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ASIA 2024

APRIL 18-19, 2024
BRIEFINGS

What the TrustZone-M Doesn't See, the MCU Does Grieve Over

Lessons Learned from Assessing a Microcontroller TEE

Cristiano Rodrigues | Sandro Pinto, PhD

(Centro ALGORITMI / LASI, Universidade do Minho)

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CENTROALGORITMI



AGENDA

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Introduction

Background and Motivation

02

A Bumpy but Revealing Journey

Weak Protections, TEE Assessment and our Responsible Disclosure Journey

03

What Can Go Wrong

Attack Examples and “Live” Demo

04

Lessons Learned

Advices for HW & SW providers and System Designers

05

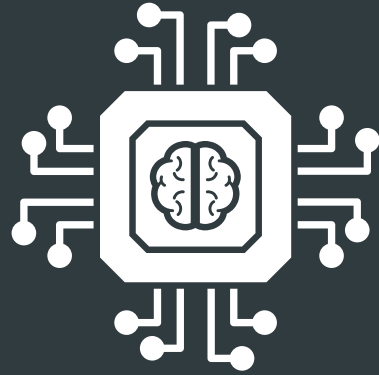
Summary

Final Thoughts and BH Sound Bytes

Introduction

Background and Motivation

AI-ENABLED
EDGE DEVICES



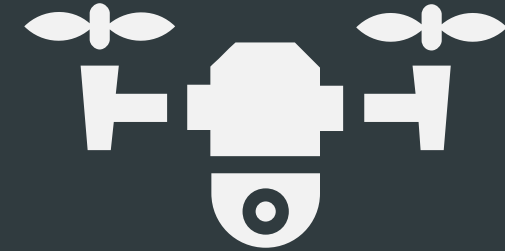
SMART
FABRIQUES



SMART
CITIES



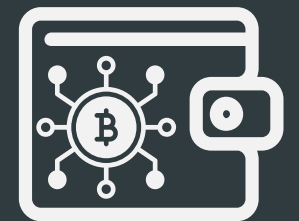
DRONES



SMART
AGRICULTURE



HARDWARE
WALLETS



INTERNET OF THINGS



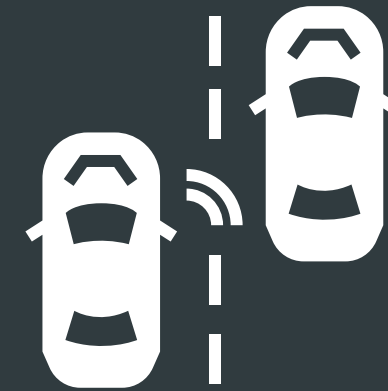
MEDICAL
DEVICES



WEARABLES

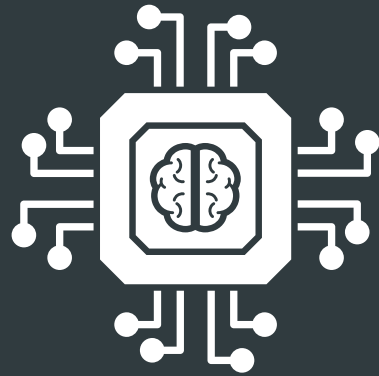


HOME
APPLIANCES



AUTONOMOUS
VEHICLES

AI-ENABLED
EDGE DEVICES



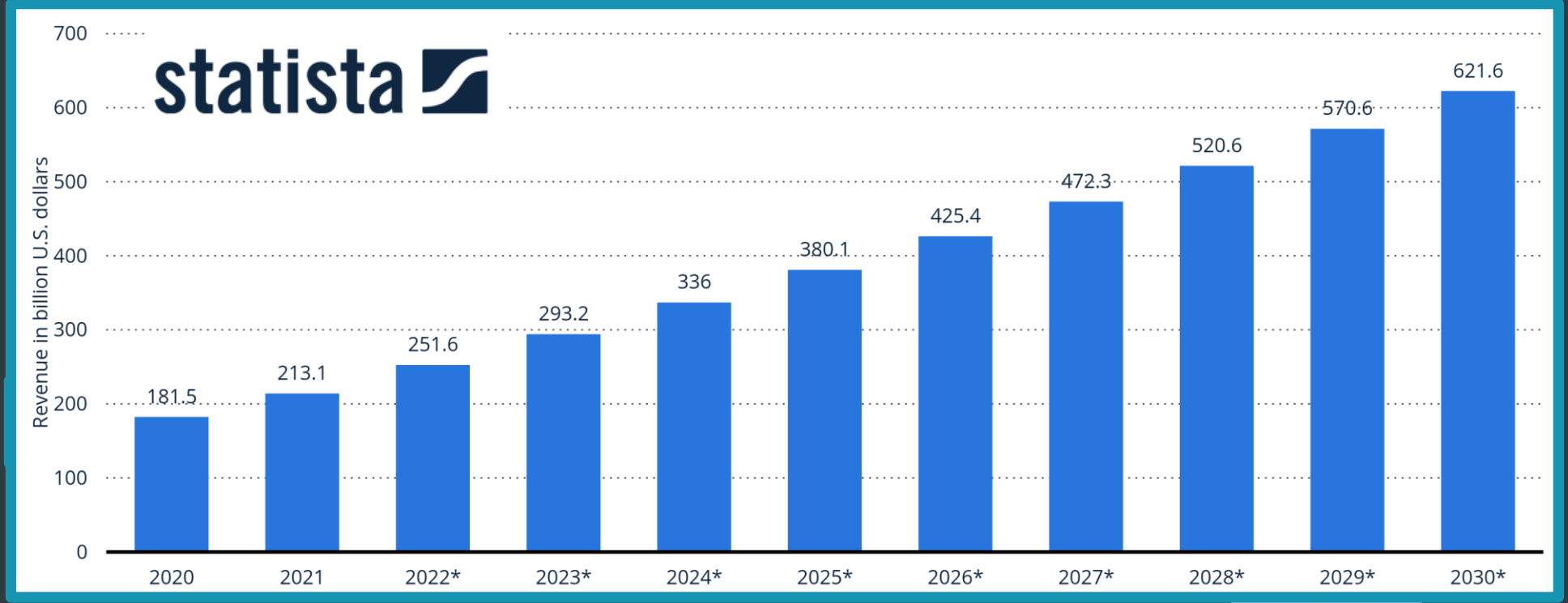
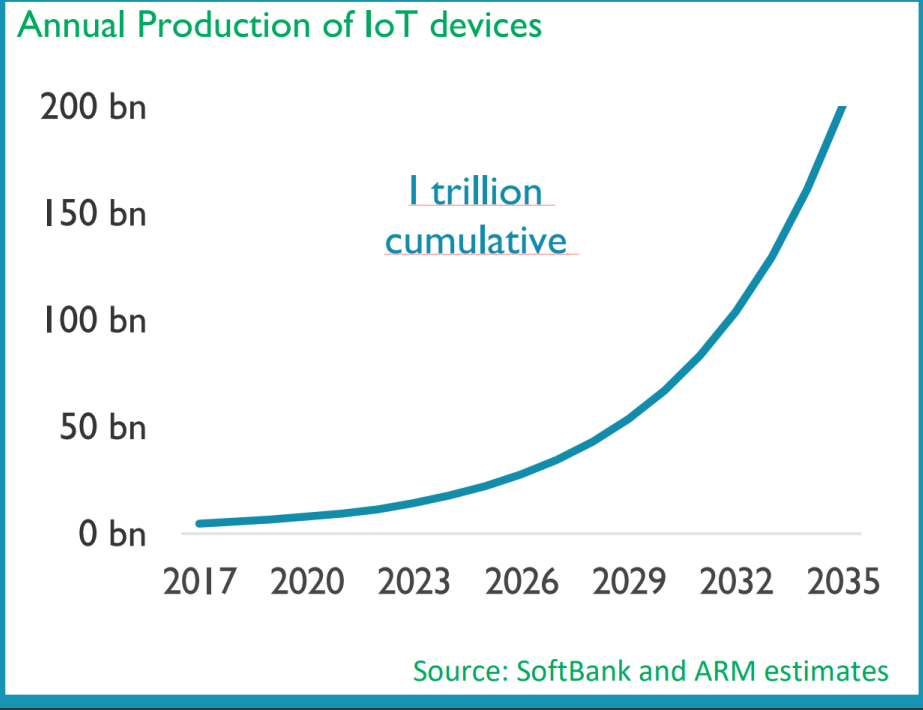
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CITIES



SMART
FACORIES

DRONES

SMART
AGRICULTURE



MEDICAL
DEVICES

WEARABLE

The route to a trillion devices

The outlook for IoT investment to 2035

VEHICLES

Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

Pacemakers, defibrillators are potentially hackable

By Lisa Rapaport

February 21, 2018 3:55 PM GMT · Updated 6 years ago

News This Week: An IoT Teddy Millions of Parent and Child Findings



PRIVACY

er Takes FTC's Heat -Things Security

Hackers Remotely Highway—V

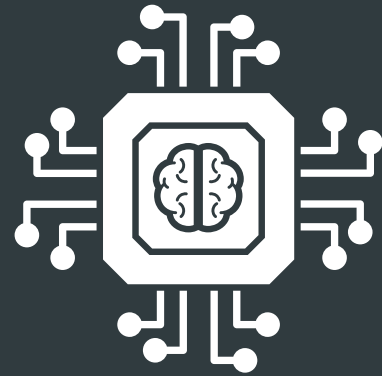
THE AGE OF CYBERWARFARE

By Richard Adhikari • September 5, 2013 3:56 PM PT • Email Article

BrickerBot Malware En Bricks IoT Devices

Flaw in Home Security Cameras Exposes Live Feeds to Hackers

AI-ENABLED
EDGE DEVICES



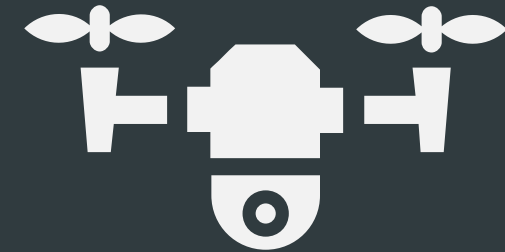
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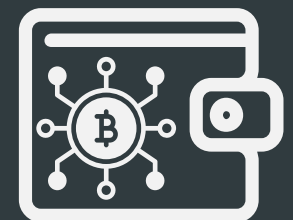
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INTERNET OF THINGS



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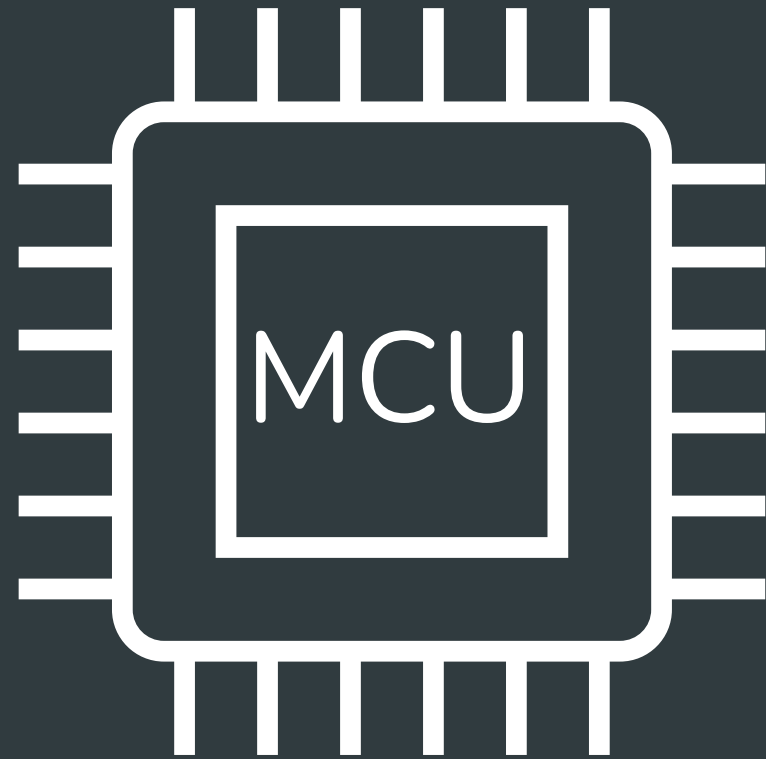


HOME
APPLIANCES

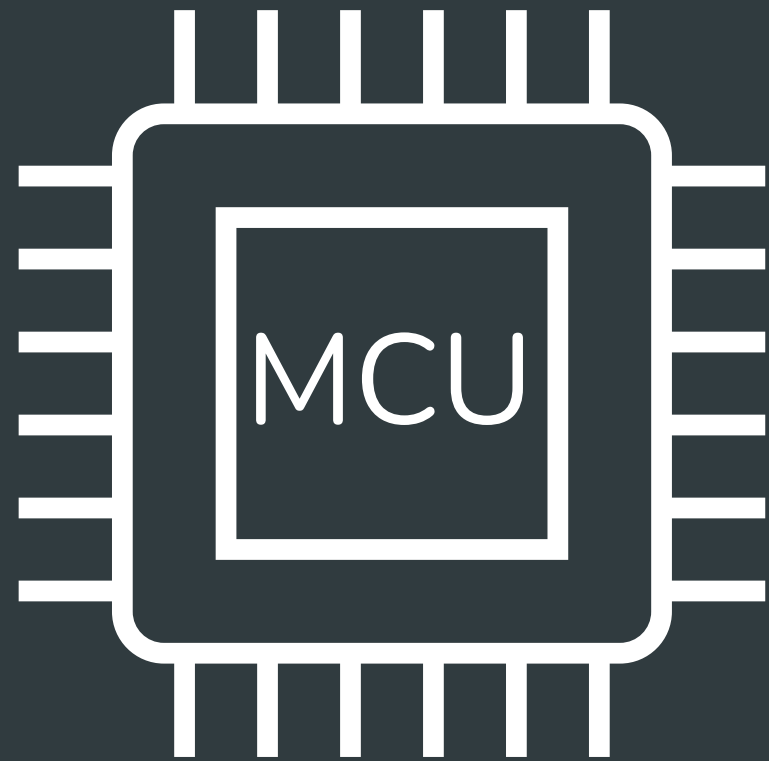


AUTONOMOUS
VEHICLES

INTERNET OF THINGS



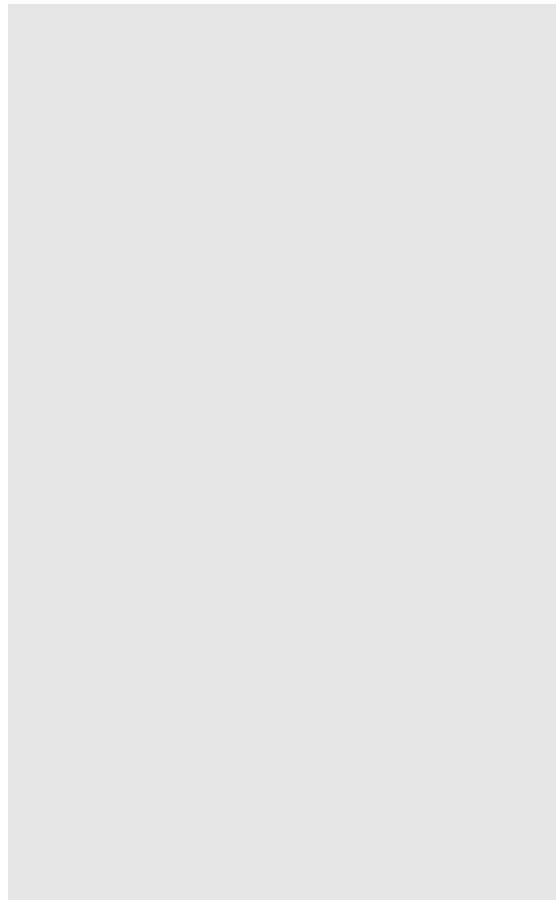
INTERNET OF THINGS



arm
TRUSTZONE

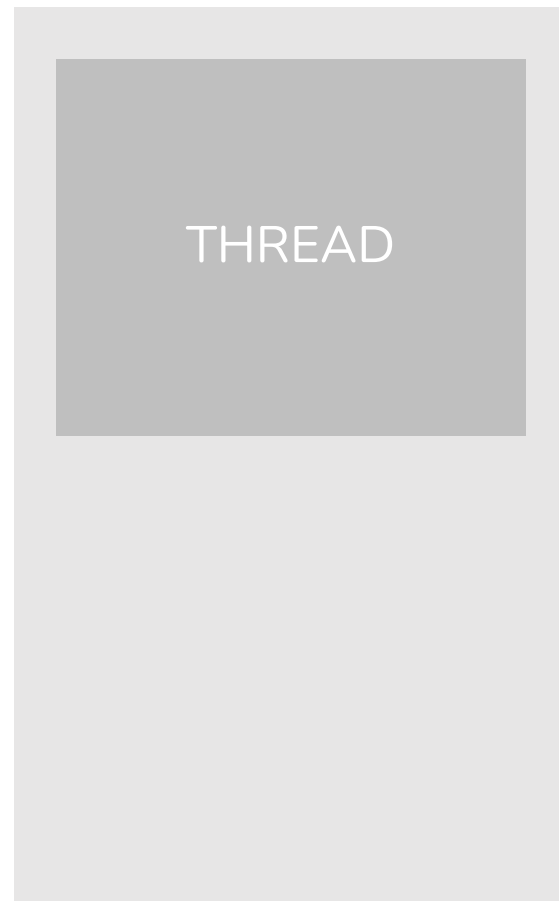
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



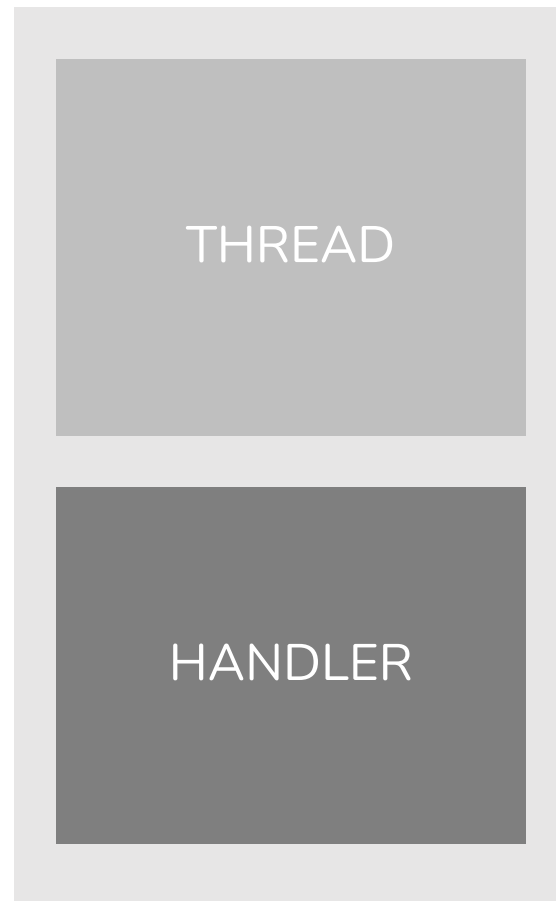
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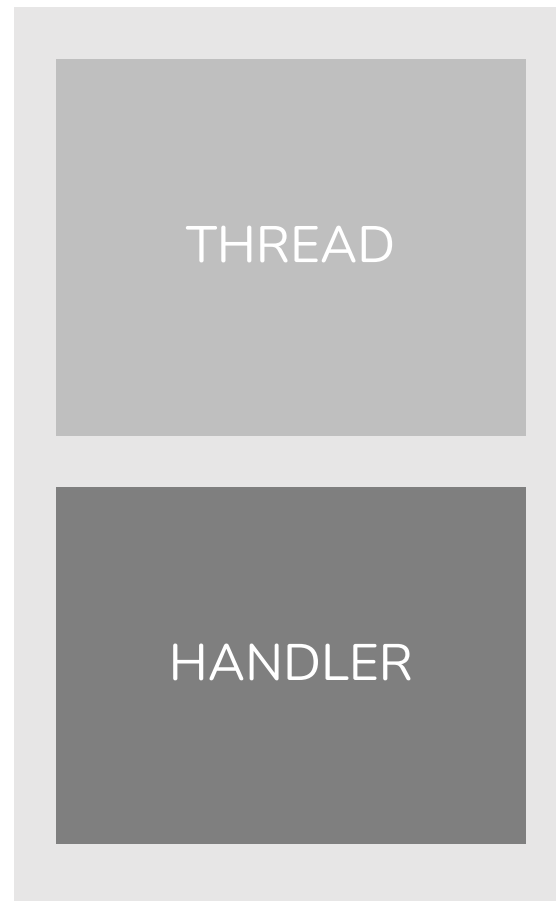
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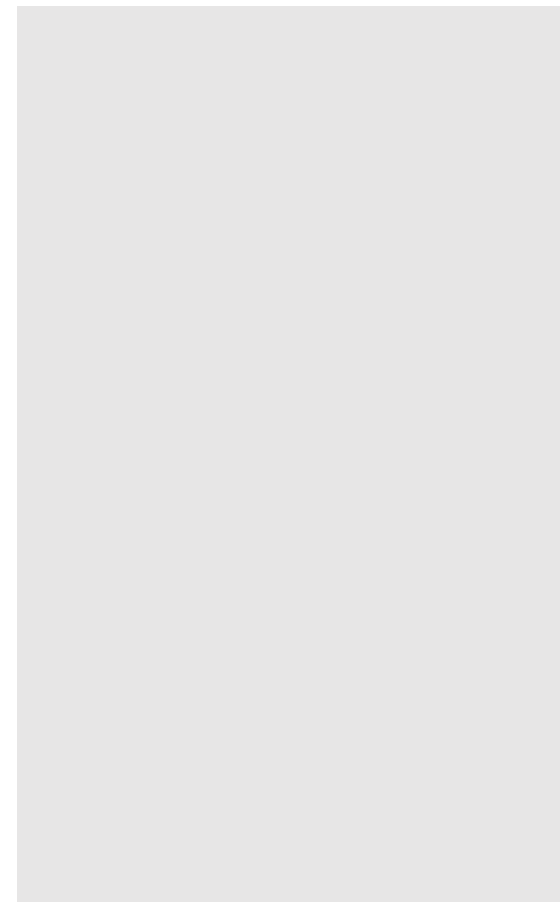


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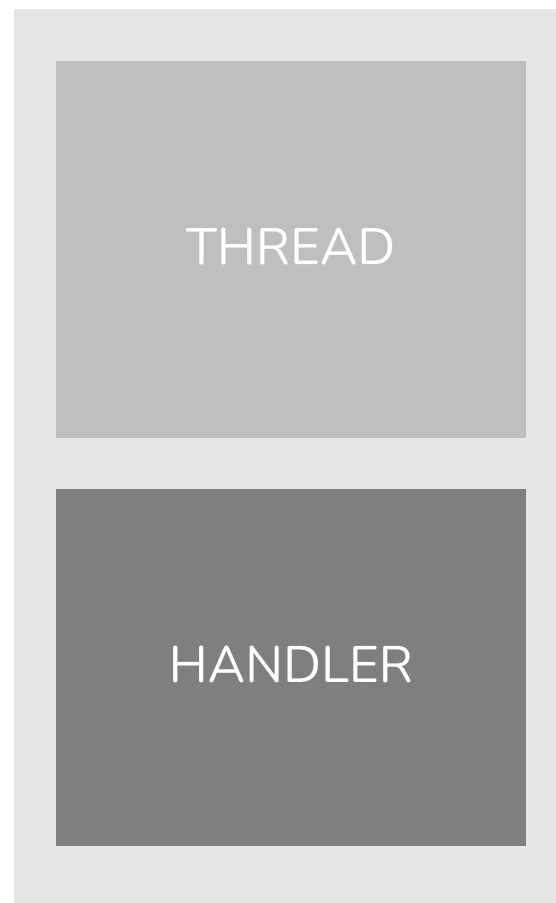


Armv6/7-M Privileges Levels

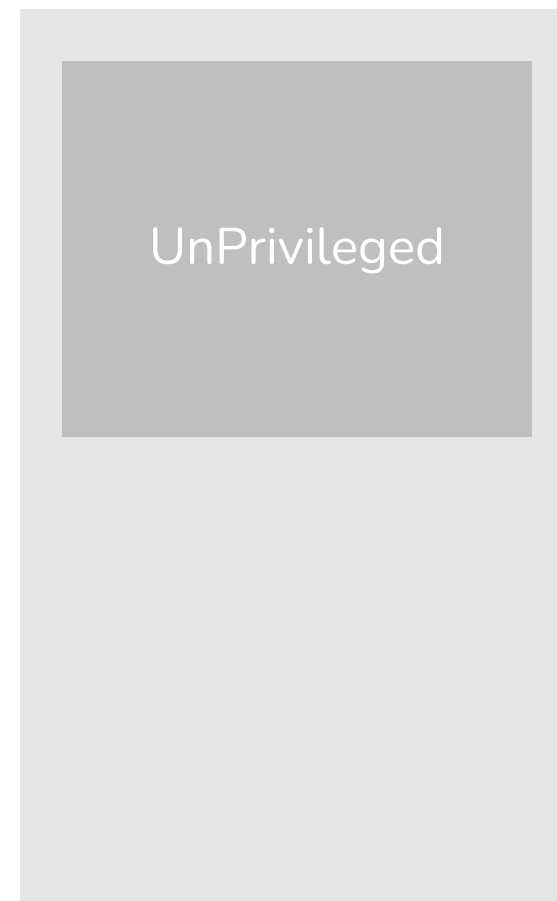


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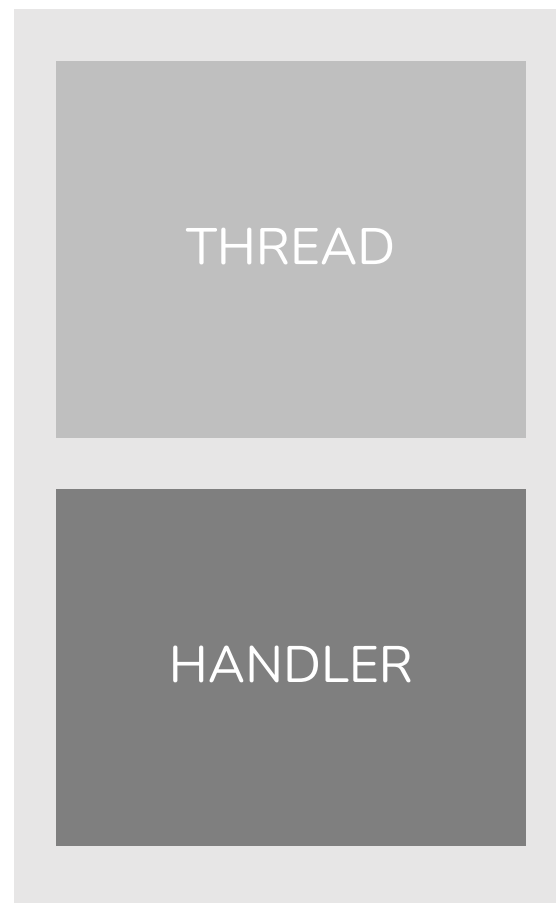


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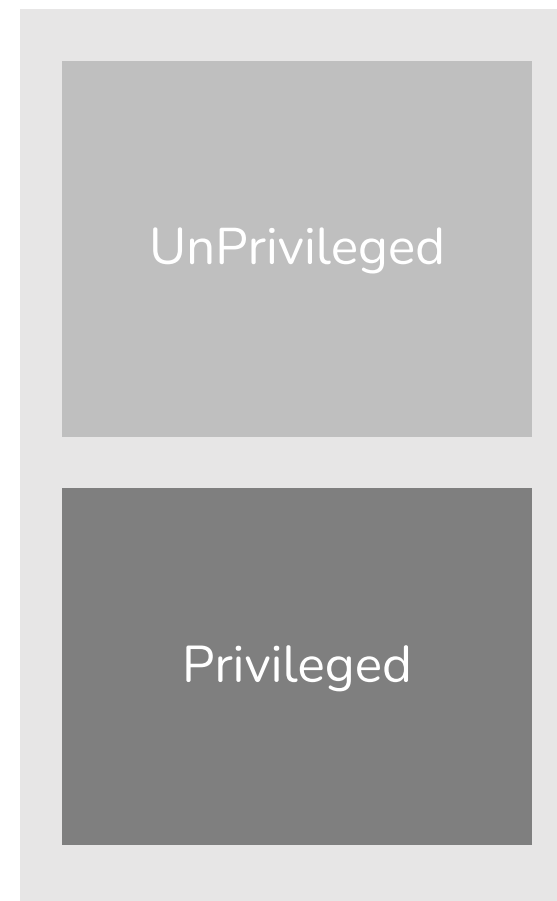


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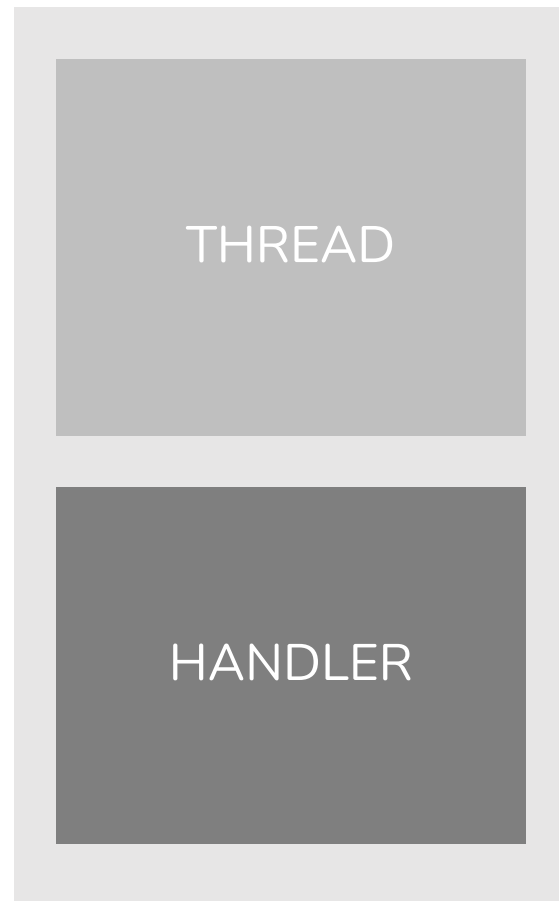


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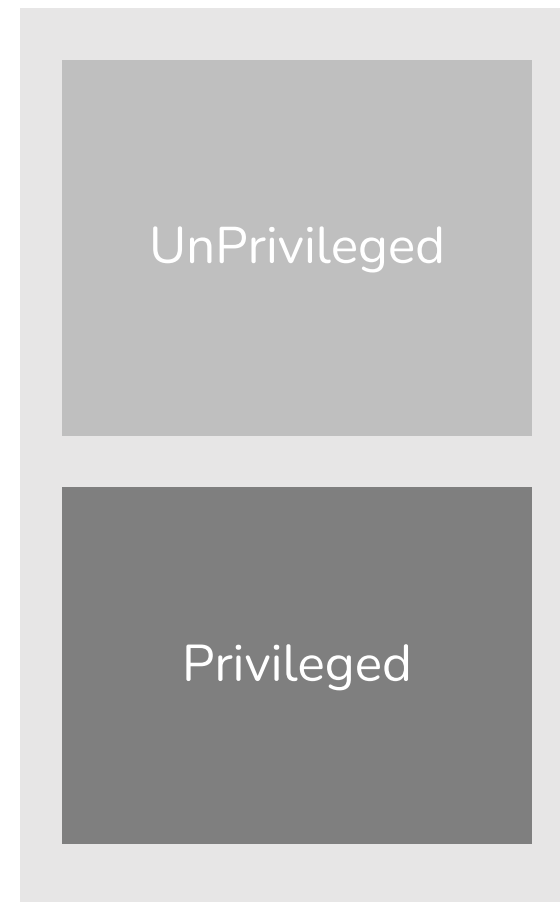


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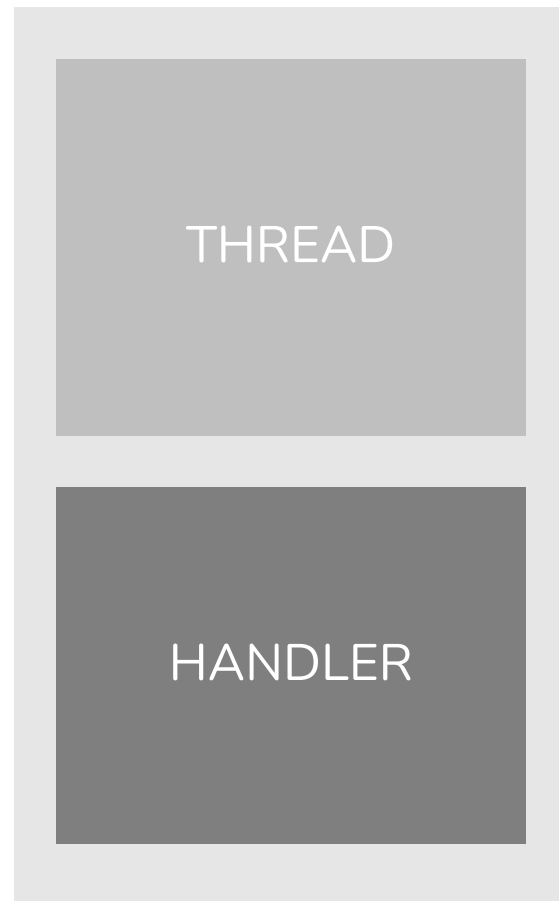


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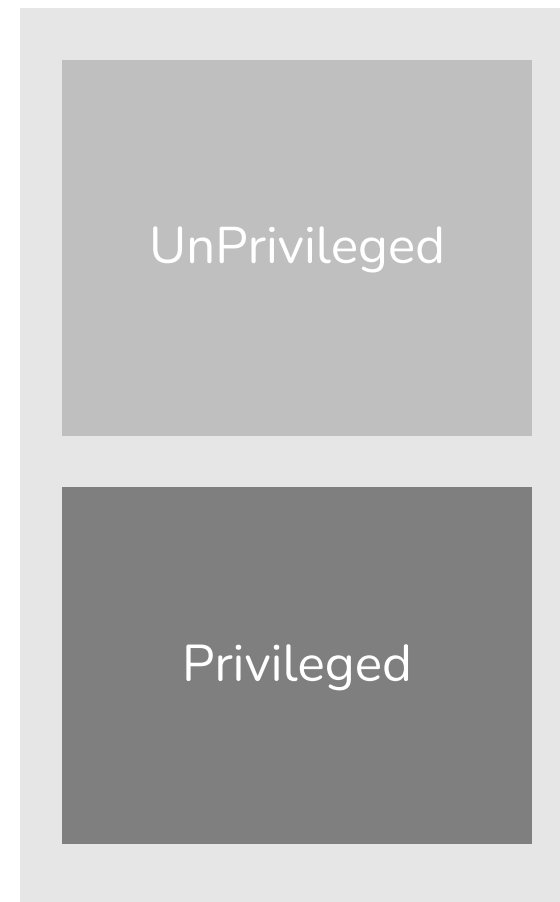


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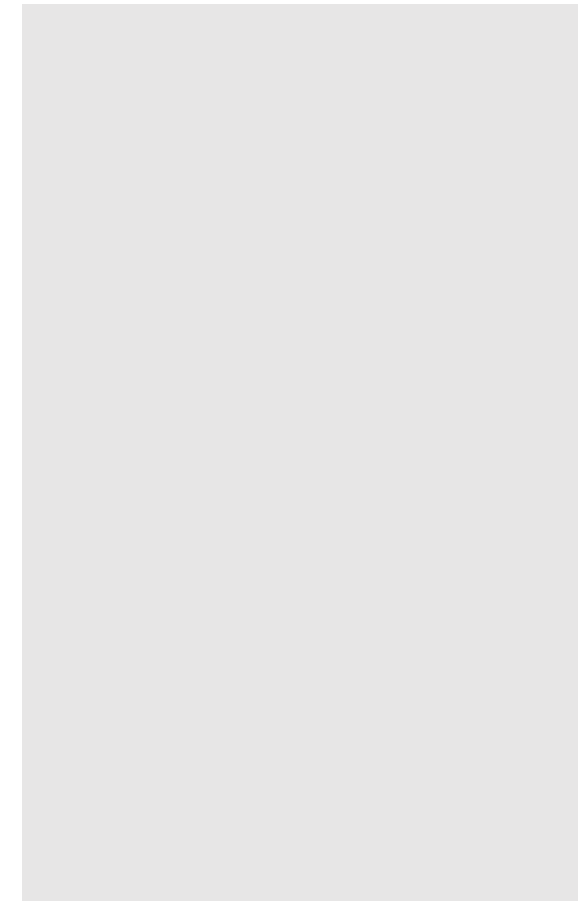
Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



Armv6/7-M Privileges Levels

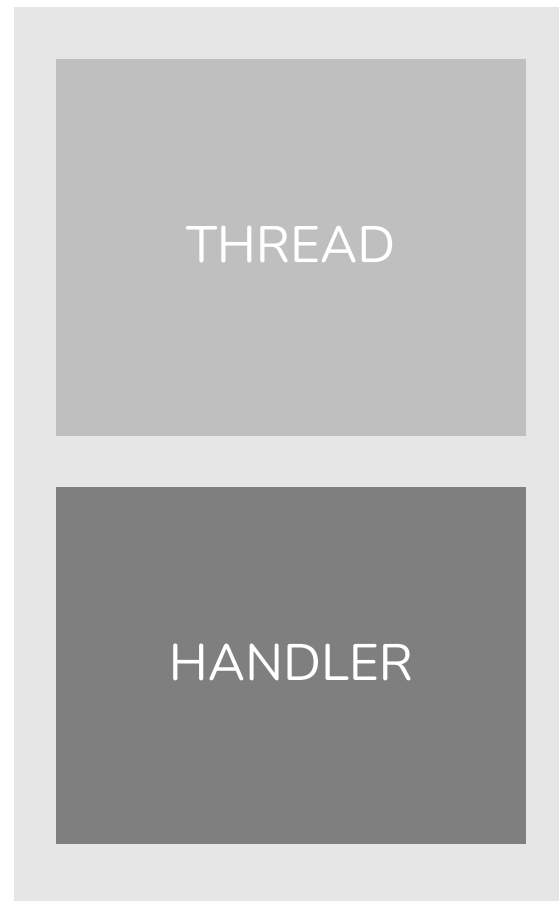


Armv6/7-M Base Architecture

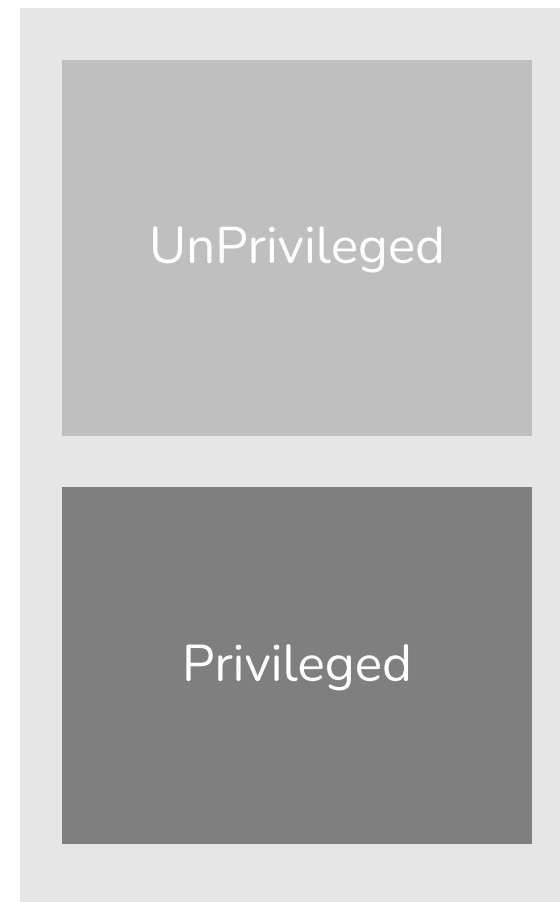


Armv8-M TrustZone

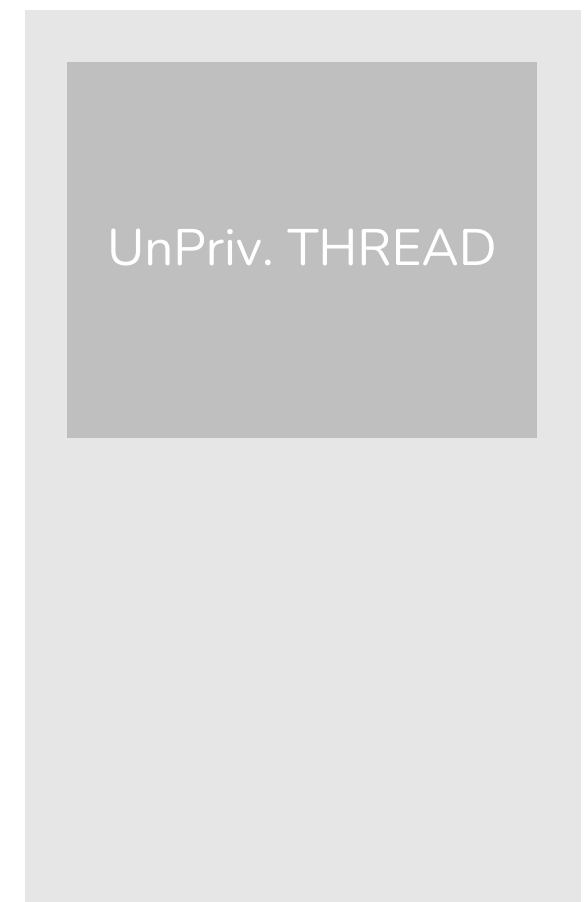
Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



Armv6/7-M Privileges Levels

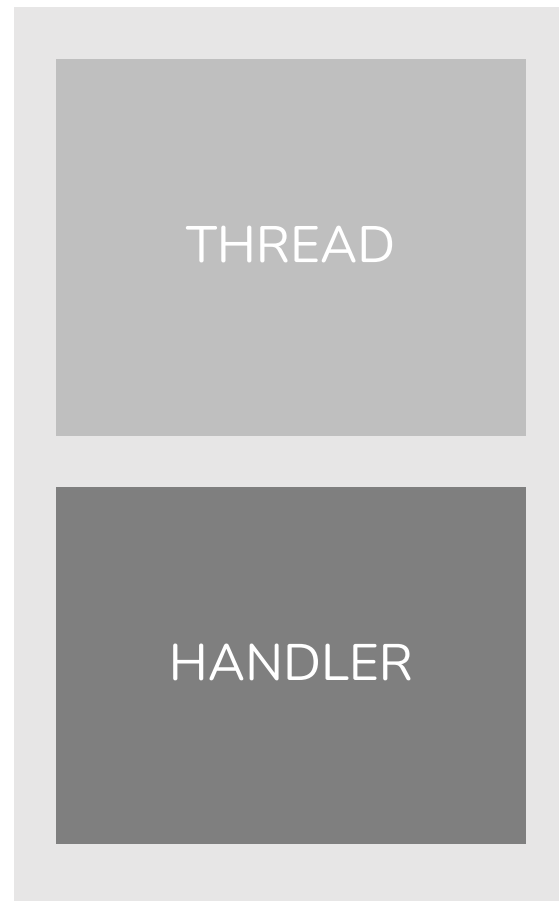


Armv6/7-M Base Architecture

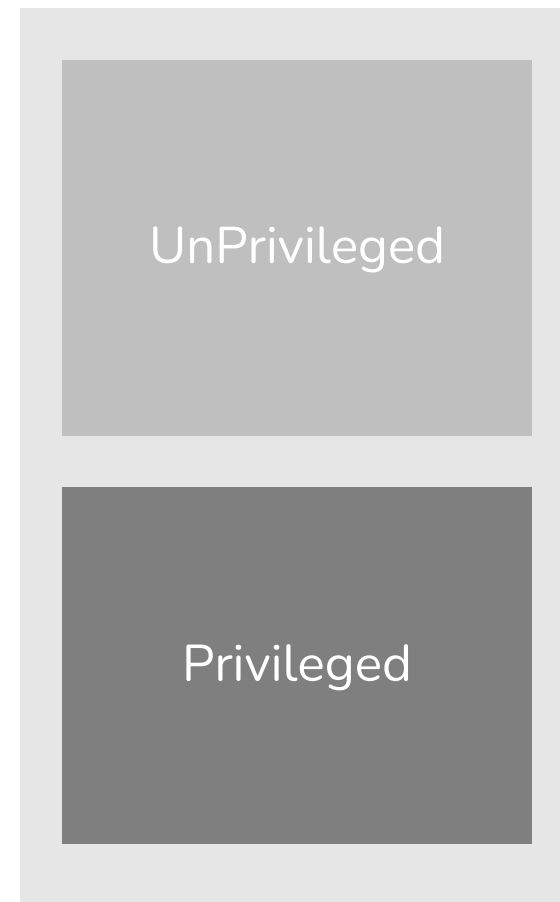


Armv8-M TrustZone

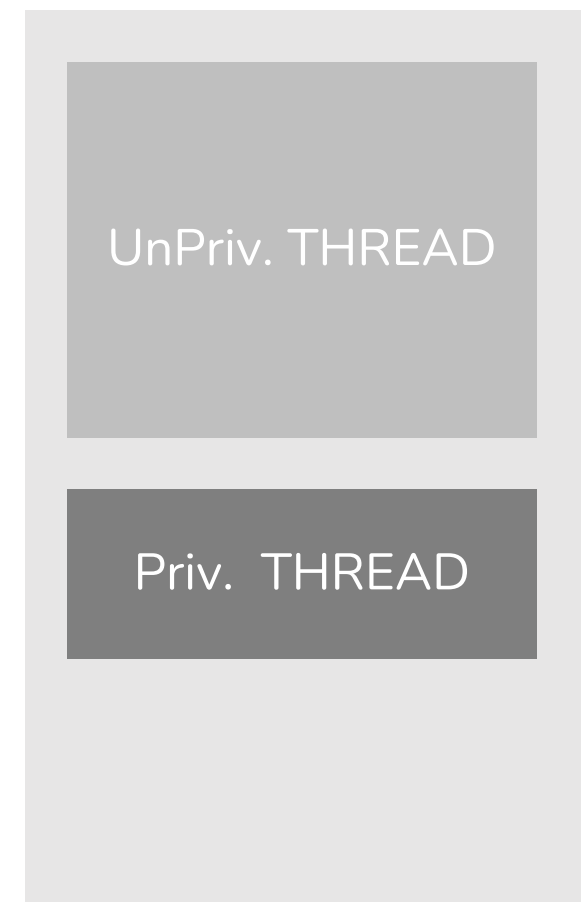
Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



Armv6/7-M Privileges Levels

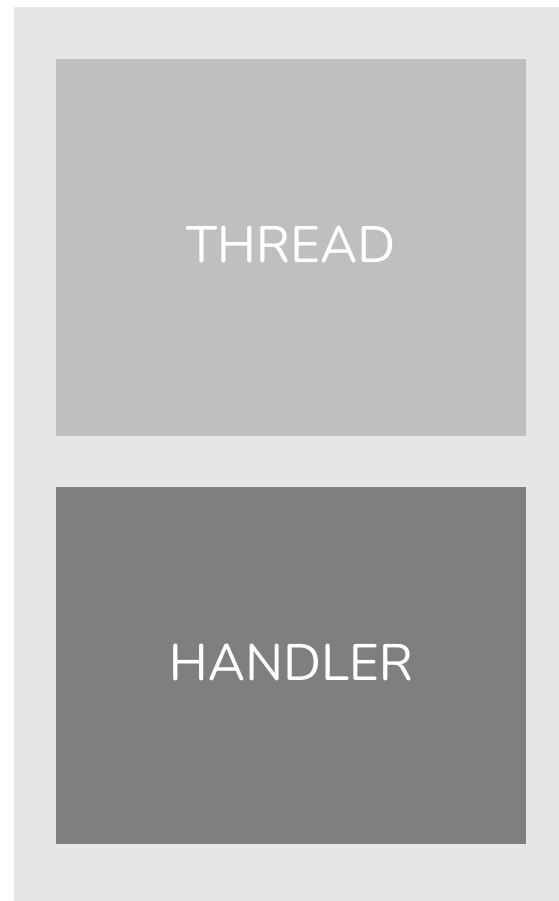


Armv6/7-M Base Architecture

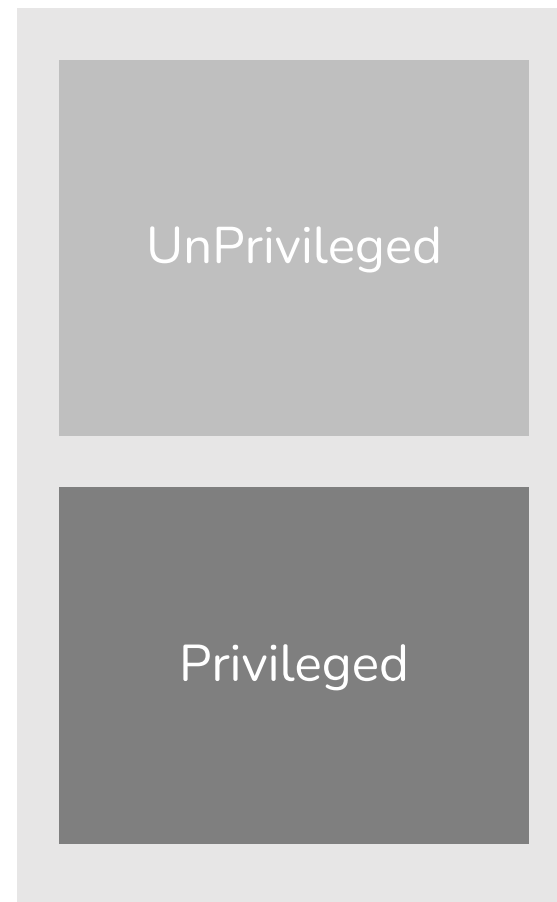


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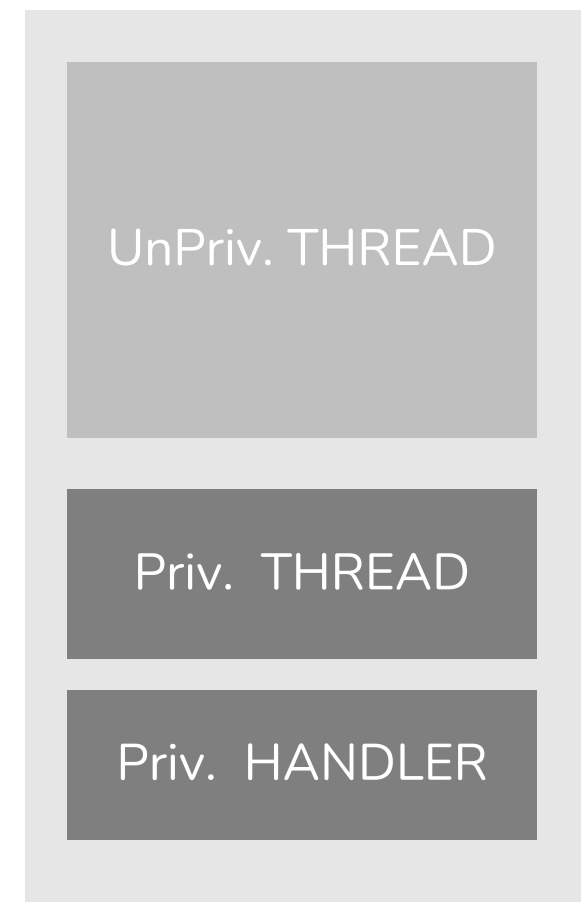
Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



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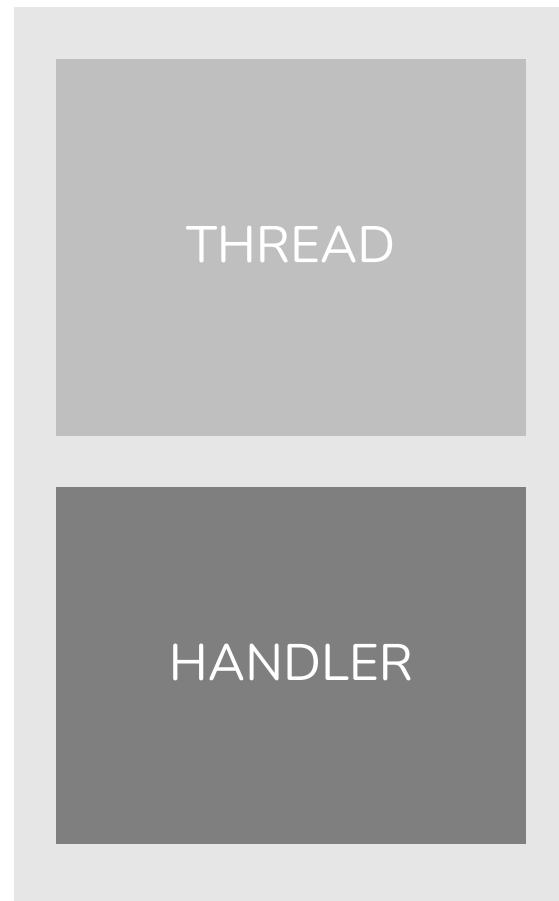


Armv6/7-M Base Architecture

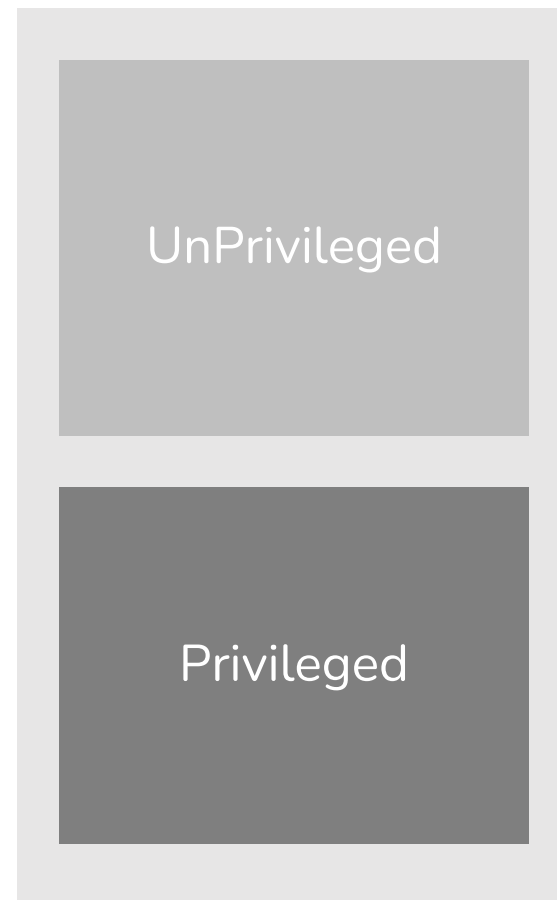


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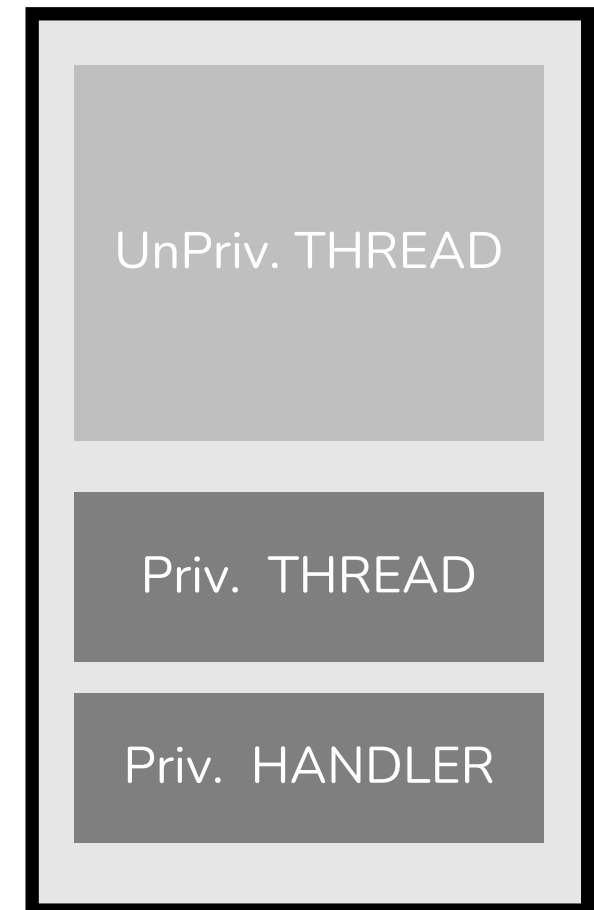
Armv6/7-M Processor Modes



Armv6/7-M Privileges Levels

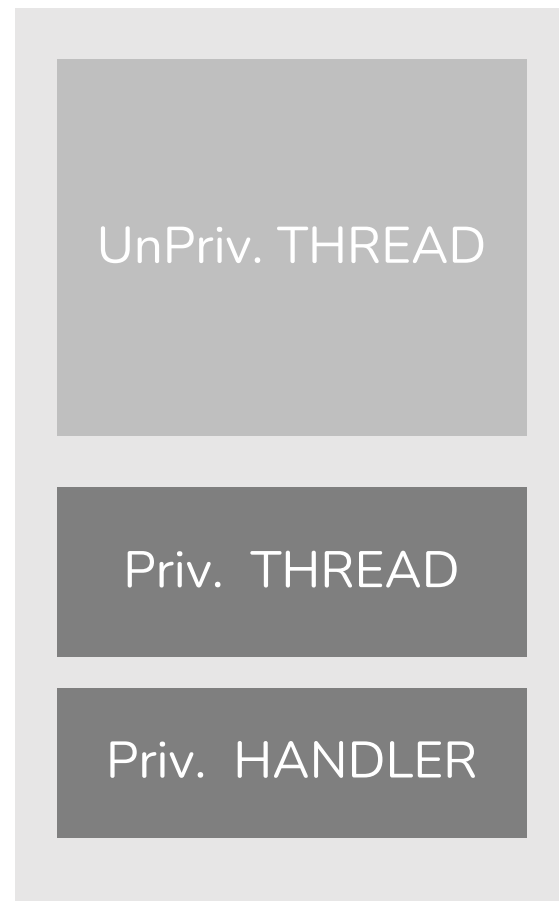


Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



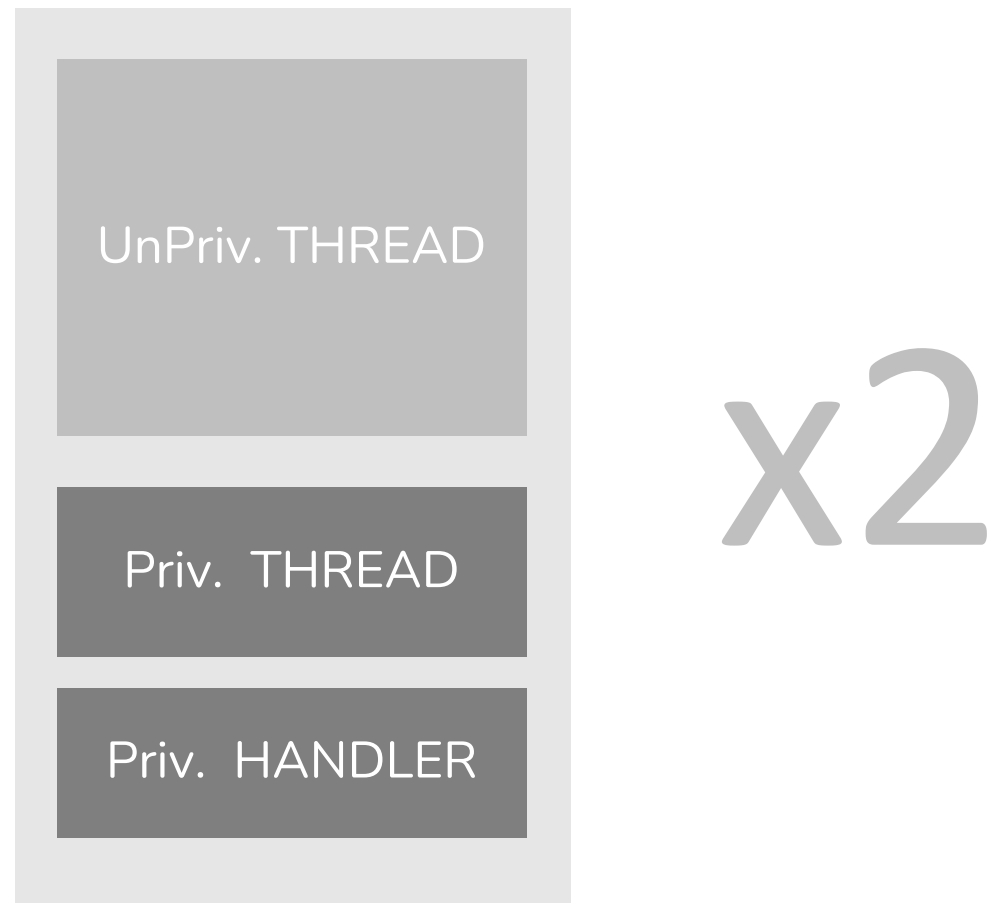
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



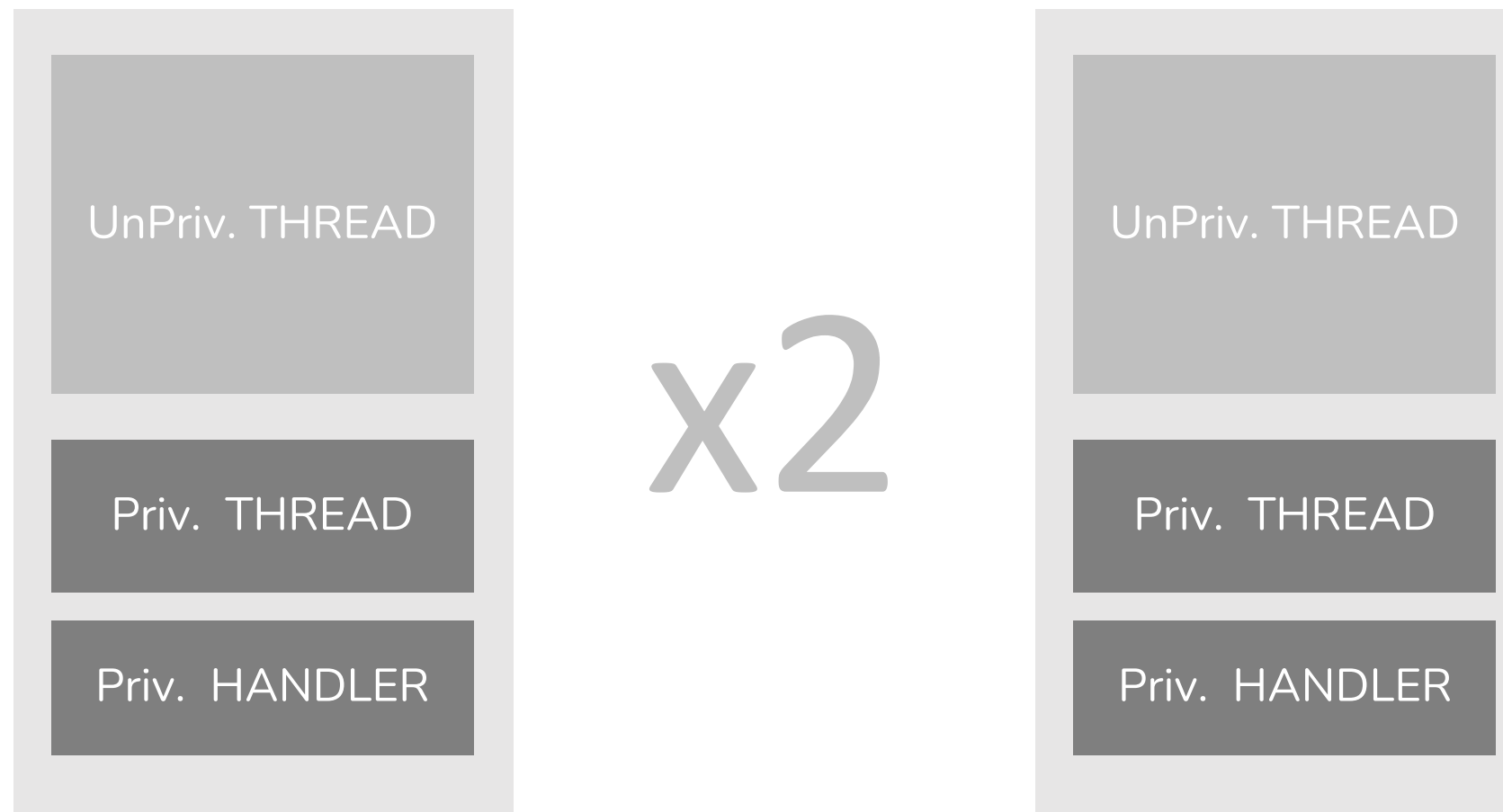
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



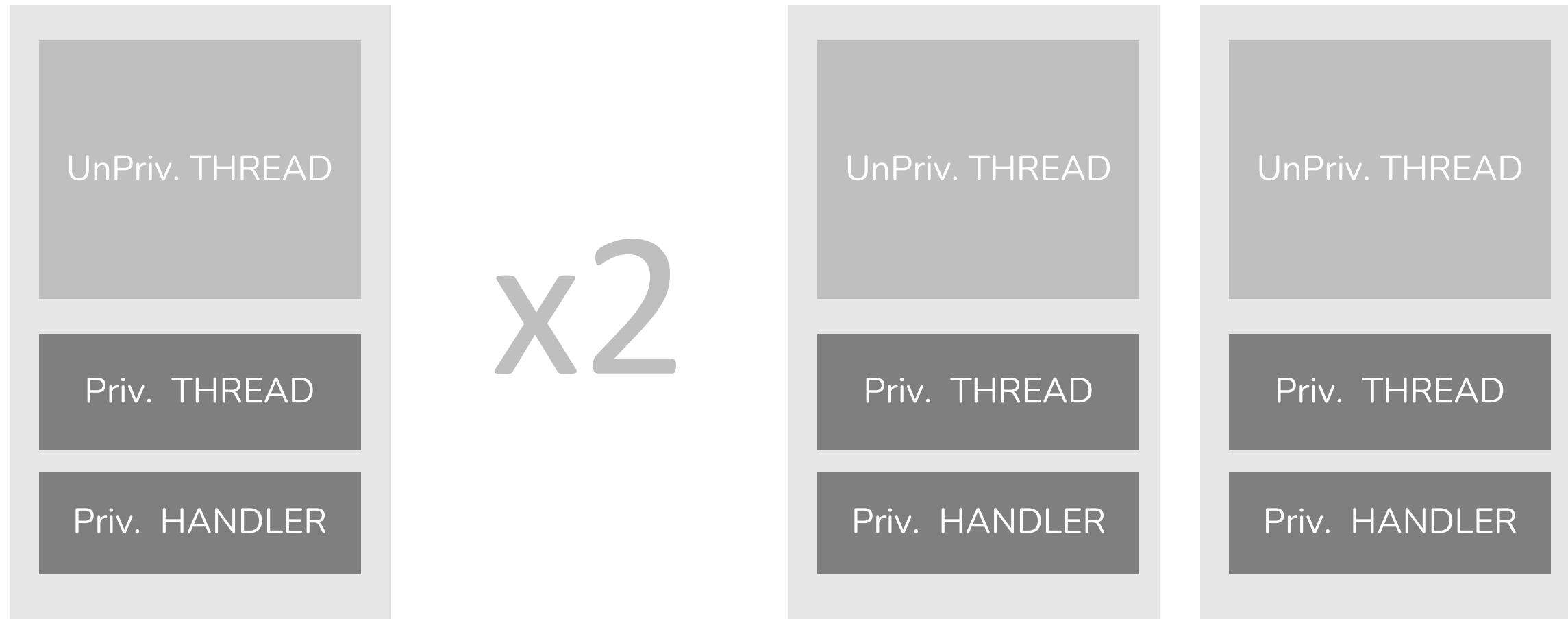
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Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



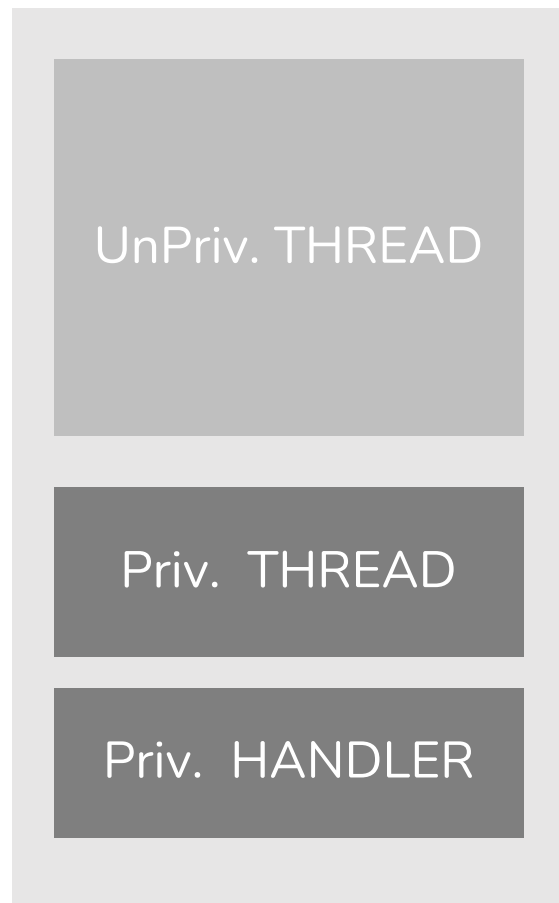
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



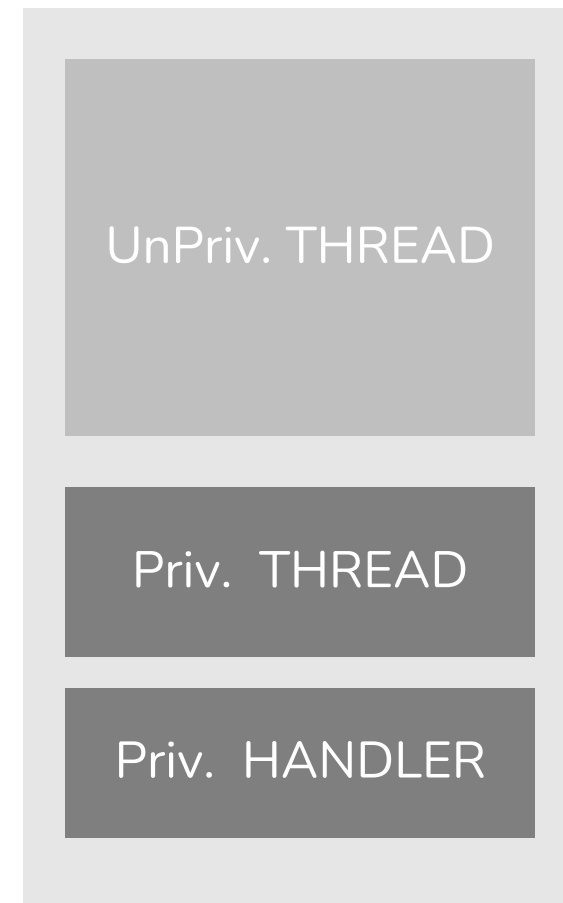
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



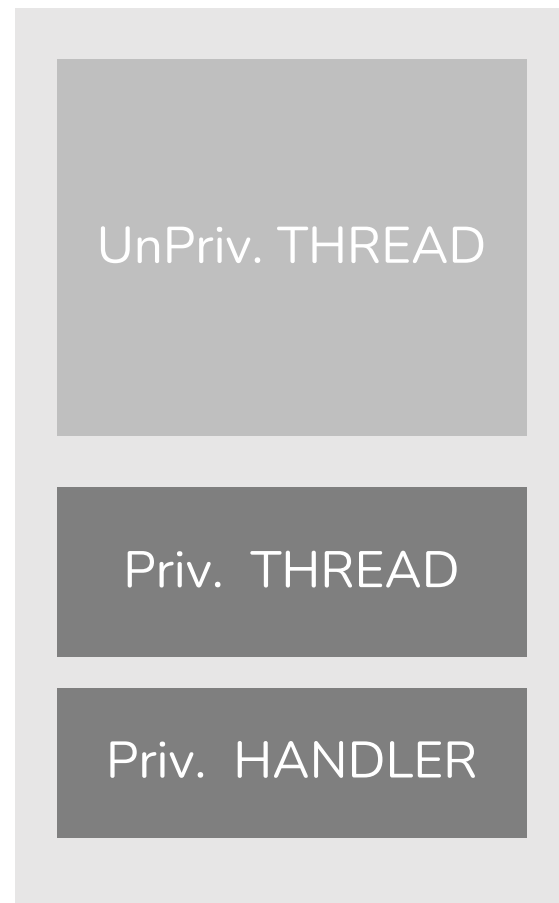
x2

Non-Secure State



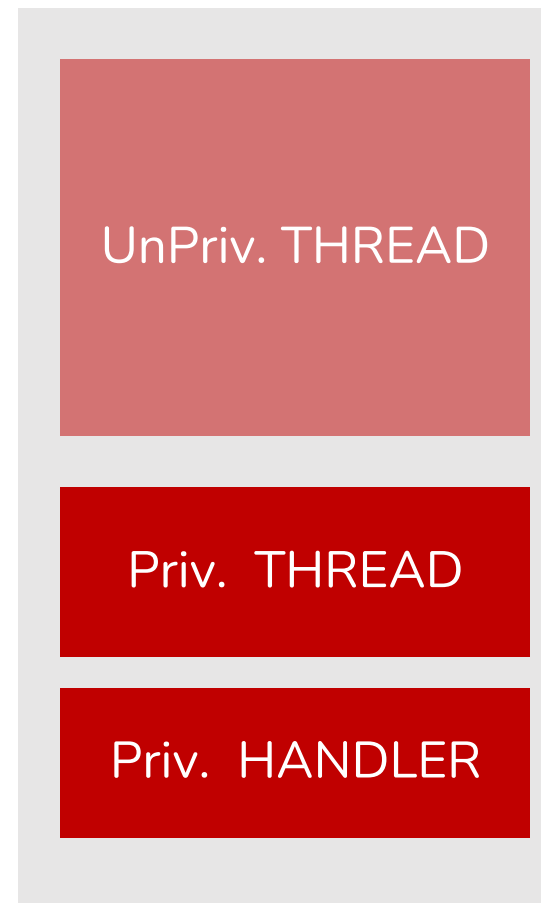
Armv8-M TrustZone

Armv6/7-M Base Architecture

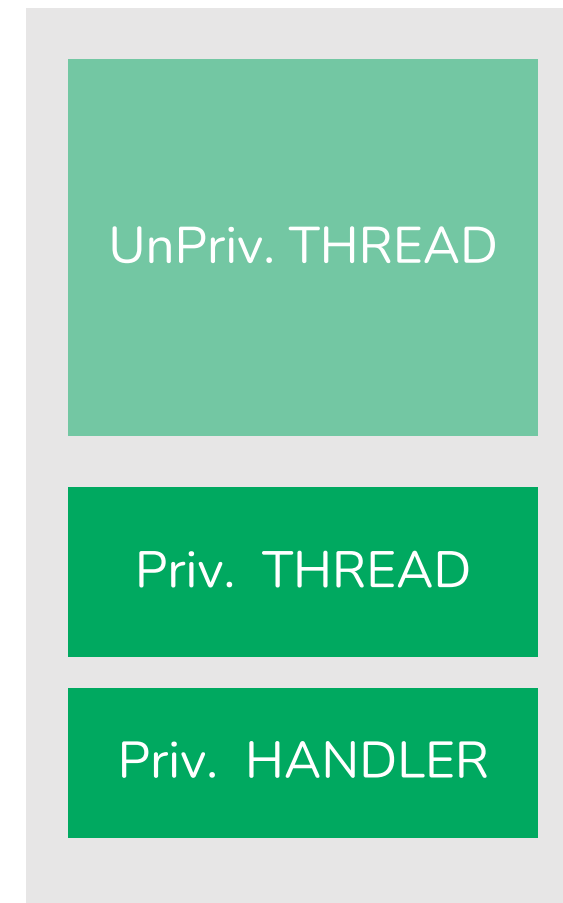


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Non-Secure State

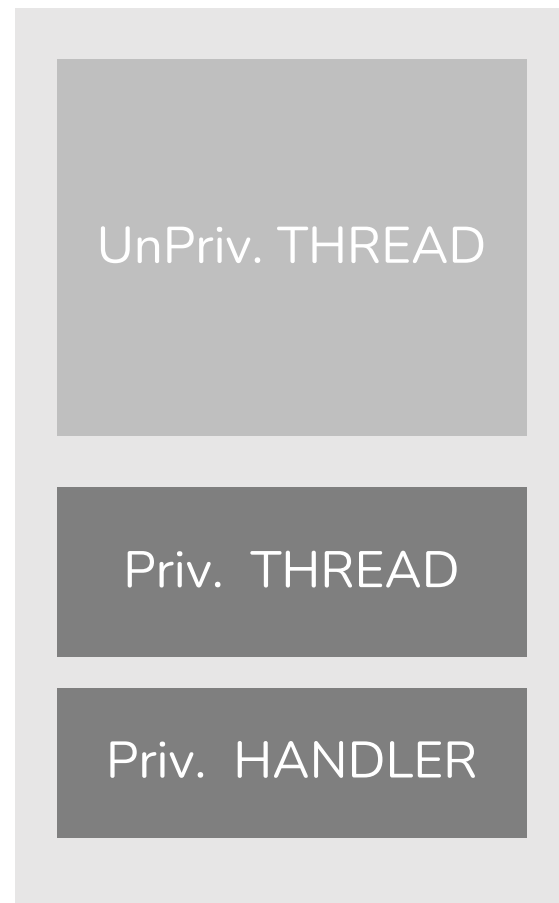


Secure State



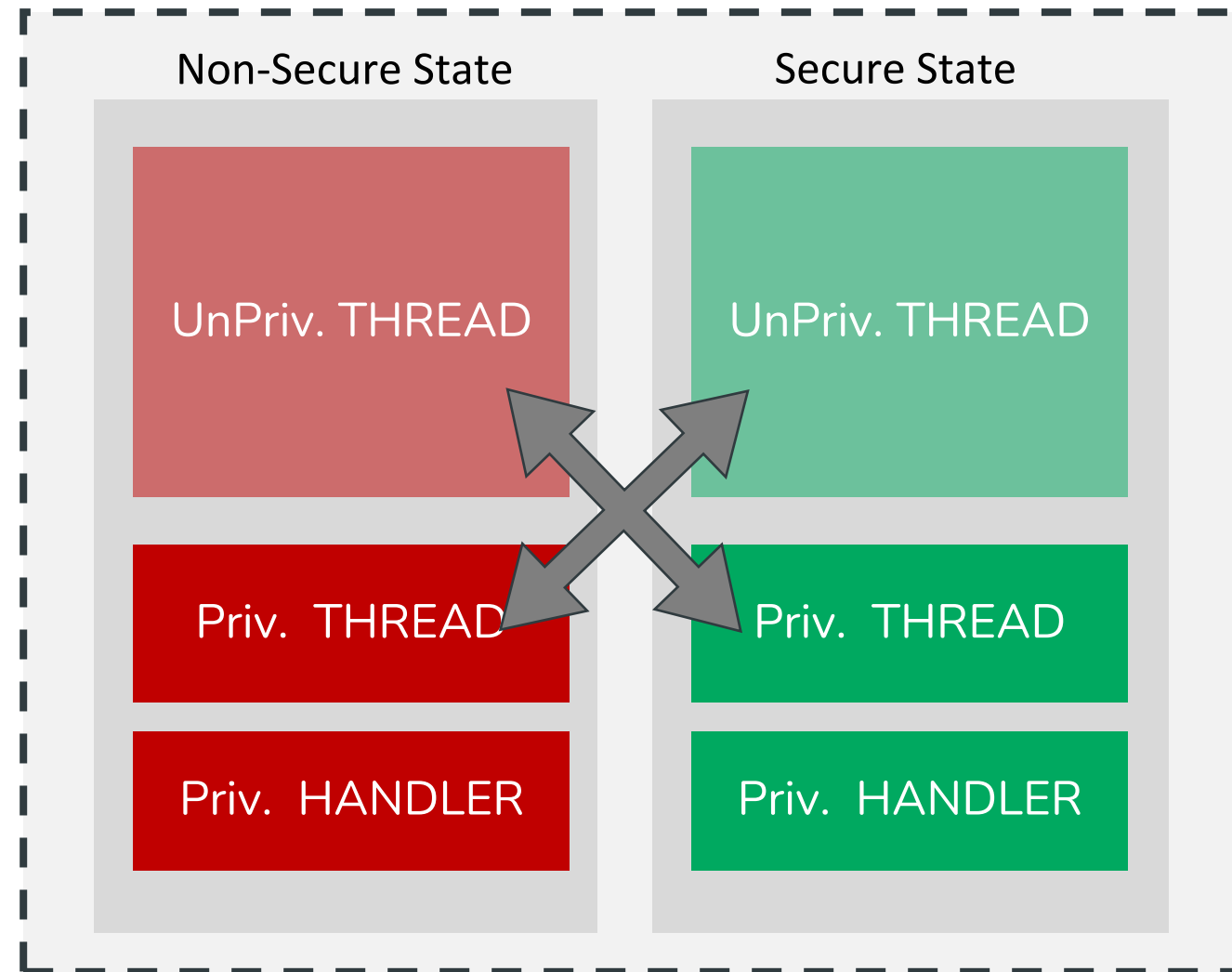
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Armv6/7-M Base Architecture



x2

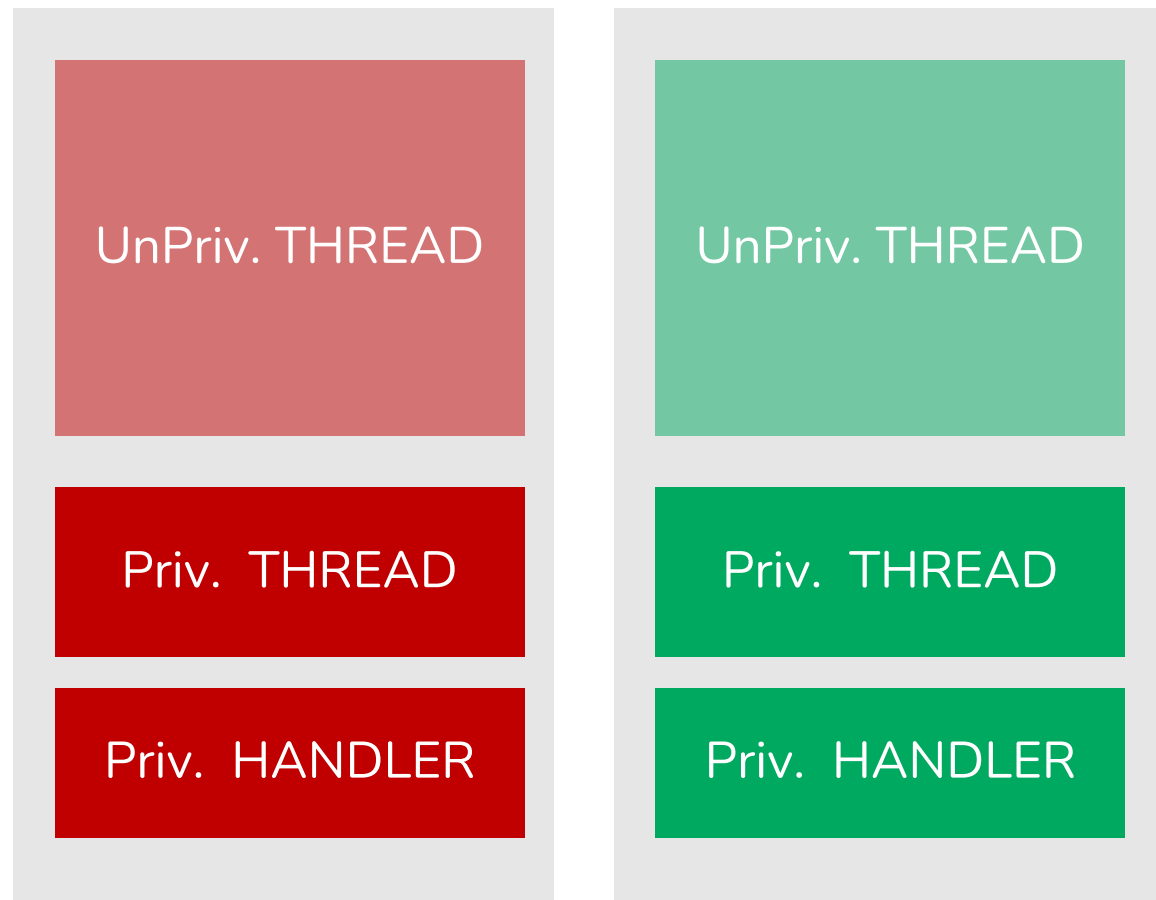
Armv8-M TrustZone Architecture



Armv8-M TrustZone

Non-Secure State

Secure State

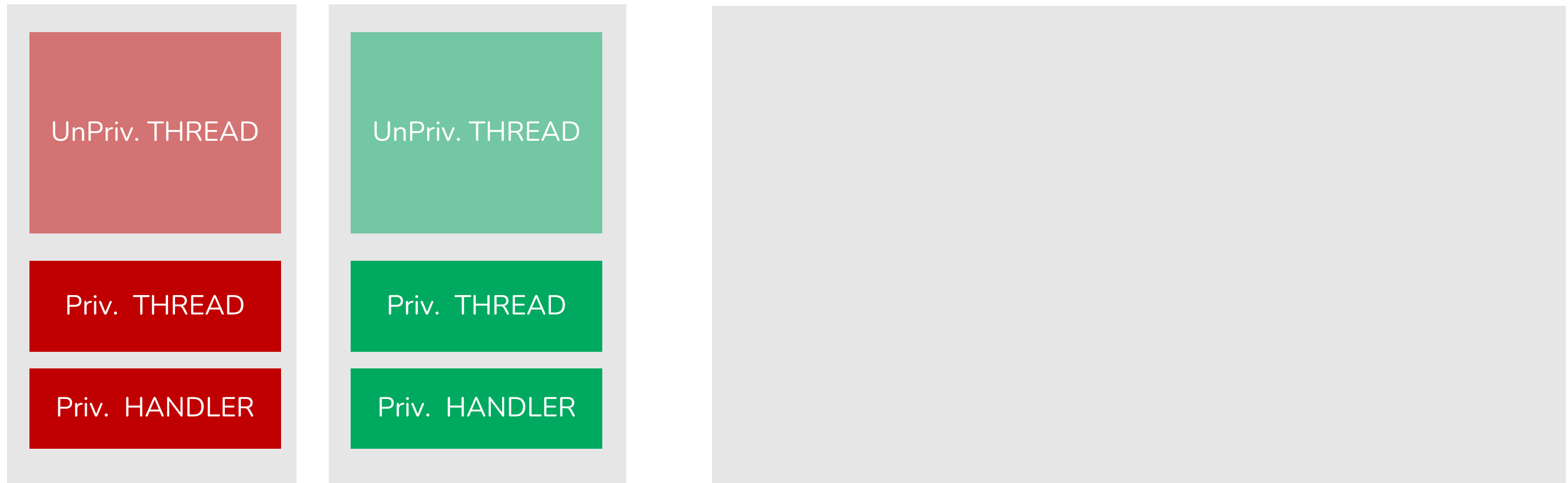


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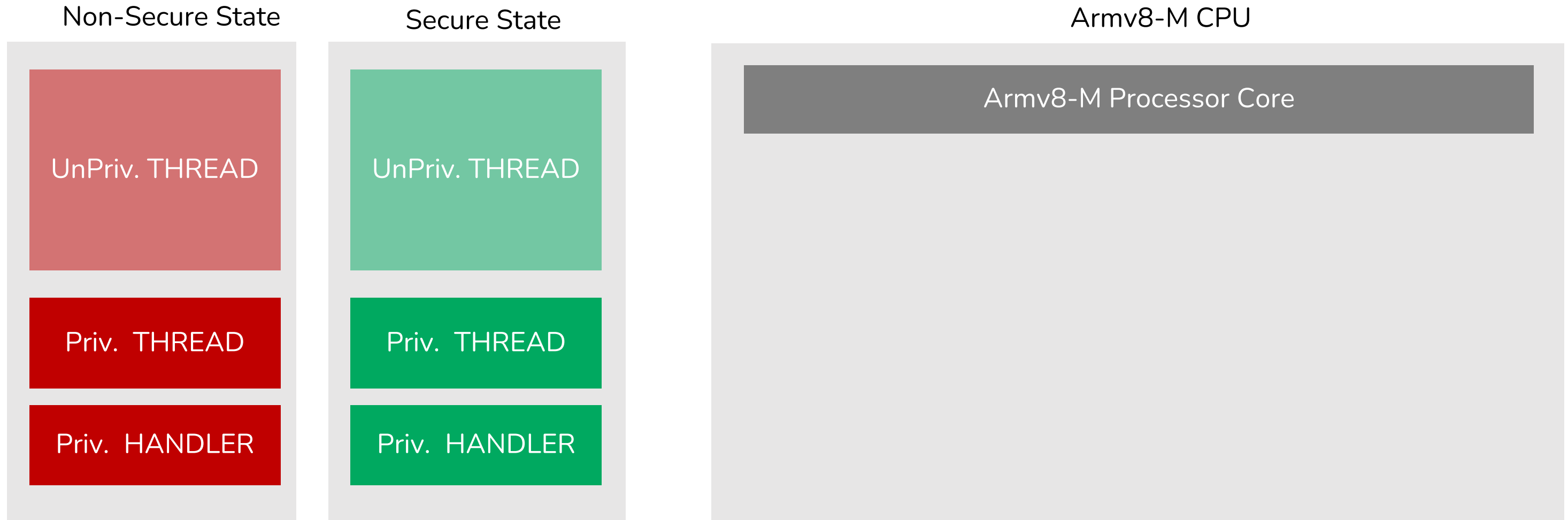
Non-Secure State

