SSH authentication using user and machine identities

Morten Linderud

$ whoami

- Morten Linderud
  - Foxboron
- F/OSS developer since ~2013
- Arch Linux Developer since ~2016
- Usable security tools
- Hackeriet
- Devops at NRK

Lets make an ssh key!

Key Compromises

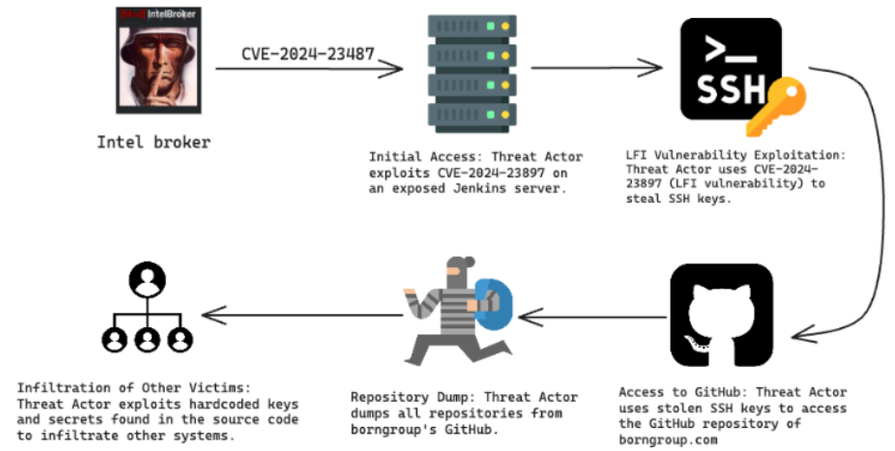
Key Compromises

- Not limited to SSH keys
- Impersonation
- Priviledge escalation

Born Group breach (2024)

