

STM32
Trust



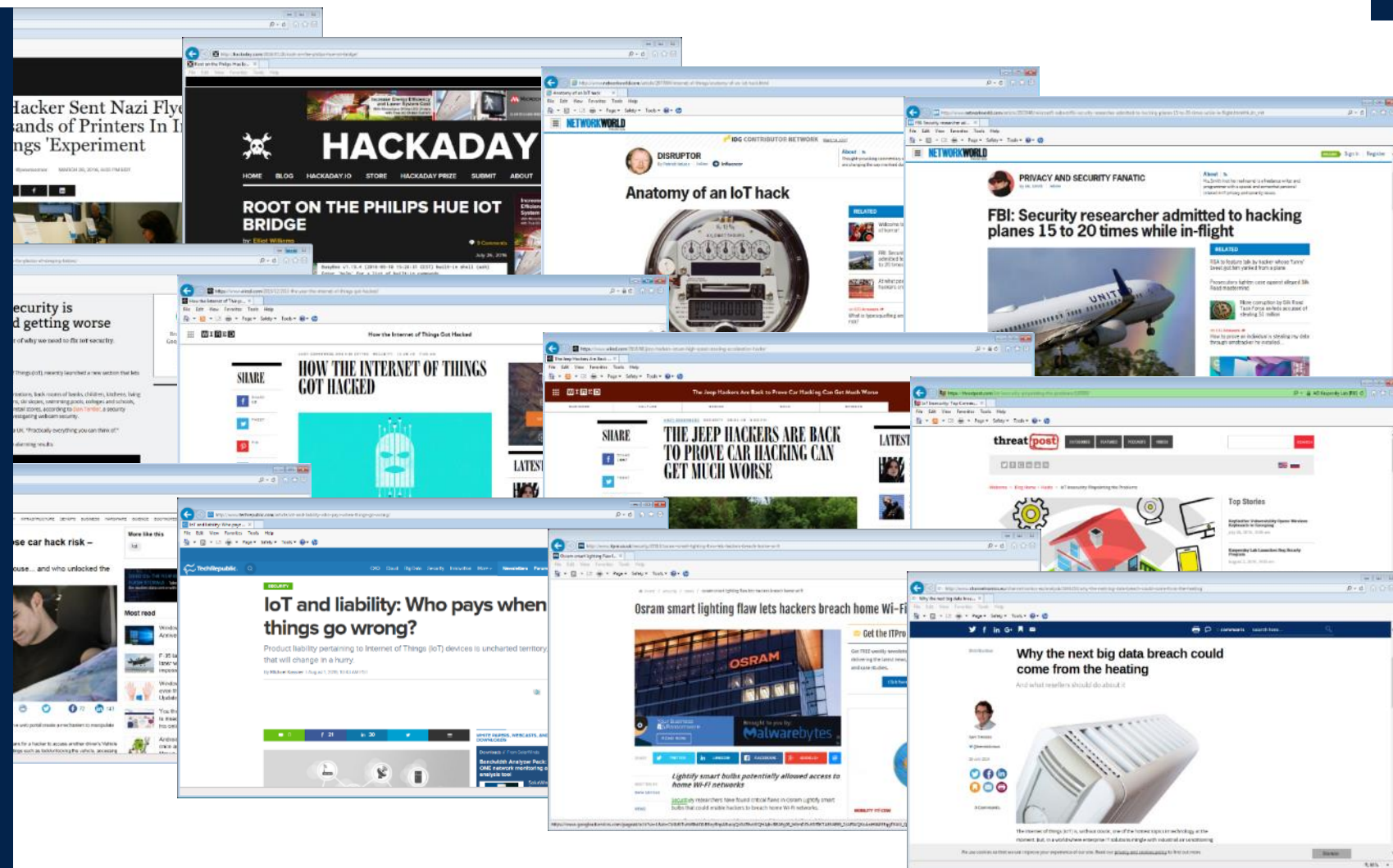
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STM32Trust SBSFU

Secure Boot
Secure Firmware Update



In the news



Connected objects

Our concern for tomorrow

2020

**Operating system
-based solutions**



65%

Connected objects

20 Billion

2025

Embedded solutions



65%

Connected objects

48 Billion

Security in embedded devices is crucial

Service providers need to protect the quality and reputation of:

- Their **Services**

What the end customer pays for

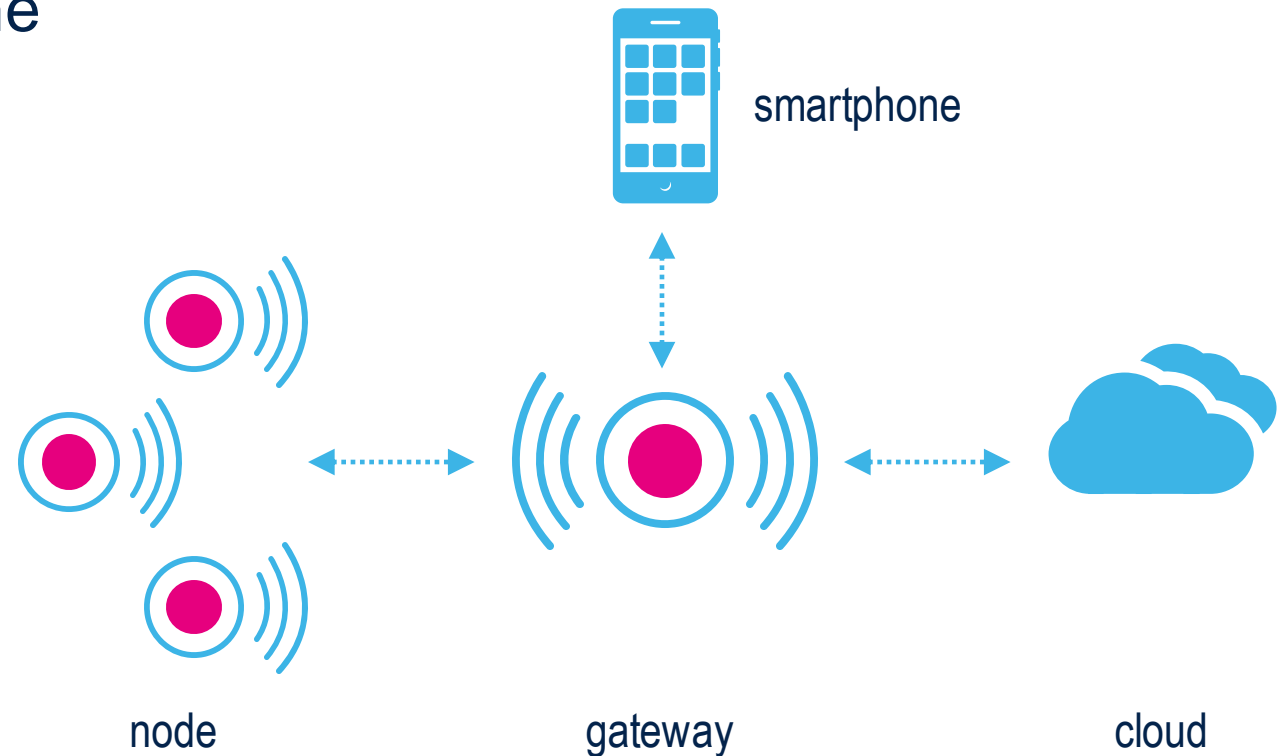
- Their **Networks**

Avoid Denial of Service

Provide quality/reliability

- Their **Brand**

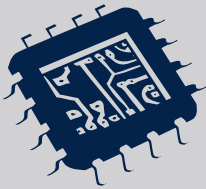
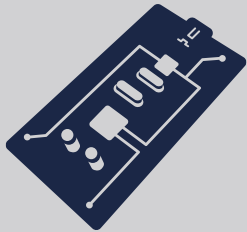
Ensuring trust



Categories of attacks

95% of IoT attacks today

Cloning attacks



Logical

- Local or remote
- Open ports
- SW Bugs
- Debug I/Fs and more...

Board-level

- Memory probing
- « Mod-chips »
- Fault injection
- Side-channels and more...

Chip-level

- Probing
- Laser
- FIB
- Reverse Eng. and more...