Secure State

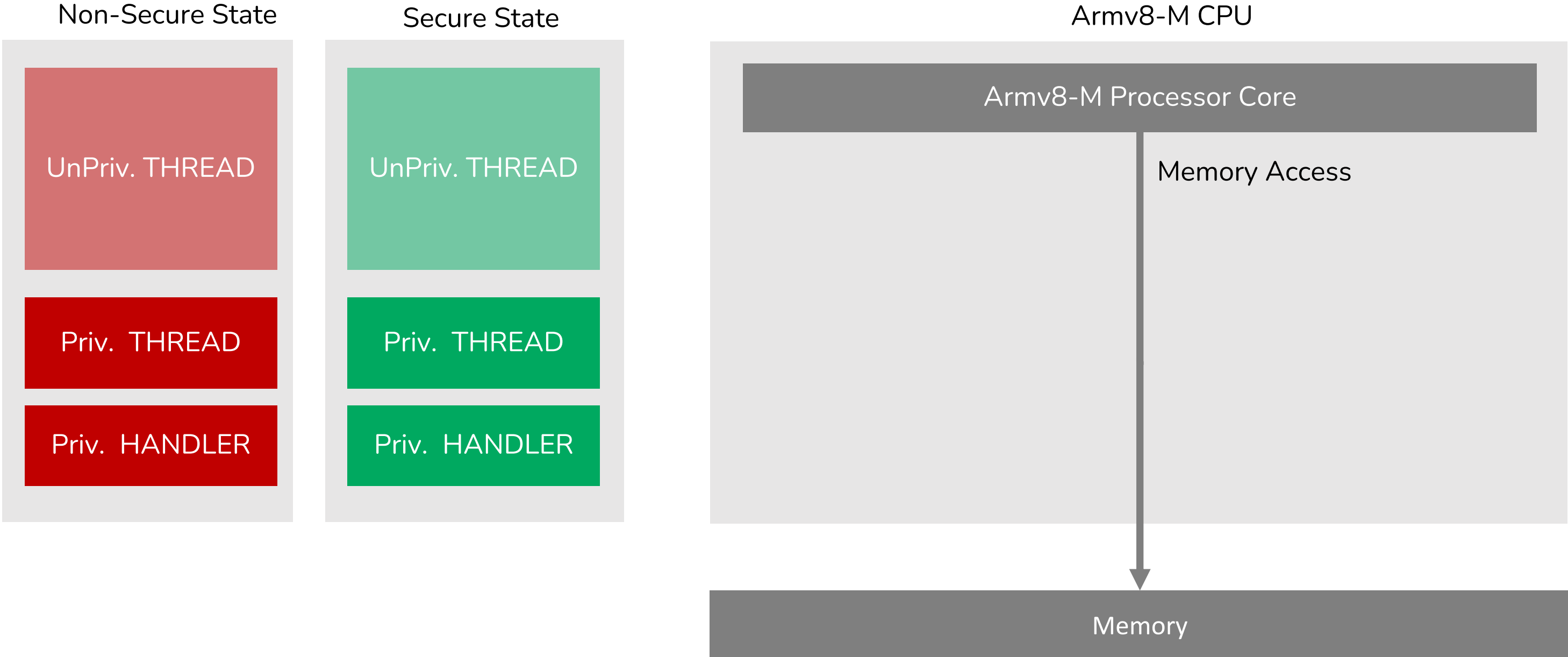
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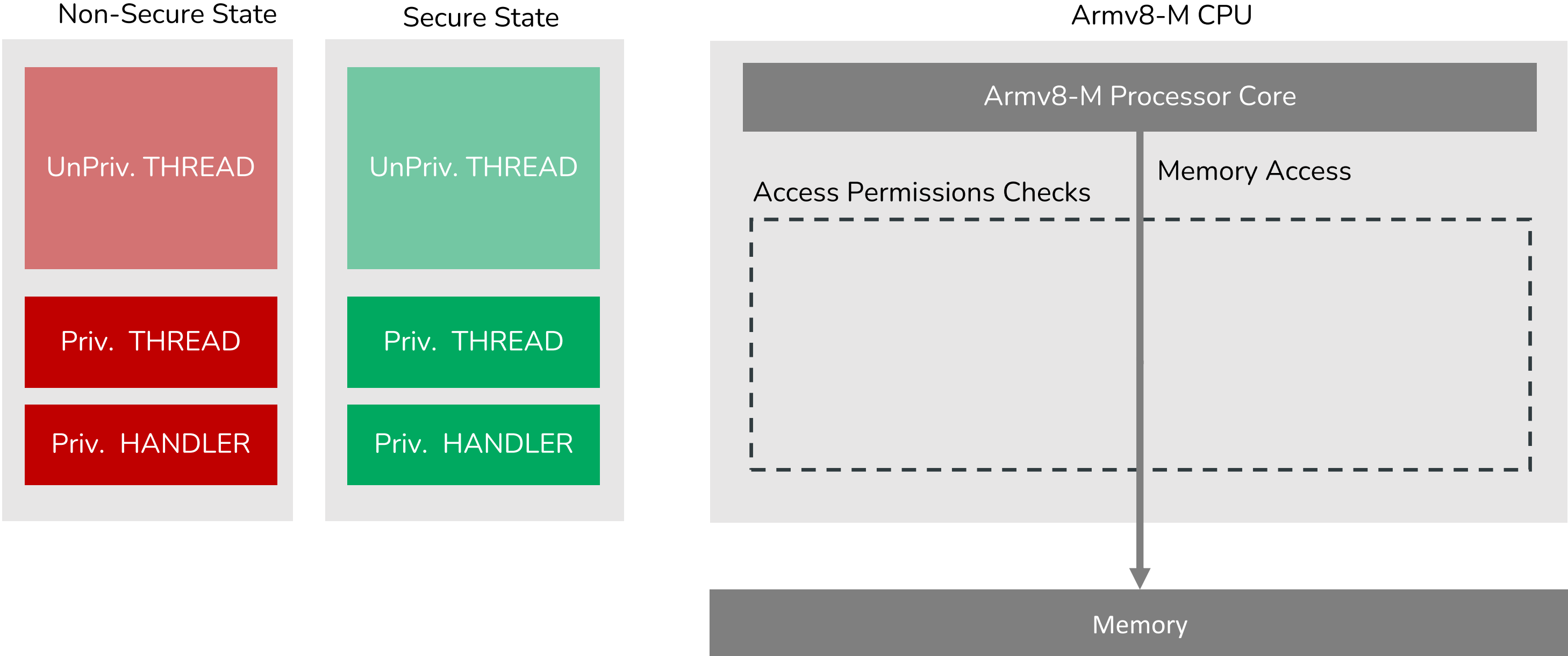
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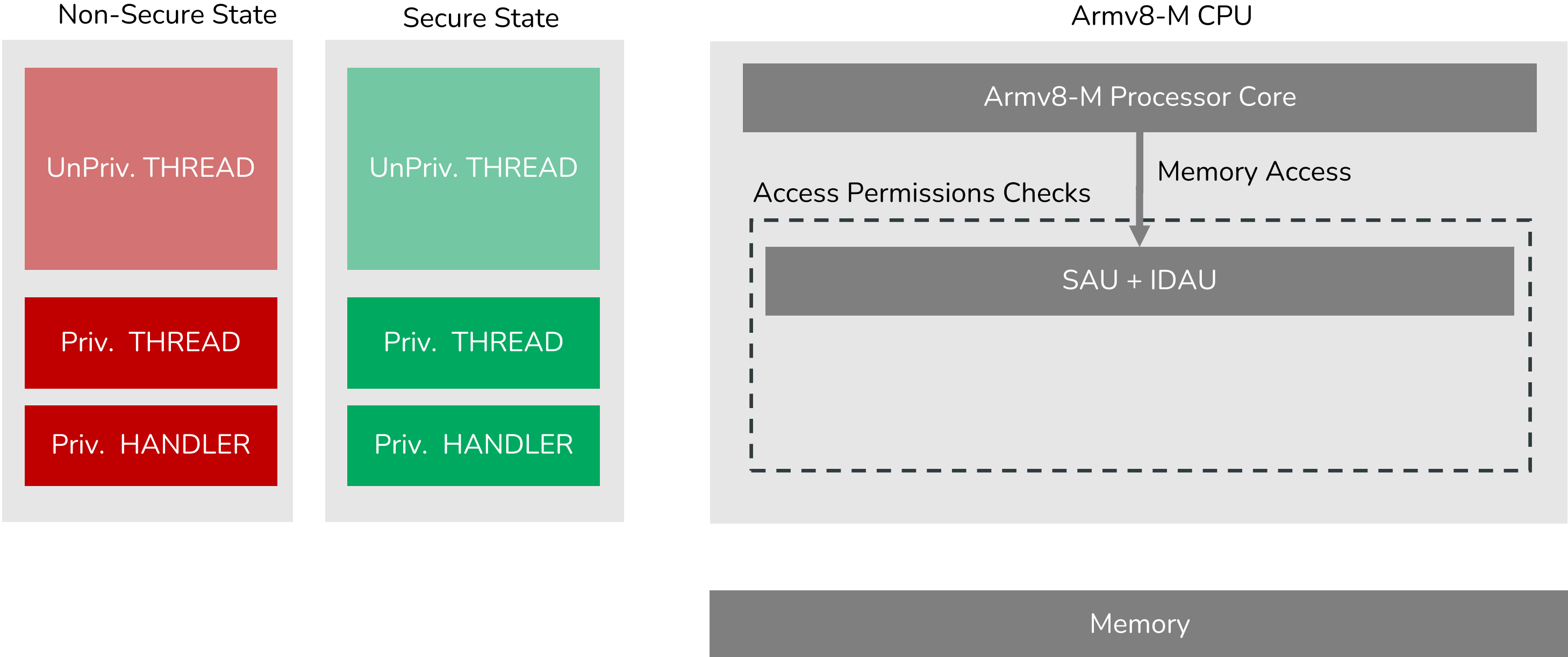
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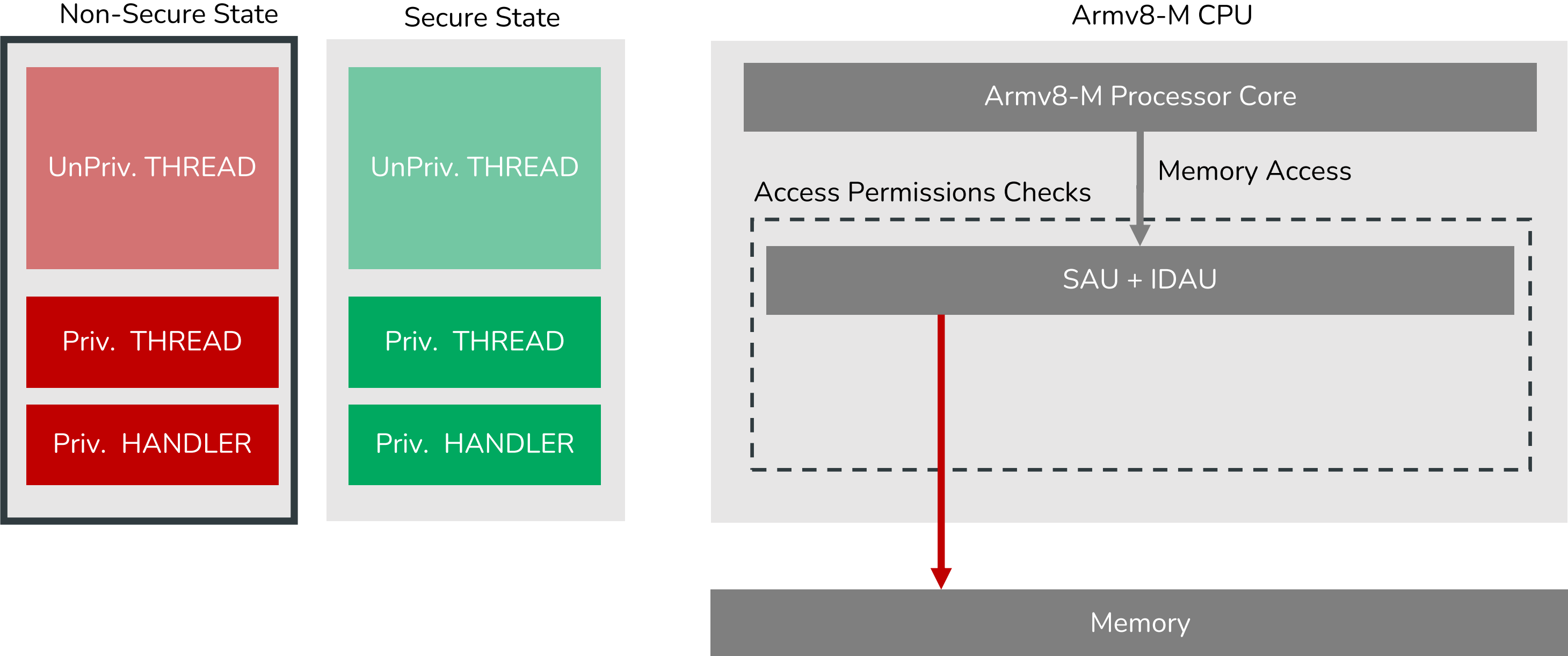
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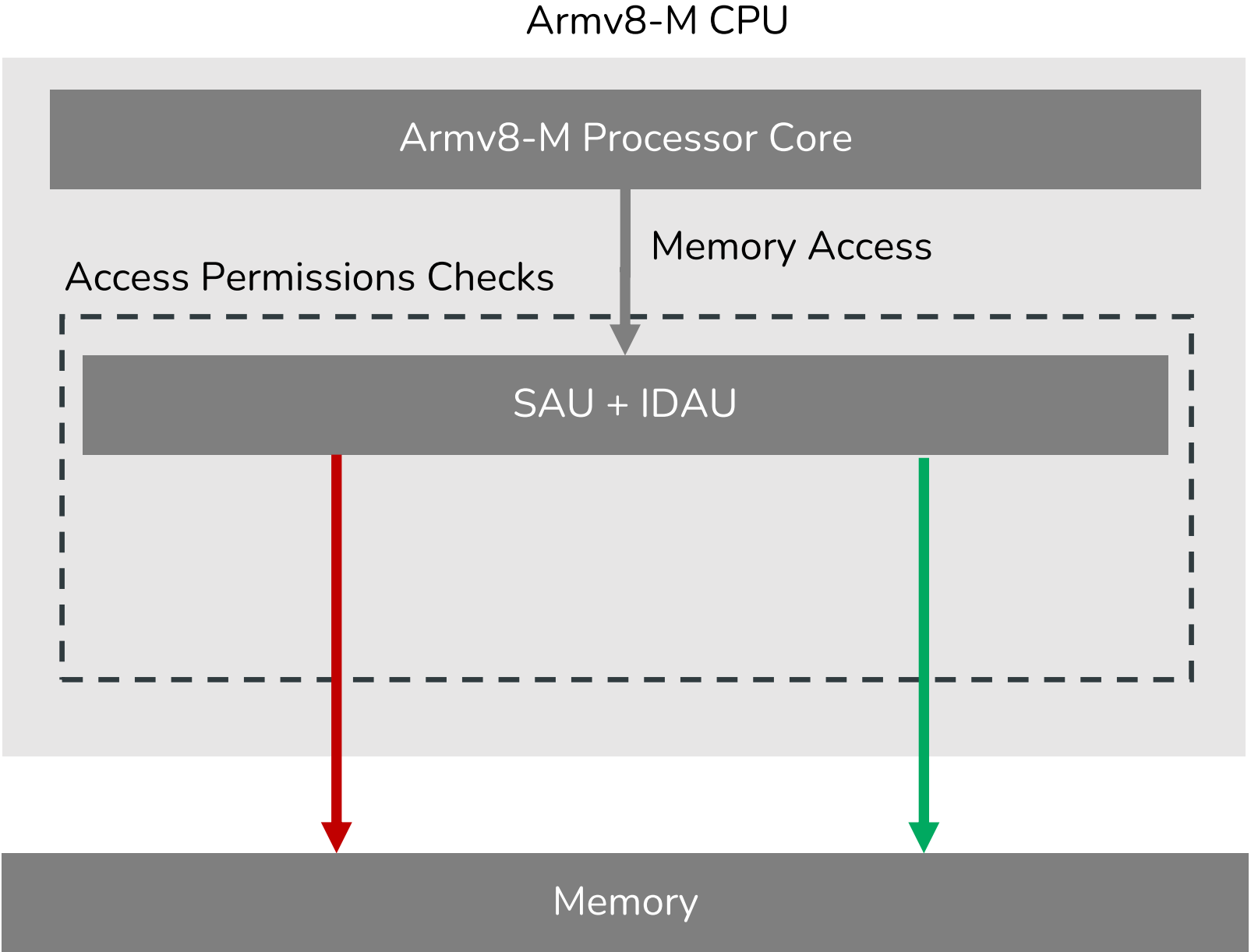
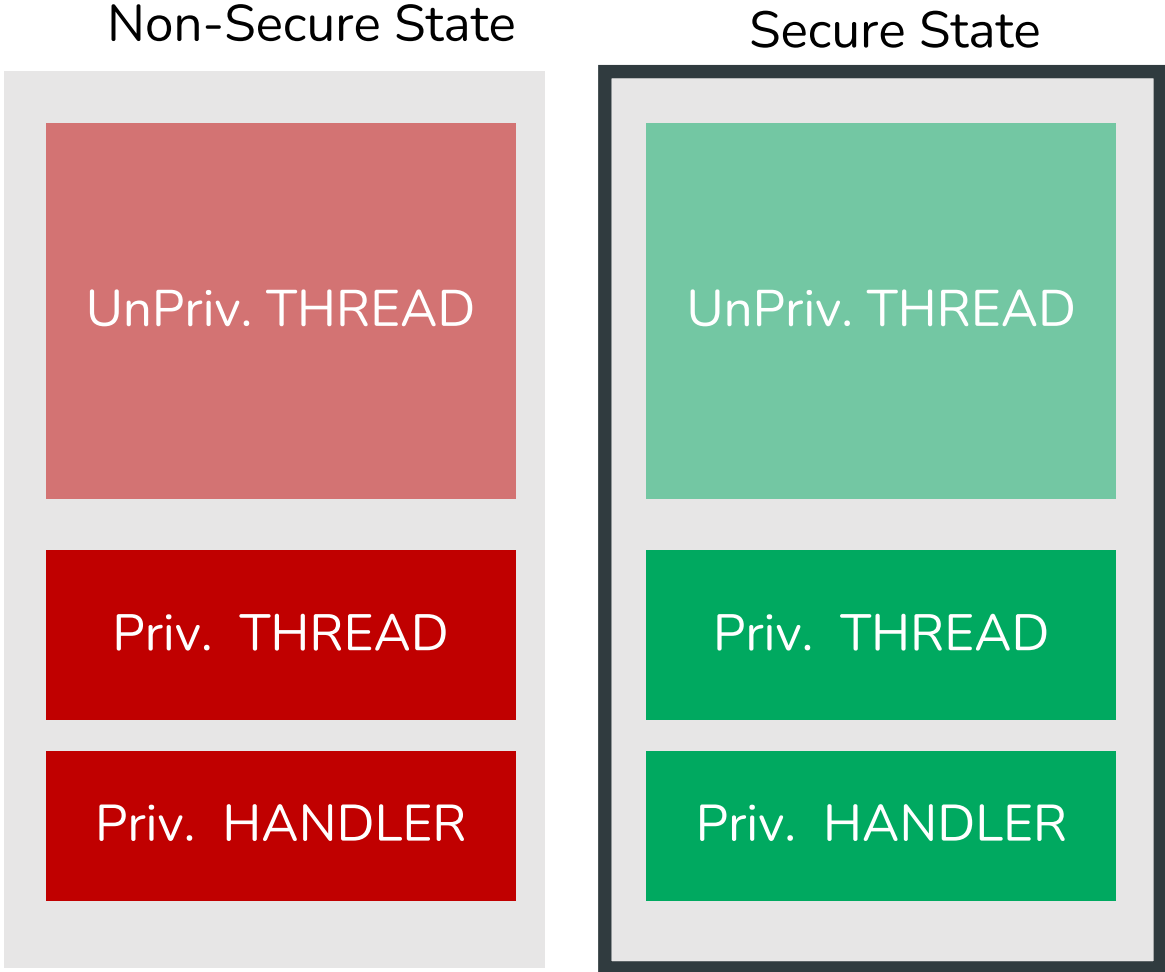
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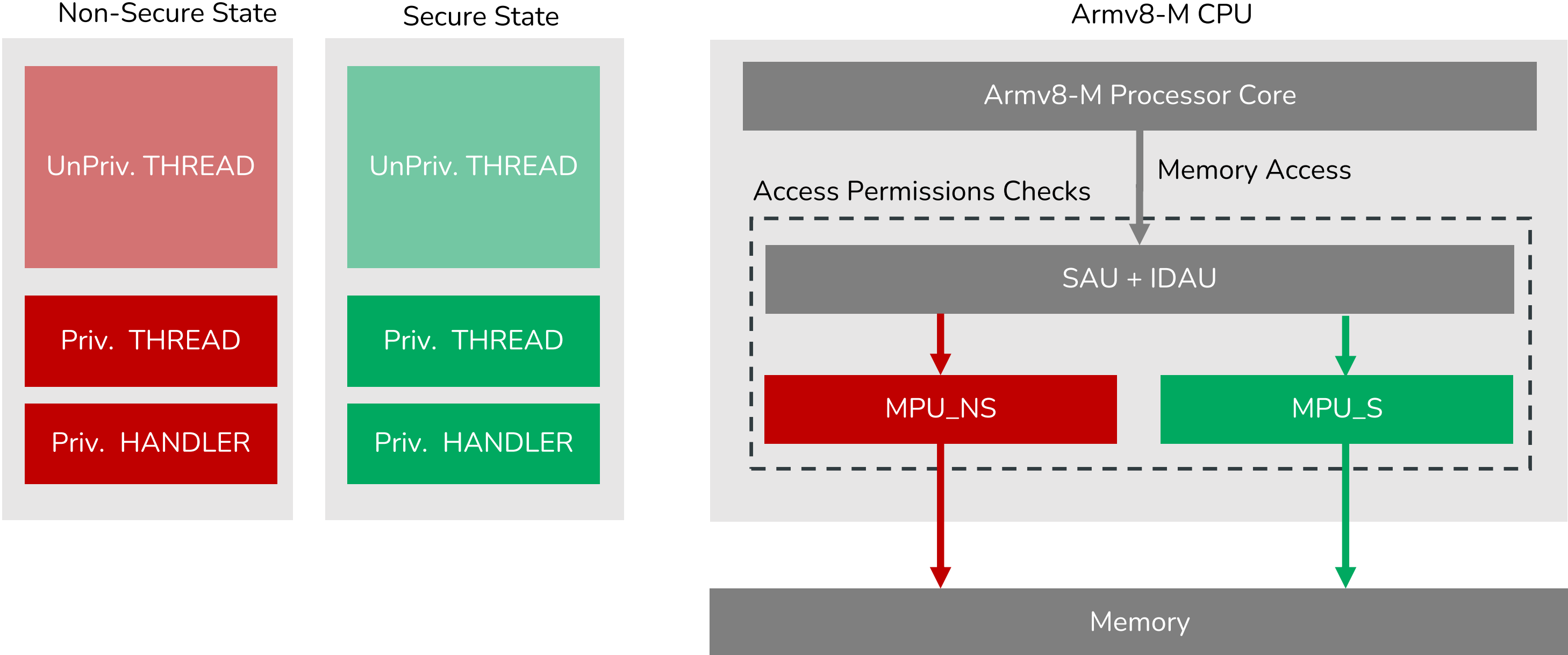
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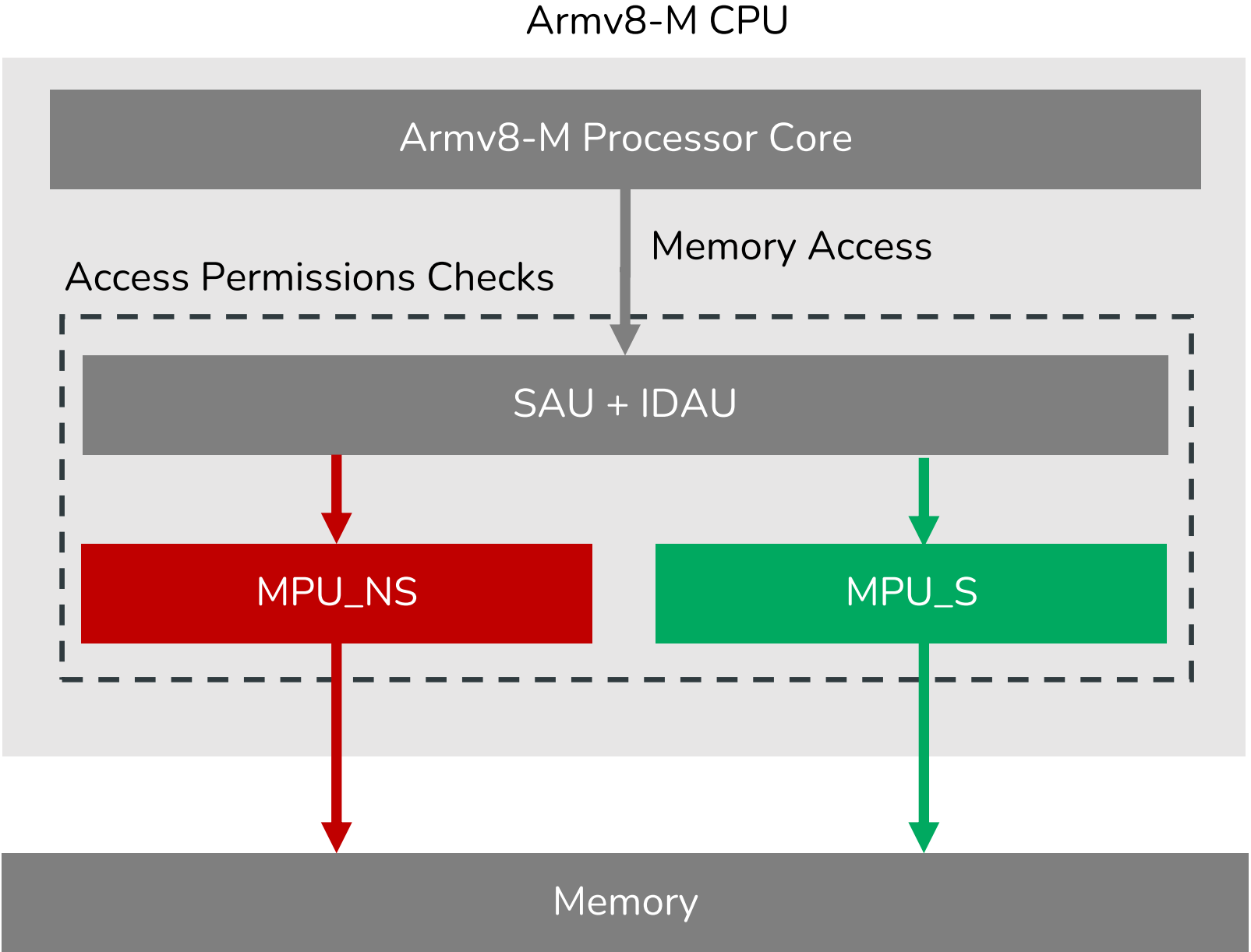
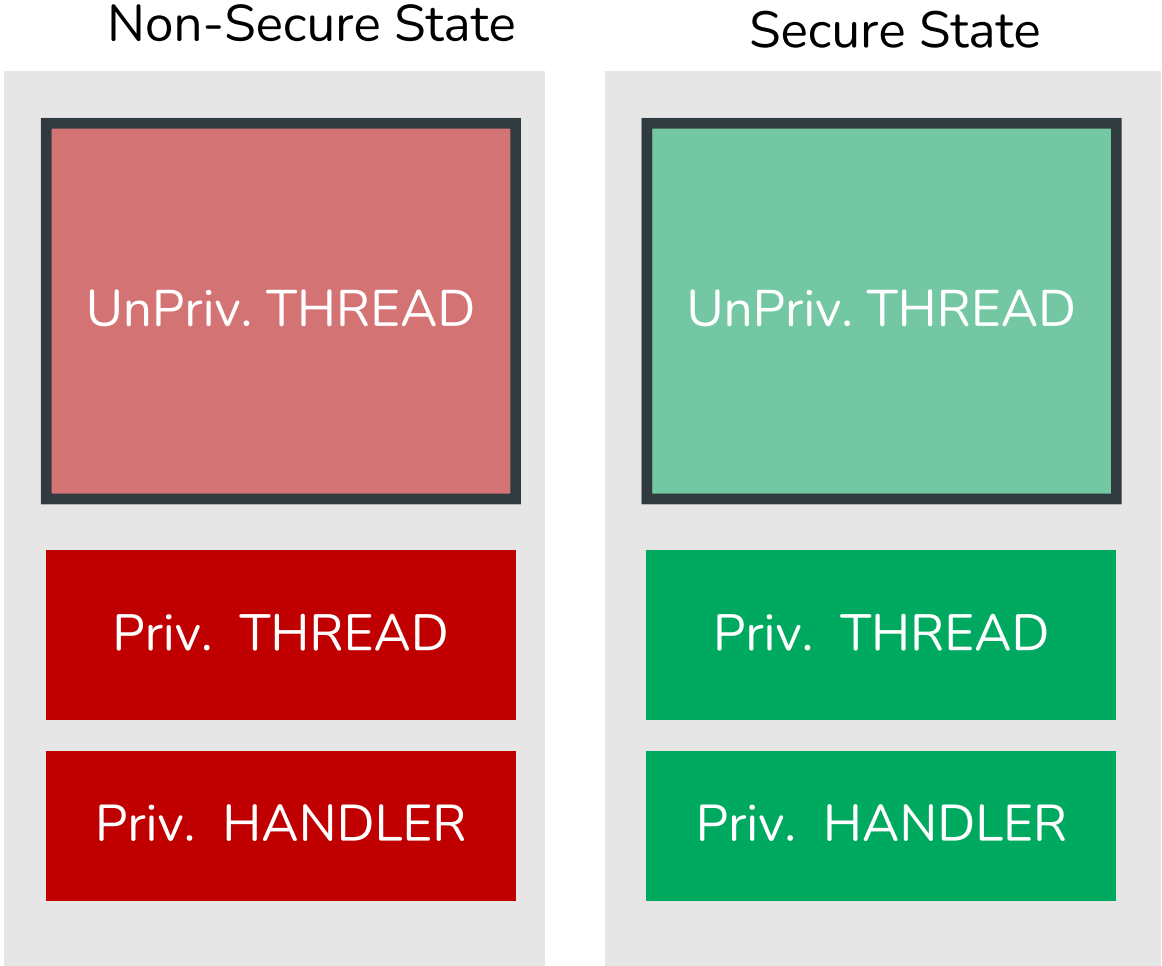
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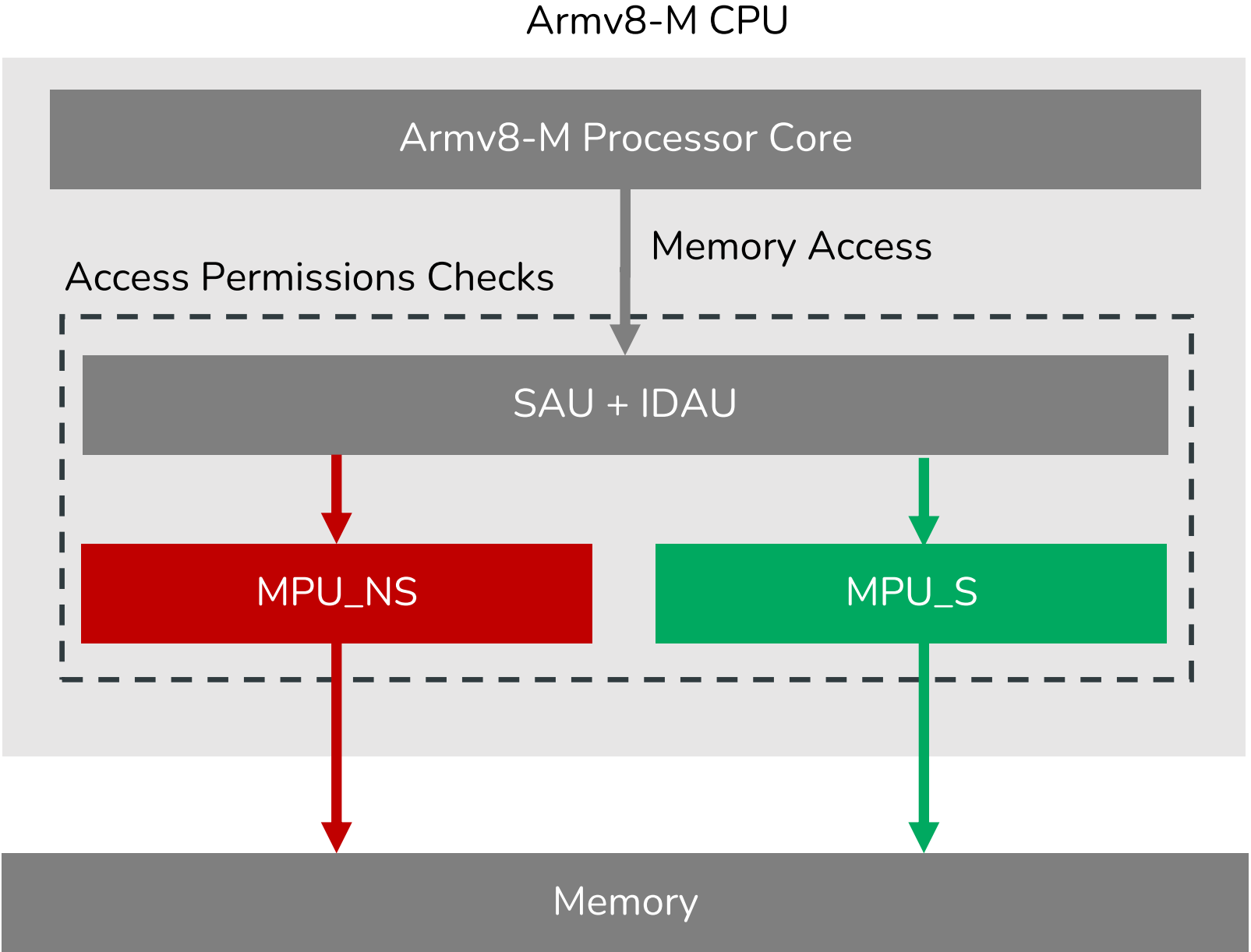
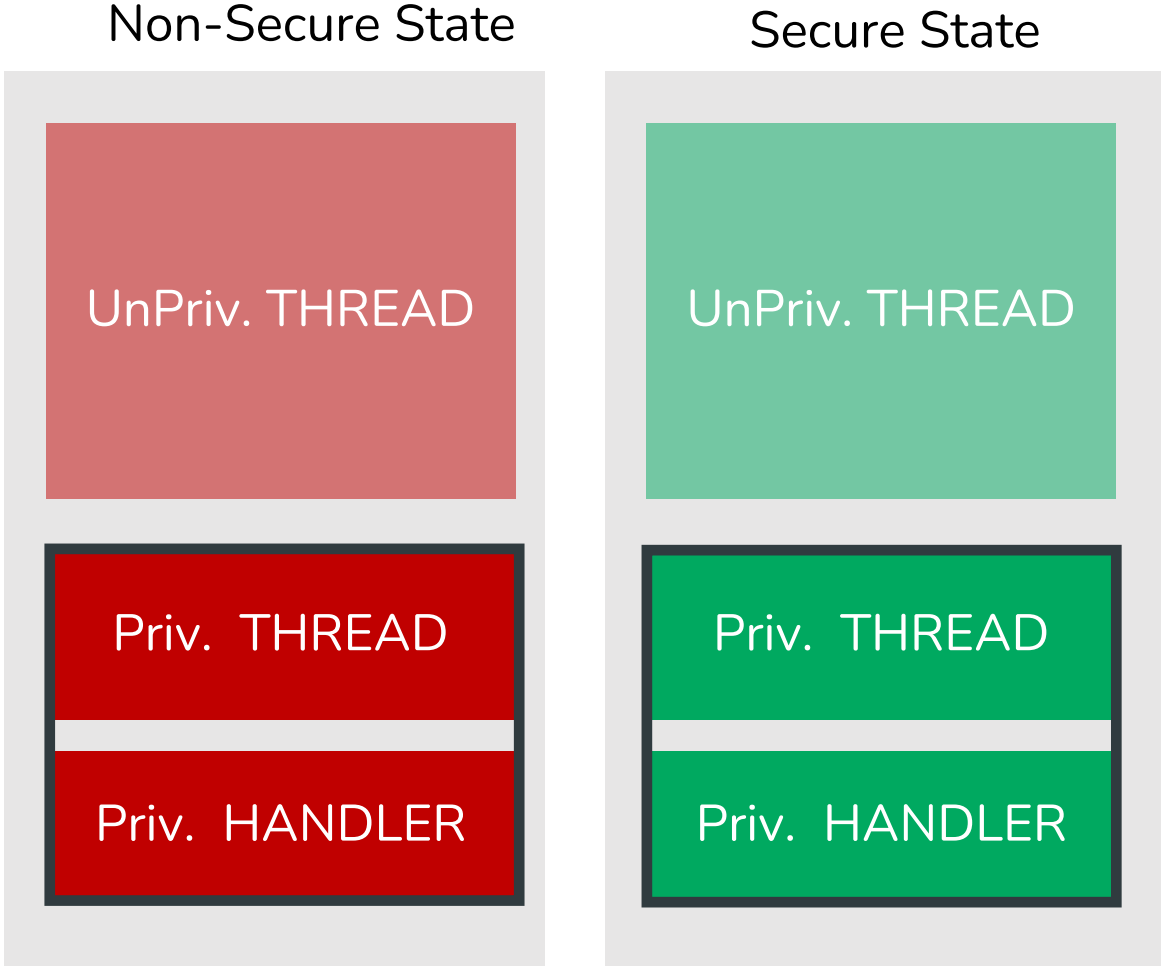
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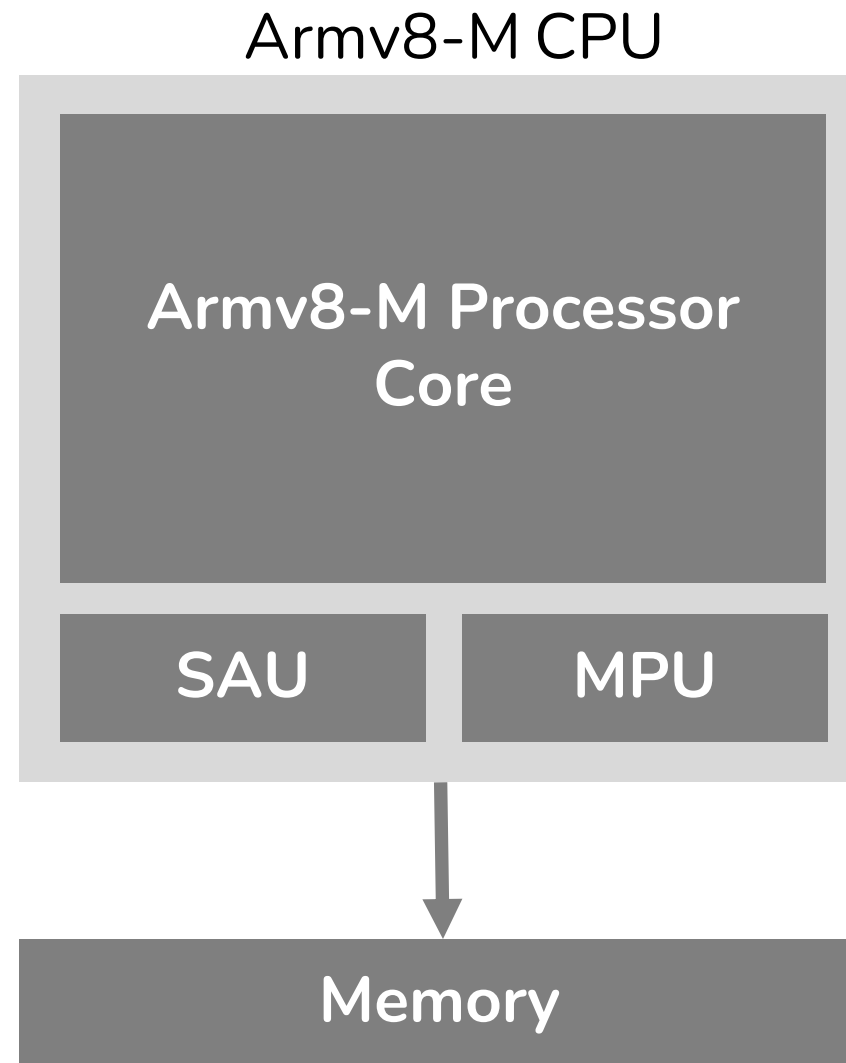
Armv8-M TrustZone



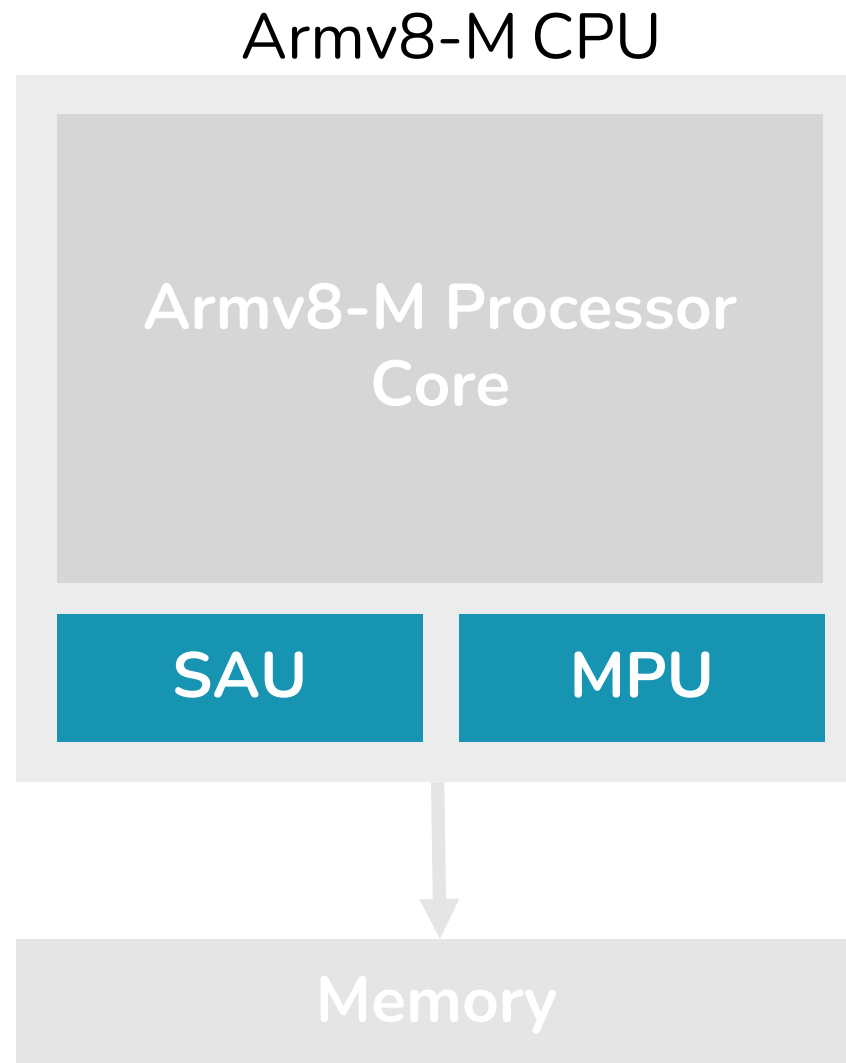
CPU Protection vs System Protection

CPU Protection vs System Protection

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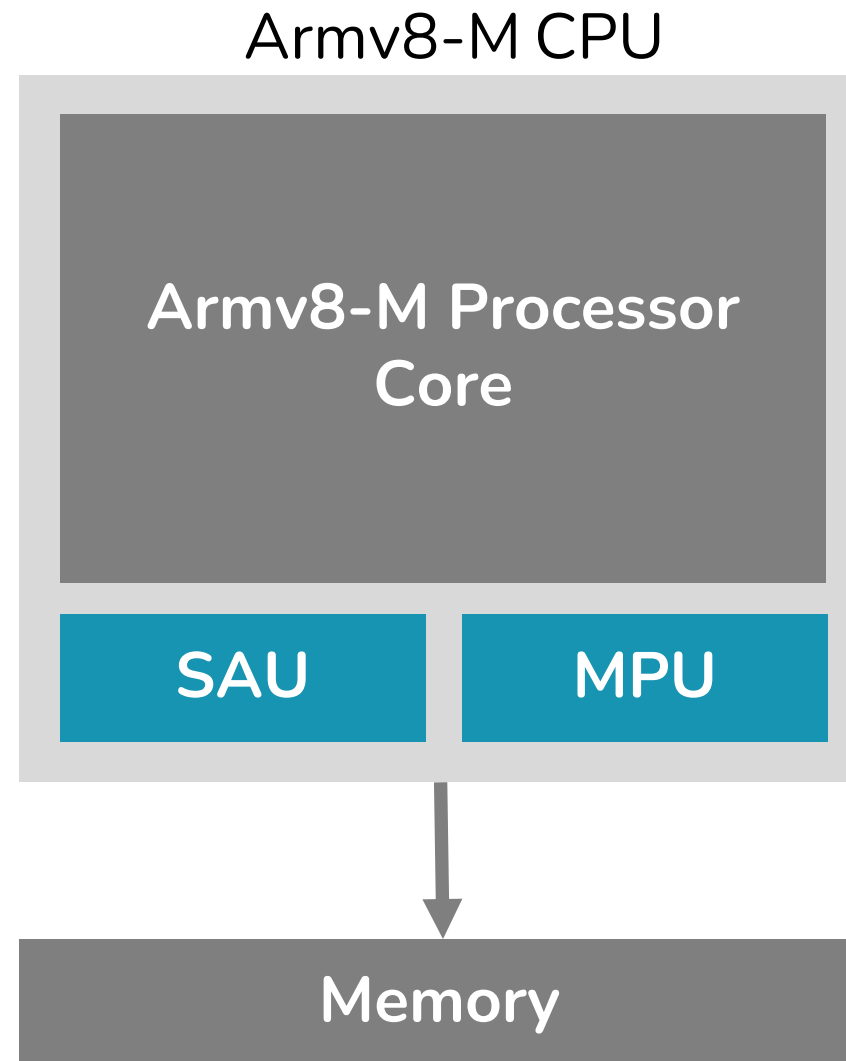


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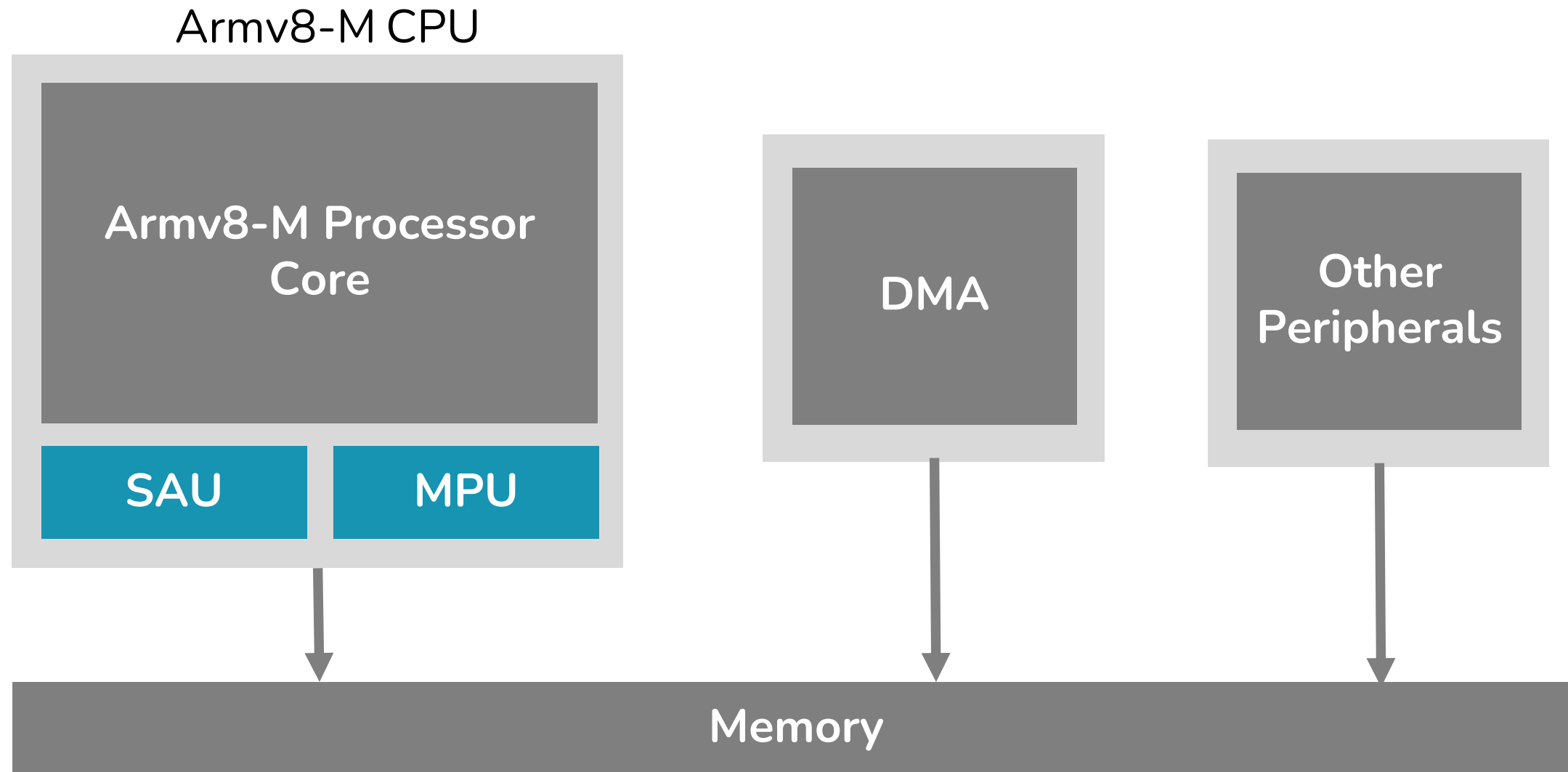


Armv8-M
Memory Protection Controllers

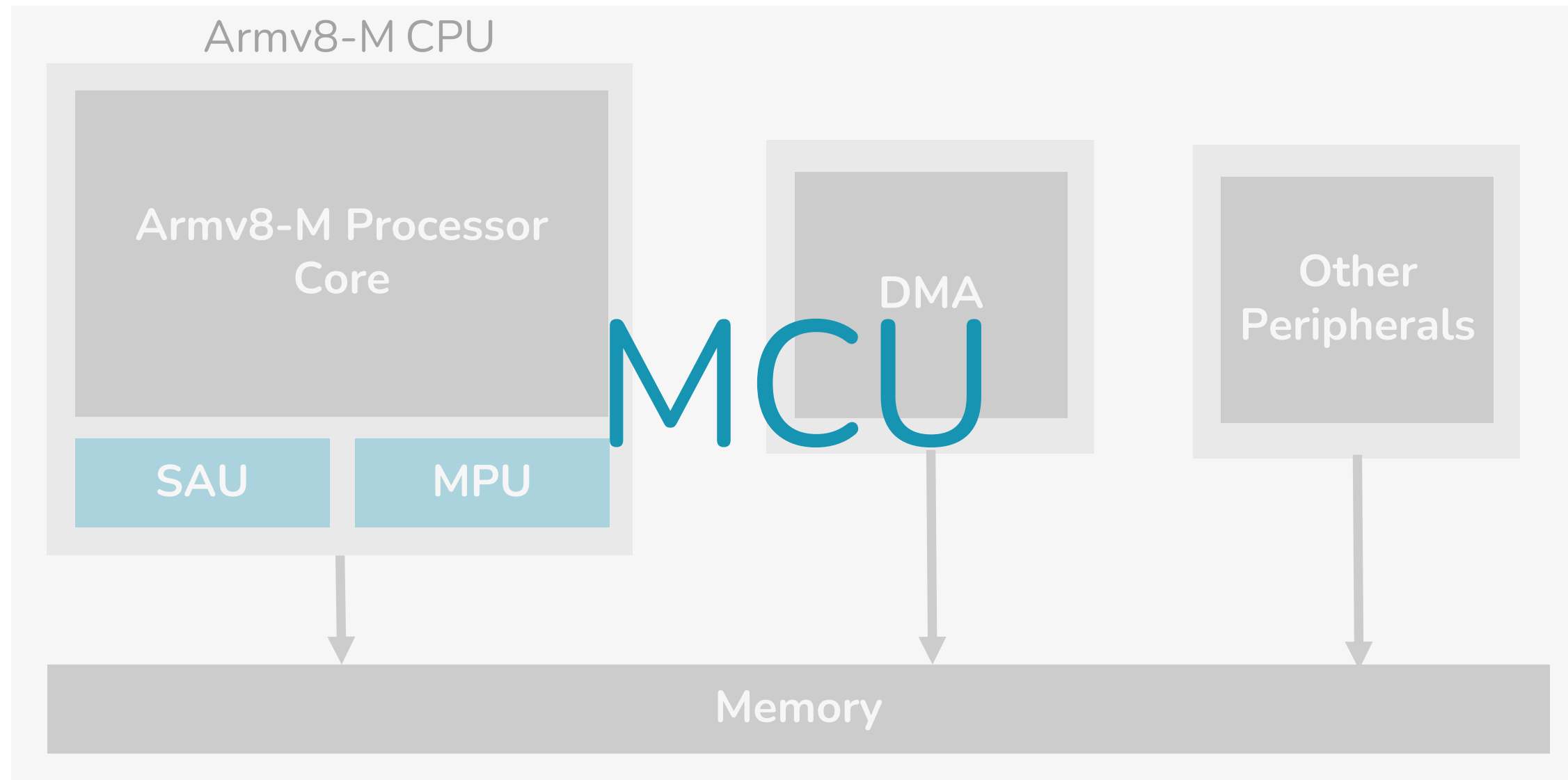
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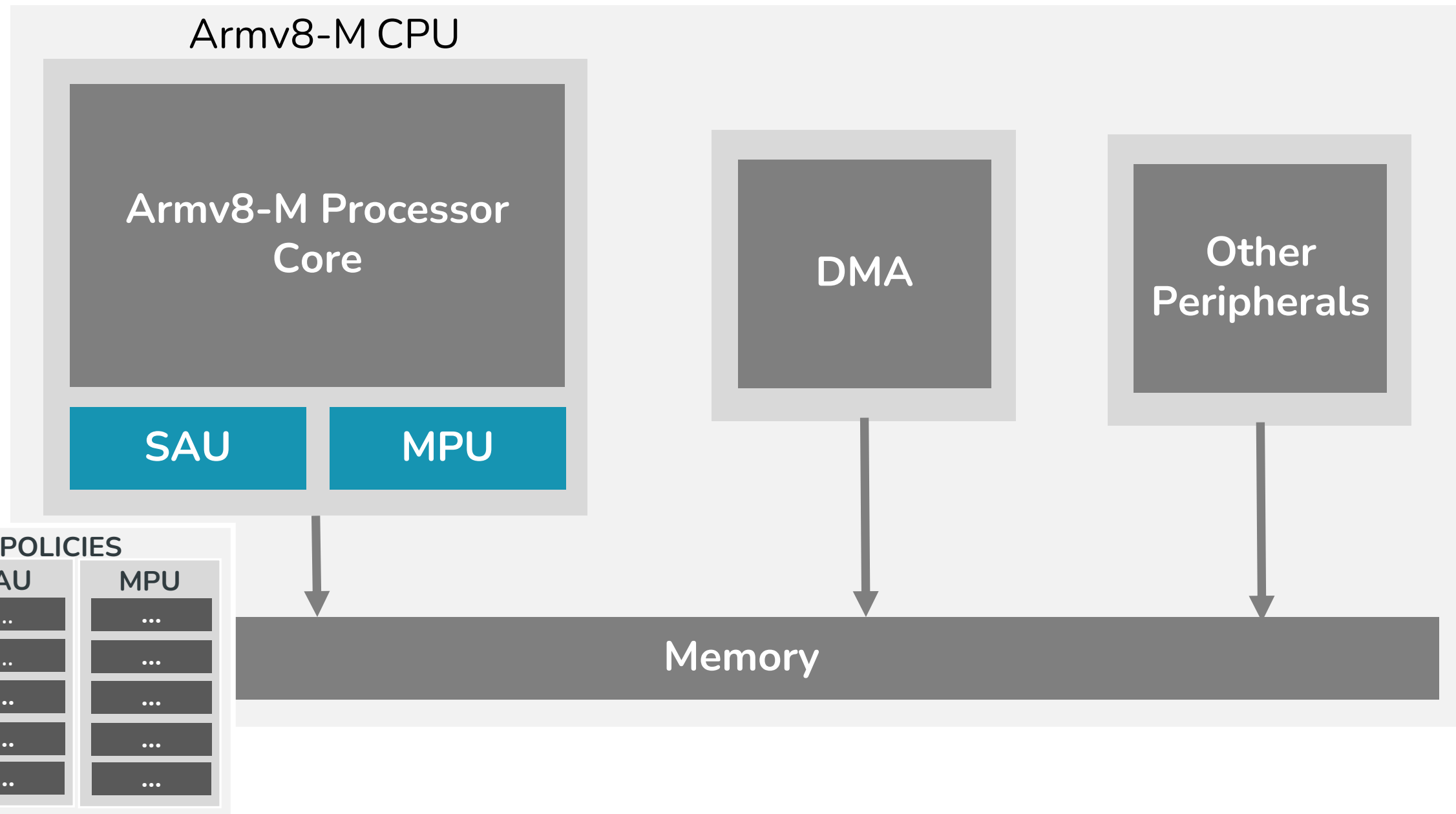
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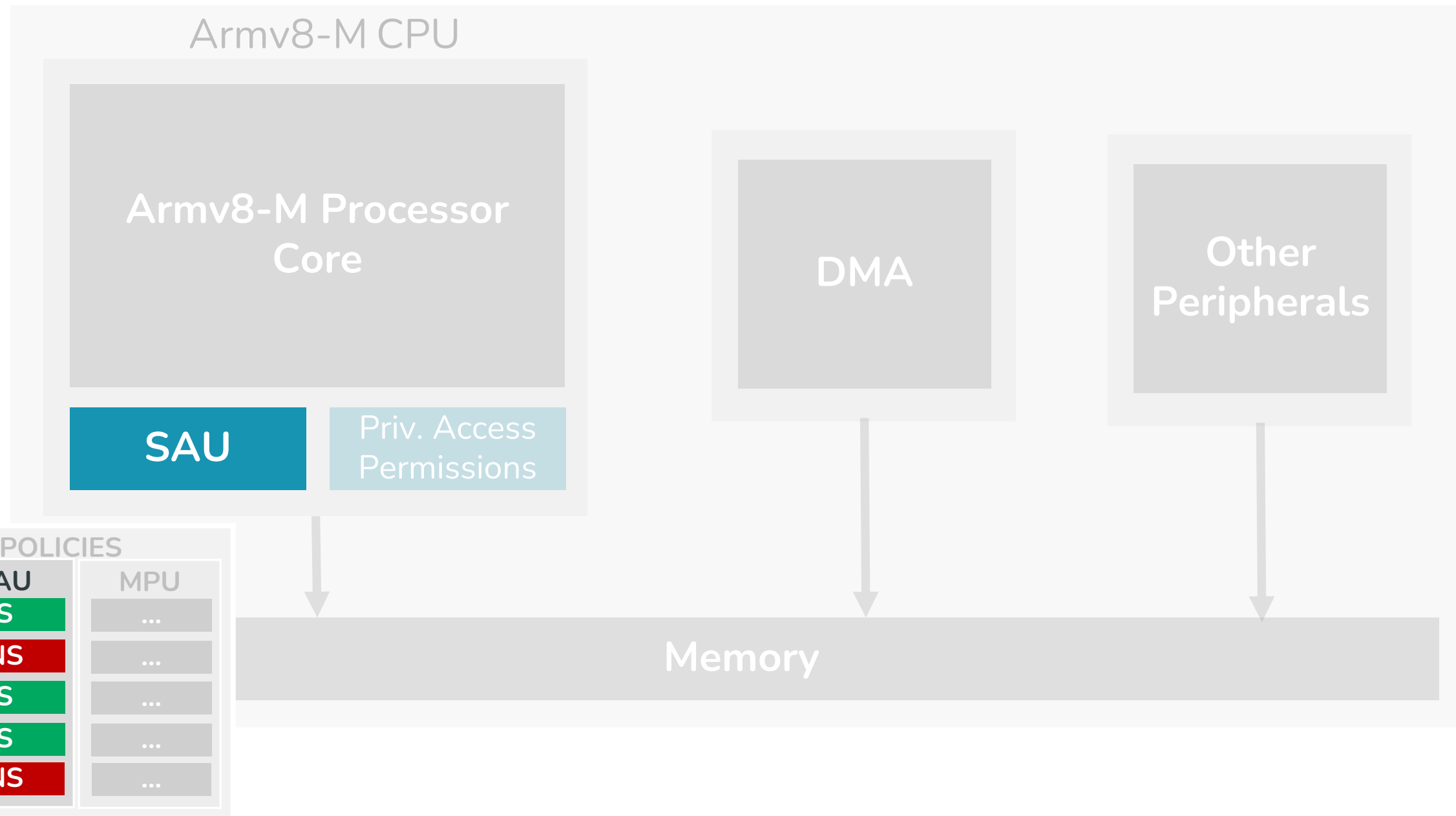
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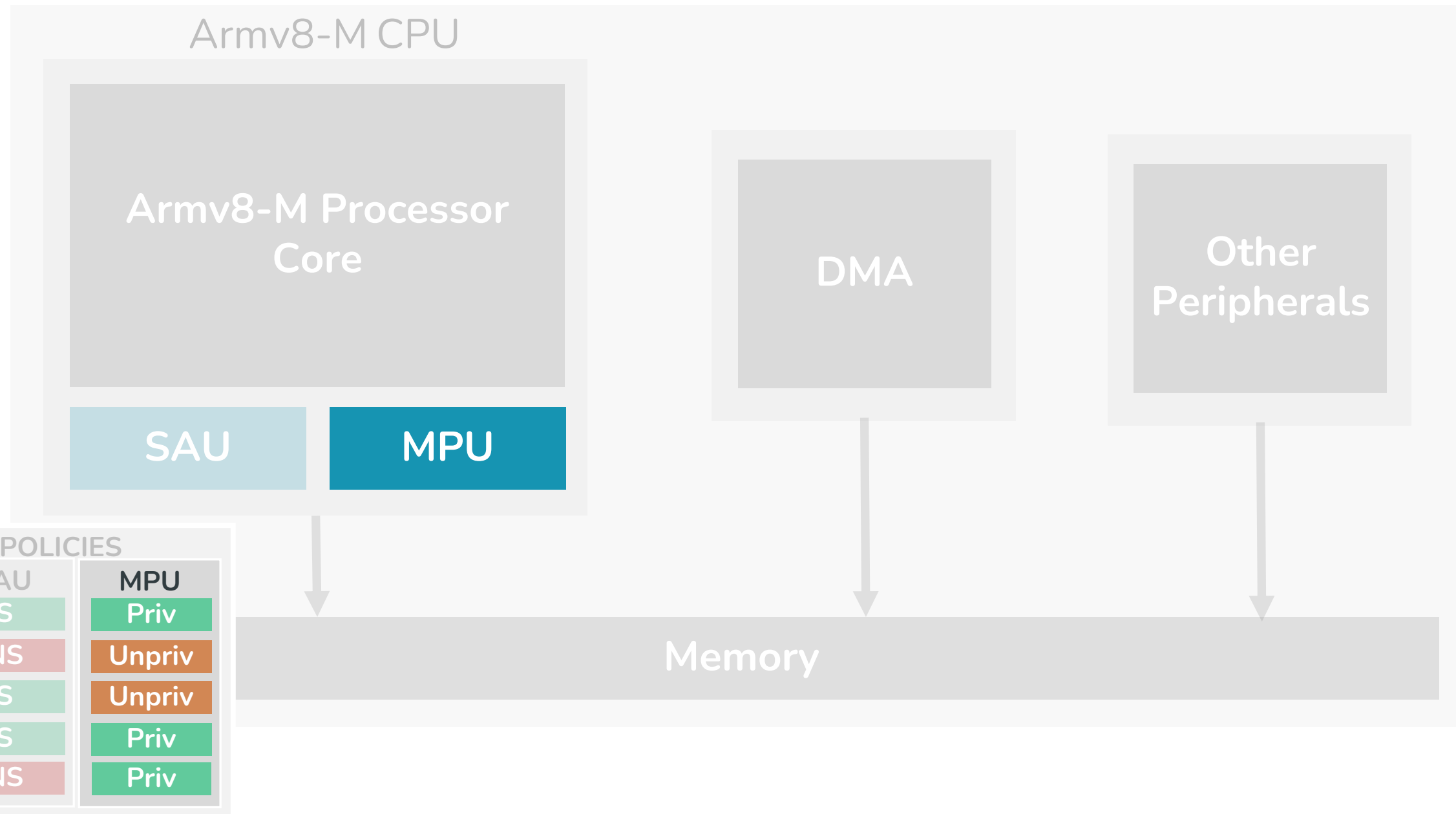
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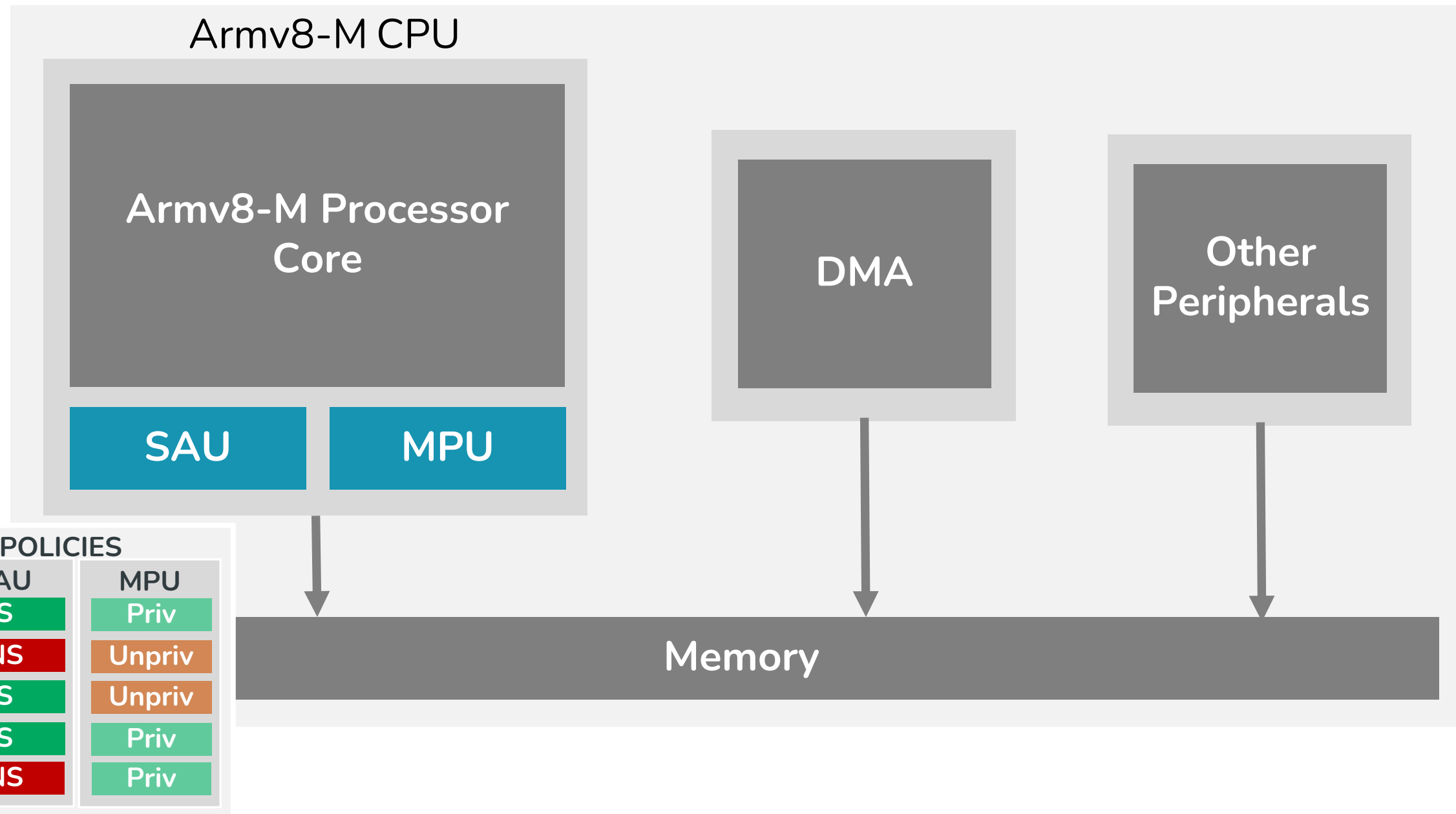
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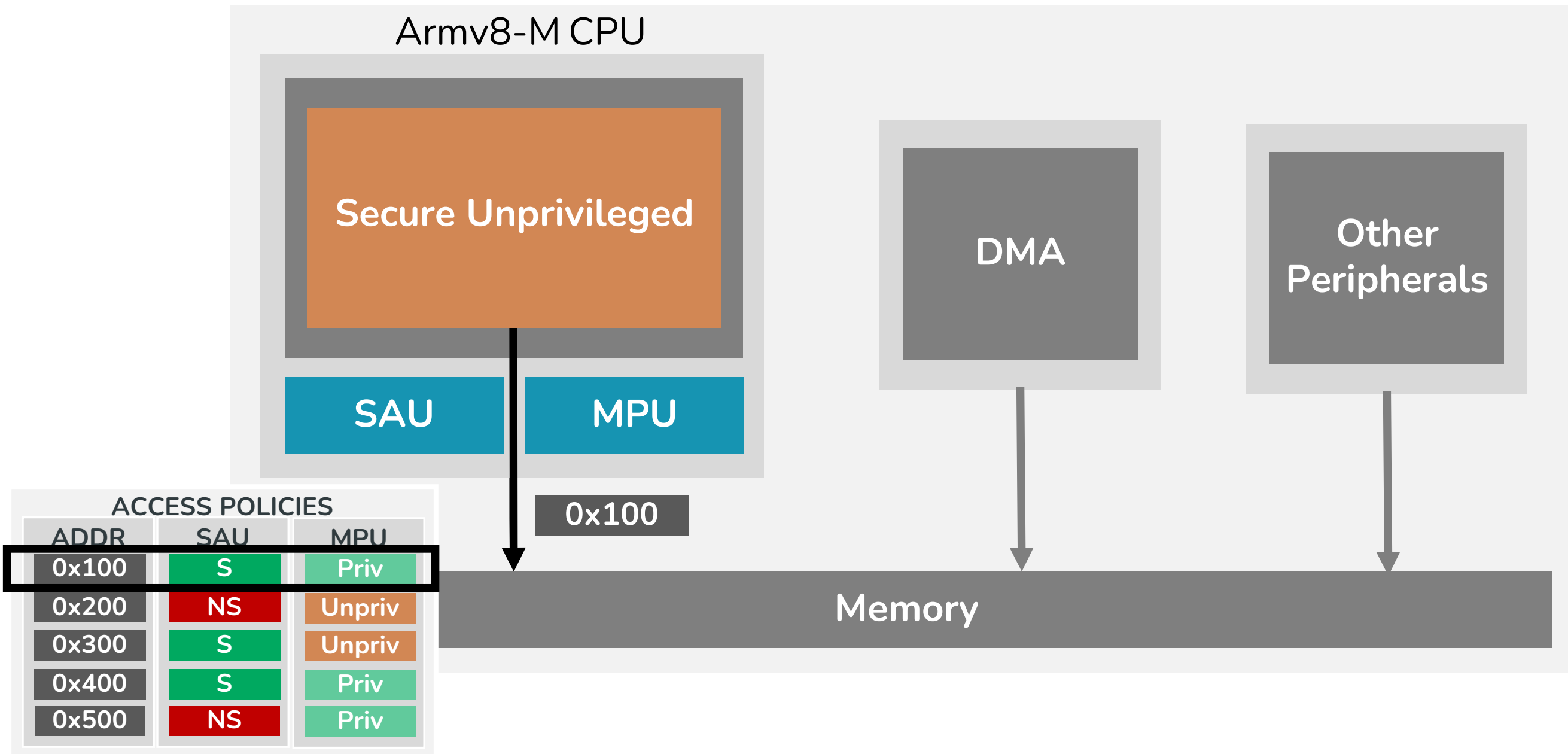
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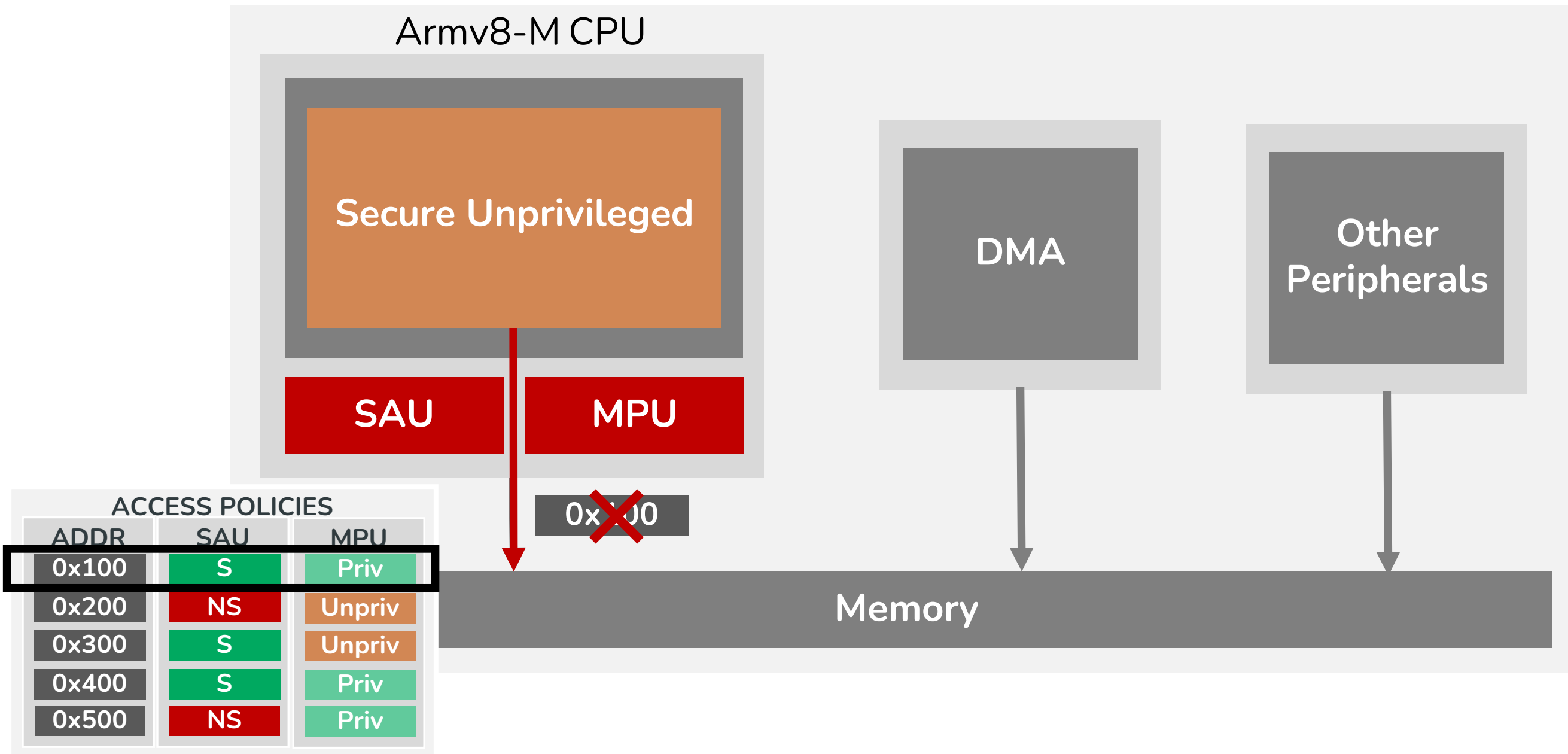
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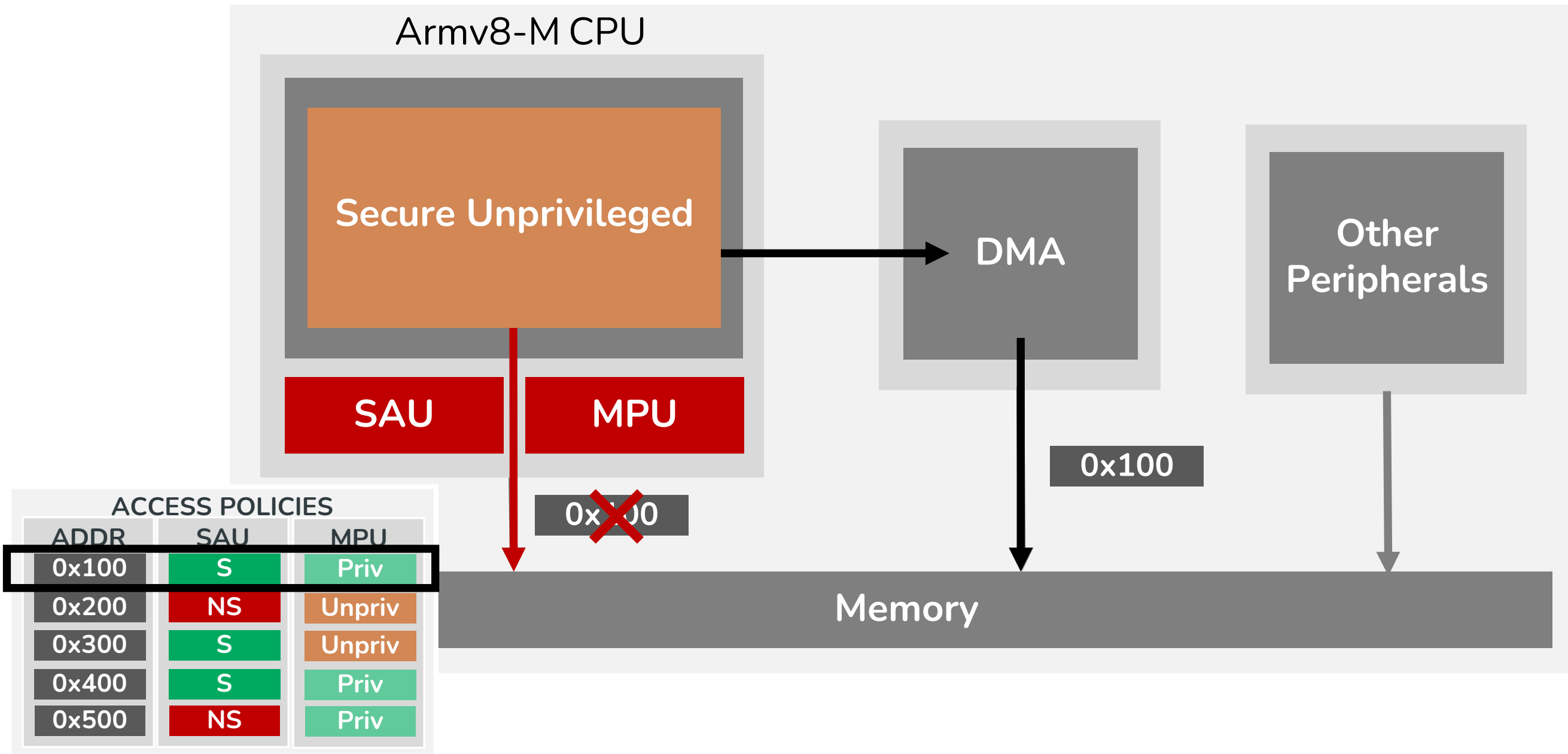
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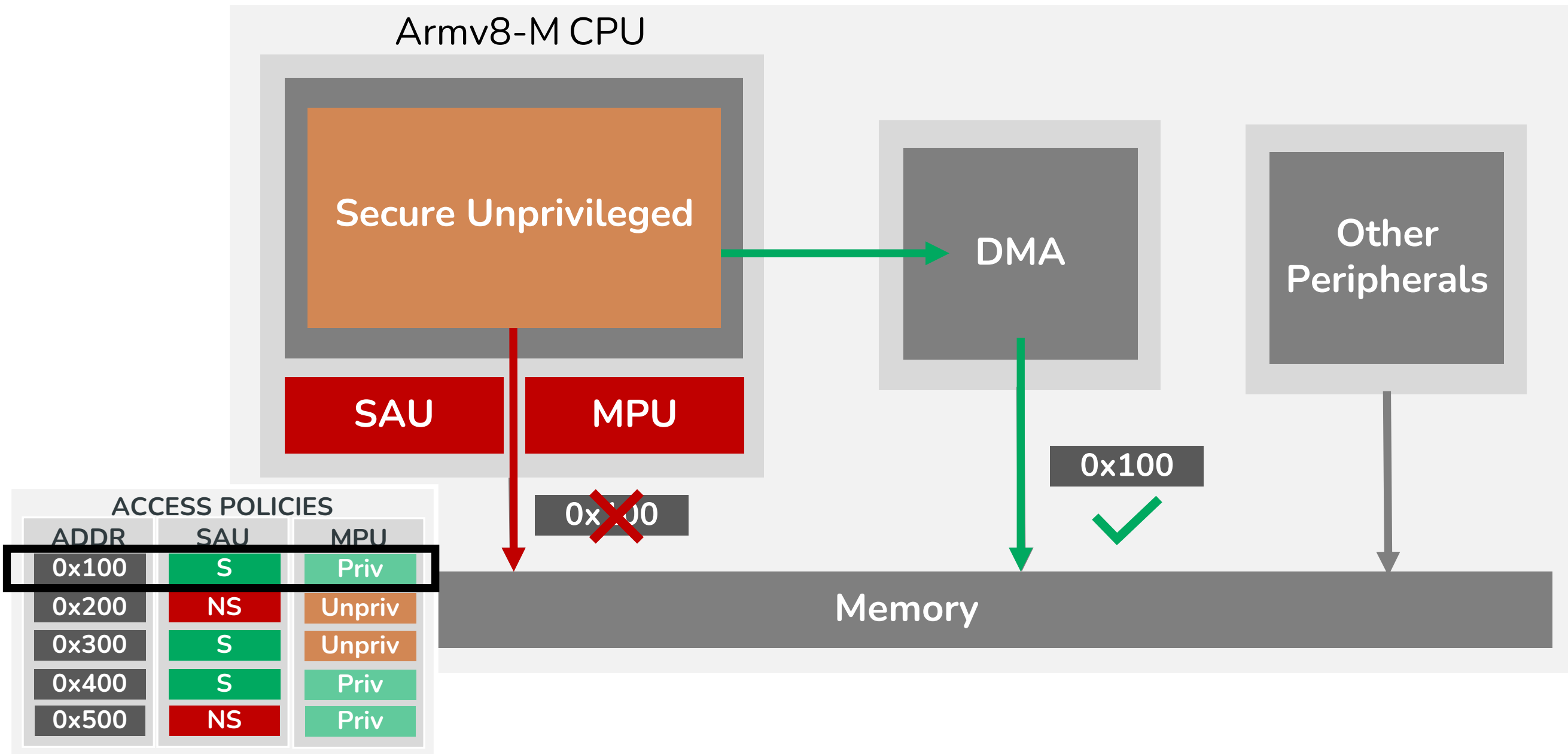
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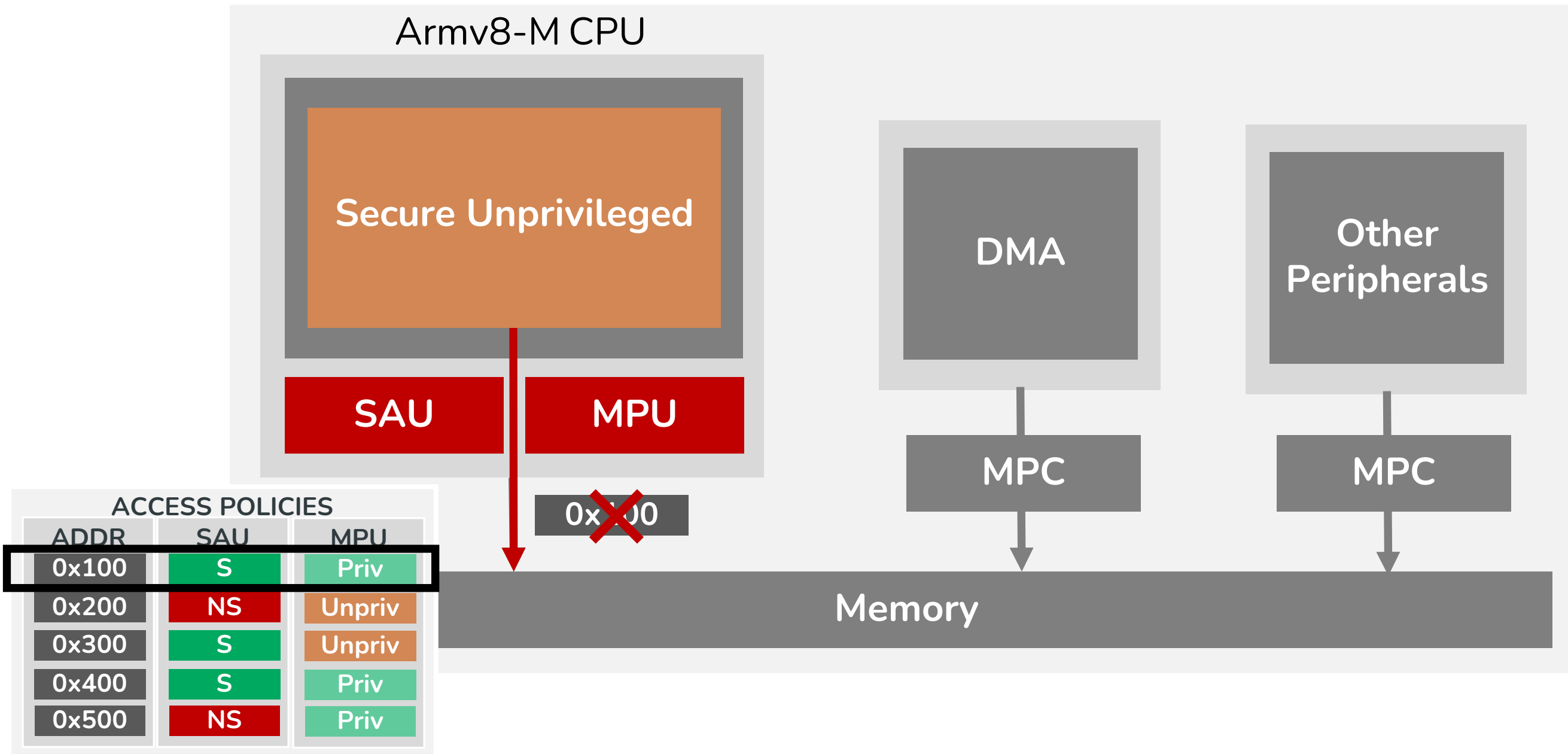
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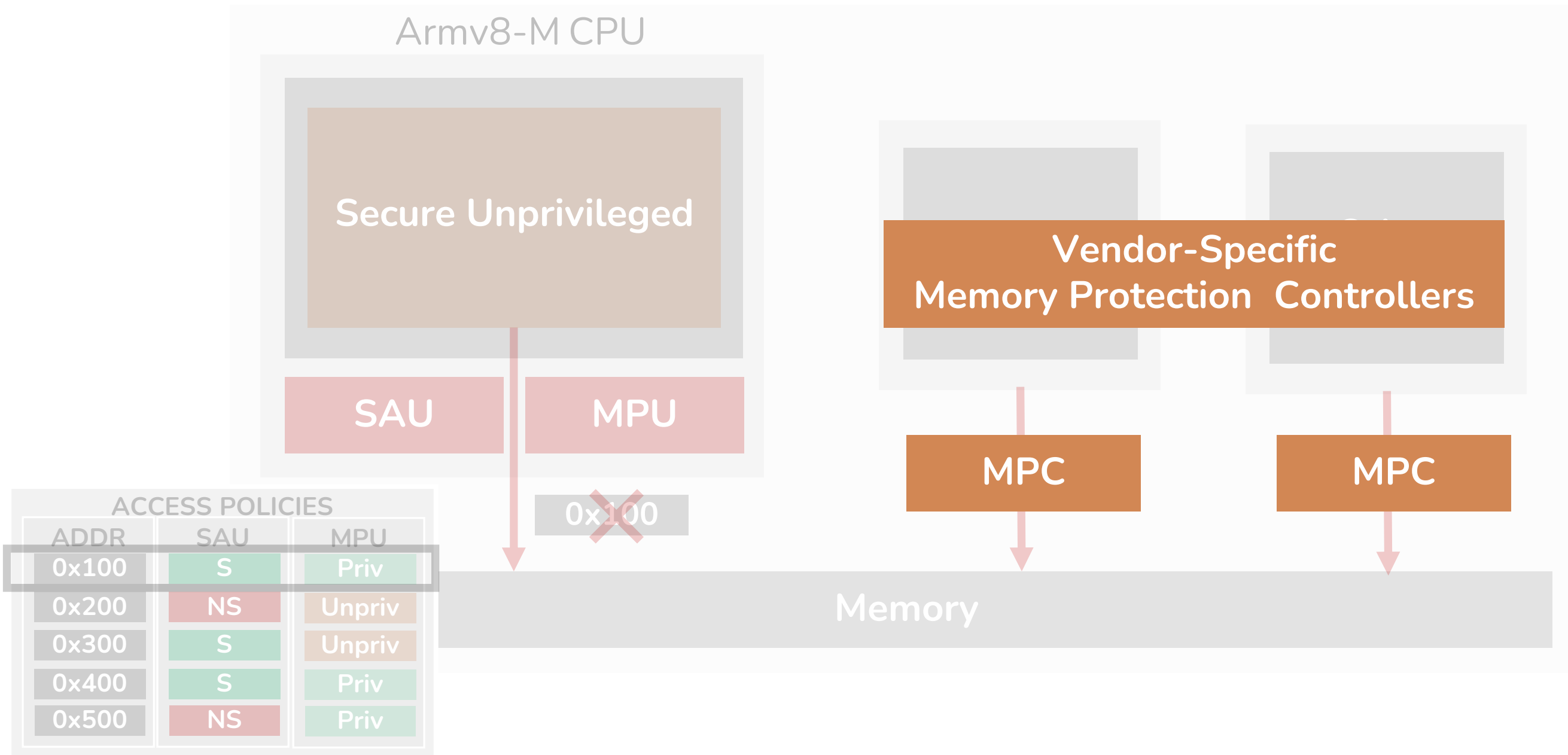
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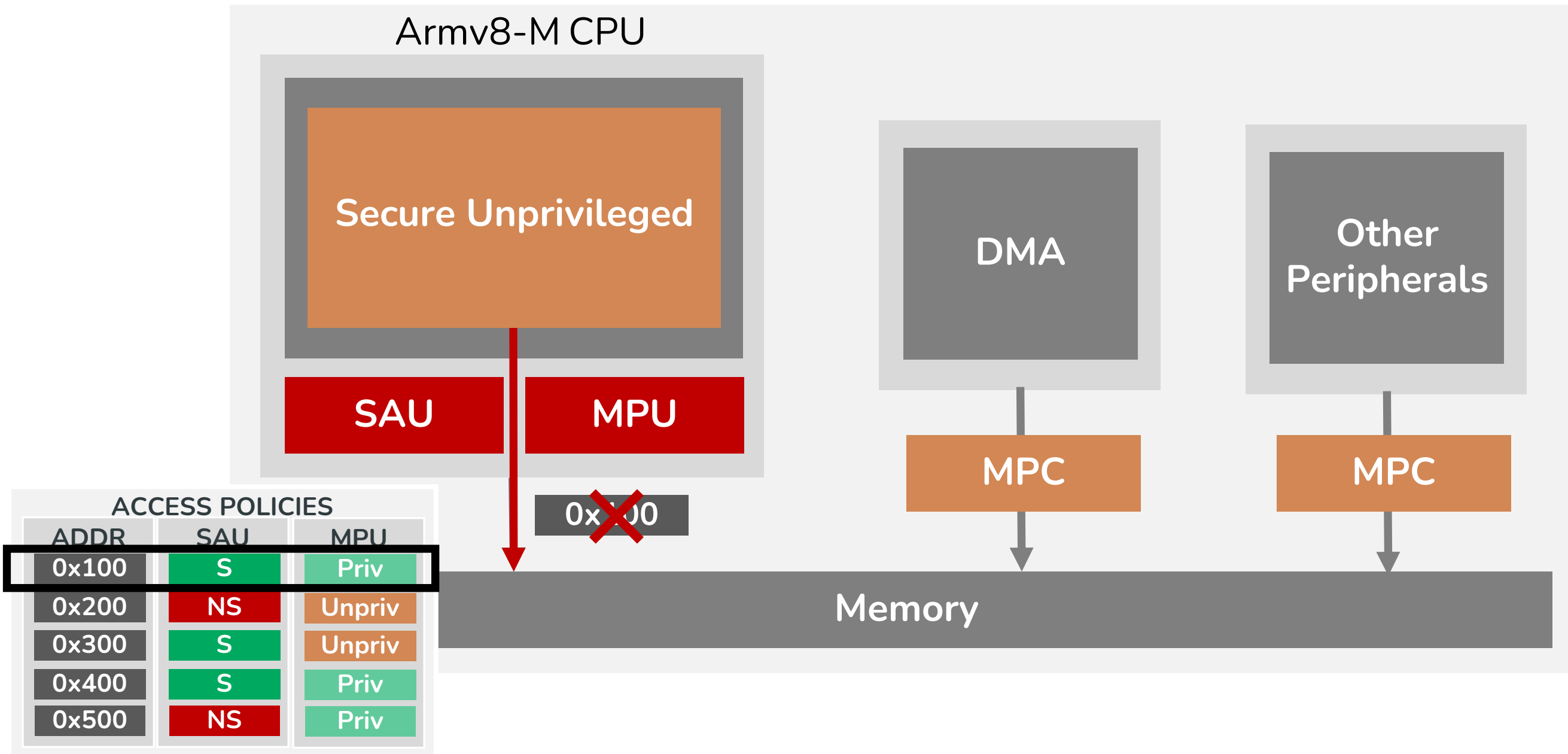
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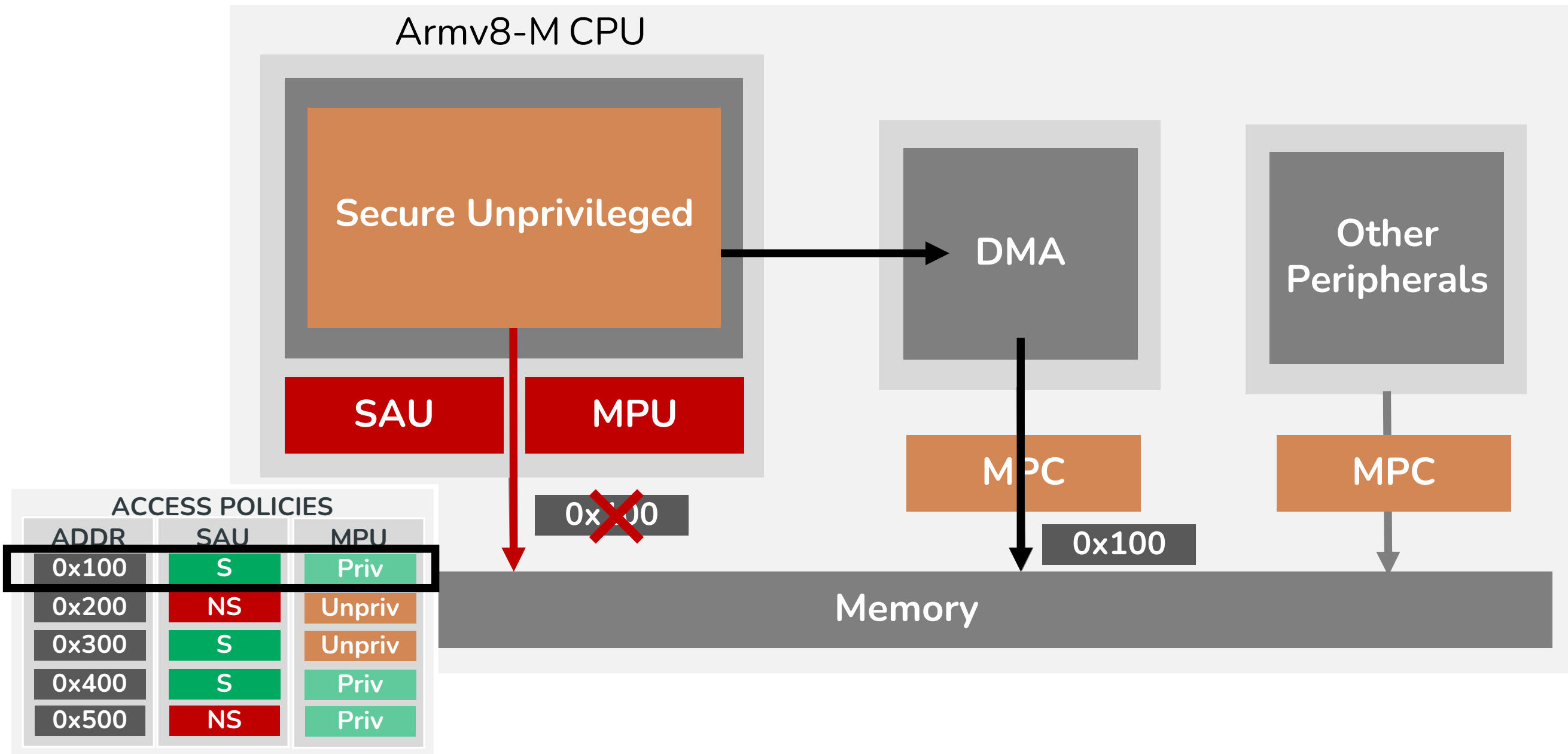
CPU Protection vs System Protection