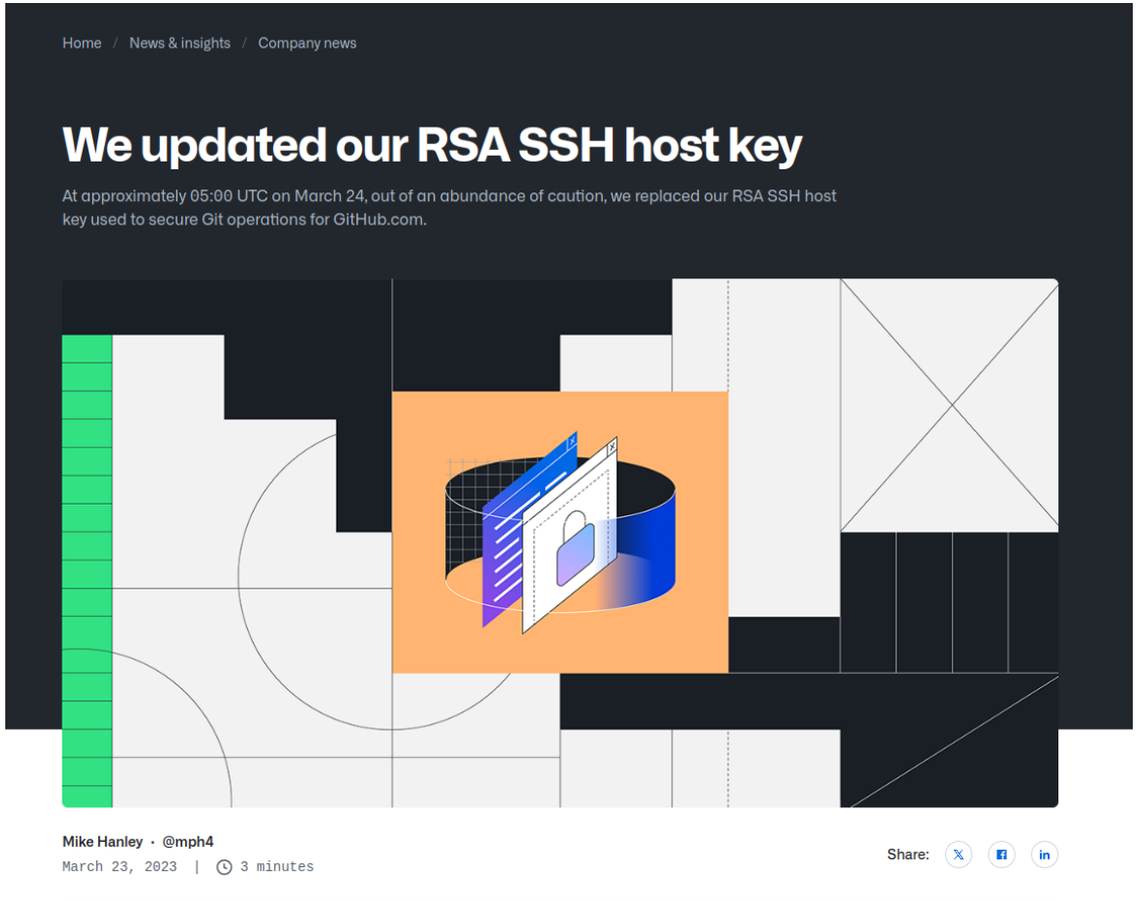
Sophisticated Attack on Born Group

Initial Access: Threat Actor exploits CVE-2024-23897 on an exposed Jenkins server.
LFI Vulnerability Exploitation: Threat Actor uses CVE-2024-23897 (LFI vulnerability) to steal SSH keys.
Access to GitHub: Threat Actor uses stolen SSH keys to access the GitHub repository of borngroup.com.
Repository Dump: Threat Actor dumps all repositories from BORN Group's GitHub.
Infiltration of Other Victims: Threat Actor exploits hardcoded keys and secrets found in the source code to infiltrate other systems.



BORN Group Supply Chain Breach: In-Depth Analysis of Intelbroker's Jenkins Exploitation

Github RSA ssh host key leak (2023)



Github Blog - We updated our RSA SSH host key

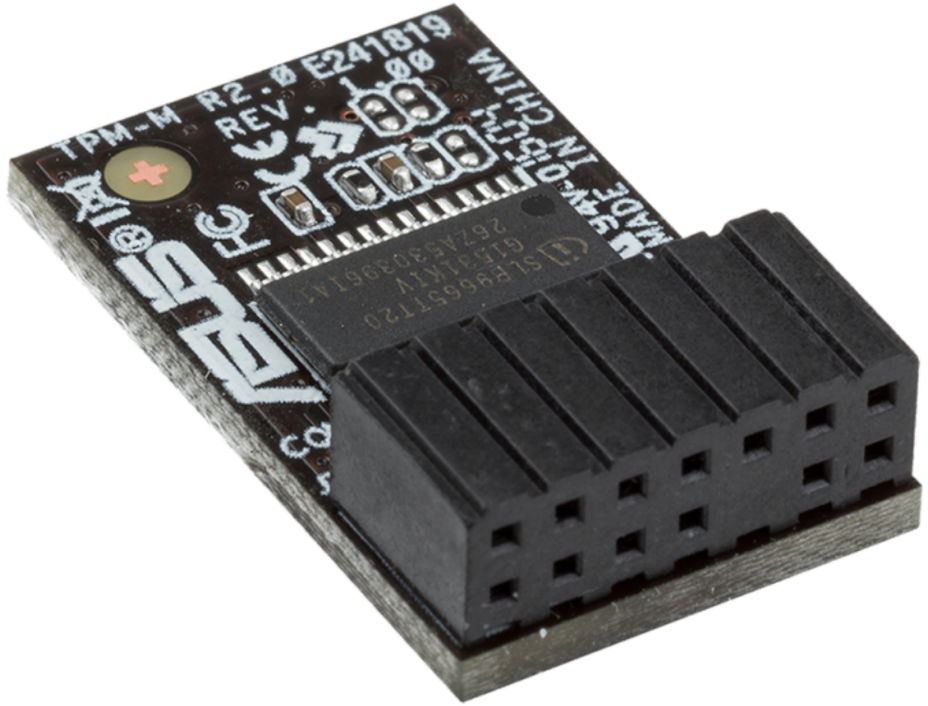
Goals

- Device bound keys
- Identity claims
- Machine identity

Goals

- Device bound keys
  - Prevents key extraction
- Identity claims
  - Ensures the user has access to the correct identity.
- Machine identity
  - Ensures the user has access to the correct machine.

Trusted Platform Module (TPM)



What are they?

- Secure crypto processor
- Boot integrity
- Implementation:
  - Discrete TPM (dTPM)
  - Firmware TPM (fTPM)

Features

- Platform Integrity
- Attestation (later in the talk)
- Hierarchies and keys

Platform Integrity

```
λ ~ » tpm2_pcrread
  sha256:
    0 : 0x6262A7D70F099FBE6A6B26BEA7B610D49C91FE218E83CEDF45605DAF8D5FB875
    1 : 0x878EDB17F96149EF540C9FA0912944B177DE77CFDD9D21AAD0325856D824275
    2 : 0x3D458CFE55CC03EA1F443F1562BEEC8DF51C75E14A9FCF9A7234A13F198E7969
    3 : 0x3D458CFE55CC03EA1F443F1562BEEC8DF51C75E14A9FCF9A7234A13F198E7969
    4 : 0x3C20C88A2D161B48FBE093DDBB46E6F5D76A893884704A8F6237065E0C974E66
    5 : 0x3BF951C4937BD85CFBBF5D00ECD3F83069E7696939CB7BDB8089AB6DA71338DE
    6 : 0x3D458CFE55CC03EA1F443F1562BEEC8DF51C75E14A9FCF9A7234A13F198E7969
    7 : 0x576DEE5AA15CC918AB56E3CB50091618388AA86F2D43252D7B9D31072538AE07
    8 : 0x0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
    9 : 0xBC2BF2C68444550684B86D50CF23639C93A51A68BD8681FBED181BBF35FD76AA
   10: 0x0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
   11: 0x9FDC3908055743F6B68FCF0D268B8E6627D2DAFF34C77323FDEC6D2AA062162C
   12: 0x54A5CE3DC7AABD28AD7AA66896FE25EAC2856D66D8982EFB2B346F3CB22FCA68
```