- **Logical attack**

From outside the box

- **Board-level attack**

From Inside the box

- **Chip-level attack**

From Inside the chip

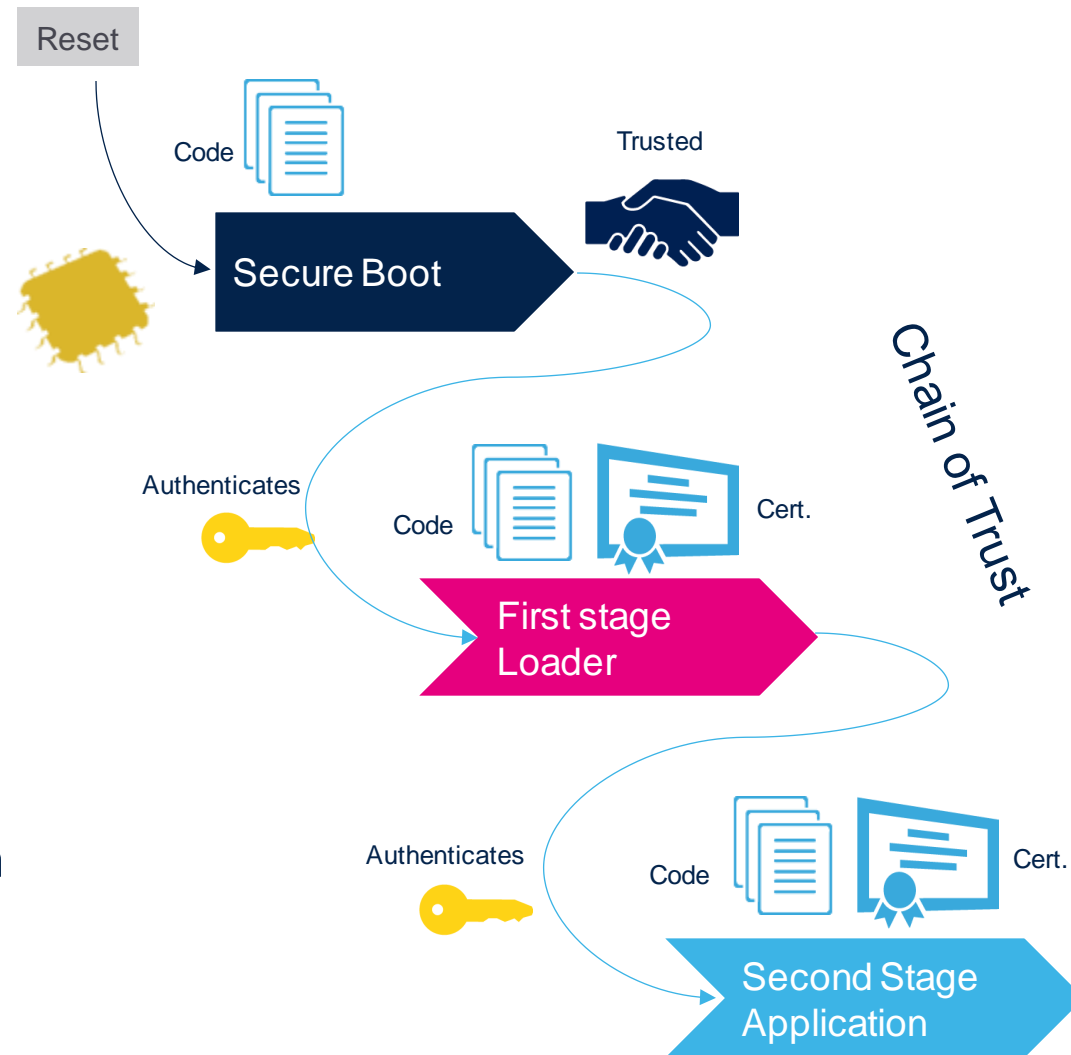
(now covered by STM32U5)