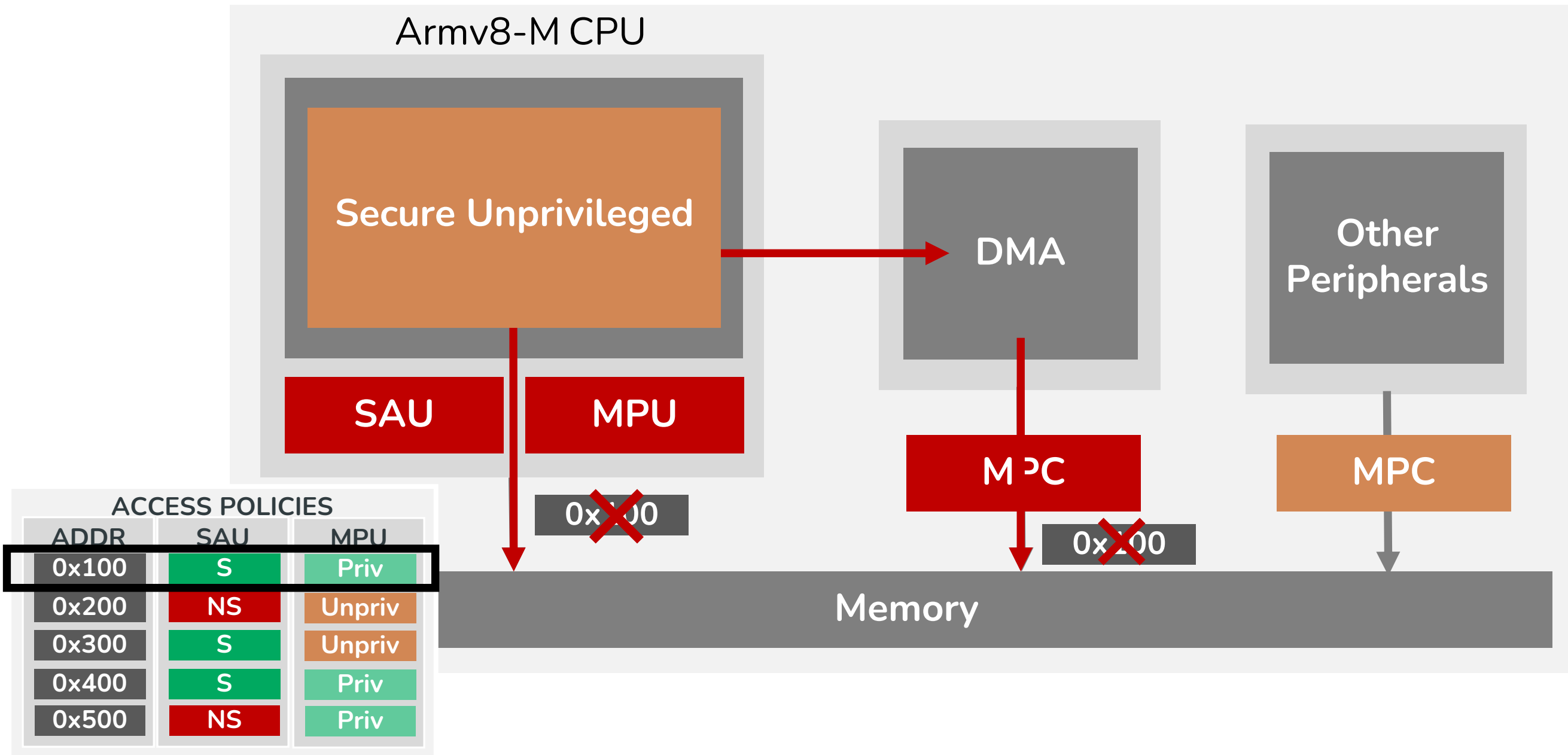
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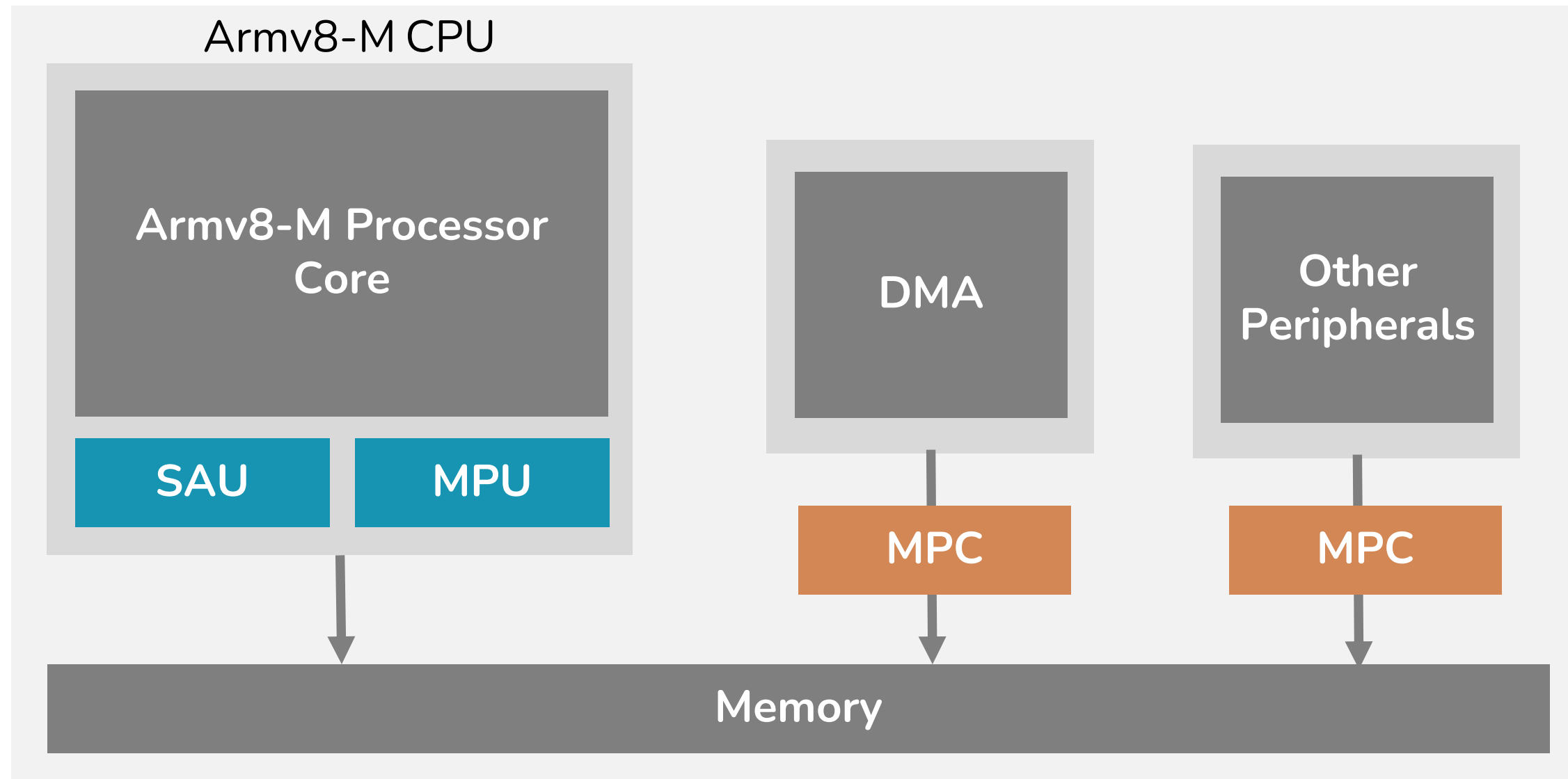
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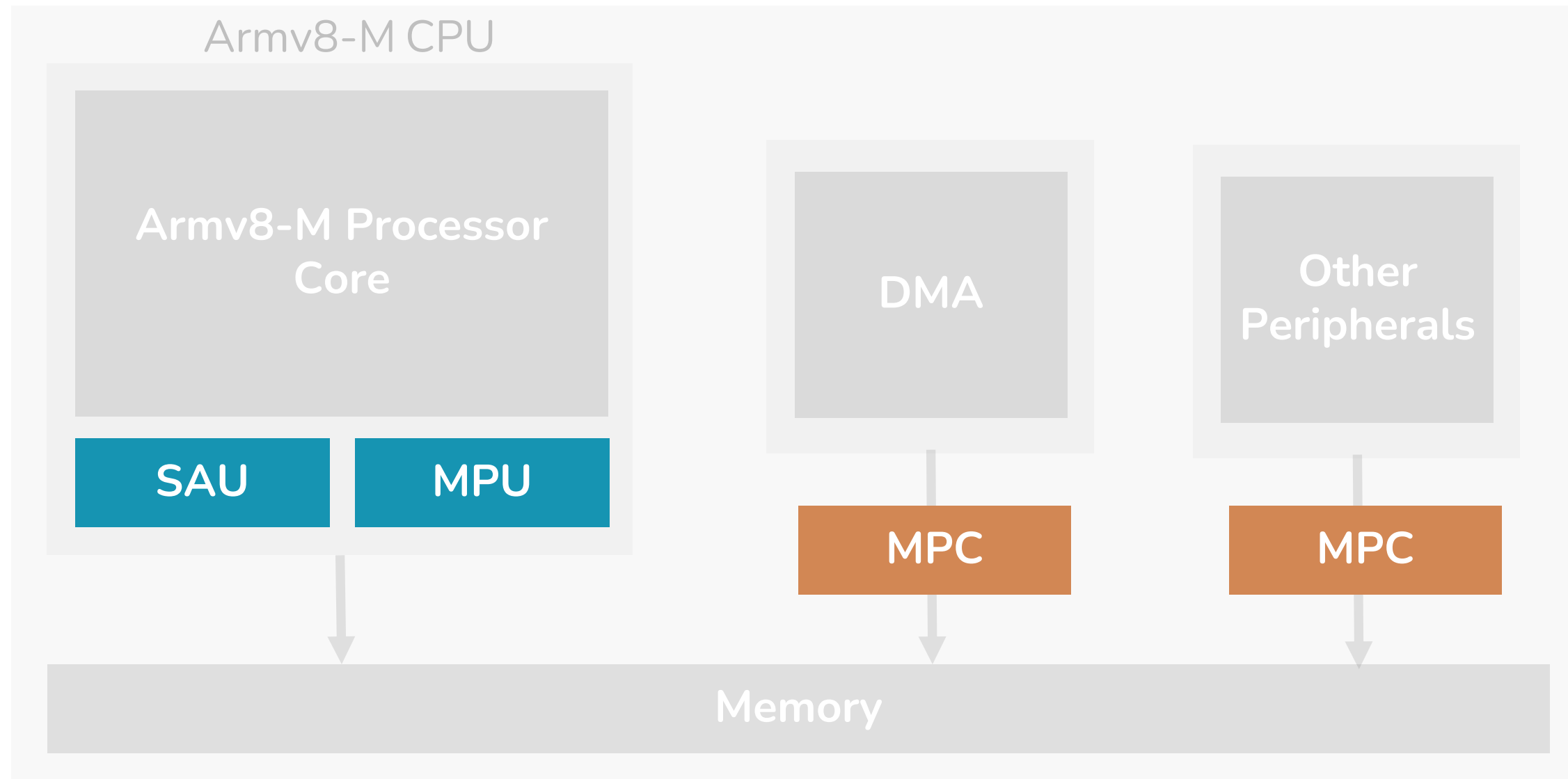
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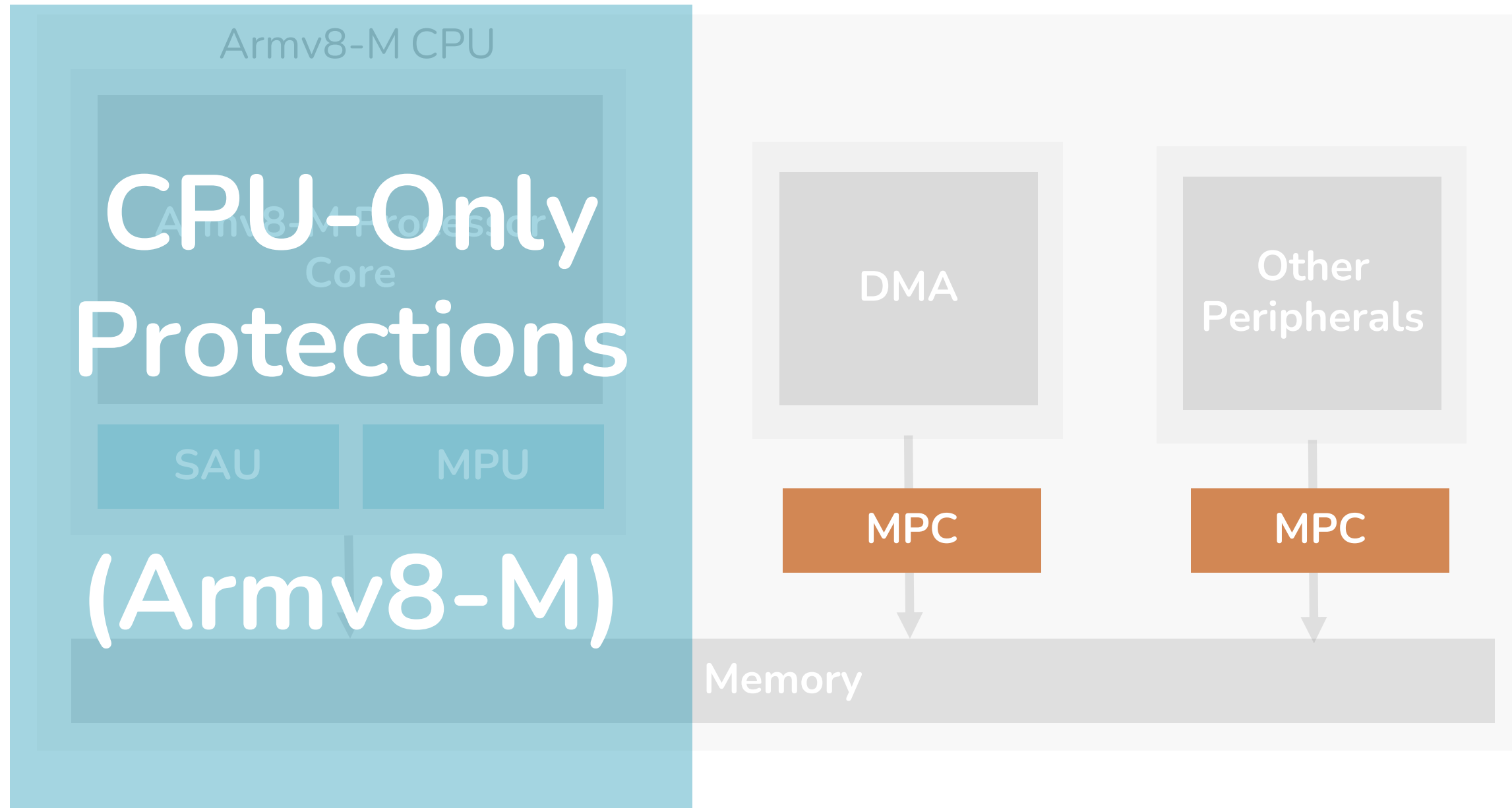
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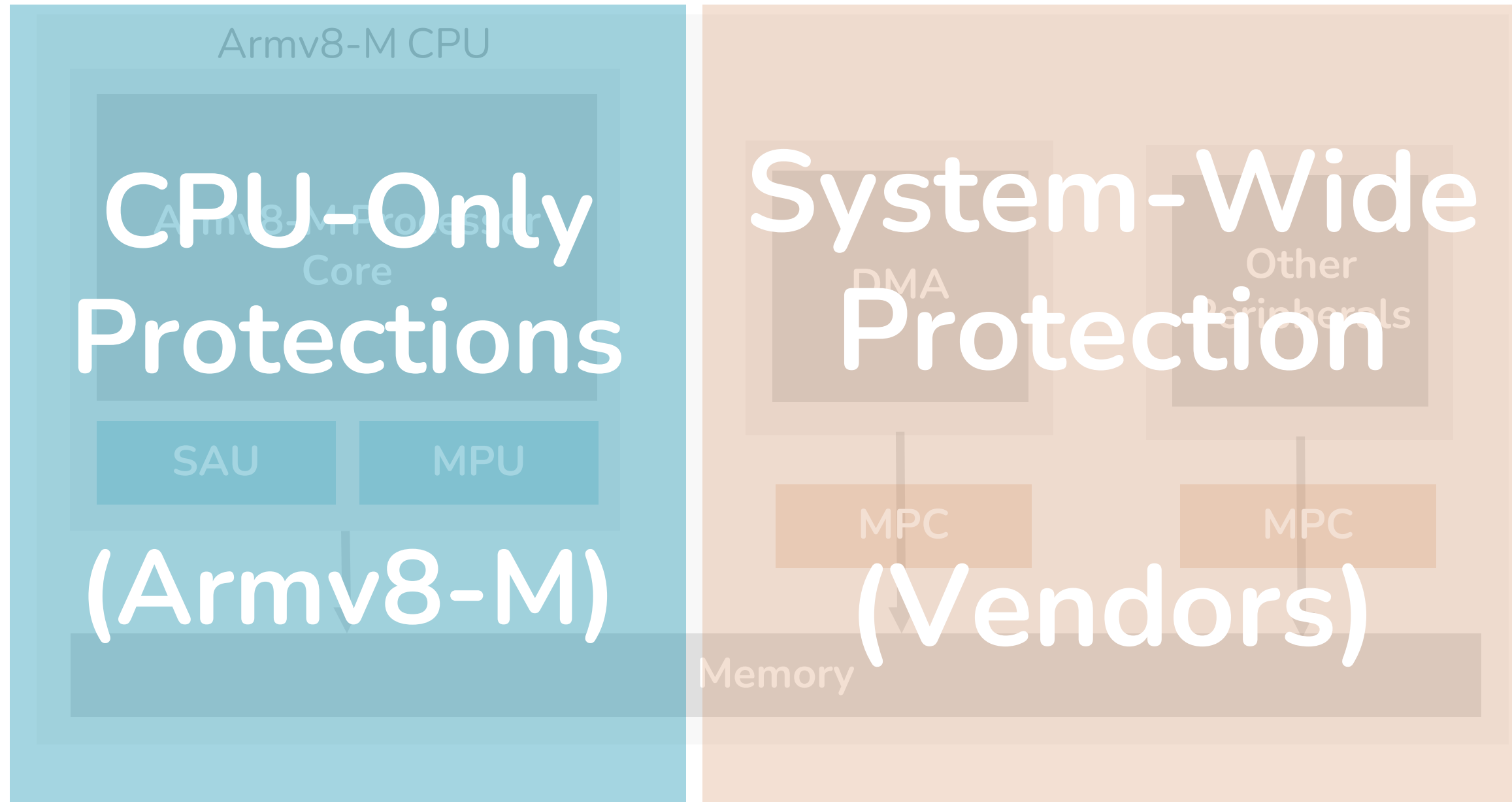
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CPU Protection vs System Protection

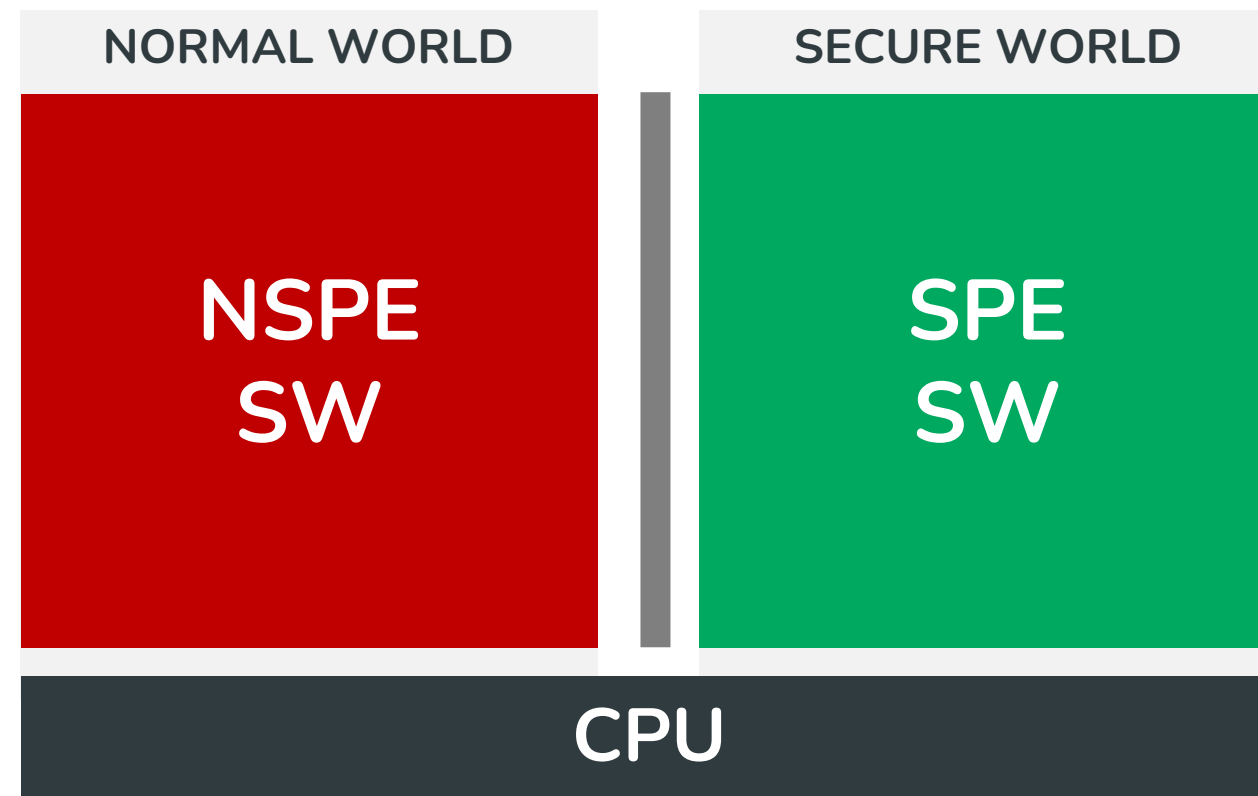


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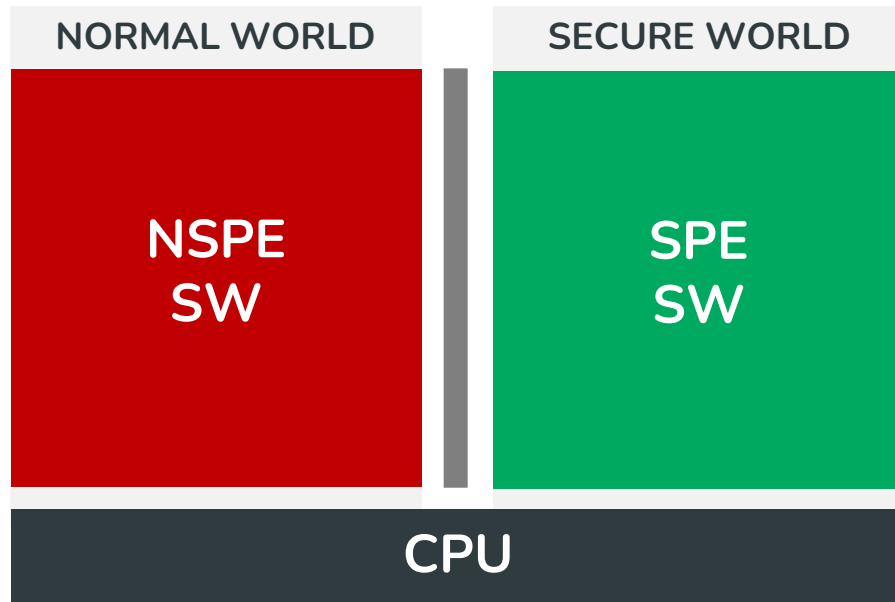


Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

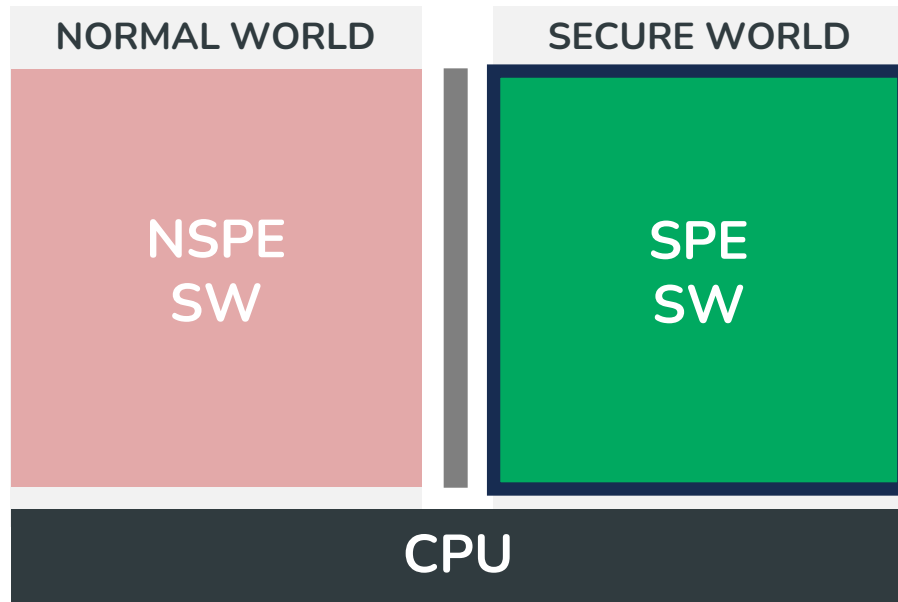
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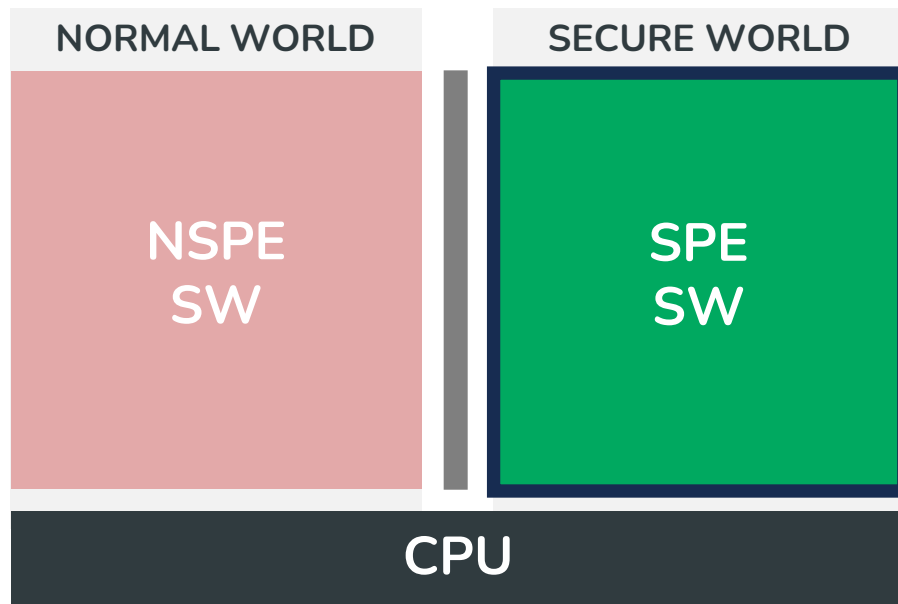
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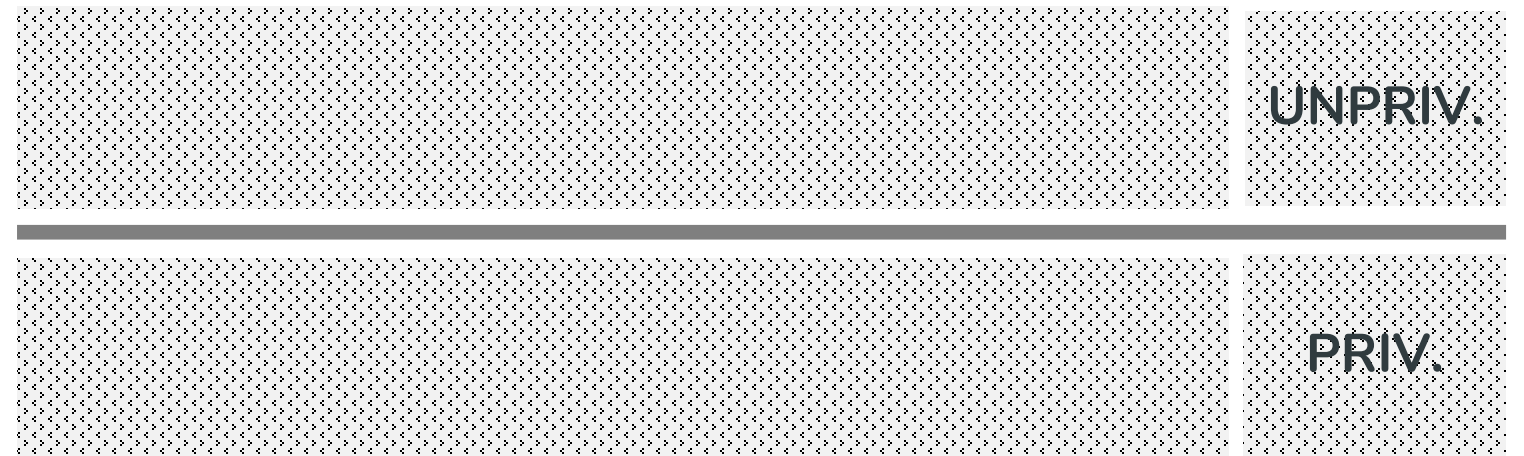
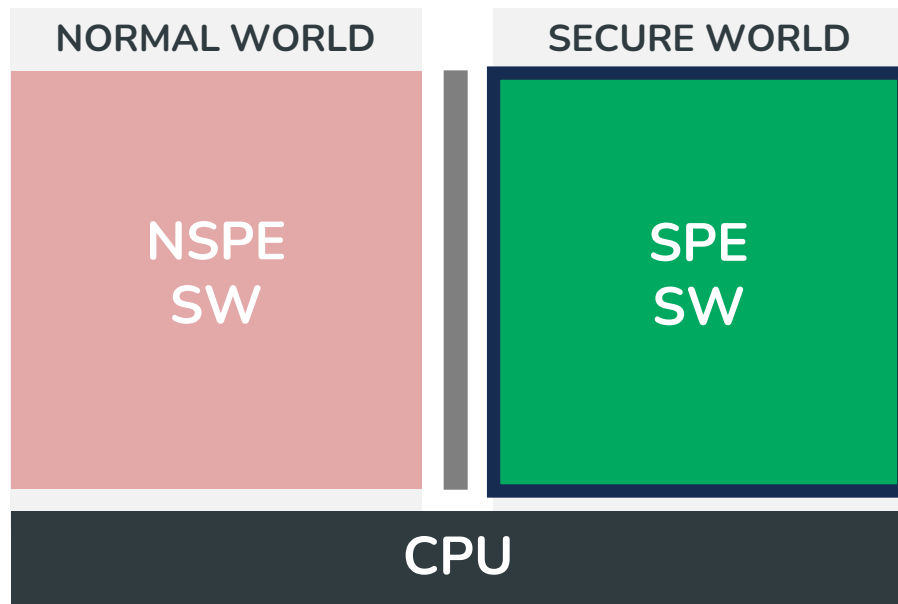
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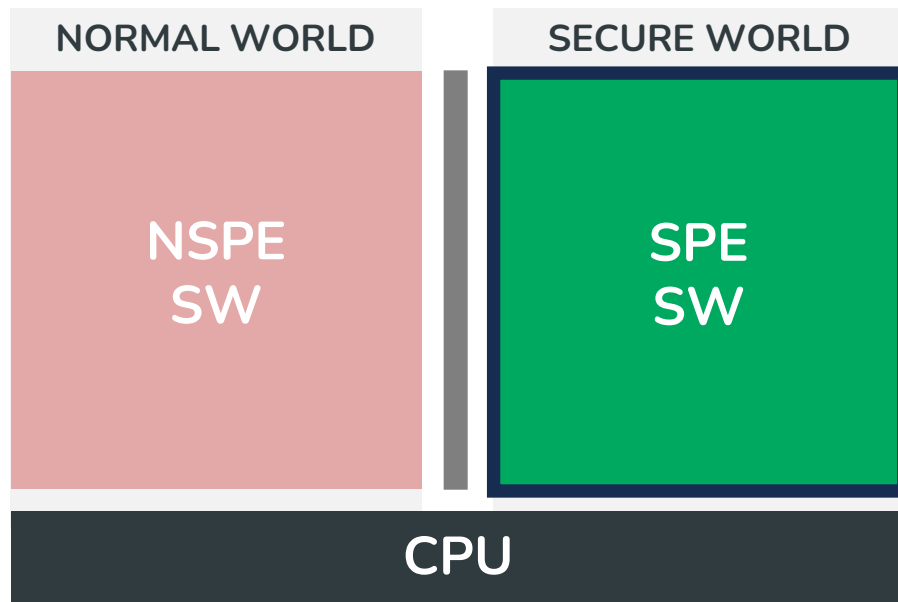
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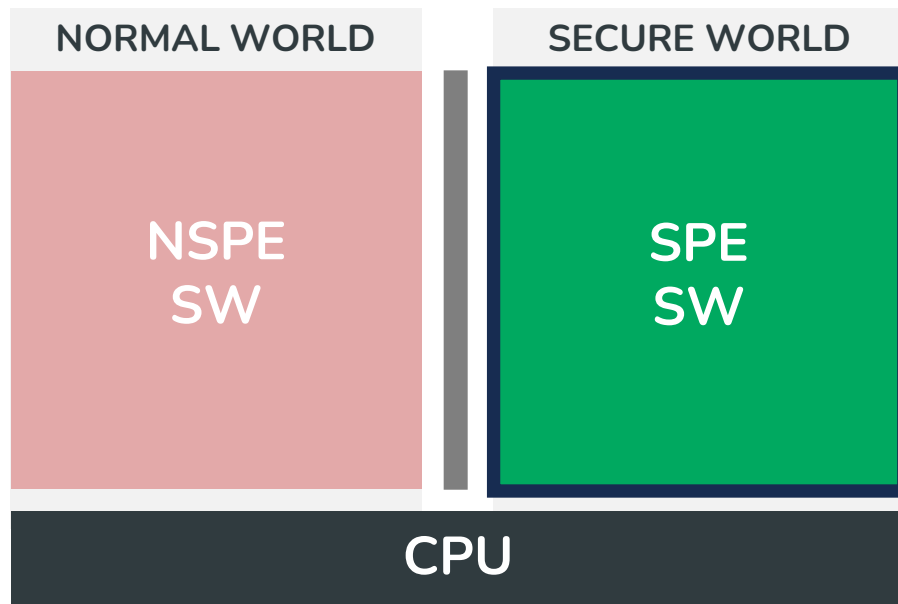
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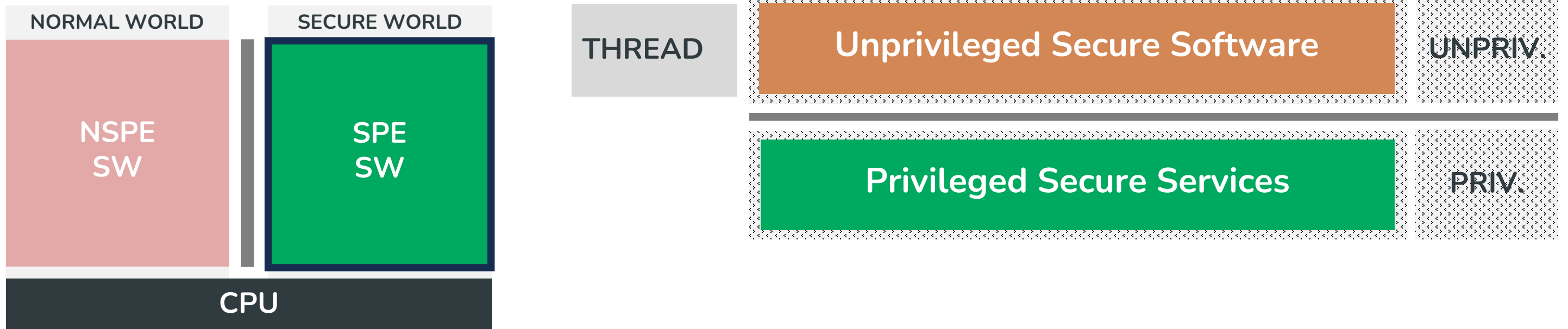
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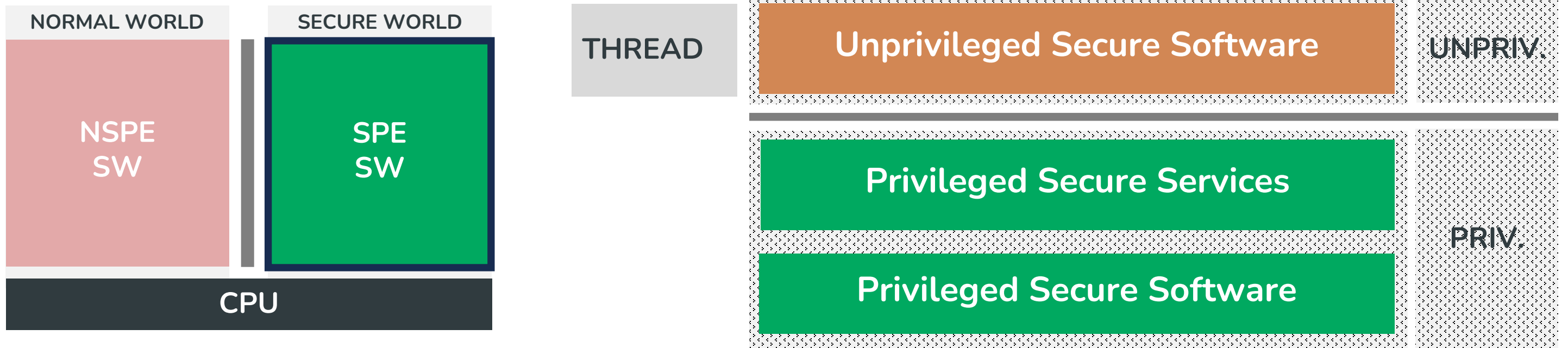
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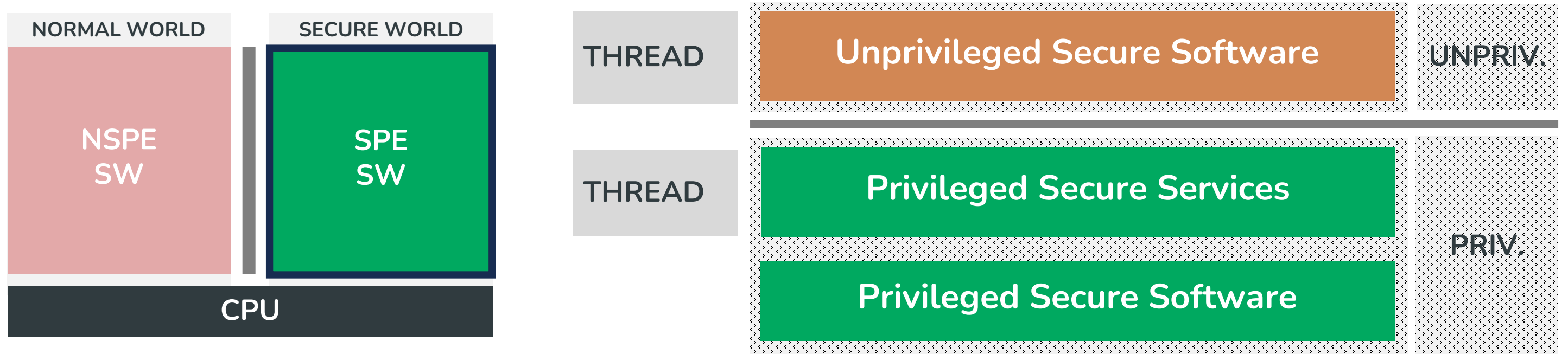
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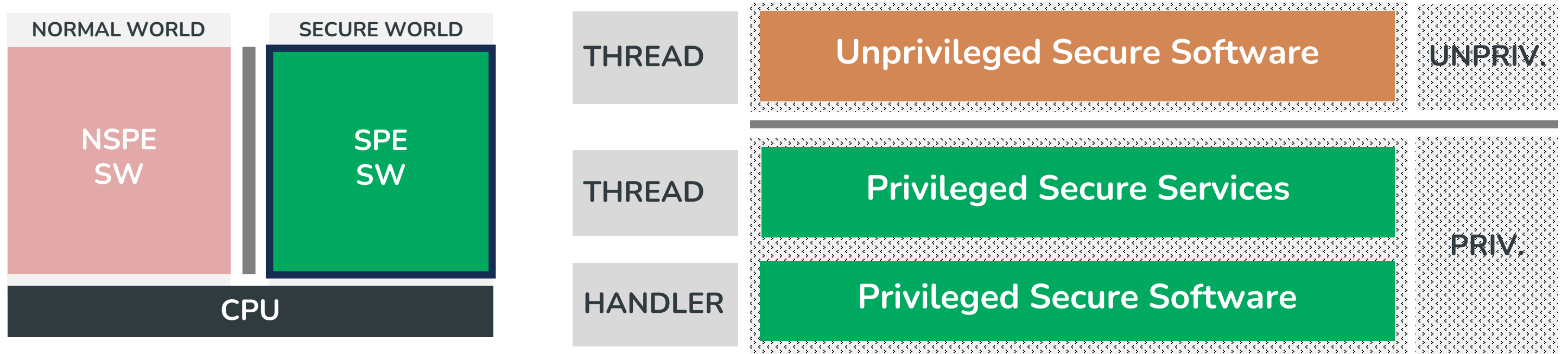
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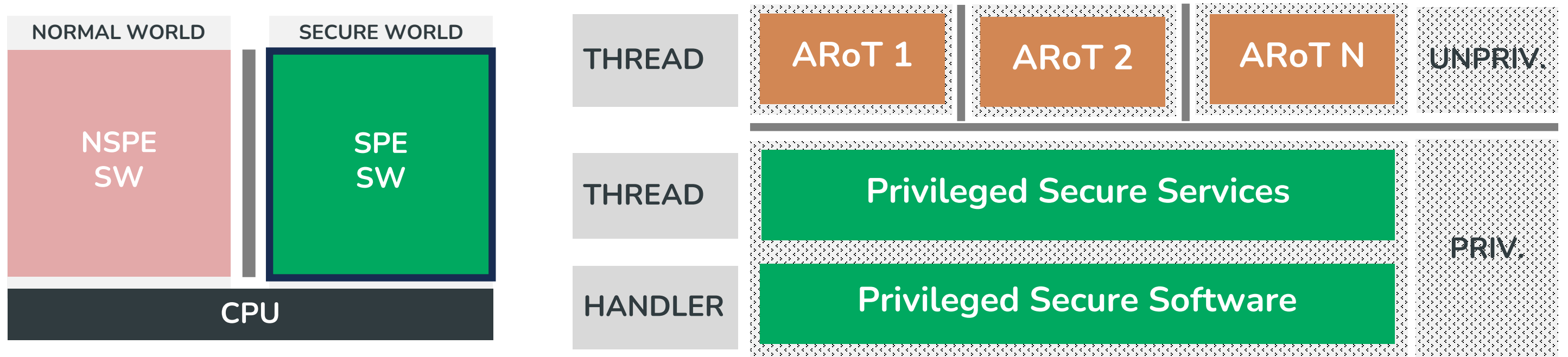
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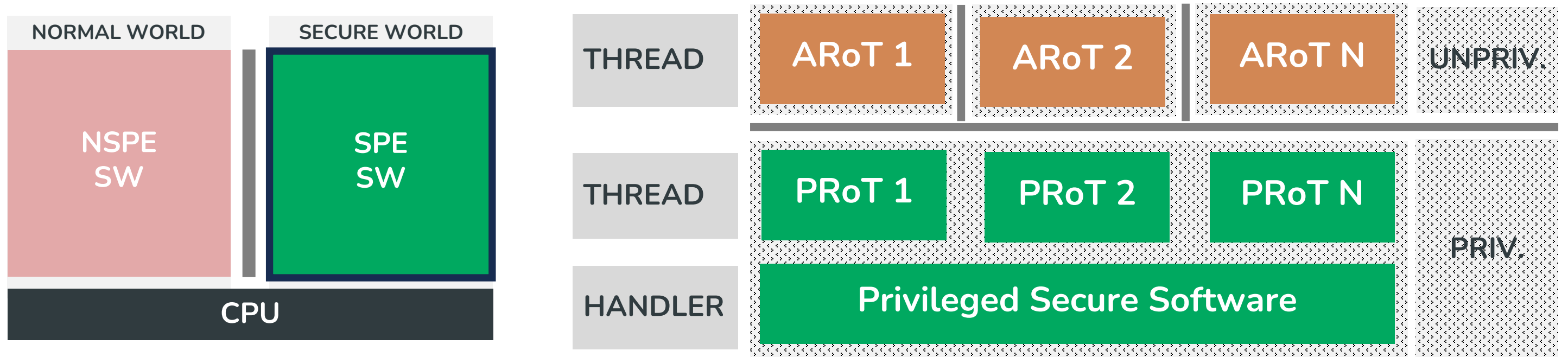
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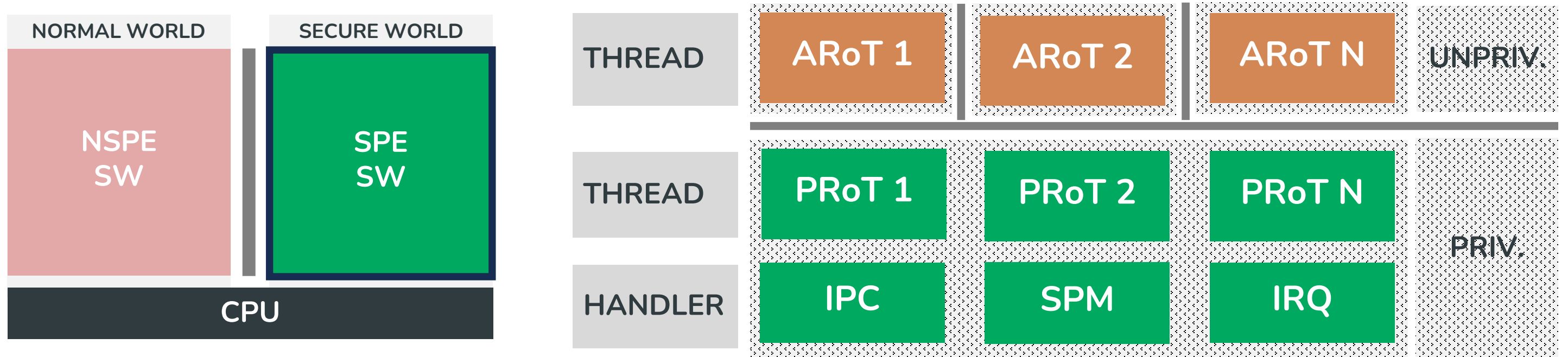
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Platform Security Architecture (PSA)



Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

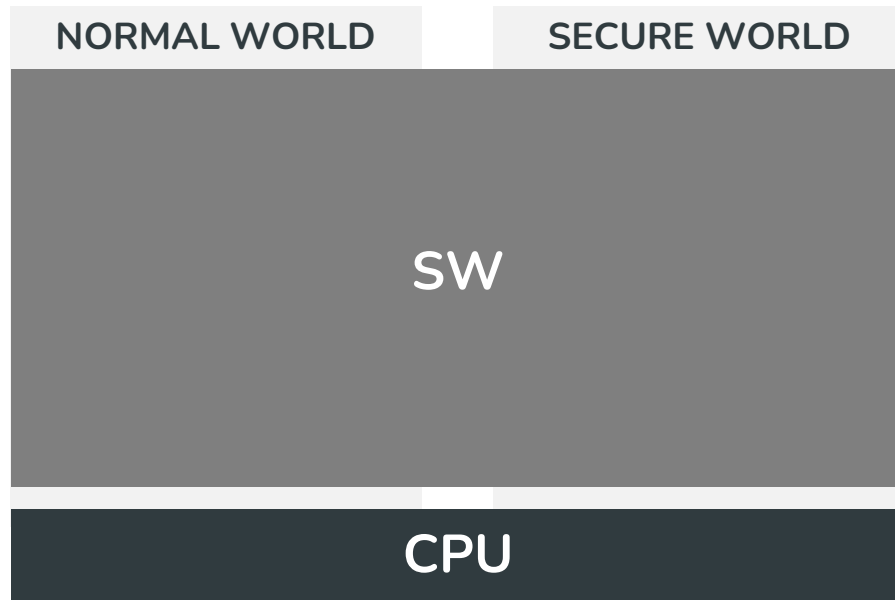


Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

PSA Level 1

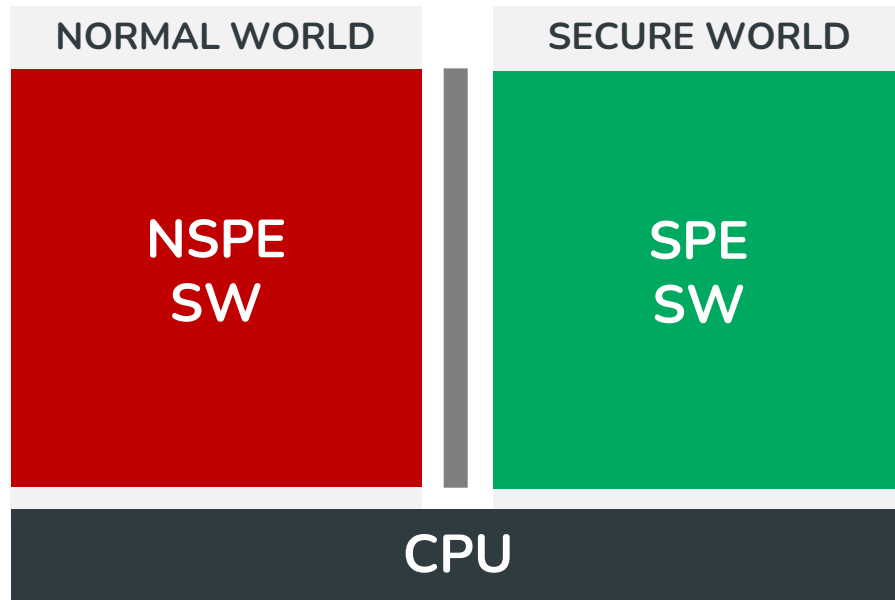
Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

PSA Level 1



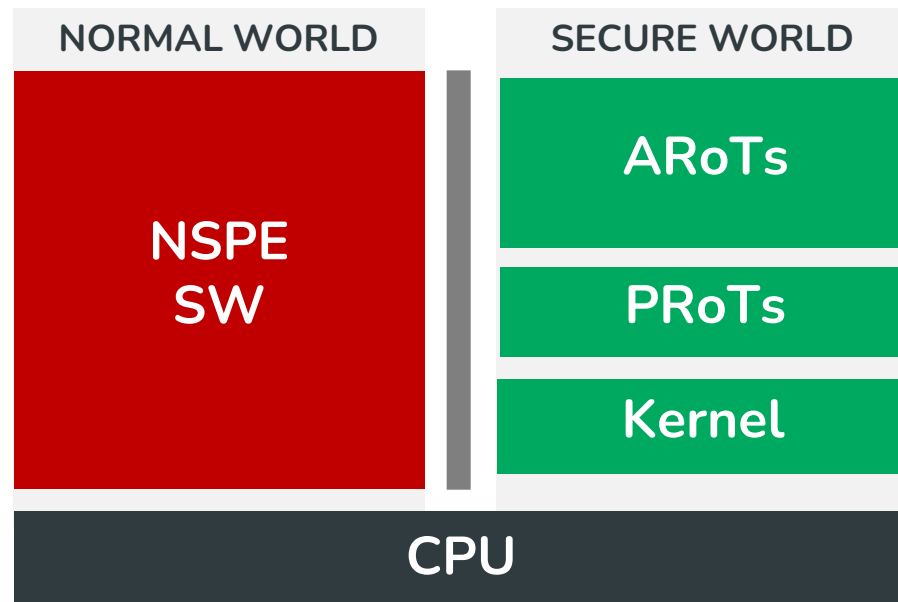
Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

PSA Level 1



Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

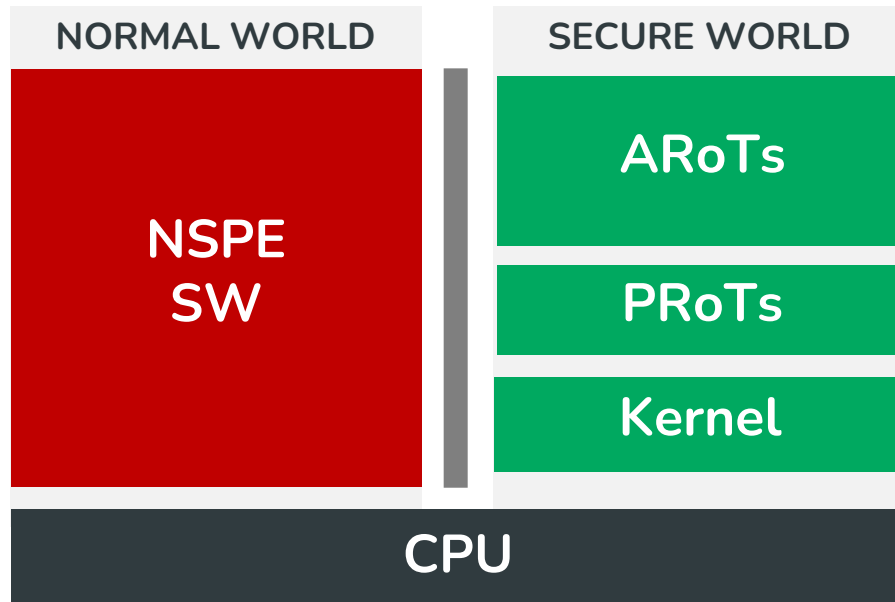
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Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

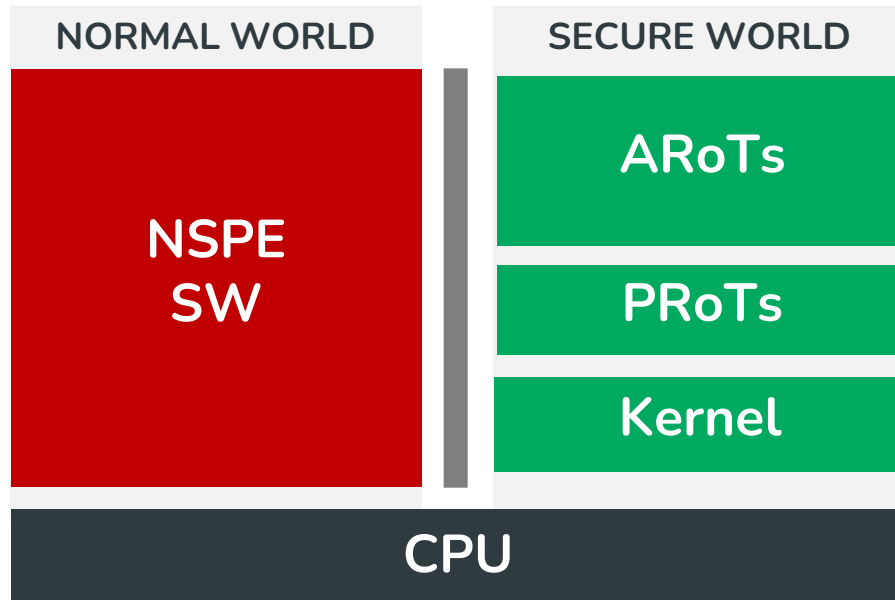
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PSA Level 2

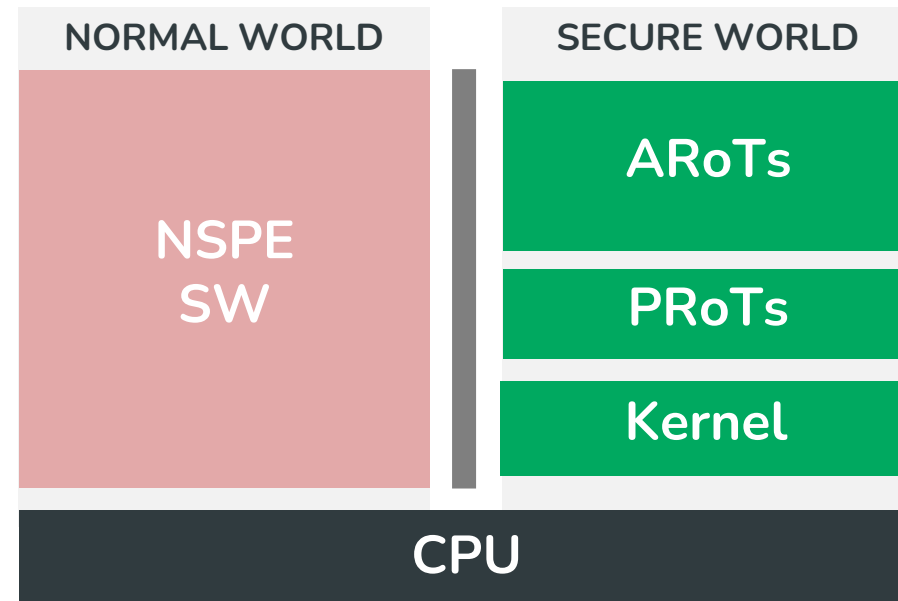


Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

PSA Level 1

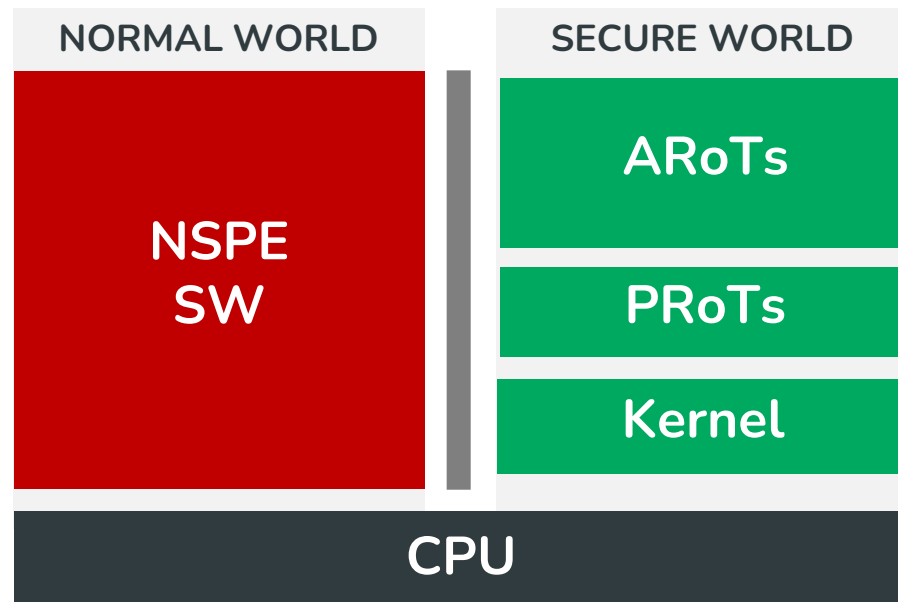


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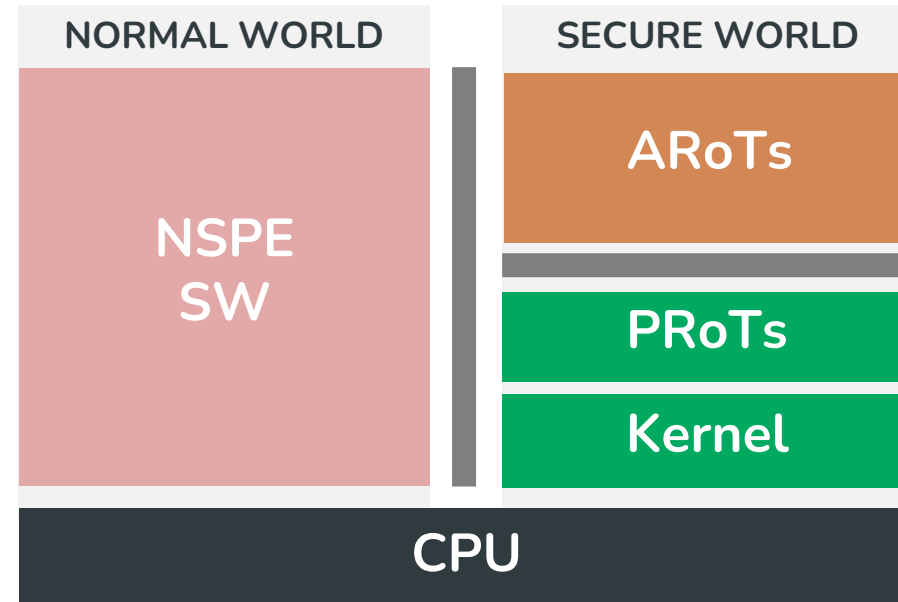