UAPI Group Specification - 🔏 Linux TPM PCR Registry 🗒️

Hierarchies and keys

- Hierarchies:
  - Endorsement
  - Owner
  - Null
- Chains back to manufacturer
- Shielded keys

Key creation and signing

```
1 $ tpm2_createprimary -C e -c primary.ctx
2 $ tpm2_create -G rsa -u rsa.pub -r rsa.priv -C primary.ctx
3 $ tpm2_load -C primary.ctx -u rsa.pub -r rsa.priv -c rsa.ctx
4 $ echo "my message" > message.dat
5 $ tpm2_sign -c rsa.ctx -g sha256 -o sig.rssa message.dat
6 $ tpm2_verifysignature -c rsa.ctx -g sha256 -s sig.rssa -m message.dat
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Policies

- Restrict usage
- Include system state
- Signed policies

Caveats

- Not an HSM(!)
  - Slow devices
- Limited cryptography
  - RSA2048
  - NIST P-256/384
  - SHA256/SHA384
- Needs user-friendly tooling
- Not supported by openssh

ssh-agent

ssh-agent

- Hold private keys for ssh
- Communicated over a UNIX socket
- Caches passwords
- Can offload key operations

ssh-agent

```
$ eval $(ssh-agent)

$ ssh-add .ssh/id_ed25519
Identity added: .ssh/id_ed25519 (localhost)

$ ssh-add -l
256 SHA256:zCgUHuvA2vSr06RulqTNSk7z2eCAMXqf6LuzYihrB+k localhost (ED25519)
```

ssh-agent

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/config
Host localhost
    IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub

$ ssh -i ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub root@localhost
```

ssh-agent

`golang.org/x/crypto/ssh/agent`

ssh-tpm-agent

https://github.com/foxboron/ssh-tpm-agent

ssh-tpm-agent

- ssh-agent supporting TPM keys
- Support key creation
  - RSA 2048
  - NIST P256/P358
- openssh key import
- `github.com/google/go-tpm`

```
$ export SSH_AUTH_SOCK="/run/user/1000/ssh-tpm-agent.sock"
$ ssh-tpm-agent &
```

```
$ ssh-tpm-keygen
Generating a sealed public/private ecdsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/fox/.ssh/id_ecdsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/fox/.ssh/id_ecdsa.tpm
Your public key has been saved in /home/fox/.ssh/id_ecdsa.pub
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:NCMJJ2La+q5tGcngQUQvEOJP3gPH8bMP98wJOEMV564
The key's randomart image is the color of television, tuned to a dead channel.
```

```
$ ssh-tpm-add /home/fox/.ssh/id_ecdsa.tpm
Identity added: id_ecdsa.tpm

$ ssh-add -l
256 SHA256:bHnFOGJ/vJetVxa1ncwBu6yoX6Kpj/WgmGu/cP8ZCH0   (ECDSA)
```

Key import

```
$ ssh-keygen -t ecdsa -f id_ecdsa
[...]

$ ssh-tpm-keygen --import id_ecdsa
Sealing an existing public/private ecdsa key pair.
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in id_ecdsa.tpm
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:bDn2EpX6XRX5ADXQSuTq+uUyia/eV3Z6MW+UtxjnXvU
The key's randomart image is the color of television, tuned to a dead channel.
```

ssh-tpm-agent

- Not covered today:
- ssh-agent proxy support
- Hostkey support

SSH

TPM Key

SHA256:GfOTIDD7wpDrDPRR4rPdP1dhjzqssYAAKPtYW9drNI4

Added on Aug 31, 2024

Never used — Read/write

Delete

Github ssh key

```
ecdsa-sha2-nistp256 AAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTItbmlzdHAyNTYAAAAIbmlzdHAyNTYAAABBBLXM/
KDMRNt84G78CE0I0TBws2gfF65fA94YBmB57kYs0ZxiHQxykSoxEE6zaPyfgw5IegpkqPz9jOdEH
qqt/bg= fox@framework
```

PASSWORD: 1234

TPM 2.0 Key Files

https://www.hansenpartnership.com/draft-bottomley-tpm2-keys.html

TPM 2.0 Key Files

- ASN.1 format for TPM keys
- openssl `tpm2` provider
- Linux keyring support

TPM 2.0 Key Files

- Support different key types
  - Loadable Keys
  - Importable Keys
  - Sealed Keys

https://github.com/Foxboron/go-tpm-keyfiles

Go API

```
1  func main() {
2      tpm, _ := transport.OpenTPM()
3      defer tpm.Close()
4
5      k, _ := keyfile.NewLoadableKey(tpm, tpm2.TPMAlgECC, 256, []byte{},
6          keyfile.WithDescription("TPM Key"),
7      )
8
9      os.Writefile("key.pem", k.Bytes(), 0640)
10
11     signer, _ := k.Signer(tpm, []byte(""), []byte(""))
12     sig, _ := signer.Sign((io.Reader)(nil), []byte{....}, crypto.SHA256)
13 }
```