Secure Boot
Root of Trust


Cost and expertise of attack materials

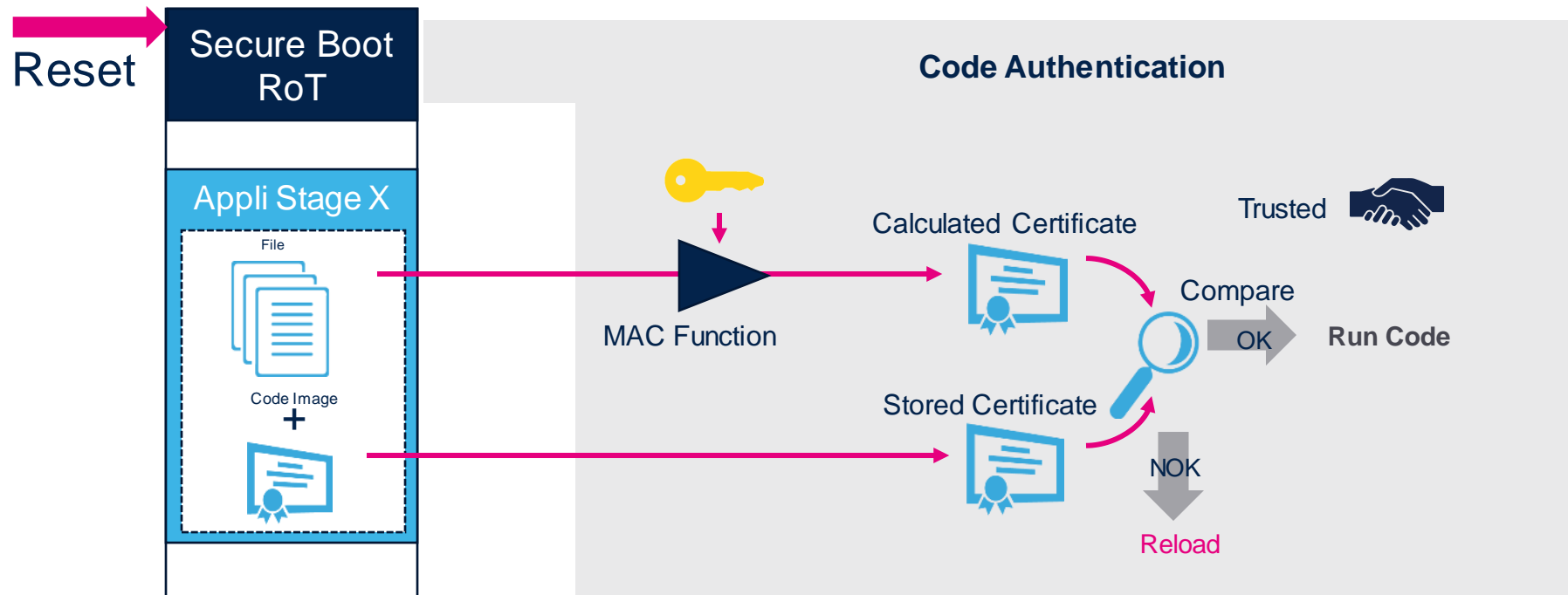
Goal of Secure Boot / Root of Trust

- Immutable Secure Boot code
- Executed first at reset
- Verify platform integrity
 - Clock settings
 - Register configurations
 - Memory protection
- Launch Root-of-Trust services
 - Code authentication
 - Uses cryptographic keys and encryption functions



Root of Trust general process

- Performed at each RESET, using a key  stored in the device
- It is a predictable process



- Few OEMs are using Secure Boot / Secure Firmware Update
- No single standardized Secure Boot / Root of Trust model
- Key IoT players are spreading good security practices
- IoT standardization bodies are growing with clear security requirements

Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Update
help build the Root of Trust
that most potential **vendors will require** to access their networks