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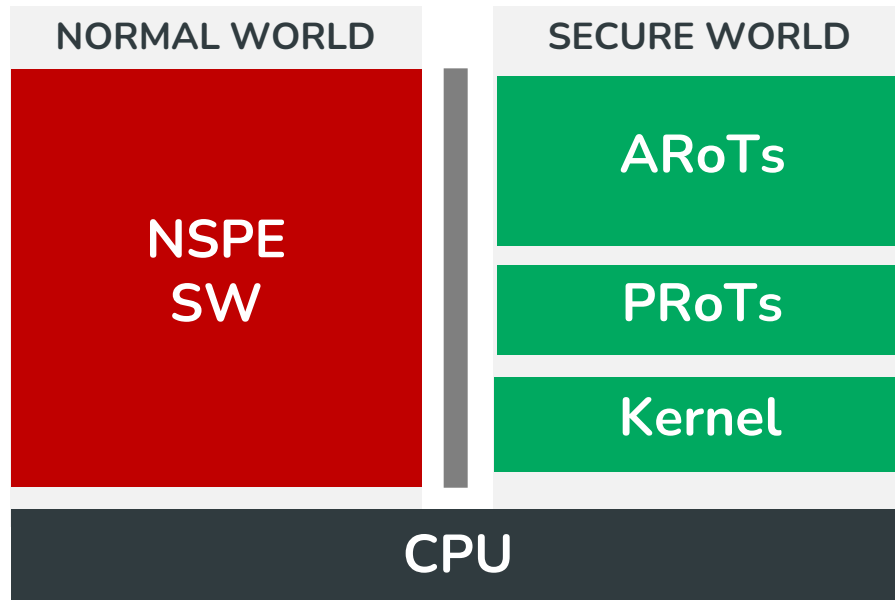


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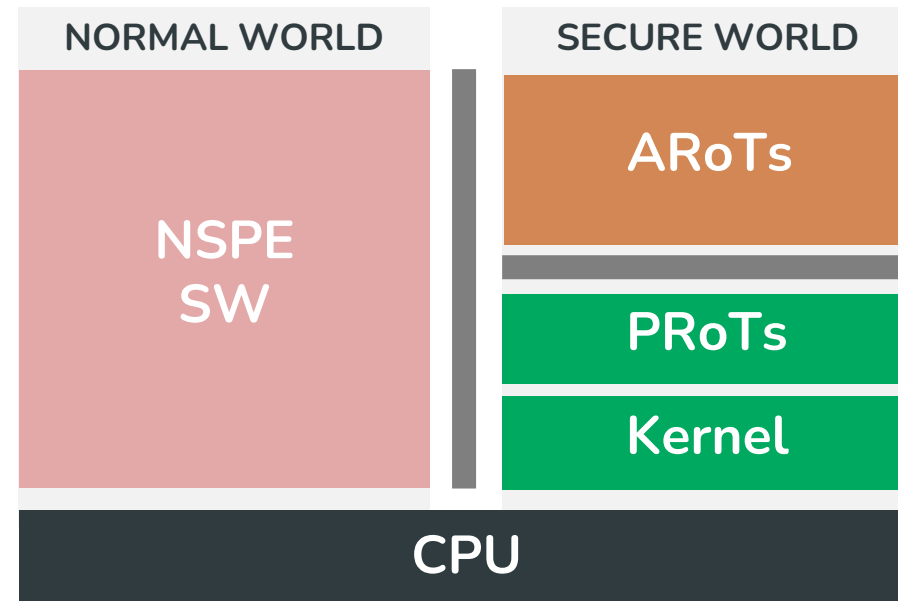


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PSA Level 1



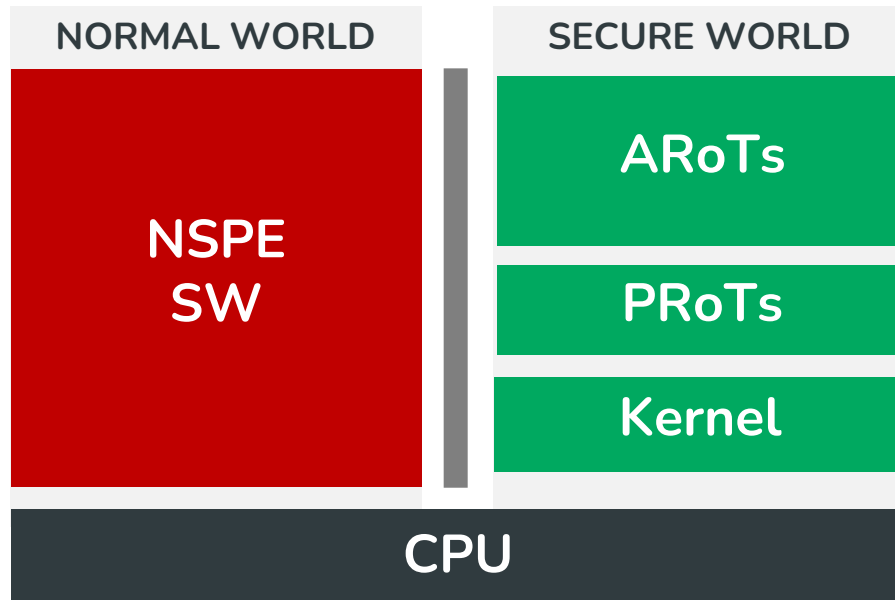
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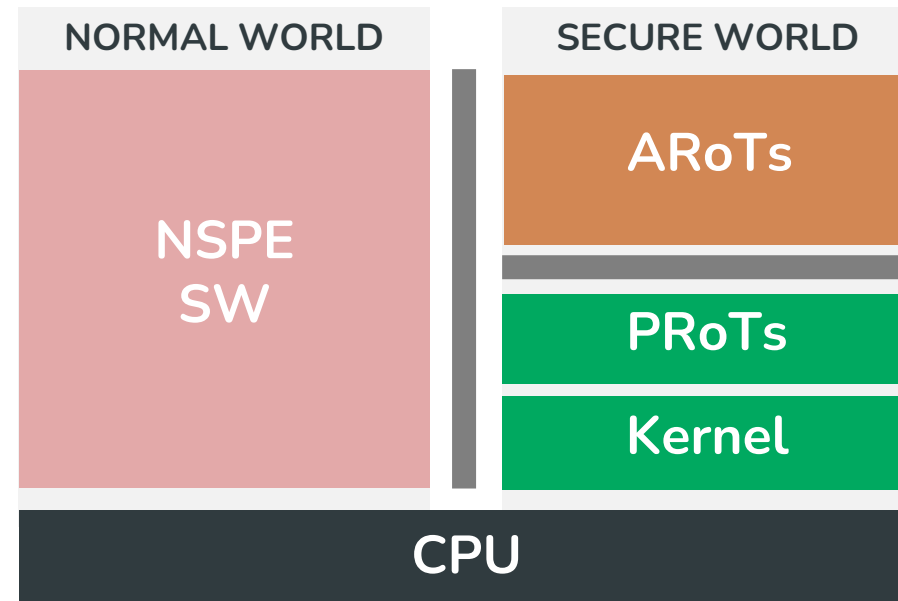
PSA Level 3

Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

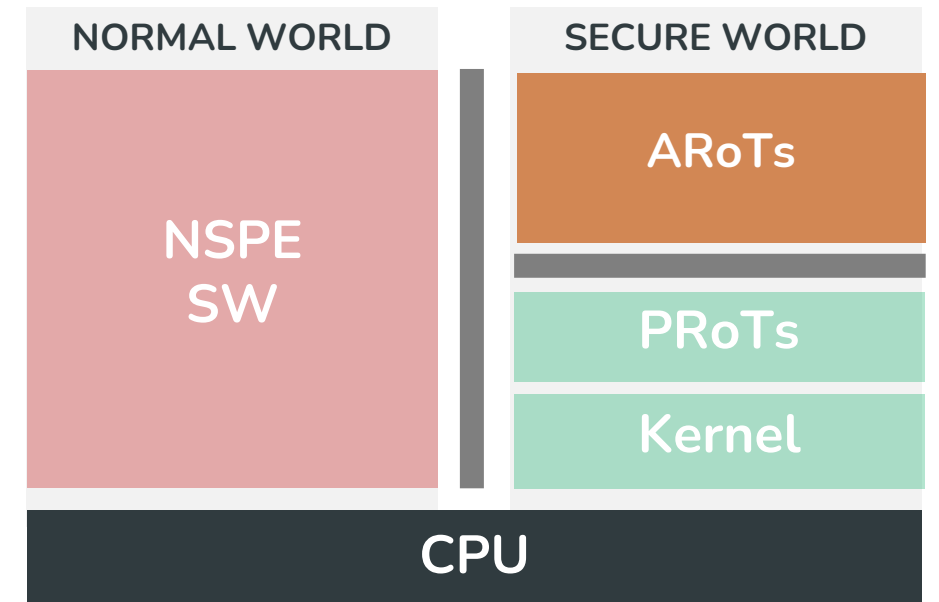
PSA Level 1



PSA Level 2

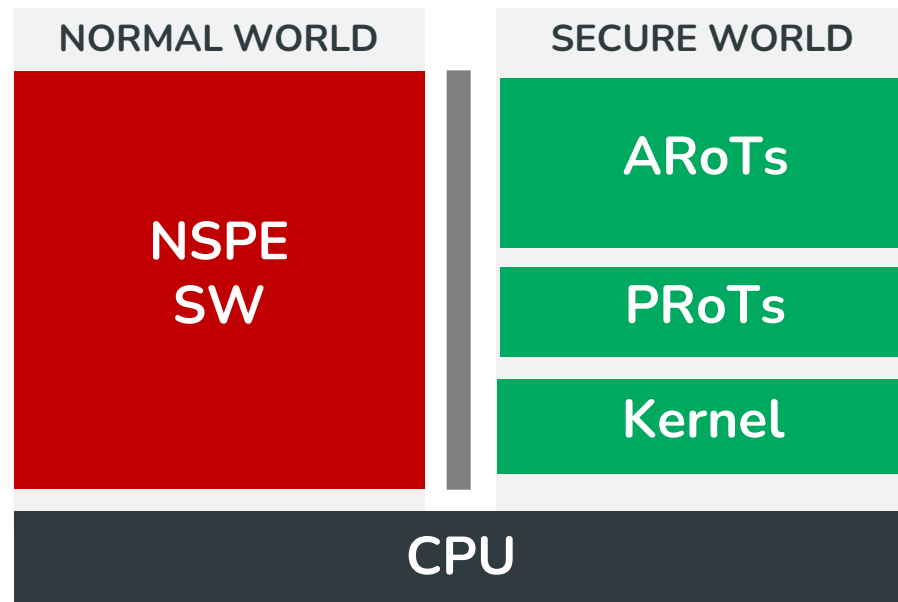


PSA Level 3

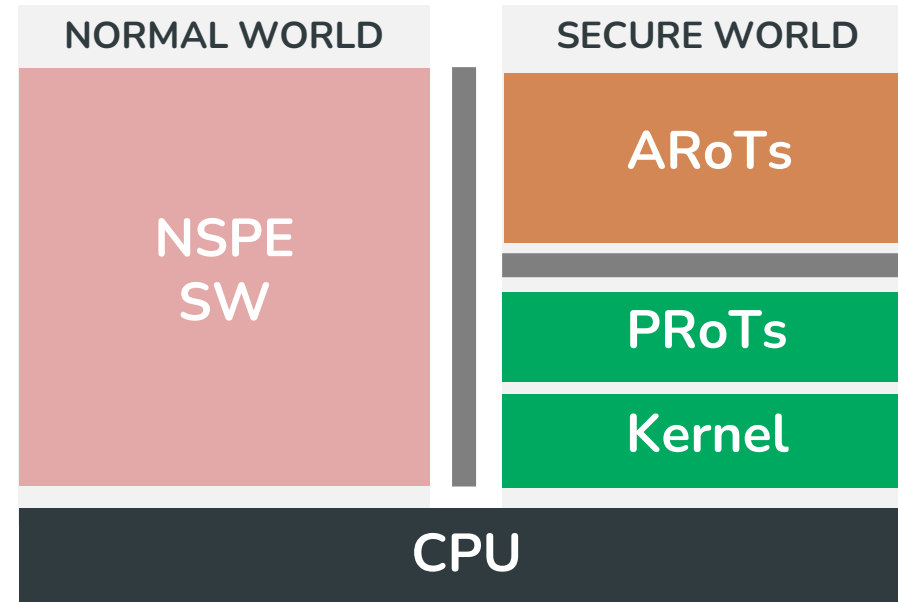


Platform Security Architecture (PSA)

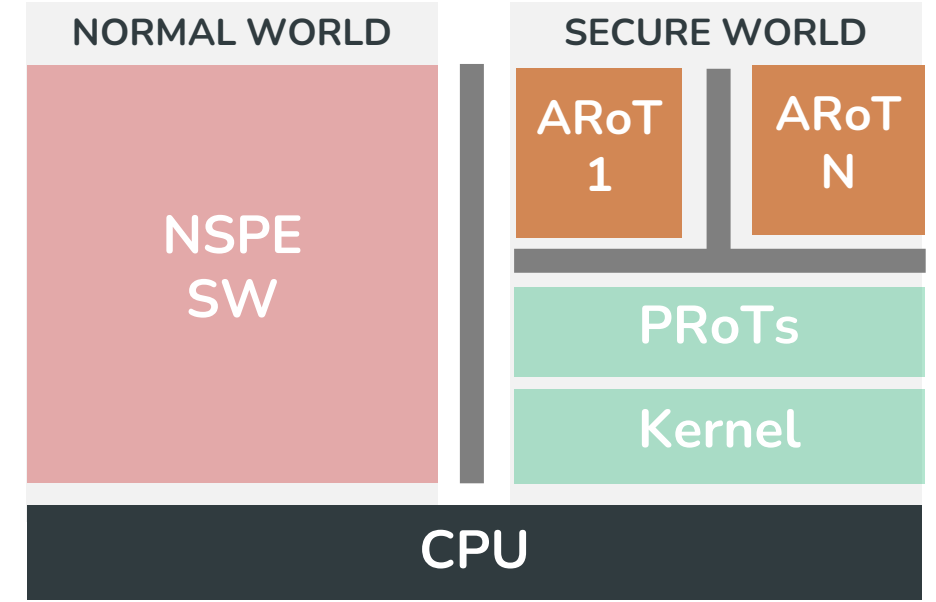
PSA Level 1



PSA Level 2



PSA Level 3



PARADOXAL OBSERVATIONS

01

TRUSTZONE-M HAS A CPU-CENTRIC VIEW

Armv8-M Only Defines Protection Controllers at The CPU-level (MPU, SAU, IDAU)

02

SYSTEM-WIDE PROTECTIONS ARE PROPRIETARY

Vendors Are Forced to Develop System Protection Controllers (PPCs, MPCs)

03

MISSMATCH BETWEEN TZ-M AND PSA LEVELS

PSA Level 2/3 Need CPU- and System-level Memory Protection Controllers (the latter isn't defined by Armv8-M)

While System-Wide protections are a must, Armv8-M only defines CPU-level memory protections. We hypothesize that this dichotomy (together with a lack of understanding of the PSA isolation levels) may open security holes in modern TrustZone-M systems

Hypothesis

A Bumpy but Revealing Journey

Weak Protections, TEE Assessment and our Responsible Disclosure Journey



MICROCHIP





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Kinibi-M

Mircochip First To Use Turstonic Revolutionary Kinibi-M Platform For Microcontrollers



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Microchip Debuts Cortex-M23 MCUs

June 25, 2018 

Two of the first Cortex-M23 microcontrollers have arrived—developed by Microchip—and advanced security is among the features.

William G. Wong

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The IoT security technology will be embedded at the chip level using Trustonic's Kinibi-M software.

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Trustonic launches IoT device security solution

Blockchain-based Digital Holograms, trusted device provisioning and a modular, secure OS combine to bring trust to constrained IoT devices.

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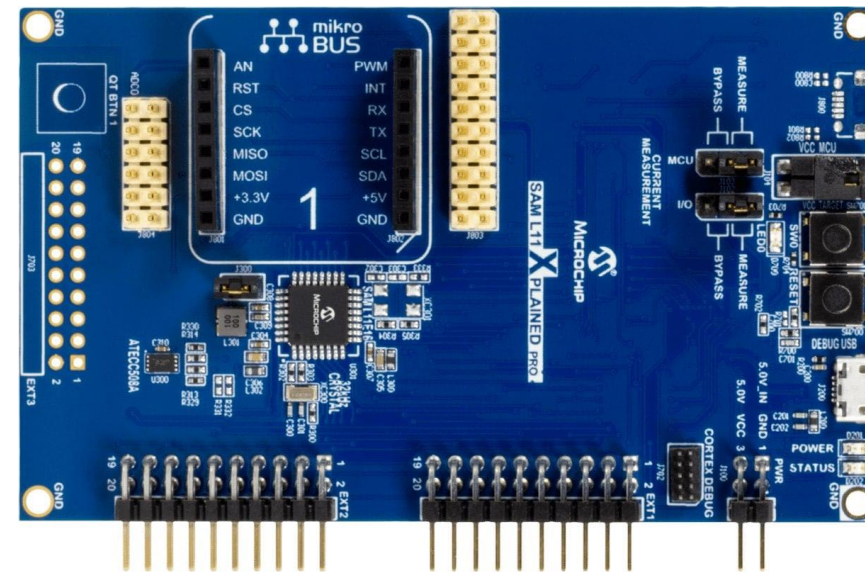
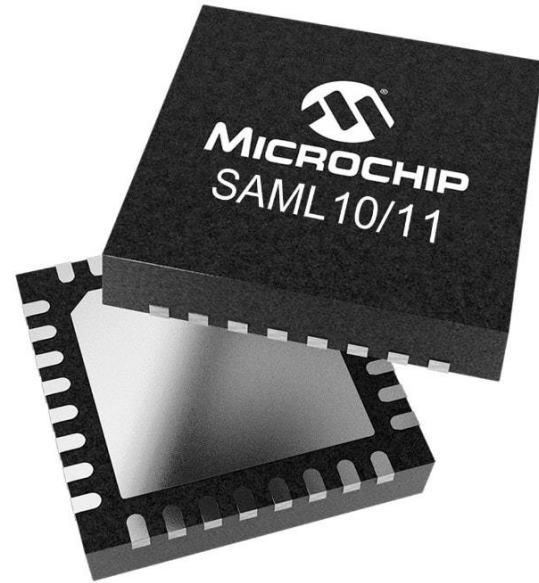
Home > Semiconductors > Microcontrollers > arm Cortex-M23 plus on-chip security for the IoT

Microchip introduces SAM L10/L11 MCUs

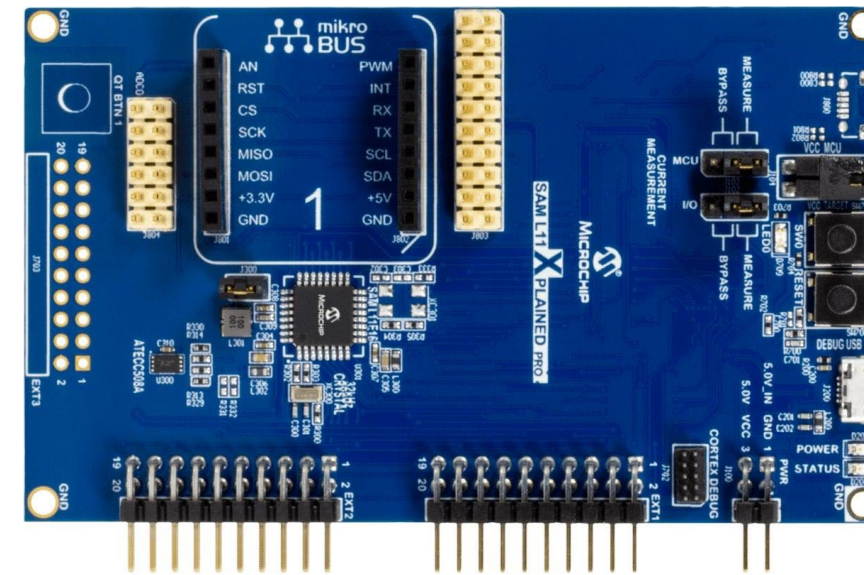
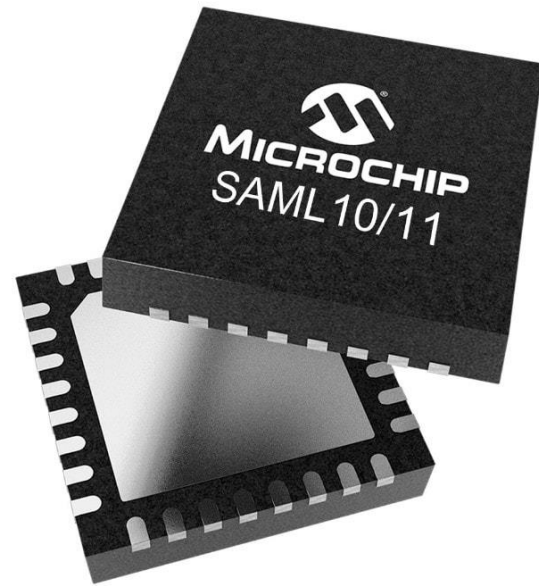
arm Cortex-M23 plus on-chip security for the IoT

June 25, 2018, 12:30 am | Frank Riemenschneider

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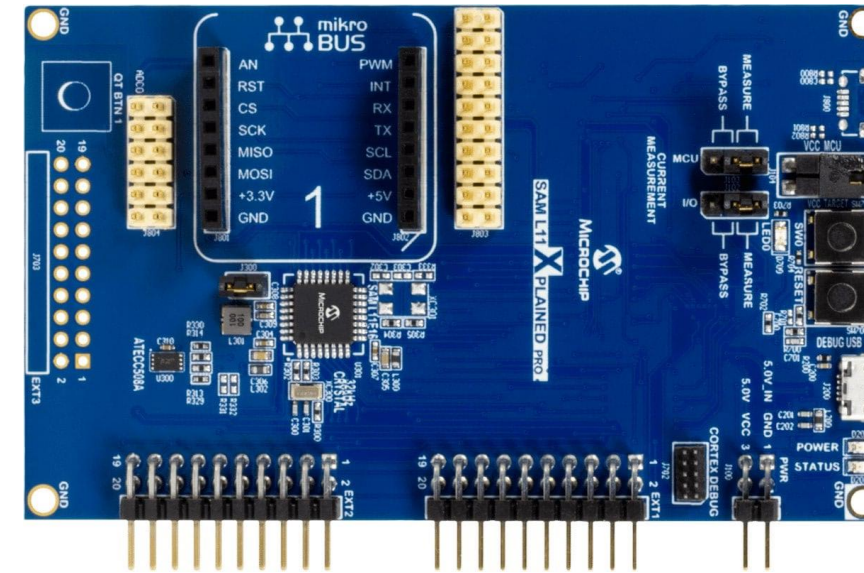
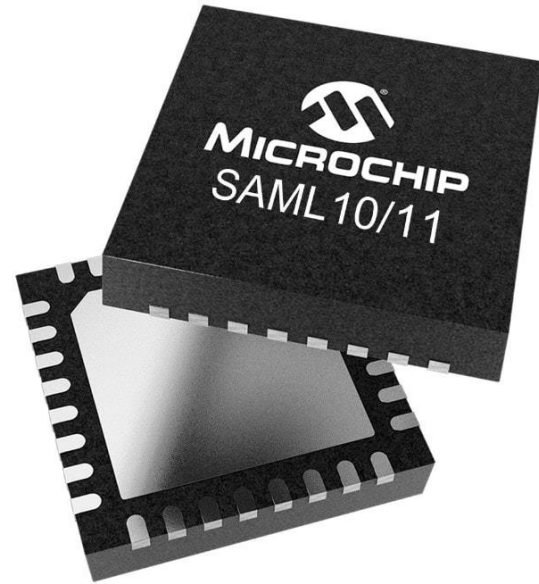
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Overview

The SAML11 Xplained Pro evaluation kit is ideal for evaluating and prototyping with the ultra low power SAML11 ARM® Cortex®-M23 based microcontrollers integrating robust security which includes ARM® TrustZone®, secure boot, crypto acceleration, secure key storage and chip-level tamper detection. In addition to security the SAM L11 MCU features general purpose embedded control capabilities with enhanced peripheral touch controller and advanced analog.

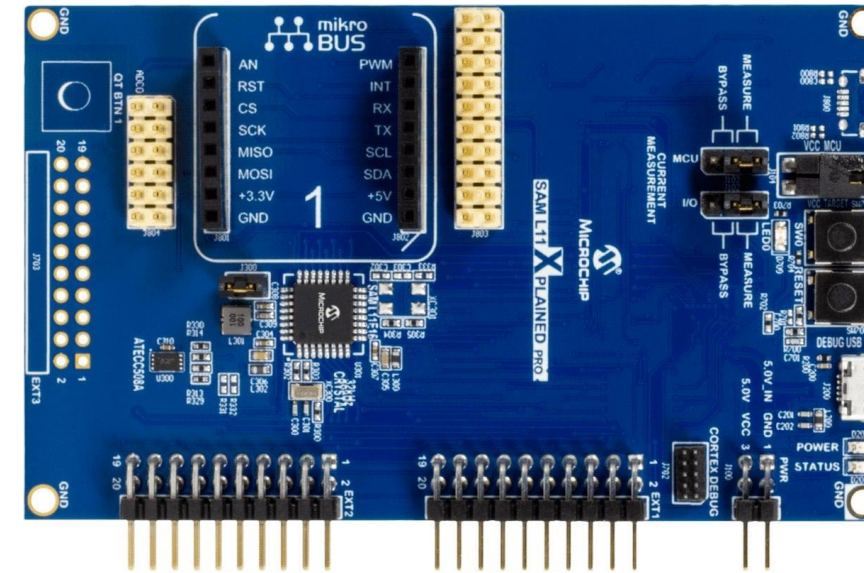
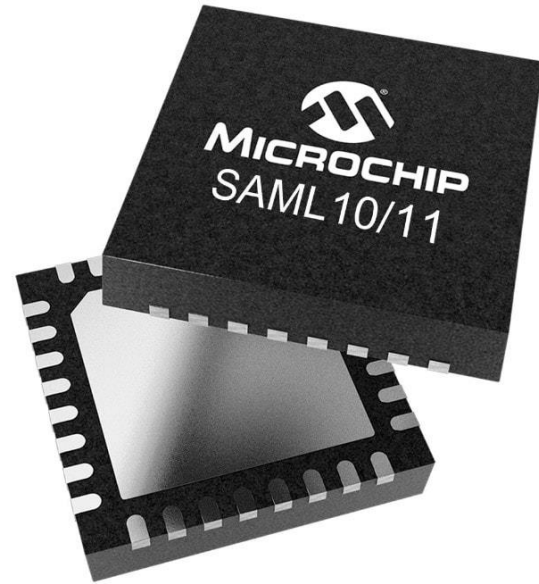
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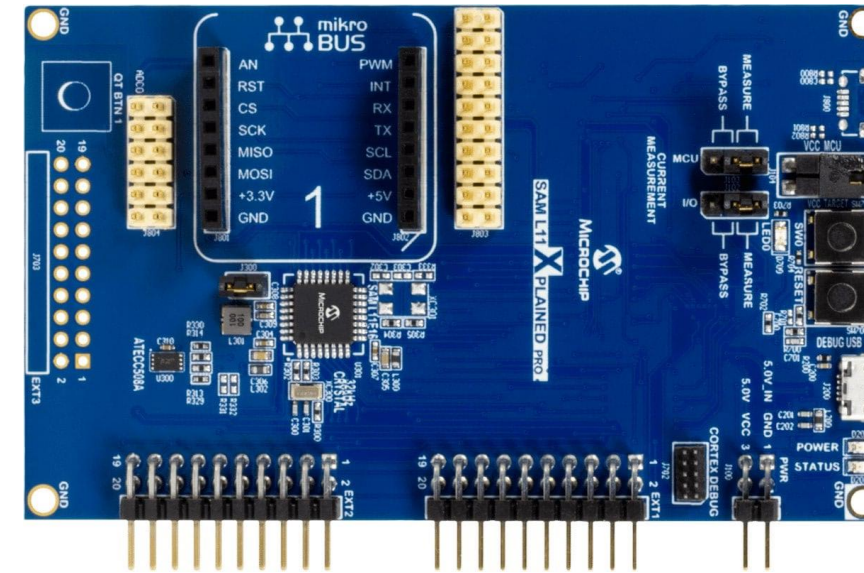
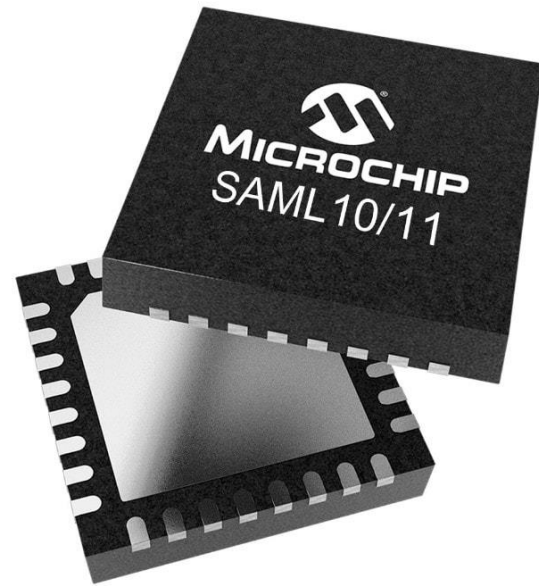
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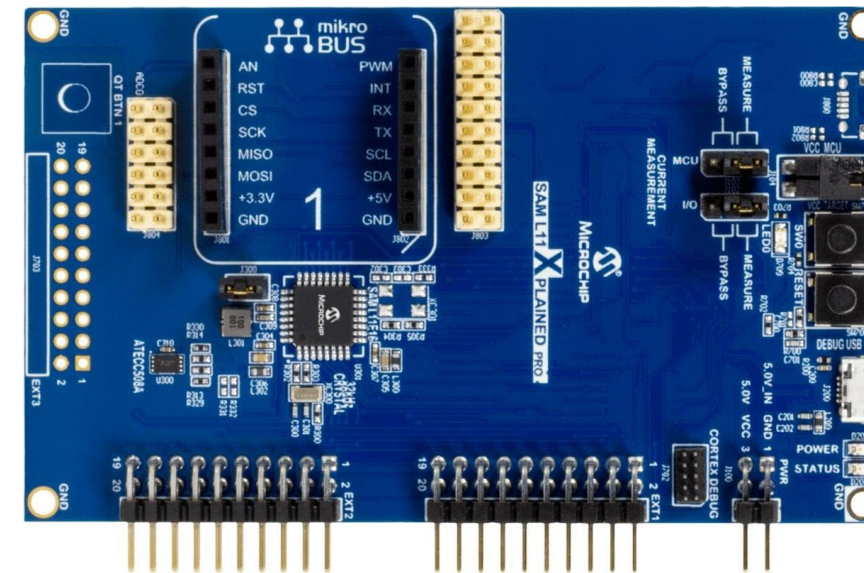
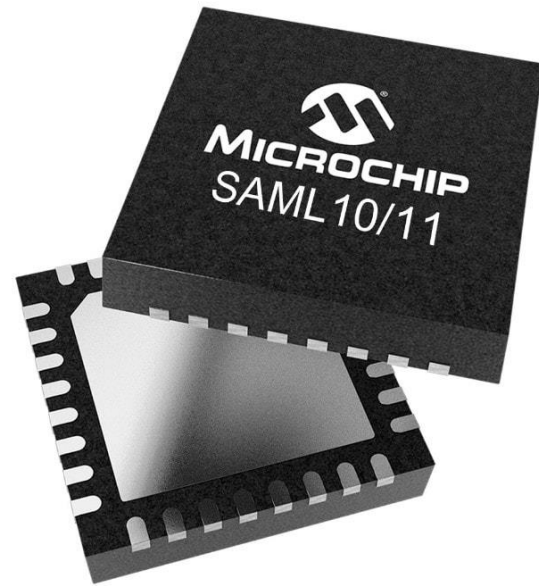
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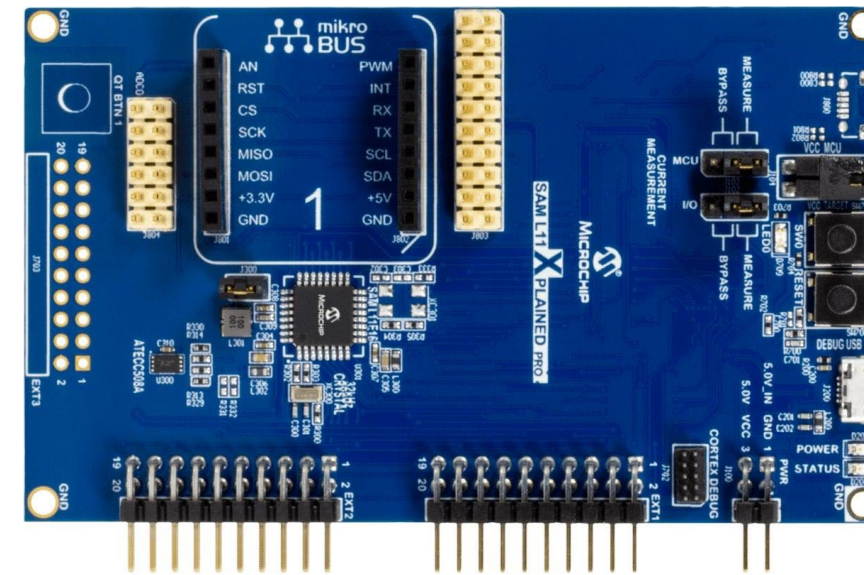
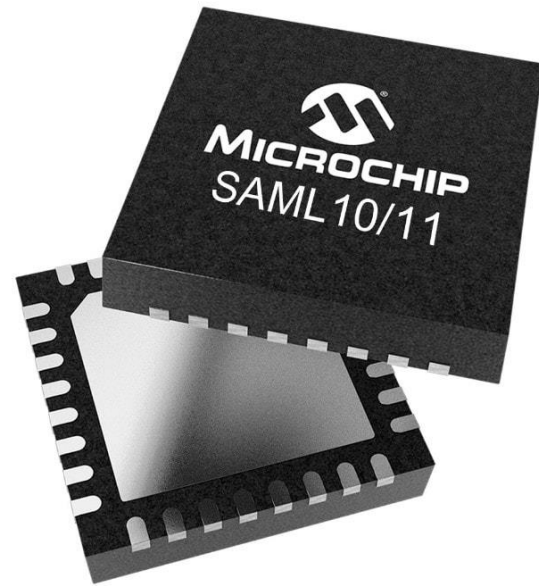
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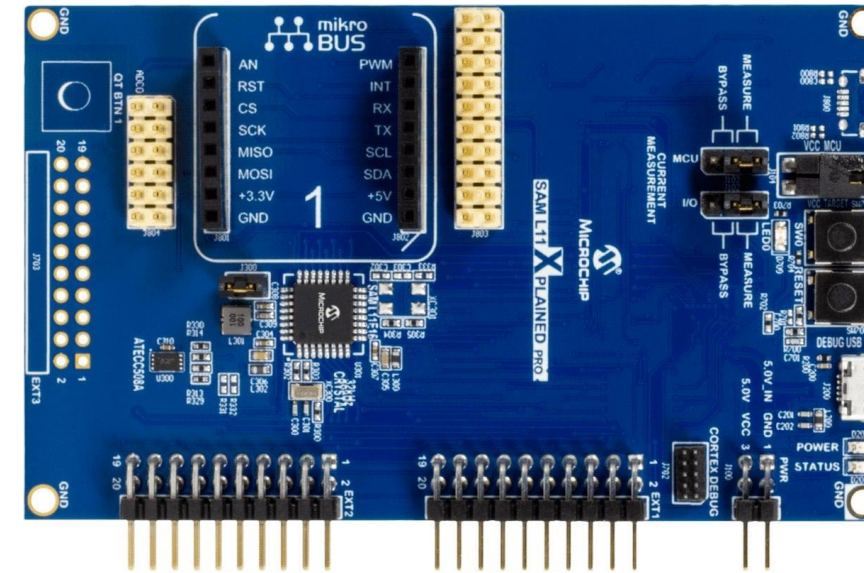
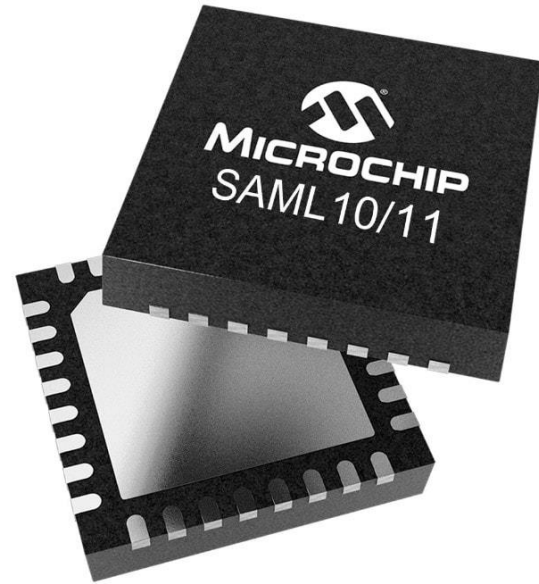
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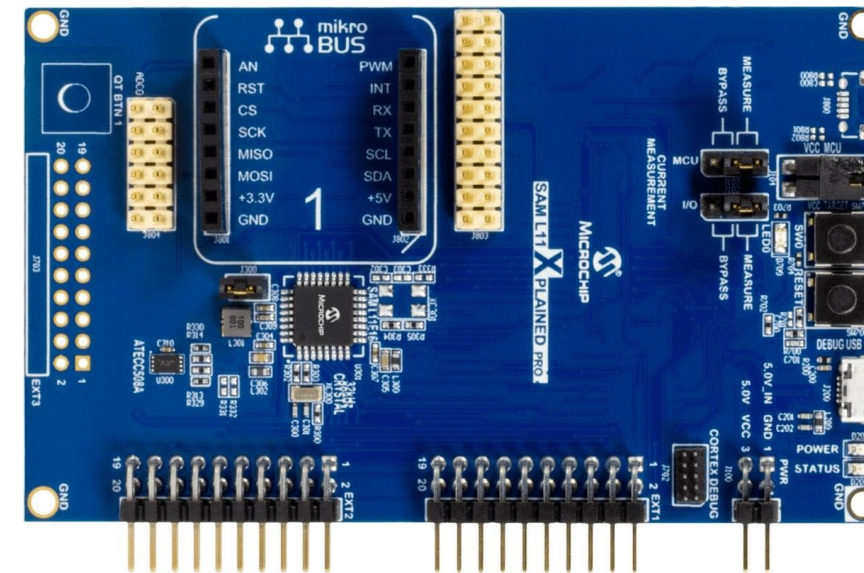
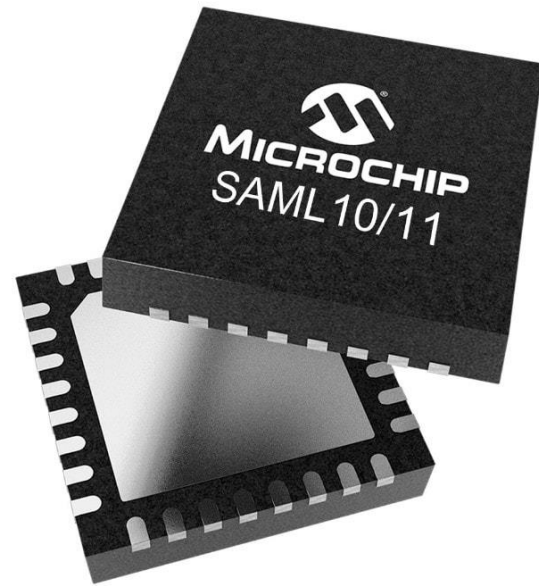
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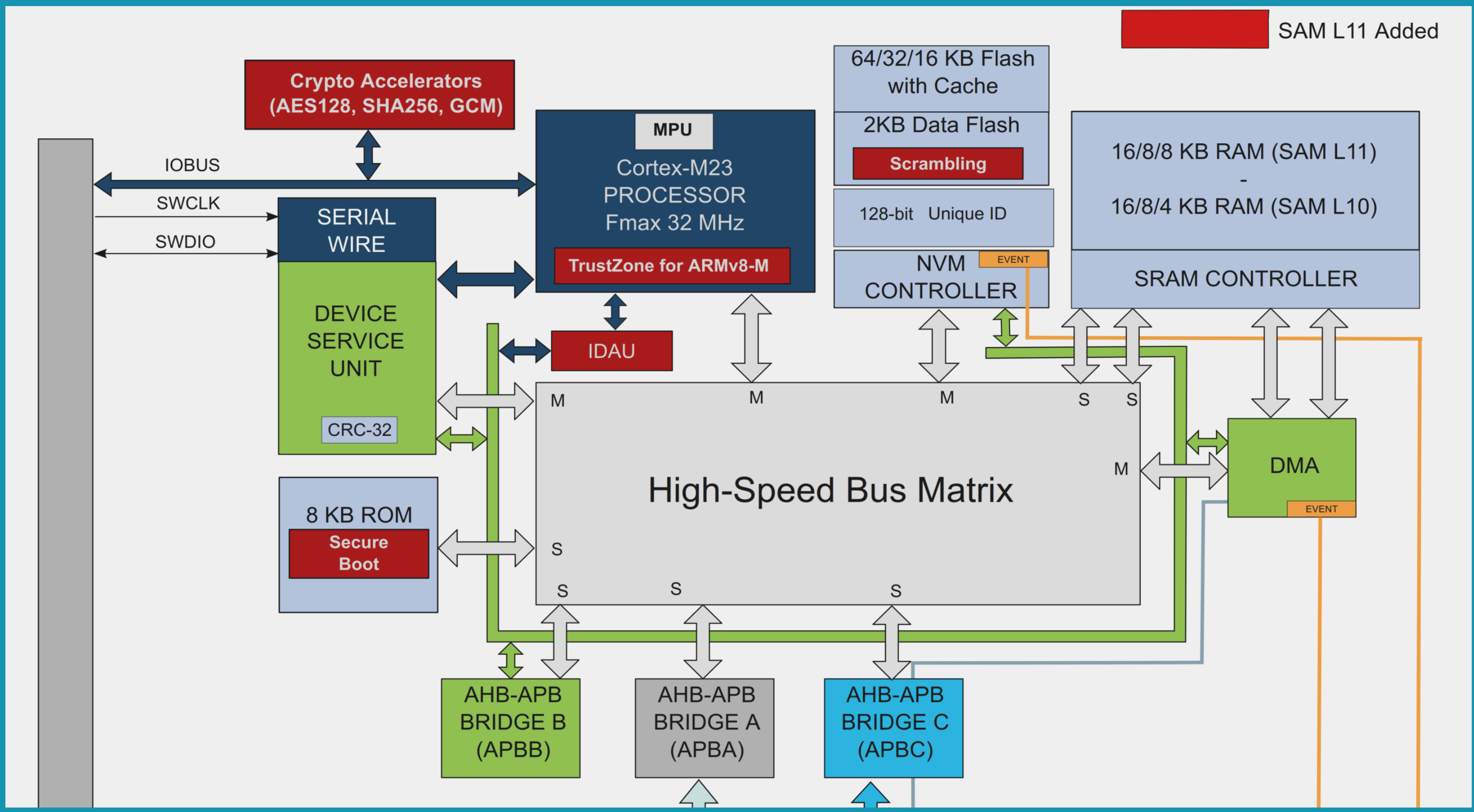
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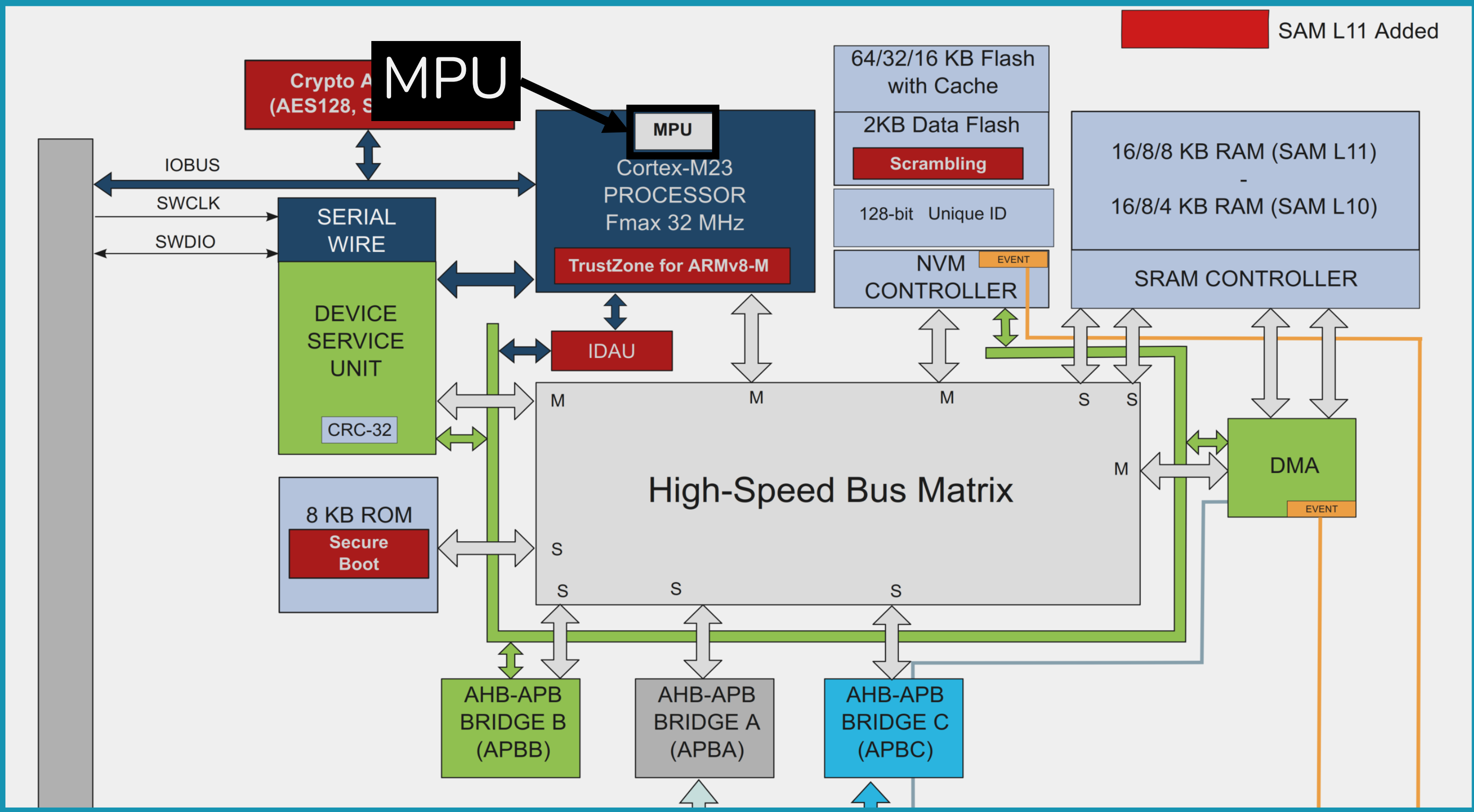


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Pag. 17 - Microchip. SAM L10/L11 Family Data Sheet. Tech. rep. Microchip, June 2020.



SAM L11 Added

MPU

Crypto A
(AES128, S)

MPU

Cortex-M23
PROCESSOR
Fmax 32 MHz
TrustZone for ARMv8-M

64/32/16 KB Flash
with Cache

2KB Data Flash
Scrambling

128-bit Unique ID

NVM
CONTROLLER

16/8/8 KB RAM (SAM L11)
-
16/8/4 KB RAM (SAM L10)
SRAM CONTROLLER

IOBUS

SWCLK

SWDIO

SERIAL
WIRE

DEVICE
SERVICE
UNIT

CRC-32

8 KB ROM

Secure
Boot

IDAU

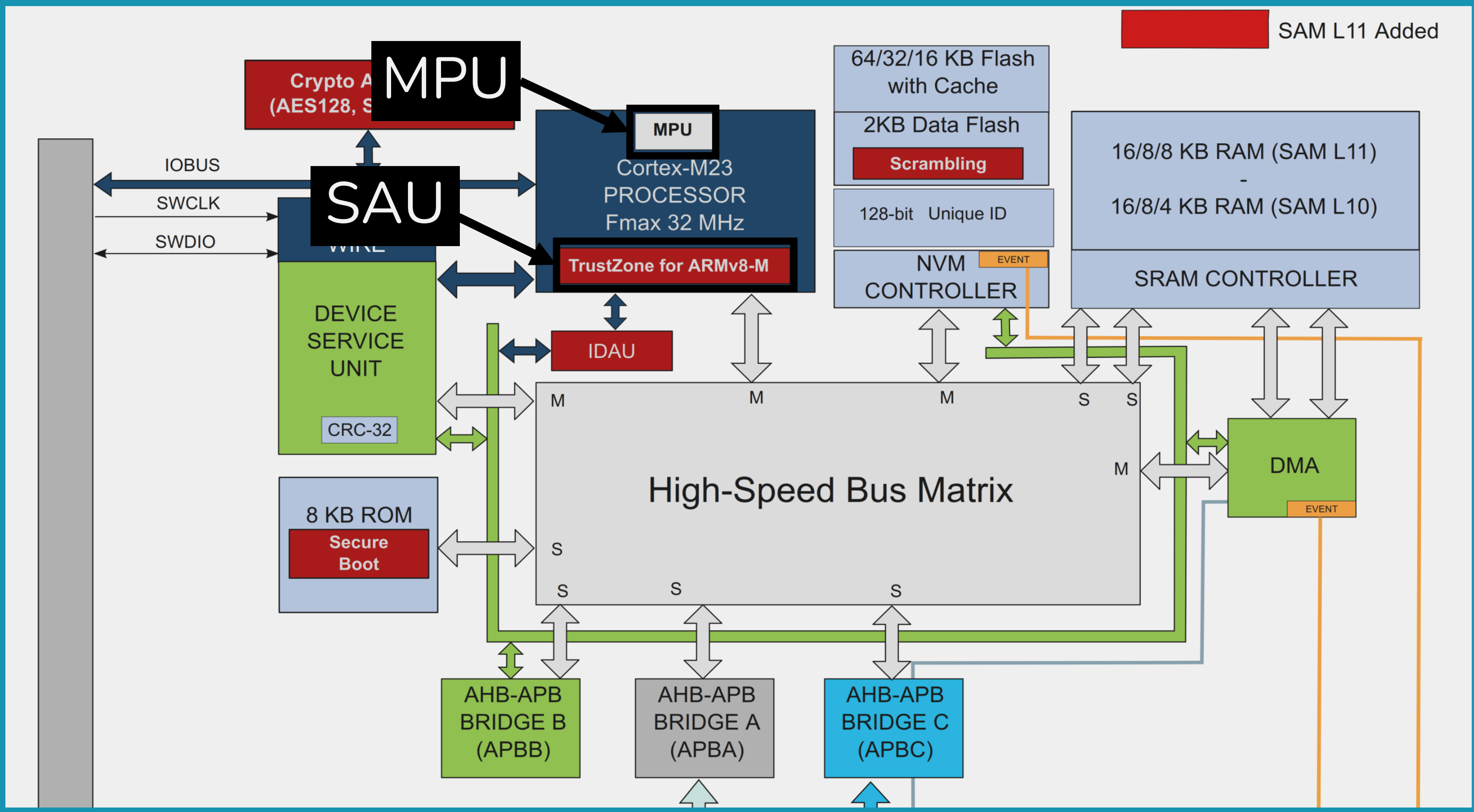
High-Speed Bus Matrix

DMA

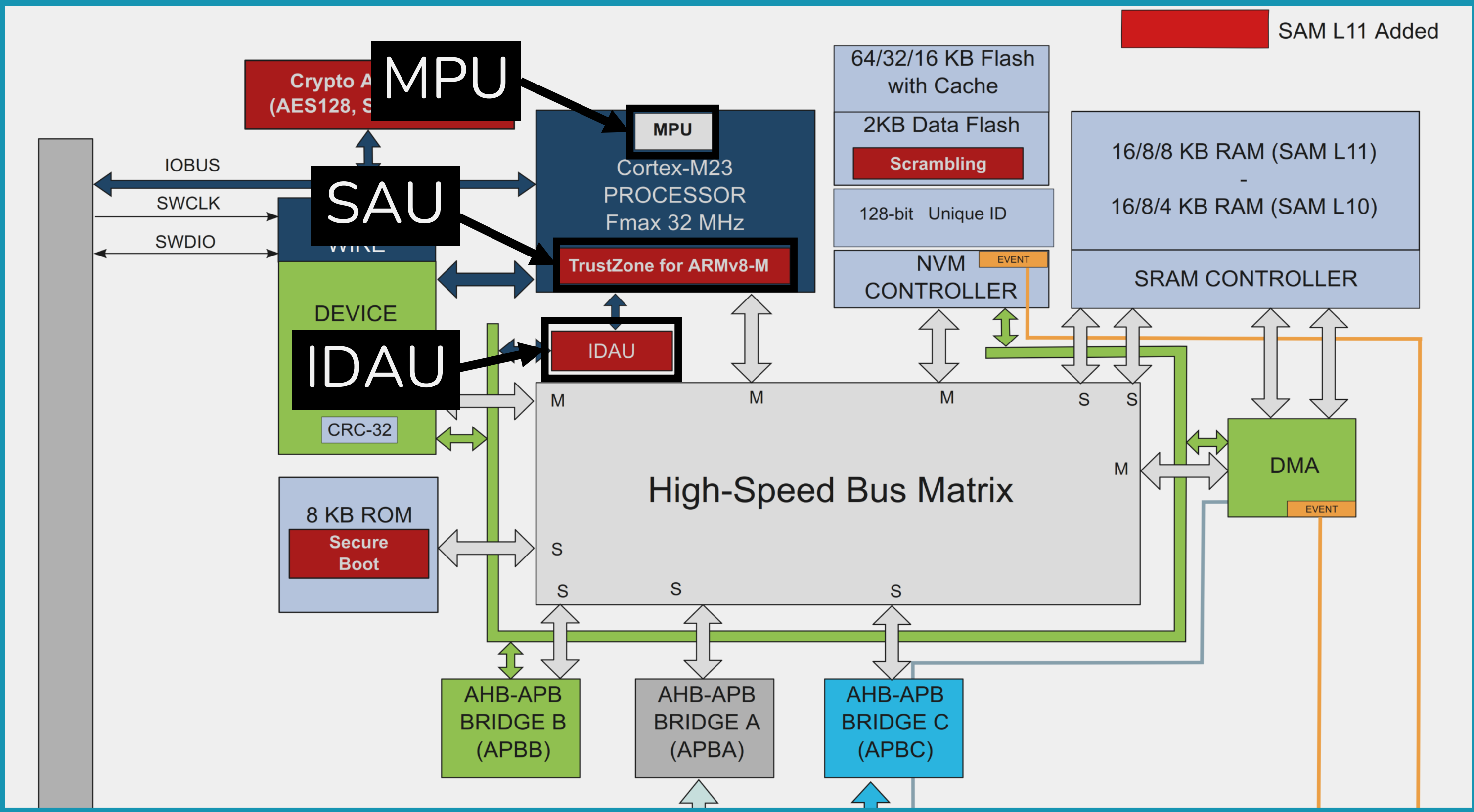
AHB-APB
BRIDGE B
(APBB)

AHB-APB
BRIDGE A
(APBA)

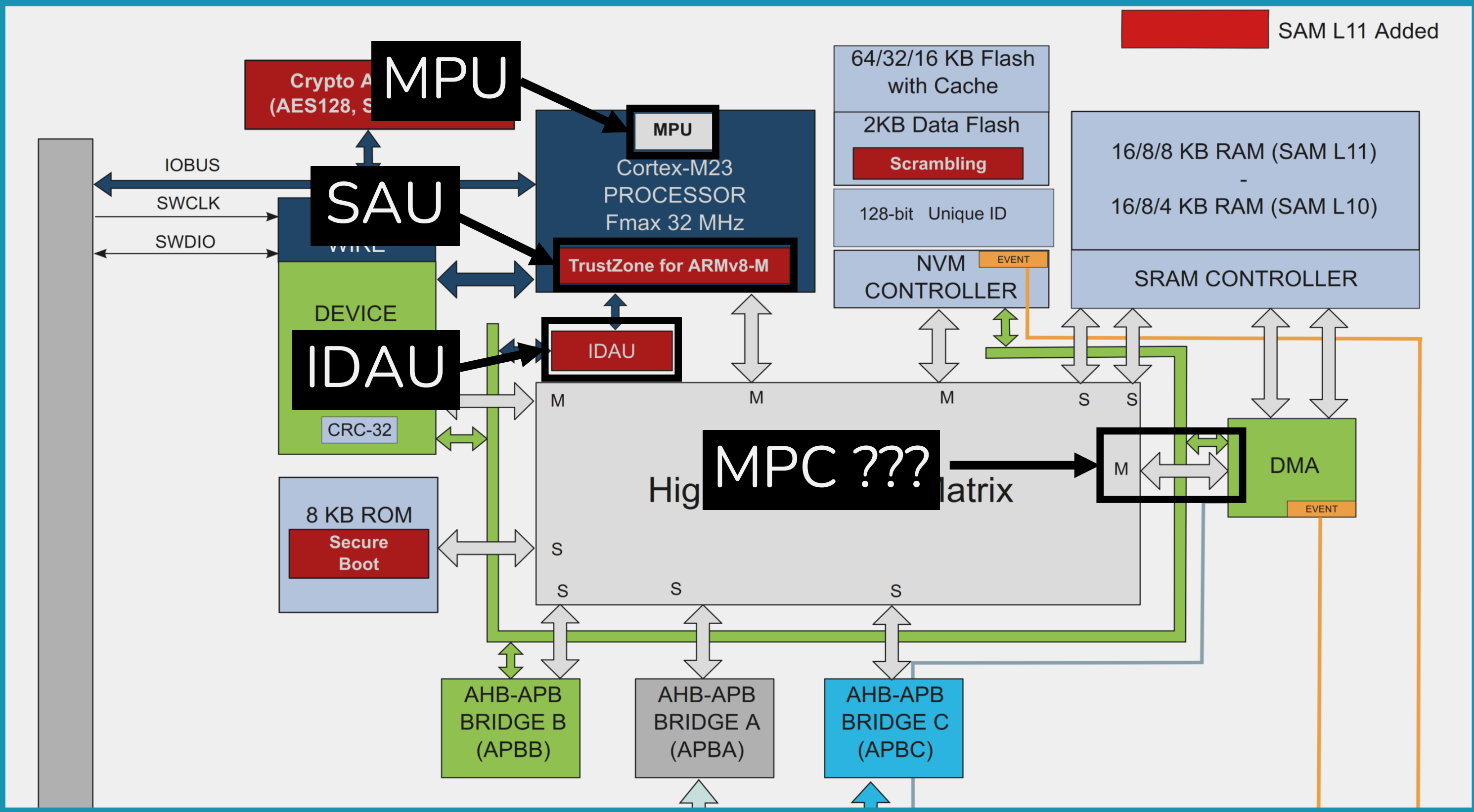
AHB-APB
BRIDGE C
(APBC)



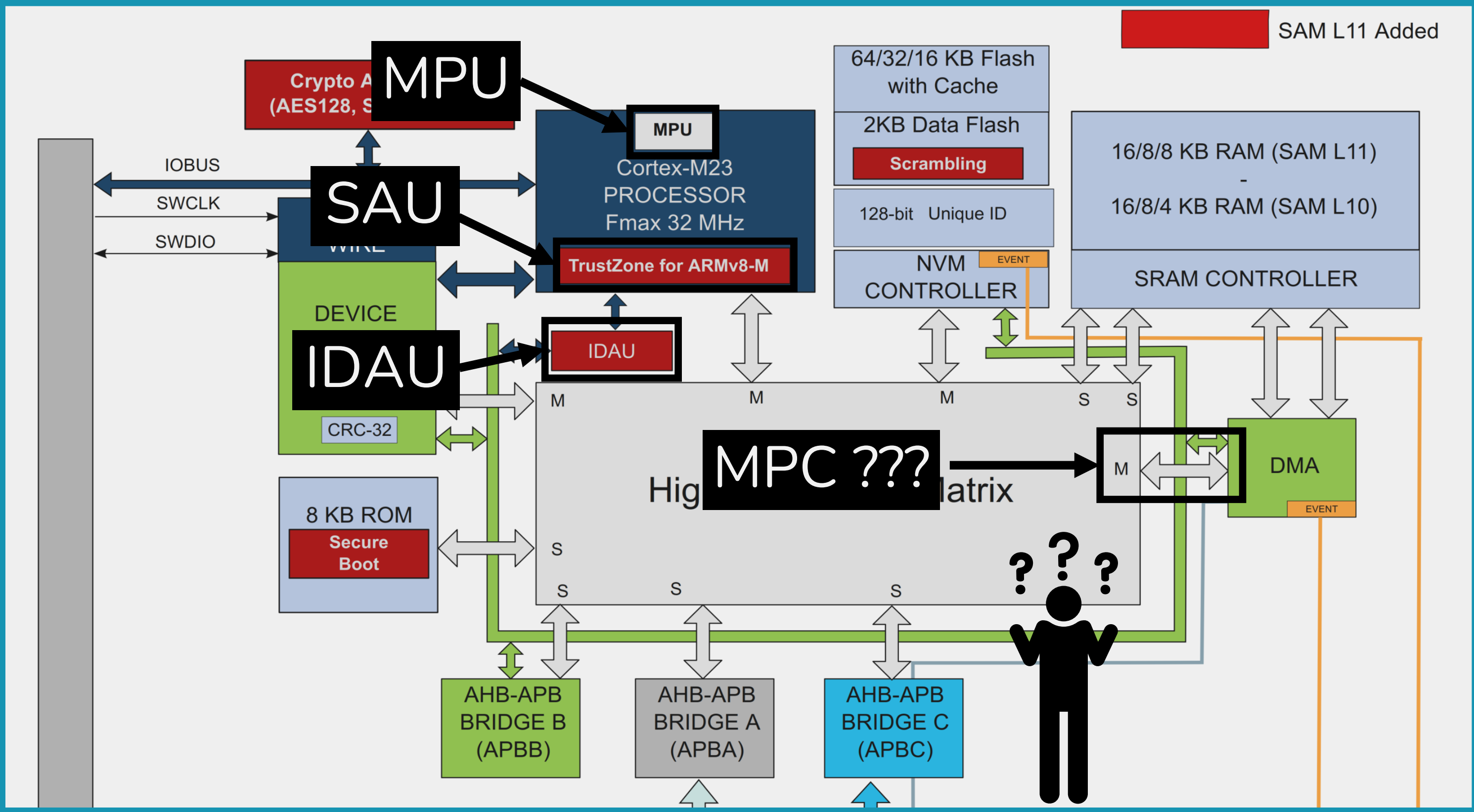
Pag. 17 - Microchip. SAM L10/L11 Family Data Sheet. Tech. rep. Microchip, June 2020.



Pag. 17 - Microchip. SAM L10/L11 Family Data Sheet. Tech. rep. Microchip, June 2020.



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SAM L11 Added

Pag. 17 - Microchip. SAM L10/L11 Family Data Sheet. Tech. rep. Microchip, June 2020.

13. SAM L11 Specific Security Features

This chapter provides an overview of the security features which are specific to the SAM L11.

13.1 Features

SAM L11-specific security features can be divided into two main categories.

The first category relates to the ARM TrustZone for Cortex-M technology features:

- Flexible hardware isolation of memories and peripherals:
 - Up to six regions for the Flash
 - Up to two regions for the Data Flash
 - Up to two regions for the SRAM
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13. SAM L11 Specific **Security Features**

This chapter provides an overview of the security features which are specific to the SAM L11.

13.1 Features

SAM L11-specific security features can be divided into two main categories.

The first category relates to the ARM TrustZone for Cortex-M technology features:

- Flexible hardware isolation of memories and peripherals:
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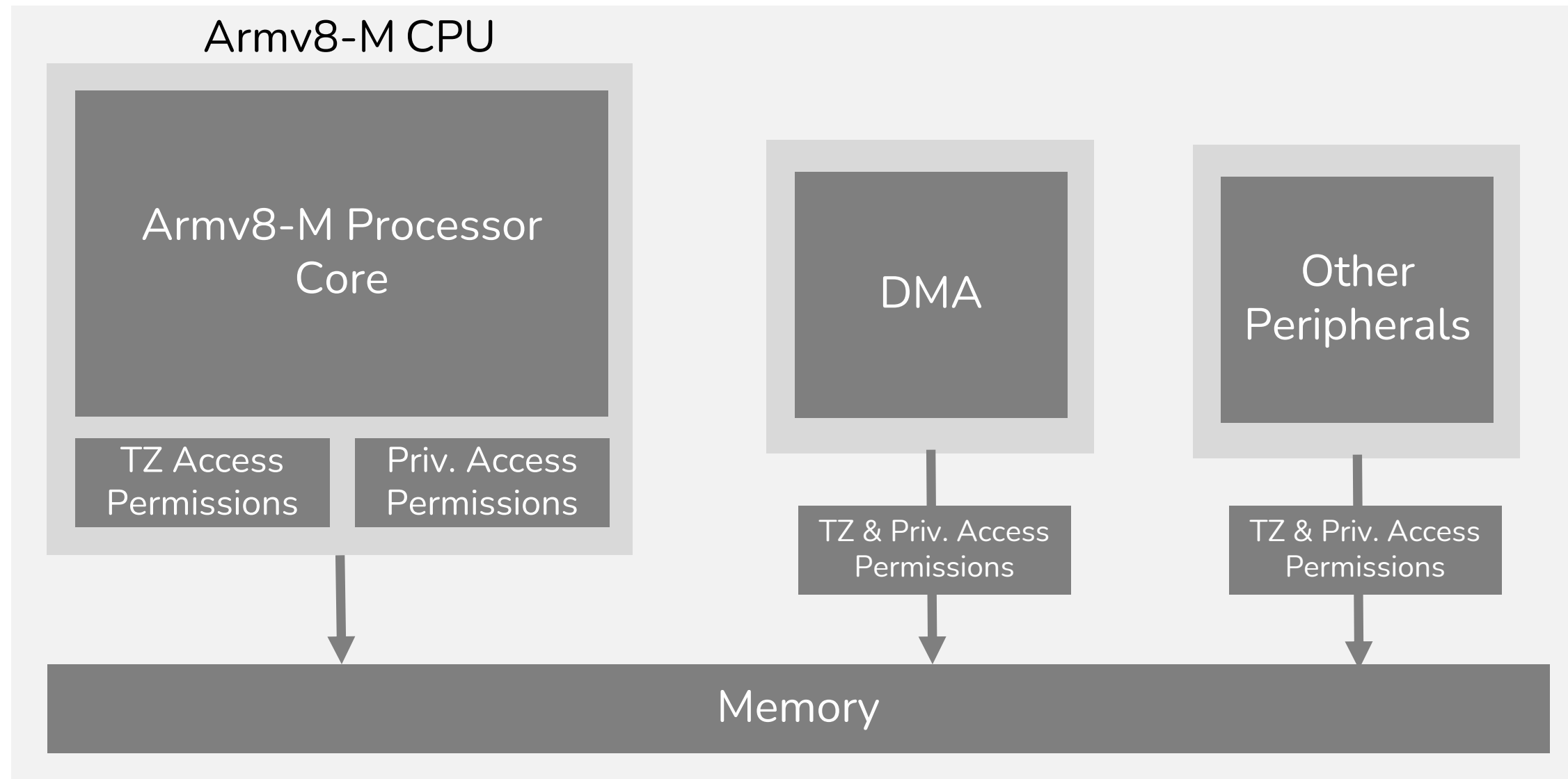
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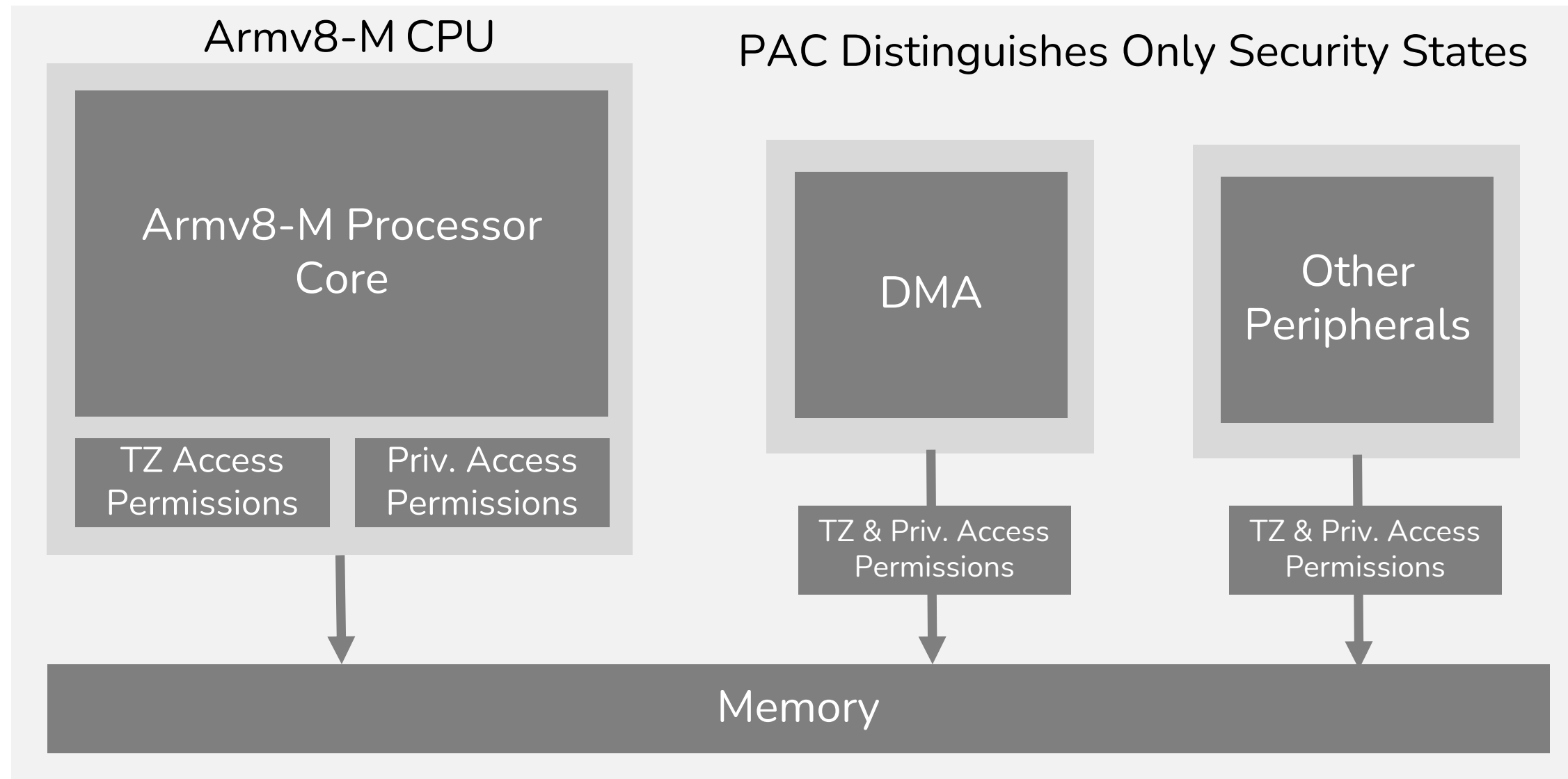
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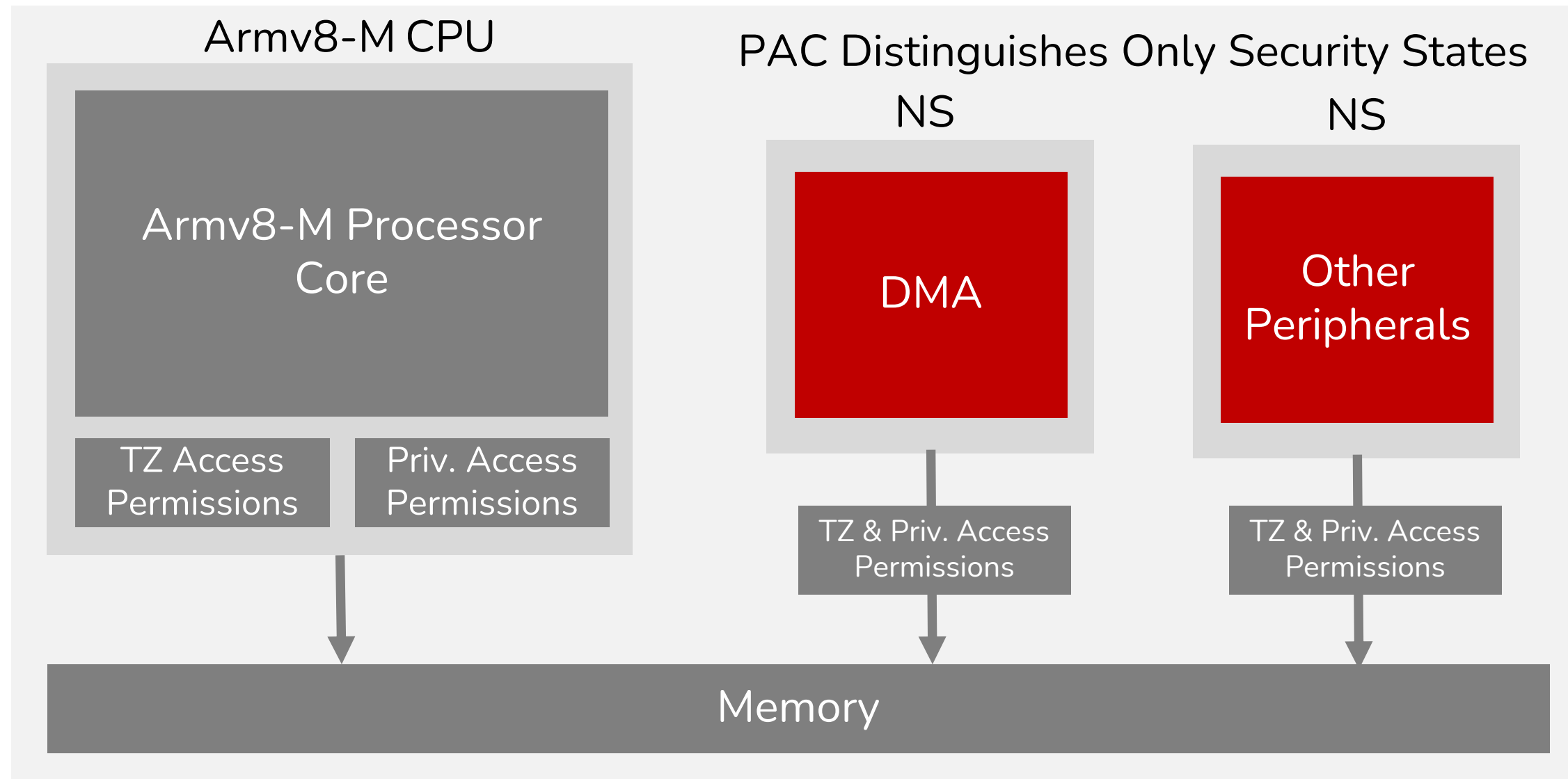
SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



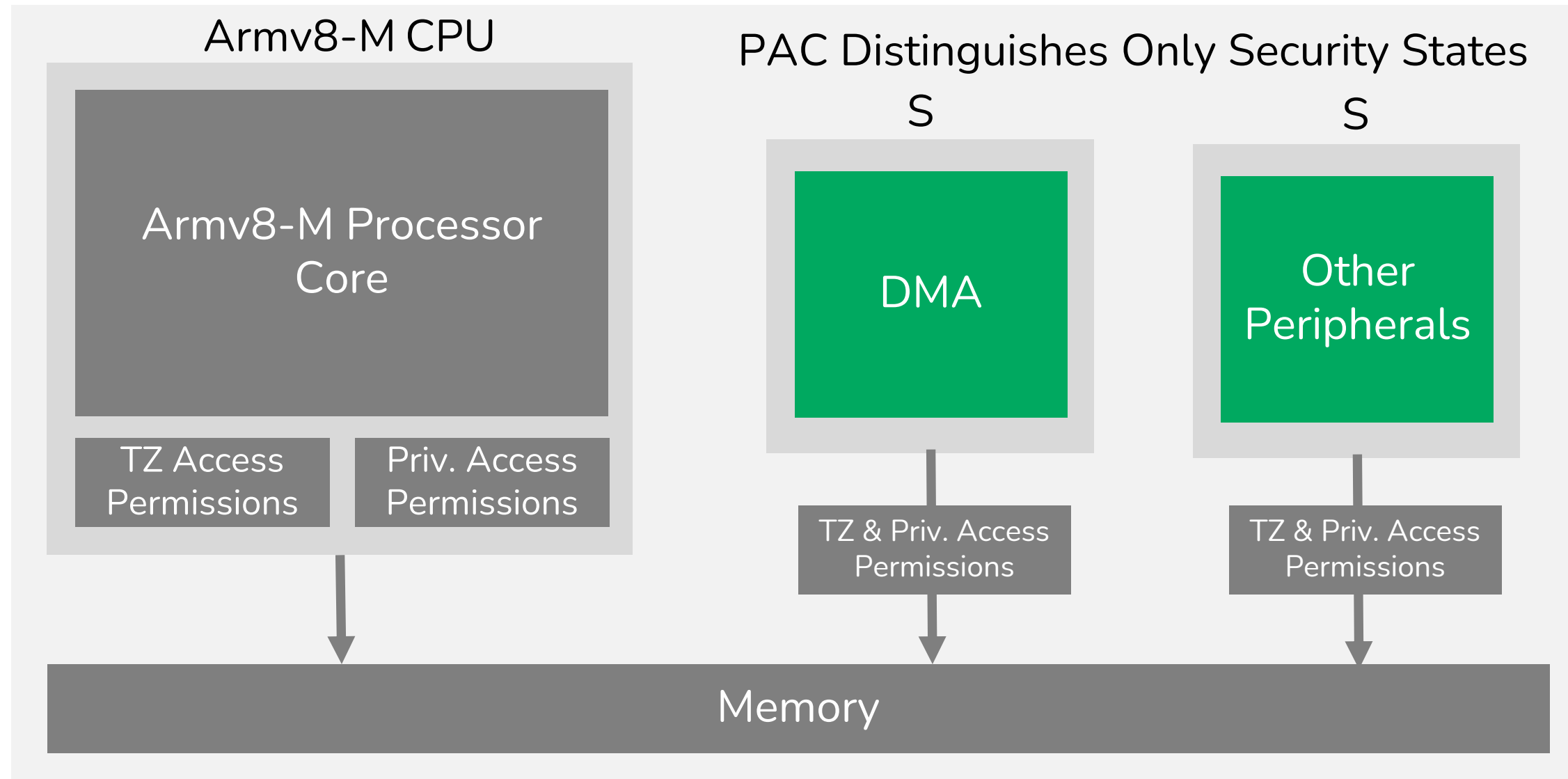
SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