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NewTPMKey

```
1  func main(){
2      tpm, _ := transport.OpenTPM()
3      defer tpm.Close()
4
5      eccTemplate := tpm2.TPMTPublic{ ... }
6
7      eccKeyResponse, := tpm2.CreateLoaded{
8          ParentHandle: tpm2.AuthHandle{
9              Handle: primary.ObjectHandle,
10             Name:   primary.Name,
11             Auth:   tpm2.PasswordAuth([]byte(nil)),
12         },
13         InPublic: tpm2.New2BTemplate(&eccTemplate),
14     }.Execute(tpm)
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15
```

openssl key creation with ssh-tpm-agent

```
$ openssl genpkey -provider tpm2 \
    -algorithm EC -pkeyopt group:P-256 \
    -pkeyopt user-auth:1234 \
    -out id_ecdsa.tpm

$ ssh-tpm-keygen --print-pubkey ./id_ecdsa.tpm
ecdsa-sha2-nistp256 AAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTItbmlzdHA[...]Tkw=
```

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Goals

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- Identity claims
- Machine identity

SSH Certificate Authority

SSH certificates

SSH certificates

- Principals - users
- Capabilities
- Time limit/lifetime

SSH certificate - Go example

```
after := time.Now()
before := after.Add(time.Minute * 5)

sshkey, _ := ssh.NewPublicKey(...)

certificate := ssh.Certificate{
    Key:             sshkey,
    CertType:        ssh.UserCert,
    ValidPrincipals: []string{"Foxboron"},
    KeyId:           "TPM Key",
    ValidAfter:      uint64(after.Unix()),
    ValidBefore:     uint64(before.Unix()),
    Permissions: ssh.Permissions{
        Extensions: map[string]string{
            "permit-agent-forwarding": "",
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            "permit-agent-forwarding": "",
```

SSH certificates

```
TrustedUserCAKeys /etc/ssh/ca_user_key.pub
```

Identity claims

Identity claims

- Identity Provider (IdP)
- Information about a given user
- Signed
- Open ID Connect (OIDC)
- Proves access to a user

Open ID Connect

- JWTs
- Signed by IdP
- Can be validated remotely

JWT Example


```
{
  "alg": "RS256",
  "kid": "133f011609daa84cf6e8031db2f91612d950aca2"
}
{
  "iss": "https://oauth2.sigstore.dev/auth",
  "sub": "CgcxMDQyOTQ2EiZodHRwczolMkYlMkZnaXRodWIuY29tJTJGbG9naW4lMkZvYXV0aA",
  "aud": "sigstore",
  "exp": 1727261159,
  "iat": 1727261099,
  "nonce": "2mYkqV2NmTXSq7QpfWAG0zBAiTA",
  "at_hash": "NkMjxQVR6X48Kx8hRQDNfQ",
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  "email": "morten@linderud.pw",
  "email_verified": true,
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```

Identity Provider (IdP)

Identity Provider

- Keycloak, Okta, Microsoft, Google
- Different claims pr provider
- Github

Identity Provider config

```
$ curl "https://login.microsoftonline.com//common/v2.0/\
       .well-known/openid-configuration" | jq
{
  "token_endpoint": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/v2.0/token'
  "token_endpoint_auth_methods_supported": [
    "client_secret_post",
    "private_key_jwt",
    "client_secret_basic"
  ],
  "jwks_uri": "https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/discovery/v2.0/keys",
  "response_modes_supported": [
    "query",
    "fragment",
    "form_post"
  ],
```

Identity Provider config

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  "response_modes_supported": [
    "query",
    "fragment",
    "form_post"
  ],
```

Identity Claims

- How can we know the IdP verifies identities?
- `acr` is not standardized
- `acr_values_supported` is optional
- Values `silver` and `bronze`

Sigstore

https://www.sigstore.dev/

DEX

- Federated IdP
- Support Microsoft, Google
- Github(!)

How do we know the authentication is from the CA?

```
{
  "iss": "https://oauth2.sigstore.dev/auth",
  "sub": "CgcxMDQyOTQ2EiZodHRwczolMkYlMkZnaXRodWIuY29tJTJGbG9naW4lMkZvYXV0aA",
  "aud": "sigstore",
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  "at_hash": "NkMjxQVR6X48Kx8hRQDNfQ",
  "c_hash": "bJchbzUCdmu8OSMTHNs5ZQ",
  "email": "morten@linderud.pw",
  "email_verified": true,
  "federated_claims": {
    "connector_id": "https://github.com/login/oauth",
    "user_id": "1042946"
  }
```

```
{
  "iss": "https://oauth2.sigstore.dev/auth",
  "sub": "CgcxMDQyOTQ2EiZodHRwczolMkYlMkZnaXRodWIuY29tJTJGbG9naW4lMkZvYXV0aA",
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  "email_verified": true,
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    "user_id": "1042946"
  }
```

JWT nonce abuse!

