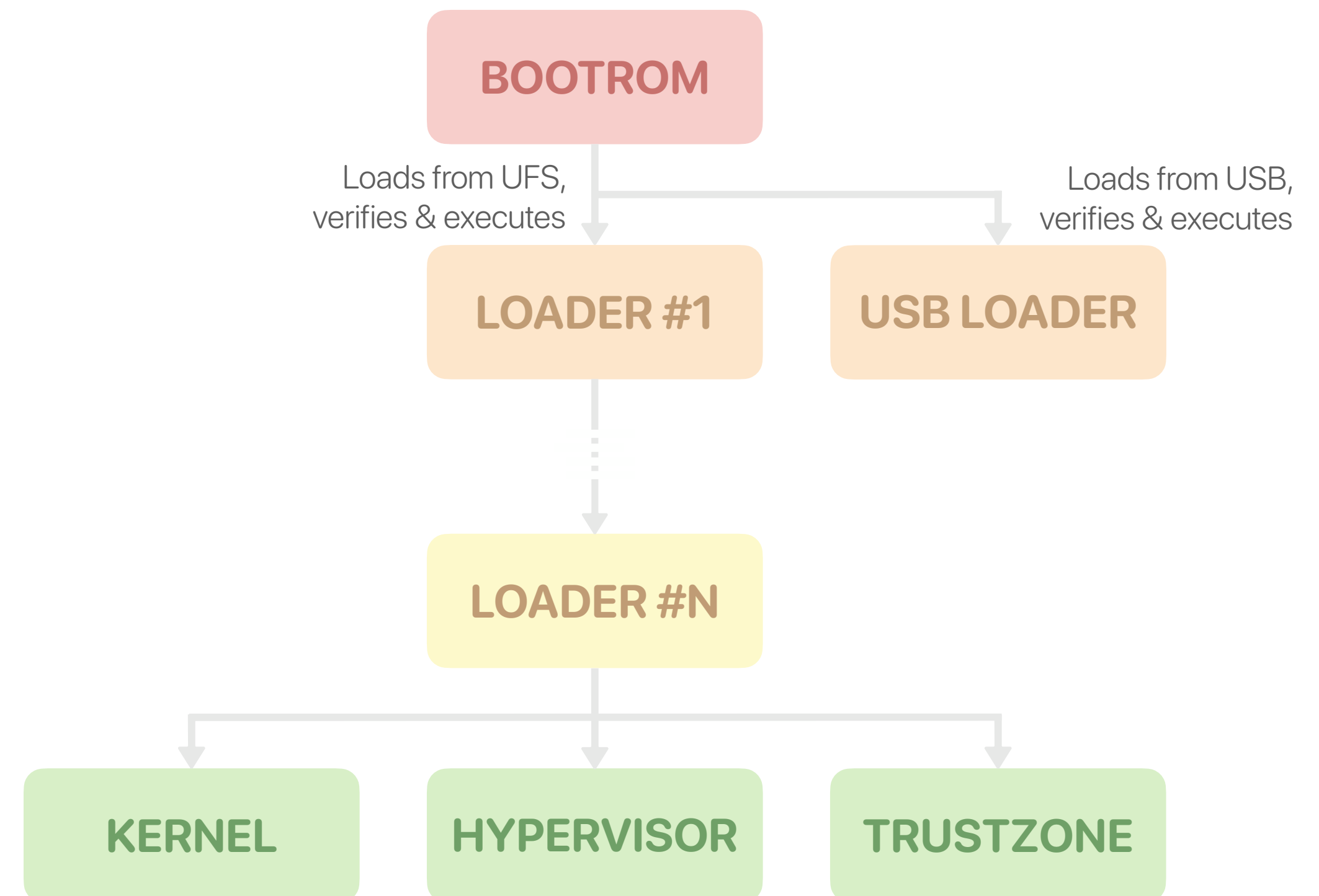




# Android Device Architecture

## Secure Boot

- ▶ Each stage **cryptographically checks** that the next image is authorized to run
  - Creates a *chain of trust*
  - Starting from the *root of trust*, an **immutable component**
- ▶ Prevents unauthorized or modified software from executing on the device
- ▶ OEMs implement **additional features**
  - Anti-rollback mechanism
  - Emergency boot over USB
  - Boot images encryption





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# Boot Chain

# Boot Chain

## Overview

### ► Security mechanisms

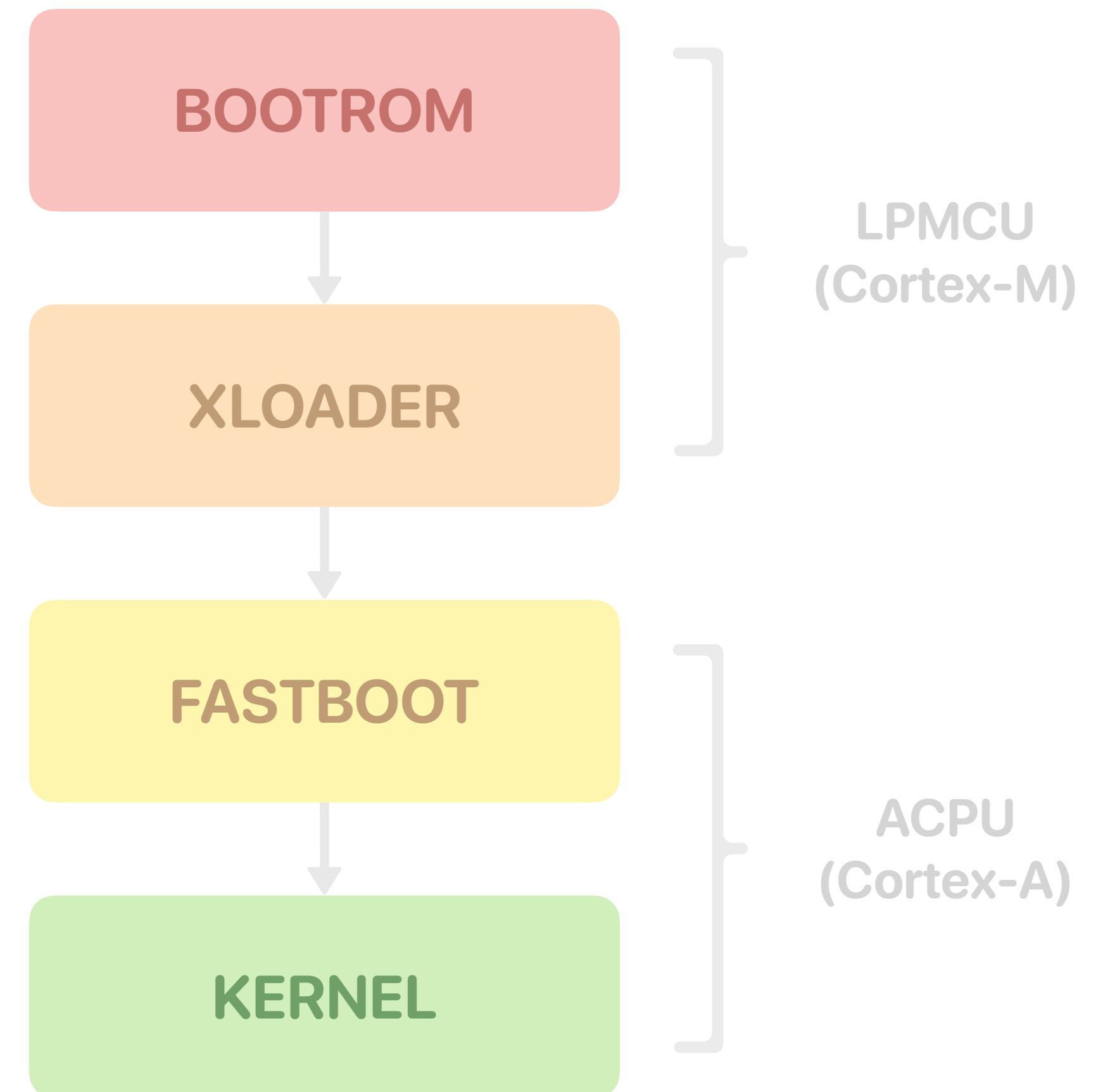
- **Secure boot:** prevents replacing or modifying boot chain images
- **Bootloader lock:** prevents reflashing the partitions or running a custom kernel

### ► Bootstrapping challenges

- All critical partitions are **encrypted**
- Can't talk directly to targeted components
- Countermeasures in kernel and userland

### ► Getting control over the boot chain

- High entry cost: we need to find a **vulnerability** first

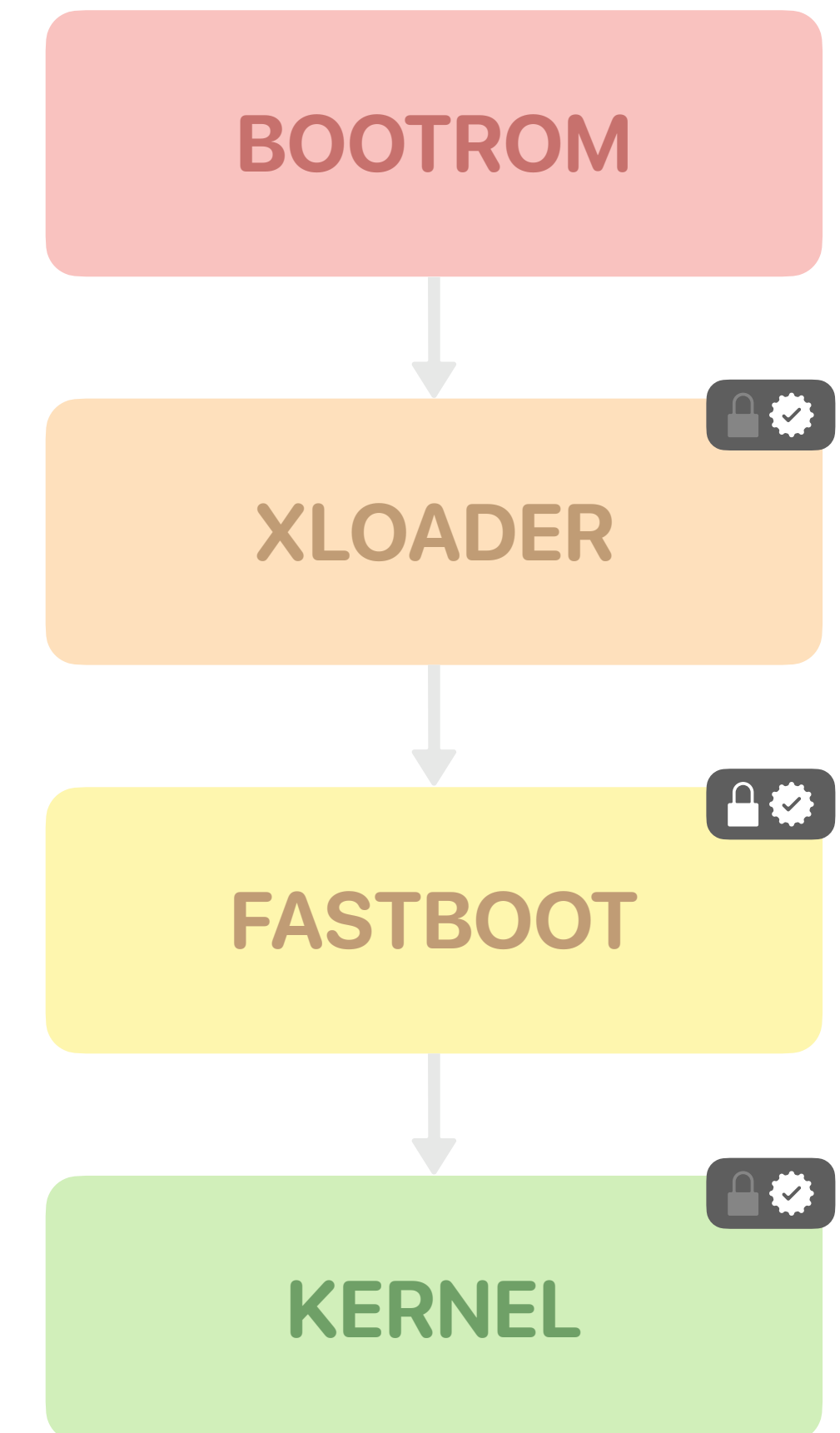




# Boot Chain

## First Research Device

- ▶ **P30 Lite** (Kirin 710 chipset)
  - Xloader is **signed** but **not encrypted**, thus can be retrieved from a firmware update
  - Found a **vulnerability** in its implementation of *xmodem*, the USB recovery protocol
    - The next stage binary's base address is **not verified**
    - Can be leveraged to modify Xloader itself (all memory is RWX)
    - Shorting a **test point** on the device activates the download mode feature

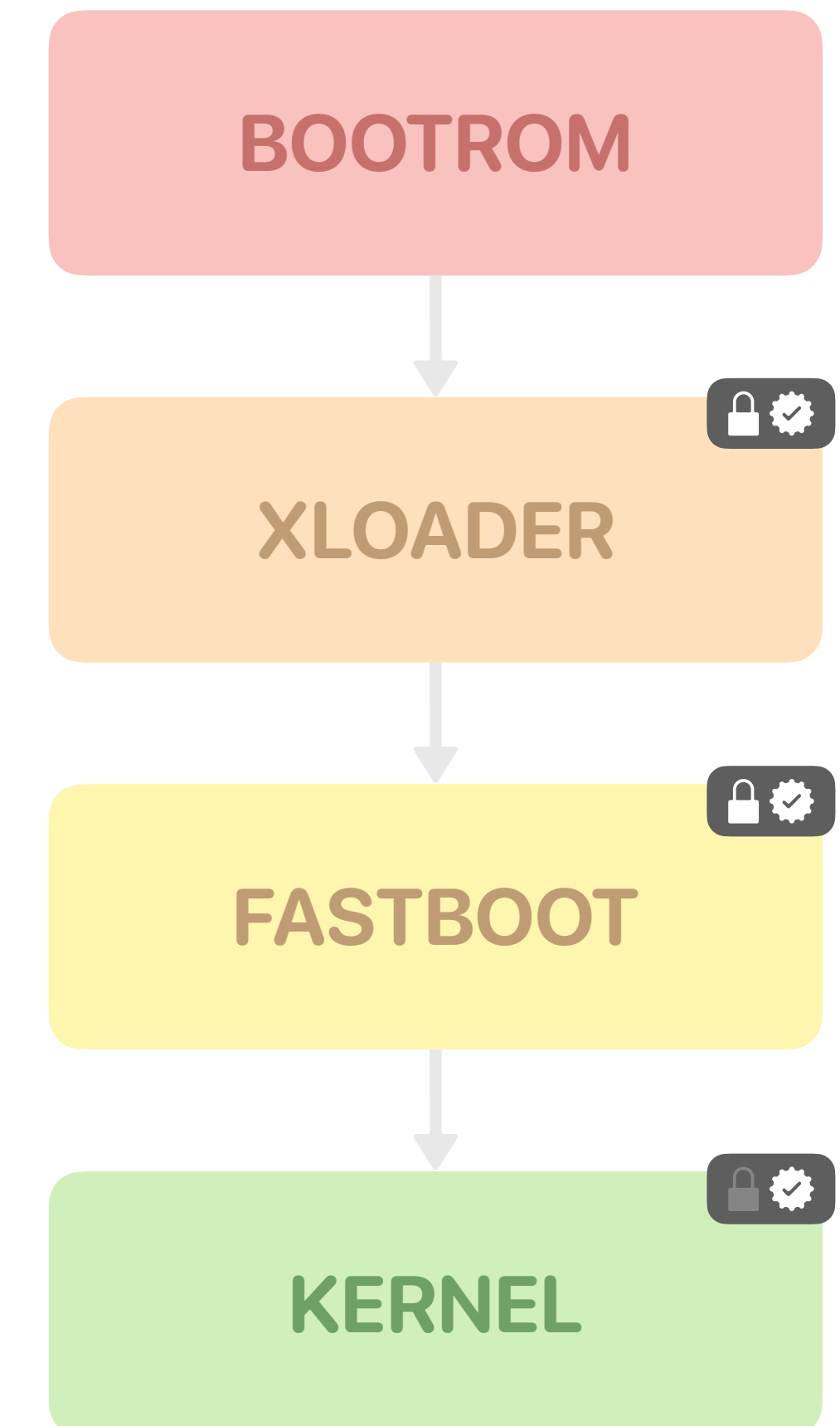




# Boot Chain

## Second Research Device

- ▶ P40 Lite (Kirin 810 chipset)
  - Xloader is **signed** and **encrypted**
  - But it is also affected by the *xmodem* vulnerability that needs to be exploited **blindly**
  - Decryption key no longer stored in fuses and is only accessible to the **crypto engine**
    - Firmware images are retrieved by using the device as an **oracle**

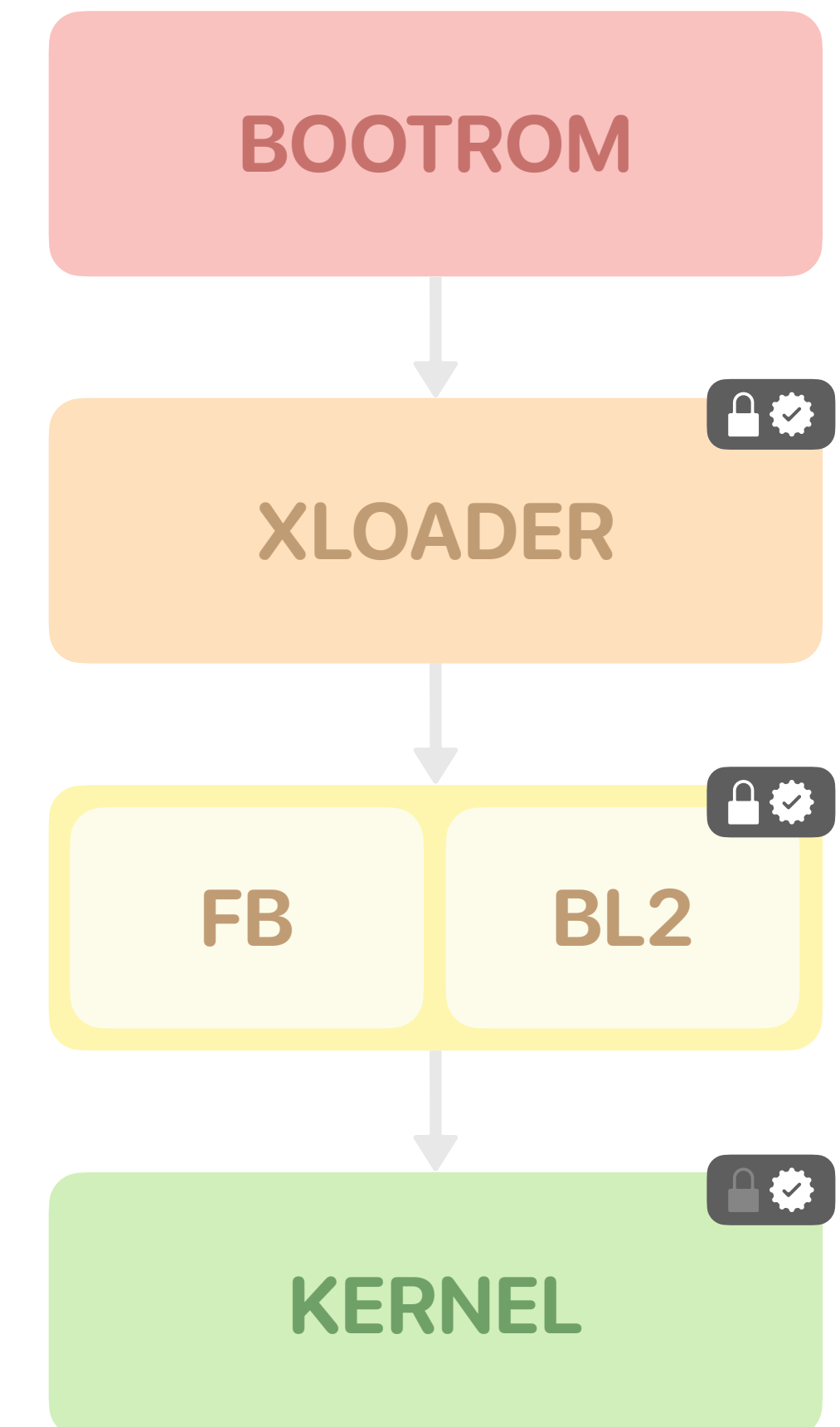




# Boot Chain

## Third Research Device

- ▶ **P40 Pro** (Kirin 990 chipset)
  - Xloader is **signed, encrypted**, but **not vulnerable** to the *xmodem* bug
  - Fastboot is **split** into a privileged and an unprivileged component
  - **Another vulnerability** is needed to get control over the boot chain