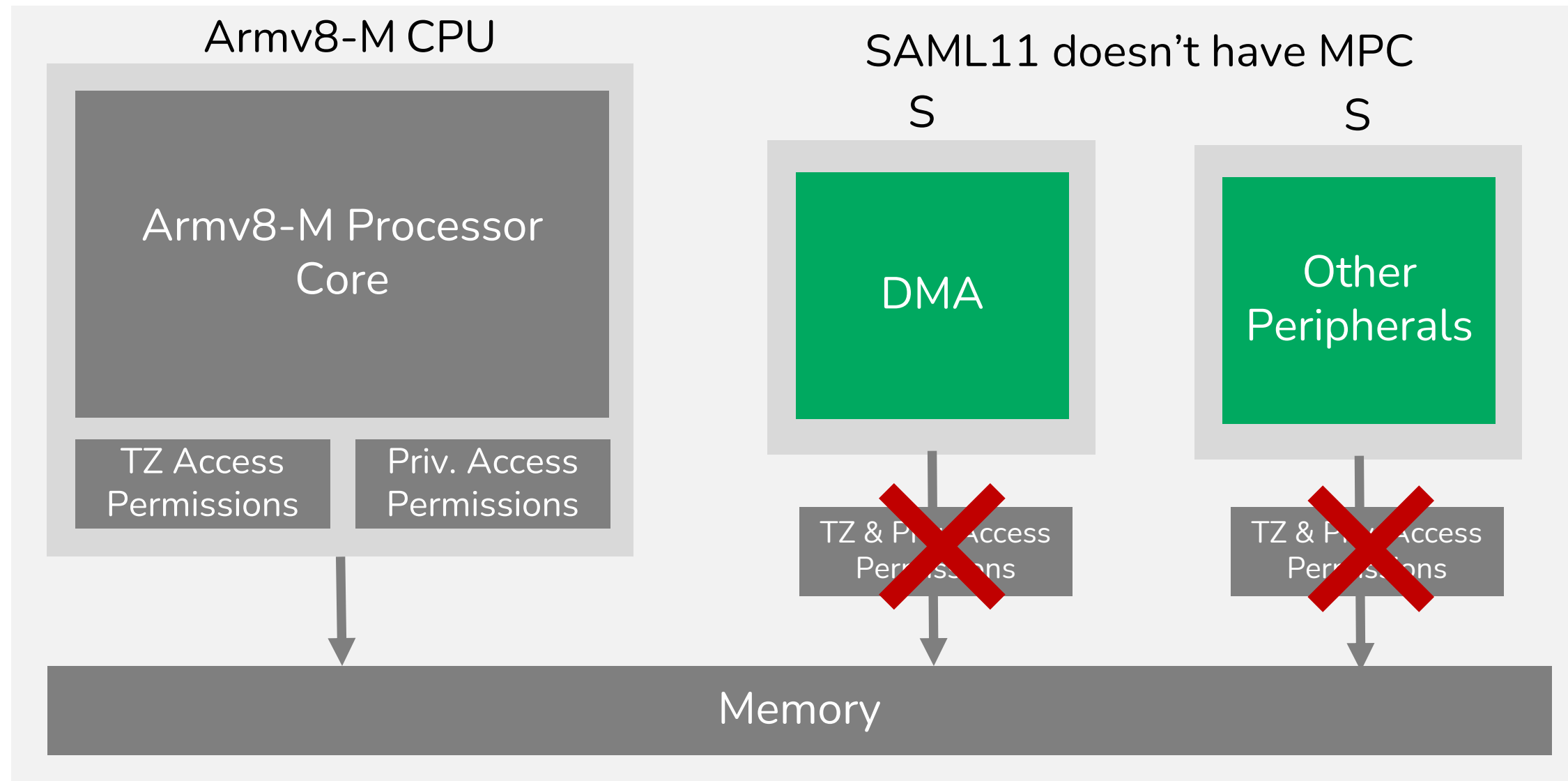
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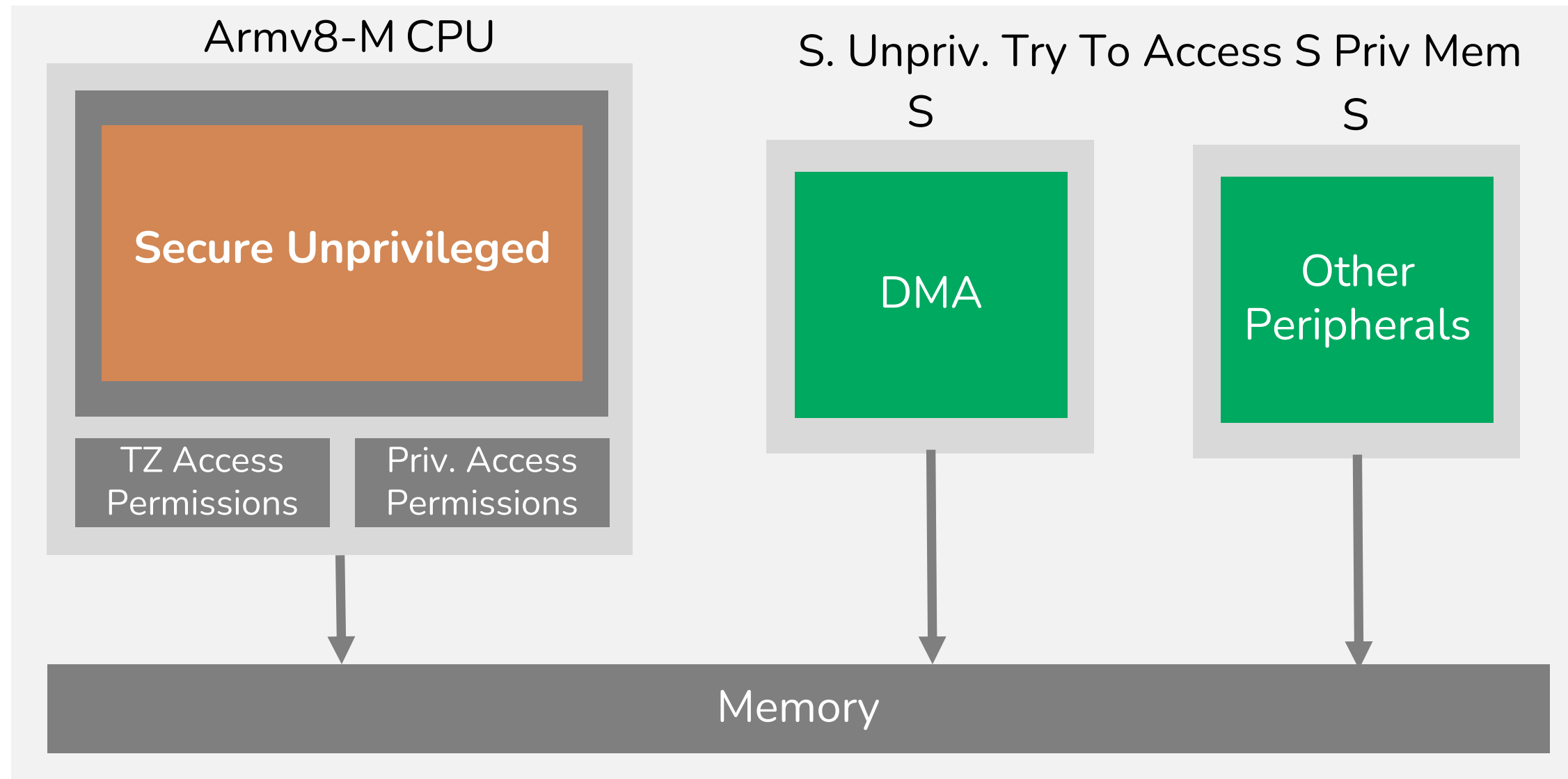
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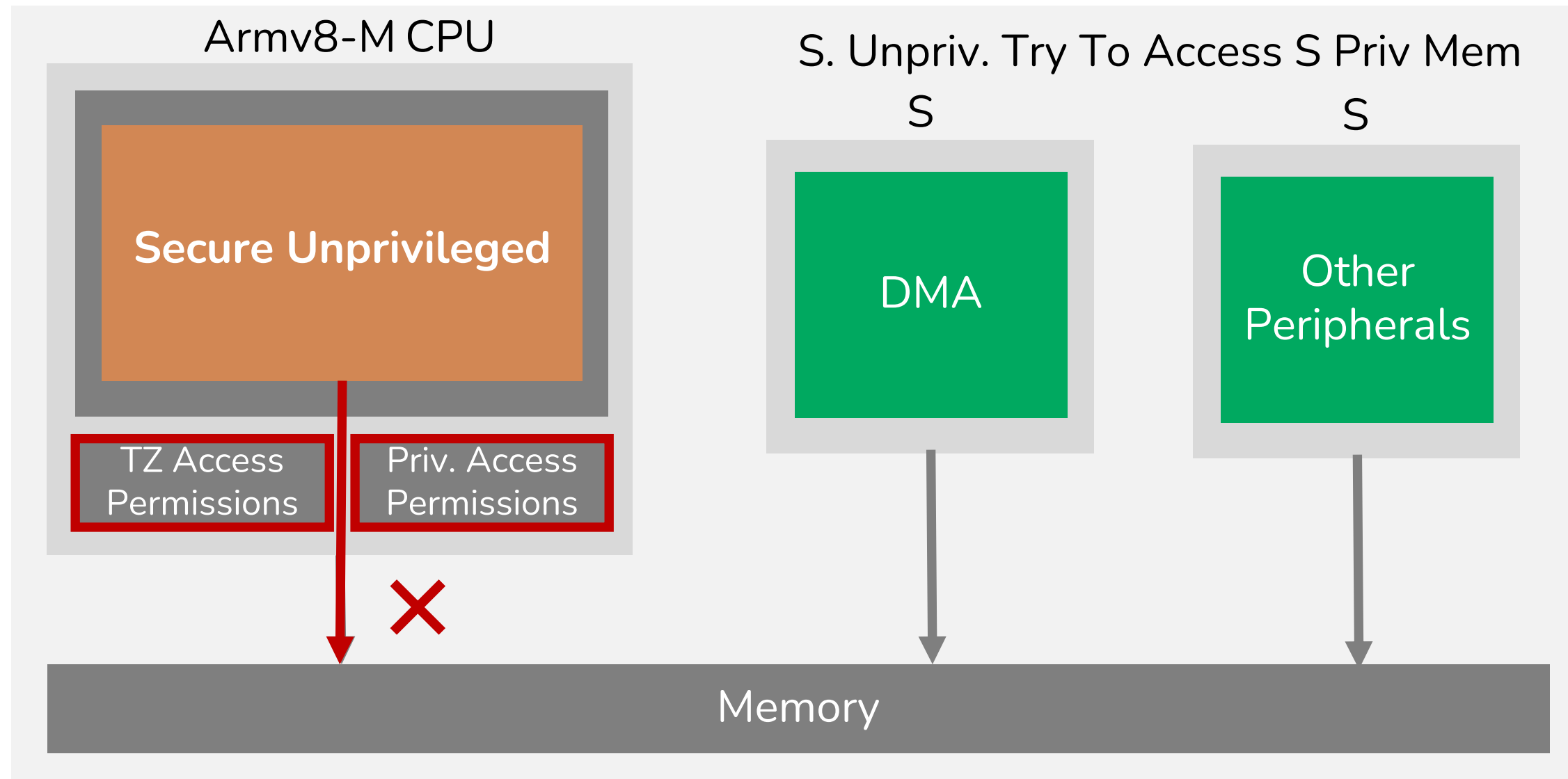
SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



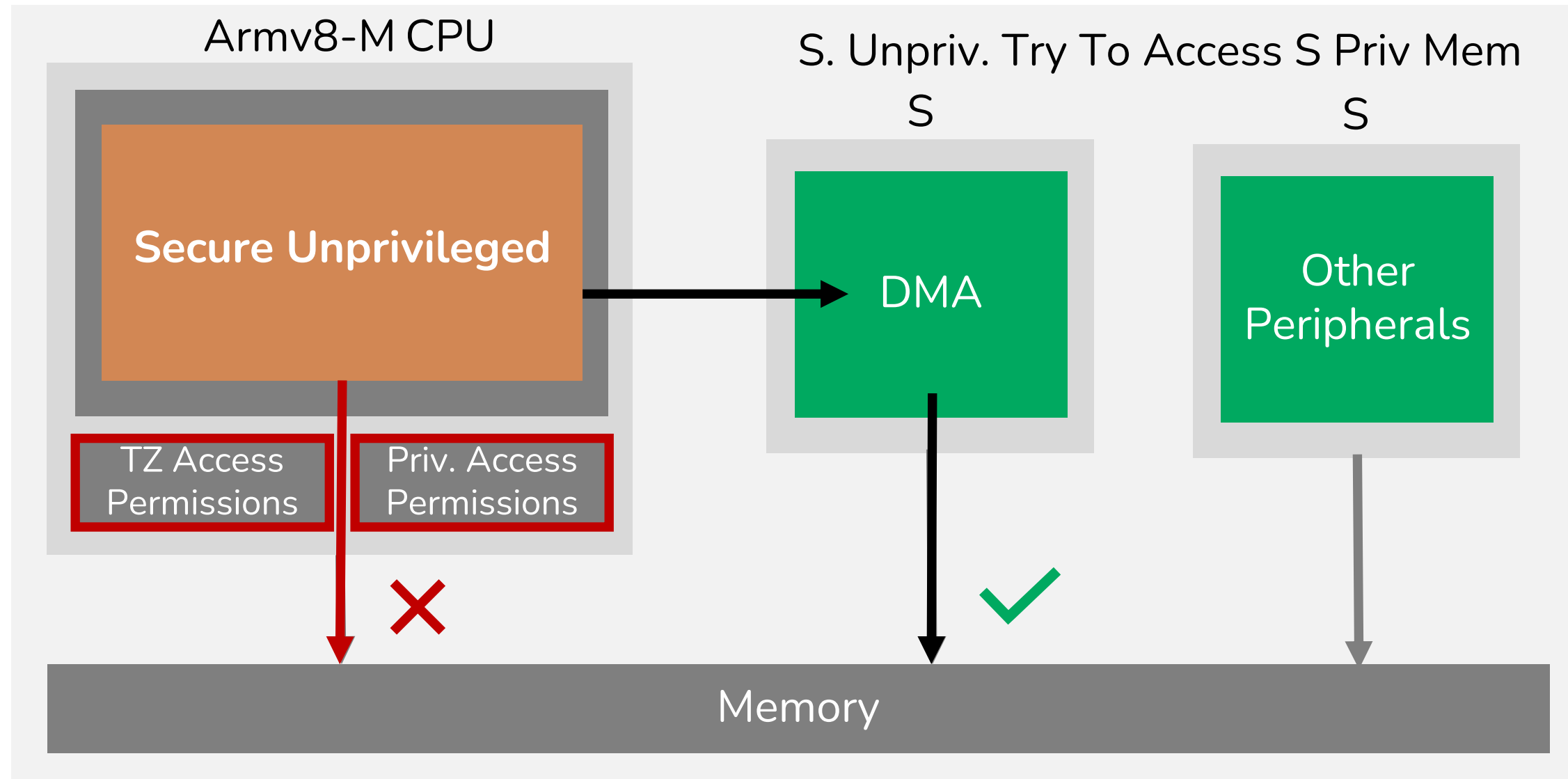
SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



PSA Certification

SAML11

PSA Certification

SAML11

SILICON

SAML11-KPH



PSA Certification

SAML11

SILICON

SAML11-KPH



PSA Certification

SAML11

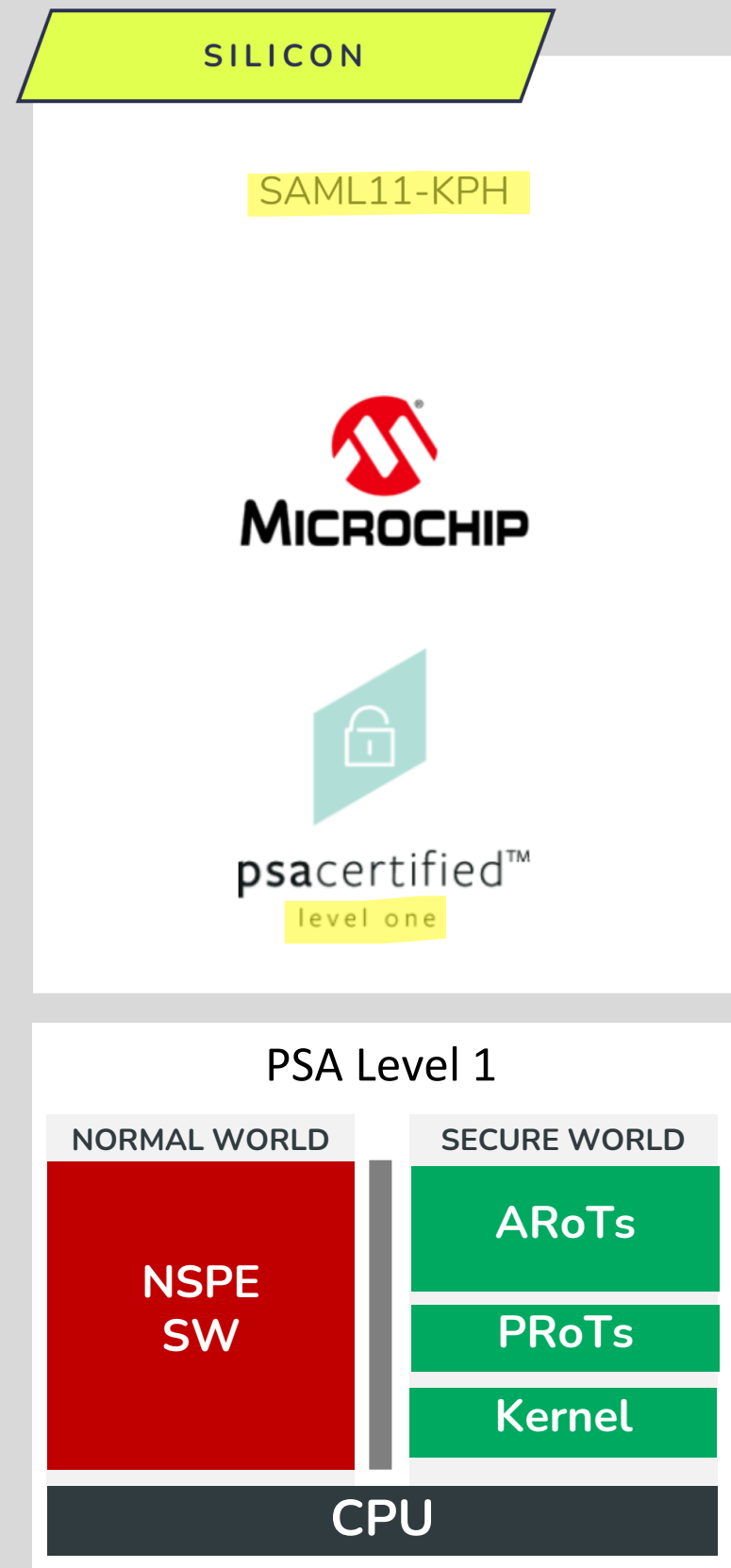
SILICON

SAML11-KPH



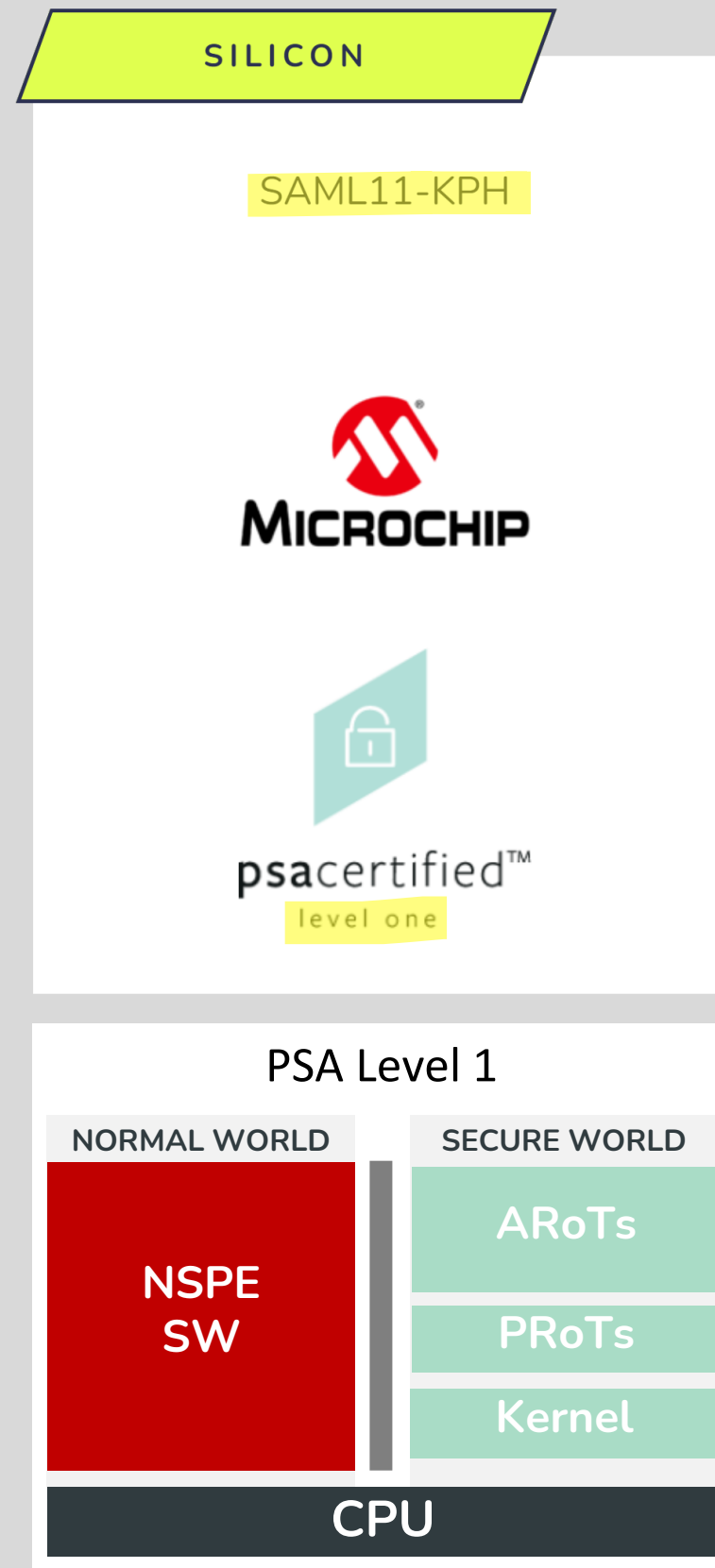
PSA Certification

SAML11



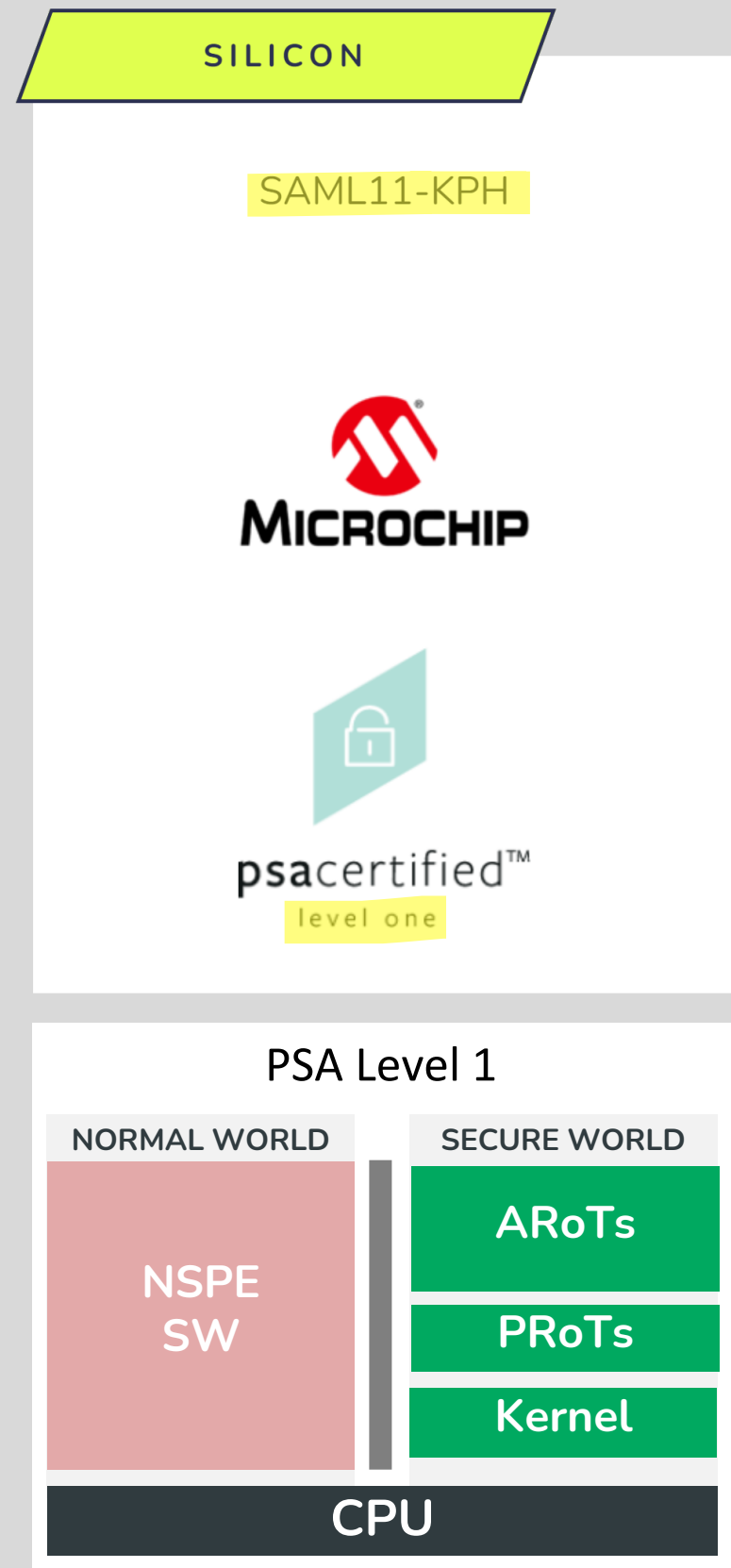
PSA Certification

SAML11



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SAML11





PSA Certification

SAML11 + Kinibi-M

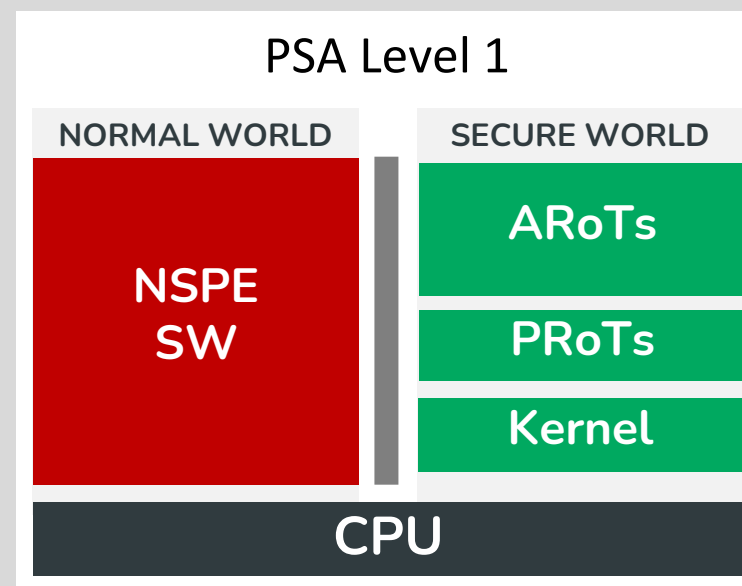
SILICON

SAML11-KPH



SILICON

SAM L11-KPH with Kinibi-M v1.0





PSA Certification

SAML11 + Kinibi-M

SILICON

SAML11-KPH



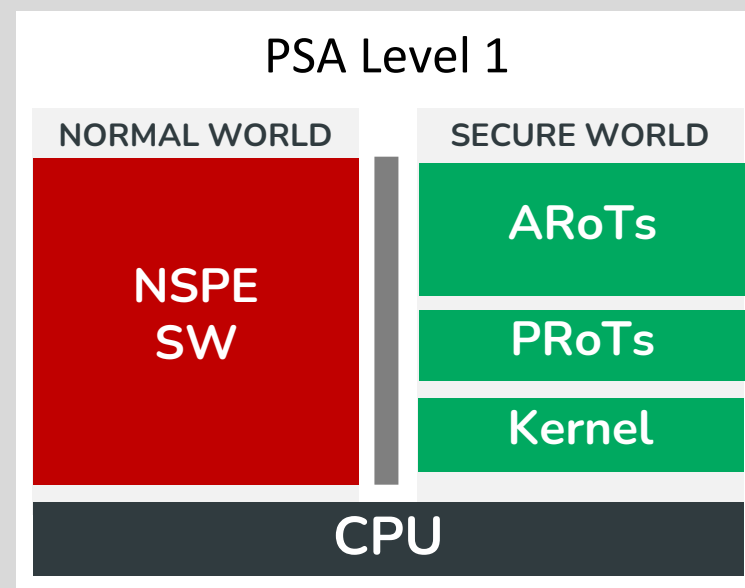
psacertified™
level one

SILICON

SAM L11-KPH with Kinibi-M v1.0



psacertified™
level two | ready





PSA Certification

SAML11 + Kinibi-M

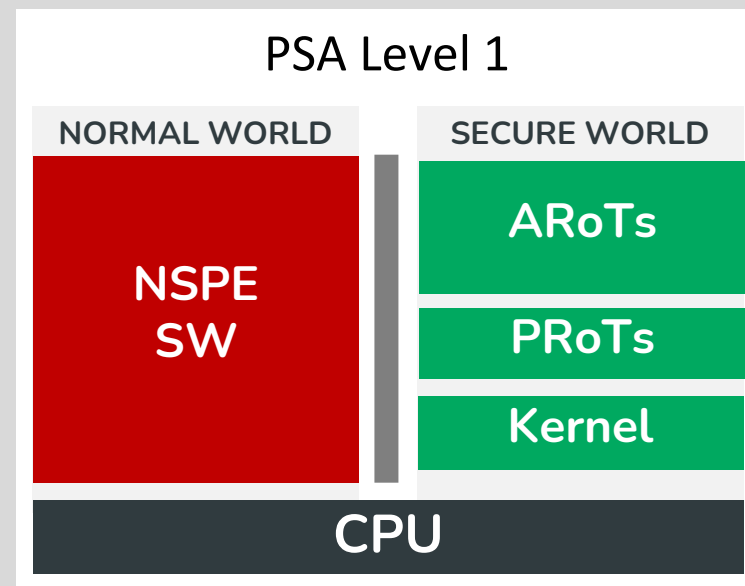
SILICON

SAML11-KPH



SILICON

SAM L11-KPH with Kinibi-M v1.0





PSA Certification

SAML11 +
Kinibi-M

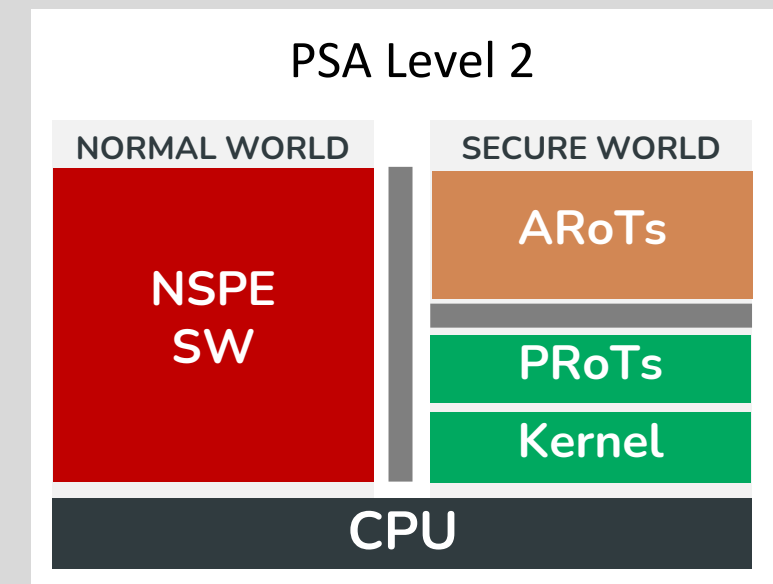
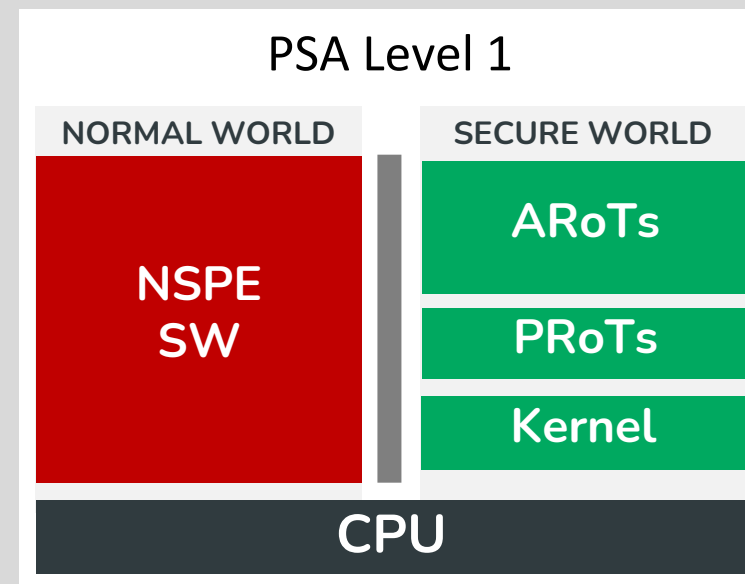
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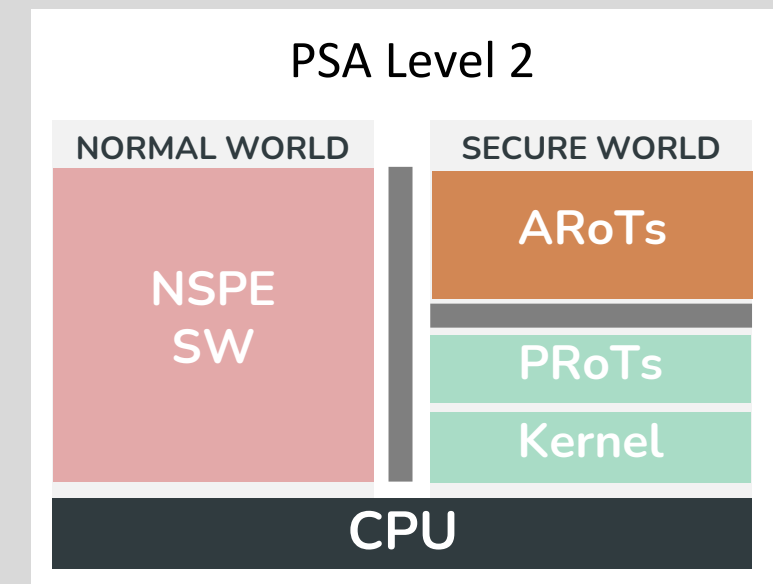
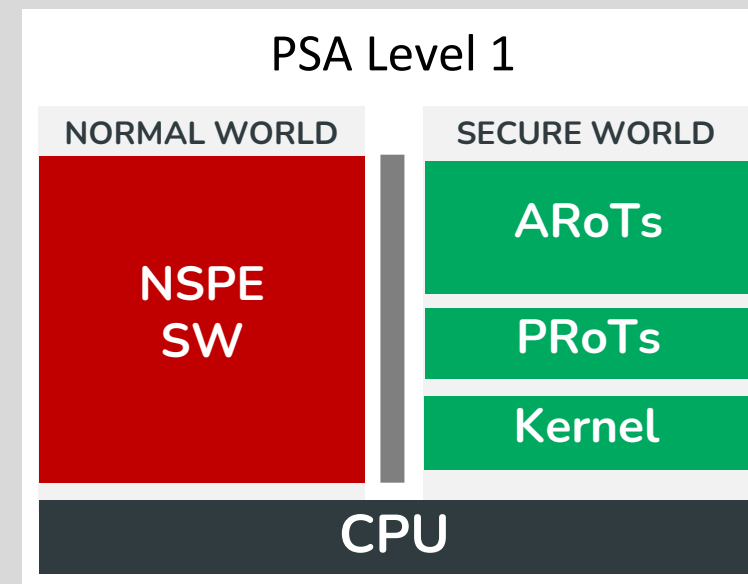
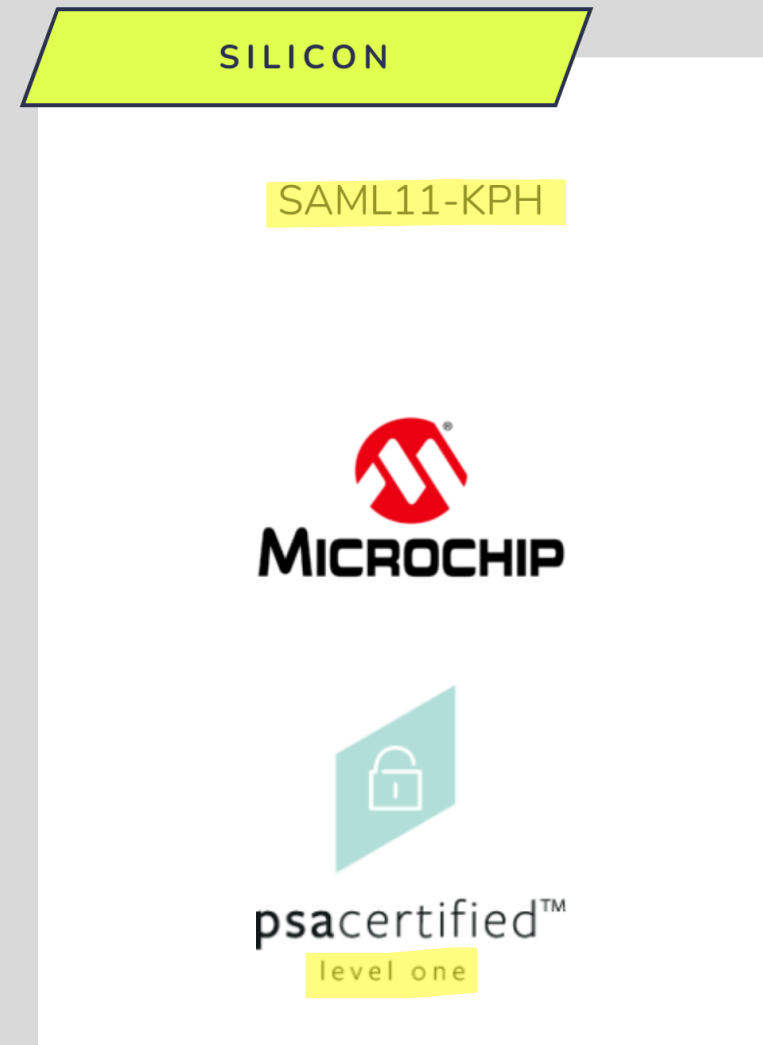
SILICON

SAM L11-KPH with Kinibi-M v1.0



PSA Certification

SAML11 +
Kinibi-M





PSA Certification

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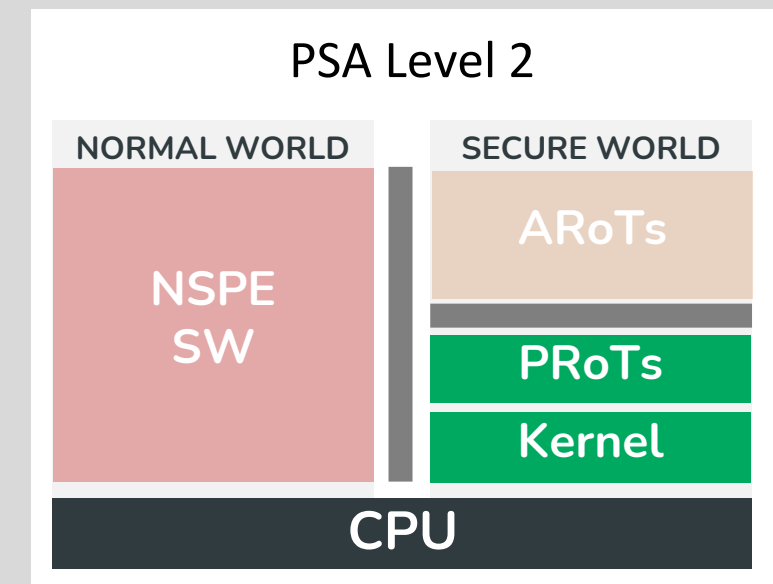
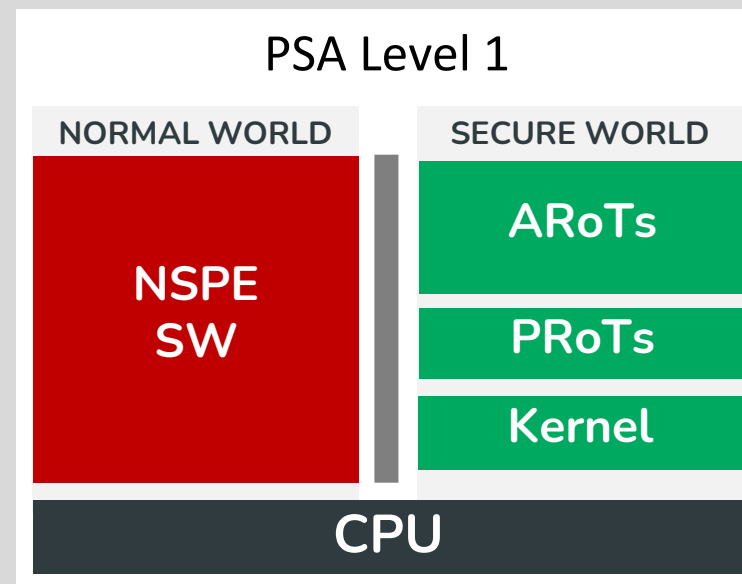
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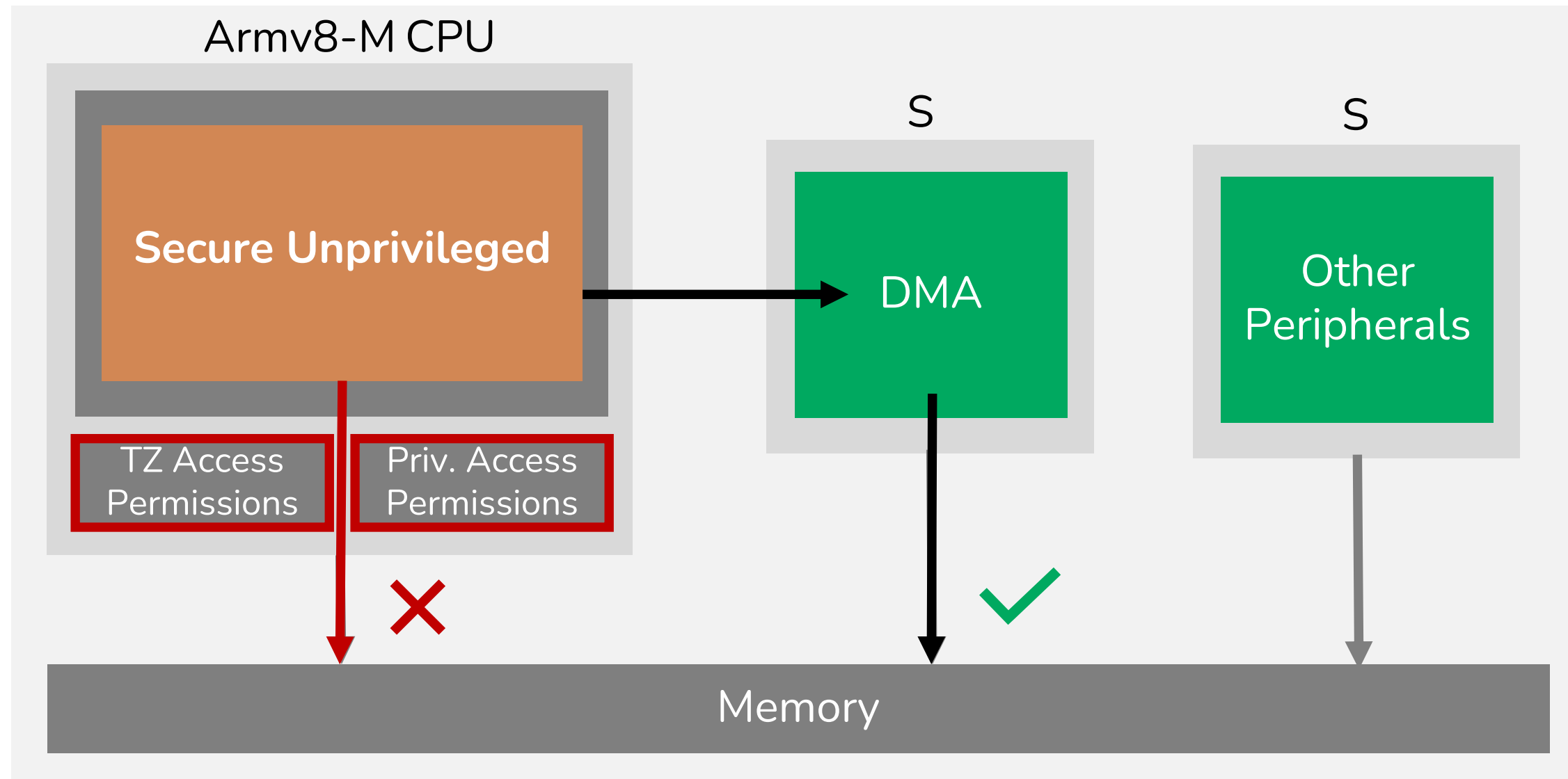


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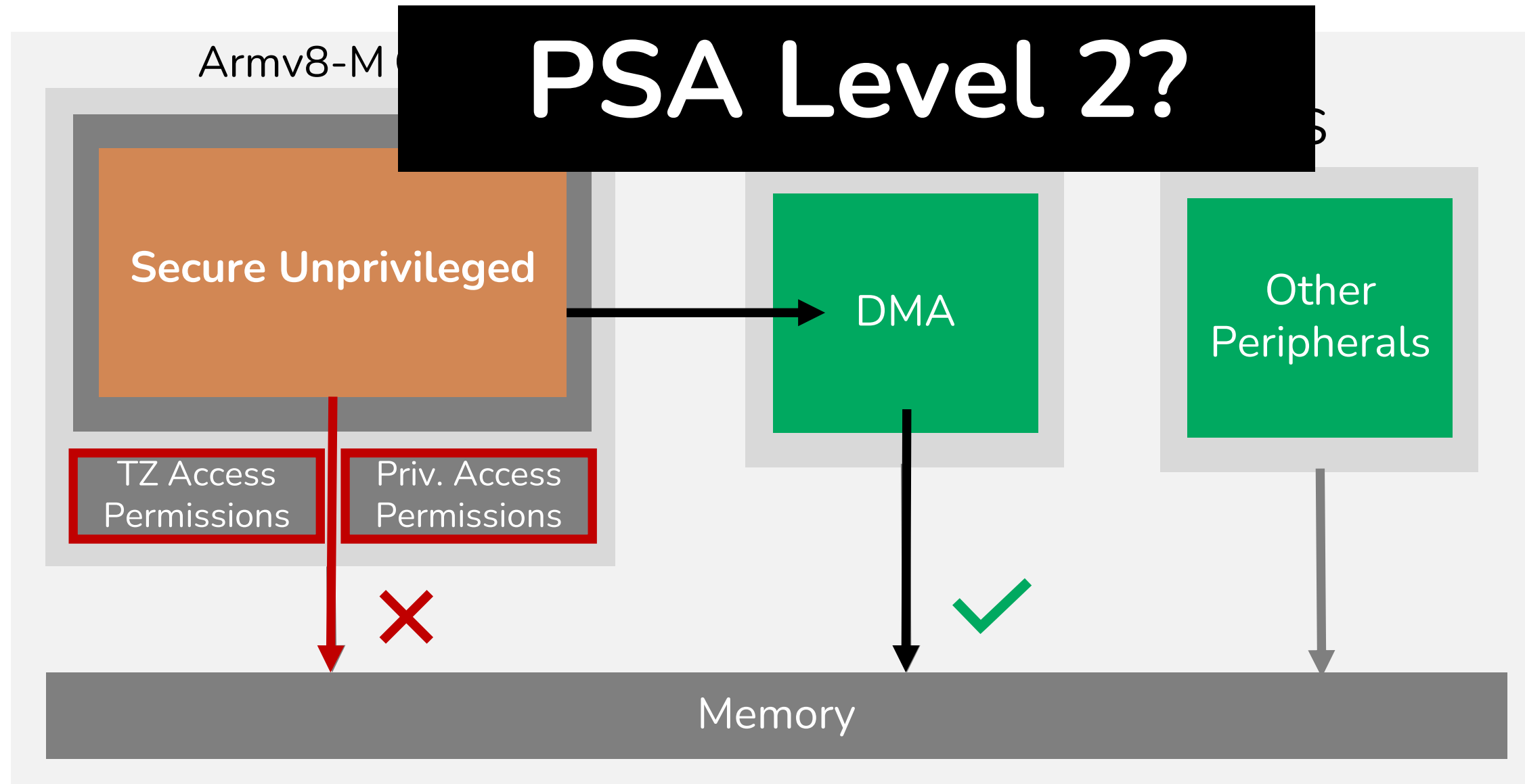
SAM L11-KPH with Kinibi-M v1.0



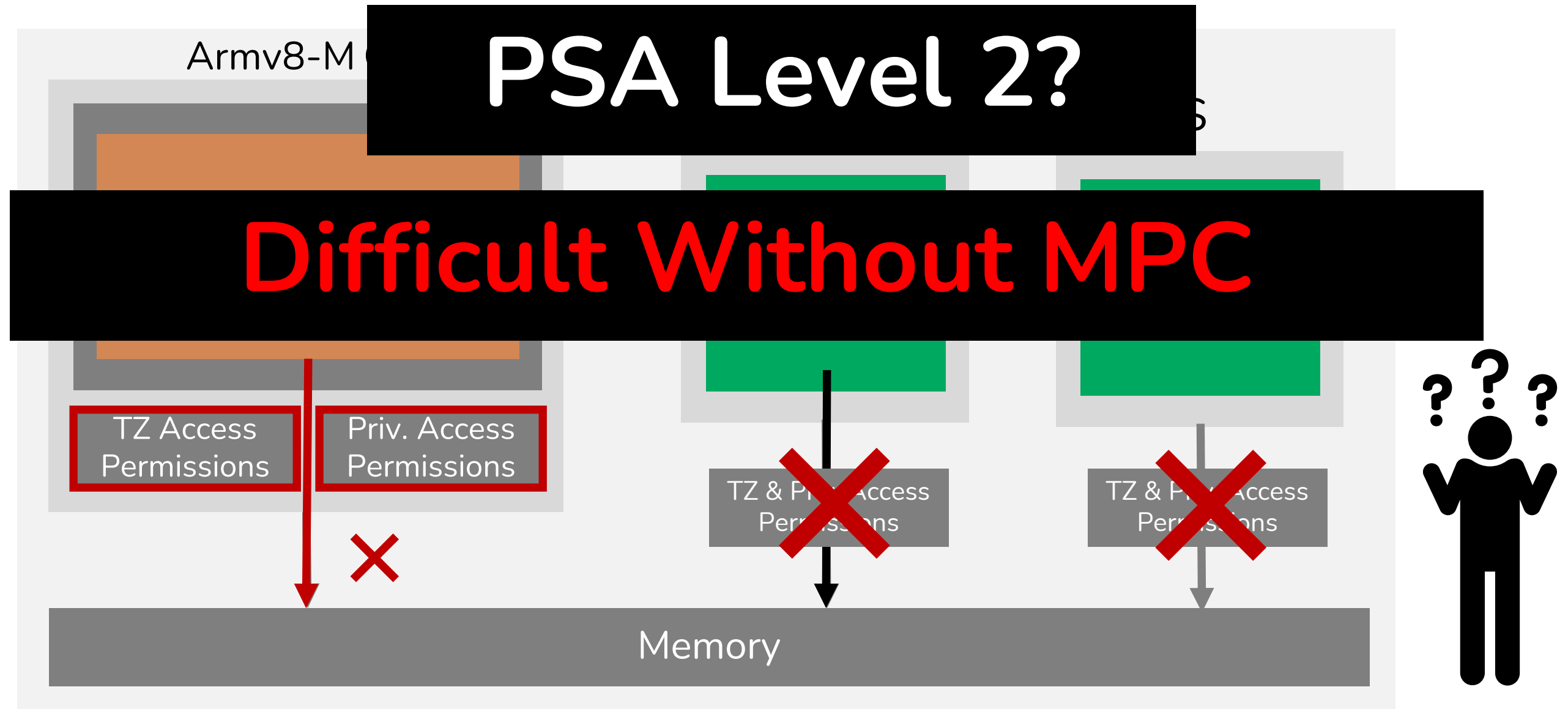
SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



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SAML11 WEAK PROTECTIONS



We report to Microchip that the lack of a MPC may create security issues, special in PSA level 2/3, Microchip didn't take any actions!

Responsible Disclosure: Microchip



Trustonic

Kinibi-M

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

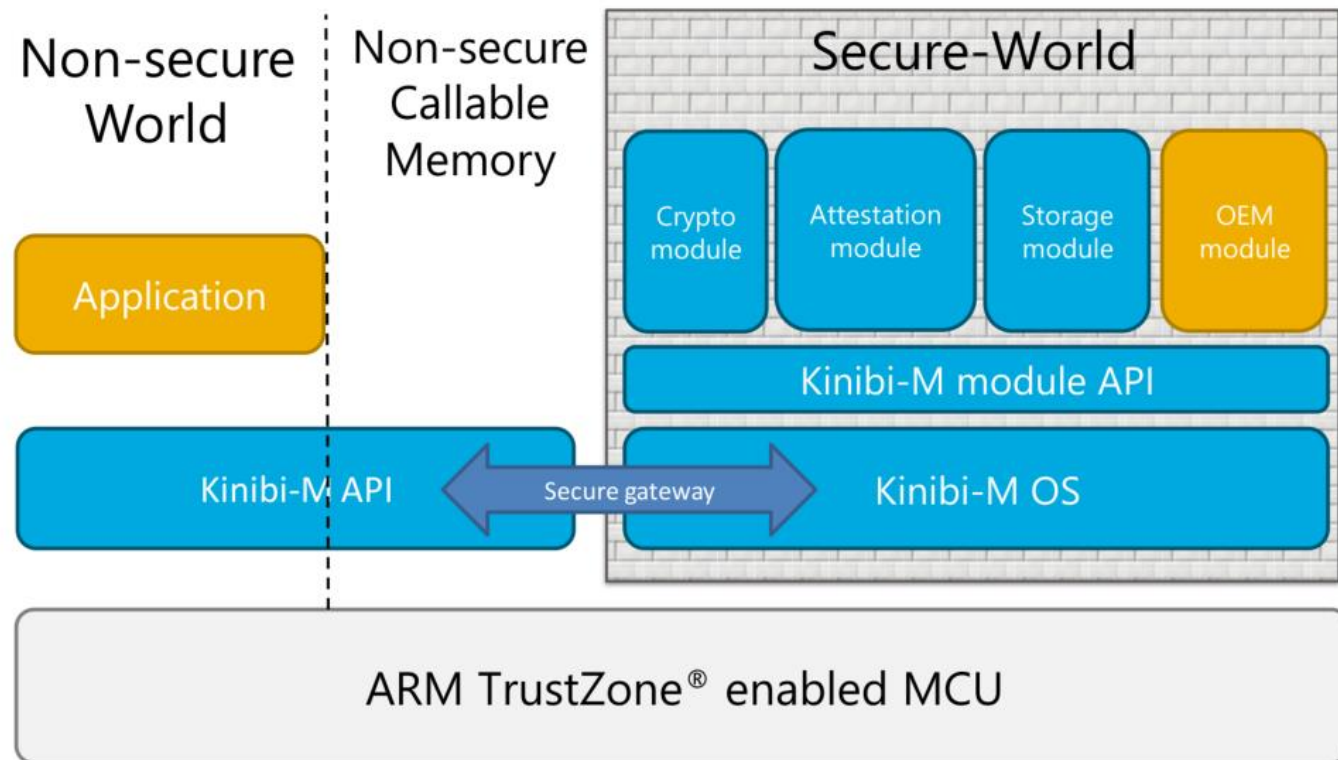


Figure 1: Kinibi-M Architecture Overview.

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

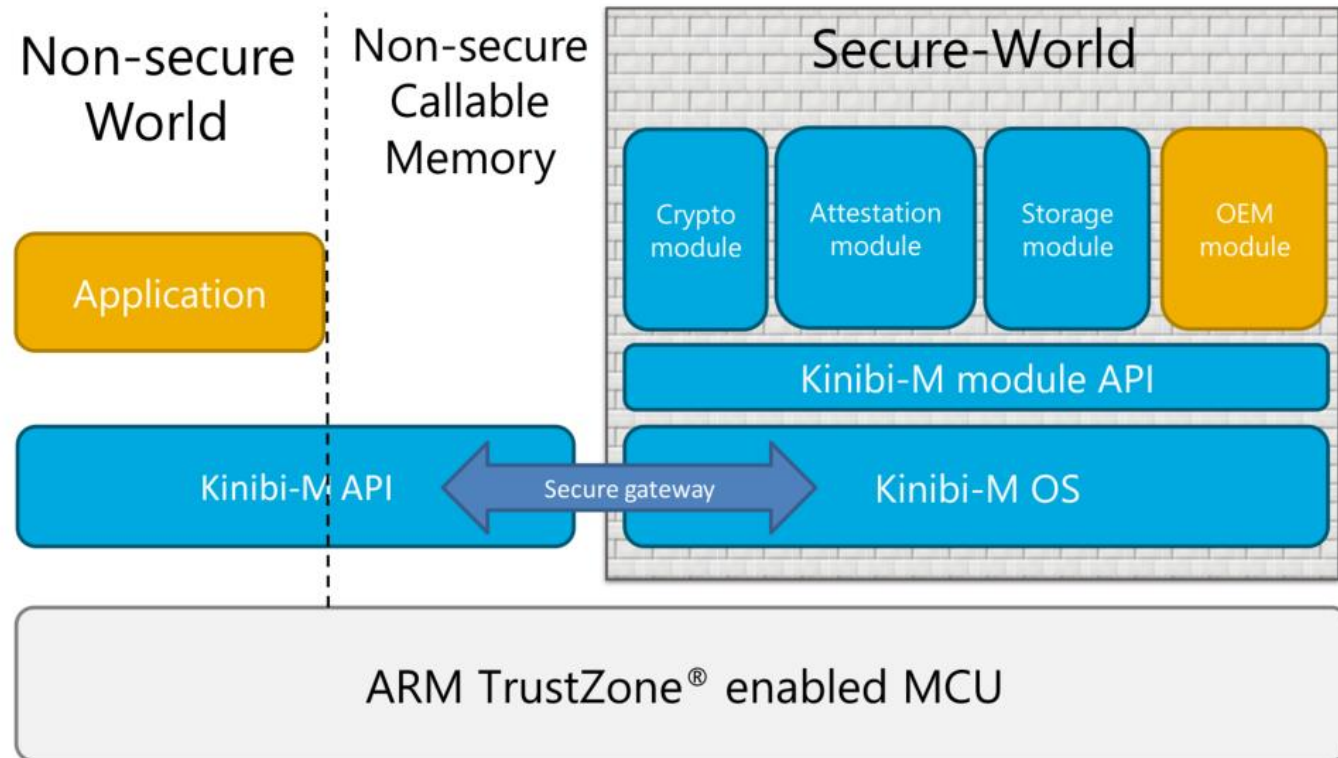
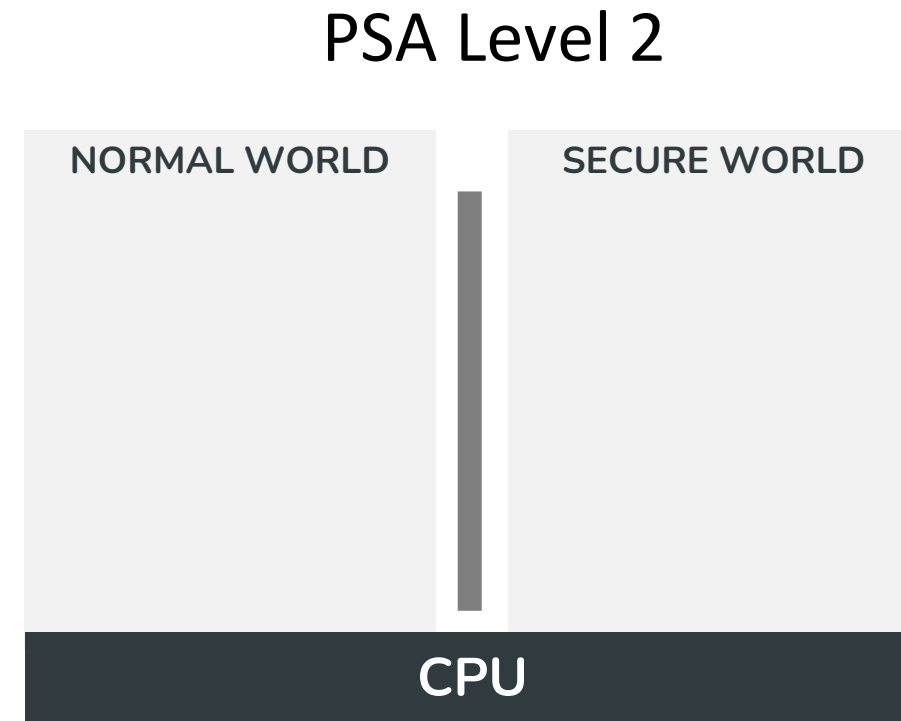


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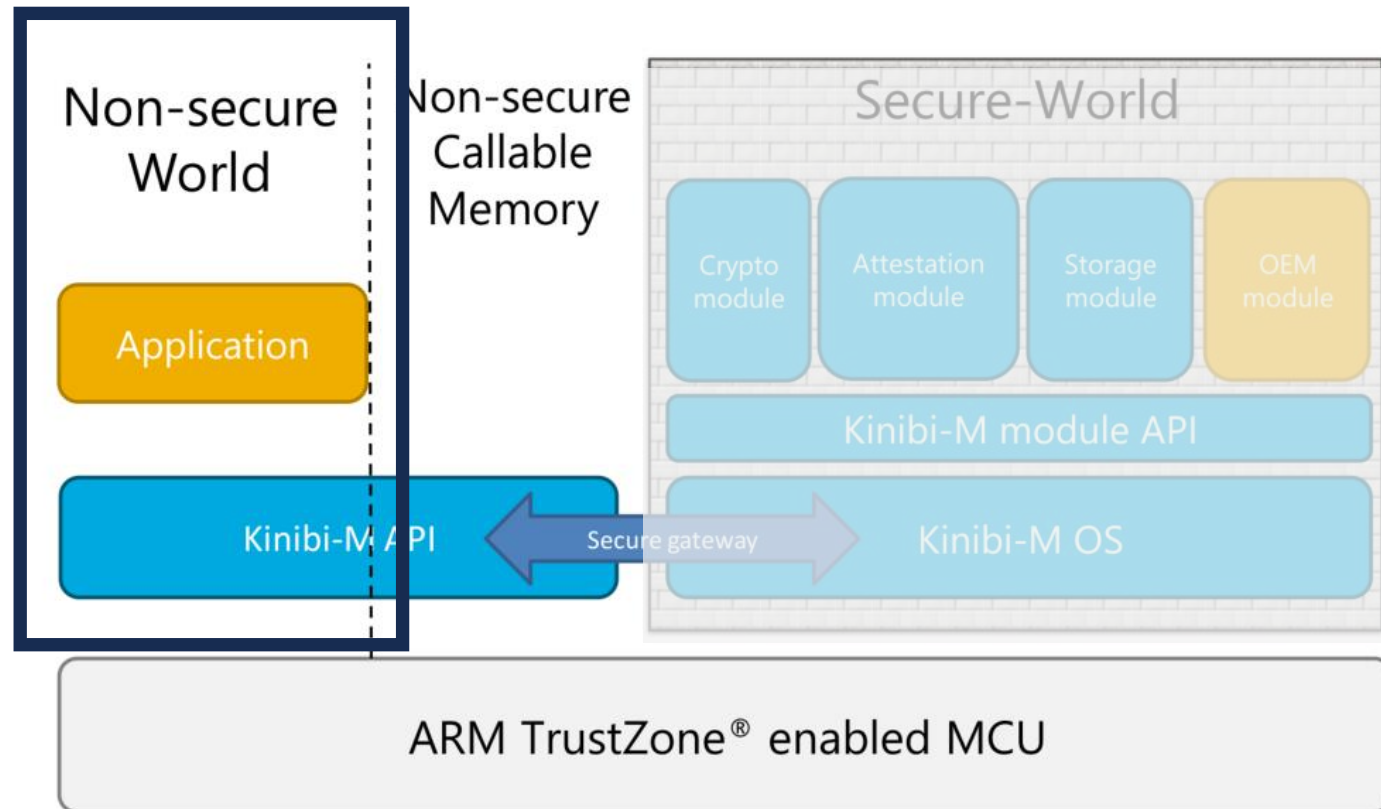
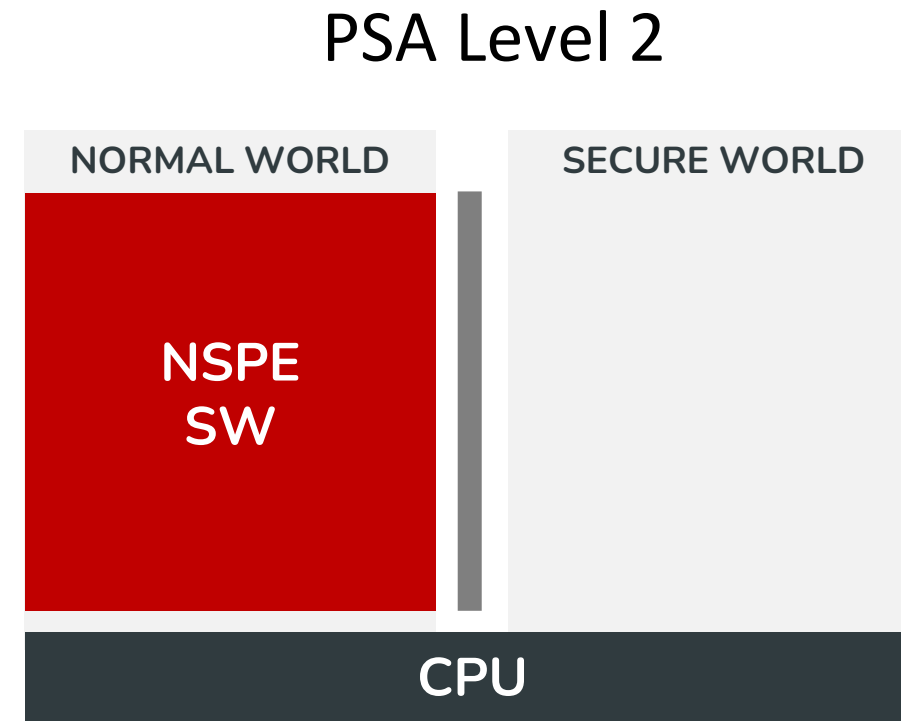


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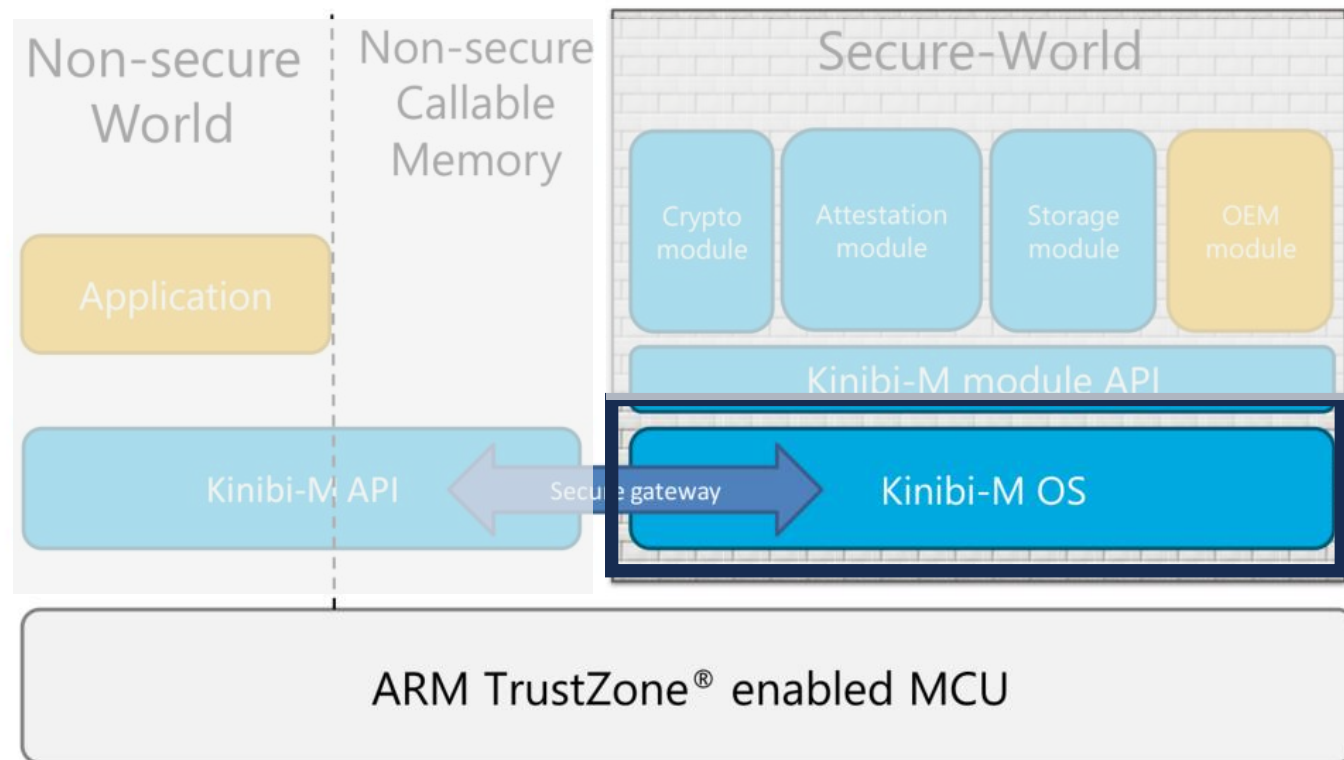
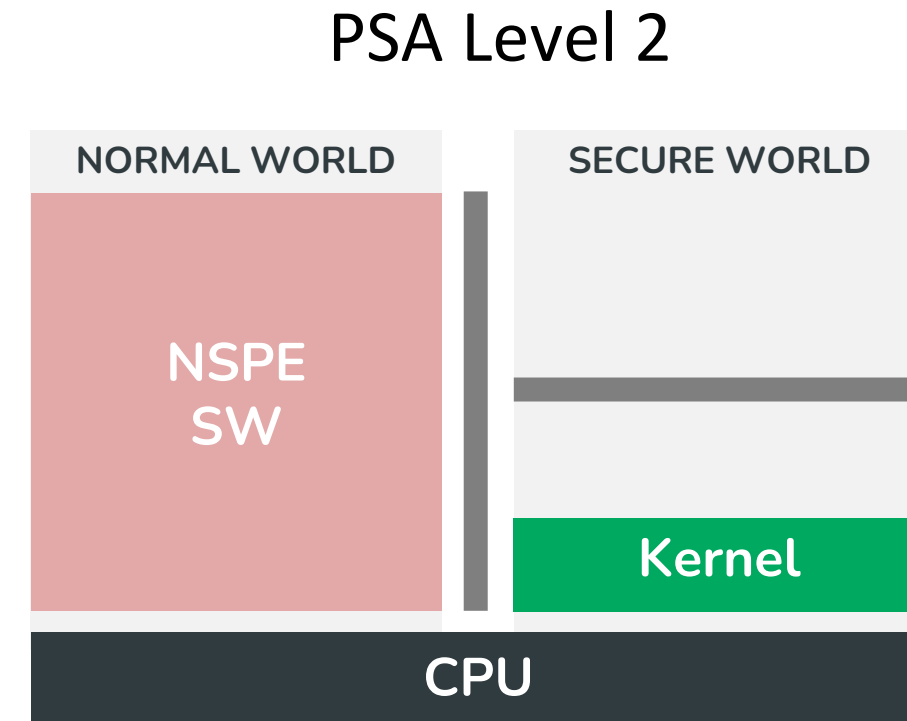


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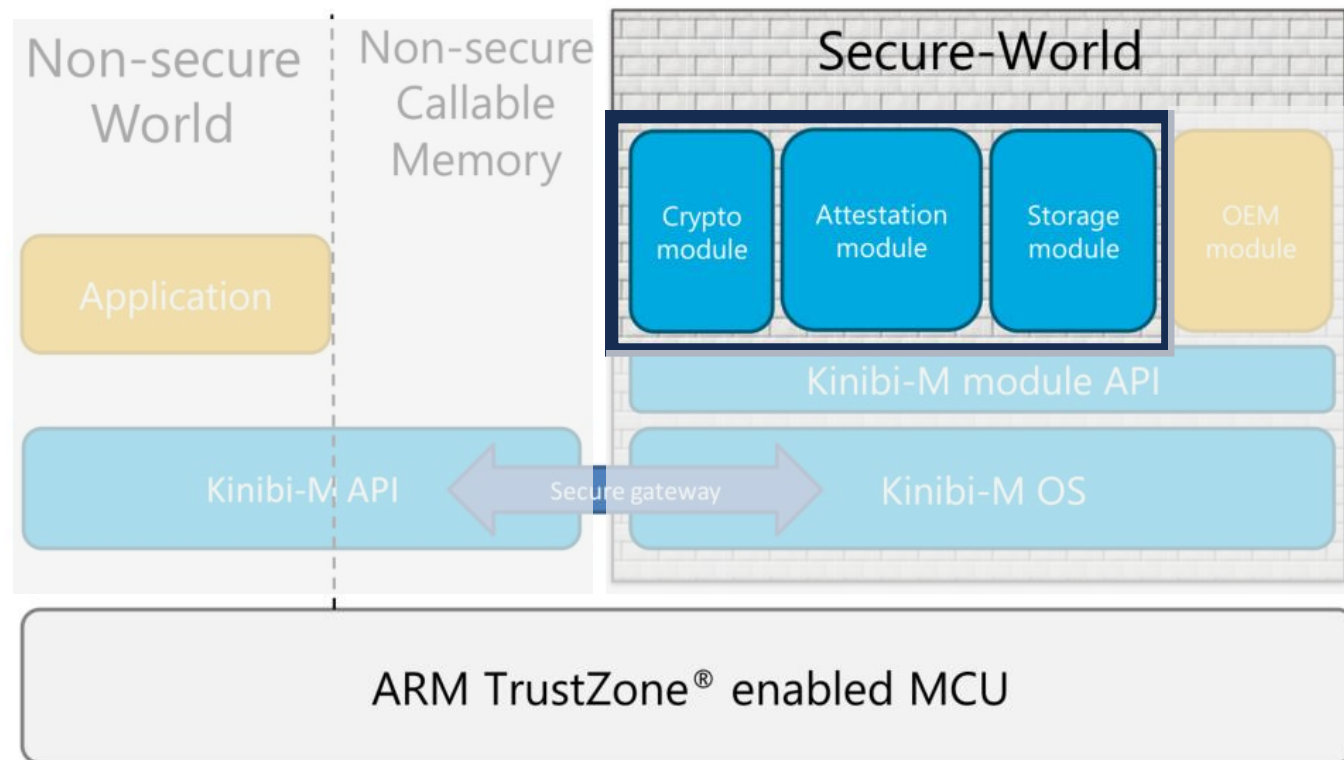
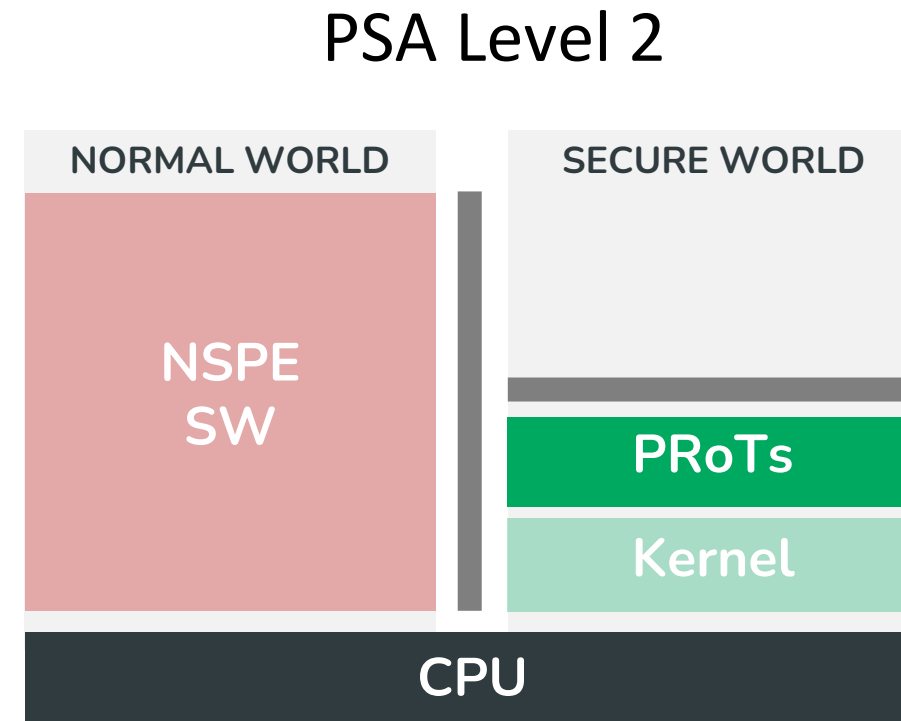


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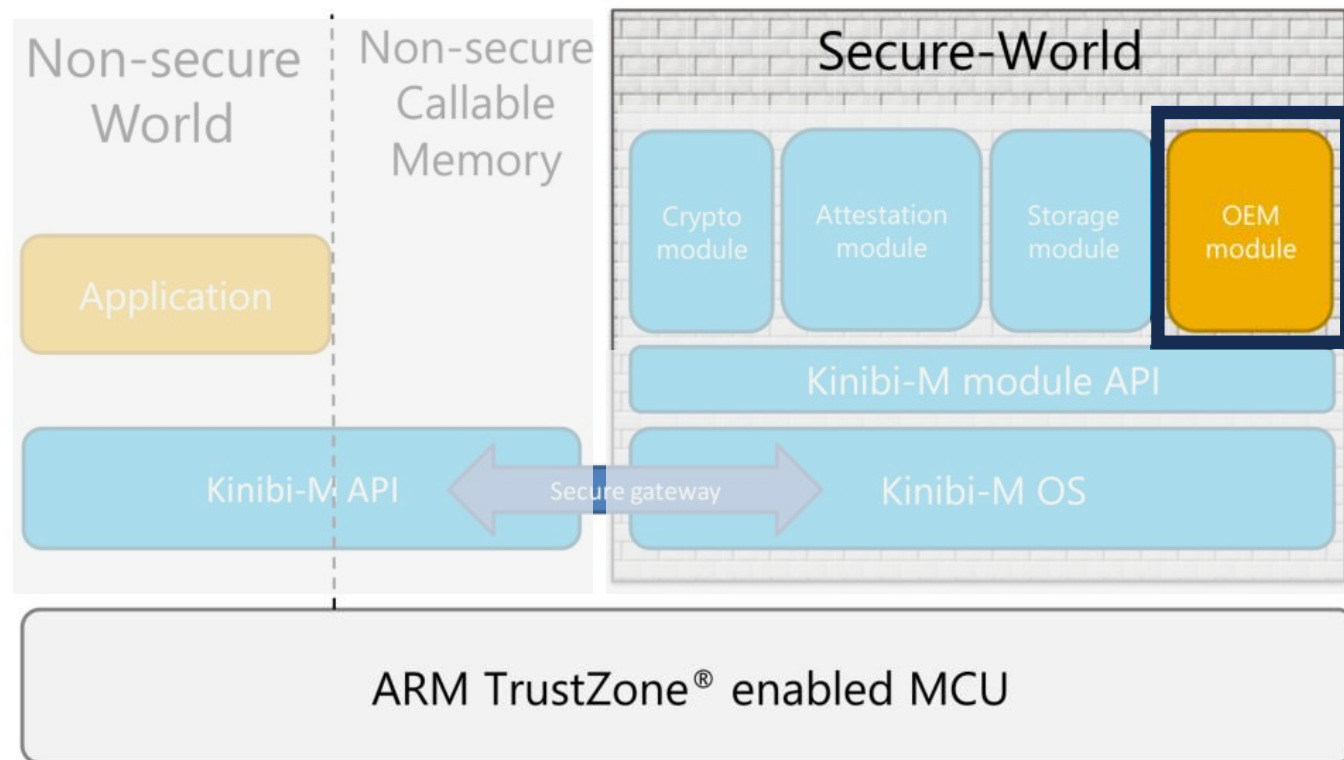
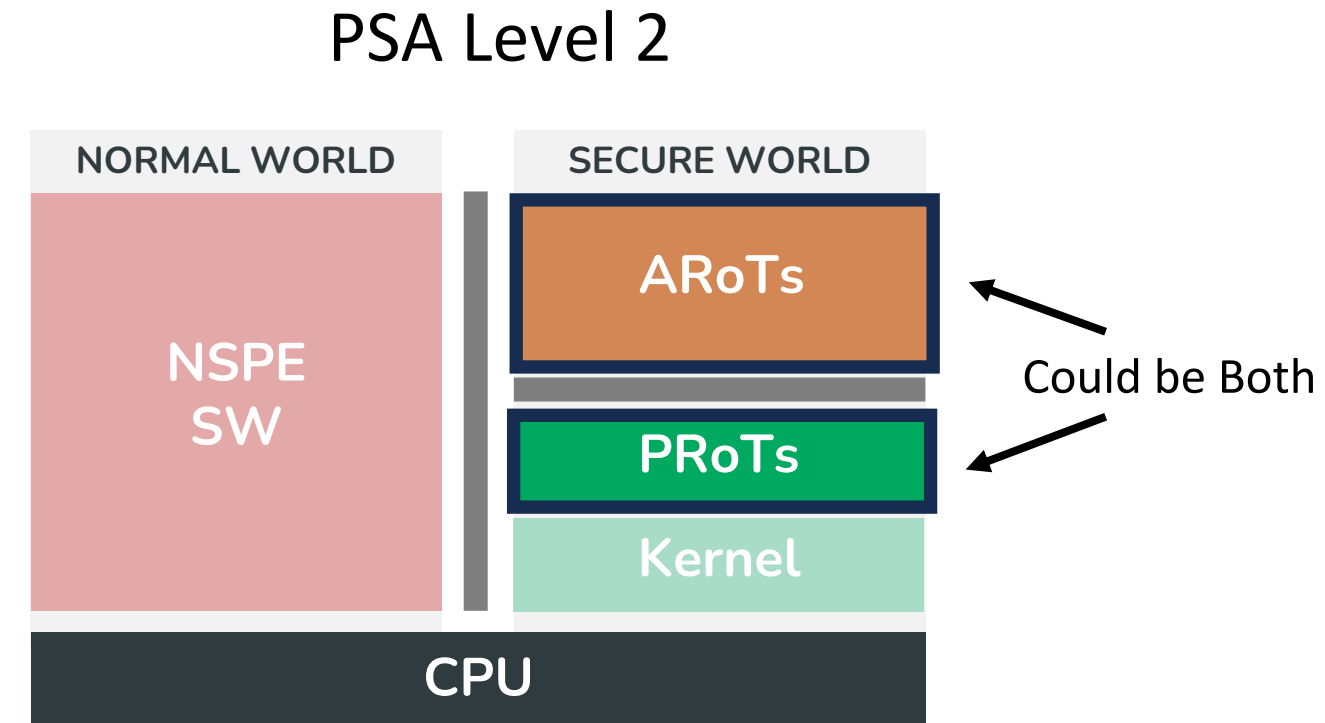


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TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

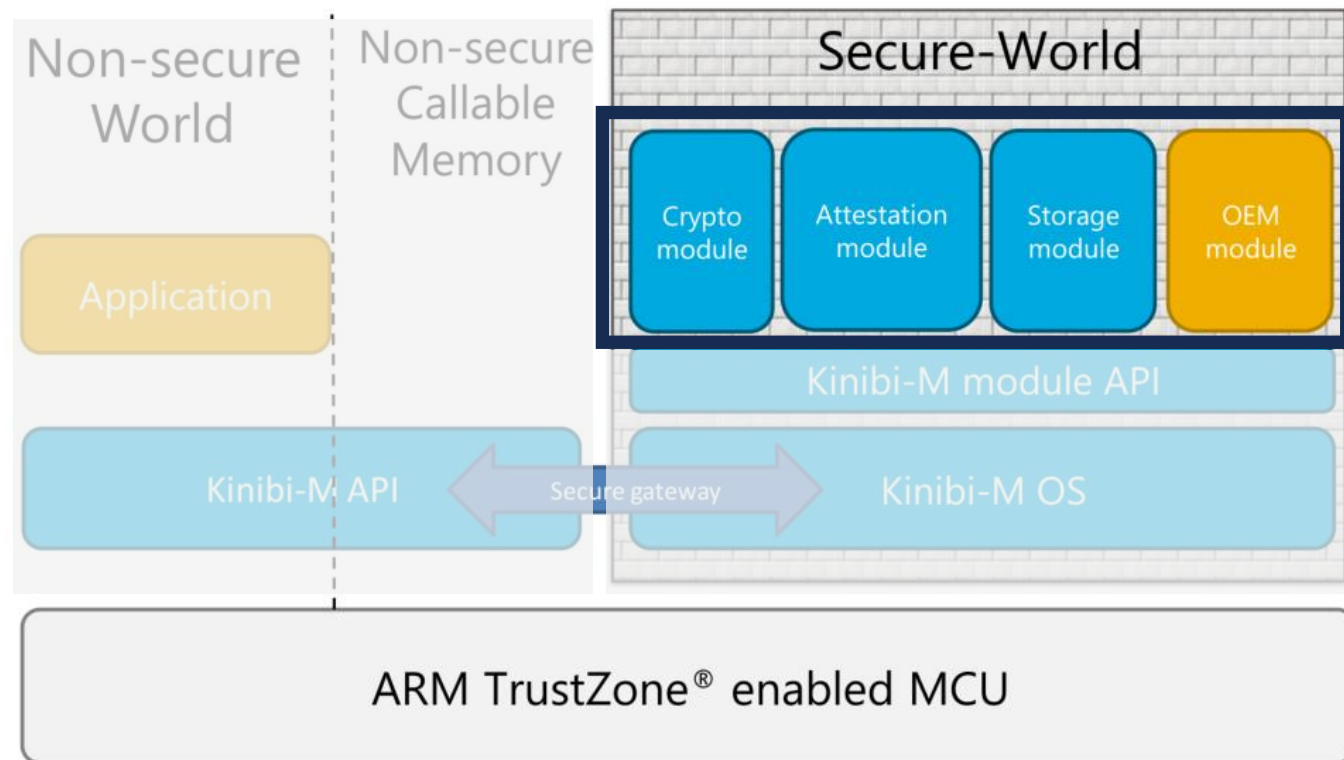
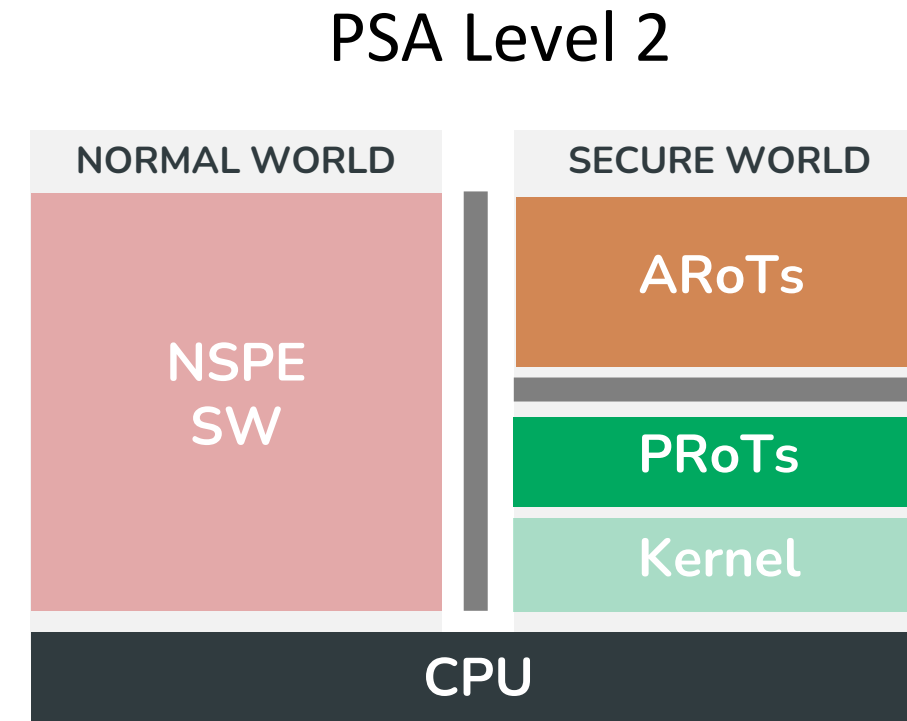
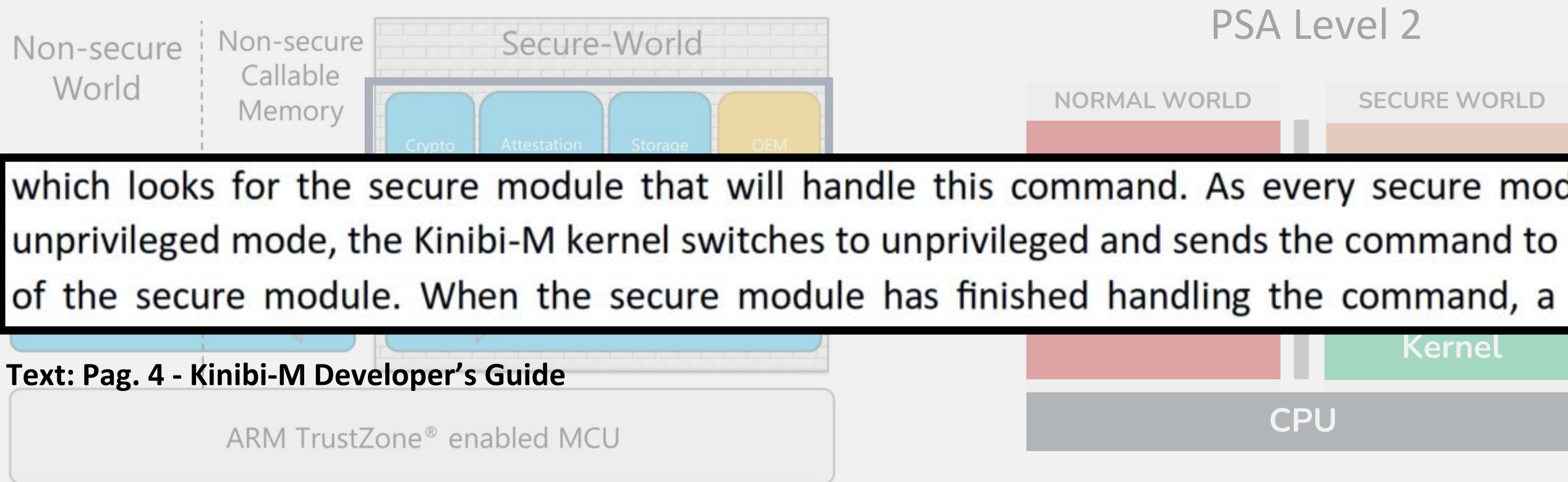


Figure 1: Kinibi-M Architecture Overview.