How to support this approach

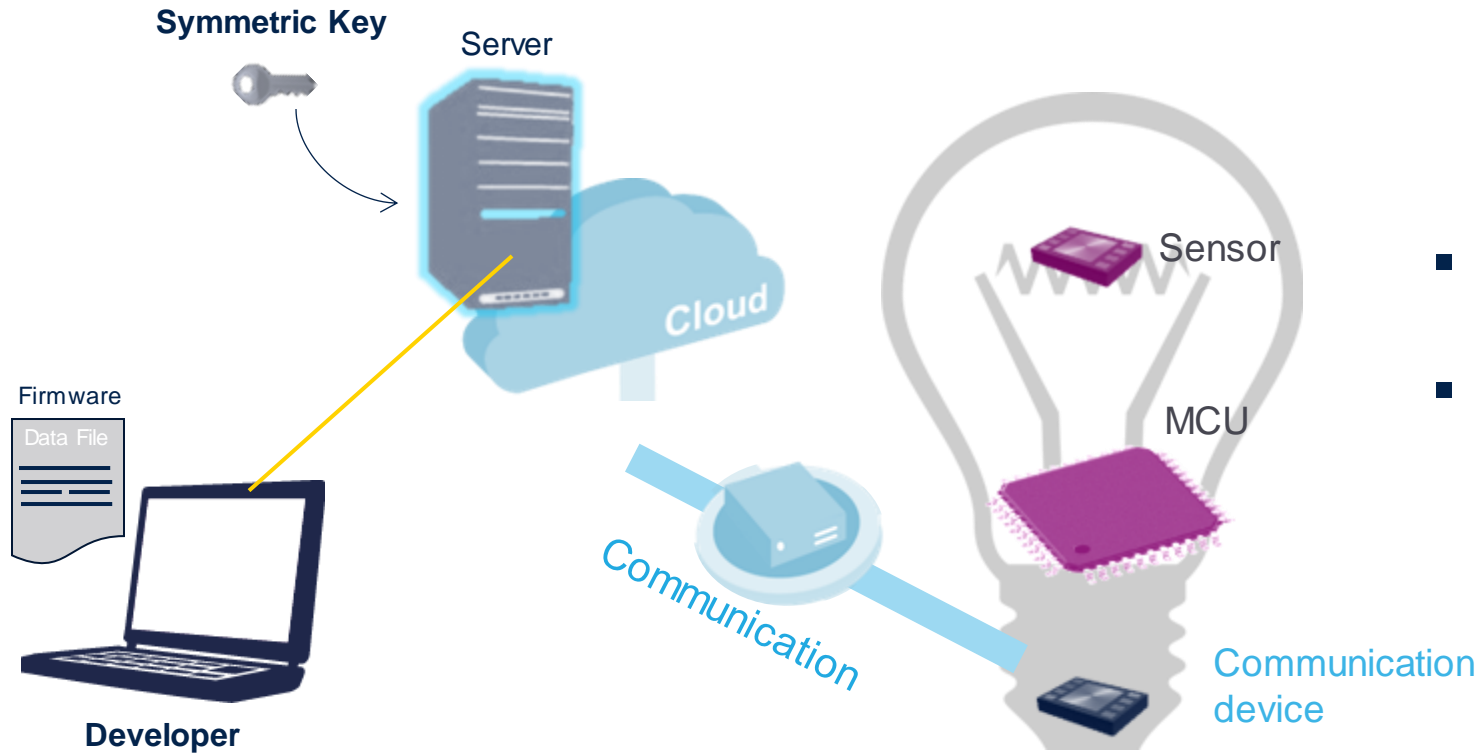
- Embedded ROMed code

SB / RoT approach	feasibility	remarks
One code on all STM32	☺	May not be market acceptable
Multiple code on STM32	☹	Diversify products Increase development, qualification, certification, cost