JWT nonce abuse

- Value from the CA
- Signed by the IdP
- Probably proves it comes from us

Goals

- ✅ Device bound keys
- ✅ Identity claims
- Machine identity

Machine identities

Machine identities

- Proves access to a given machine
- Doesn't circumvent MDM

Machine identities

- Endorsement keys can't sign things
- Attestation Key
- Credential Protection

TPM2_Certify and Attestation Keys

- Certifies the creation of a TPM object.
- Ensure we are dealing with an object created inside a TPM.
- Signs the creation of the attributes
- Chains back to EK.

Credential Protection

- Proves possession of a machine resident ky
- Shared secret
  - Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDH)

Credential Protection

- `TPM2_CredentialActivate`
  - CredentialBlob
  - Secret
- `TPM2_MakeCredential`
  - Parent Handle
  - ObjectName
  - Digest
- Can be done without a TPM.

Prove possession of machine

Prove possession of machine

- MakeCredential on CA

Prove possession of machine

- MakeCredential on CA
- Send blob to the client

Prove possession of machine

- MakeCredential on CA
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- Client decrypt the blob

Prove possession of machine

- MakeCredential on CA
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- Send back to the CA

Goals

- ✅ Device bound keys
- ✅ Identity claims
- ✅ Machine identity

What do we have...

- An ssh agent for TPM keys
- A way to prove possession of:
  - An identity
  - An machine

ssh-tpm-ca-authority

https://github.com/Foxboron/ssh-tpm-ca-authority

ssh-tpm-ca-authority

- Shorted lived certs
- User identities (OIDC)
- Machine identities - Credential Protection
- Uses standard openssh

Key creation

```
ssh-tpm-keygen -f ./id_ecdsa.tpm
```

Configuration

```
hosts:
  - host: my.ssh.server.com
    ca_file: ./id_ecdsa.tpm
    users:
      - user: fox
        oidc_connector: https://github.com/login/oauth
        email: morten@linderud.pw
        ek: 000ba1d6910d32dbafb47e1365e8a84606aaefc9bb2404f4f99082f6284a9b33415c
      - user: root
        oidc_connector: https://github.com/login/oauth
        email: root@example.com
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```

Get EK certificate

```
λ ssh-tpm-ca-authority master » go run ./cmd/getek
000ba1d6910d32dbafb47e1365e8a84606aaefc9bb2404f4f99082f6284a9b33415c
```

Run the ssh ca server

```
λ ssh-tpm-ca-authority master » go run ./cmd/ssh-tpm-ca-authority
2024/08/30 23:09:10 HTTP server listening on :8080
```

Client Setup