Kinibi-M Refers to PRoT and ARoT as a Secure Module

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



which looks for the secure module that will handle this command. As every secure module runs in unprivileged mode, the Kinibi-M kernel switches to unprivileged and sends the command to the handler of the secure module. When the secure module has finished handling the command, a system call

Text: Pag. 4 - Kinibi-M Developer's Guide

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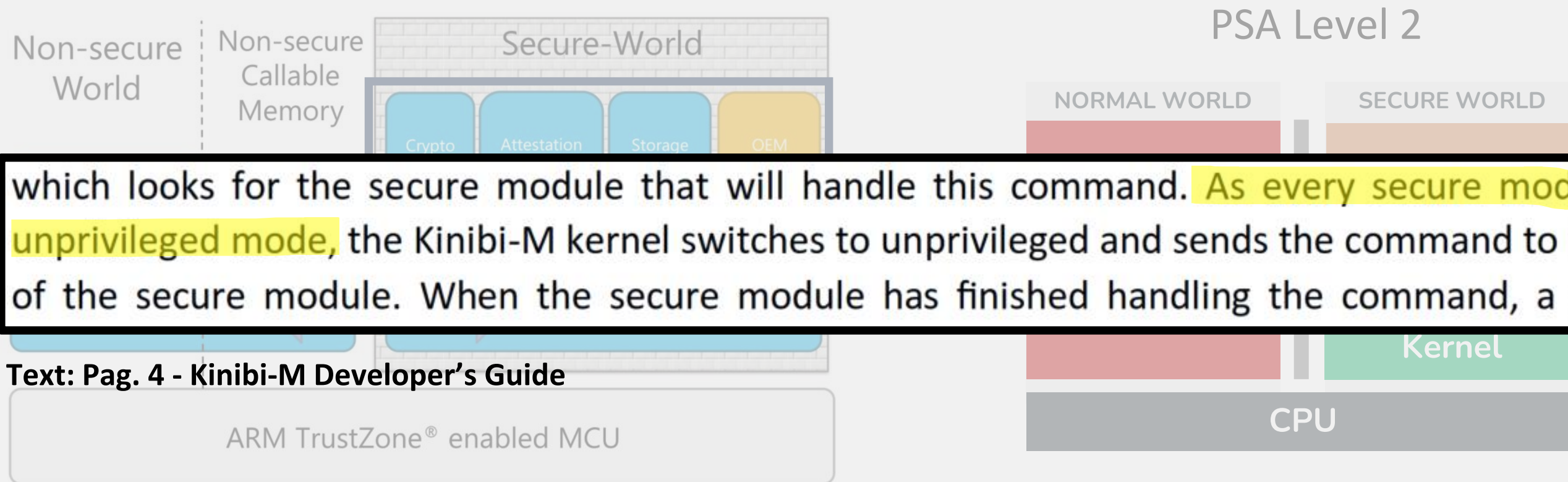


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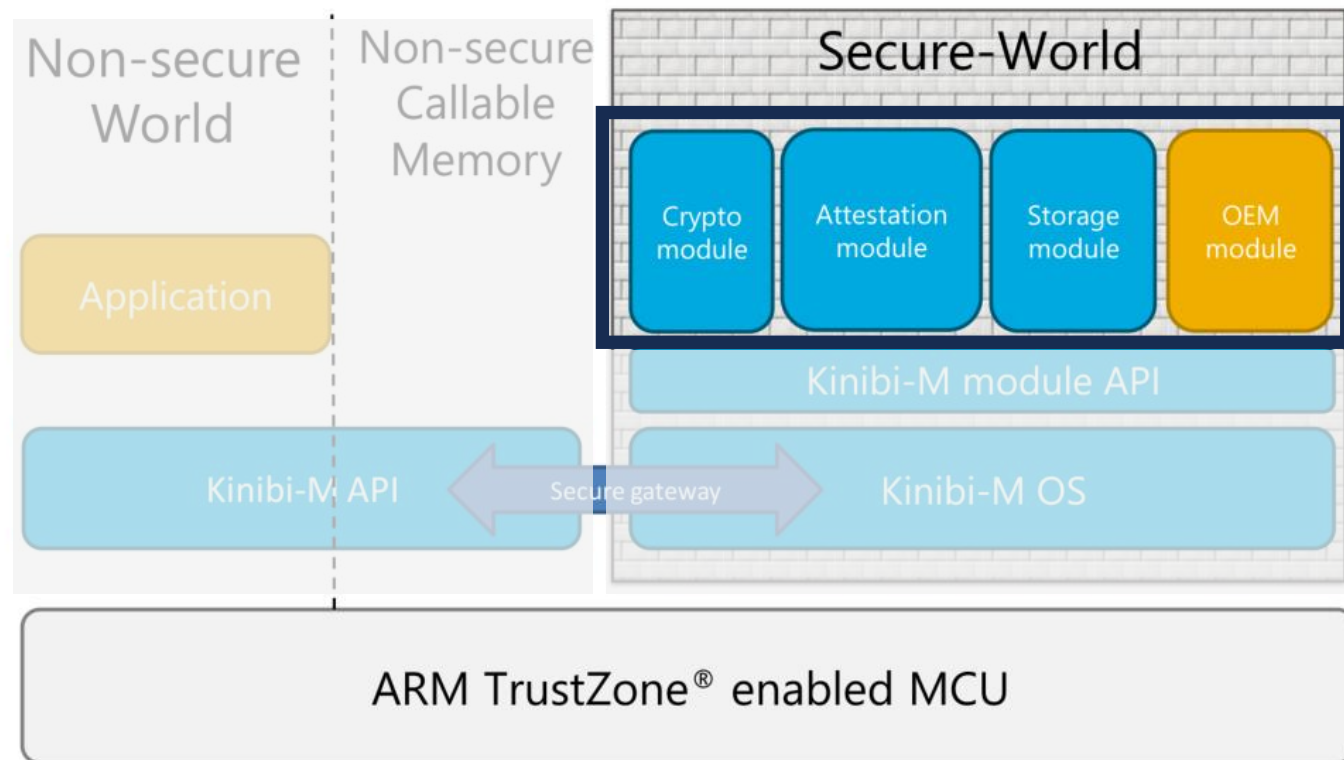
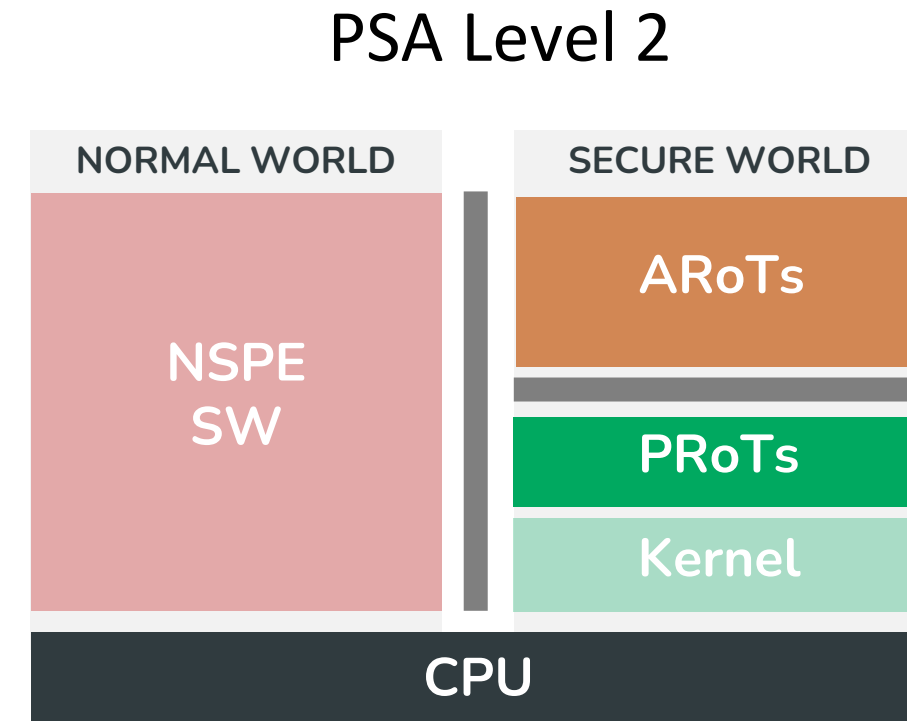


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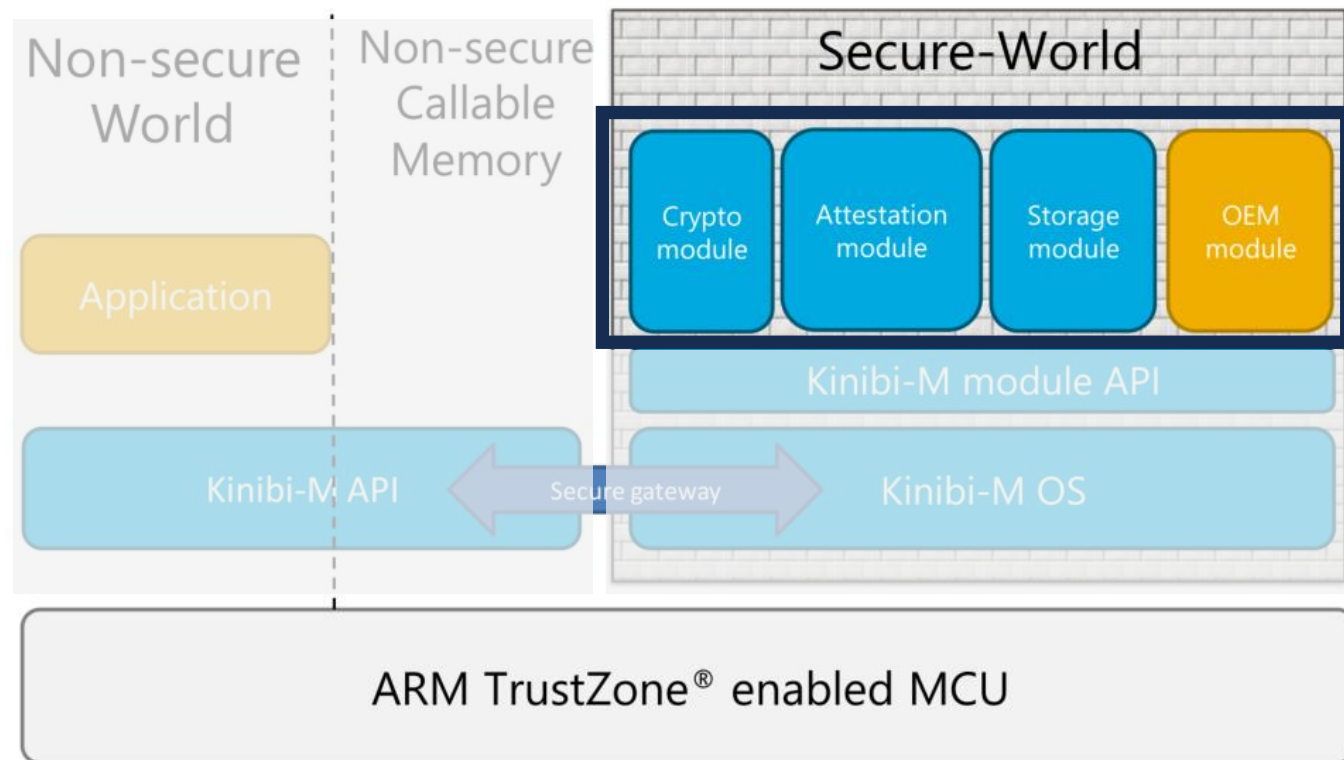
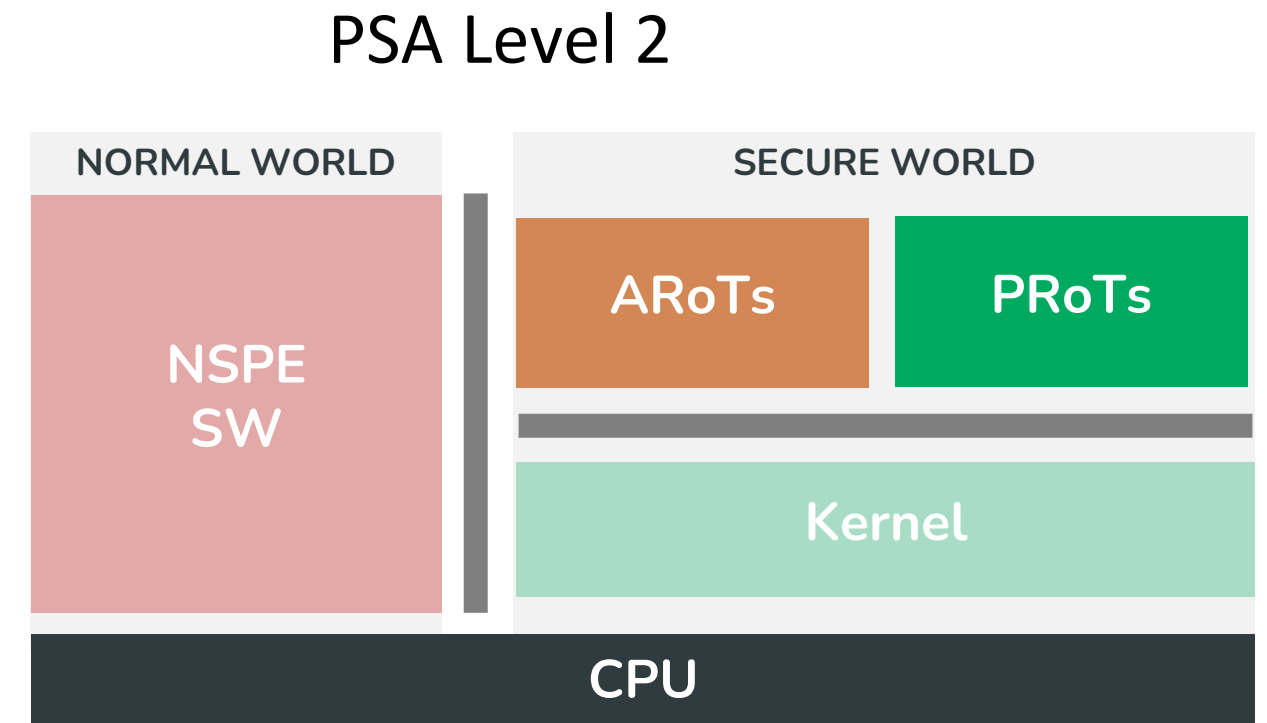


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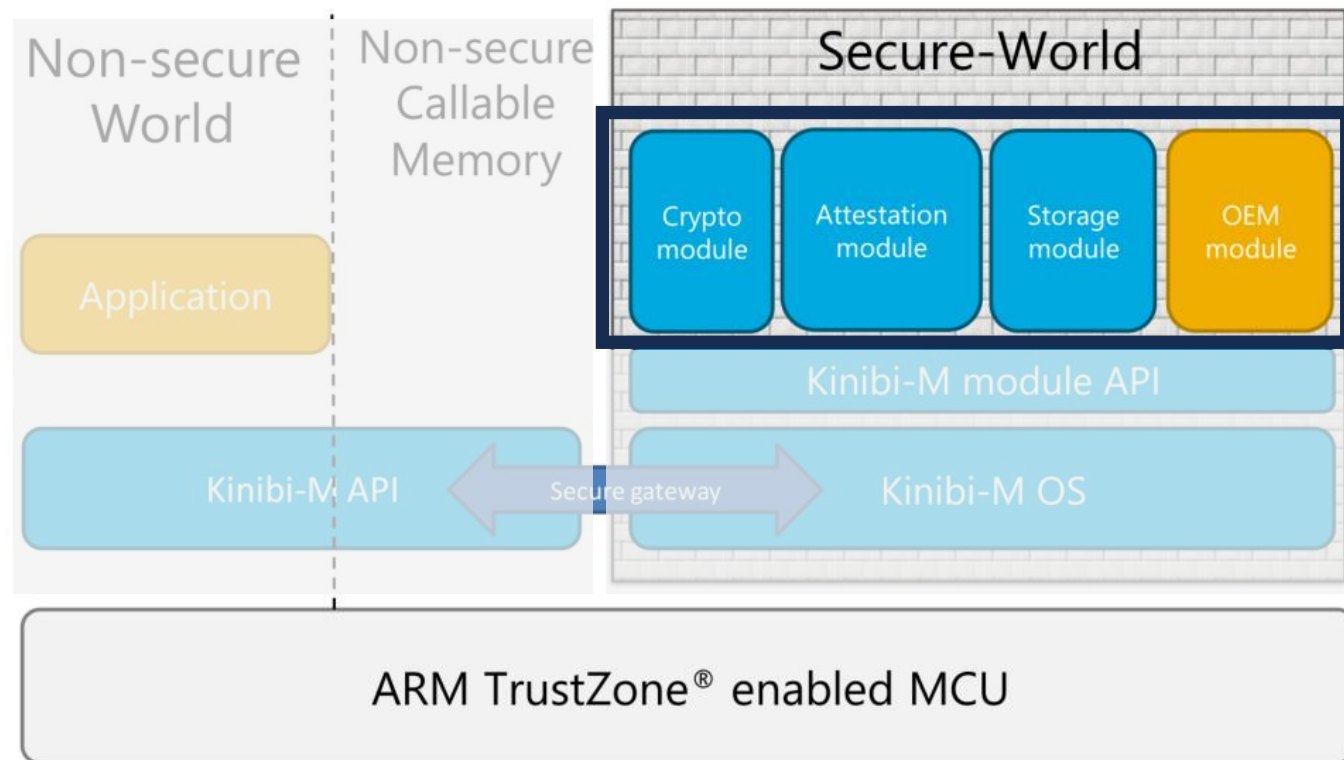
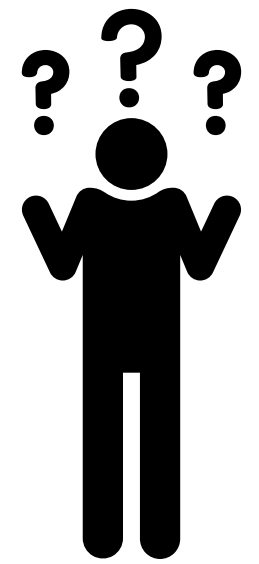
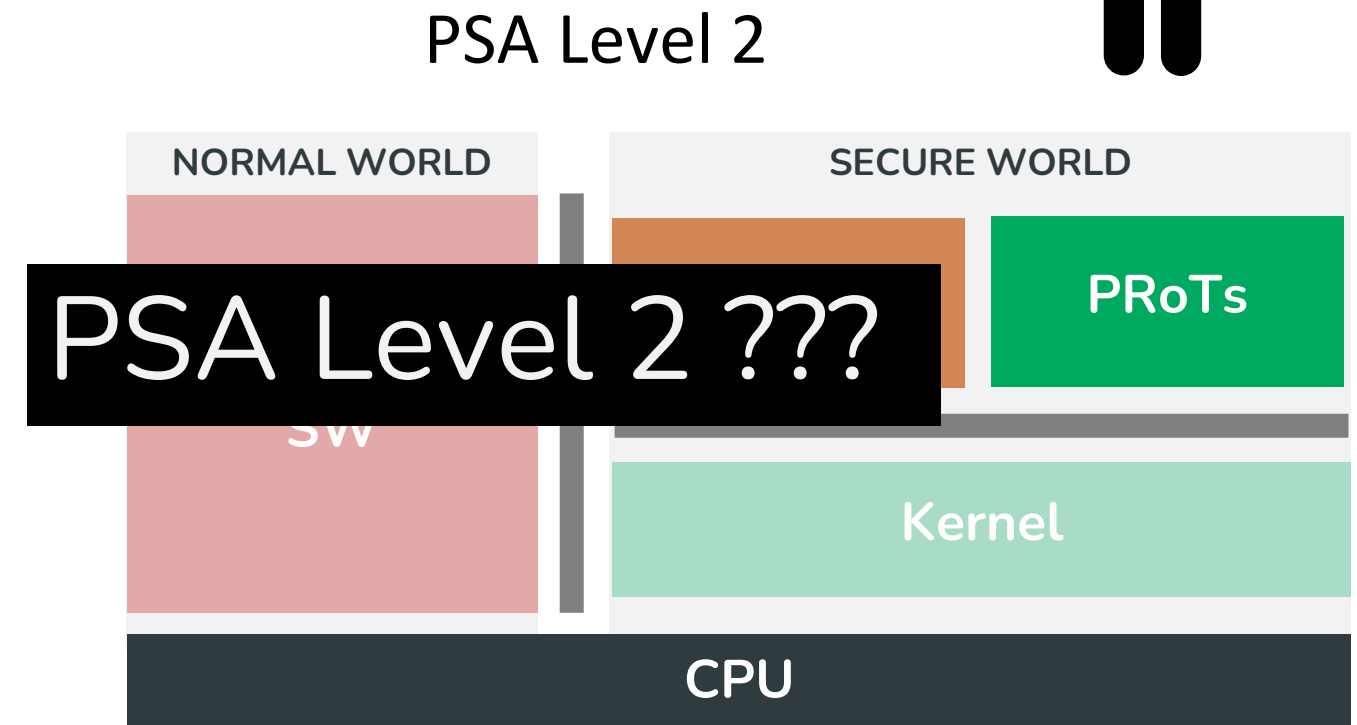


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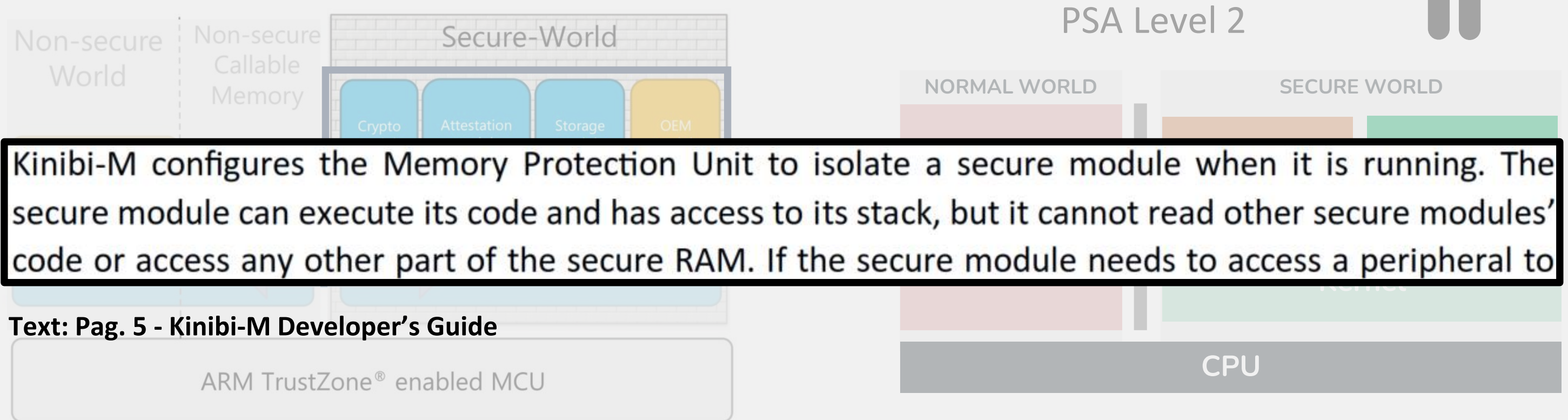


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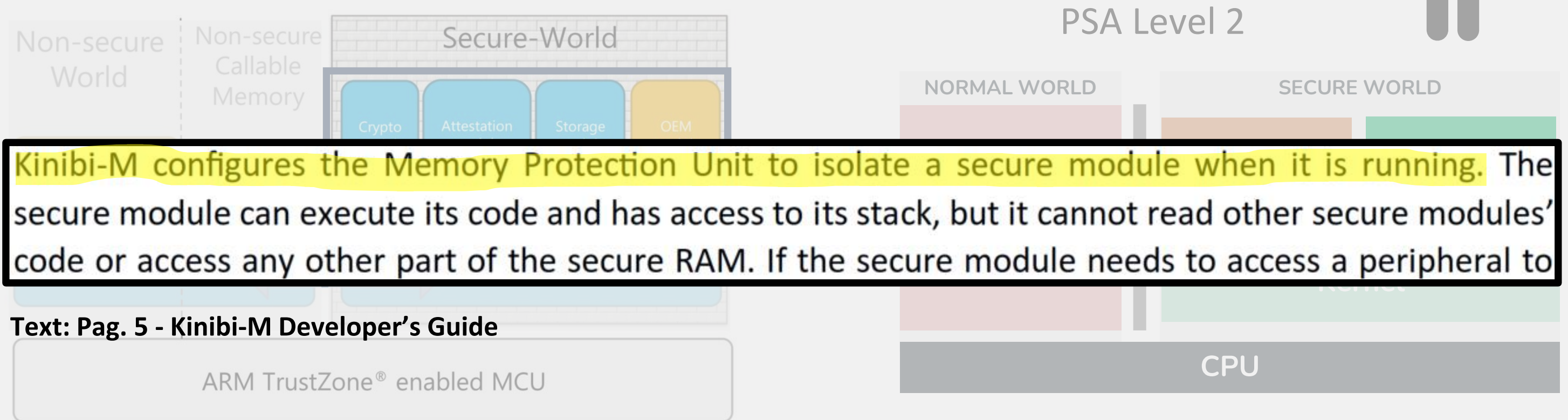
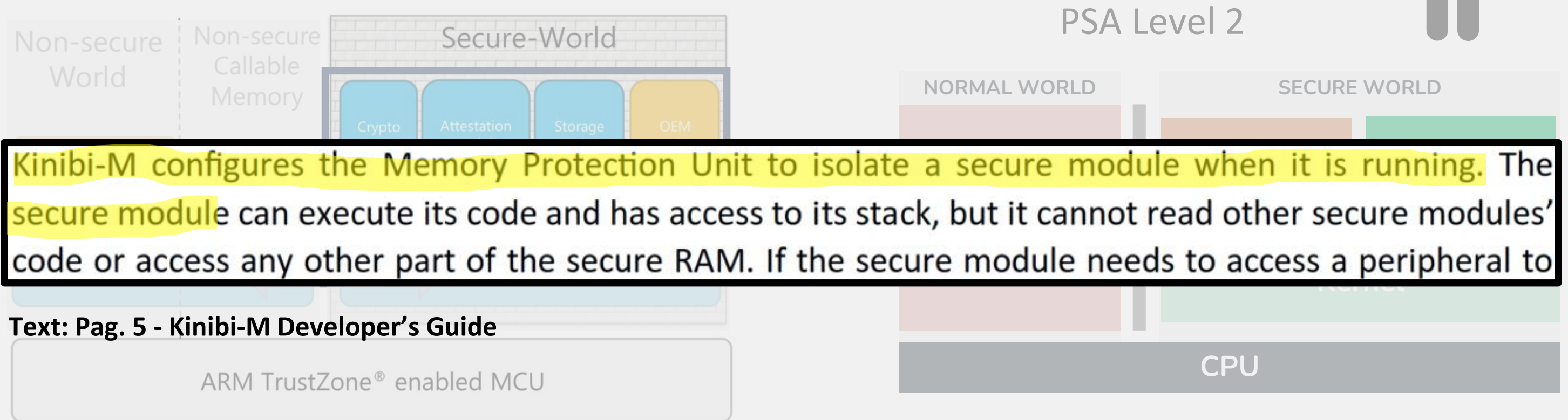


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TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

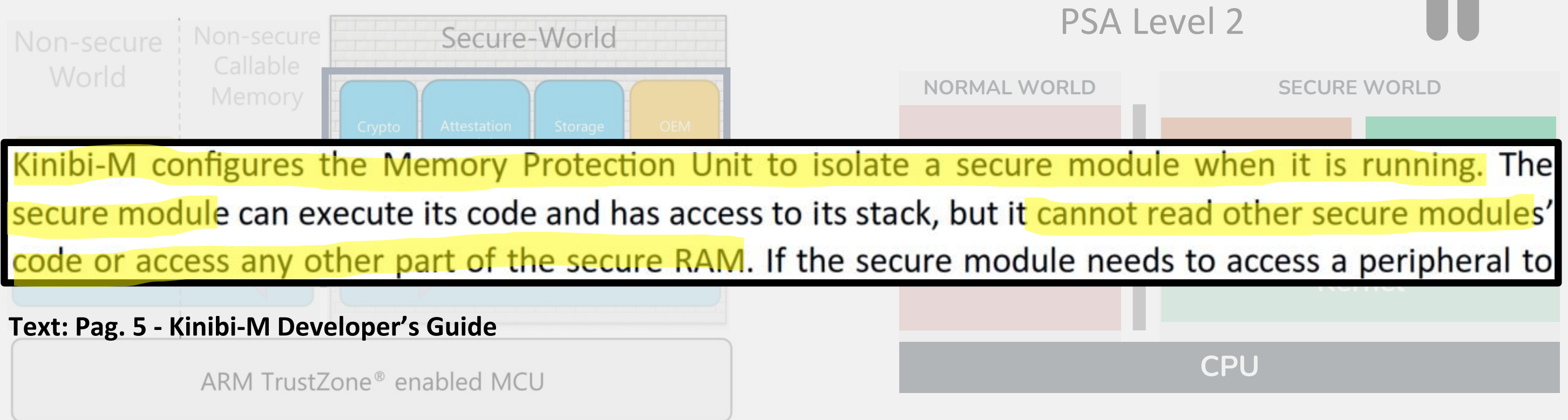


Text: Pag. 5 - Kinibi-M Developer's Guide

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TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



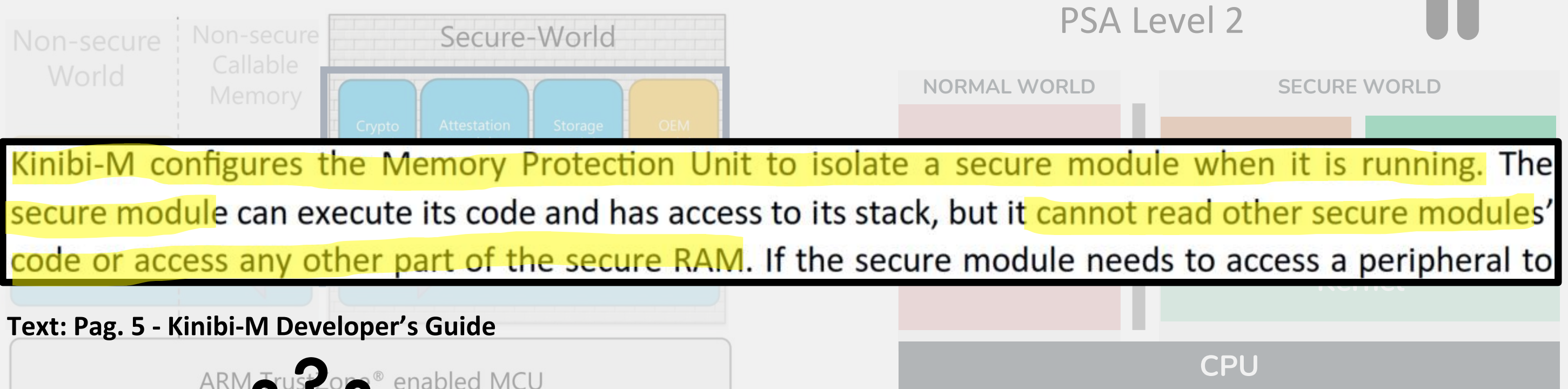
Kinibi-M configures the Memory Protection Unit to isolate a secure module when it is running. The secure module can execute its code and has access to its stack, but it cannot read other secure modules' code or access any other part of the secure RAM. If the secure module needs to access a peripheral to

Text: Pag. 5 - Kinibi-M Developer's Guide

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TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



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Text: Pag. 5 - Kinibi-M Developer's Guide



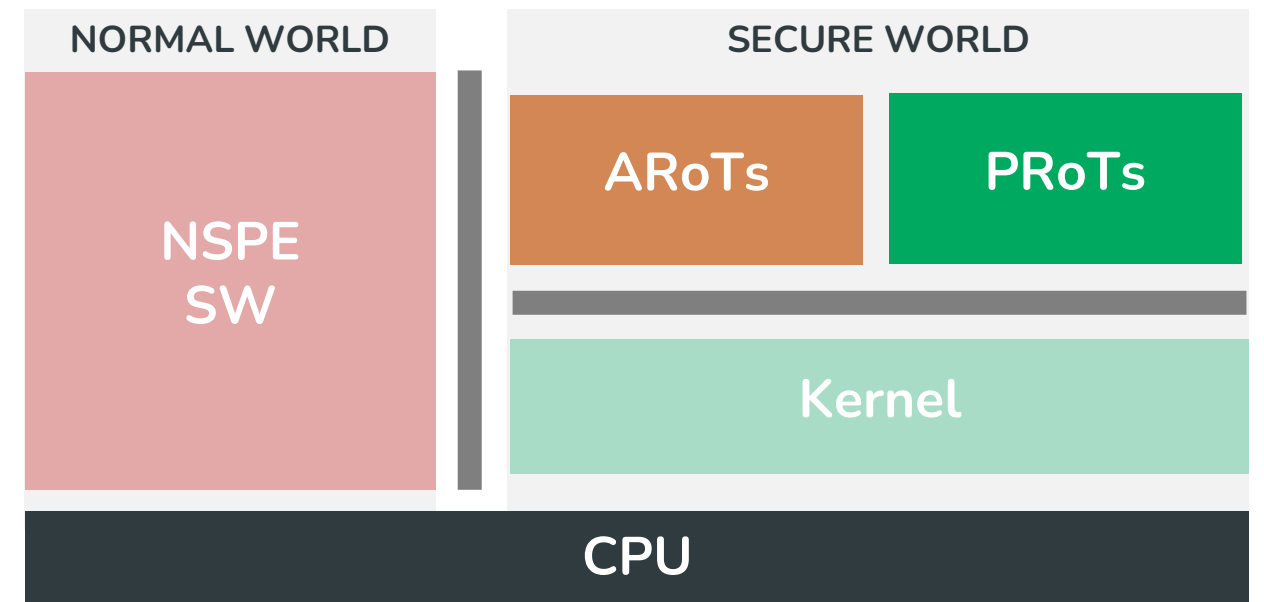
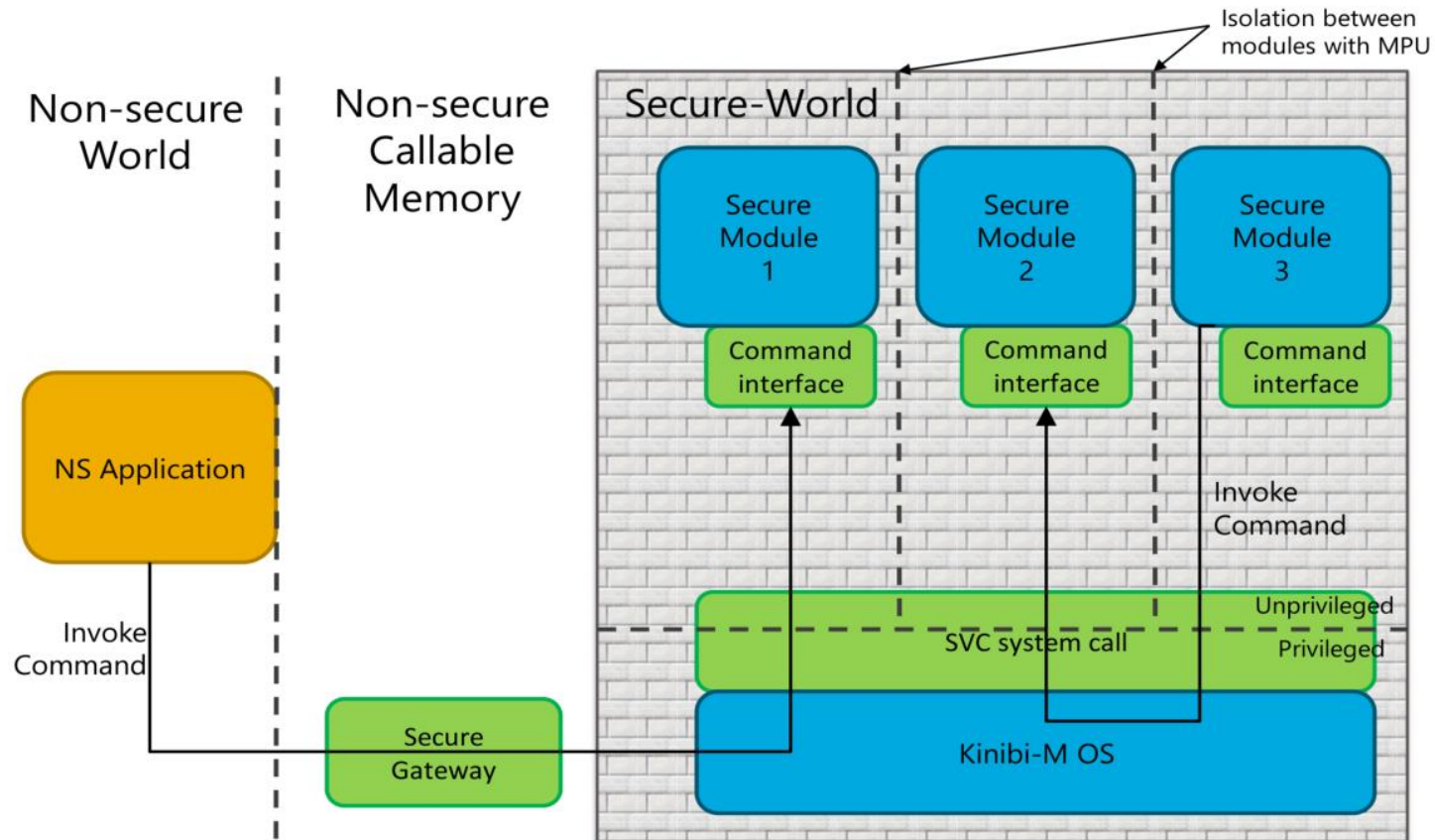
PSA Level 3 ???

Kinibi-M Refers to PRoT and ARoT as a Secure Module

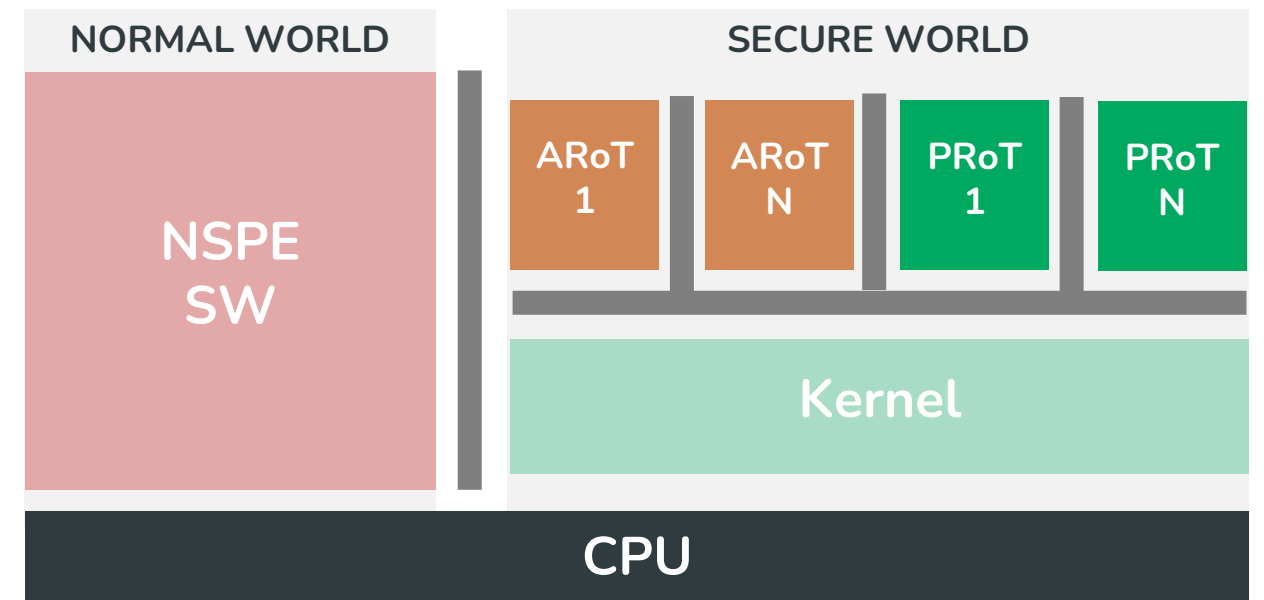
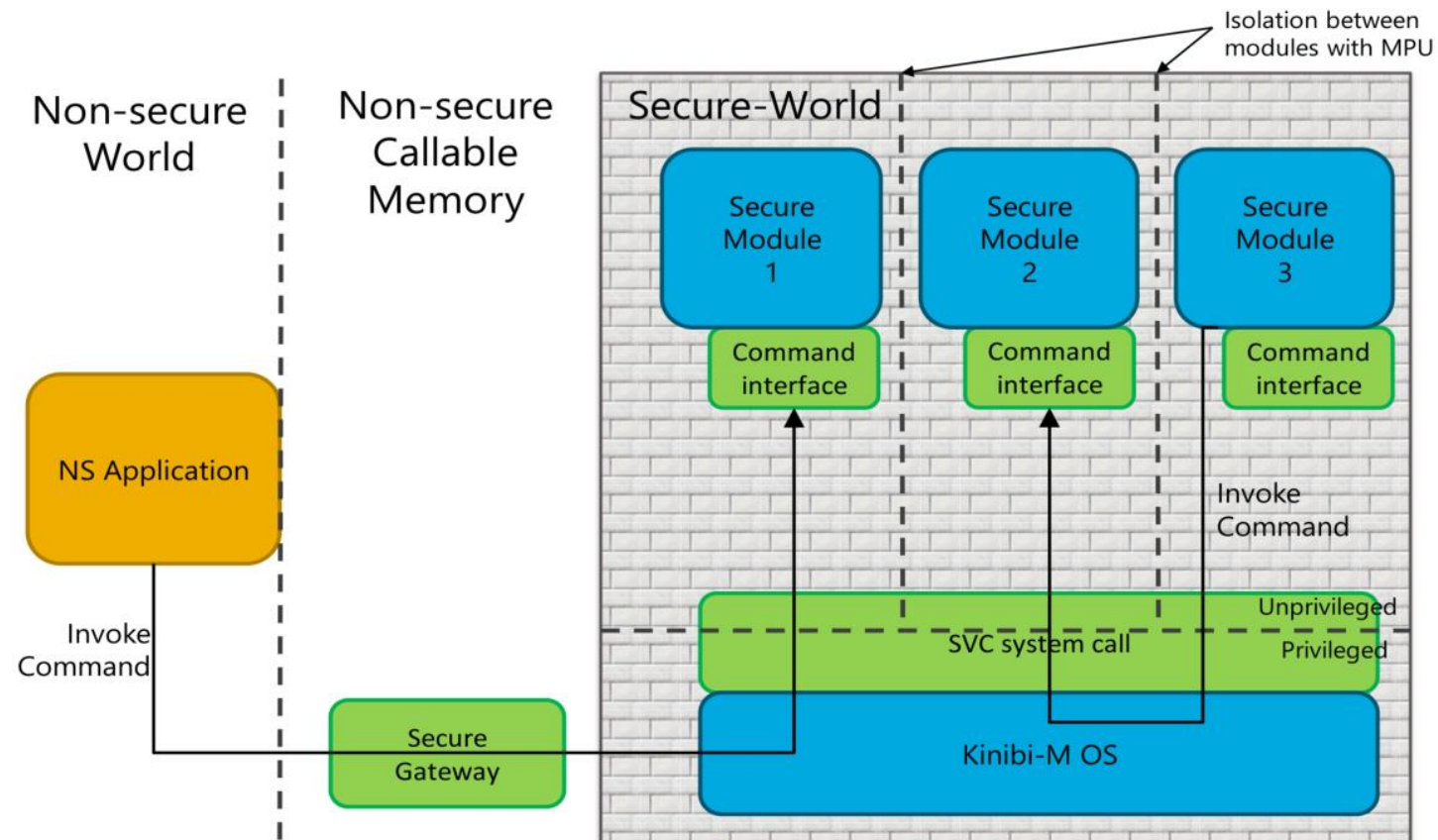
Image: Pag. 3 - Kinibi-M Developer's Guide

BLACKHAT24

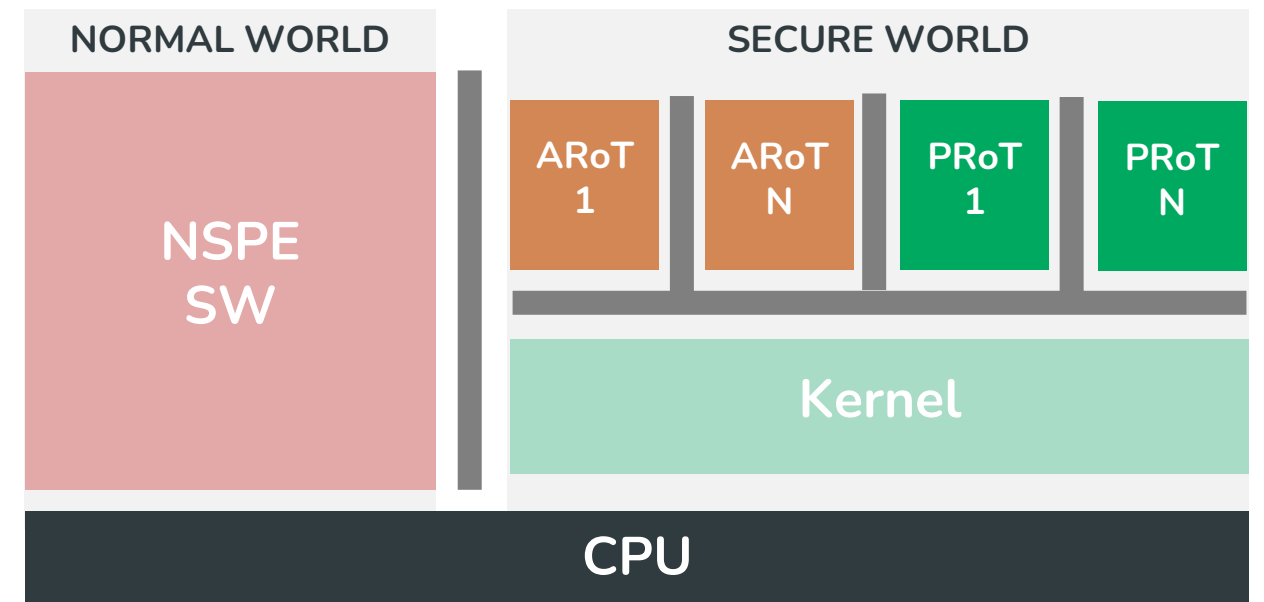
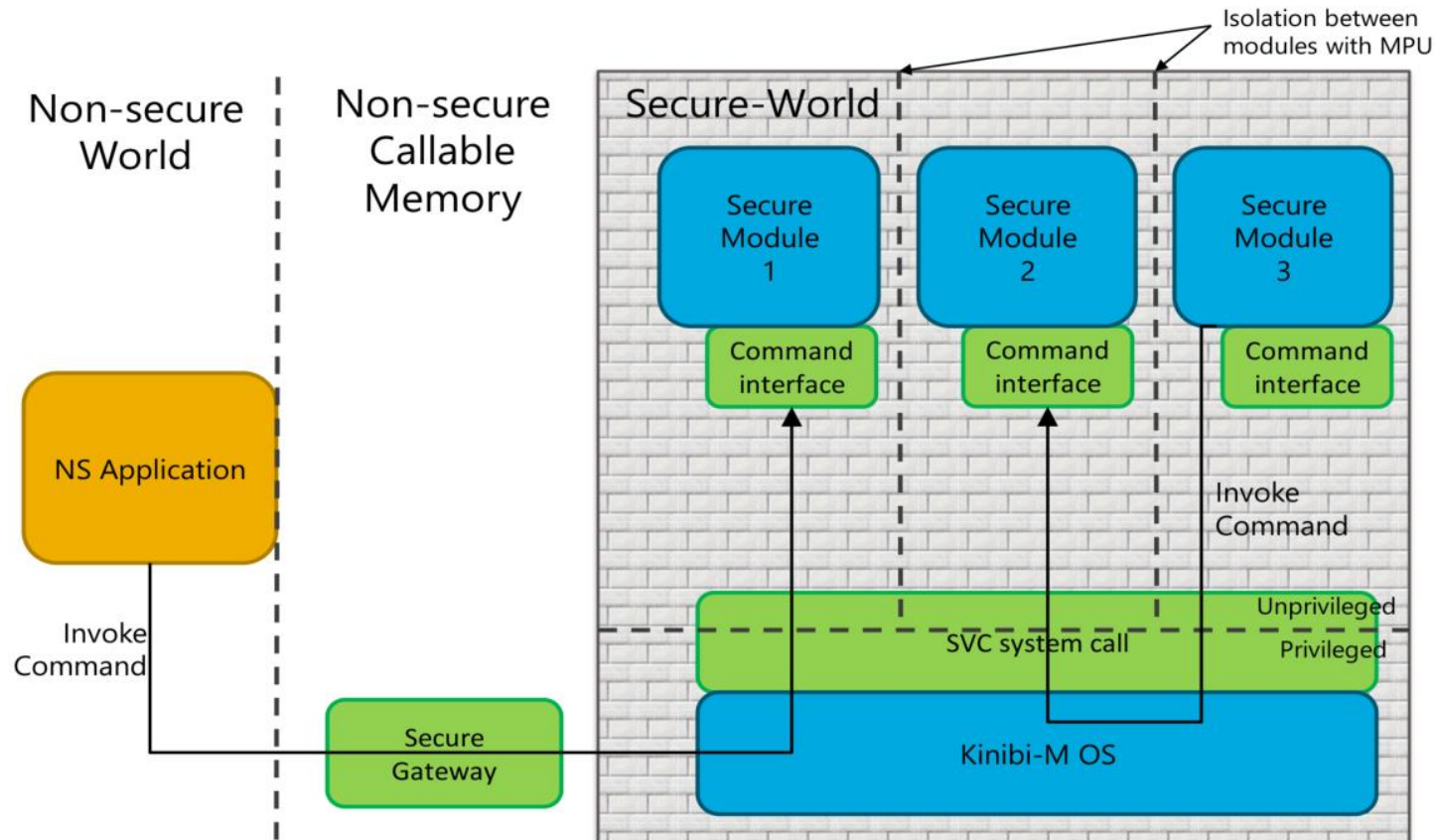
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

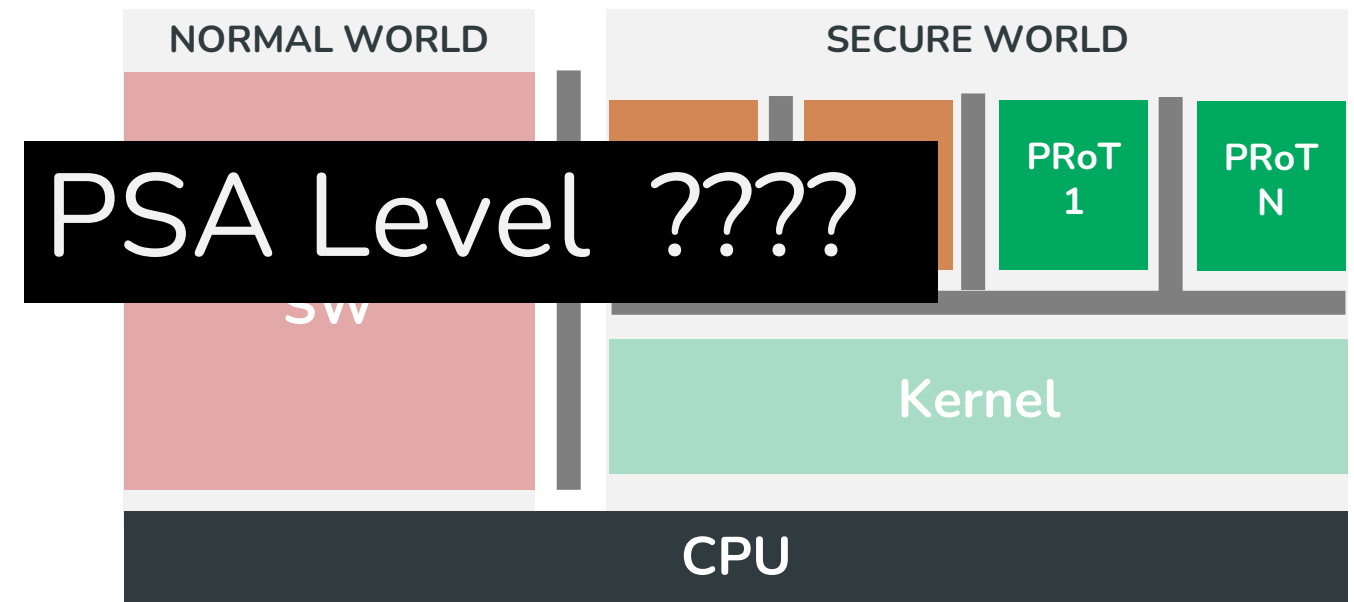
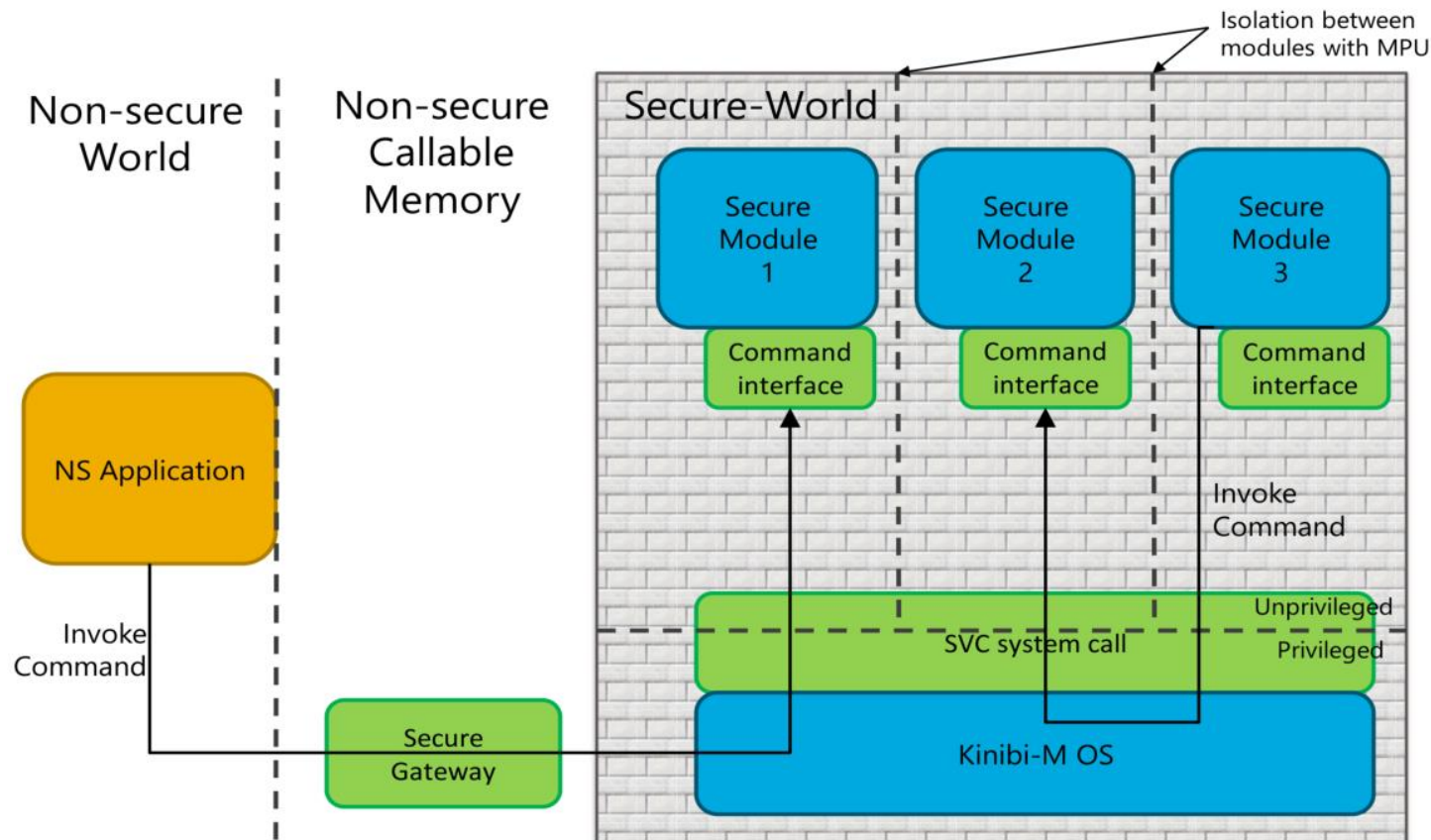
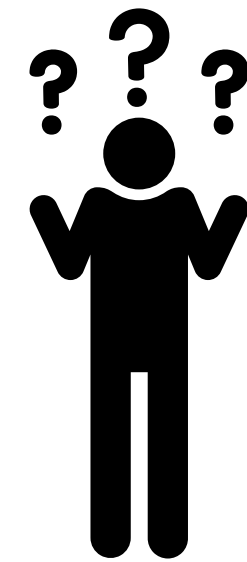


TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



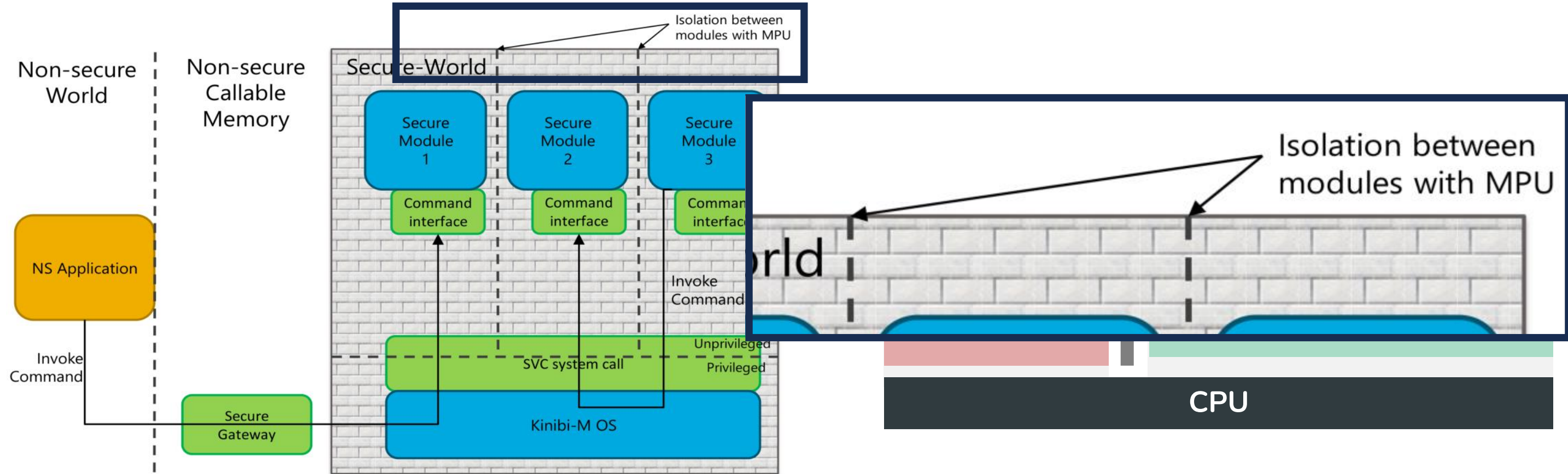
Microkernel-like Architecture

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

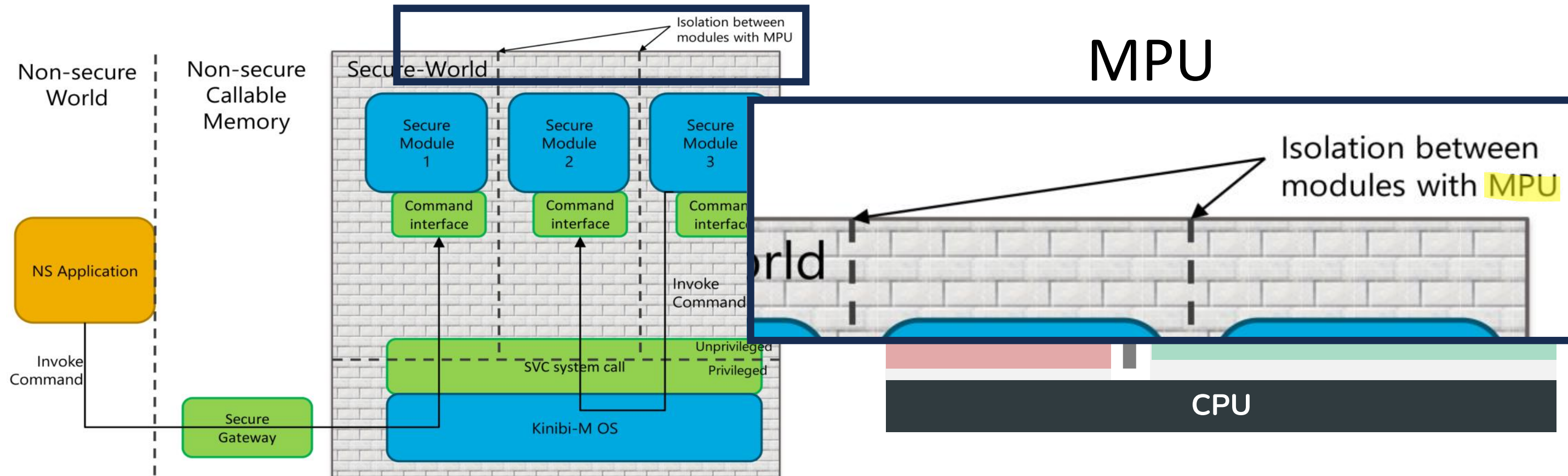


Microkernel-like Architecture

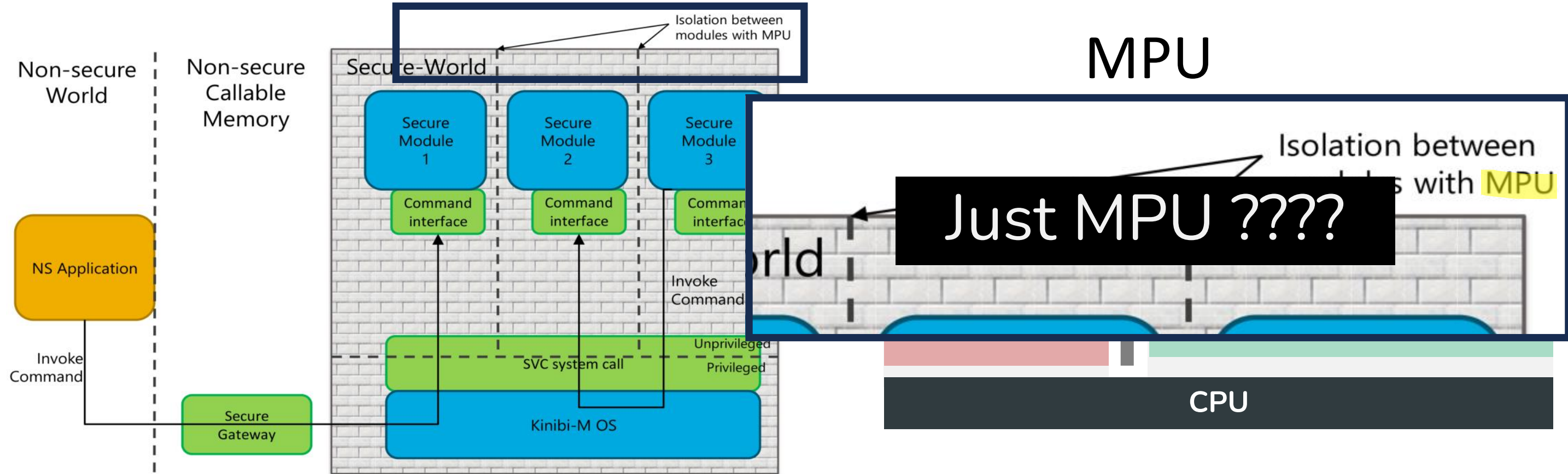
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



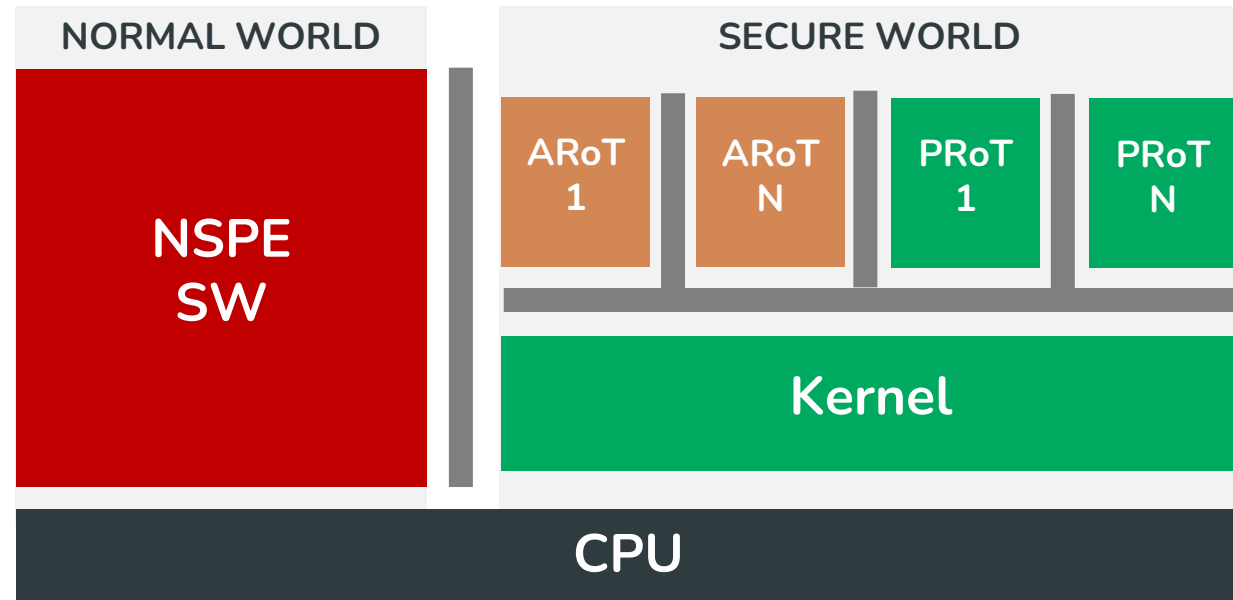
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

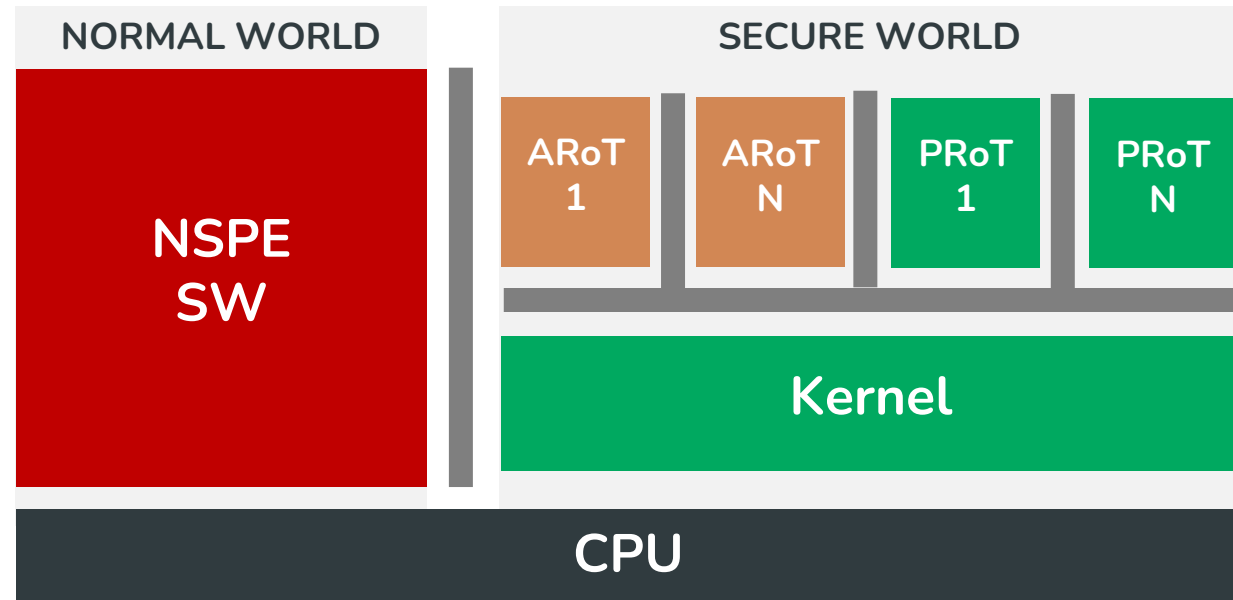


TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



Kinibi-M Architecture

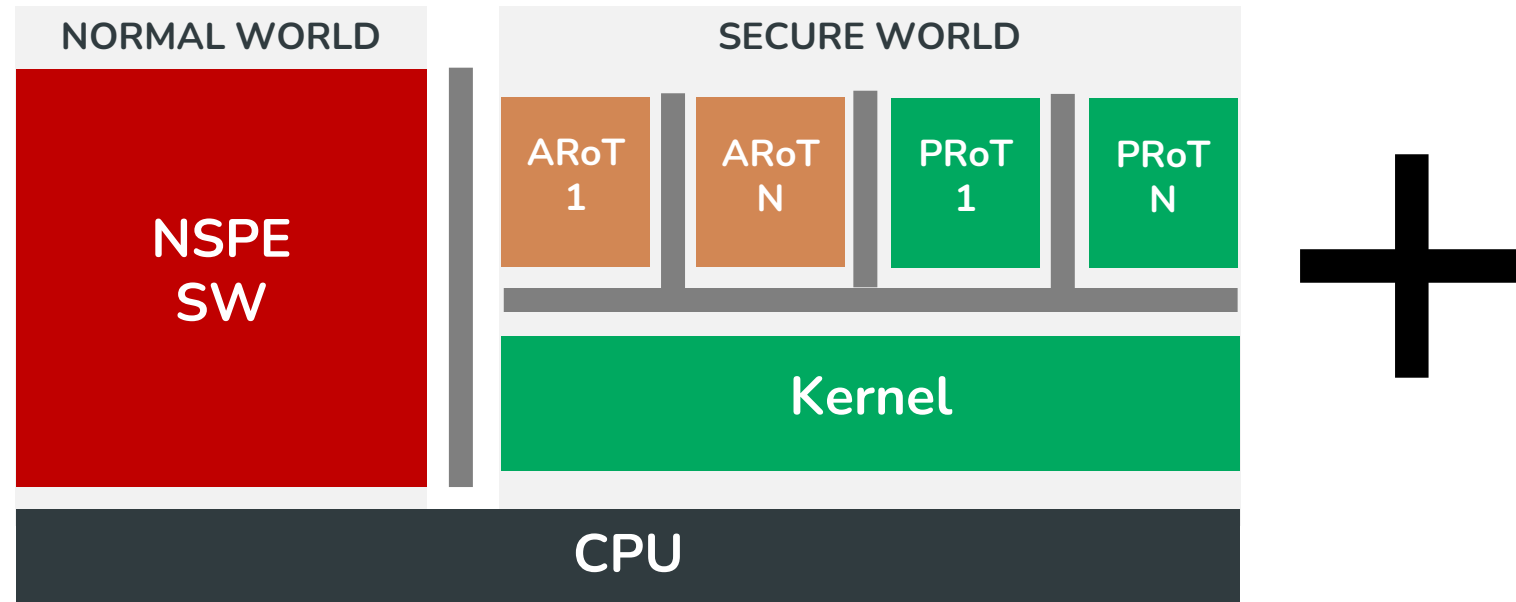
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

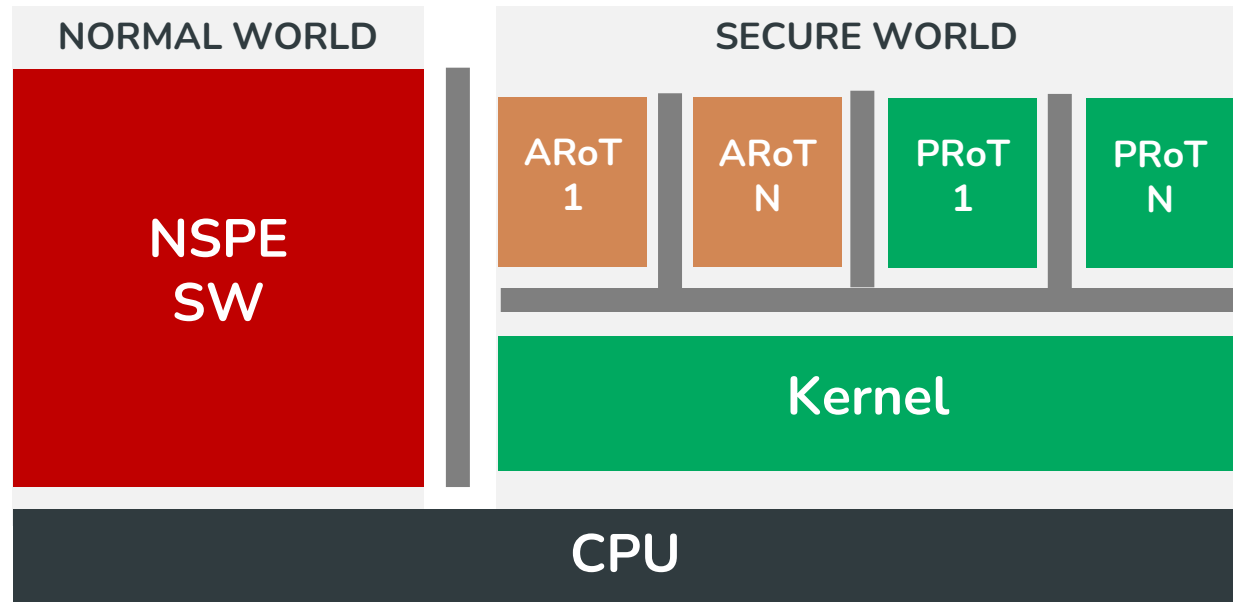
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



Kinibi-M Architecture

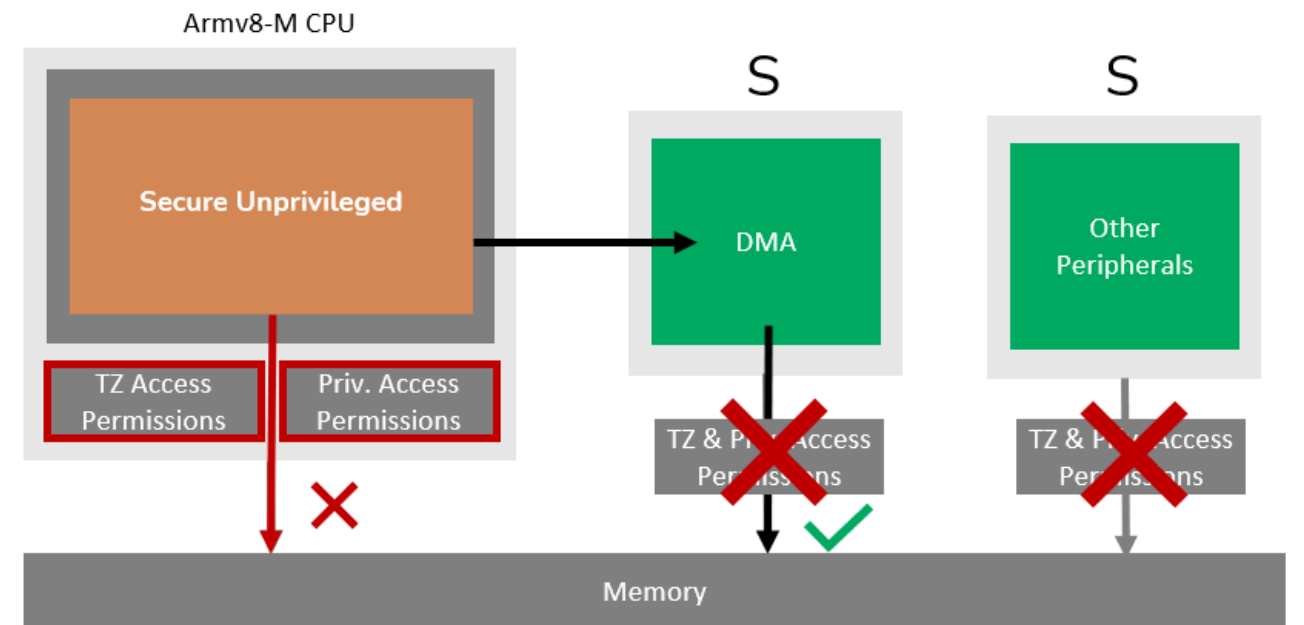
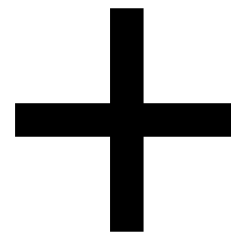
Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



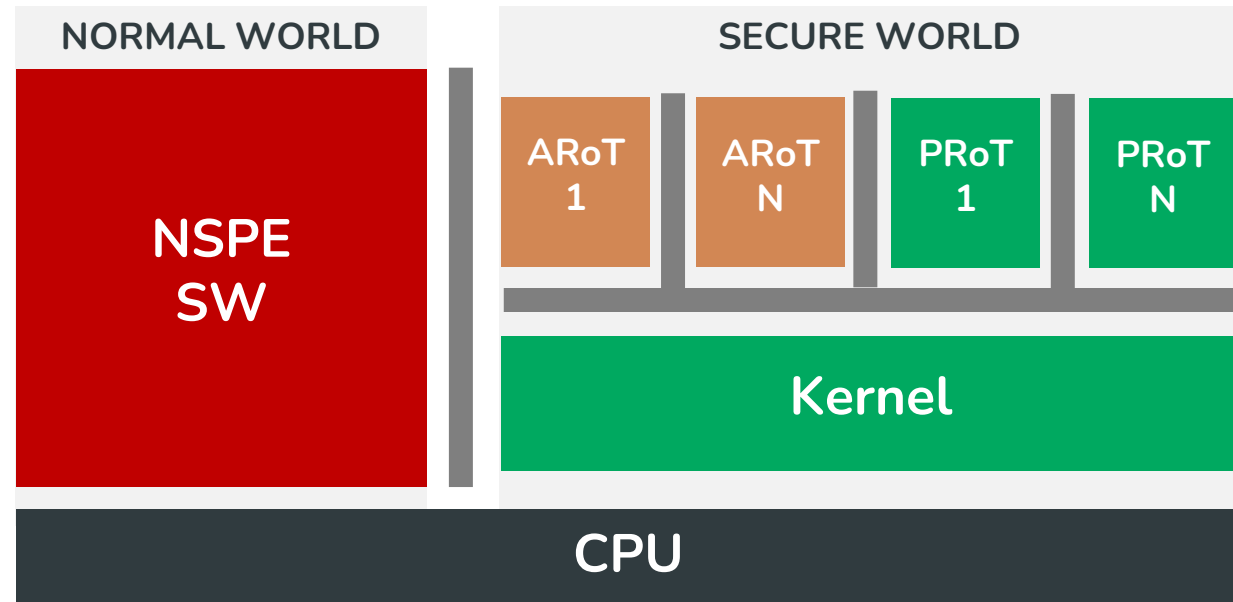
Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3