# Boot Chain

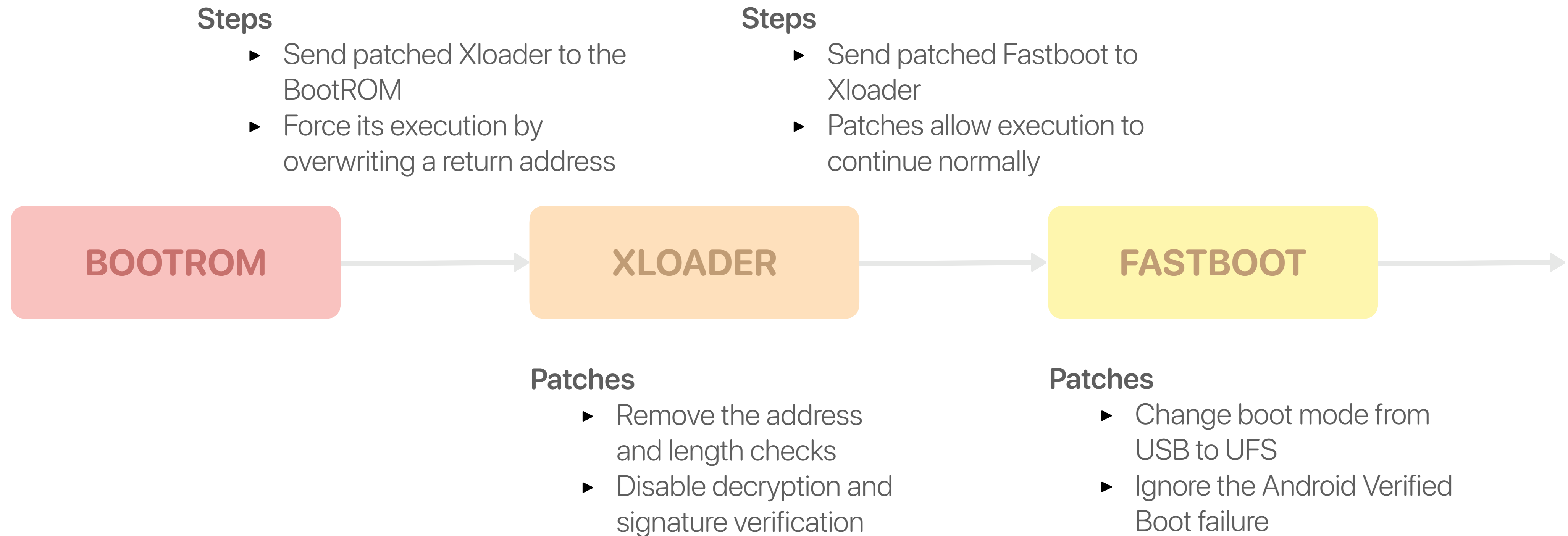
## How to Tame Your Unicorn

- ▶ Talk presented at *BlackHat USA 2021* by **Taszk Security Labs**
  - Revealed multiple Xloader and BootROM bugs
  - Including the Xloader vulnerability that we had discovered
- ▶ **CVE-2021-22434**: Head Chunk Resend State Machine Confusion
  - Internal state is not reset when sending an incorrect payload address
  - **BootROM** code execution can be achieved from this **arbitrary write primitive**
  - Must be exploited **blindly** on the Kirin 990 chipset
    - Dump Xloader using the *Flash Patch and Breakpoint* unit of the LPMCU
- ▶ Huawei “fixed” the BootROM bugs by burning a fuse to disable the USB recovery mode



# Boot Chain

## Continuation of Execution



- Similarly to "CHECKM30" presented at *MOSEC 2021* by **Pangu Team**

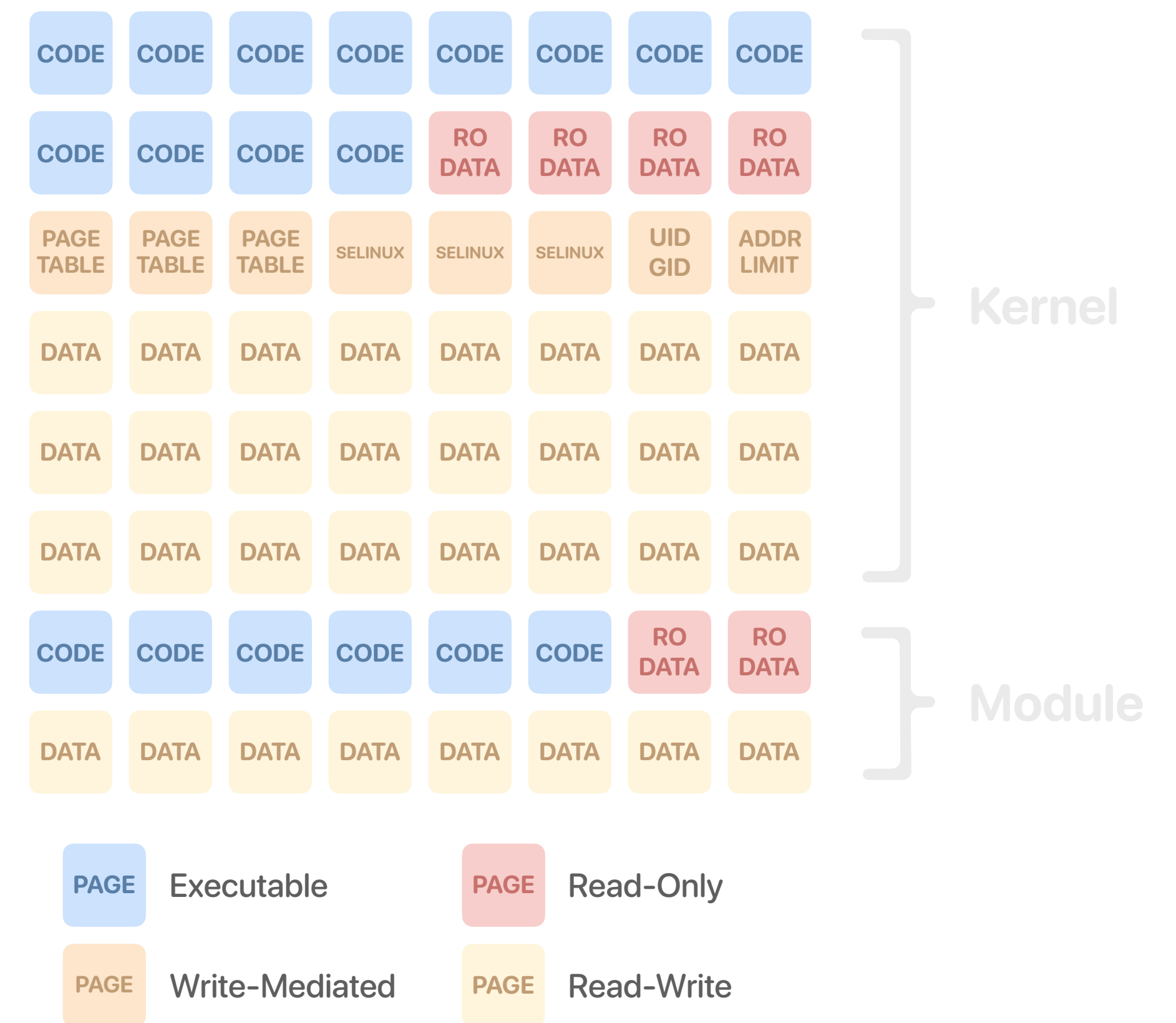
# Security Hypervisor



# Security Hypervisor

## Introduction

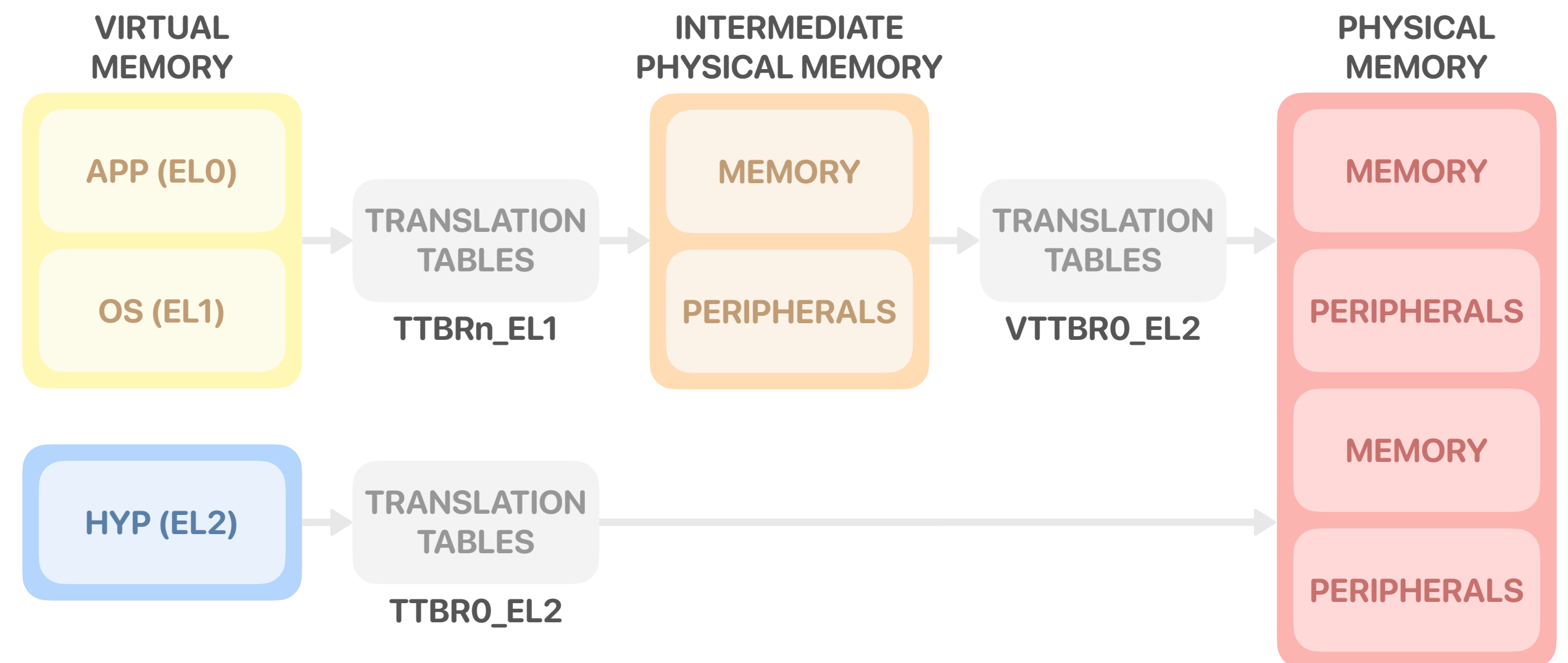
- ▶ Called **Huawei Hypervisor Execution Environment (HHEE)**
  - Similar to **uH/RKP** on Samsung's Exynos or **QHEE** on Qualcomm's Snapdragon
- ▶ **Main Security Features**
  - Prevents arbitrary changes to the kernel read-only data, its page tables, SELinux structures, etc.
  - Keeps a read-only copy of tasks' information to detect **privilege escalation** on the next syscall or file access
  - Ensures only the pages belonging to the **kernel** and **modules** code segment can be executed at EL1
  - Makes critical physical memory regions (e.g. sensorhub, secure npu, modem, etc.) inaccessible to EL0 and EL1
  - Enables **execute-only** user space memory that is unreadable from the kernel



# Security Hypervisor

## Second Stage of Address Translation

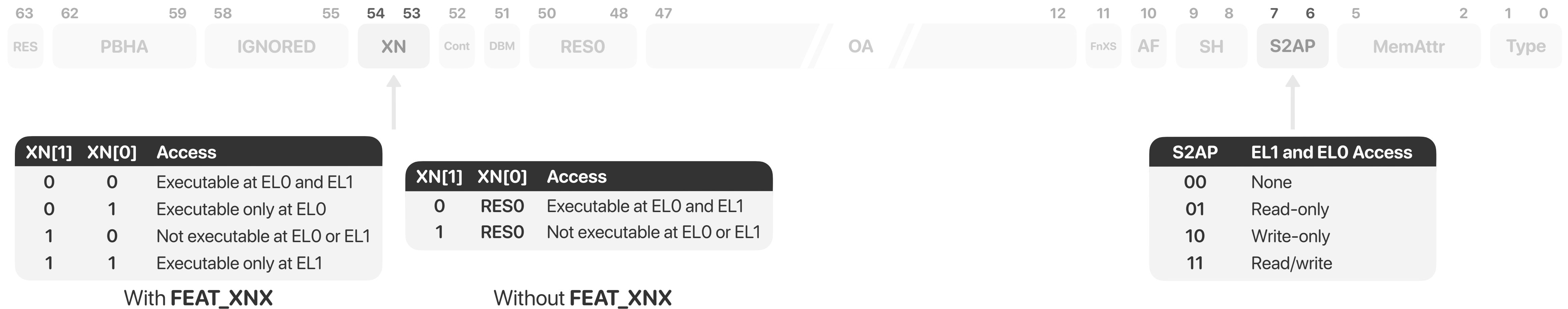
- ▶ Virtual address translation is extended with a **second stage**
  - The VA is first translated into an *Intermediate Physical Address*
  - The IPA is then translated into a PA
- ▶ It uses a second set of page tables under the control of the hypervisor
  - These page tables can apply **additional access control**
- ▶ The hypervisor also has its own page tables for its virtual address space





# Security Hypervisor

## Second Stage Limitations



- ▶ Stage 2 permissions **cannot distinguish** between EL0 and EL1 for:
  - Read and write accesses
  - Executability, if *FEAT\_XNX* is not implemented
- ▶ It is the main reason stage 1 page tables also need to be **controlled** by the hypervisor

# Security Hypervisor

## Kernel Page Tables

### ► Initial processing

- Traps changes made to the *TTBR1\_EL1* and *SCTRL\_EL1* system registers
- Performs a page table walk and ensures every descriptor is sane and coherent
  - e.g. descriptors with the contiguous bit set actually point to contiguous memory
- Enforces **EL0/EL1 distinction** for read-write accesses and executability
  - By default, kernel pages are set non executable at EL1 and non accessible at EL0

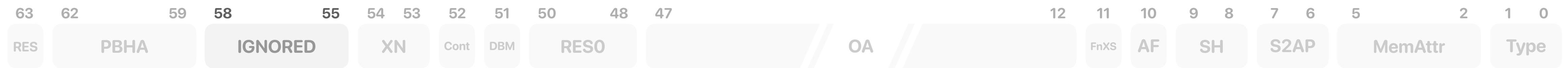
### ► Changes monitoring

- Kernel page tables are set as **read-only** in the second stage
  - Except when permissions can be enforced at previous table level (PXNTable/APTable)
- A **write** to a stage 1 descriptor or a **translation fault** during a page table walk raises an exception
  - Handled by the hypervisor to ensure modifications are permitted and update stage 2 accordingly



# Security Hypervisor

## Software Attributes



Attrs	Description
0b0000	Unmarked
0b0100	Level 0 Page Table
0b0101	Level 1 Page Table
0b0110	Level 2 Page Table
0b0111	Level 3 Page Table
0b1000	OS Read-Only
0b1001	OS Module Read-Only
0b1010	Hyp-mediated OS Read-Only
0b1011	Hyp-mediated OS Module Read-Only
0b1100	Shared Obj Protection Execute-Only

### ► Hypervisor Software Attributes

- Bitfield stored in bits [58:55] of a stage 2 descriptor
- Contains **usage information** about the underlying memory region
- Used to prevent **disallowed changes** to protected memory
  - e.g. making a OS read-only page writable again

### ► Rules enforced while modifying them

- Only **unmarked** descriptors can be marked
- To unmark a descriptor, the **current marking** must be provided

# Security Hypervisor

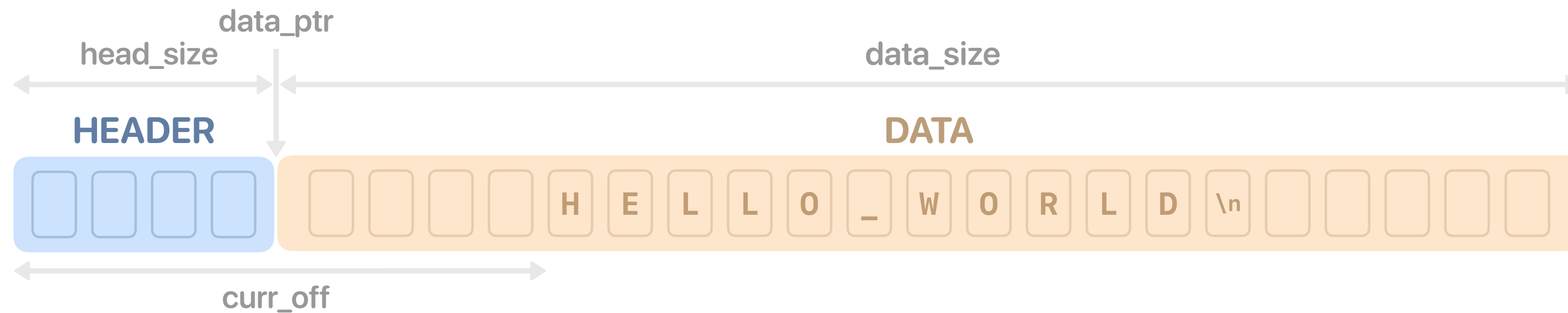
## Methodology

- ▶ Extensive **reverse engineering**
  - **Static analysis**
    - 68 KB raw binary
    - AArch64 code
    - 295 functions
    - No symbols
    - ~10 log strings
  - Analysis can be augmented with information coming from external sources
    - HVC names from the kernel source code
    - *Armv8-A Architecture Reference Manual*
- ▶ Identifying the **attack surface**
  - HVC and SMC handlers
  - Faulting memory accesses
  - Trapped system registers accesses
    - e.g. *SCTLR\_EL1*, *TCR\_EL1*, etc.
  - Memory shared with the kernel
- ▶ **Comparing** the security hypervisors of different OEMs might highlight implementation flaws



# Security Hypervisor

## Vulnerability



### ► CVE-2021-39979

- Logging system use a control structure located in **shared memory** that is accessible to the kernel
- Pointer, offset and sizes fields are all **unchecked**
- We can **write log strings** at any virtual address that is mapped into the hypervisor