```
Match host my.ssh.server.com  exec \
  "ssh-tpm-add --ca 'http://127.0.0.1:8080' --host '%h' --user '%r'"
```

Attestation Protocol

Attestation Protocol

SSH CA with device and identity attestation: ssh-tpm-ca-authority

https://linderud.dev/blog/ssh-ca-with-device-and-identity-attestation-ssh-tpm-ca-authority/

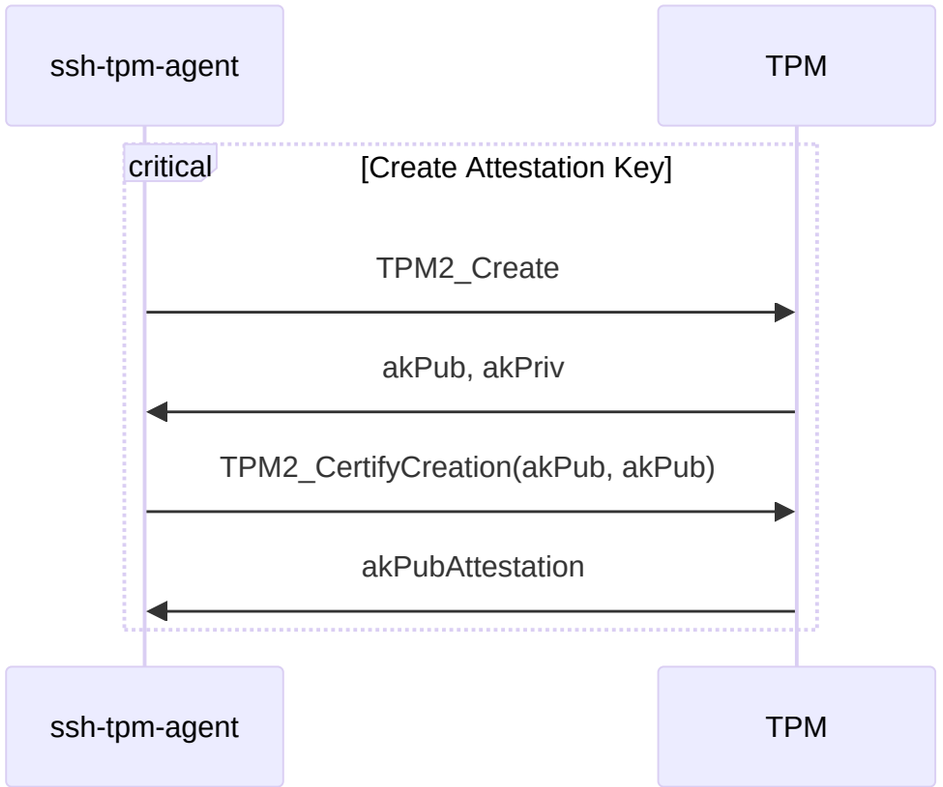
Attestation Protocol

- Server has two endpoints
- `/attest`
- `/submit`

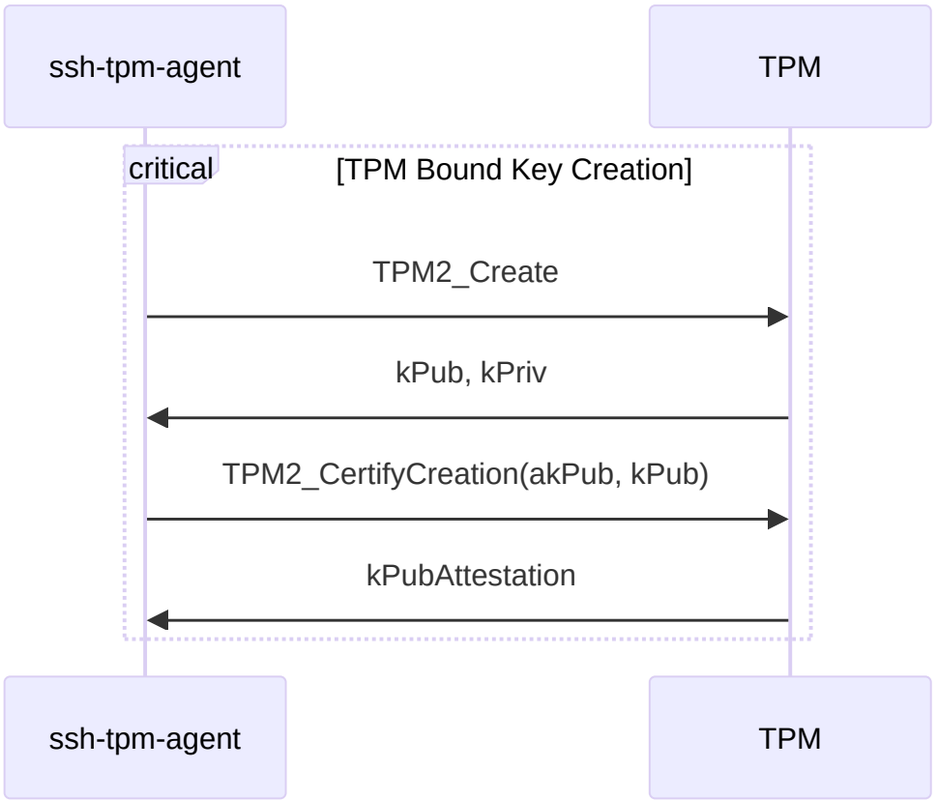
Attestation Protocol

- Key Creation
  - AK
  - TPM Bound Key
- Submit attestation
- OIDC Issuer Challenge
- Decrypt Credential
- Submit Challenge
- Signed ssh certificate

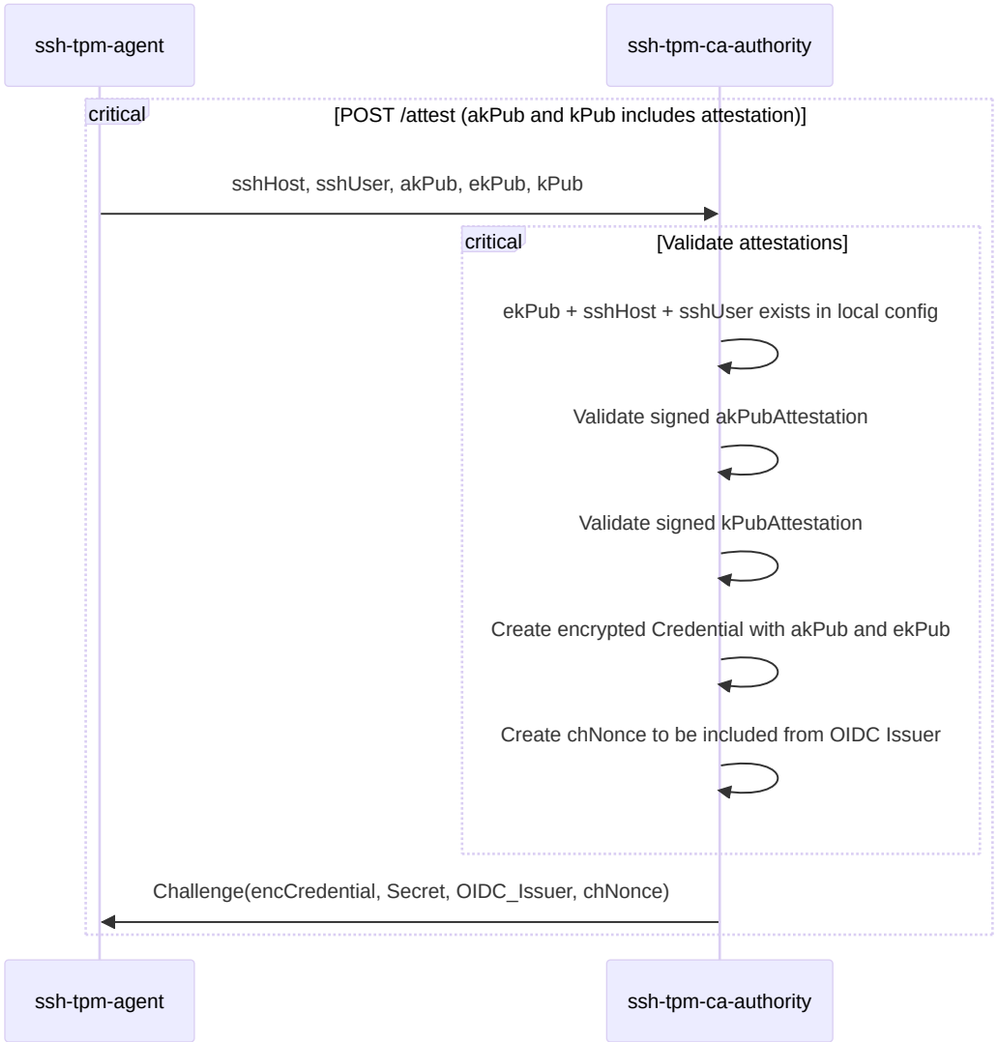
Key creation - Bound AK



Key creation - TPM Bound Key



Submit attestation



JSON Structs

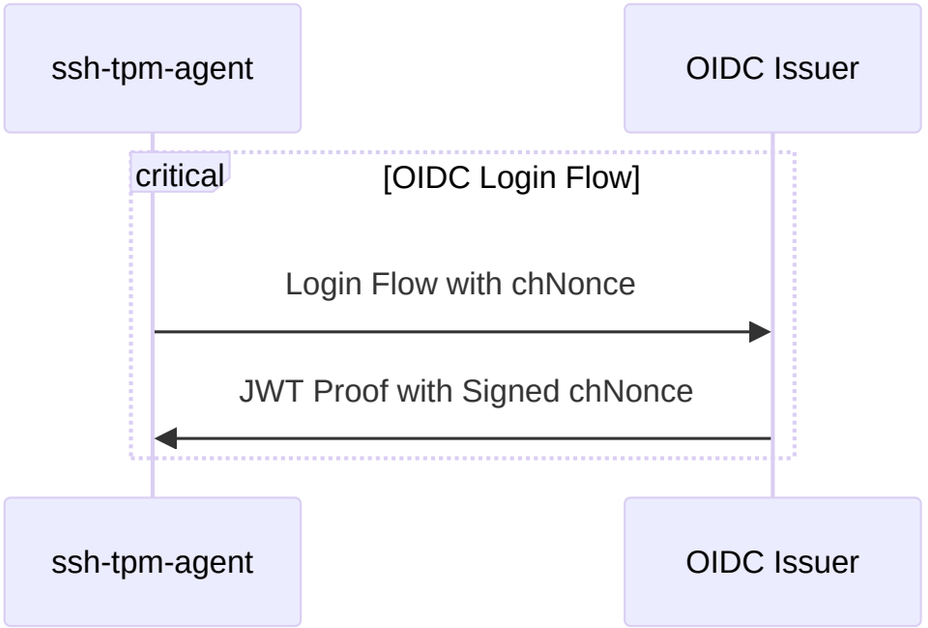
```
type Attestation struct {
    Public             *tpm2.TPMTPublic
    Signer             *tpm2.TPMTPublic
    CreateData         []byte
    CreateAttestation  []byte
    CreateSignature    []byte
}