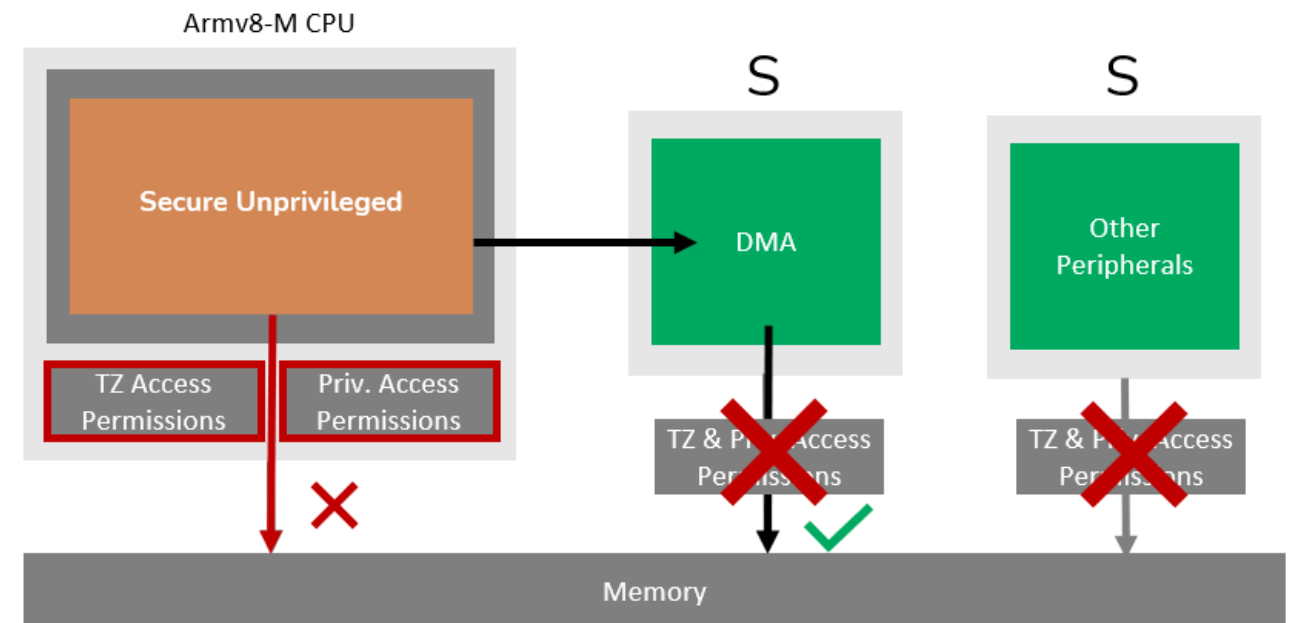
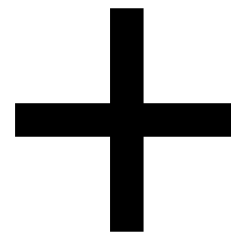
Microchip SAML11

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



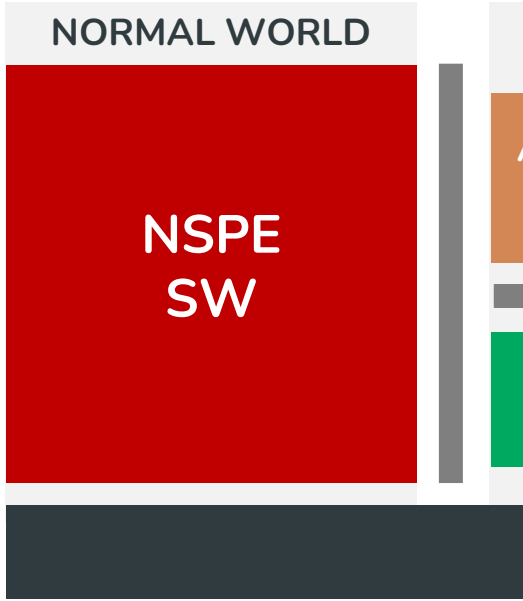
Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

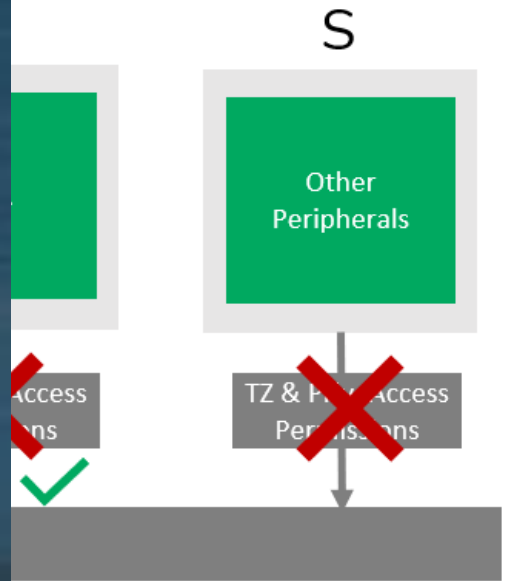


Microchip SAML11

Only PSA Level 1 & No MPC

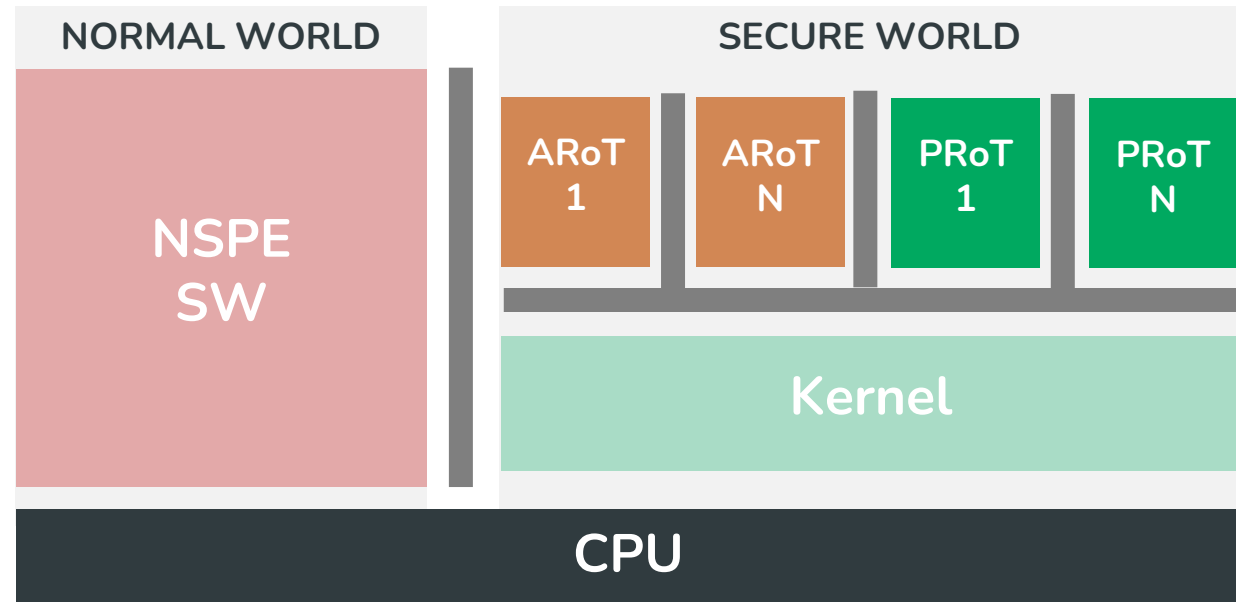


Kinibi-M
Seems Probably



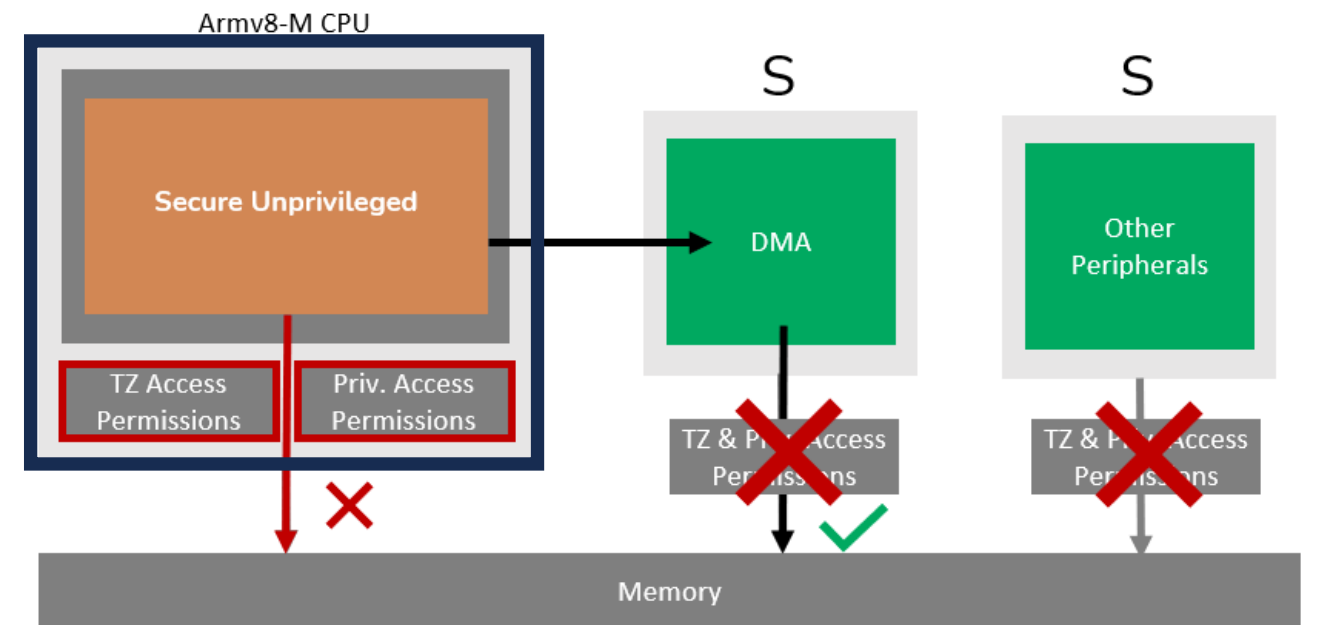
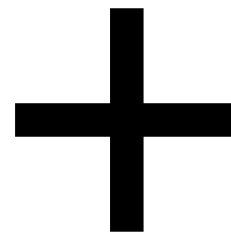
ML11
& No MPC

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M



Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

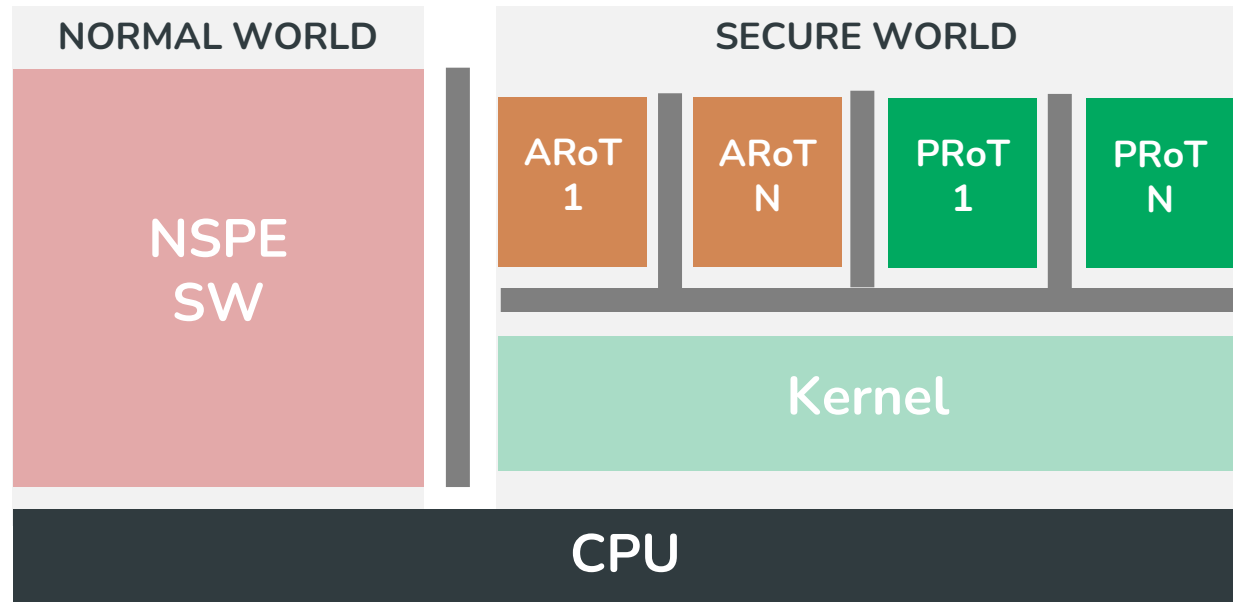


Microchip SAML11

Only PSA Level 1 & No MPC

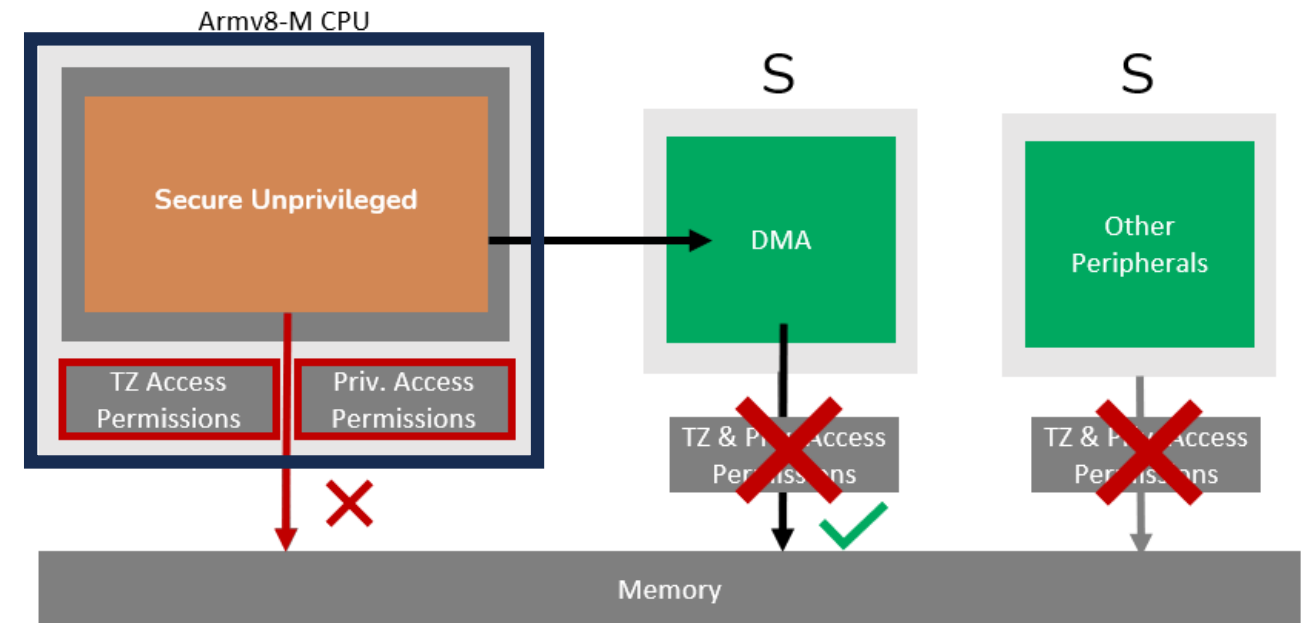
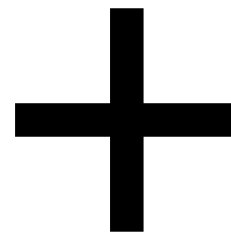
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

✓ SAU+IDAU



Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

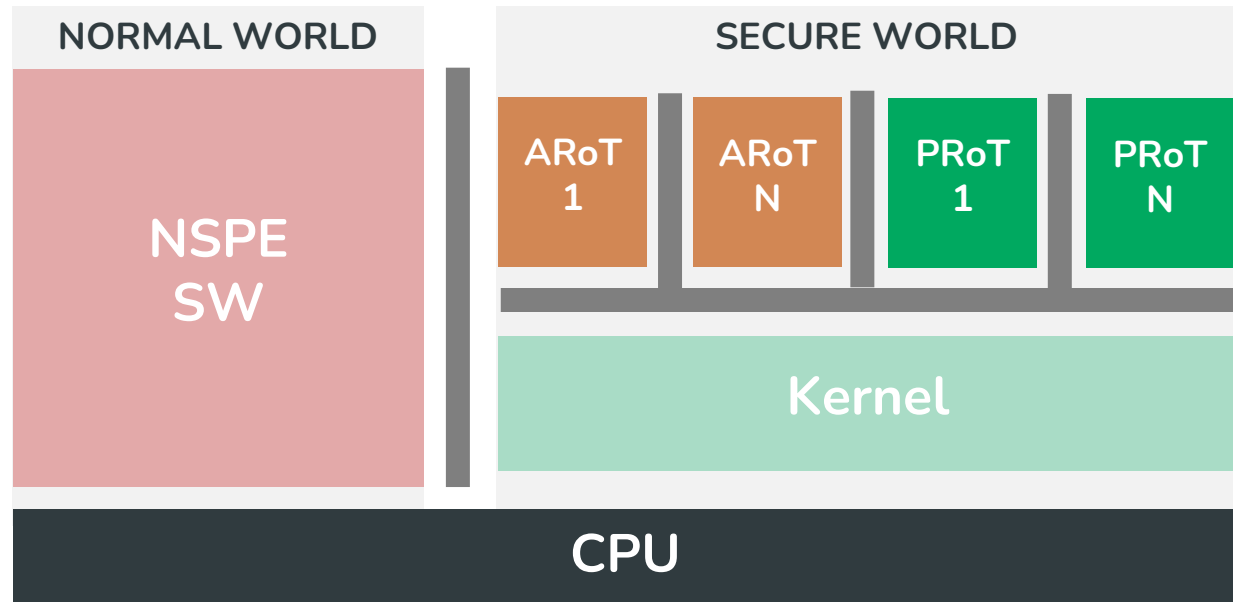


Microchip SAML11

Only PSA Level 1 & No MPC

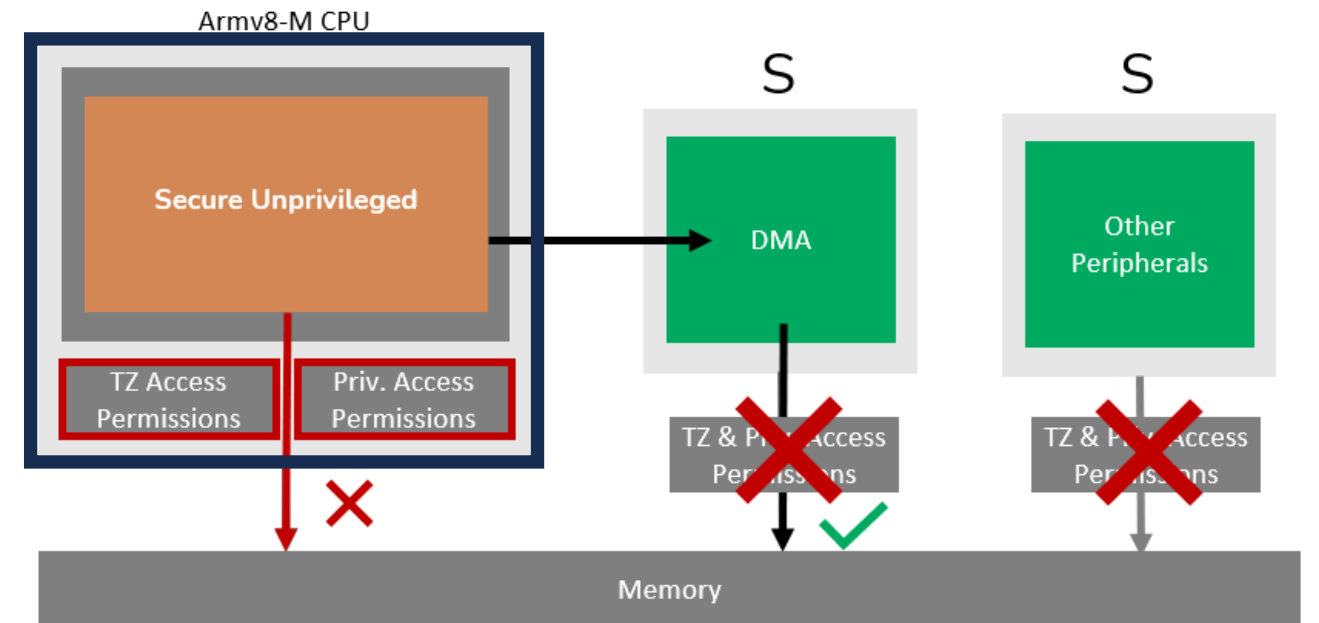
TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

- ✓ SAU+IDAU
- ✓ MPU



Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3



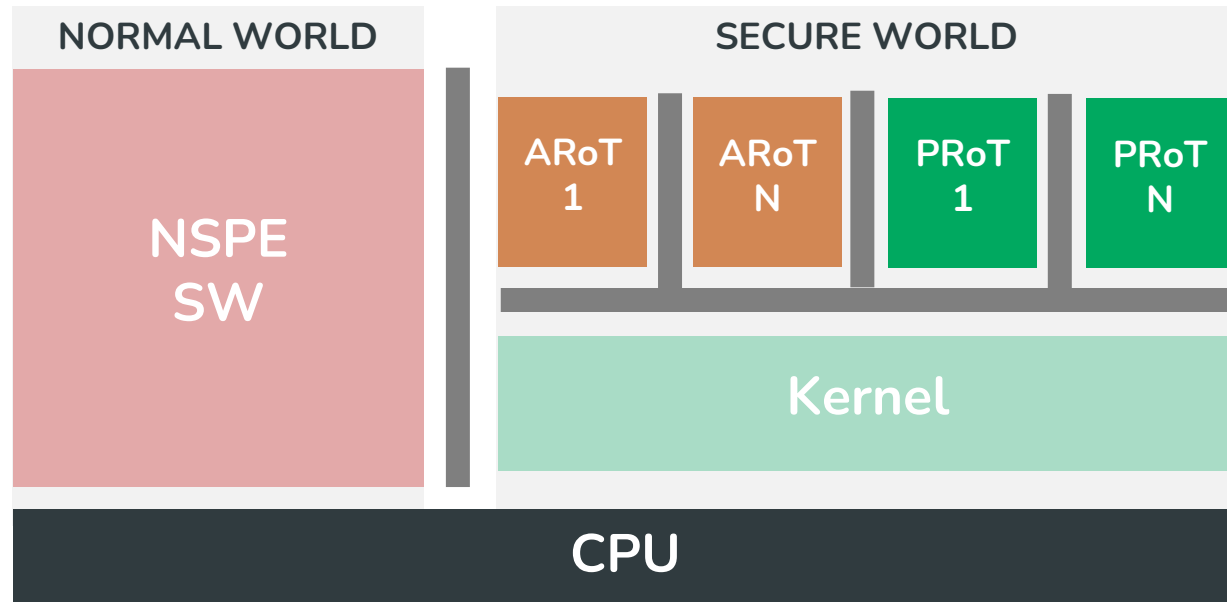
Microchip SAML11

Only PSA Level 1 & No MPC

TRUSTONIC KINIBI-M

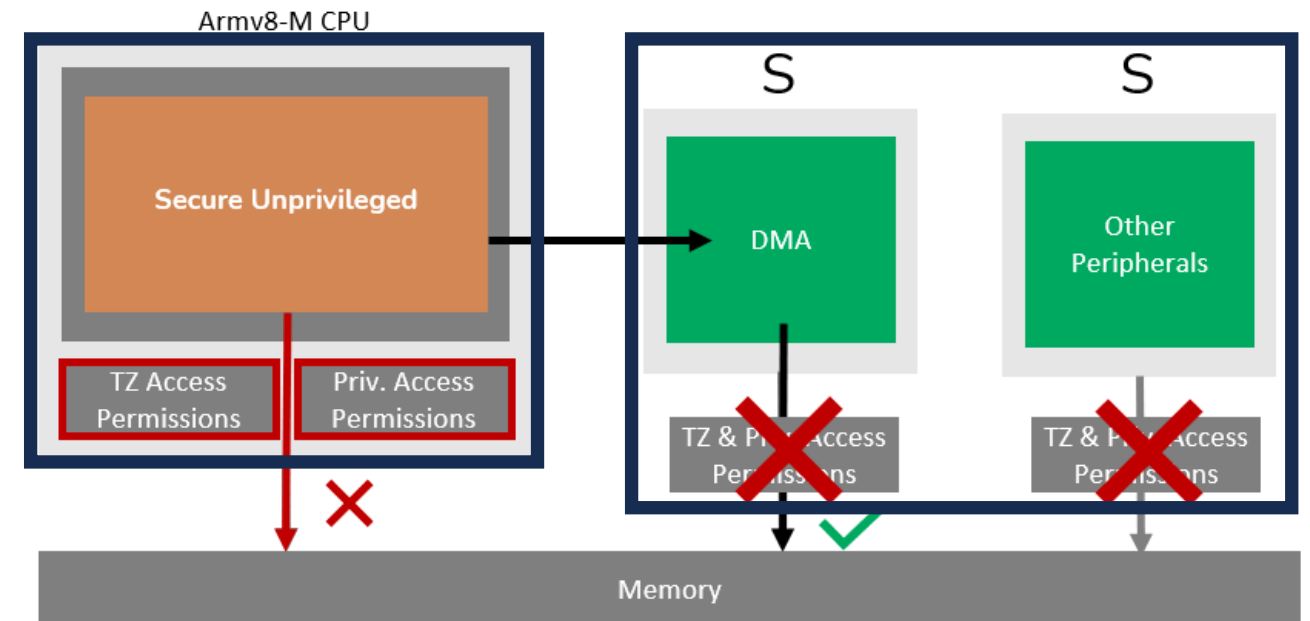
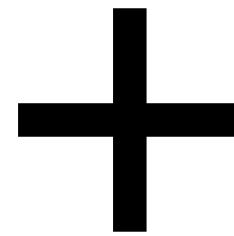
- ✓ SAU+IDAU
- ✓ MPU

✗ MPC



Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3



Microchip SAML11

Only PSA Level 1 & No MPC

With this gap of protection, a Secure Unprivileged application that has been granted a DMA can bypass all Kinibi-M security mechanism and achieve arbitrary read, write or execute capabilities

Observation

Responsible Disclosure Trustonic

A Journey



We Contact Trustonic Reporting our Findings

Jan 10th

Jan 12th

Jan 30th

Jan 31st

Feb 9th

Feb 14th

Feb 16th

Mar 10th



Trustonic Security Team Acknowledged the Reception of Our Report

Jan 10th

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Trustonic Security Team Provided 1st Feedback

Jan 10th

Jan 12th

Jan 30th

Jan 31st

Feb 9th

Feb 14th

Feb 16th

Mar 10th



We Respond to 1st Feedback

Jan 10th

Jan 12th

Jan 30th

Jan 31st

Feb 9th

Feb 14th

Feb 16th

Mar 10th



Trustonic Security Team Provided 2nd Feedback

Jan 10th

Jan 12th

Jan 30th

Jan 31st

Feb 9th

Feb 14th

Feb 16th

Mar 10th



We Respond to 2nd Feedback

Jan 10th

Jan 12th

Jan 30th

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Trustonic Security Team Provided 3rd and last Feedback

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We Sent a Last Response Wrapping up the Responsible Disclosure

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1 Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comerercial SDK

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- 1 **Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comerercial SDK**
- 2 **Topic: Attestation Secure Modules**

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- 2 **Topic: Attestation Secure Modules**
- 3 **Topic: DMA Permissions**

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- 2** Topic: Attestation Secure Modules
- 3** Topic: DMA Permissions

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Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comercial SDK



“We note that you are **using the Kinibi-M evaluation SDK, not the full (commercial) production SDK.** (...) Kinibi-M evaluation (...) is deliberately more flexible than a commercial (...) production SDK”

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Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comercial SDK



“We note that you are **using the Kinibi-M evaluation SDK, not the full (commercial) production SDK.** (...) Kinibi-M evaluation (...) is deliberately more flexible than a commercial (...) production SDK”

DISCLAIMER

We were only granted access to the **evaluation SDK**, thus all assessments and **conclusions presented on this talk** are derived form documentation and artifacts **from the Evaluation SDK.**

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We were only granted access to the **evaluation SDK**, thus all assessments and **conclusions presented on this talk** are derived form documentation and artifacts **from the Evaluation SDK.**

We **still think commercial version may suffer from the same problem** (the underlying architecture problem is the same, weak hardware protections on SAML11)



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- 2** Topic: Attestation Secure Modules
- 3** Topic: DMA Permissions

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- 1 Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comercial SDK
- 2 Topic: Attestation Secure Modules
- 3 Topic: DMA Permissions

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Topic: Attestation Secure Modules



You cannot install malicious modules because, “all modules must be **signed**, and are **validated** at install time against a protected list of signing keys” (attestation).

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Topic: Attestation Secure Modules



You cannot install malicious modules because, “all modules must be **signed**, and are **validated** at install time against a protected list of signing keys” (attestation).

DISCLAIMER

The **Evaluation SDK** doesn't support attestation of secure modules so we could freely instantiate secure modules, but in the **Commercial SDK** only **OEMs** can instantiate modules and they are all **signed** and **validated**.

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Attesting OEMs' Secure Modules offers **no guarantees** that the Secure Module has **no defects**.



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Attesting OEMs' Secure Modules offers **no guarantees** that the Secure Module has **no defects**.



Unless OEMs code is **formally verified** (which, as far as we know, is not the industry standard) we should (by probability) **expect bugs** and vulnerabilities.

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue that there is a **naive trust in OEM developers**. Even if there is **no malicious intent**, unintended **bugs may be introduced in the code** which may lead to a vulnerability, e.g., privileged escalation.

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- 1 Topic: Evaluatoin SDK vs Comercial SDK
- 2 Topic: Attestation Secure Modules
- 3 Topic: DMA Permissions

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- 3 **Topic:** DMA Permissions

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Topic: DMA Permissions



It's true that a **Secure Module with access to a DMA** "can effectively access any part of the system", it is "a common limitation of low-cost hardware, however it is far from an open door"

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Topic: DMA Permissions



It's true that a **Secure Module with access to a DMA** "can effectively access any part of the system", it is "a **common limitation** of low-cost hardware, however it is far from an open door"



"**Access to the DMA controller needs to be granted**, and the best practice guidance in the **production SDK** (which we acknowledge you do not have) **explains how to lock down** access to **devices** from less trusted developers"

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Topic: DMA Permissions



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"Access to the **DMA controller needs to be granted**, and the best practice guidance in the **production SDK** (which we acknowledge you do not have) **explains how to lock down** access to **devices** from less trusted developers"

Contradictory ideas, on one side, Trustonic admits that a **Secure Module with DMA** access has **full access to the system**, and, on the other side, Trustonic claims that it is **not an open door**.

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Topic: DMA Permissions



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DMA access should not need to be granted but MEDIATED (because lack of hardware mechanisms). **Kinibi-B should mediate** access from **ALL Secure Modules** via DMA interposer.

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Topic: DMA Permissions



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DMA access should not need to be granted but MEDIATED (because lack of hardware mechanisms). **Kinibi-B should mediate** access from **ALL Secure Modules** via DMA interposer.



We proposed to share the **DMA interposer mechanism** to fix the DMA issue.

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TAKEAWAY

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue that there is a **lack of understanding of the limitations** of the **underlying hardware** (where Kinibi-M runs) and the necessary **Software mechanisms needed to enforce claimed protections**.

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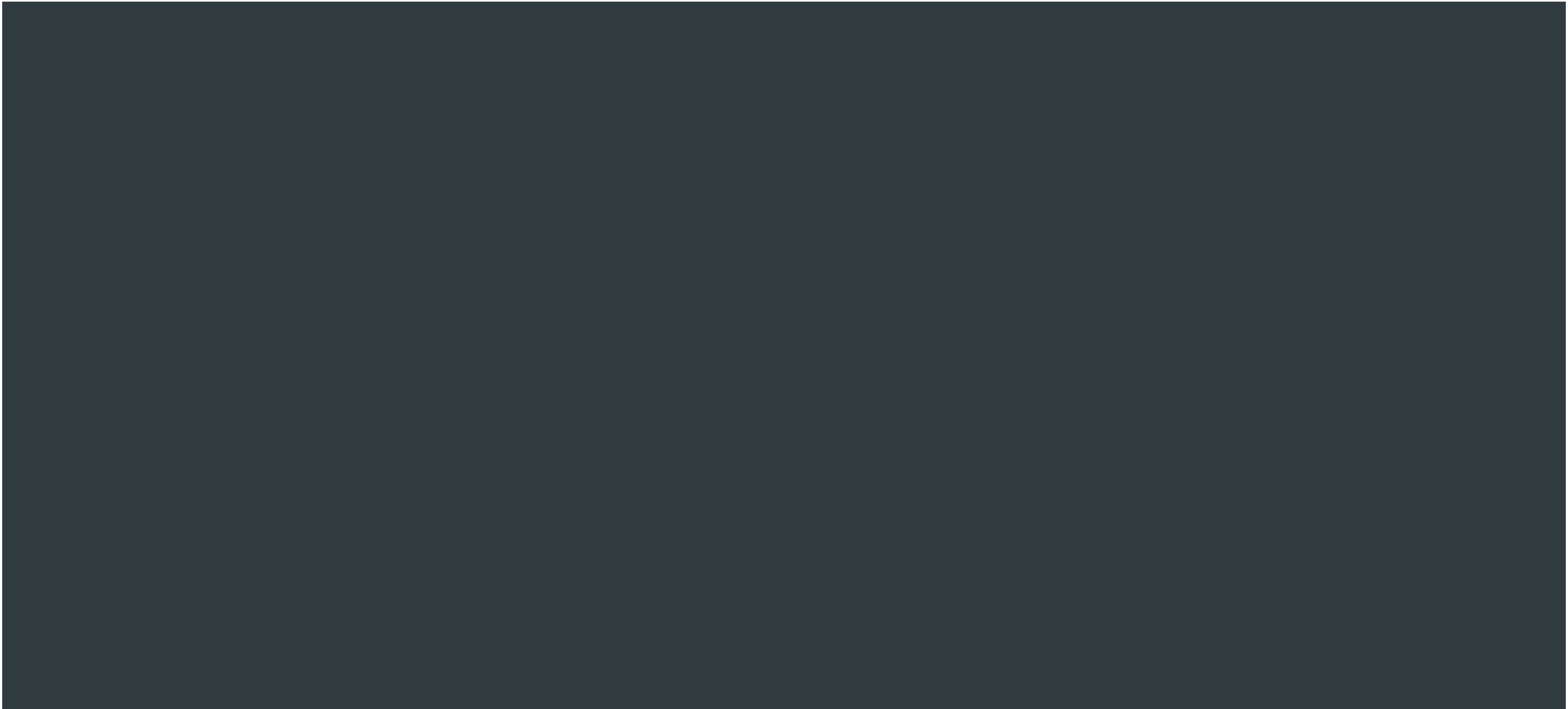
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1 Topic: No Native DMA Support

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1 Topic: No Native DMA Support

2 Topic: No System MMU & DMA permissions

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- 1** **Topic:** No Native DMA Support
- 2** **Topic:** No System MMU & DMA permissions
- 3** **Topic:** Native FLASH Access Mediation but not Native DMA mediation.

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Topic: No Native DMA Support



“Kinibi-M for SAML11 does not ship with a Secure World DMA module, and it is left up to customers to source one or do without.”

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Topic: No Native DMA Support



“Kinibi-M for SAML11 does not ship with a Secure World DMA module, and it is left up to customers to source one or do without.”



“In our architecture it would be up to the OEM provided DMA module to provide that mediation”

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1 2 3 **Topic: No Native DMA Support**



“Kinibi-M for SAML11 does not ship with a Secure World DMA module, and it is left up to customers to source one or do without.”



“In our architecture it would be up to the OEM provided DMA module to provide that mediation”

OEMs have to source one DMA module if they want to use a DMA. **We don't think is a good approach**, because this **forces OEMs to trust each other** (which they don't).



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Topic: No Native DMA Support



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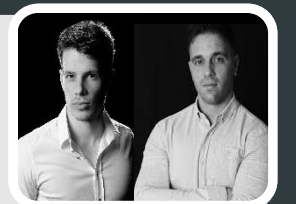


“In our architecture it would be up to the OEM provided DMA module to provide that mediation”

OEMs have to source one DMA module if they want to use a DMA. **We don't think is a good approach**, because this **forces OEMs to trust each other** (which they don't).



It also **increases the probability of a bug/vulnerability**.



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TAKEAWAY

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue that there is a **lack of understanding of multi-OEM threat model**. In a multistakeholder scenario (i.e., multiple OEMs) **OEMs don't trust each other**.

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- 1** **Topic: No Native DMA Support**
- 2** **Topic: No System MMU & DMA permissions**
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Topic: No System MMU & DMA permissions



“You have at most revealed that this device has no system MMU (covered in the data sheet), and that DMA permissions should not be granted to untrusted application modules”

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Topic: No System MMU & DMA permissions



“You have at most revealed that this device has no system MMU (covered in the data sheet), and that DMA permissions should not be granted to untrusted application modules”

System MMU is an access control IP used in platforms with virtual memory, In Cortex-M (MCU) platforms, there are no SMMU, but MPC (Memory Protection Controller) and PPC (Peripheral Protection Controller)

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The PPC/MPC in SAML11 cannot enforce access control in terms of privilege levels. If you directly assign a DMA device to an OEM you are basically granting them full control of the system

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Topic: No System MMU & DMA permissions



“You have at most revealed that this device has no system MMU (covered in the data sheet), and that DMA permissions should not be granted to untrusted application modules”

System MMU is an access control IP used in platforms with virtual memory, In Cortex-M (MCU) platforms, there are no SMMU, but MPC (Memory Protection Controller) and PPC (Peripheral Protection Controller)



The PPC/MPC in SAML11 cannot enforce access control in terms of privilege levels. If you directly assign a DMA device to an OEM you are basically granting them full control of the system



Kinibi-M should provide native DMA support once it is a critical piece of infrastructure for Microcontrollers, due to the power and resource-constrained nature of this devices.

Jan 10thJan 12thJan 30thJan 31stFeb 9thFeb 14thFeb 16thMar 10th

TAKEAWAY

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue there is a **lack of understanding** about **the memory protection controllers of Microcontrollers** (system wide protection mechanisms).

Jan 10th

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- 1 **Topic:** No Native DMA Support
- 2 **Topic:** No System MMU & DMA permissions
- 3 **Topic:** Native FLASH Access Mediation but not Native DMA mediation.

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- 1 **Topic:** No Native DMA Support
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Topic: Native FLASH Access Mediation but not Native DMA mediation.



“Kinibi-M fully supports secure identification of module-to-module caller identity precisely to support this sort of use case. For example this is the pattern we use to **mediated access to flash storage provided by our secure storage module.**”

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Topic: Native FLASH Access Mediation but not Native DMA mediation.



“Kinibi-M fully supports secure identification of module-to-module caller identity precisely to support this sort of use case. For example this is the pattern we use to **mediated access to flash storage provided by our secure storage module.**”

Kinibi-M provides mediation for flash storage, but why doesn't it offer similar mediation for DMA?
DMA is also a critical service, arguably even more.



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TAKEAWAY

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue that there is a **lack of understanding** regarding the **criticality of a core service such as the DMA**. If mismanaged, it can grant full access to all system memory.

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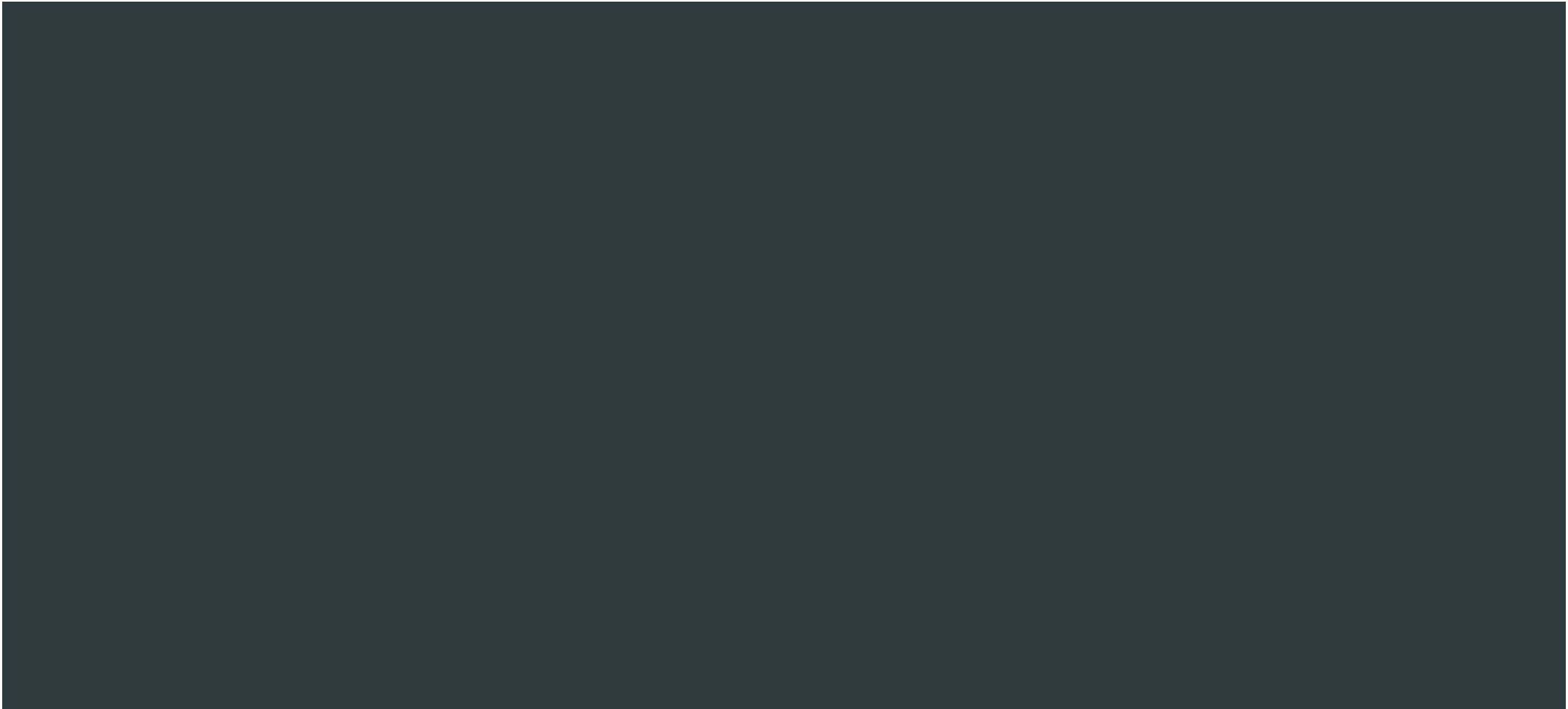
Jan 31st

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1 Topic: Clarification of Kinibi-M isolation levels

Jan 10th

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- 1 **Topic:** Clarification of Kinibi-M isolation levels
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Topic: Clarification of Kinibi-M isolation levels



“Kinibi-M pre-dates Arm PSA and was not built on the PSA architecture. (...) In some areas we do more than PSA (any level) in others we do less. That is why we do not claim PSA Level 3 and have not certified against it.”

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TAKEAWAY

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TAKEAWAY

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We argue there is **lack of awareness and mapping** regarding the **PSA isolation levels** on Kinibi-M.

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- 1** **Topic:** Clarification of Kinibi-M isolation levels
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Topic: Clarification of who should provide DMA mediator



“This device has only (at most) **64kb of flash** and a **16kb of ram**. There are very few use cases for secure world DMA. In practice **most customers simply disable the use of DMA in the secure world**, preventing any potential abuse.”

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“If needed, **DMA access should be provided and mediated by a “system” module**. That is what we have said all along. **However**, that module needs to be **provided by an OEM**. It is not provided by **Trustonic**.”

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“If needed, **DMA access should be provided and mediated by a “system” module**. That is what we have said all along. **However**, that module needs to be **provided by an OEM**. It is not provided by **Trustonic**.”

We strongly believe that **not providing DMA mediation is not a good security practice**.



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We strongly believe that **not providing DMA mediation is not a good security practice**.



DMAs are key components in MCUs (but bus masters!!). **Not providing DMA module is limiting the system’s capabilities** from one side and **leaving an open threat vector** on the other side.



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Requests to Trustonic

To issue a **Security Advisory**.



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Requests to Trustonic

To issue a **Security Advisory**.



Clarify the documentation clearly communicating the limitations of **Evaluation SDK vs Commercial SDK**.



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Provide us **access to the Commercial SDK** for internal assessment.



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Provide us **access to the Commercial SDK** for internal assessment.



NO RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS!

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SUMMING UP

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SUMMING UP

1

We could only validate our claims on **Evaluation SDK** (the only SDK we were granted permissions);

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4

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Official **Kinibi-m** claims only **PSA Level 2** ready, but its **secure architecture claims higher protections levels** (not backed by any hardware or software mechanism);

5

There is **no DMA mediator**, the responsibility is **left to the OEMs**, and by default **Kinibi-M** has no control of such an import core service, able to disrupt all system;

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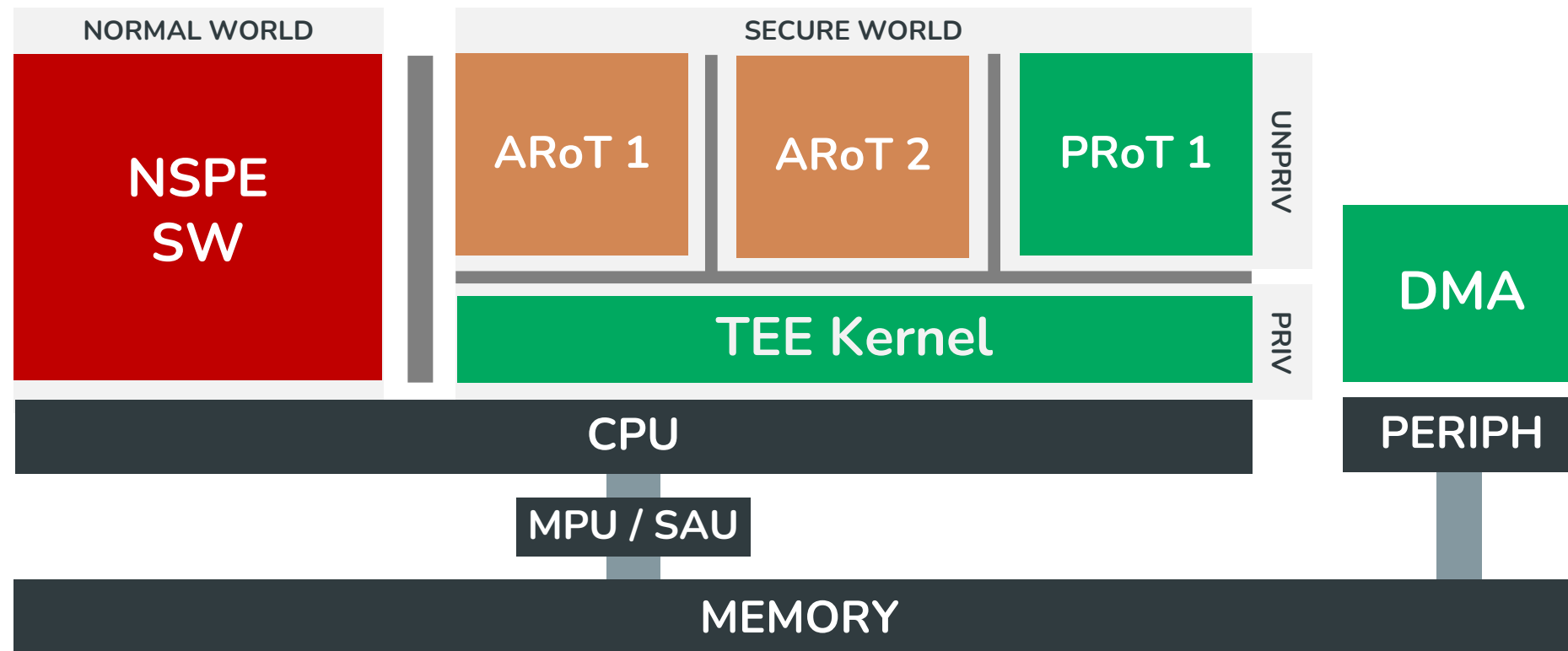
Feb 14th

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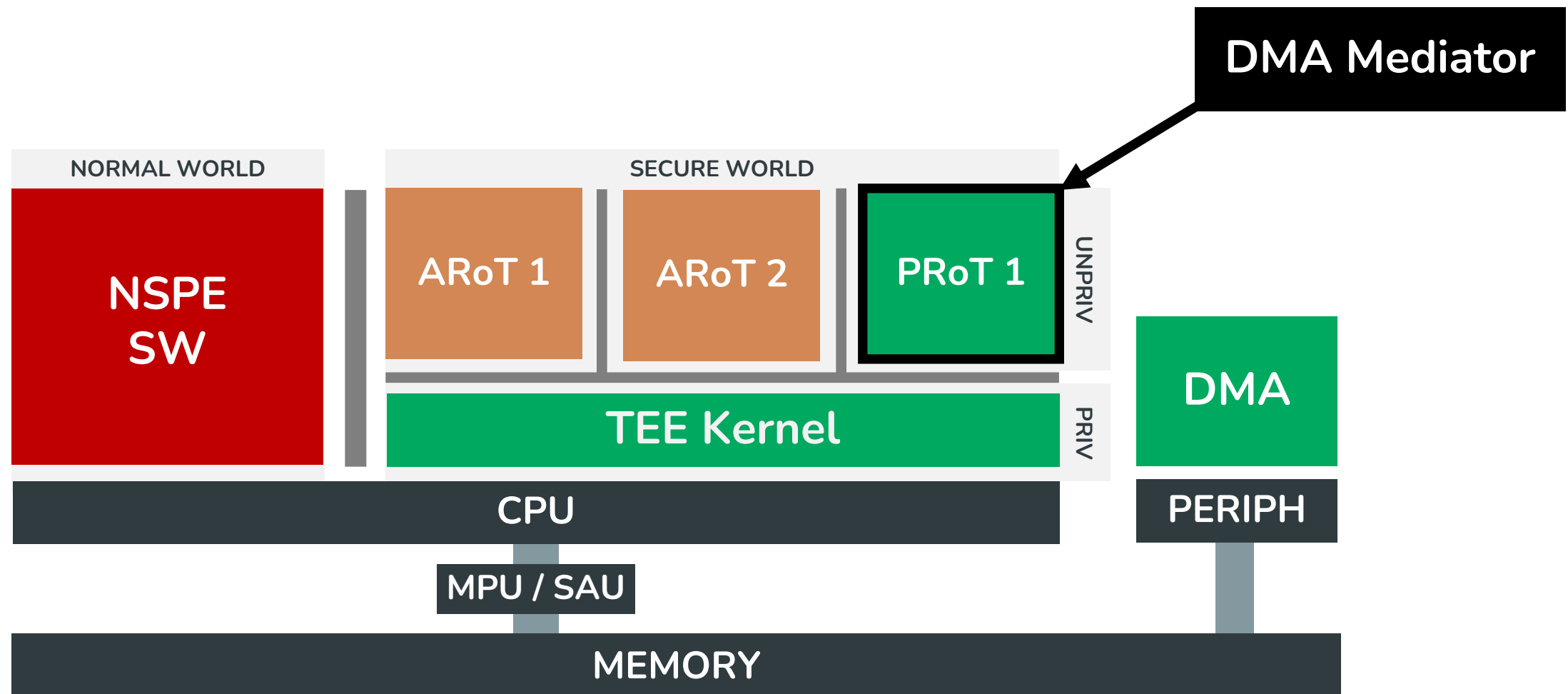
Mar 10th

DMA Mediation

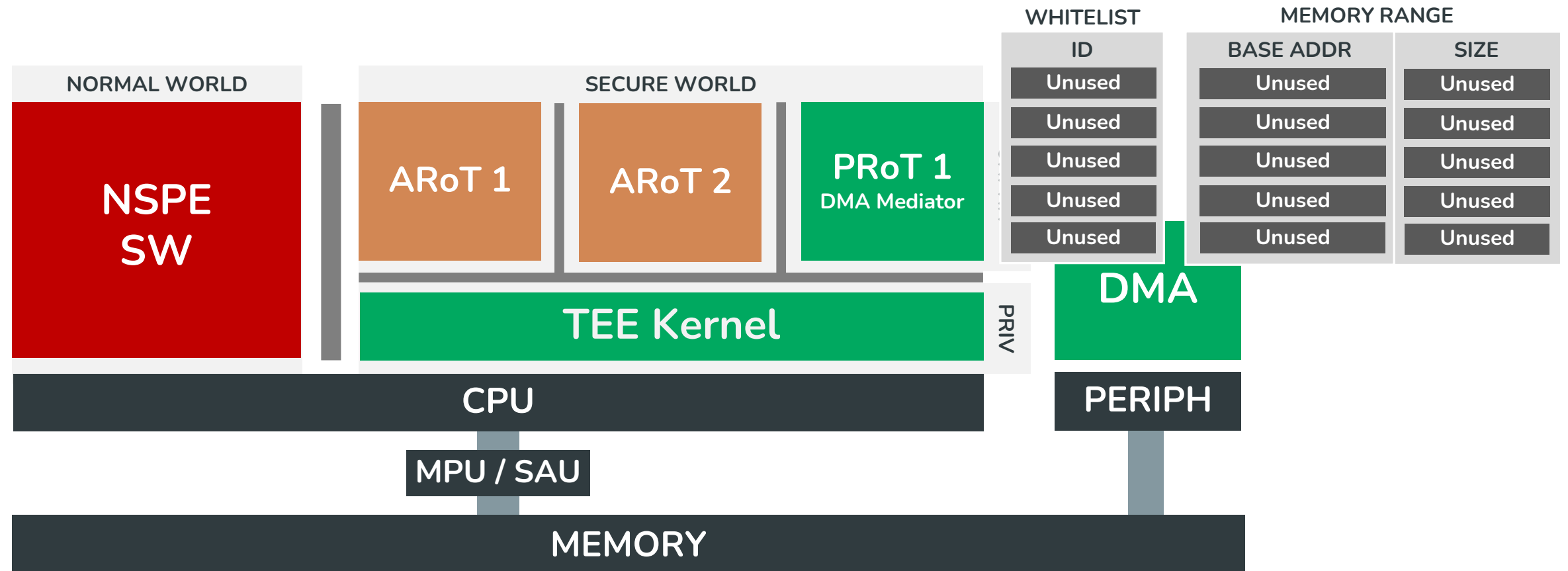
DMA MEDIATION



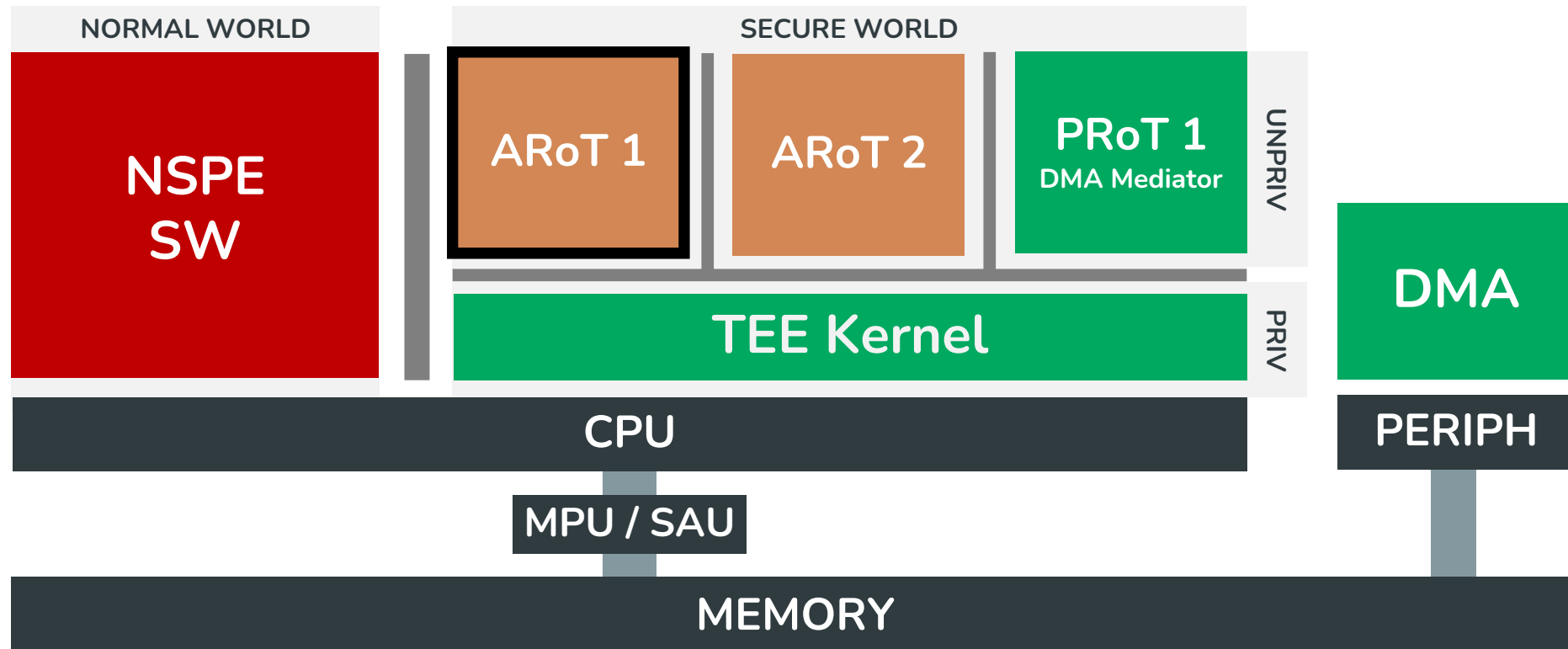
DMA MEDIATION



DMA MEDIATION



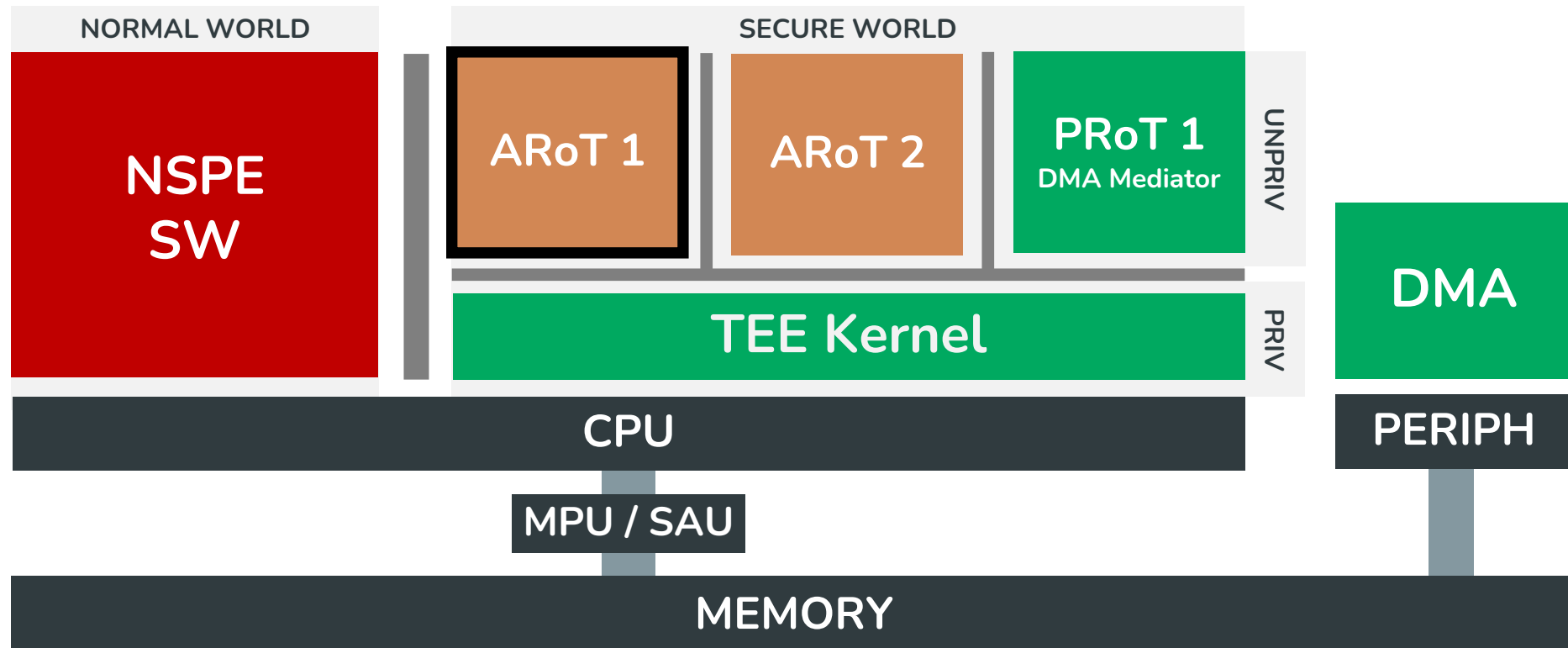
DMA MEDIATION



WHITELIST	
ID	
ARoT 1	
Unused	
Unused	
Unused	
Unused	
Unused	

MEMORY RANGE	
BASE ADDR	SIZE
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused

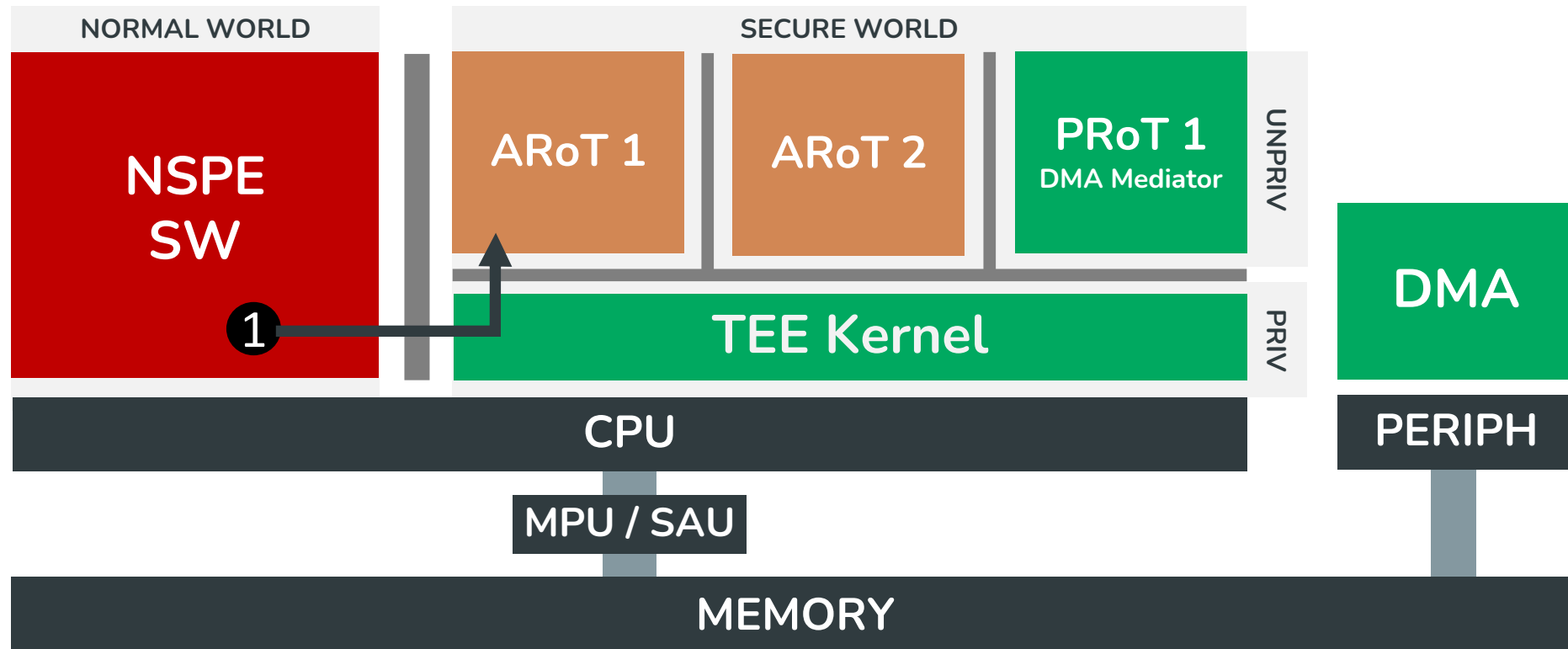
DMA MEDIATION



WHITELIST
ID
ARoT 1
Unused
Unused
Unused
Unused

MEMORY RANGE	
BASE ADDR	SIZE
0x20000000	0x1000
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused

DMA MEDIATION

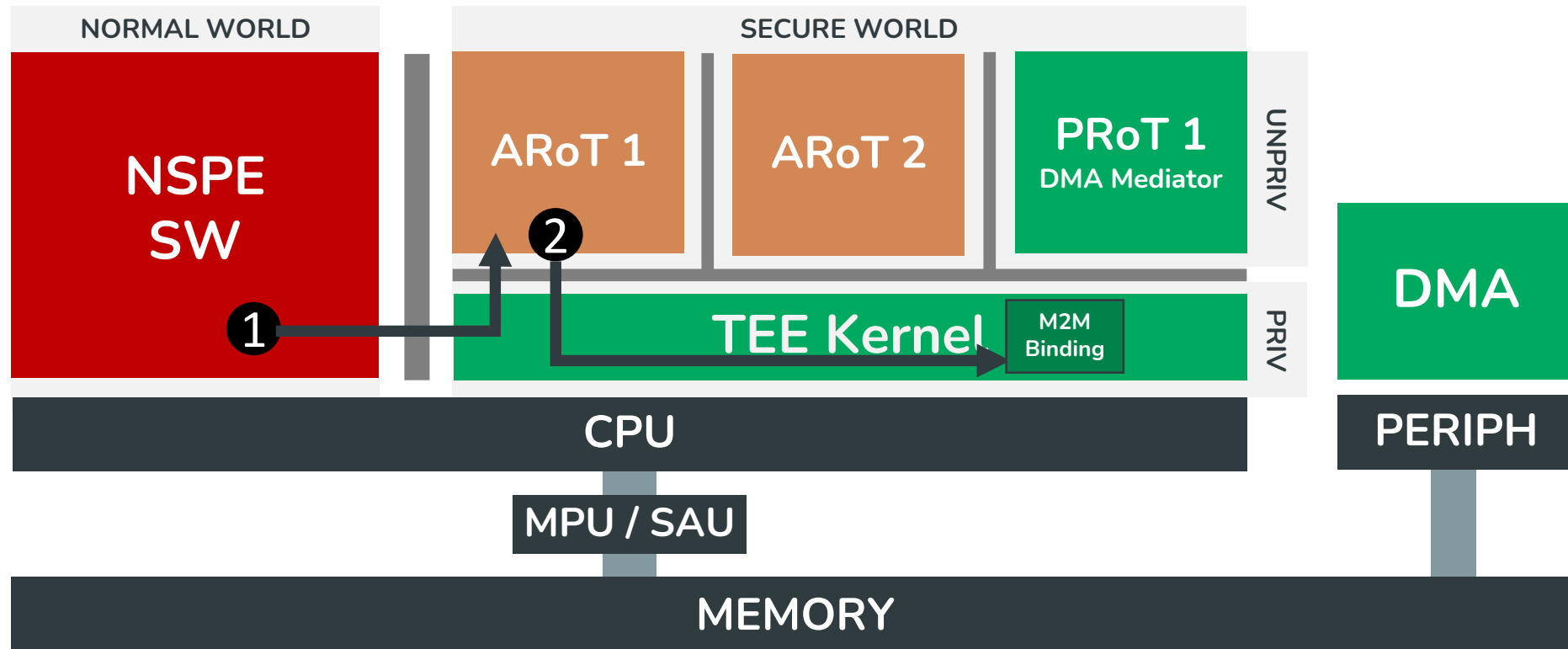


WHITELIST
ID
ARoT 1
Unused
Unused
Unused
Unused

MEMORY RANGE	
BASE ADDR	SIZE
0x20000000	0x1000
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused

① NS calls ARoT 1

DMA MEDIATION

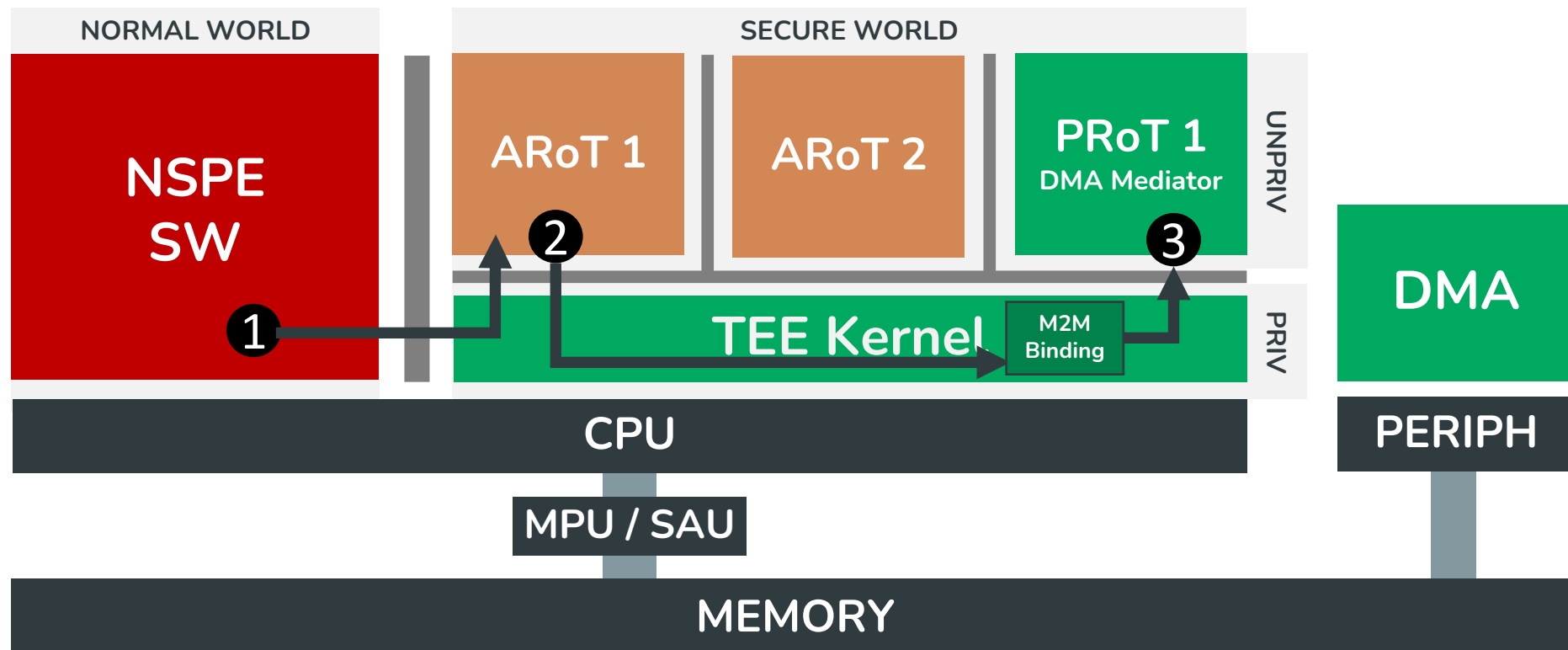


① NS calls ARoT 1

② ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator

WHITELIST		MEMORY RANGE	
ID		BASE ADDR	SIZE
ARoT 1		0x20000000	0x1000
Unused		Unused	Unused
Unused		Unused	Unused
Unused		Unused	Unused
Unused		Unused	Unused

DMA MEDIATION

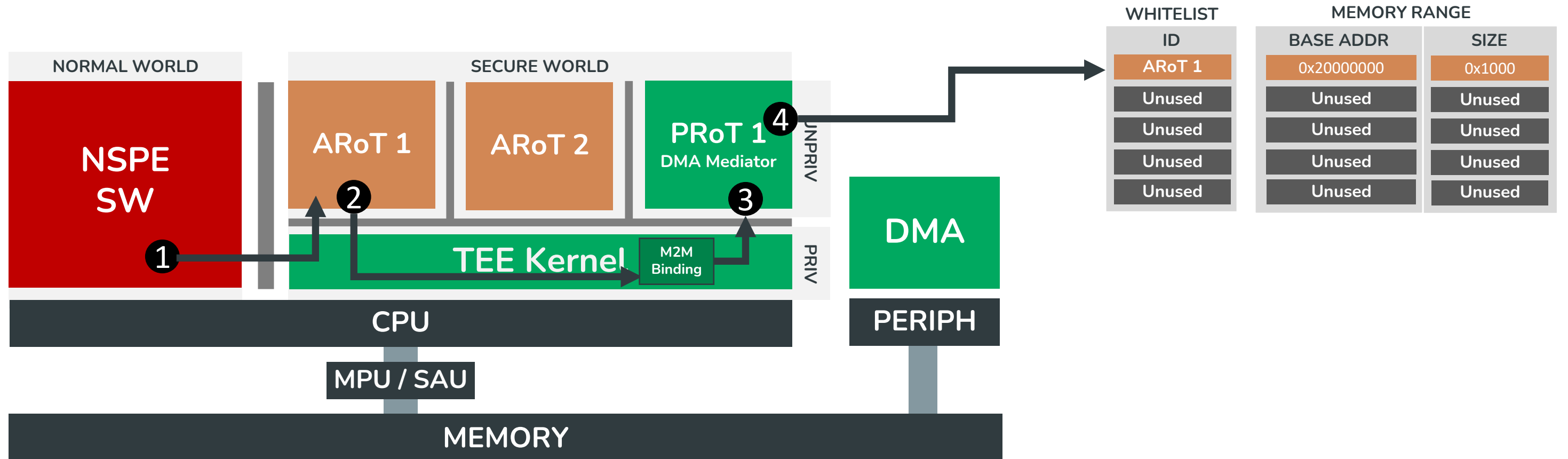


WHITELIST	
ID	
ARoT 1	
Unused	
Unused	
Unused	
Unused	

MEMORY RANGE	
BASE ADDR	SIZE
0x20000000	0x1000
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused
Unused	Unused

- 1 NS calls ARoT 1
- 2 ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator
- 3 TEE Kernel Invokes DMA Mediator

DMA MEDIATION



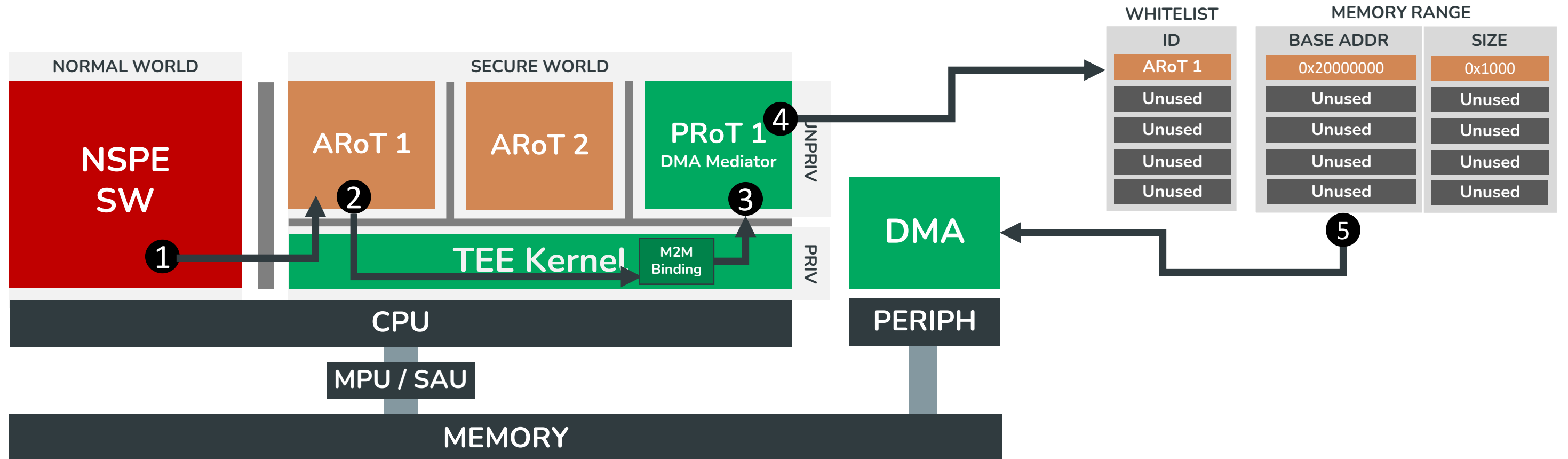
1 NS calls ARoT 1

2 ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator

3 TEE Kernel Invokes DMA Mediator

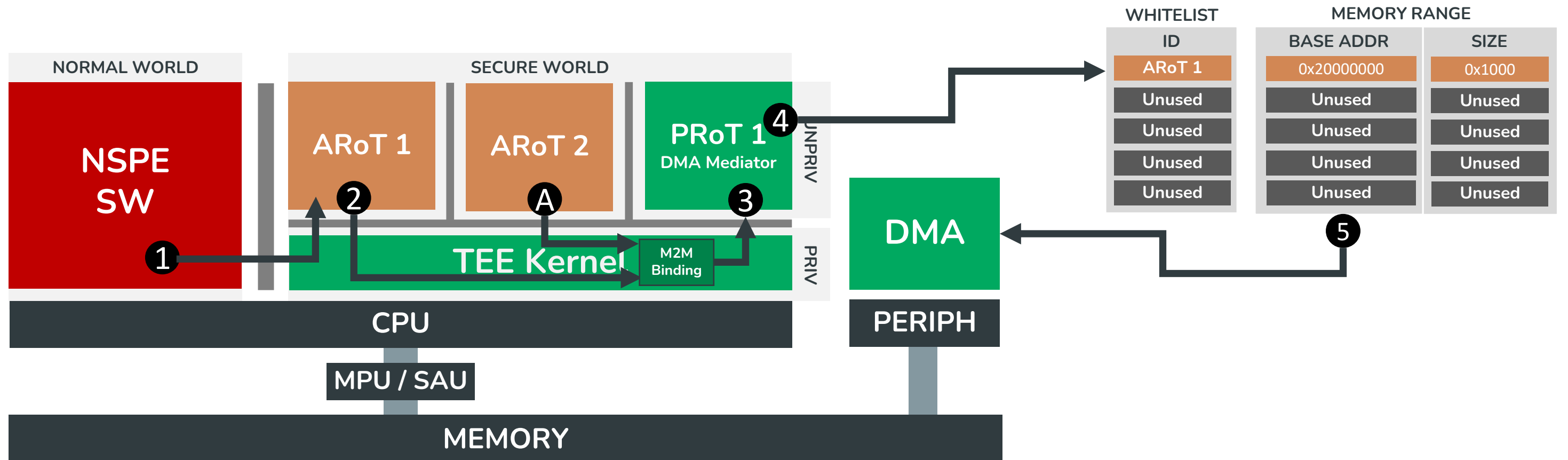
4 DMA Mediator Checks Access Permissions and Memory Range

DMA MEDIATION



- ① NS calls ARoT 1
- ② ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator
- ③ TEE Kernel Invokes DMA Mediator
- ④ DMA Mediator Checks Access Permissions and Memory Range
- ⑤ DMA Memory Access Granted to ARoT 1

DMA MEDIATION



1 NS calls ARoT 1

2 ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator

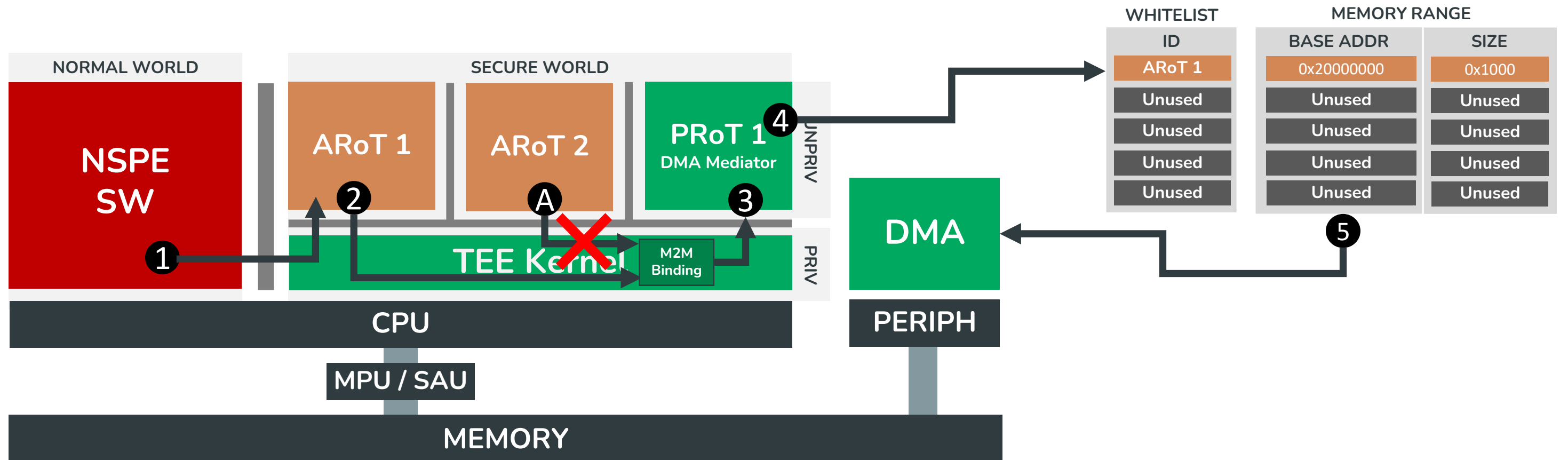
3 TEE Kernel Invokes DMA Mediator

4 DMA Mediator Checks Access Permissions and Memory Range

5 DMA Memory Access Granted to ARoT 1

A ARoT 2 requests access to DMA mediator

DMA MEDIATION



① NS calls ARoT 1

② ARoT 1 requests access to DMA mediator

③ TEE Kernel Invokes DMA Mediator

④ DMA Mediator Checks Access Permissions and Memory Range

⑤ DMA Memory Access Granted to ARoT 1

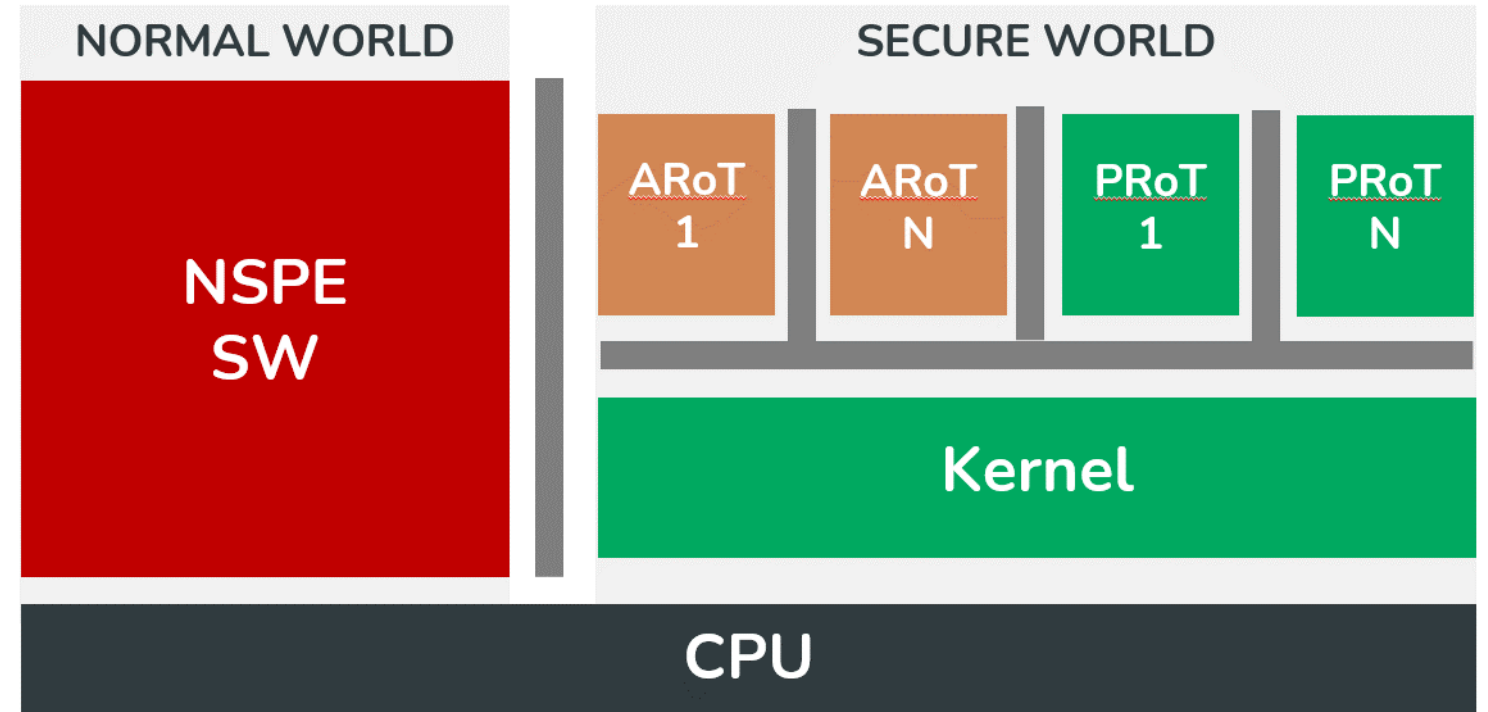
A ARoT 2 requests access to DMA mediator

✗ ARoT 2 is not on the DMA Mediator Whitelist, requested is rejected

What Can Go Wrong

Attack Examples and “Live” Demo

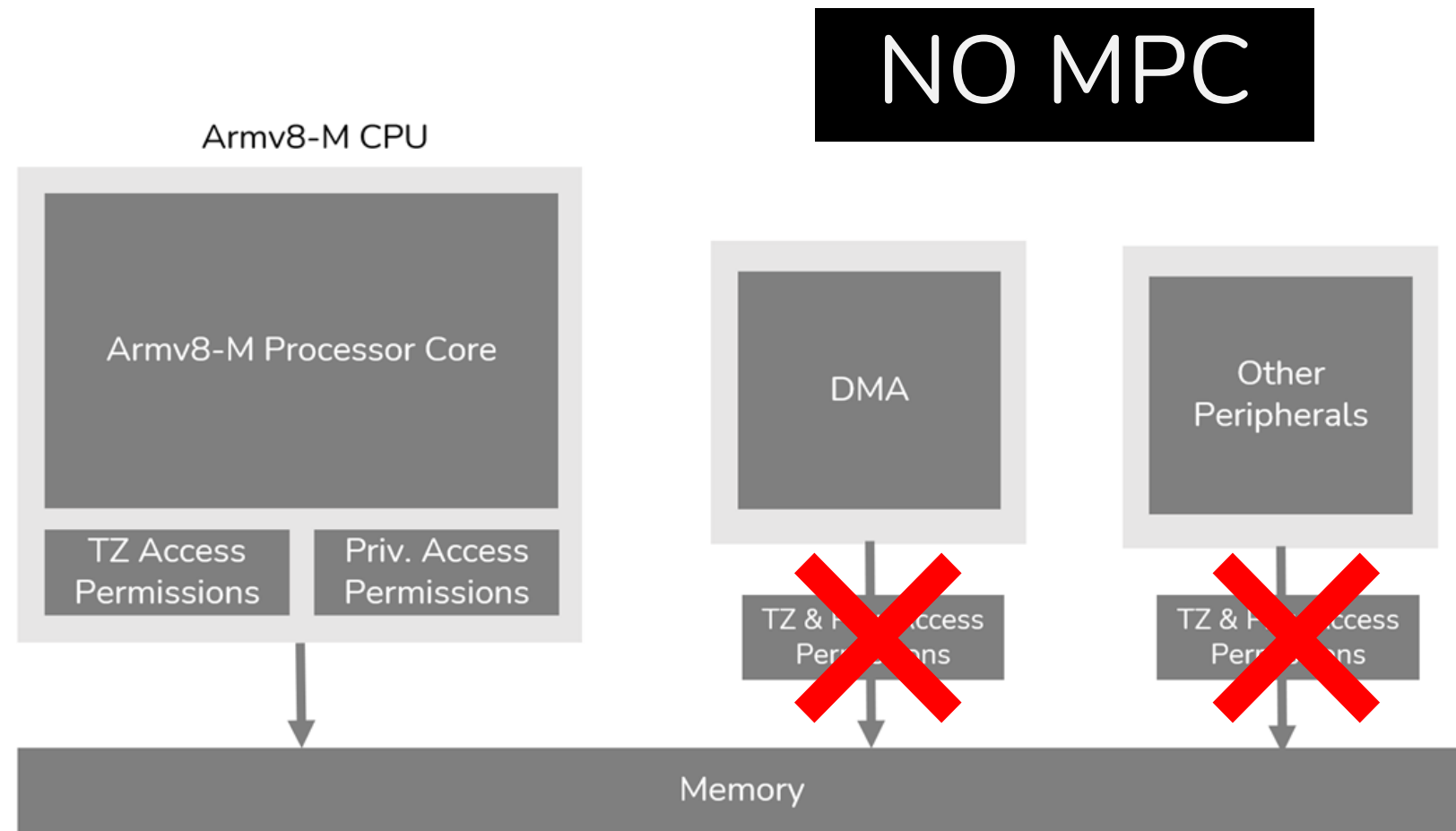
WHEN WE WANT “PSA 3+” ISOLATION



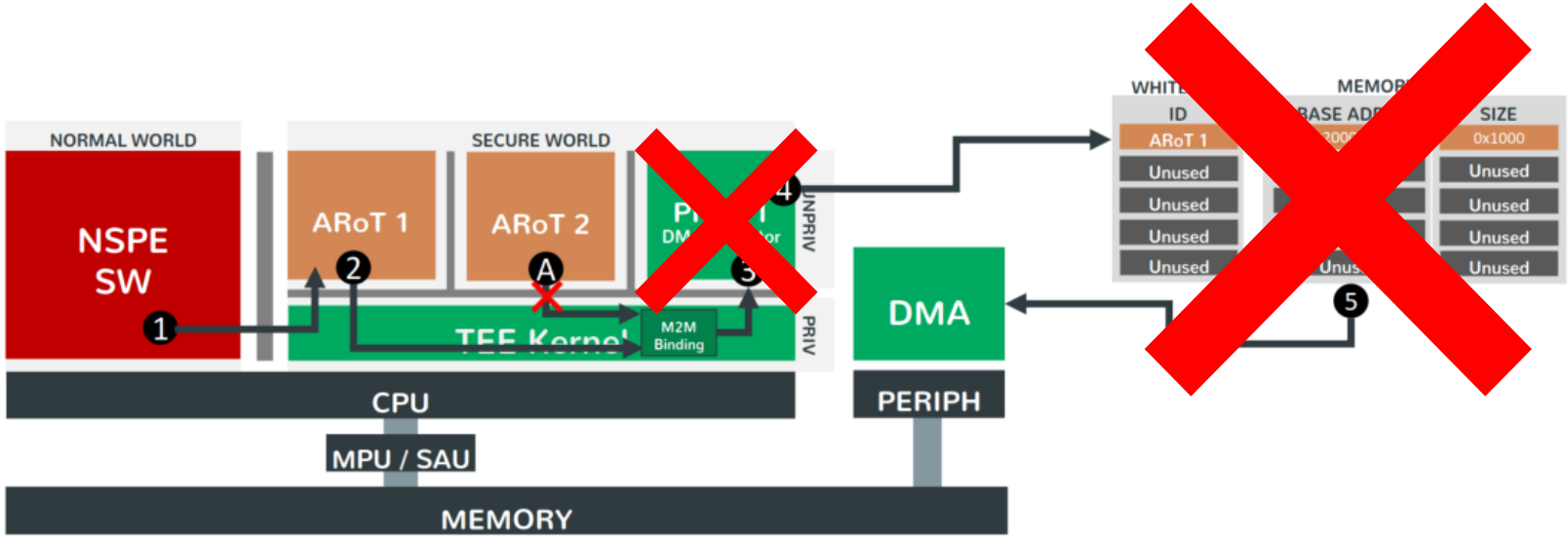
Kinibi-M Architecture

Seems Probably More than PSA Level 3

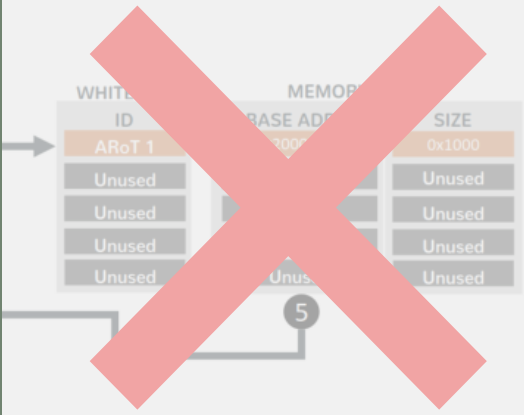
BUT THE MCU
HAS NO MPC



AND FIRMWARE HAS NO DMA MEDIATION



AND FIRM
NO DMA



POTENTIAL EXPLOITS

01

Arbitrary Code Execution in Secure Privilege Mode

Demonstrates the capability to directly tamper with Kinibi-M and achieve arbitrary code execution in secure privileged mode, rendering all Kinibi-M memory protections ineffective.