# Security Hypervisor

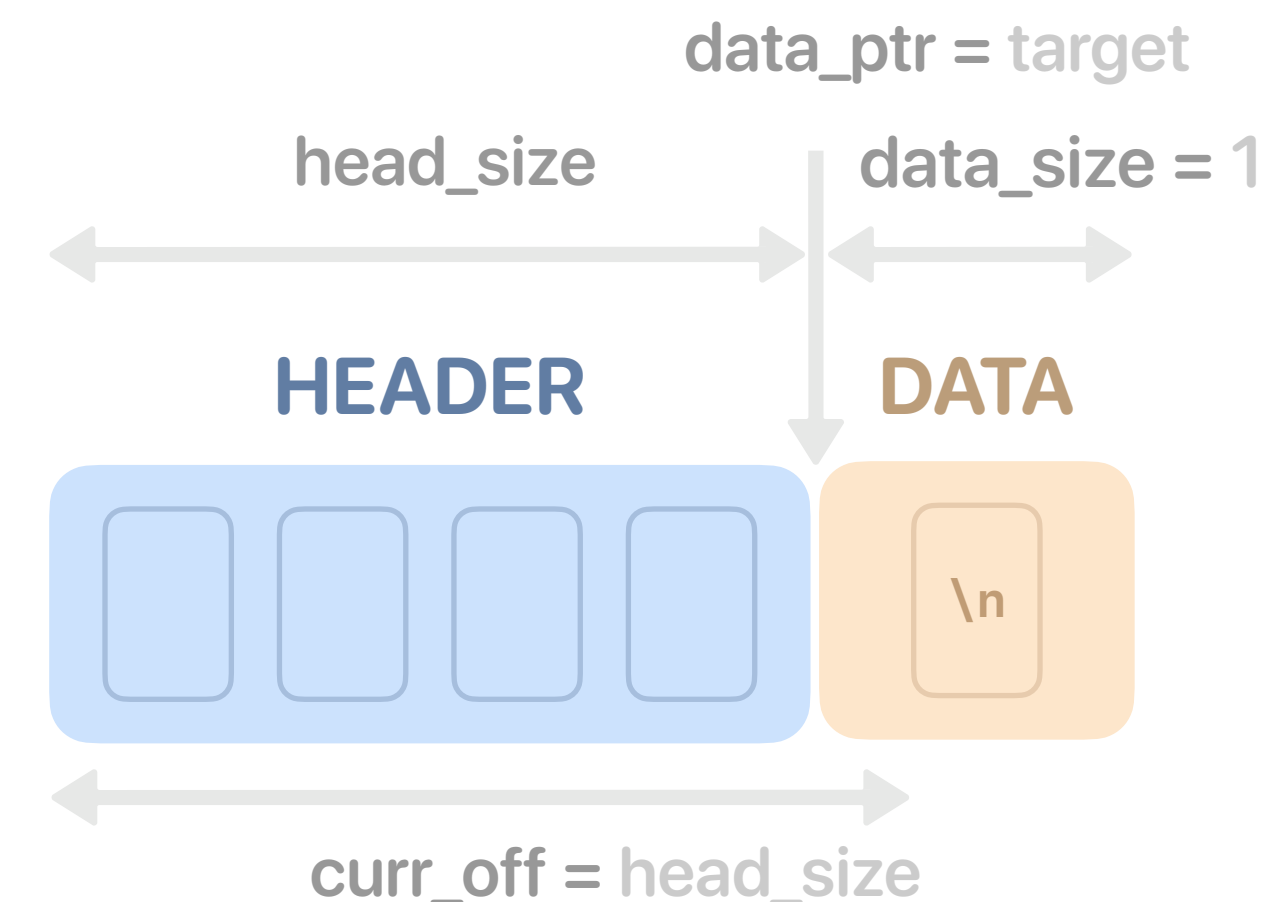
## Exploitation

### ► Constrained write primitive

- The log string being written is **not user-controlled**
- Since the buffer is **circular** and written character by character
  - Only the **last byte** will remain in memory if we set the data size of the buffer to 1
  - It's always the **new line** character: `\n` (0xA)

### ► Linear heap allocator

- Heap region has a fixed base address and size
  - The current offset is stored in a **global variable**
- The allocation function **assumes** the offset value is sane (smaller than the heap size)
  - If it isn't, an integer underflow happens and the allocator returns out-of-bounds memory
- Right after the heap is a **kernel-accessible** region



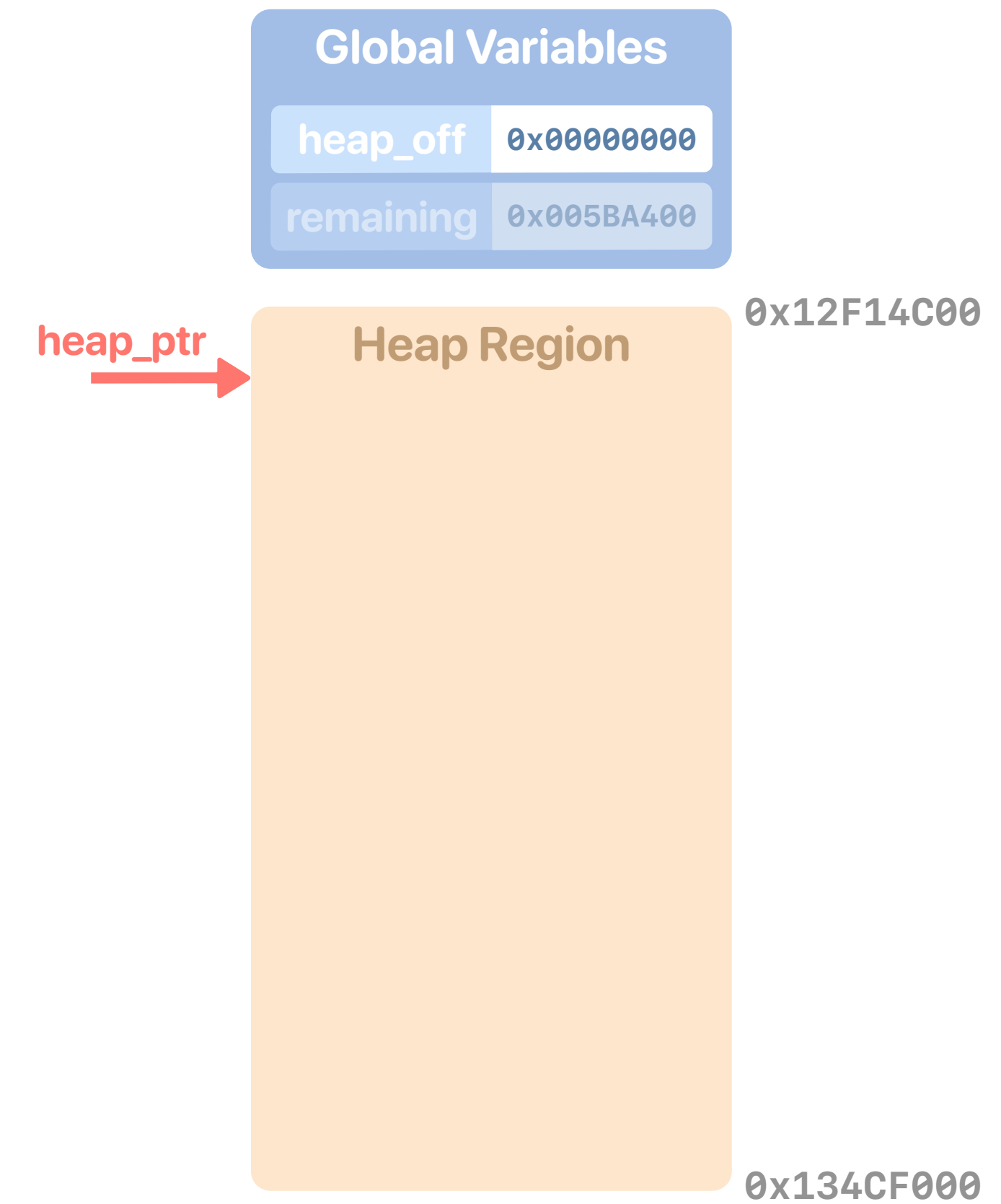
```
void malloc(uint64_t size) {  
    if (HEAP_SIZE - heap_off < pad + size)  
        return 0;  
    heap_off += pad + size;  
    return HEAP_ADDR + heap_off + pad;  
}
```



# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

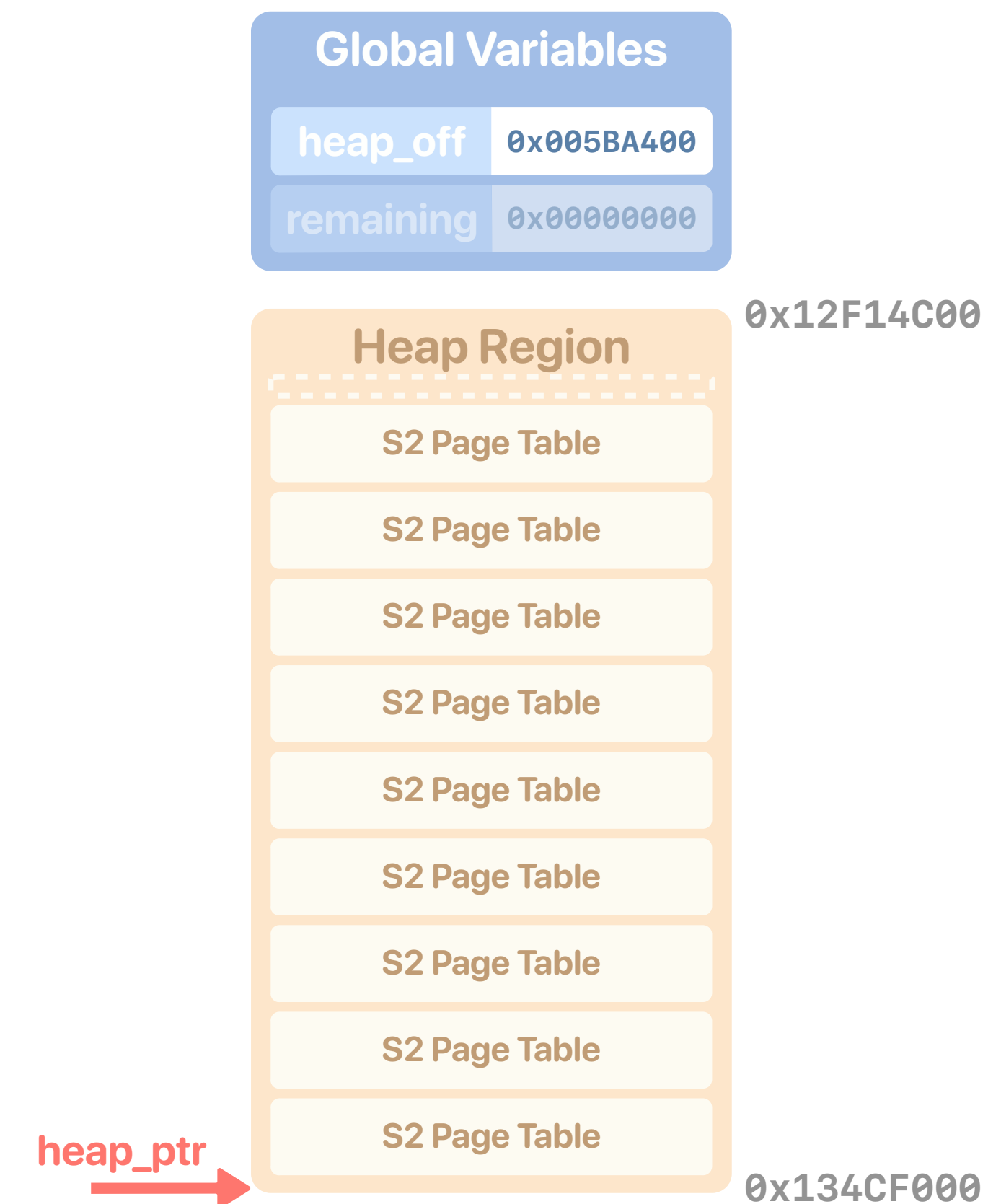
- Getting code execution



# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

- Getting code execution
  - **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations



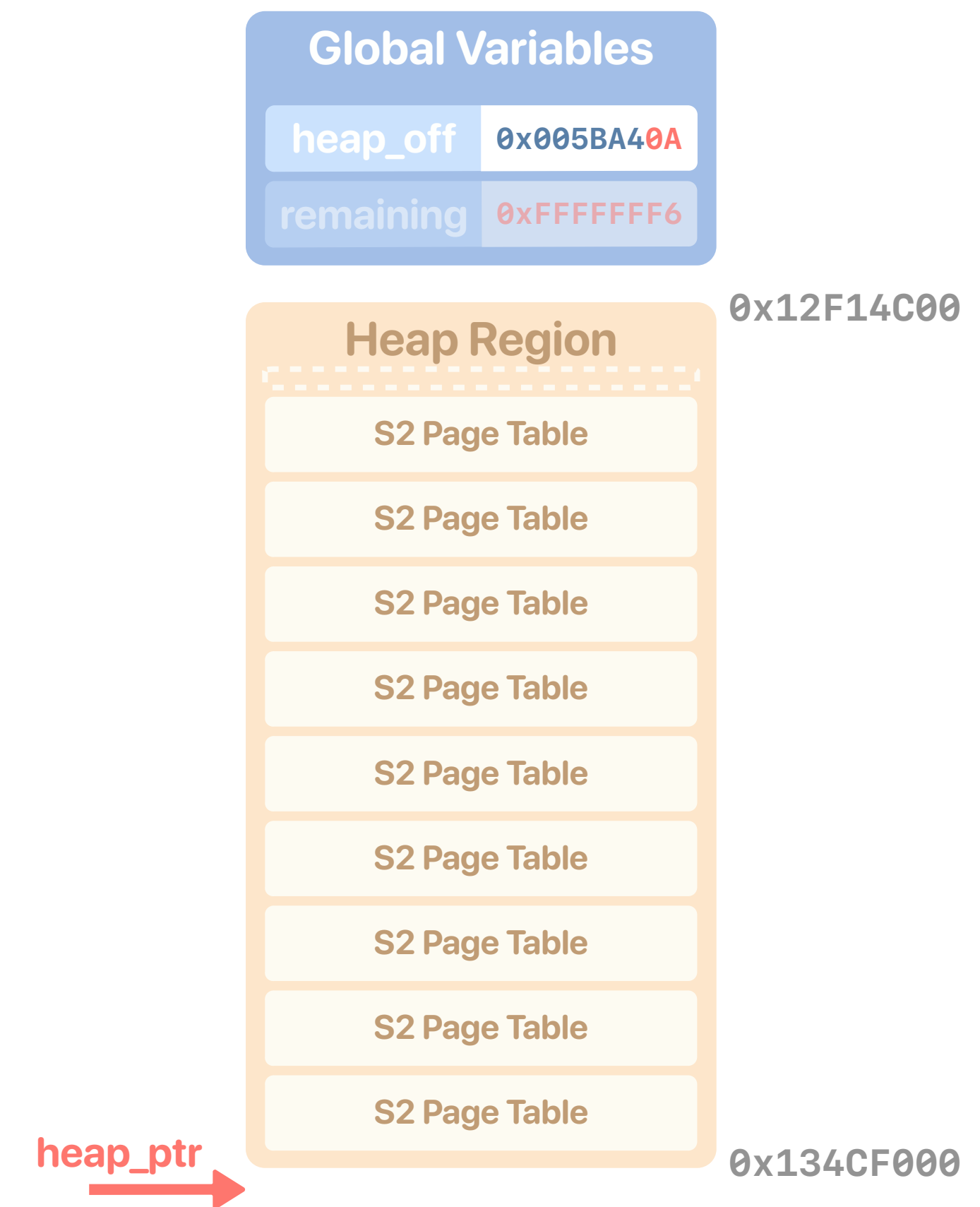


# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

### ► Getting code execution

- **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations
- **Step 2:** Use the constrained write primitive to move the offset right past the end of heap

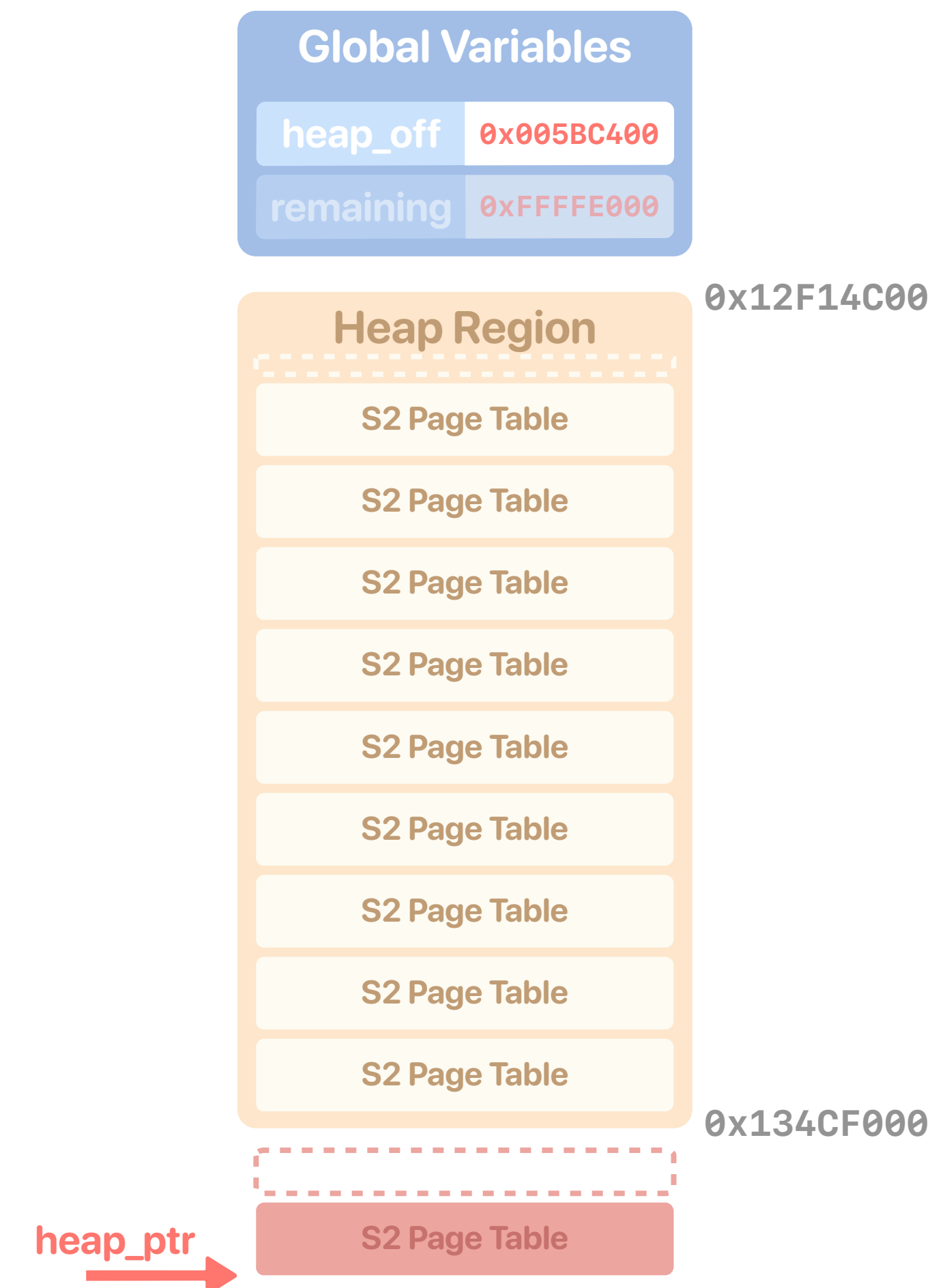


# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

### ► Getting code execution

- **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations
- **Step 2:** Use the constrained write primitive to move the offset right past the end of heap
- **Step 3:** Trigger a last stage 2 page table allocation that is made **out-of-bounds** because of the **integer underflow**





# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

### ► Getting code execution

- **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations
- **Step 2:** Use the constrained write primitive to move the offset right past the end of heap
- **Step 3:** Trigger a last stage 2 page table allocation that is made **out-of-bounds** because of the **integer underflow**

S2 Page Table

0x10000000	0x10000000	RO
0x10001000	0x10001000	RO
0x10002000	0x10002000	RO
...	...	...
0x101FD000	0x101FD000	RO
0x101FE000	0x101FE000	RO
0x101FF000	0x101FF000	RO

HVC Handler

```
mov x1, #8
mov x0, x8
str x1, [x8]
```

# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

### ► Getting code execution

- **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations
- **Step 2:** Use the constrained write primitive to move the offset right past the end of heap
- **Step 3:** Trigger a last stage 2 page table allocation that is made **out-of-bounds** because of the **integer underflow**
- **Step 4:** Change the page table from the kernel to **remap** the hypervisor as **read-write**

S2 Page Table

0x10000000	0x12F00000	RW
0x10001000	0x12F01000	RW
0x10002000	0x12F02000	RW
...	...	...
0x101FD000	0x130FD000	RW
0x101FE000	0x130FE000	RW
0x101FF000	0x130FF000	RW

HVC Handler

```
mov x1, #8
mov x0, x8
str x1, [x8]
```



# Security Hypervisor

## Exploitation

### ► Getting code execution

- **Step 1:** Fill up the heap to its maximum by triggering **stage 2 page tables** allocations
- **Step 2:** Use the constrained write primitive to move the offset right past the end of heap
- **Step 3:** Trigger a last stage 2 page table allocation that is made **out-of-bounds** because of the **integer underflow**
- **Step 4:** Change the page table from the kernel to **remap** the hypervisor as **read-write**
- **Step 5:** Patch the hypervisor memory and get code execution at EL2 from EL1
  - e.g. targeting one of the HVC handlers

S2 Page Table

0x10000000	0x12F00000	RW
0x10001000	0x12F01000	RW
0x10002000	0x12F02000	RW
...	...	...
0x101FD000	0x130FD000	RW
0x101FE000	0x130FE000	RW
0x101FF000	0x130FF000	RW