type AttestationParameters struct {
    Host         string
    User         string
    EK           *tpm2.TPMTPublic
    AK           *Attestation
    TPMBoundKey  *Attestation
}
```

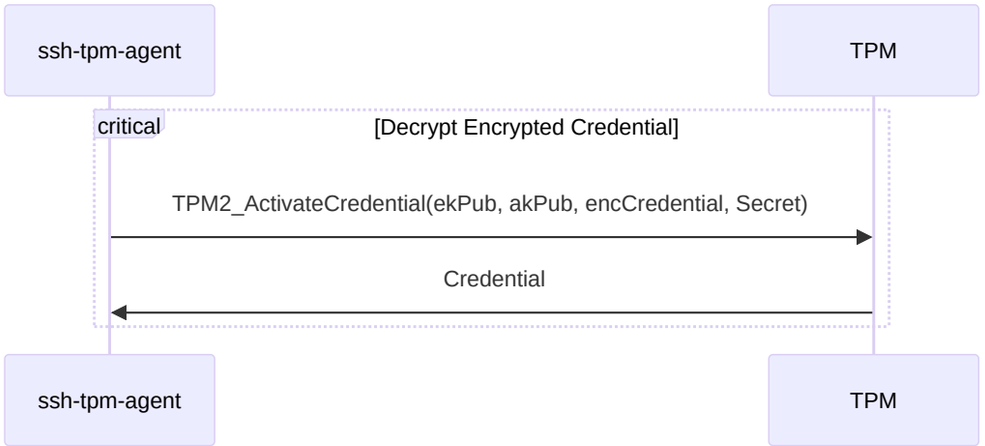
Challenge