Attack 1

02

Steal Proprietary Code from a Secure Module

Demonstrates the capability to read arbitrary CODE memory from other secure modules and entirely bypass Kinibi-M's system memory protections.

Attack 2

03

Steal Cryptographic Keys from Kinibi-M Secure Storage

Demonstrates the capability to read and write arbitrary DATA memory from other secure modules and entirely bypass Kinibi-M's system memory protections.

Attack 3

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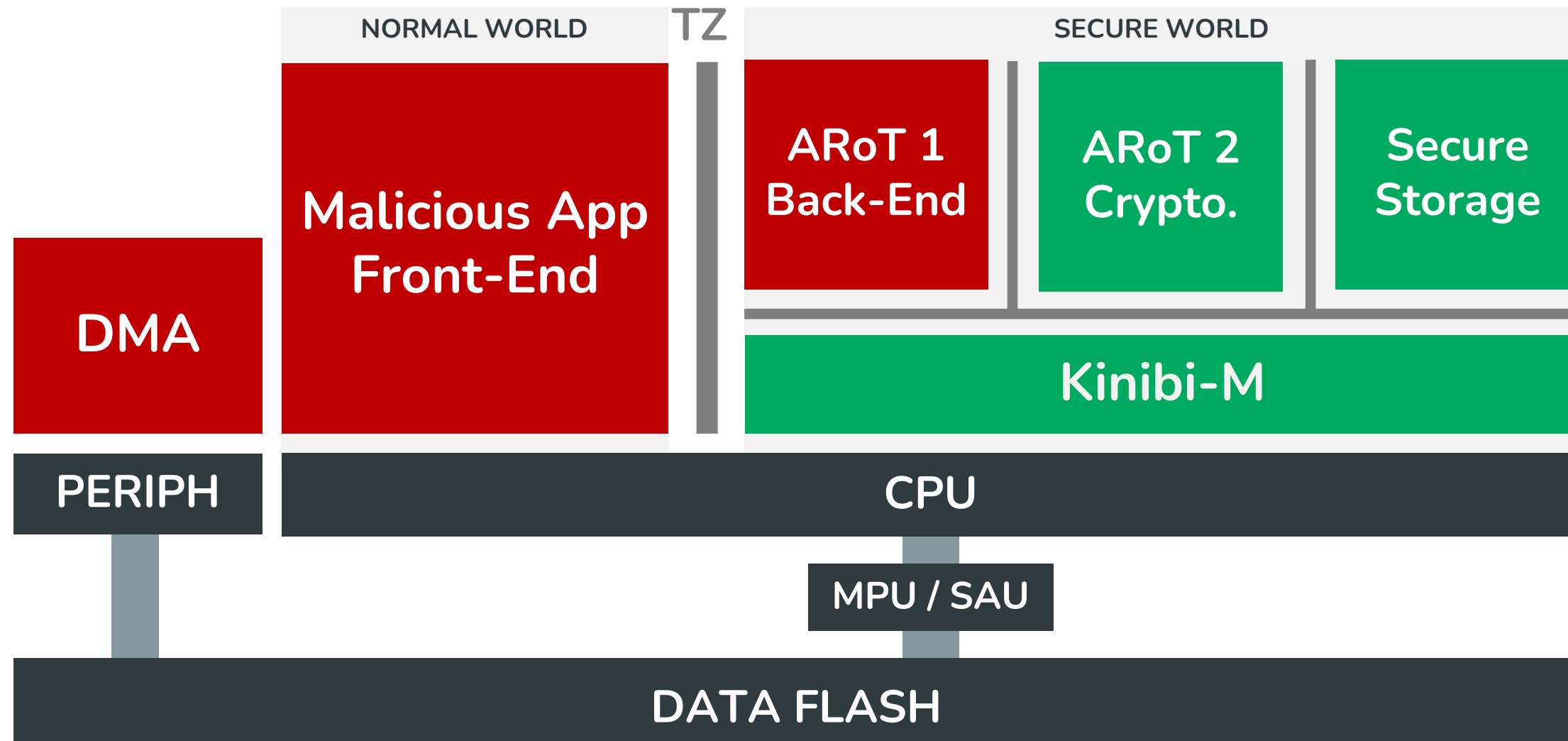
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Attack 3

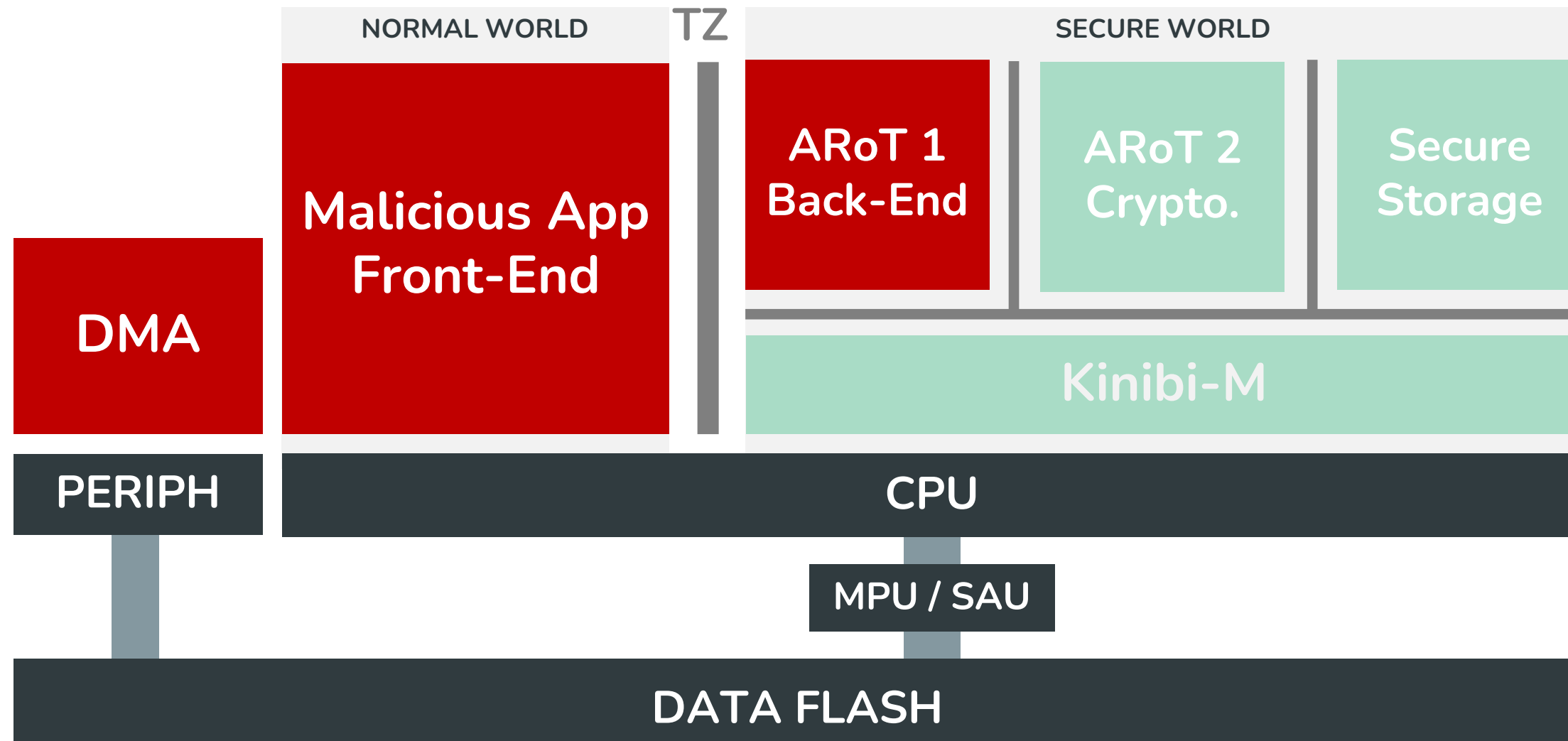
Steal Cryptographic Keys
from Kinibi-M Secure Storage

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



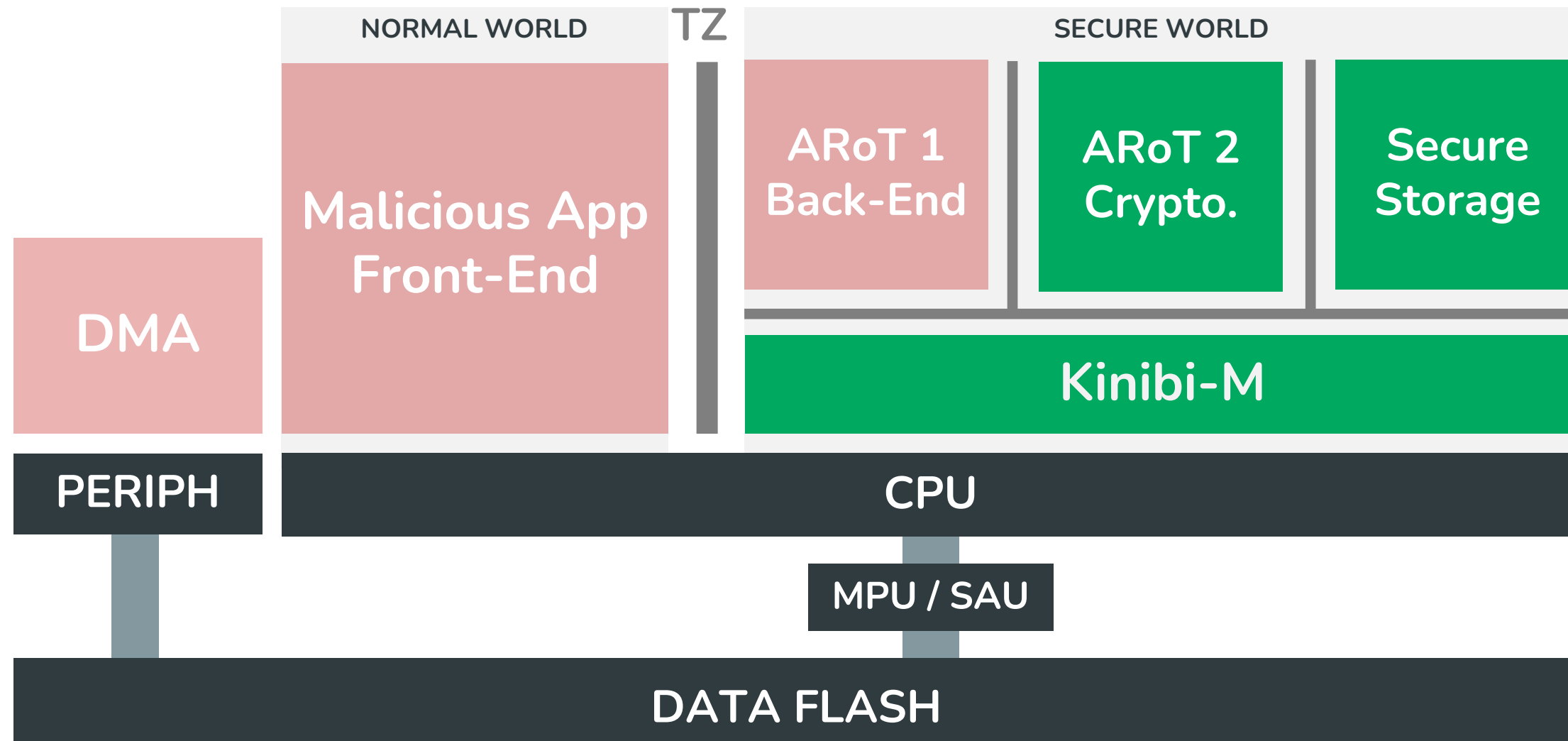
Malicious Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



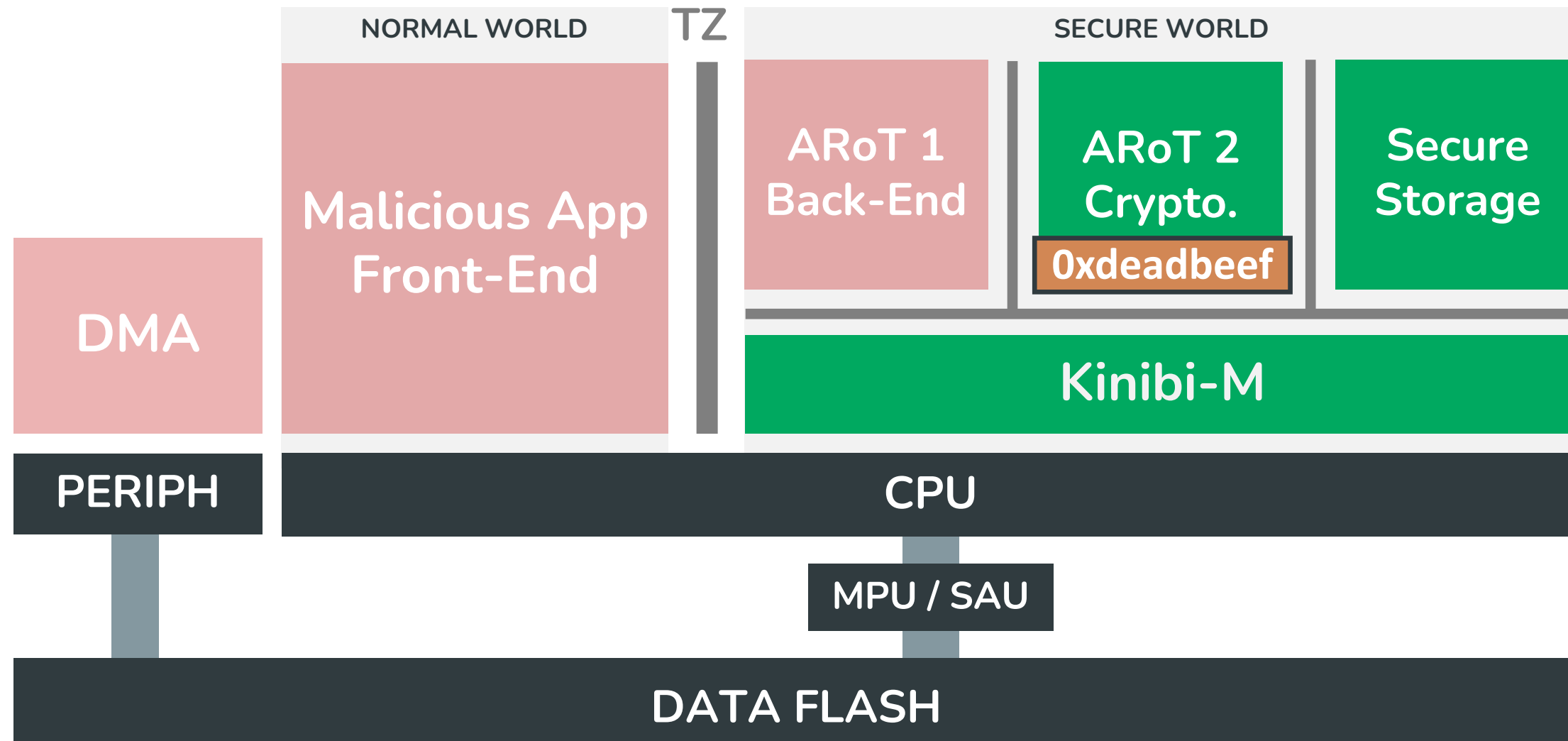
■ Malicious ■ Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



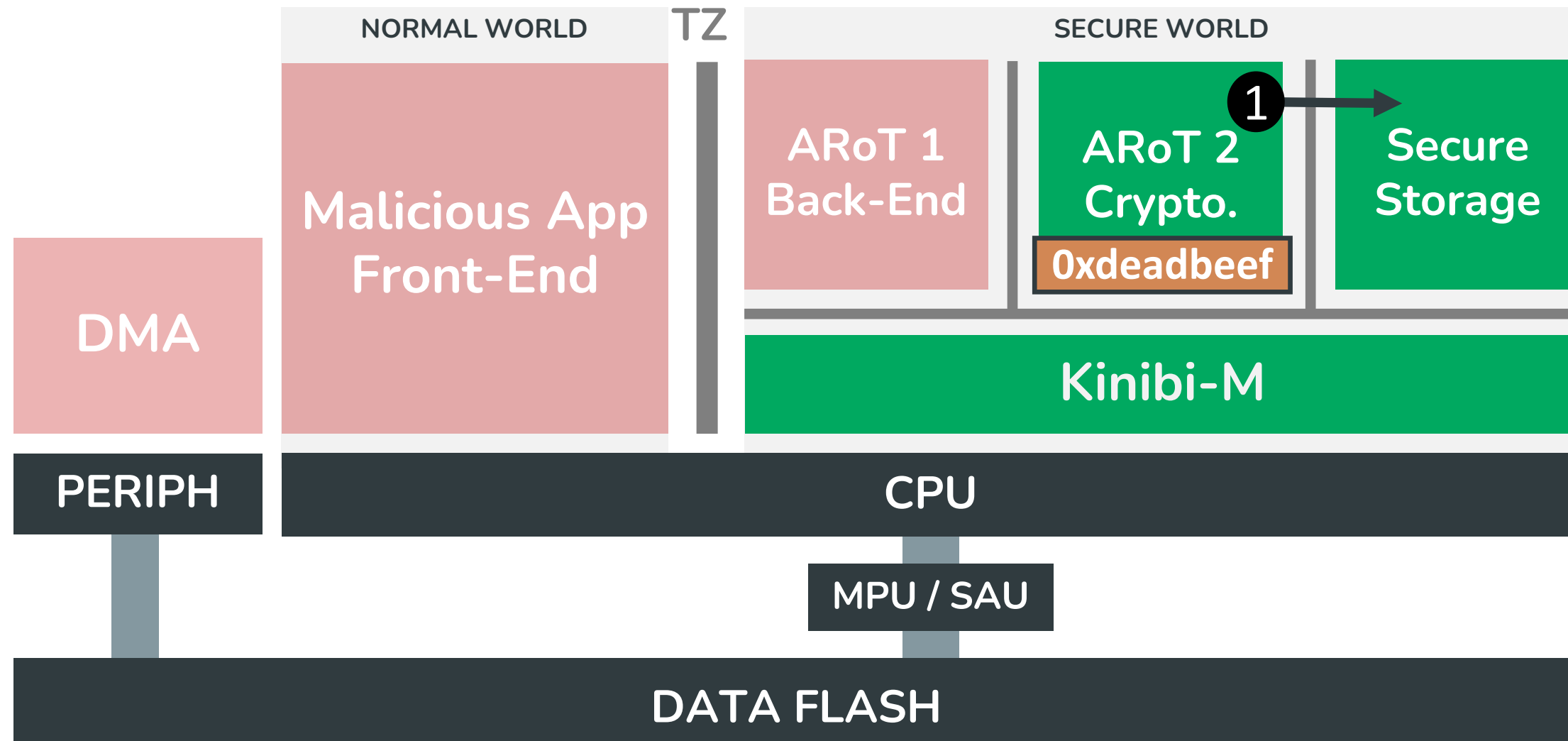
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ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



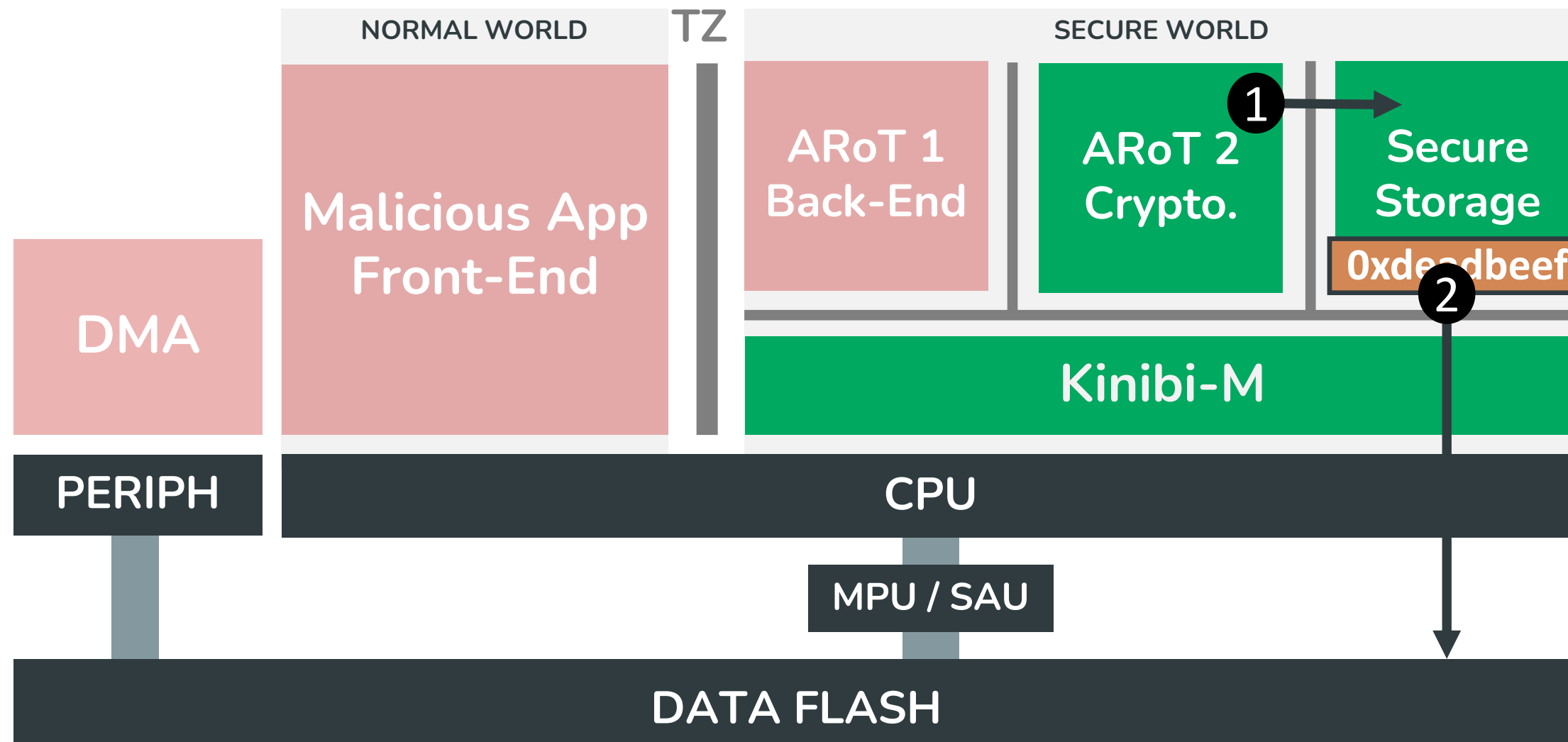
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ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



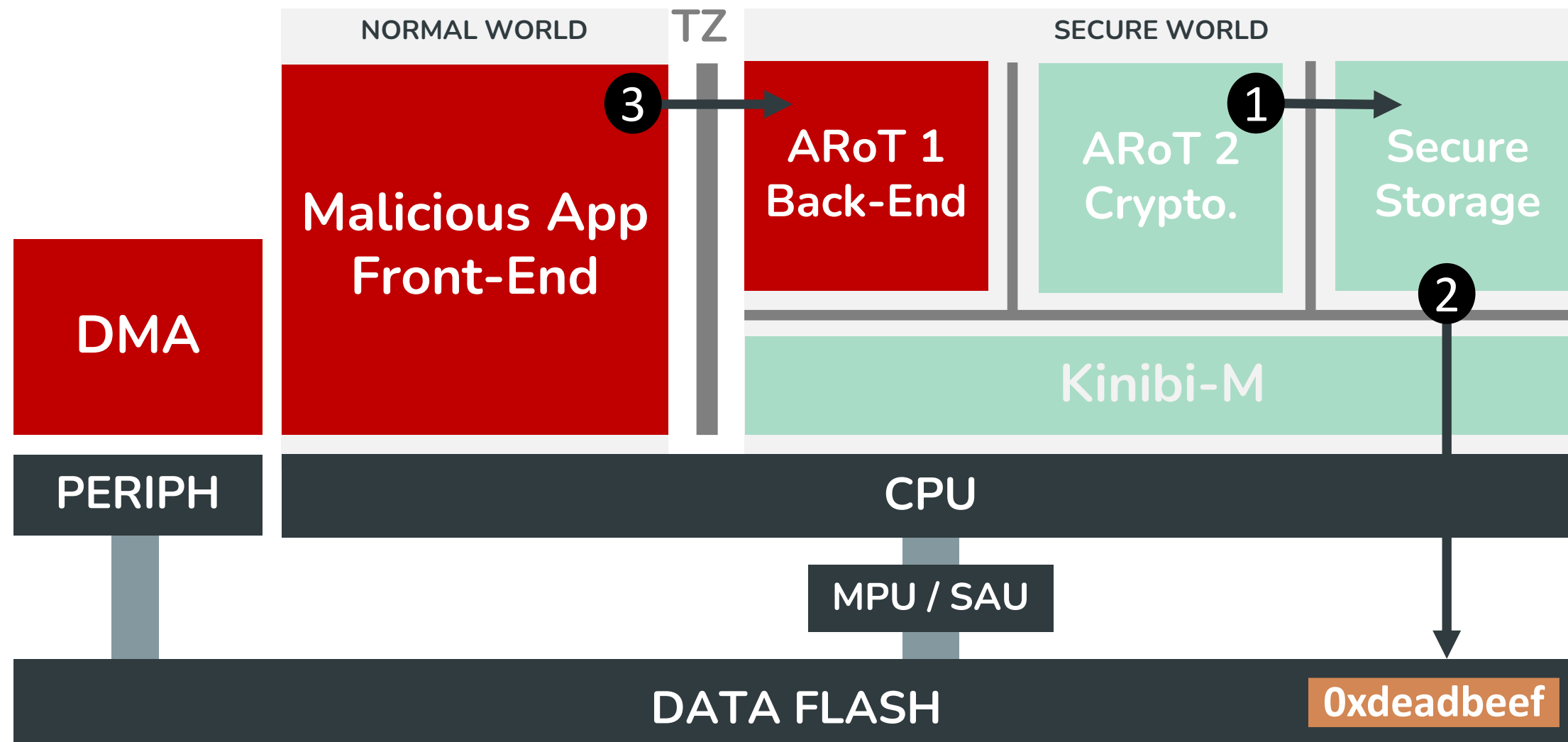
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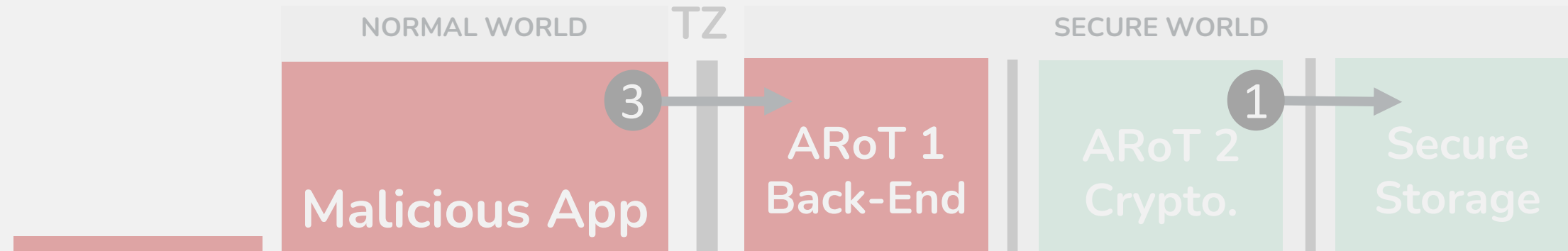
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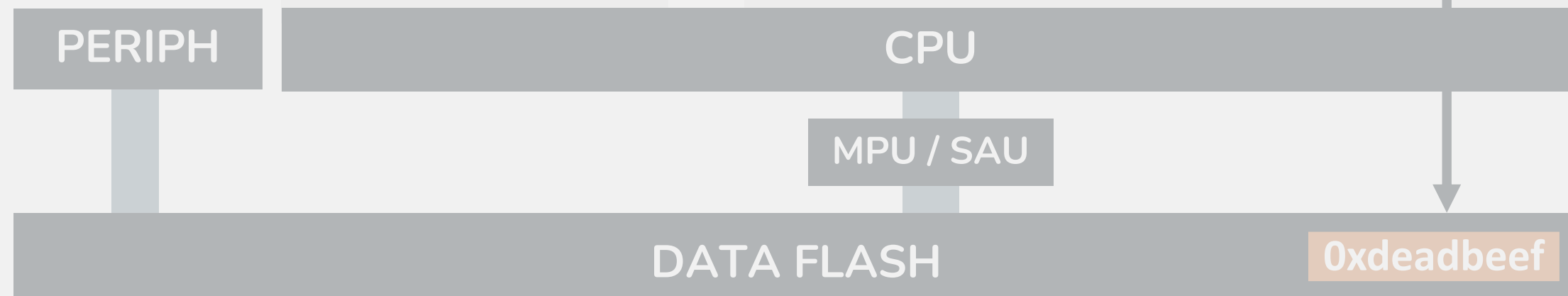
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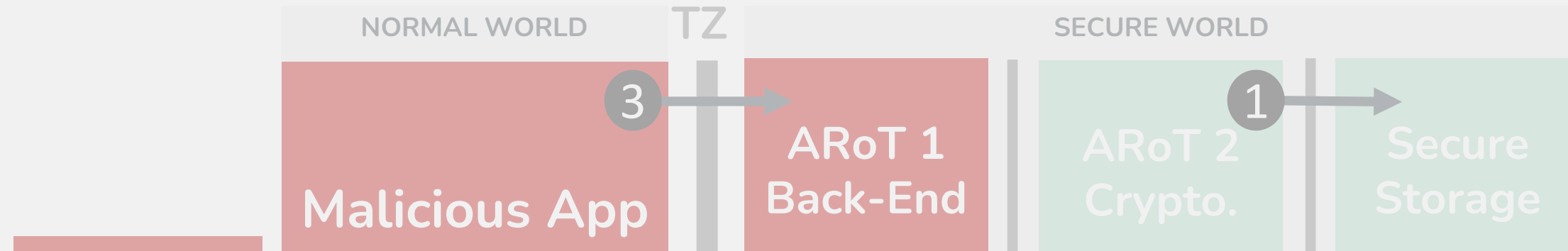
Note that each module has its own 'directory' within the secure storage system, and one module cannot read/write to another module's directory.

Text: Pag. 20 - Kinibi-M API Documentation



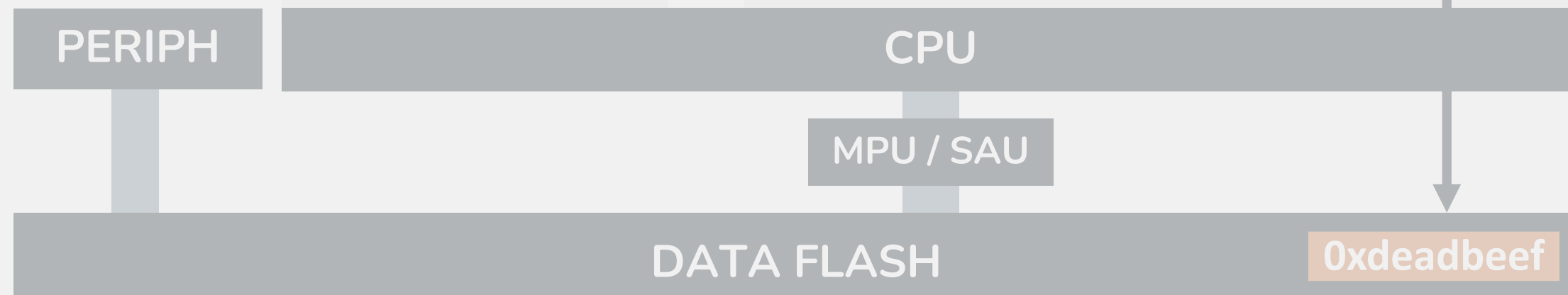
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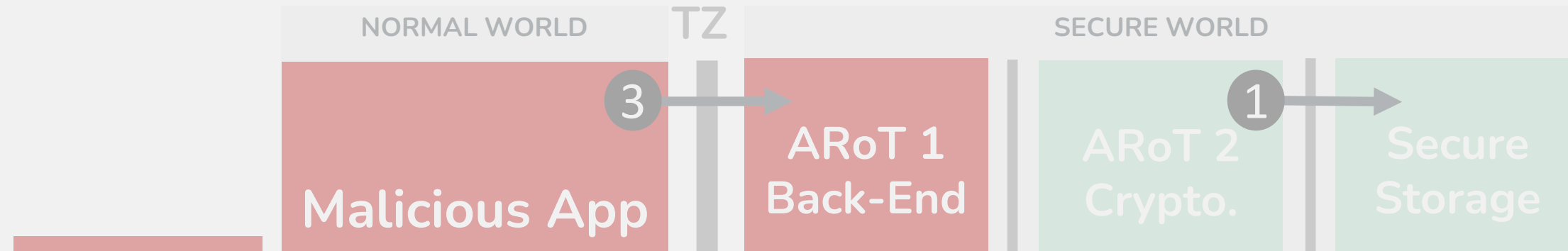
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Text: Pag. 20 - Kinibi-M API Documentation



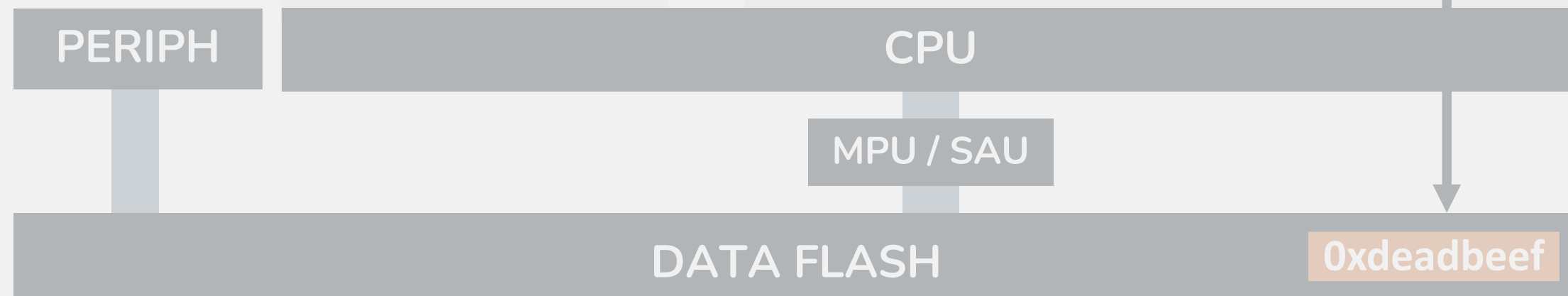
Malicious Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



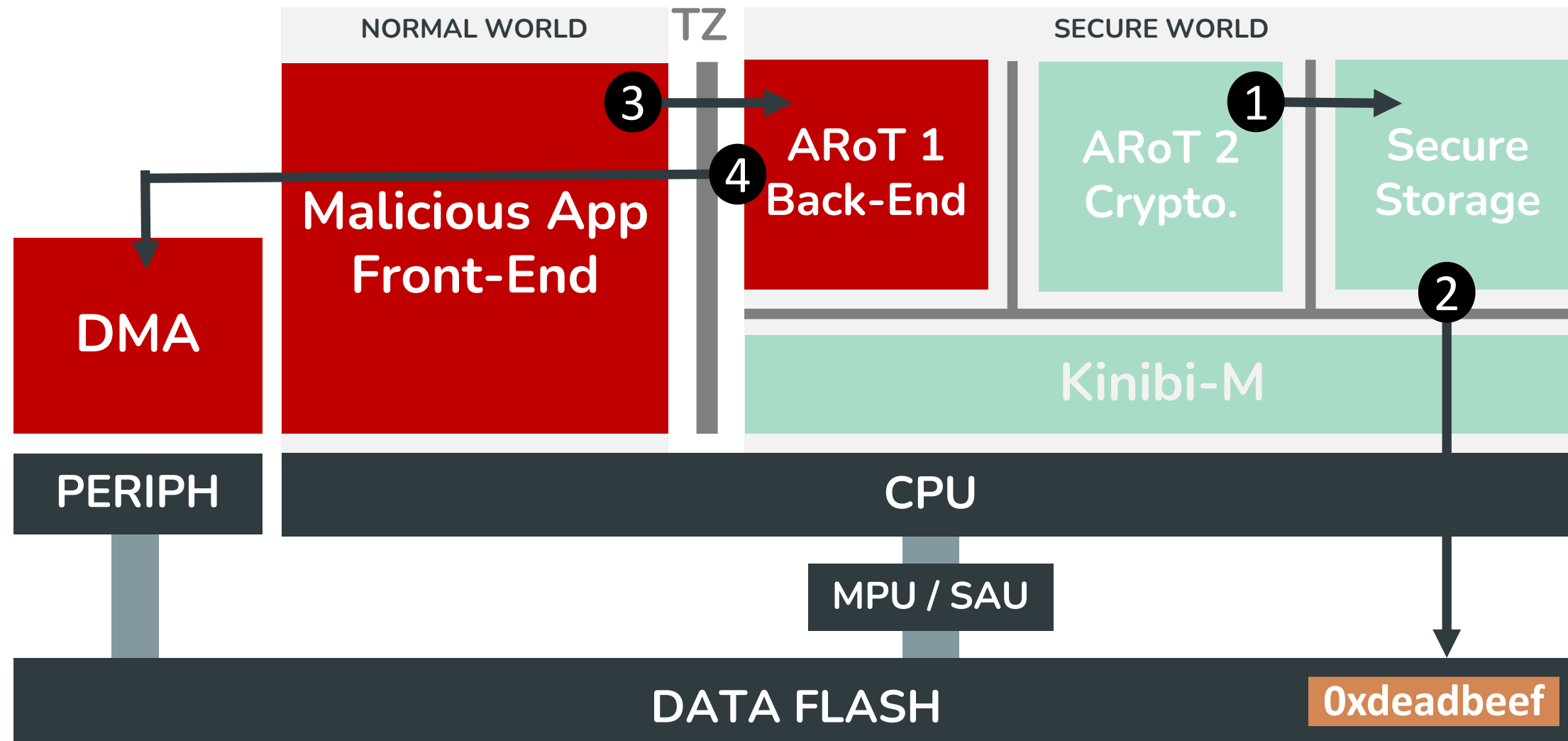
Note that each module has its own 'directory' within the secure storage system, and one module cannot read/write to another module's directory.

Text: Pag. 20 - Kinibi-M API Documentation



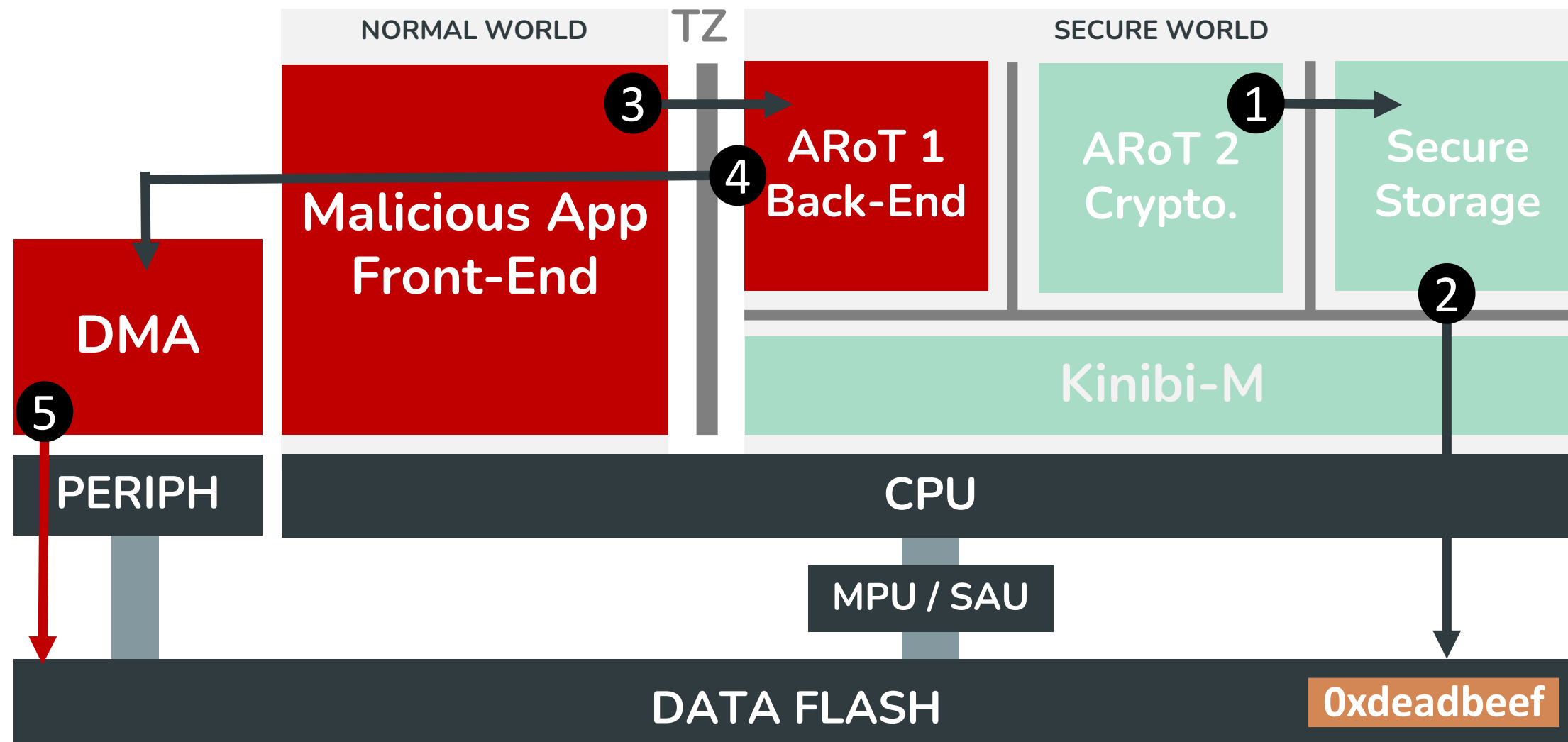
Malicious Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



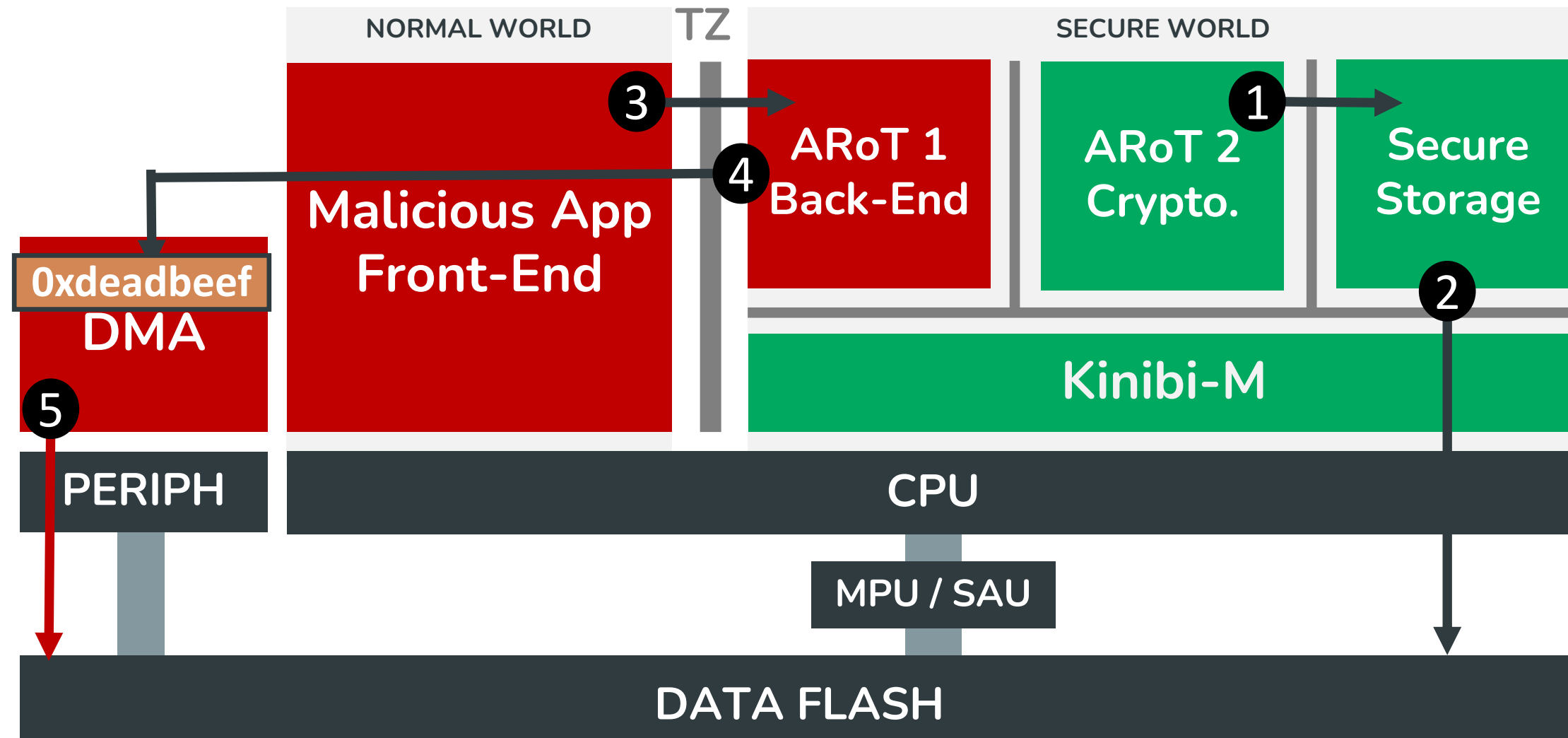
Malicious Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



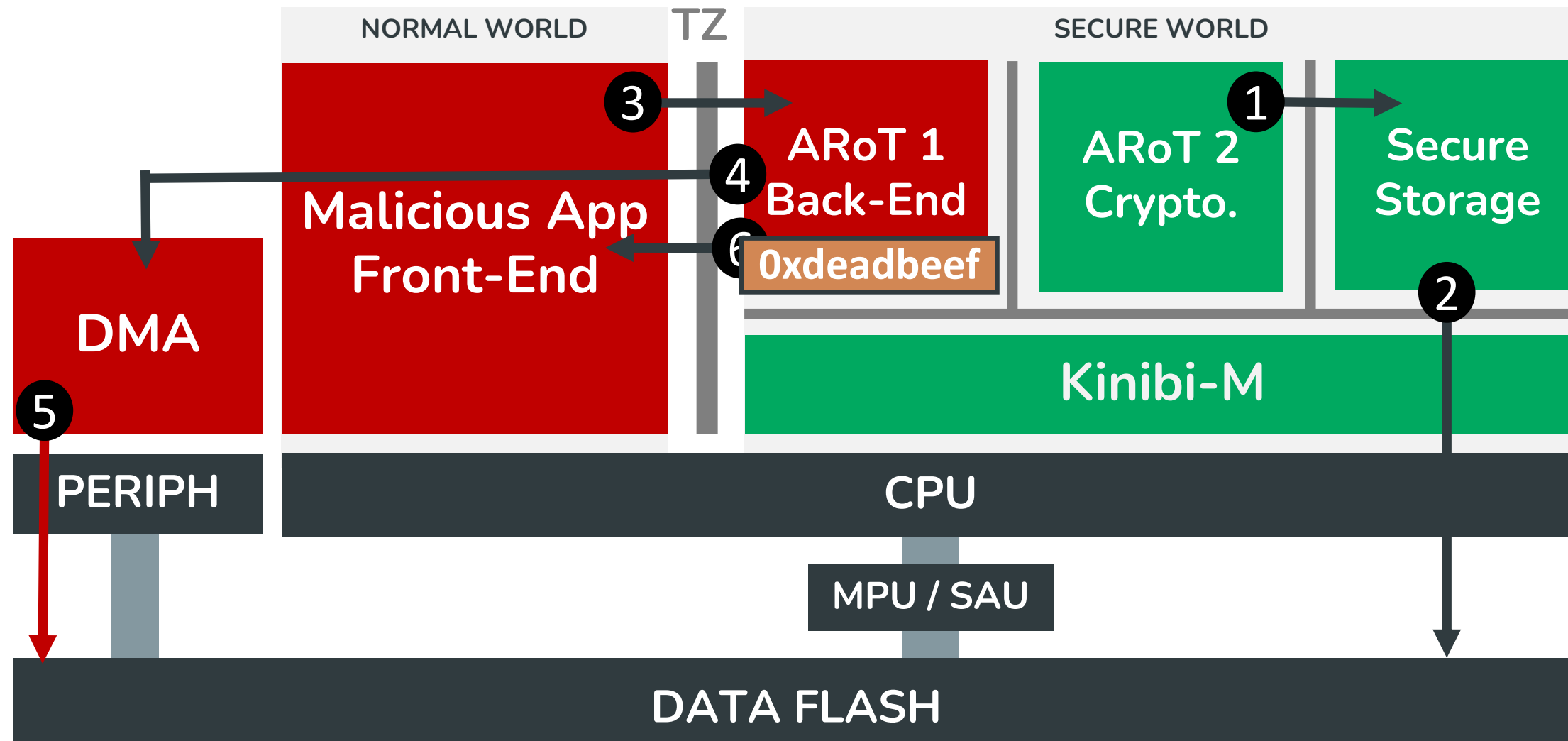
■ Malicious ■ Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



Malicious Victim

ATTACK 3 STEALING KEYS



Malicious Victim

Live Demo

Video

Lessons Learned

Advices for HW & SW providers and System Designers

LESSONS

LESSONS



LESSONS

#1

**For Hardware
Providers**

**For Firmware
Providers**

#2

LESSONS

#1

**For Hardware
Providers**

#3

**For System's
Users**

**For Firmware
Providers**

#2

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

#3

For System's Users

For Firmware Providers

#2

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware
Providers

RECOMENDED

Hardware providers should implement protections at the system-level that takes in account both privilege levels and security states.

#3

For System's
Users

For Firmware
Providers

#2

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

RECOMENDED

Hardware providers should implement protections at the system-level that takes in account both privilege levels and security states.

#3

For System's Users

NOT RECOMENDED

For Firmware Providers

#2

LESSONS

NXP LPC5500

#3

For System's Users

NOT RECOMENDED

Firmware providers

#2

BLACKHAT24

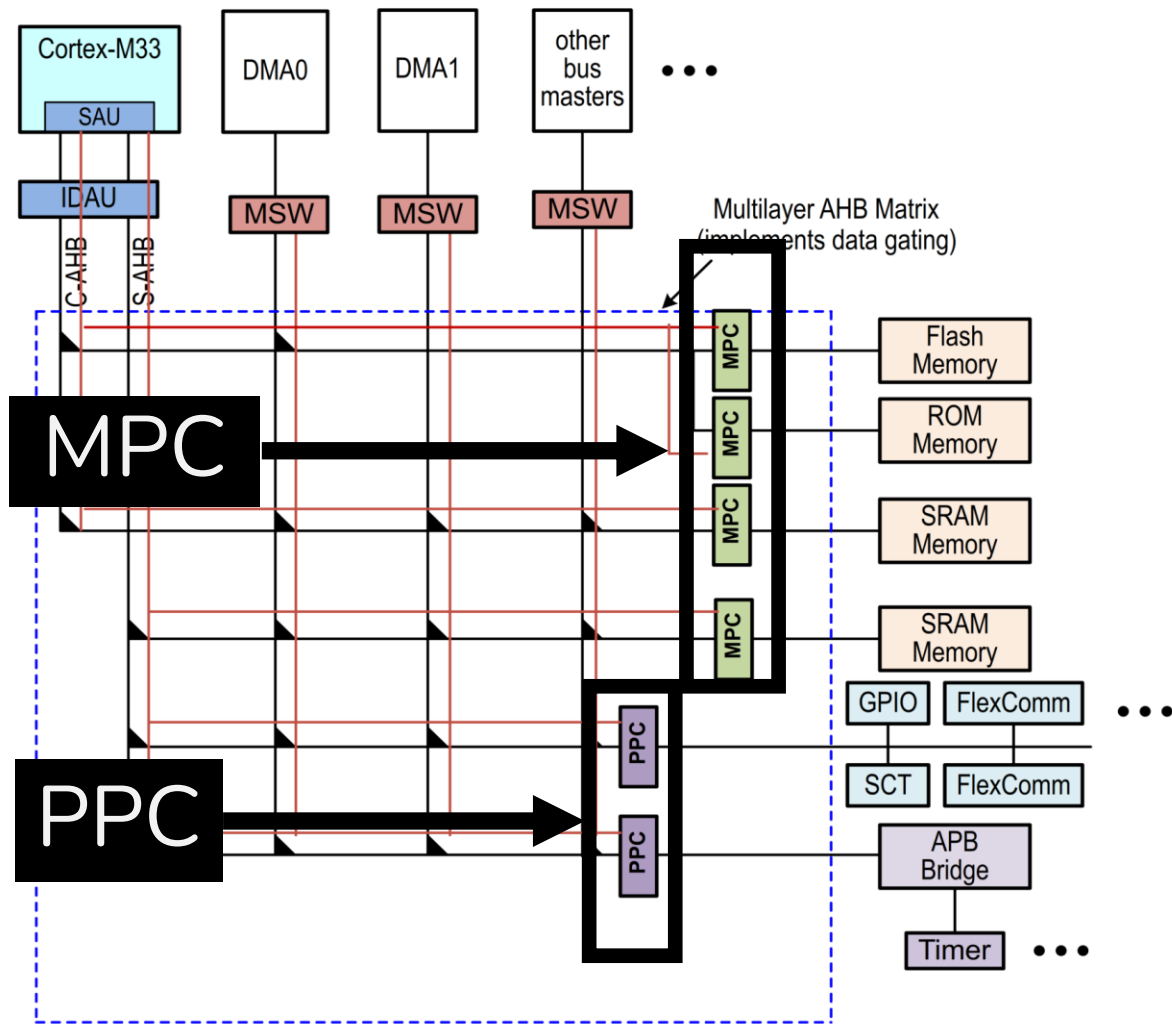


Fig 177. System view with secure AHB bus

LESSONS

NXP LPC5500

MICROCHIP SAML11

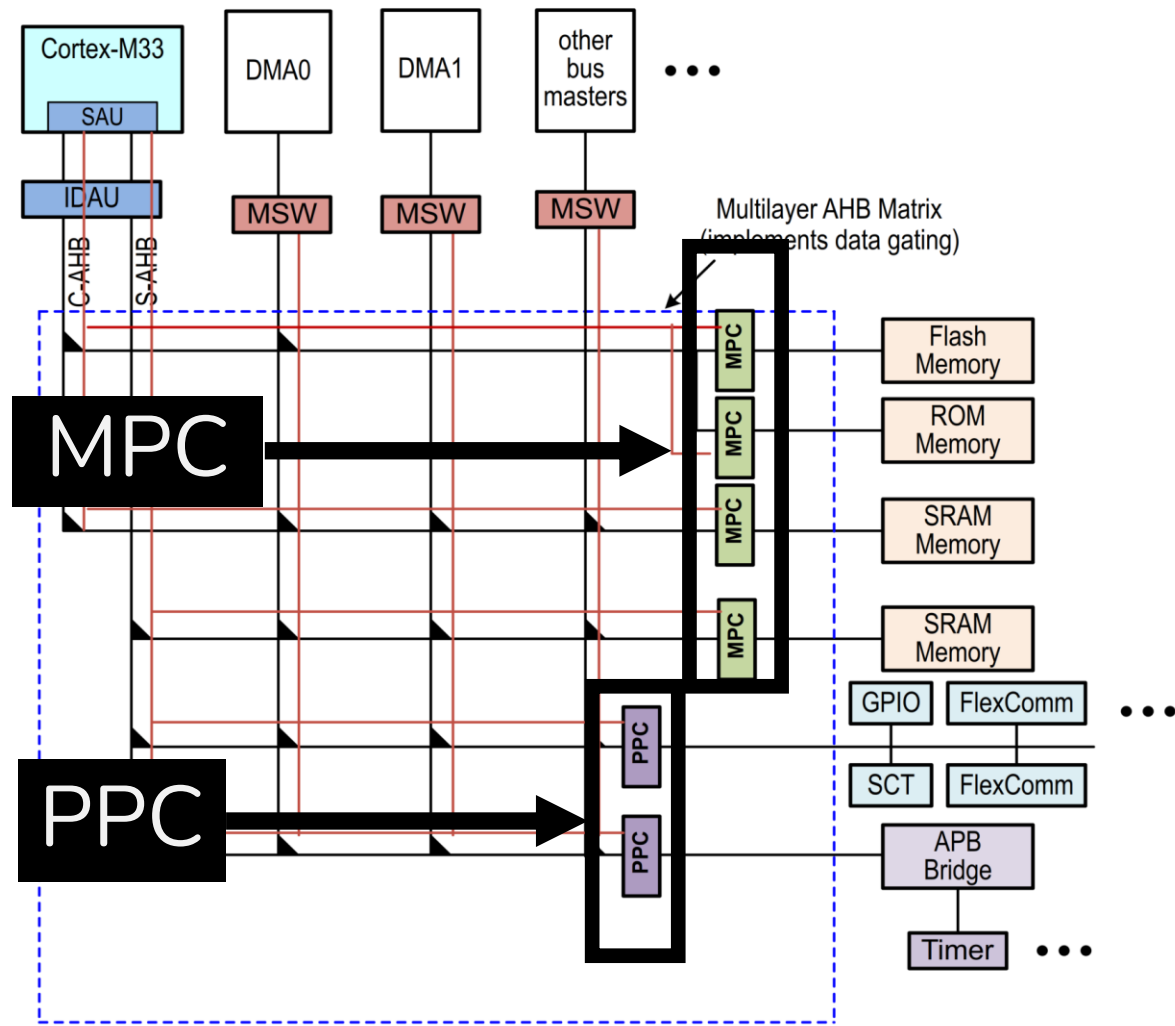
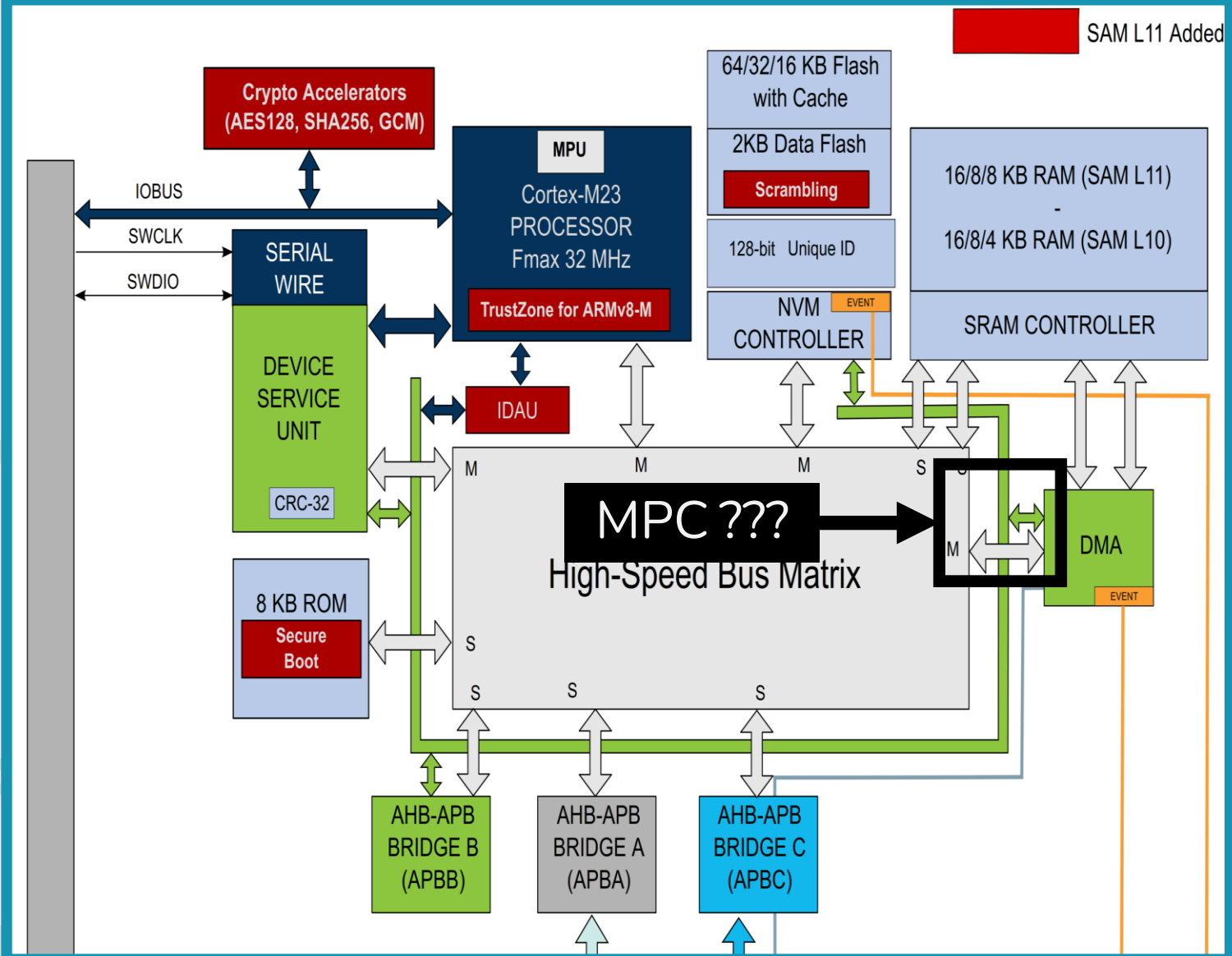


Fig 177. System view with secure AHB bus



#2

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

#3

For System's Users

For Firmware Providers

#2

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

Firmware providers should implement mechanisms that **enforce isolation** defined in the **PSA** standard.

For Firmware Providers

#2

#3

For System's Users

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

RECOMENDED

Hardware providers should implement protections at the system-level that takes in account both privilege levels and security states.

Firmware providers should implement mechanisms that enforce isolation defined in the PSA standard.

For Firmware Providers

#2

#3

For System's Users

NOT RECOMENDED

LESSONS

MULTIZONE

0x5 HEX-Five Security

“To enforce system separation policies, **MultiZone** built-in support for protected DMA transfers **traps all DMA requests and emulates the PMP logic in software**”

Pag. 19 - MultiZone. MultiZone® Security Reference Manual, RISC-V. Tech. rep. MultiZone, Nov 2021.

#3

For System's Users

NOT RECOMENDED

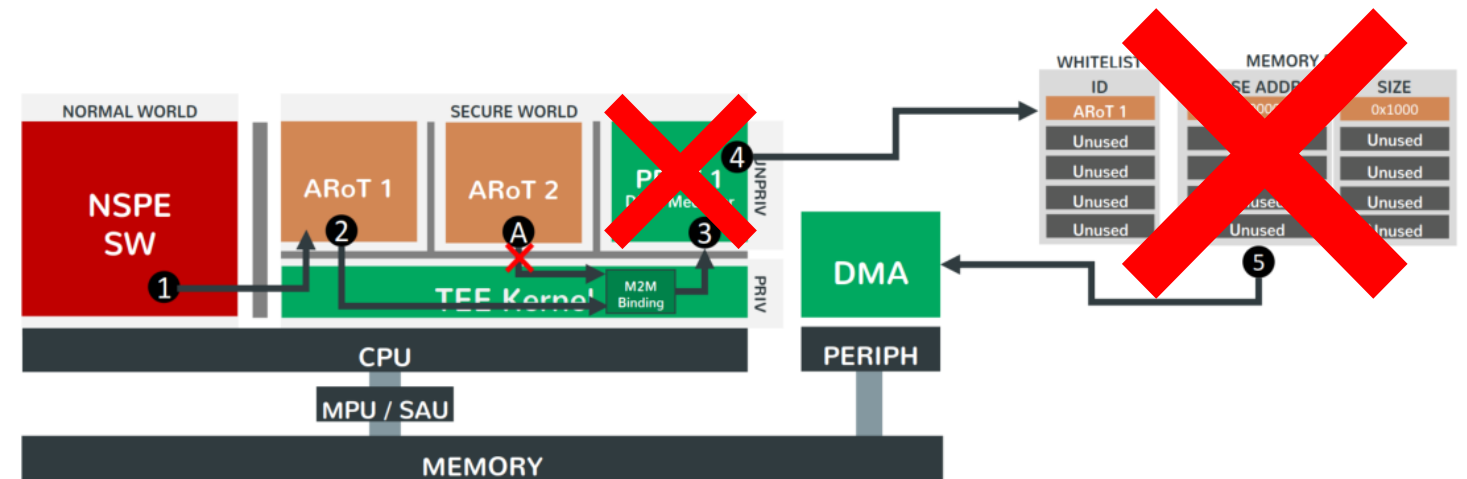
#2

Firmware Providers

0x5 HEX-Five Security

“To enforce system separation policies, **MultiZone** built-in support for protected DMA transfers **traps all DMA requests and emulates the PMP logic in software**”

Pag. 19 - MultiZone. MultiZone® Security Reference Manual, RISC-V. Tech. rep. MultiZone, Nov 2021.



LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

Firmware providers should implement mechanisms that **enforce isolation** defined in the **PSA** standard.

For Firmware Providers

#2

#3

For System's Users

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

Firmware providers should implement mechanisms that **enforce isolation** defined in the **PSA** standard.

For Firmware Providers

#2

#3

For System's Users

Users (OEMs and software developers) should be **cautious in choosing the system** where they want to **deploy their software**.

LESSONS

#1

For Hardware Providers

WHY NOT AN EXTRA PSA LEVEL?

Hardware providers should **implement protections** at the **system-level** that takes in account both **privilege levels** and **security states**.

Firmware providers should implement mechanisms that **enforce isolation** defined in the PSA **standard**.

For Firmware Providers

#2

#3

For System's Users

Users (OEMs and software developers) should be **cautious in choosing the system** where they want to **deploy their software**.

LESSONS

#1

#3

NORMAL WORLD

SECURE WORLD



#2

Summary

Final Thoughts and BH Sound Bytes

Responsible Disclosure

Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



TRUSTONIC



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



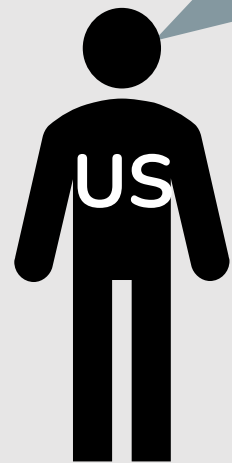
TRUSTONIC



Problem of the SW



It would be a Good Security Practice to Provide a MPC



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



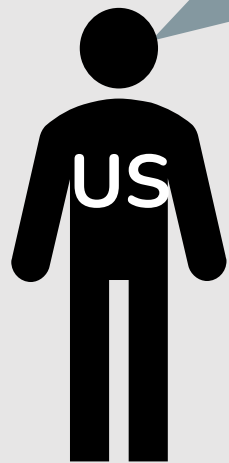
TRUSTONIC



OEMs

DMA Module is Responsibility of Developers

It would be a Good Security Practice to Provide a MPC



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



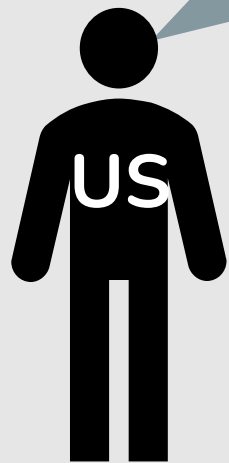
TRUSTONIC



OEMs

DMA Module is Responsibility of Developers

It would be a Good Security Practice to Provide a MPC



It would be a Good Security Practice to Provide DMA MEDIATION



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



TRUSTONIC



ATTESTATION

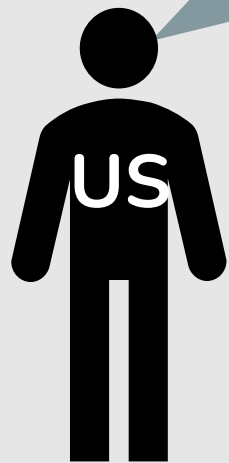
We signed all OEMs
Secure Modules



OEMs

DMA Module is Responsibility
of Developers

It would be a Good
Security Practice to
Provide a MPC



It would be a Good Security
Practice to Provide
DMA MEDIATION



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



TRUSTONIC



DMA Module is Responsibility of Developers



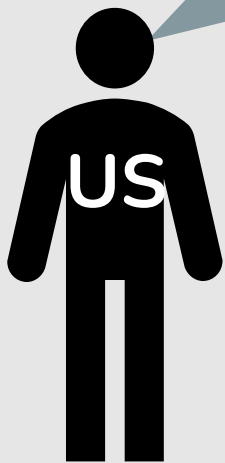
OEMs

ATTESTATION
We signed all OEMs
Secure Modules

ATTESTATION is
ORTHOGONAL to the
problem



It would be a Good
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DMA MEDIATION



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



TRUSTONIC



ATTESTATION

We signed all OEMs
Secure Modules



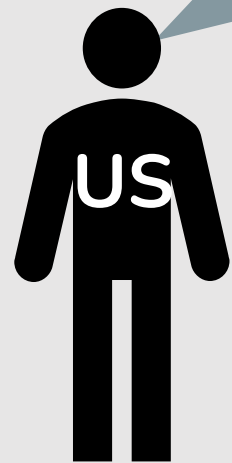
OEMs

DMA Module is Responsibility
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ORTHOGONAL to the
problem



It would be a Good
Security Practice to
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EVALUATION SDK

You Just Proved in an
Unsecure SDK Version

It would be a Good Security
Practice to Provide
DMA MEDIATION



Responsible Disclosure

MICROCHIP



Problem of the SW



TRUSTONIC



ATTESTATION

We signed all OEMs
Secure Modules



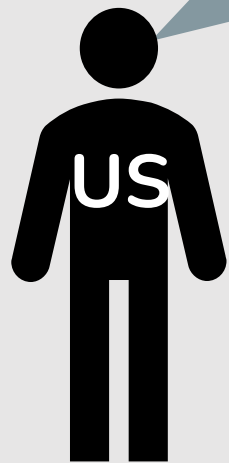
OEMs

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problem



It would be a Good
Security Practice to
Provide a MPC



EVALUATION SDK

You Just Proved in an
Unsecure SDK Version

You Didn't Provide us
COMERCIAL SDK



It would be a Good Security
Practice to Provide
DMA MEDIATION

Black Hat SOUND BYTES

1. We shared our **journey** on fully **assessing** an **MCU-based TEE (Kinibi-M)** **targeting** a reference TrustZone-M hardware platform (**SAML11**)
2. We presented how it is possible to **bypass CPU-level isolation primitives**, and explain the design of a **TEE core mechanism (DMA Mediator)** to offer such protection;
3. We perform a **live demo** of one potential **exploit that retrieves a cryptographic key** from other Secure Partitions **bypassing all** hardware and software **TEE isolation boundaries**.

THANK YOU!

Cristiano Rodrigues | Sandro Pinto, PhD
(Centro ALGORITMI / LASI, Universidade do Minho)

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 [@_CRodrigues__](#)

sandro.pinto@dei.uminho.pt

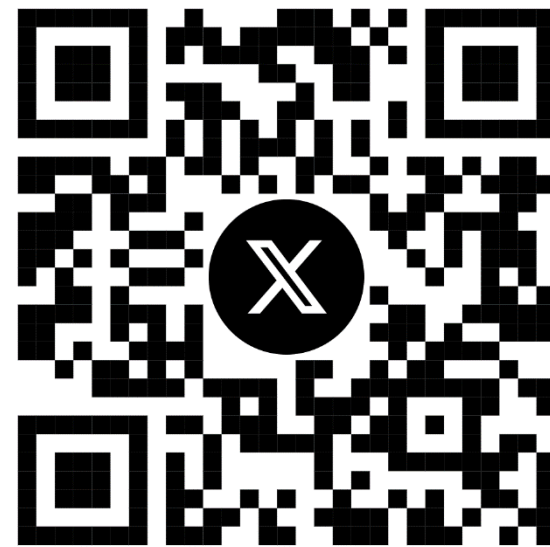
 [@sandro2pinto](#)

Q & A

Cristiano Rodrigues | Sandro Pinto, PhD
(Centro ALGORITMI / LASI, Universidade do Minho)



Cristiano Rodrigues



Sandro Pinto