HVC Handler

```
mrs x0, CurrentEL
str x0, [x8]
ret
```



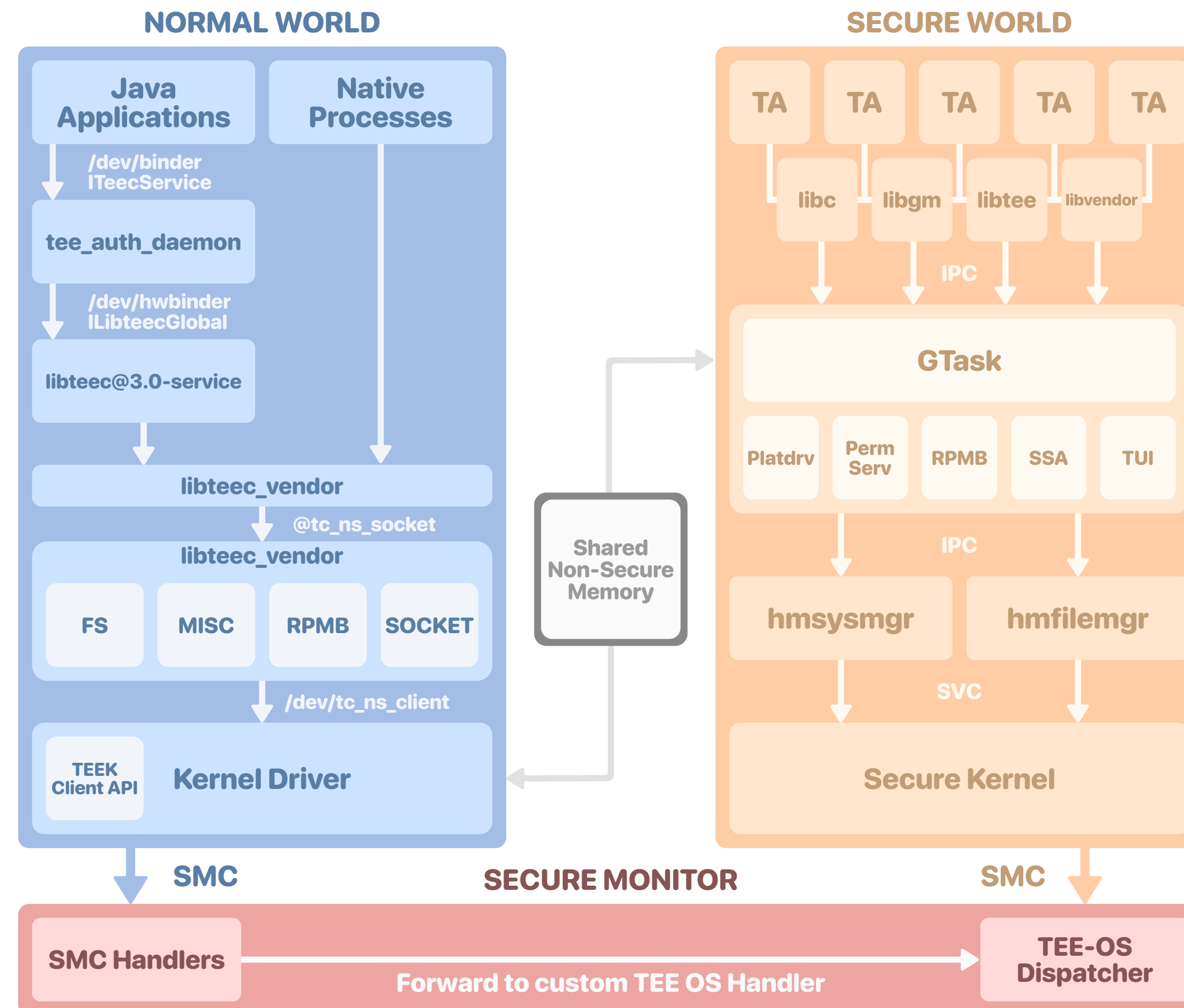
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# TrustZone



# TrustZone

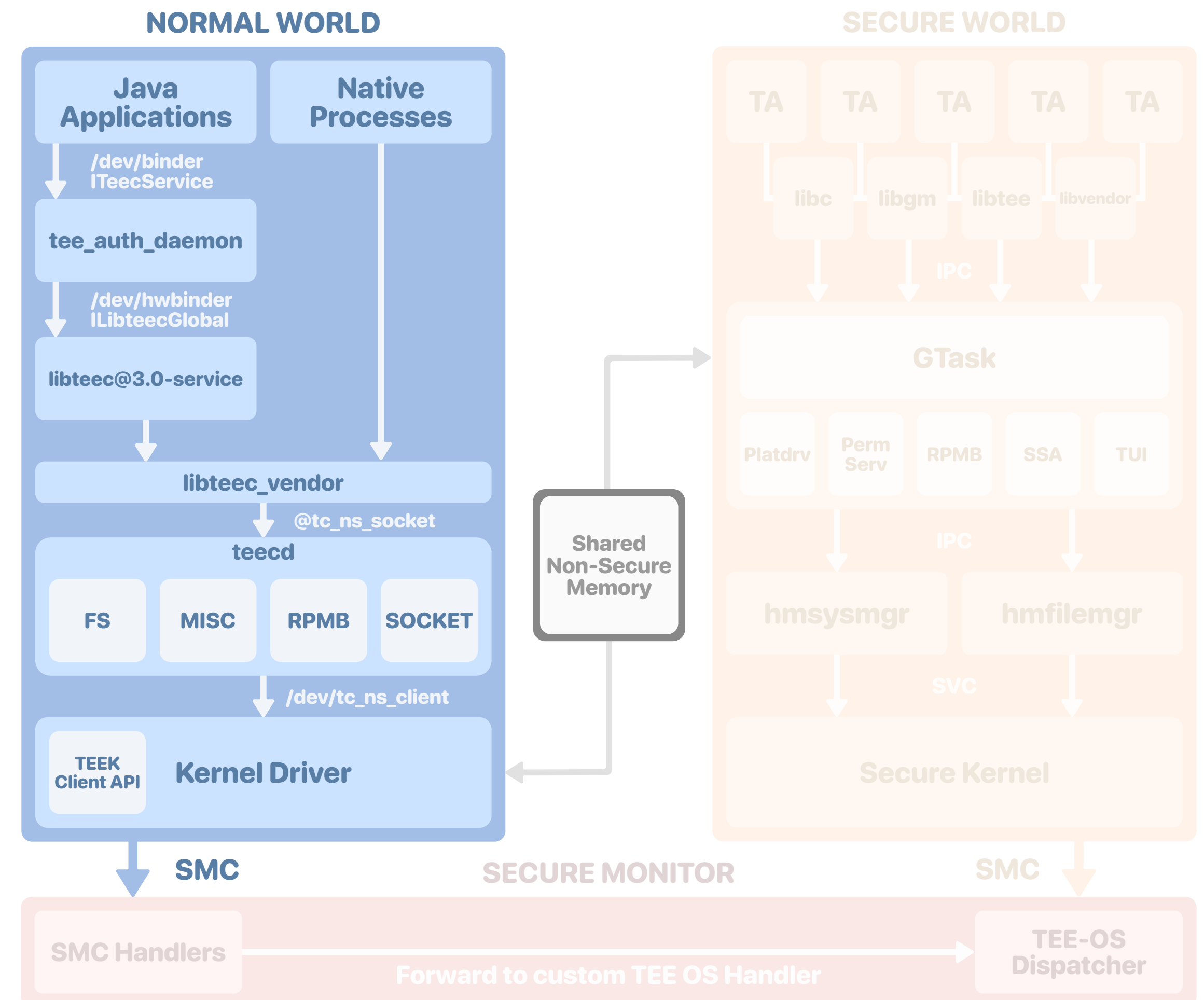
## Overview



# TrustZone

## Normal World Overview

- ▶ **Java applications & native processes**
  - **Main users** of secure world features
  - But not privileged enough to send requests to the Secure World
    - Use the **kernel** as a proxy
- ▶ Steps to **send messages** to the Secure World from **userland**
  - Requests are received by the userland daemon *tee*
  - First go through *tee\_auth\_daemon* for Java applications
  - And then forwarded to the kernel through the character device *tc\_ns\_client*
    - Implements the **agents** (filesystem, networking, etc.)
    - Provides a **shared library** to communicate with it
  - The kernel then sends the requests to the Secure World through an SMC
- ▶ Each interface has its own **SELinux context** to restrict access



# TrustZone

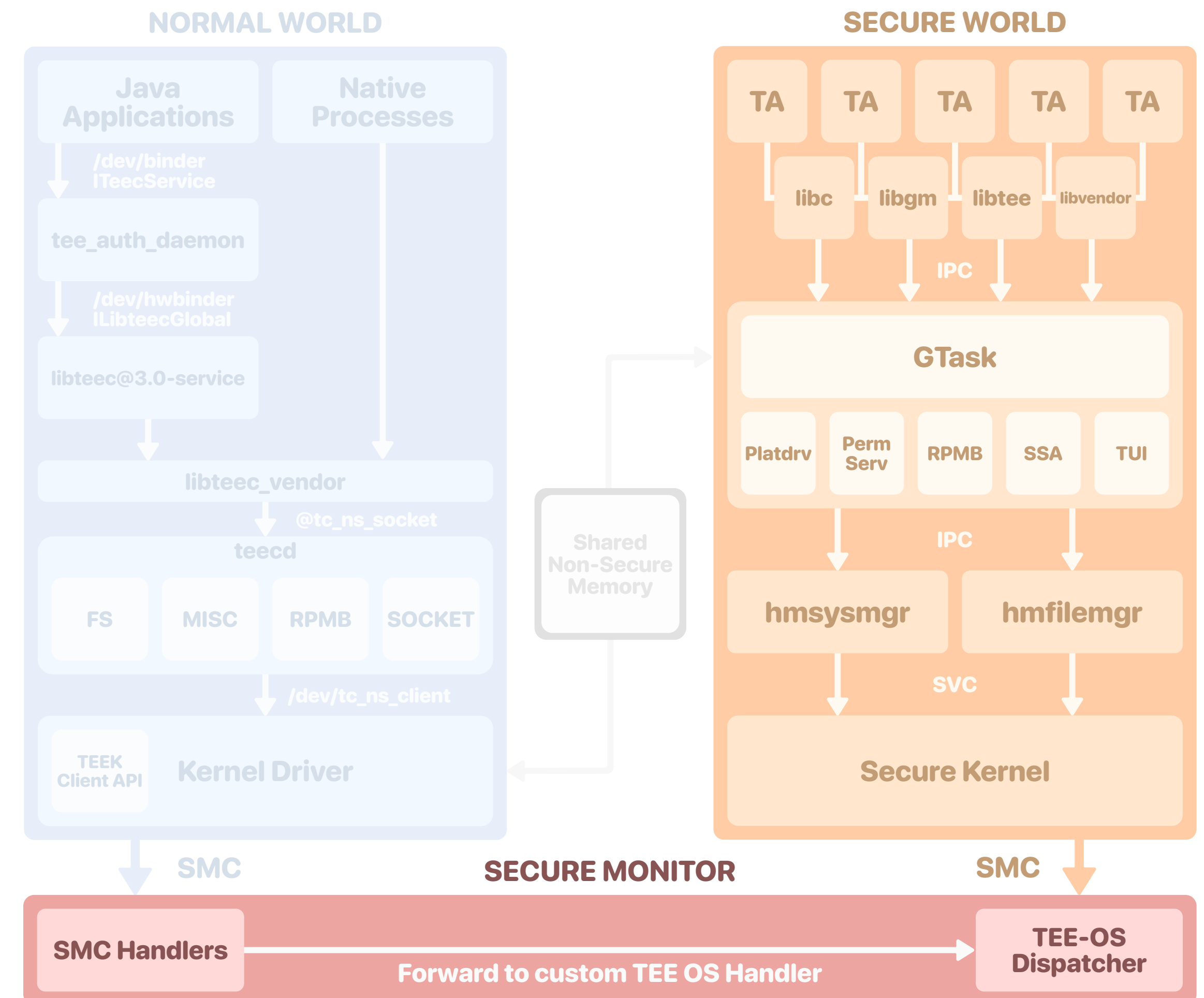
## Secure World Overview

### ► Secure Monitor

- Handles SMCs and forwards requests to the trusted OS

### ► Trusted OS

- Based on a micro-kernel architecture
- Trusted applications running on top of privileged tasks and drivers





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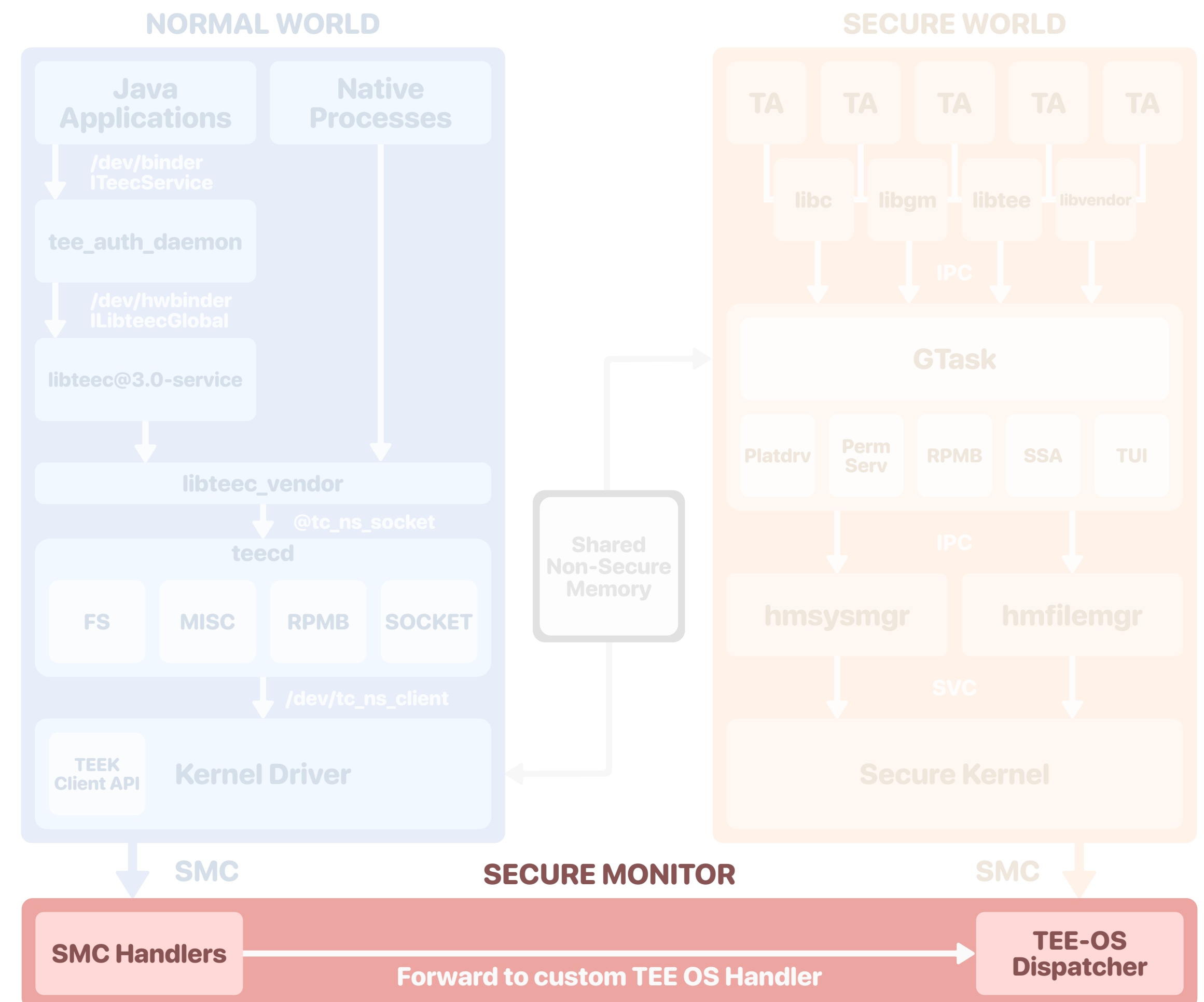
# Secure Monitor



# Secure Monitor

## Introduction

- ▶ Executes at **EL3**, the highest privilege level
  - Performs **privileged operations** and manages critical hardware **peripherals**
    - e.g. efuses, power controls, RPMB, etc.
  - Bridge between the **Normal** and **Secure Worlds**
    - Forwards requests between the kernel and the trusted OS
- ▶ Huawei's implementation based on the **ARM Trusted Firmware** (ATF)
  - Open source, probably heavily reviewed
- ▶ Huawei implemented additional **runtime services**
  - These handlers are more likely to be vulnerable



# Secure Monitor

## Vulnerability

### ► CVE-2021-39994

- Secure Monitor acts as a pass-through for the kernel to interact with the **Secure Element** (SE)
- A response from the SE uses the *user\_data* structure where the user controls:
  - The address of *user\_data*, that contains the response **metadata**
  - The address and size of the response **data**: *user\_data.addr* and *user\_data.size*
- **Bounds check**
  - The user-provided addresses for *user\_data* and *user\_data.addr* must be in a specific **world-shared memory buffer**
  - However, in one of the requests, the **check is missing** for *user\_data*
- Information about the SE's response is thus written at a **user-controlled address**
  - The response code *0xAABBCC55* at offset 4
  - The response size in the range *0x0-0xC* at offset *0xC*
  - The response data address *user\_data.addr*, which is **checked**

```
struct {
    uint32_t unkn;
    uint32_t code;
    uint32_t addr;
    uint32_t size;
} user_data;

uint32_t user_size;

/* check(user_data, user_size) is missing */
void on_reply(uint32_t addr, uint32_t size) {
    user_data.code = 0xAABBCC55;
    user_data.size = min(size, user_size);
    if (check(user_data.addr, user_data.size))
        memcpy(user_data.addr, addr, user_data.size);
}
```



# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

- ▶ **Step 1:** Use the response **metadata** to disable the check on the shared memory region
  - Allows copying the response **data** at an arbitrary *user\_data.addr*
  - Data isn't controlled either, but gives us more options

Data overwritten using the SE  
response metadata

Global Variables	
cma_addr	0x40000000
cma_size	0x10000000

# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

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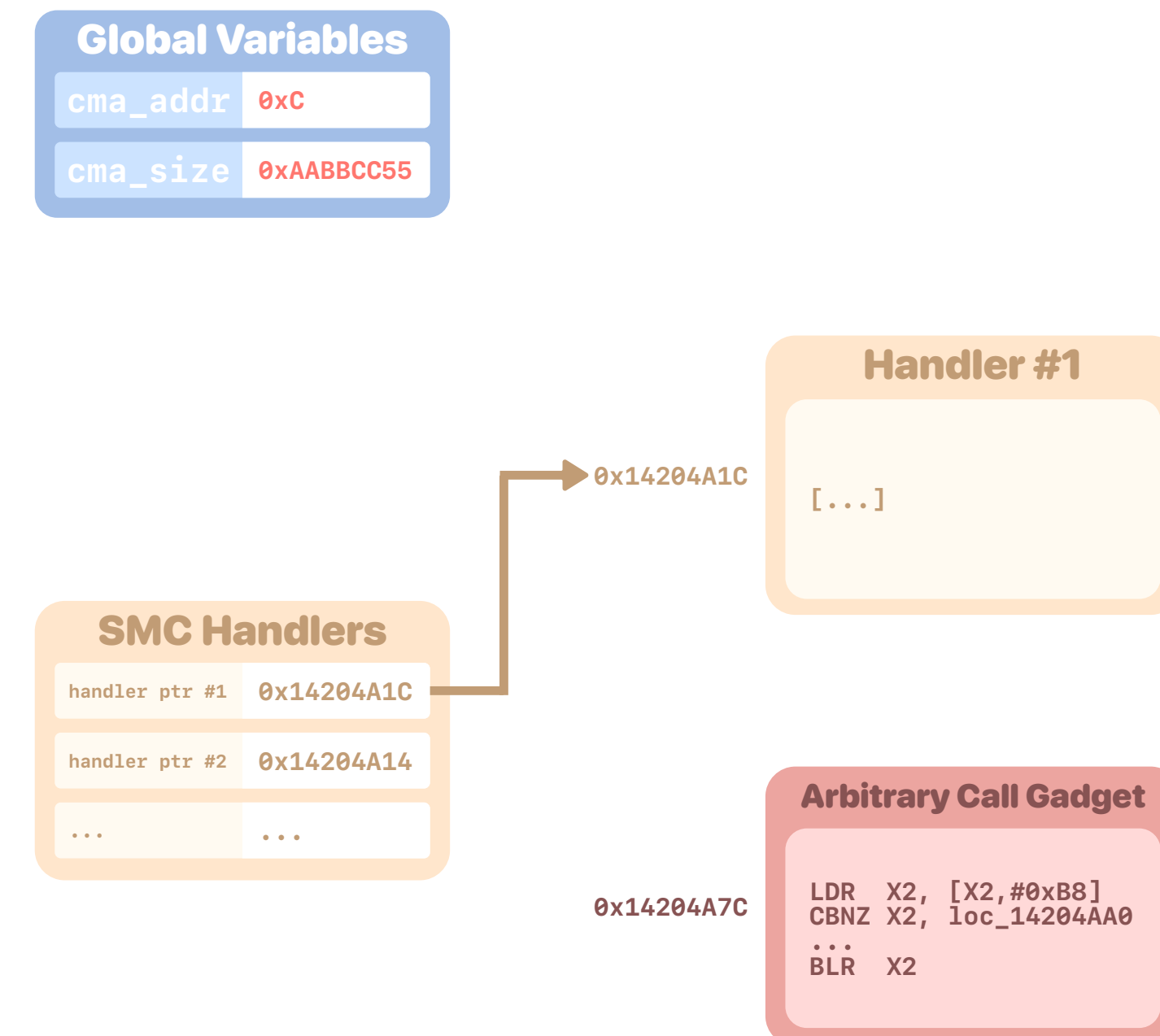
Data overwritten using the SE  
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Global Variables	
cma_addr	0xC
cma_size	0xAABBCC55

# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

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- ▶ **Step 2:** Hijack a SMC handler pointer
  - 1-byte overwrite by specifying a **response size** of 1
  - Change an existing function pointer to an interesting gadget
    - BLR X2 —> arbitrary function call

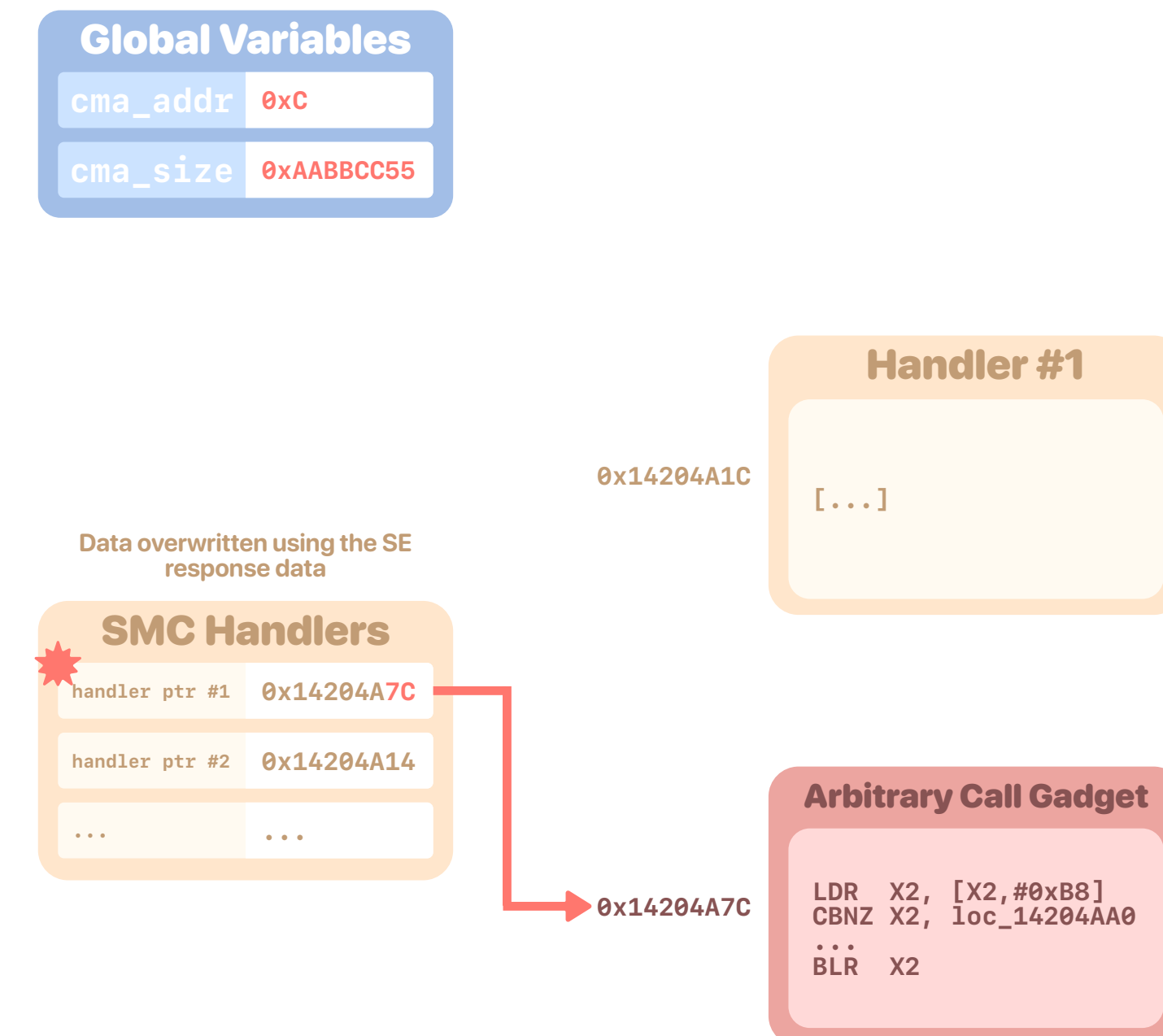




# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

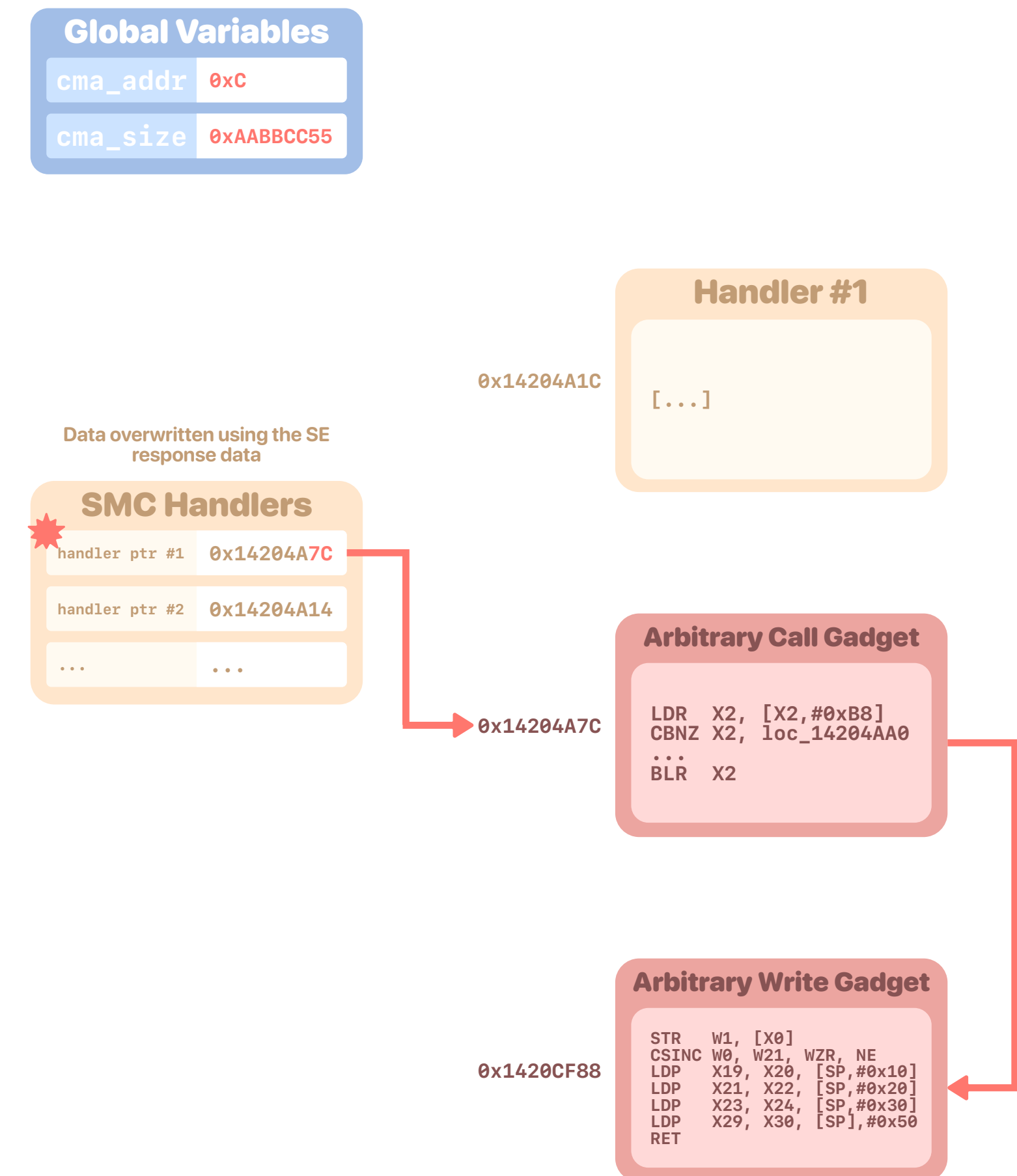
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## Exploitation

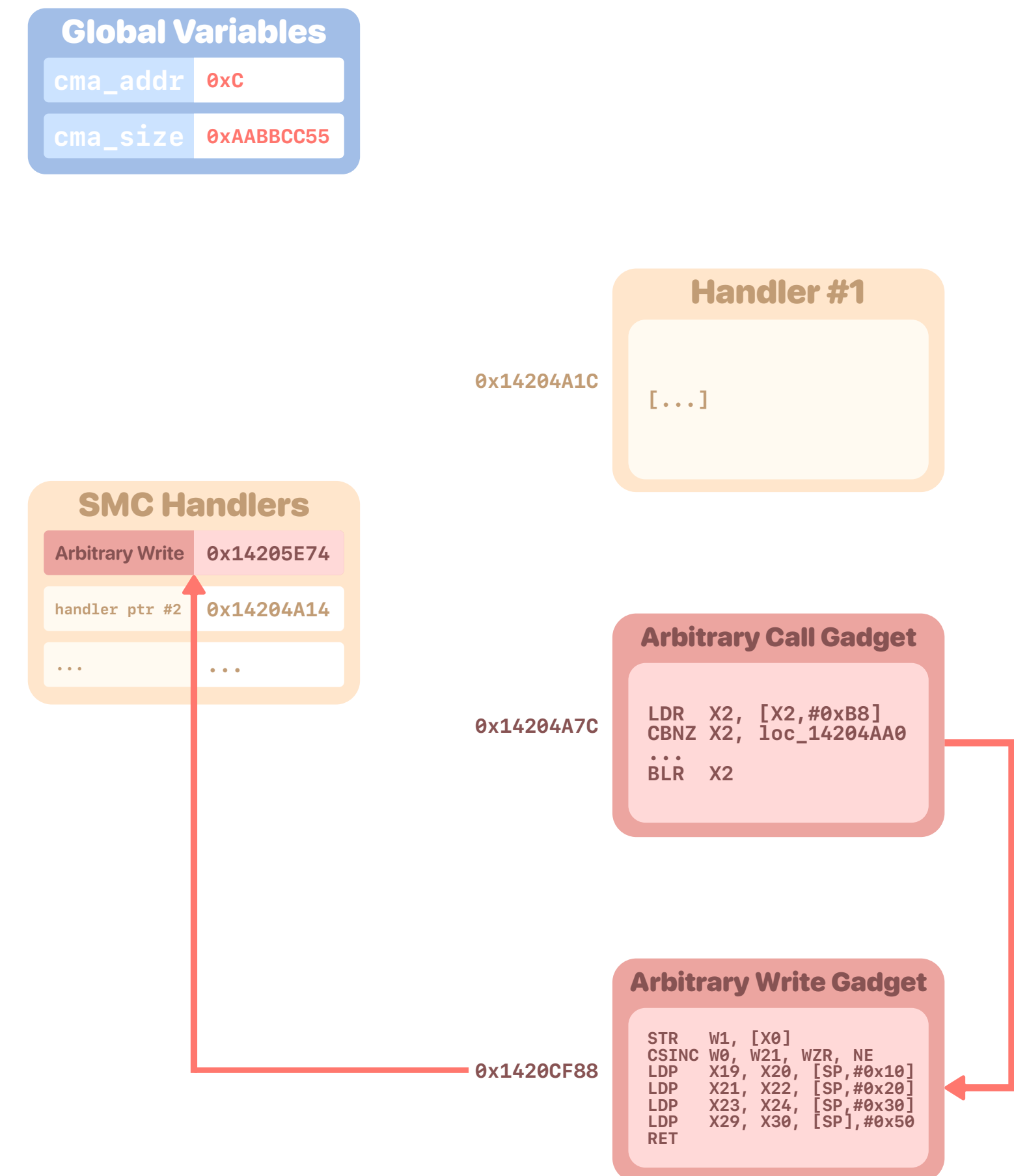
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- ▶ **Step 3:** Call a write gadget to create stable read and write primitives



# Secure Monitor

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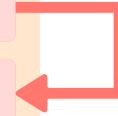
# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

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- ▶ **Step 3:** Call a write gadget to create stable read and write primitives

Global Variables	
cma_addr	0xC
cma_size	0xAABBCC55

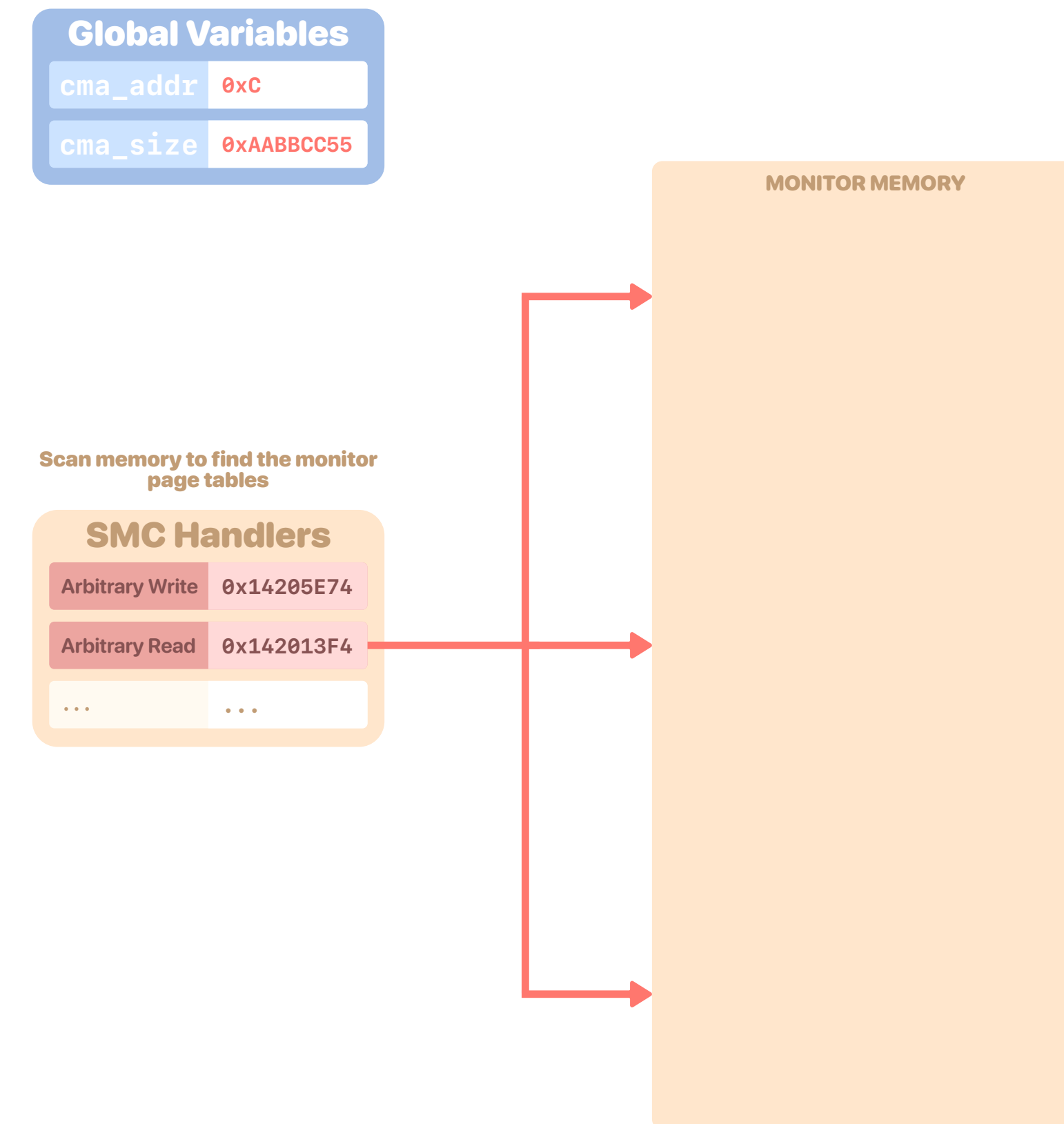
SMC Handlers	
Arbitrary Write	0x14205E74
Arbitrary Read	0x142013F4
...	...



# Secure Monitor

## Exploitation

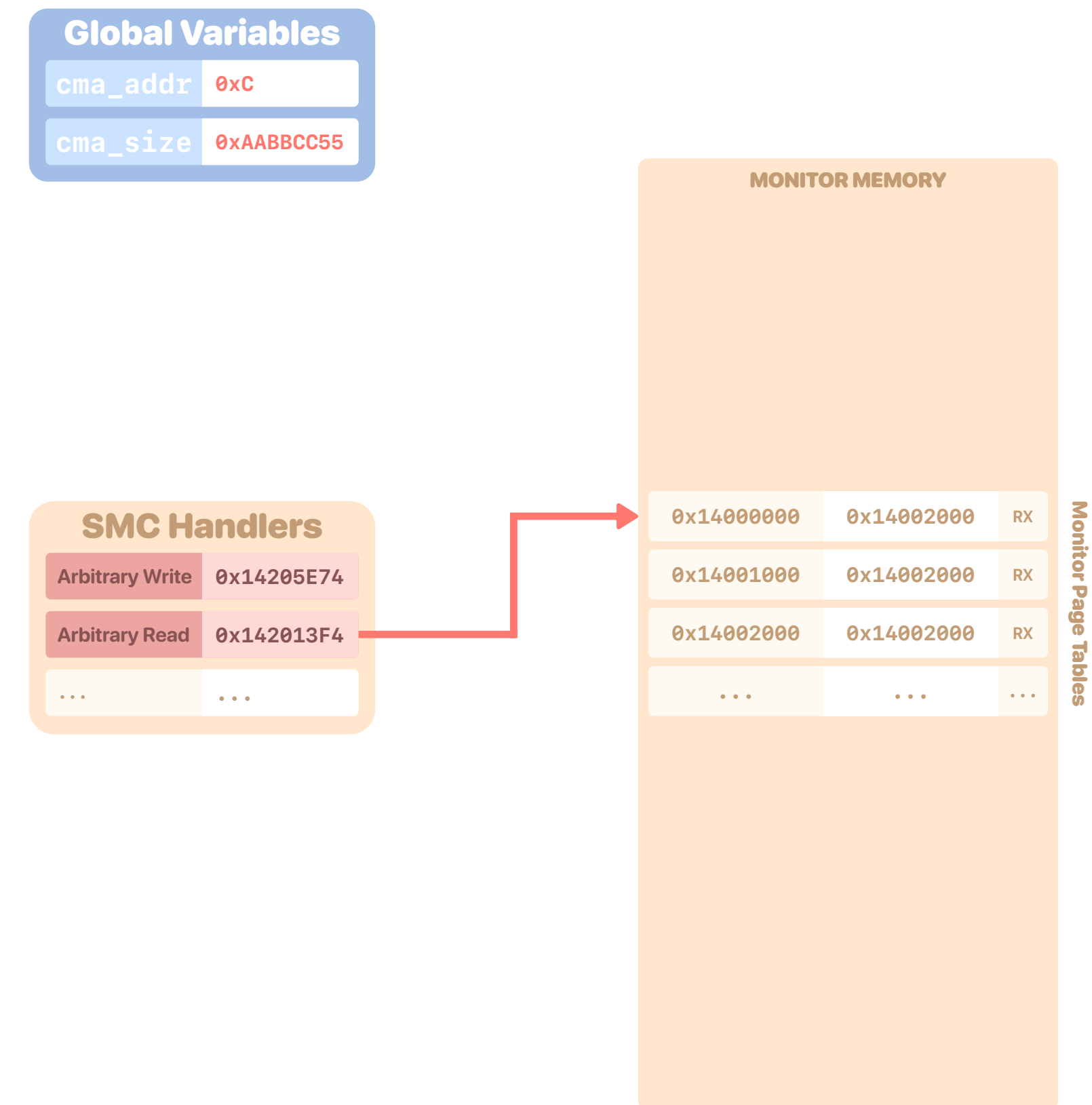
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...	...