```
type EncryptedCredential struct {
    Credential []byte
    Secret     []byte
    OIDC       string
    Nonce      string
}
```

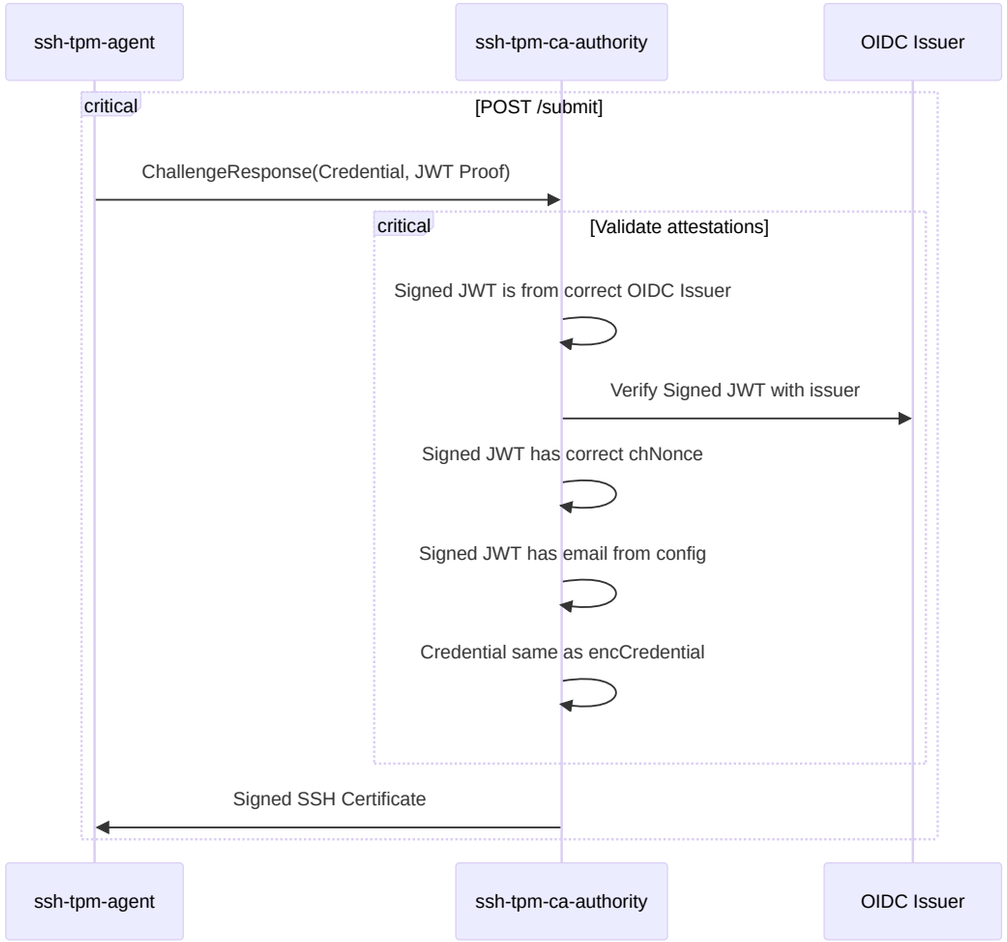
OIDC Issuer challenge



Decrypt credential



Submit challenge



JSON Struct

```
type ChallengeResponse struct {
    Secret []byte
    Jwt    string
}
```

Signed SSH Response

```
type SignedCertResponse struct {
    SignedSSHCert []byte
}
```

ssh-agent

```
λ ~ » ssh-add -l
256 SHA256:+wa71L64hnLjYNOm4gintIfLc9GDUrwY22AIX40OliE   (ECDSA)
256 SHA256:+wa71L64hnLjYNOm4gintIfLc9GDUrwY22AIX40OliE   (ECDSA-CERT)
```

Improvements

- Is the protocol good enough?
- EK Certificates
  - Teleport does this

Improvements - openssh

- We should have a hostkey signed statement about the login?
- Agent should be aware of the ssh server?
- Specific agent for an extension?

Conclusion

Thanks!

- Github: Foxboron
- https://linderud.dev
- Email: morten@linderud.pw
- Mastodon: https://chaos.social/@Foxboron