MONITOR MEMORY		
0x14000000	0x14000000	RX
0x14001000	0x14001000	RX
0x14002000	0x14002000	RX
...	...	...
0x15000000	0x14000000	RW
0x15001000	0x14001000	RW
0x15002000	0x14002000	RW
...	...	...

Monitor Page Tables

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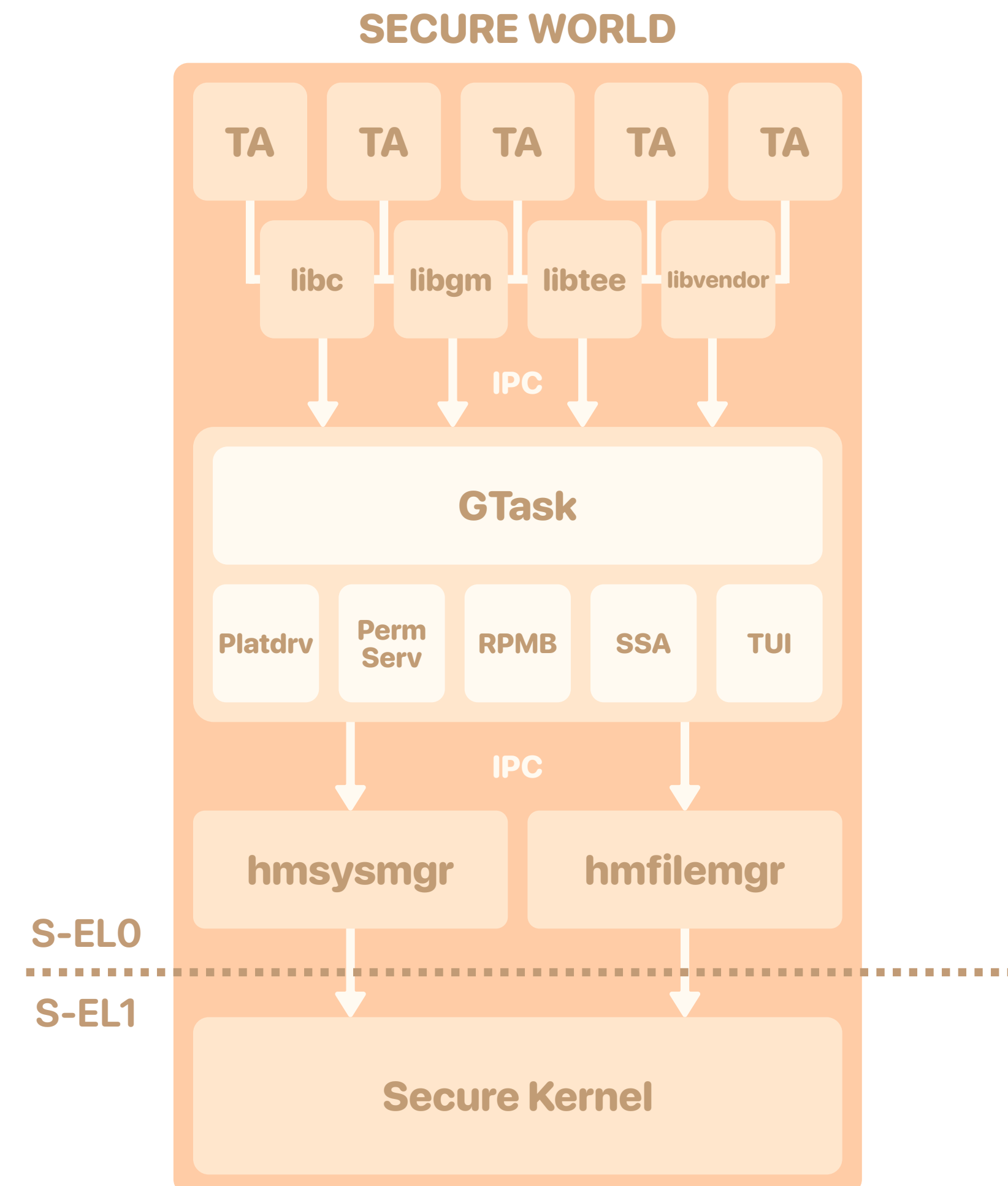
# Trusted OS



# Trusted OS

## Introduction

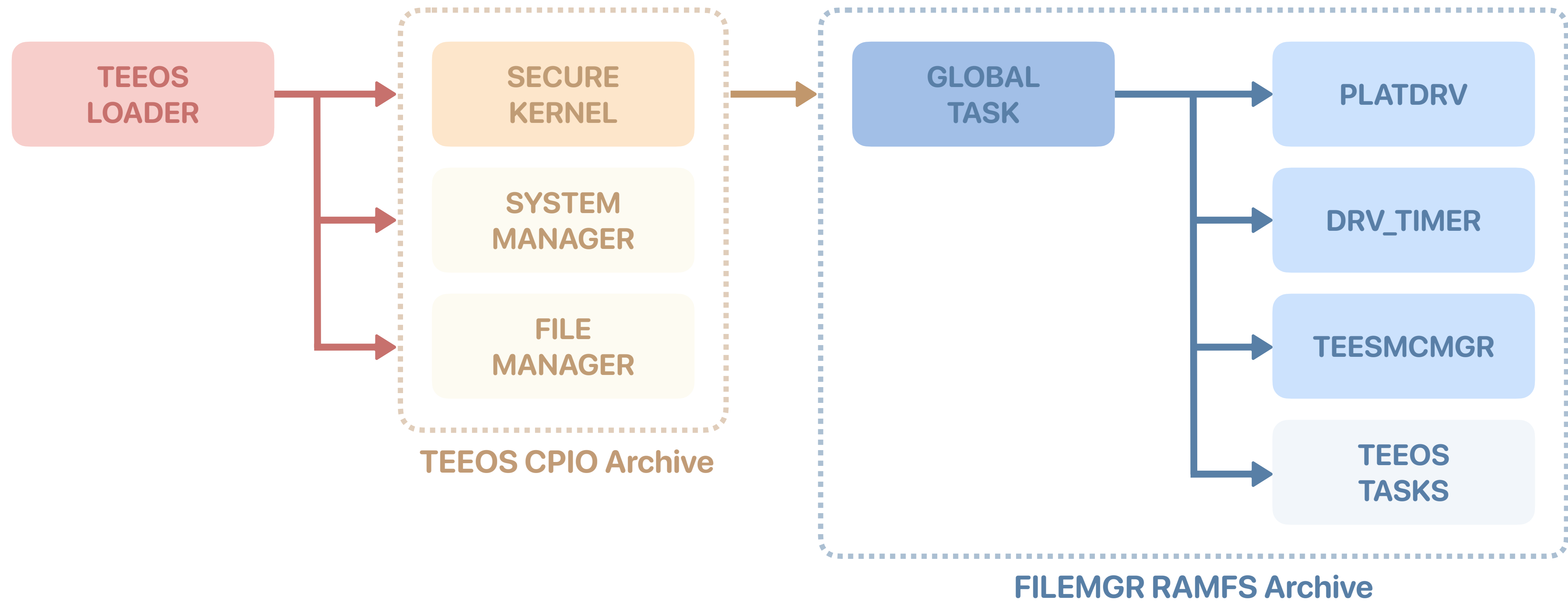
- ▶ Huawei Trusted OS based on a **micro-kernel architecture**
  - **Secure Kernel (S-EL1)**
    - Responsibilities kept to the bare minimum
    - Critical operations are performed through an API restricted to Managers in userland
  - **Processes (S-EL0)**
    - **Managers:** privileged processes providing the core functionality of the trusted OS
    - **Tasks & Drivers:** implement additional OS services used by the trusted applications
    - **Trusted Applications:** Huawei and 3rd party applications providing services to the REE





# Trusted OS

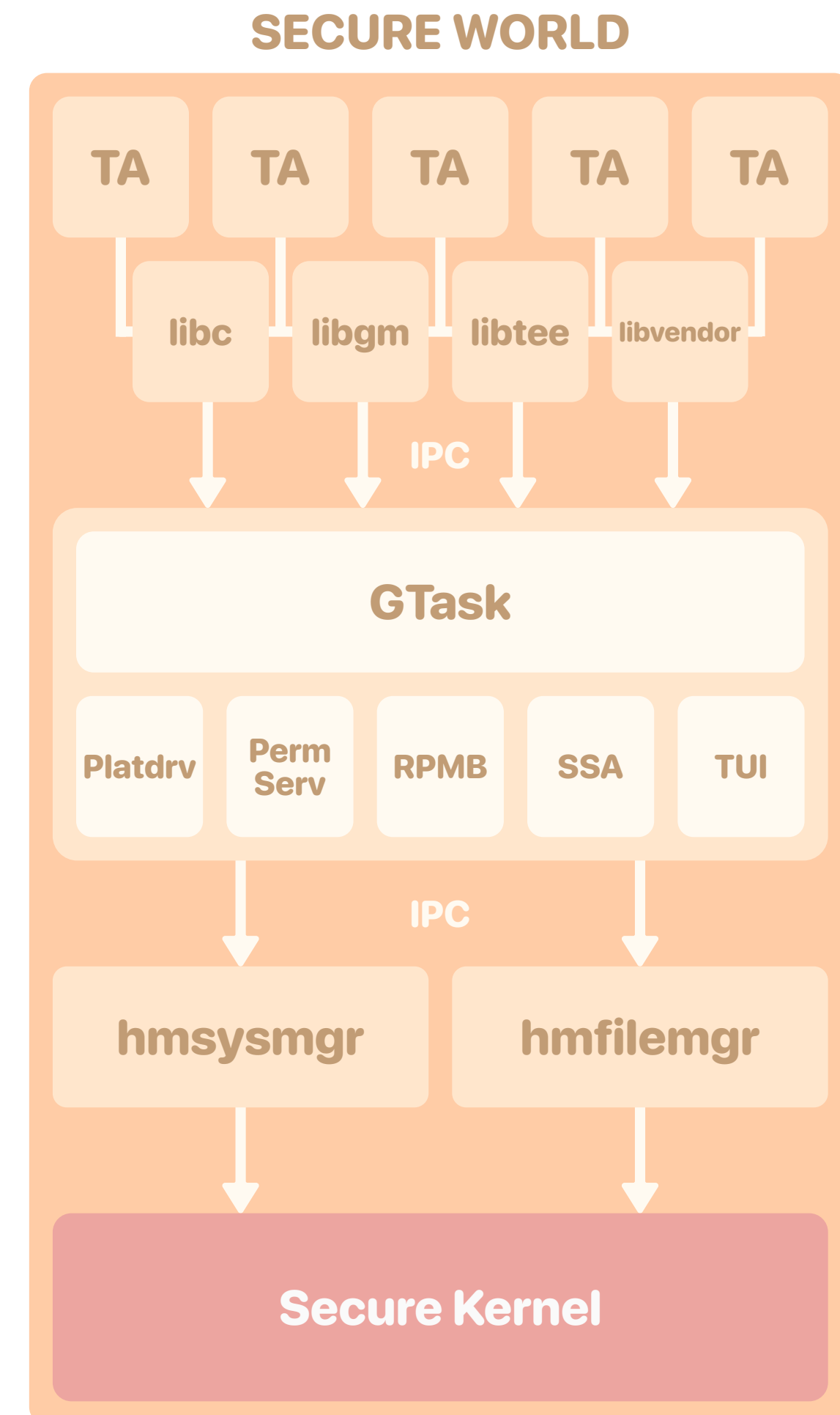
## Boot Process



# Secure Kernel

## Introduction

- ▶ Only performs **low-level operations**, such as:
  - Physical memory allocation
  - Inter-process communication
  - Process scheduling
  - Access control management
- ▶ Everything else is implemented in **userland**
- ▶ SVCs for **critical operations** restricted to the Managers



# Secure Kernel

## Capabilities

### ► Capability-based OS

- Privileges are divided into distinct units called **capabilities**
- Provides fine-grained access to kernel resources

### ► Huawei Implementation

- Most likely inspired by **seL4**
- Capabilities system described in a **patent** filed in 2019
- All system resources are associated with a capability
- Capabilities are **owned** by a **CNode** (capability node)
- Capabilities can be **granted** to and **revoked** from other CNodes

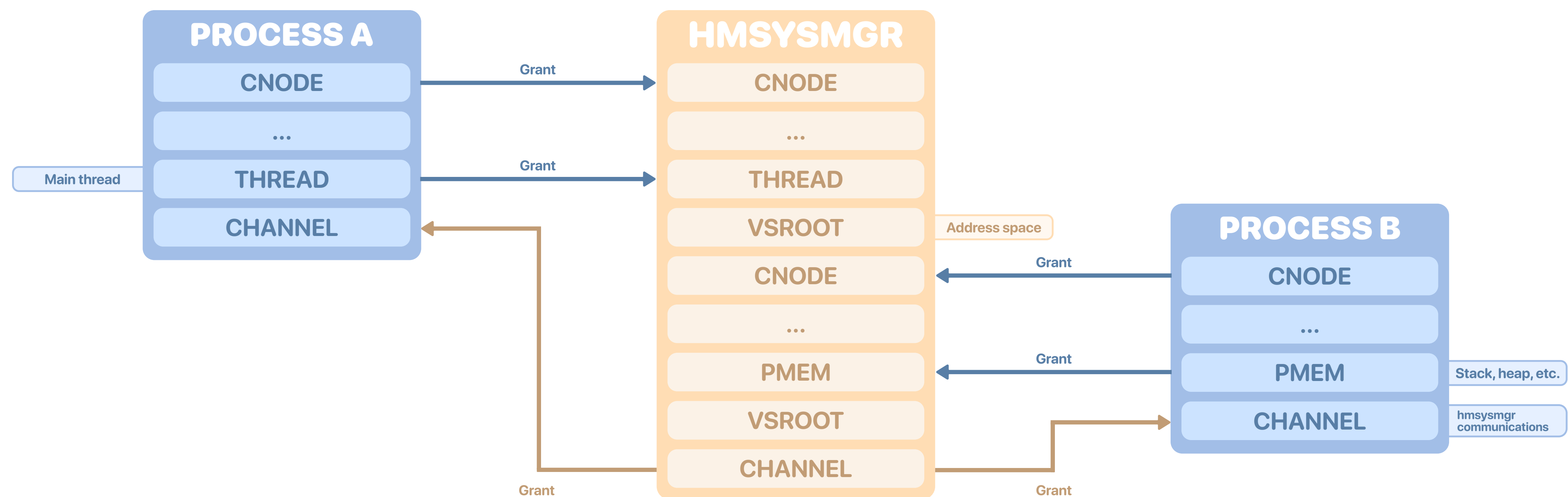
### ► Capability type examples

- CNode
- Thread
- PMEM
- Channel / Notification / Message
- IRQCTRL / IRQHDLR
- VSRoot
- Timer
- TEESMC
- etc.



# Secure Kernel

## Capabilities Example

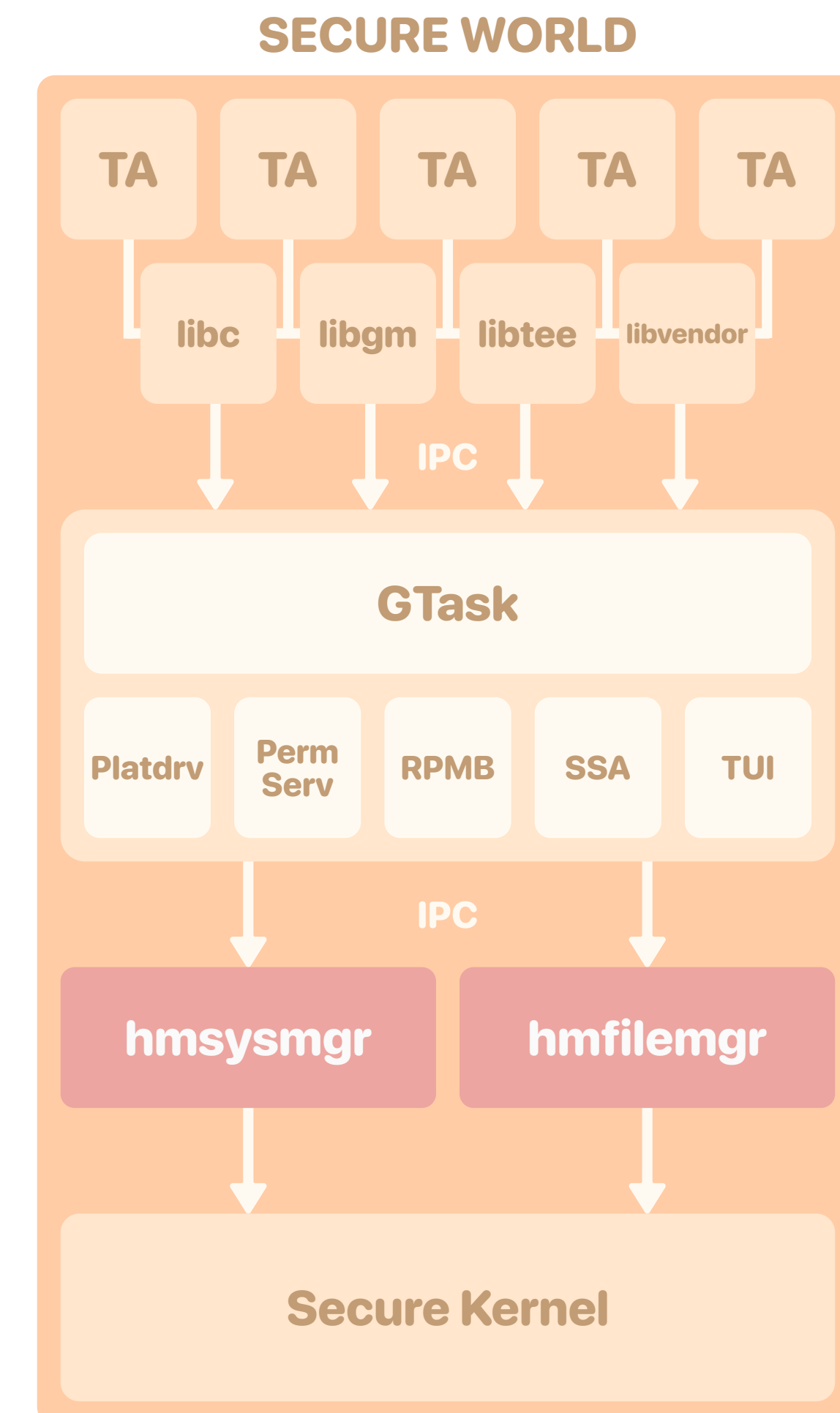


# Managers

## Overview

### ► Managers

- The only S-EL0 processes allowed to ask the secure kernel to perform critical operations
  - e.g. mapping physical secure memory
- Can be considered as **extensions** of the micro-kernel in **userland**



# Managers

## File & System Managers

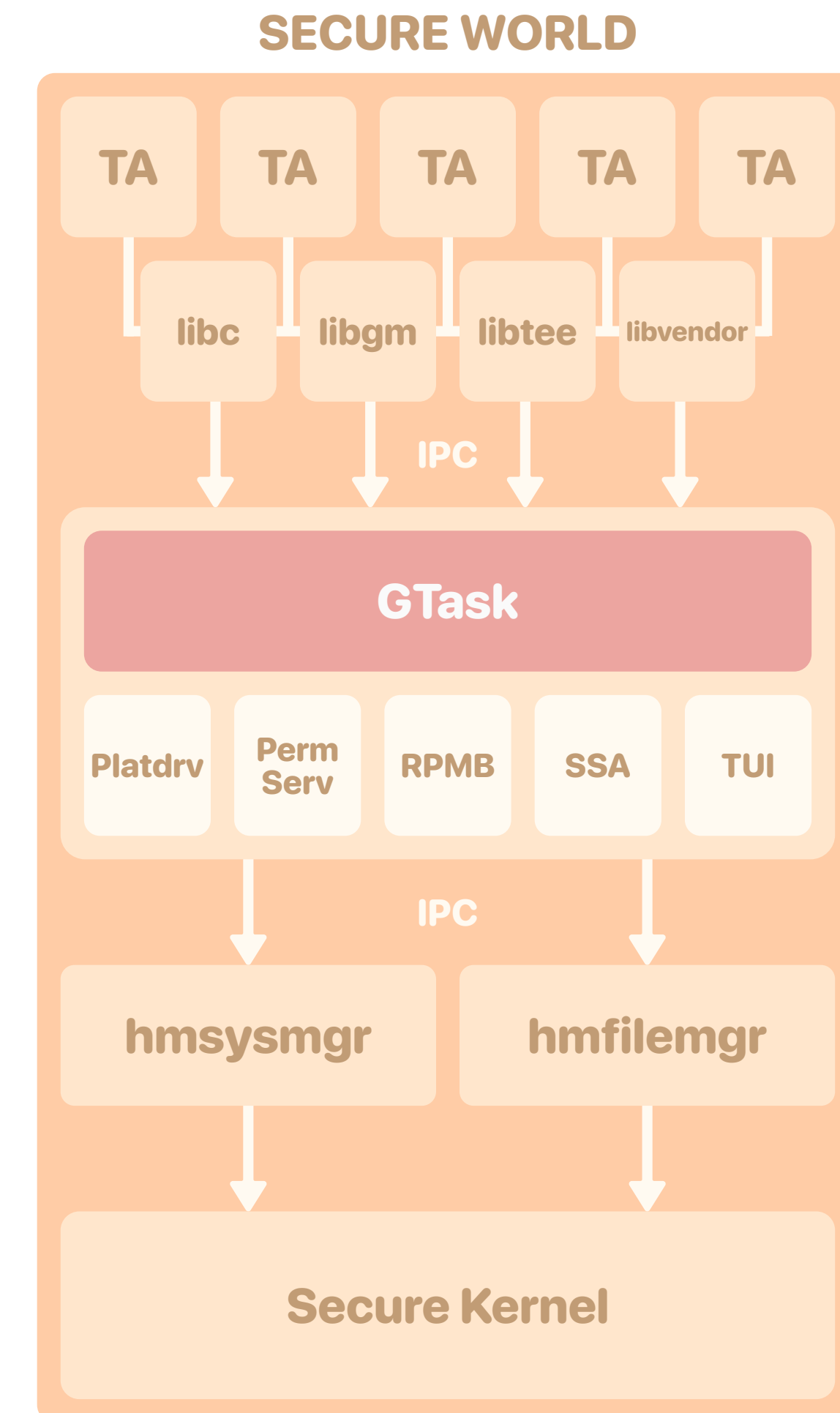
- ▶ **File manager** (hmfilemgr)
  - Manages and exposes two virtual file systems
    - **RAMFS**
      - Embedded archive
      - Contains tasks binaries
    - **TAFS**
      - Temporary storage for trustlets and libraries
- ▶ **System manager** (hmsysmgr)
  - Implements most of the **fundamental features** of the OS
    - Process creation
    - Virtual memory management
    - Access control
    - etc.
  - ▶ Communicate with other processes through **IPCs**
  - ▶ Permissions of the calling process are checked in the command handlers



# Tasks & Drivers

## Global Task

- ▶ Equivalent to the **init** process on Unix-based systems
- ▶ **Handle normal world commands**
  - Mailbox/shared memory registration
  - Loading of trusted applications
    - Decryption with a private key "derived" from the **provisioned key**
    - Signature verification with a **hardcoded public key**
  - Session management
  - Forwarding of commands to trusted applications



# Tasks & Drivers

## Examples of Tasks & Drivers

### ► DRV\_TIMER

- Manages secure timers

### ► GATEKEEPER

- Gatekeeper implementation

### ► KEYMASTER

- Keymaster implementation

### ► PERMISSION\_SERVICE

- Permissions system for RPMB, SSA and TUI

### ► PLATDRV

- Platform drivers
- Interrupts, crypto engine, secure element, fingerprint sensor, etc.

### ► RPMB

- RPMB filesystem
- Uses a normal world agent

### ► SSA

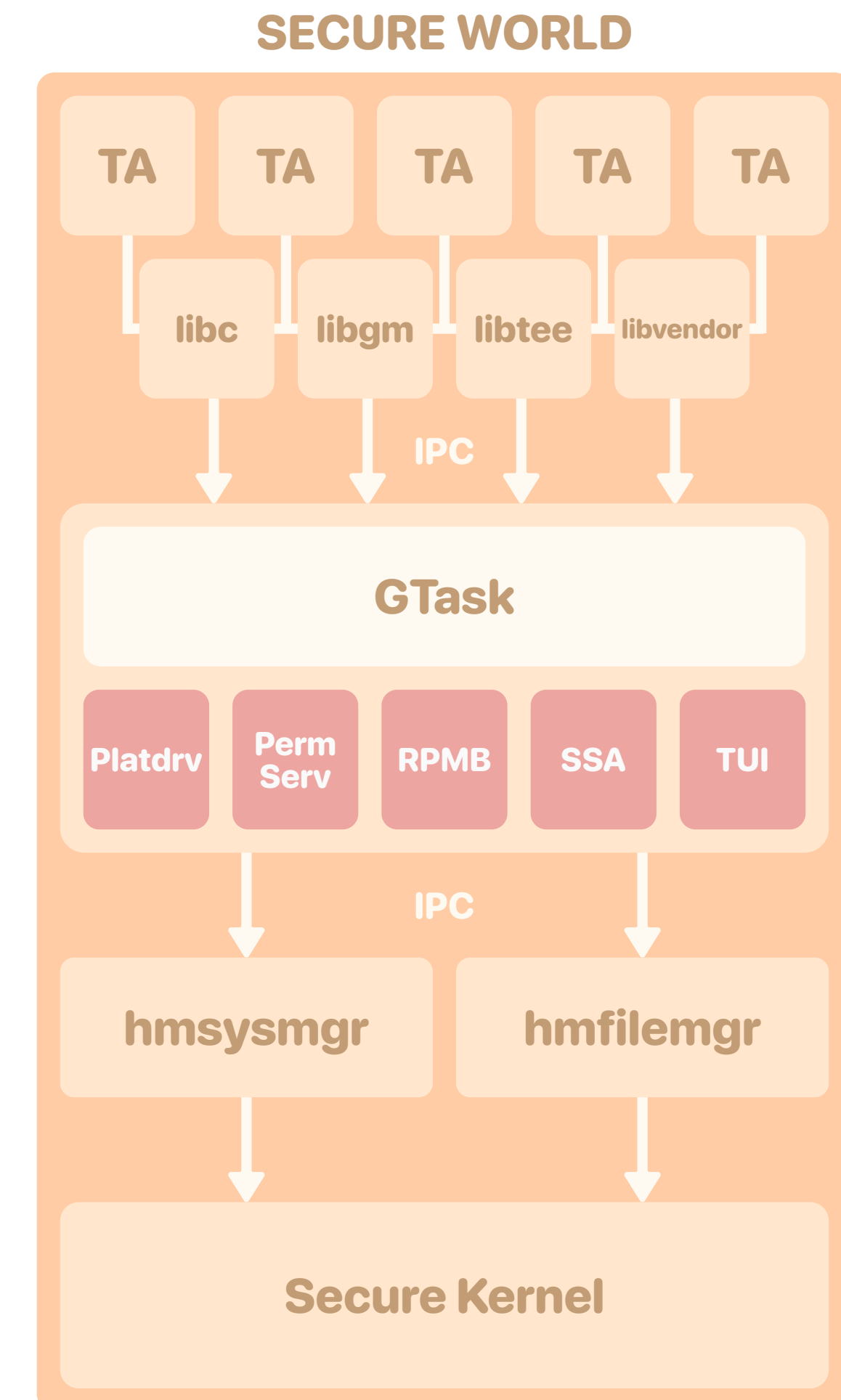
- Trusted Storage API
- Uses a normal world agent

### ► TALOADER & TARUNNER

- glue between GlobalPlatform and OS-level APIs

### ► TUI

- Trusted User Interface implementation

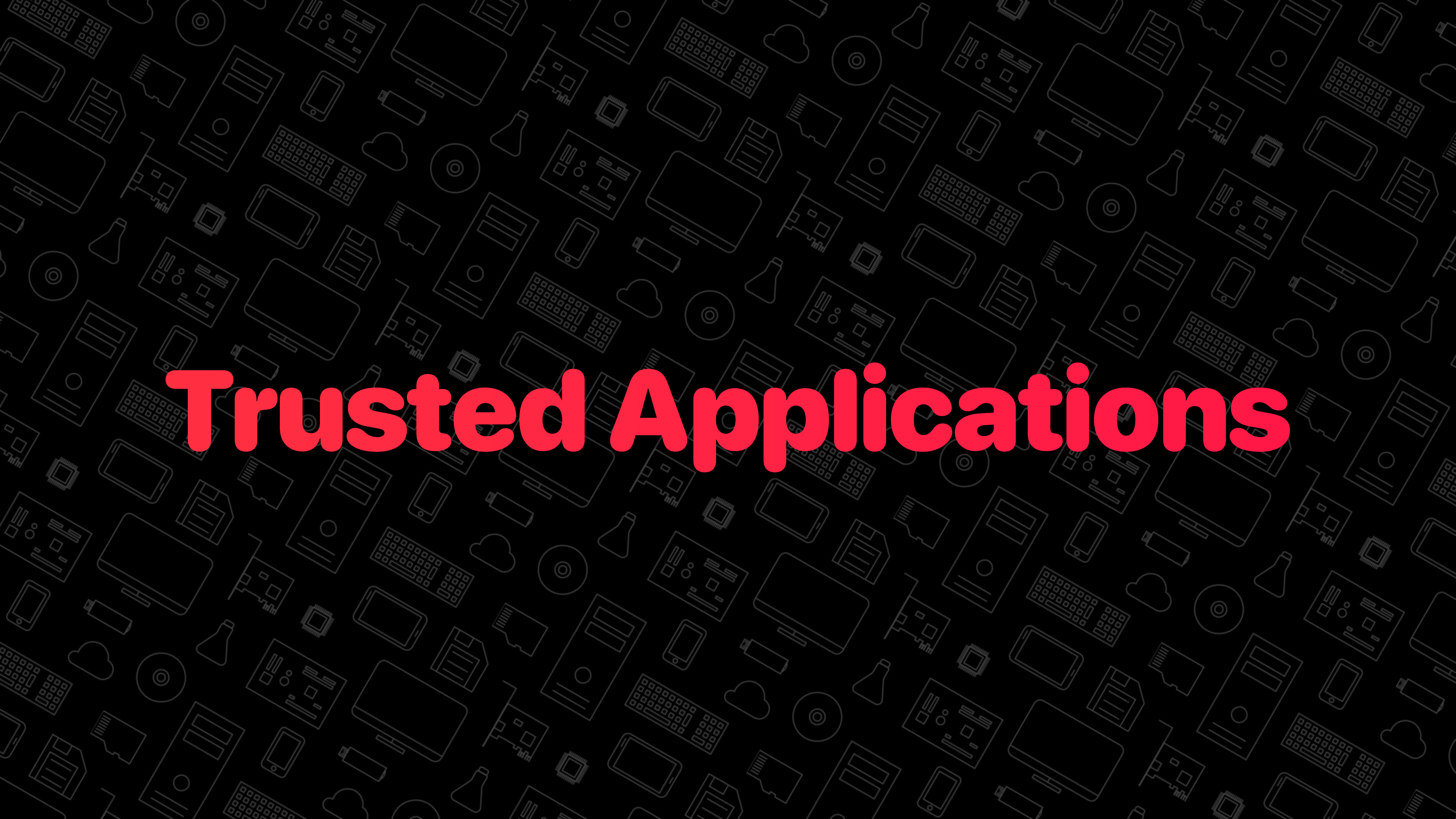


# Tasks & Drivers

## Security

- ▶ Vulnerability research
  - IPC command handlers
  - **Permissions system**
    - There is a library for implementing security access controls
    - Tasks have **credentials** and **security contexts**, that can be mapped to permissions
    - Most permissions are static, but can also be added **dynamically**
    - Permissions are checked within the IPC command handlers
- ▶ Vulnerabilities identified
  - **TUI Task**
    - Heap buffer overflows
  - **Platdrv Task**
    - Arbitrary memory read/write
    - Non-secure physical memory read
    - Heap buffer overflows
    - Heap pointer leak
  - Only specific tasks can reach the vulnerable IPC command handlers



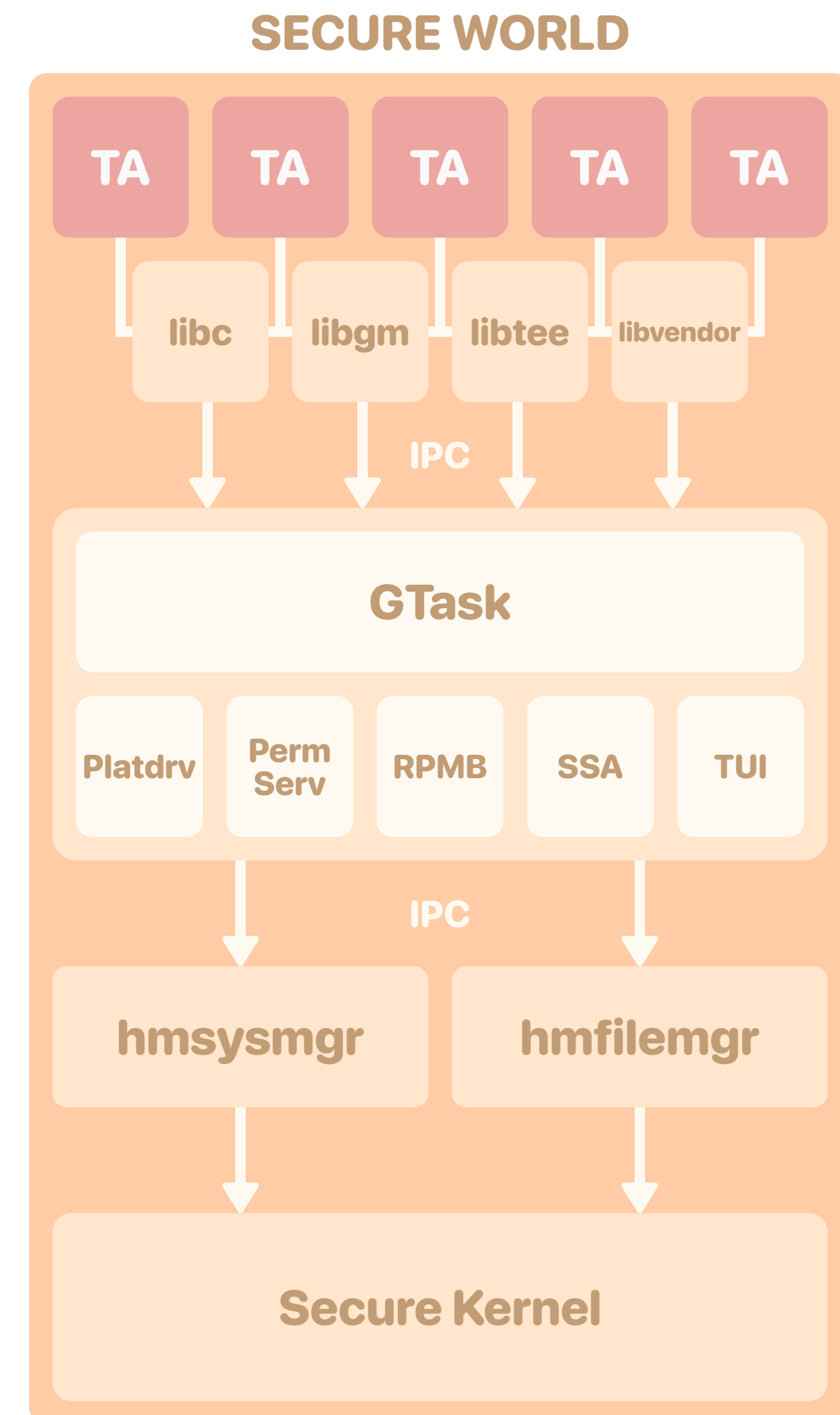


# Trusted Applications

# Trusted Applications

## Introduction

- ▶ Secure world **userland applications**
- ▶ Developed by Huawei and 3rd parties to **provide services** to the Normal World
- ▶ Use the standard **GlobalPlatform APIs**, as well as some proprietary extensions
- ▶ Generally loaded from the Normal World
  - Stored in the Android system/vendor partitions or embedded in APKs
  - Signed and encrypted





# Trusted Applications

## Life Cycle

### ▶ Trusted Applications Properties

- Single instance, multi session, instance keep alive, etc.

### ▶ Create and Destroy

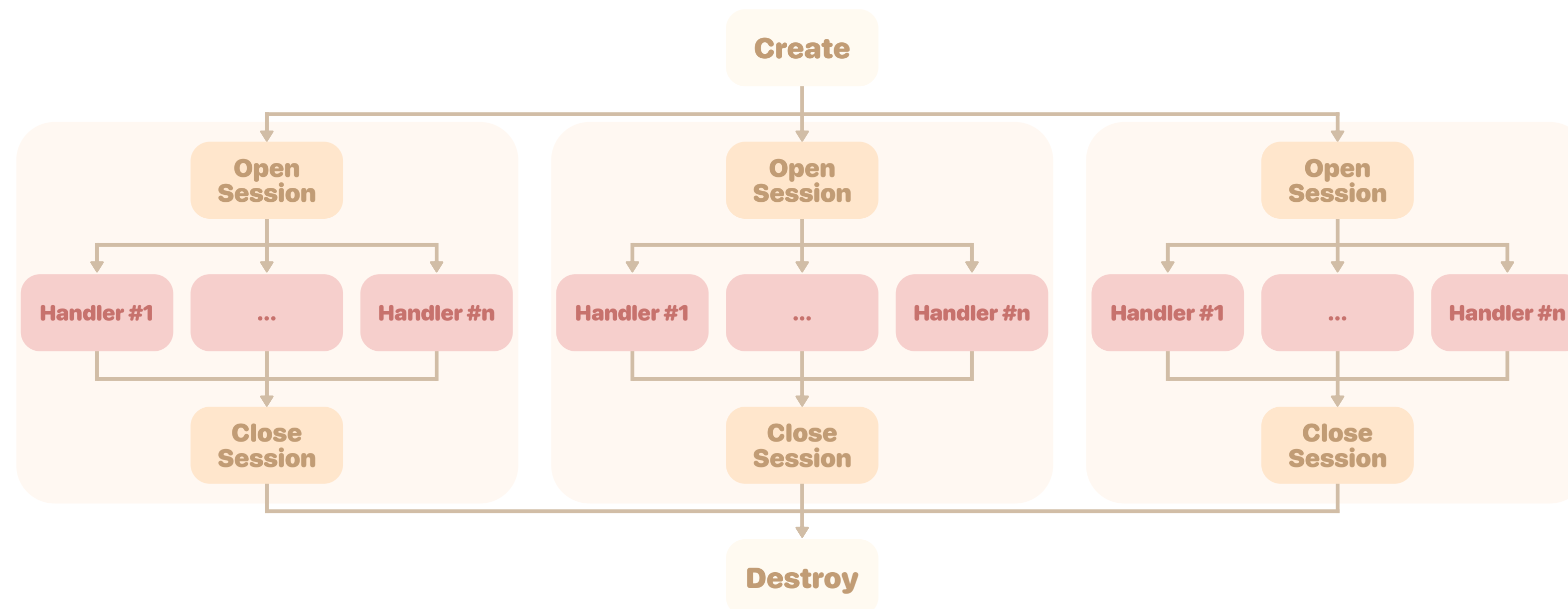
- Manage the global state
- Declare the **allowed CAs** list

### ▶ Open and Close Sessions

- Manage the per-CA state

### ▶ Command Invocation

- Handles a request coming from a CA and sends back a response





# Trusted Applications

## Authentication

- ▶ Trusted applications embed a list of authorized APKs/binaries
  - **APK**: package name + signing public key
  - **Binaries**: file path + user id + hash of code pages
- ▶ **Chain of trust**
  - The kernel is assumed to be uncompromised
  - The kernel authenticates teecd
  - teecd forwards information about the binaries

# Trusted Applications

## Design Choices & Mitigations

### ► Design choices

- Secure functions (e.g. *memcpy\_s*)
- Parameter buffers are copied to prevent inter-world TOCTOU
- Robust and generic Parcel-based system to handle data in a safe manner
- Output buffer sizes can only be reduced
- Etc.

### ► Software Mitigations

- NX
- RelRO
- Stack cookies
- ASLR
  - Used to be **bypassable** with an arbitrary read
  - The TA base address was written at a fixed address by the loader
  - Only works for the ELF sections, **stack** and **heap** are still randomized

# Trusted Applications

## Methodology

- ▶ **Reverse engineering:** ~40 trustlets, mainly AArch32 ELF but some AArch64
- ▶ The **attack surface** mostly boils down to the command handlers
- ▶ **Fuzzing:** developed a custom fuzzer based on *Unicorn/AFL++*
  - **Obstacles:** stubbing the GP APIs, ELF relocations, getting a backtrace
  - **Limitations:** stateless, only *low hanging fruits* can be found
- ▶ **Vulnerabilities**
  - Unchecked parameter types
  - Stack & heap buffer overflows
  - Information leaks
  - OOB accesses
  - Race conditions (multi session binaries only)
  - Etc.
- ▶ Mostly in **third party** TAs



# Trusted Applications

## Vulnerabilities in HW\_KEYMASTER

### ► HWPSIRT-2021-63568

- *cmd\_unwrap* can be used to write arbitrary data to any files in the *sec\_storage\_data/PKI/* folder of the secure file system

### ► HWPSIRT-2021-80349

- *generate\_keyblob* copies semi user-controlled data into the output parameter *params[3]*
- Should be a *memref*, but there is a code path where it can be a value

```
typedef union {
    struct {
        void* buffer;
        size_t size;
    } memref;
    struct {
        uint32_t a;
        uint32_t b;
    } value;
} TEE_Param;

TEE_Result TA_InvokeCommandEntryPoint(
    void* sessionContext,
    uint32_t commandID,
    uint32_t paramTypes,
    TEE_Param params[4]
);
```

# Trusted Applications

## Exploitation of HW\_KEYMASTER

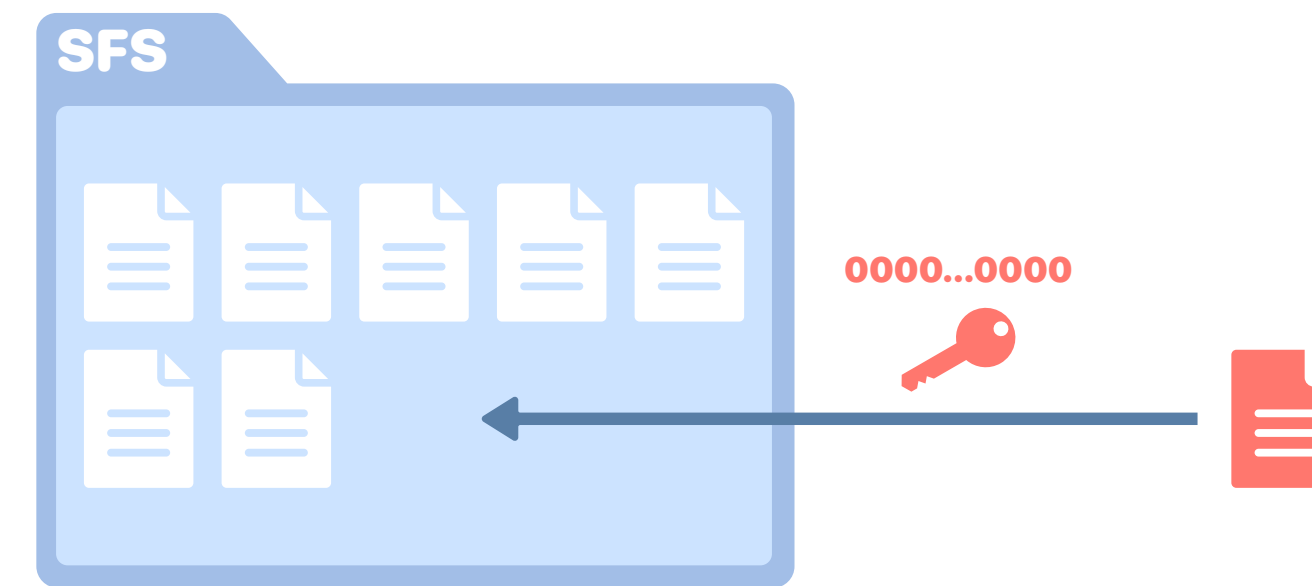
- ▶ **Arbitrary read**
  - Write a “fake” keyblob to the SFS using a previously imported **all-zeroes** AES key



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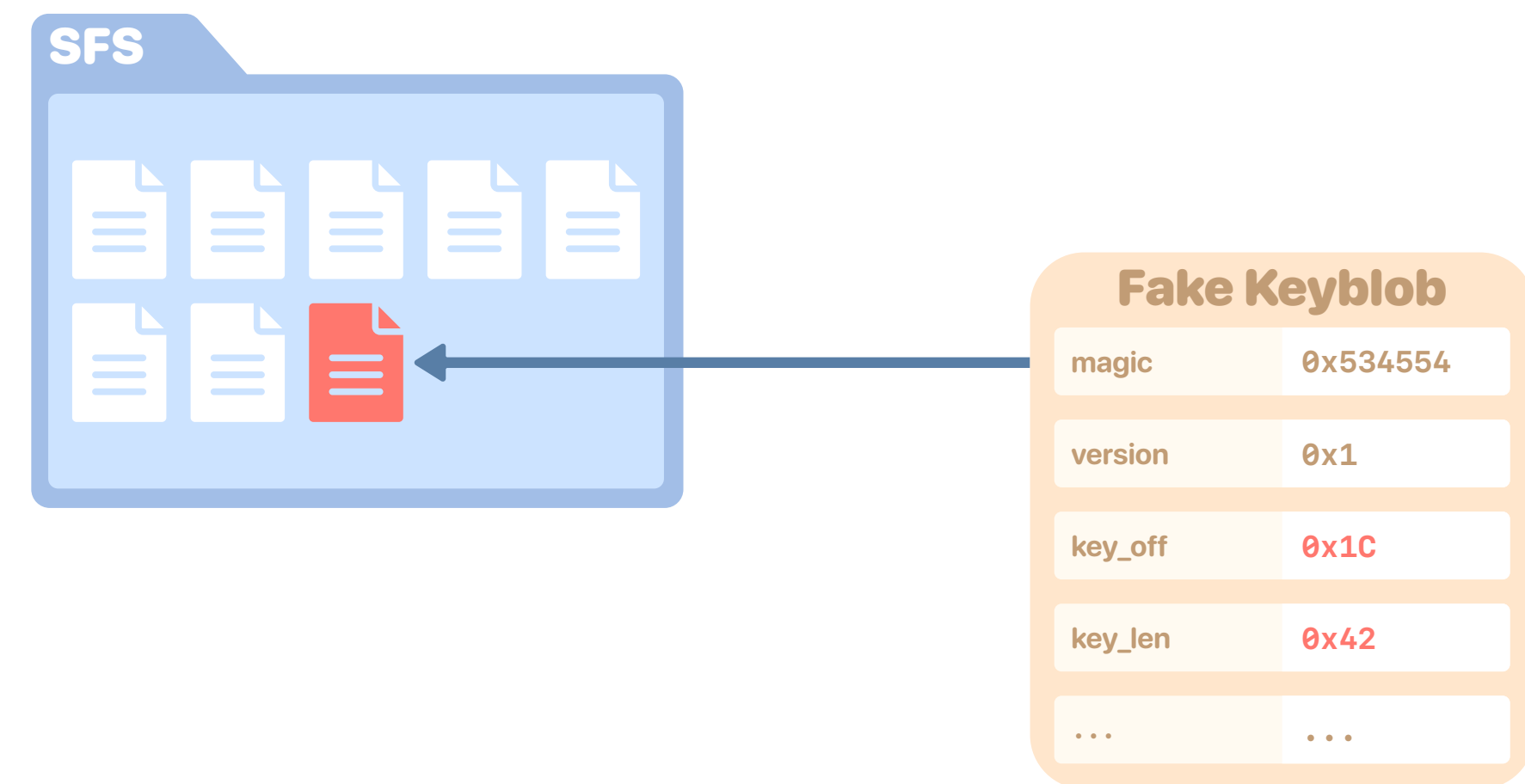


# Trusted Applications

## Exploitation of HW\_KEYMASTER

### ► Arbitrary read

- Write a "fake" keyblob to the SFS using a previously imported **all-zeroes** AES key
- Call `cmd_get` on the "fake" keyblob to read data from a user-controlled offset



```
if (keyblob->magic == 0x534554
    && keyblob->version <= 0x12C
    && keyblob->keyblob_size == keyblob_size) {
    memcpy_s(
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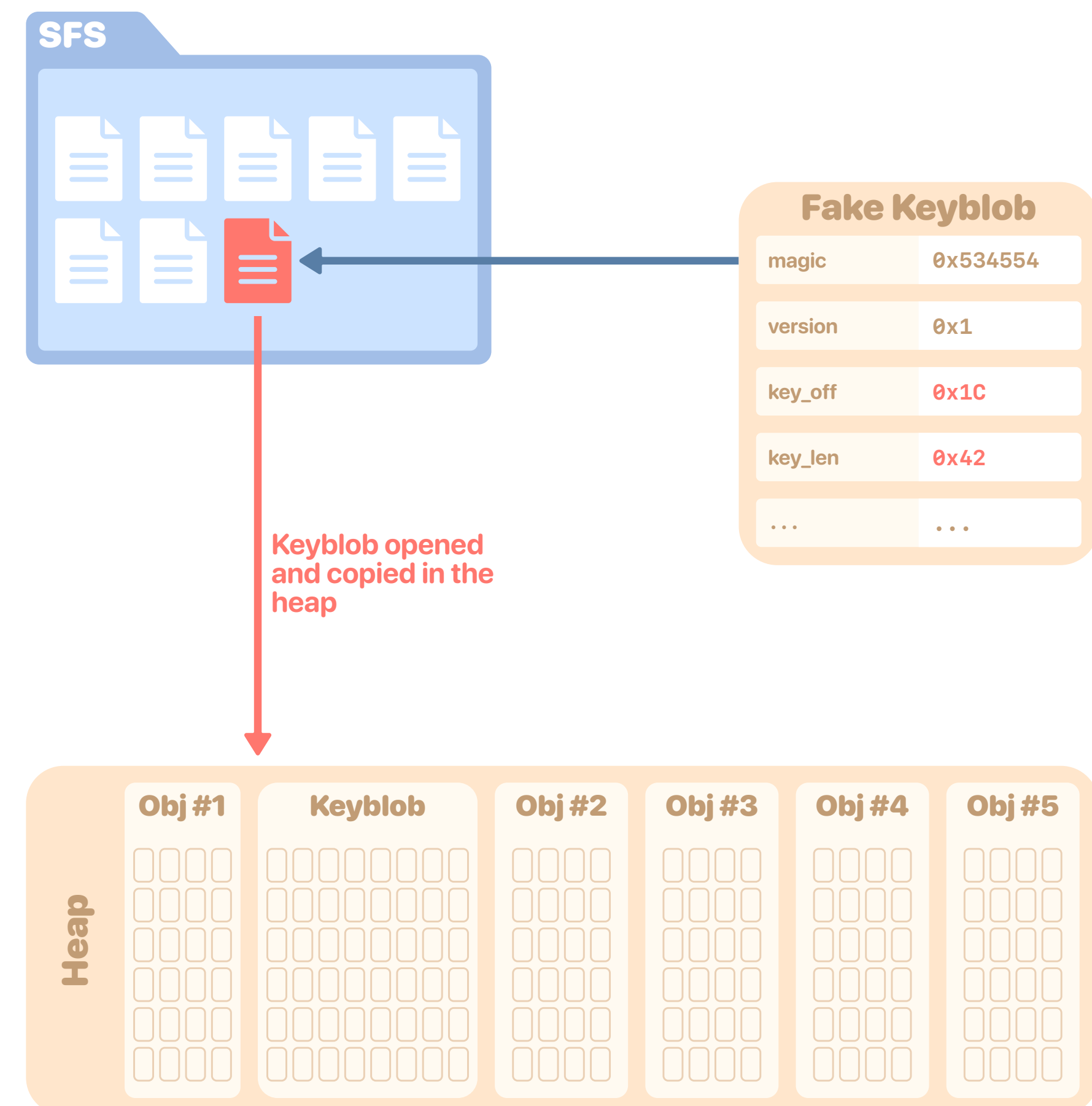
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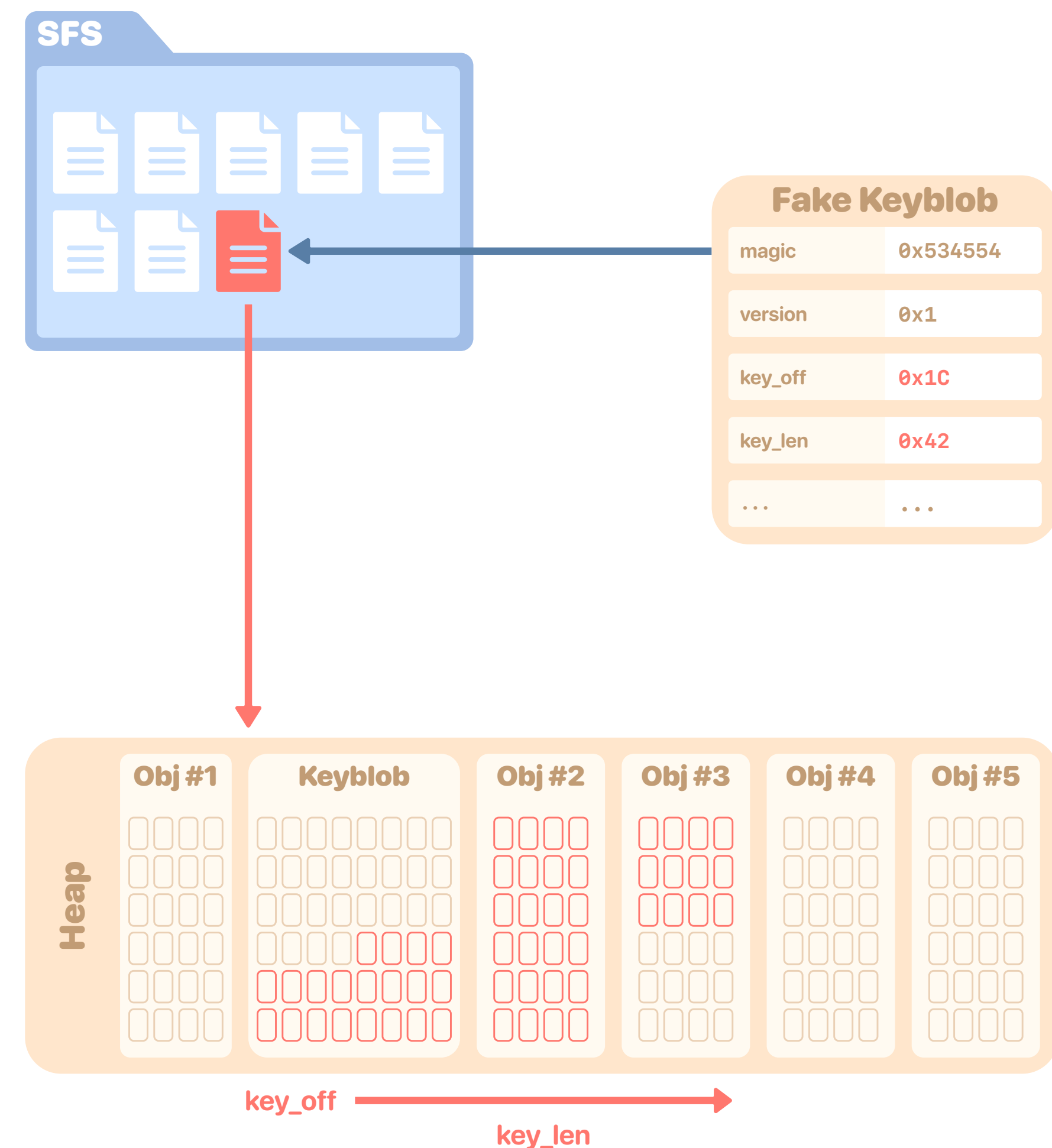


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  - Then you can read at arbitrary addresses, and break **ASLR** in particular



# Trusted Applications

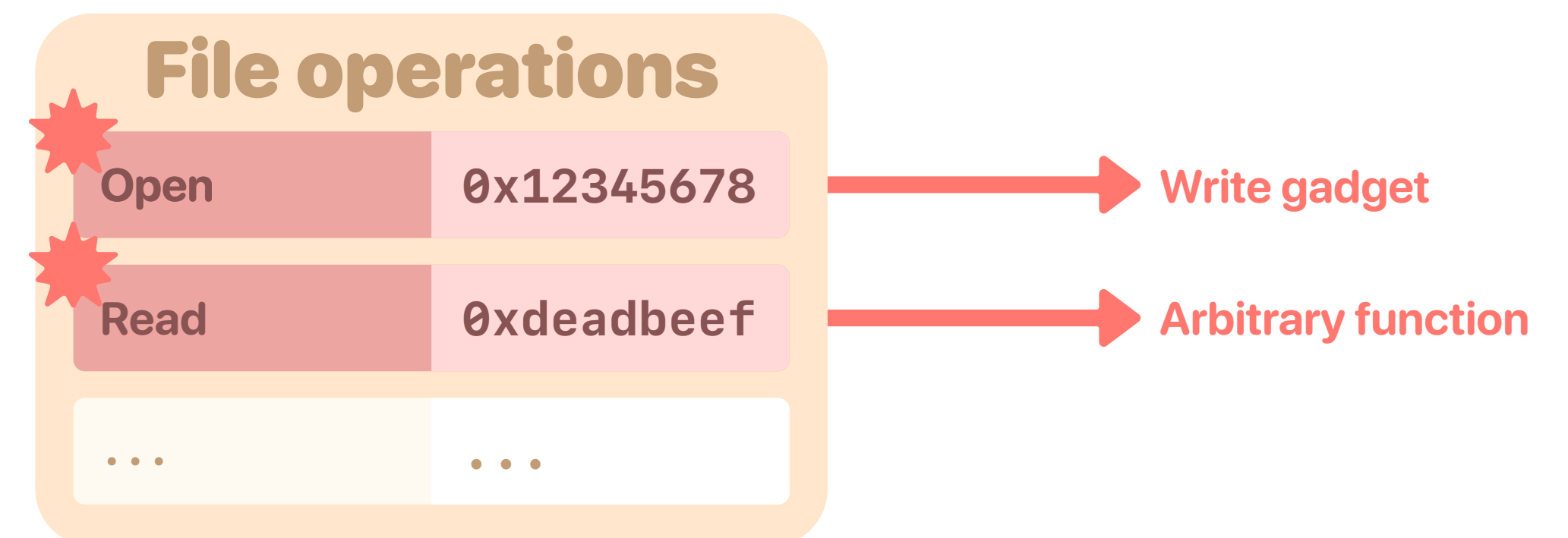
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### ► Arbitrary write

- Use it to overwrite a function pointer (e.g. file operations structure) to create a better arbitrary write primitive
- Can also use it to call arbitrary functions





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# Conclusion

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- ▶ All vulnerabilities were reported to *Huawei Bug Bounty Program* and **fixed** in updates released prior to this presentation
- ▶ **Well thought-out** security architecture
  - Defense-in-depth measures
  - Privilege limitations and access control
  - Robust implementations (secure coding practices)
  - Mistakes can still happen, but are **mitigated**
- ▶ **Binary encryption** is a double edged-sword
  - Harder for an attacker to get access and find bugs
  - But teams with the resources to break the encryption layer might be less likely to share their findings
- ▶ **Upcoming blogposts** with the missing details
  - <https://blog.impalabs.com>



Thank you!