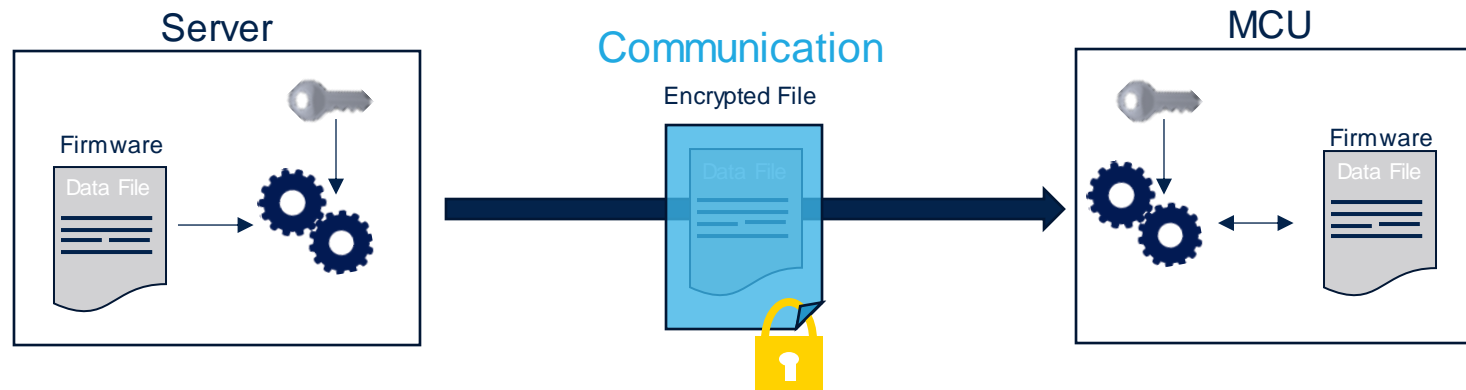
- ST's approach

- Allow industries to develop their own Secure Boot / Root of Trust approach
- Propose a way to securely load it into STM32
- Propose a way to isolate and securely execute it within STM32

Secure Firmware Update



- Server sends Firmware (FW) Package
- Device verifies the new FW package, unwraps it and executes it



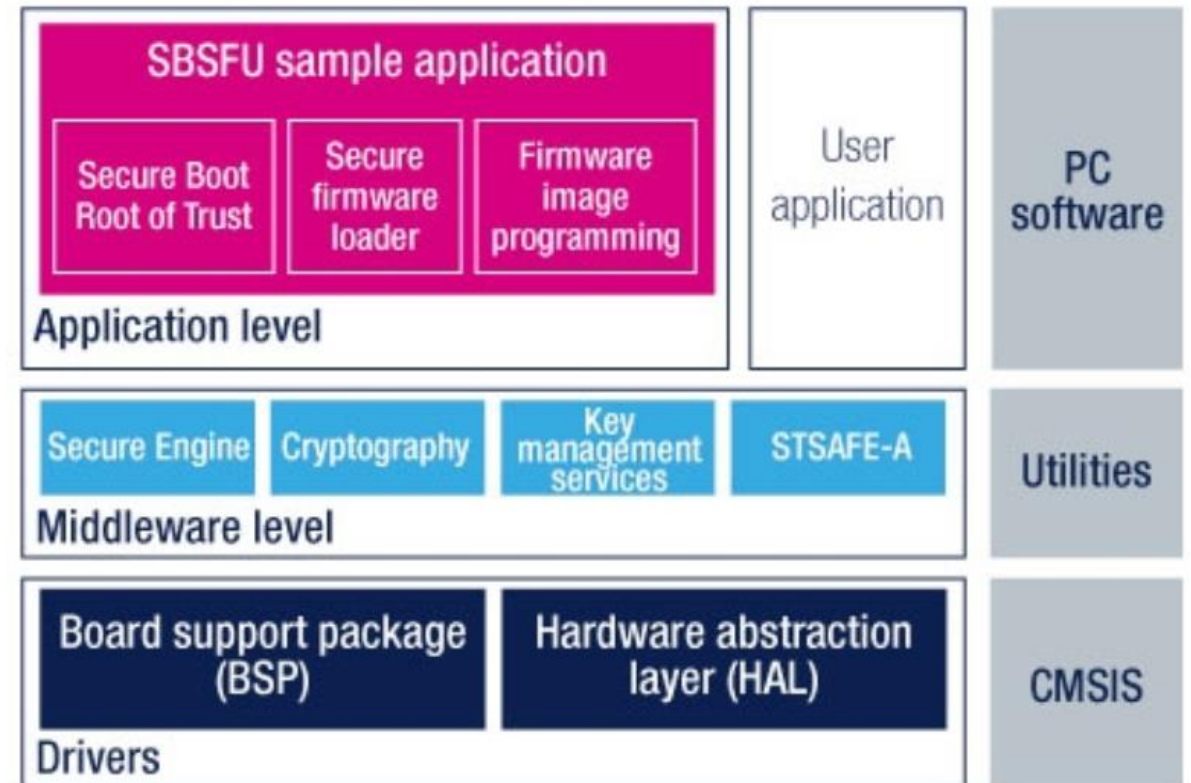
Secure Firmware Update

- Complete process performed in a secure way
- Prevent unauthorized updates
- Access to secret code and key
- Access to confidential on-device data
- Developed in several software modules



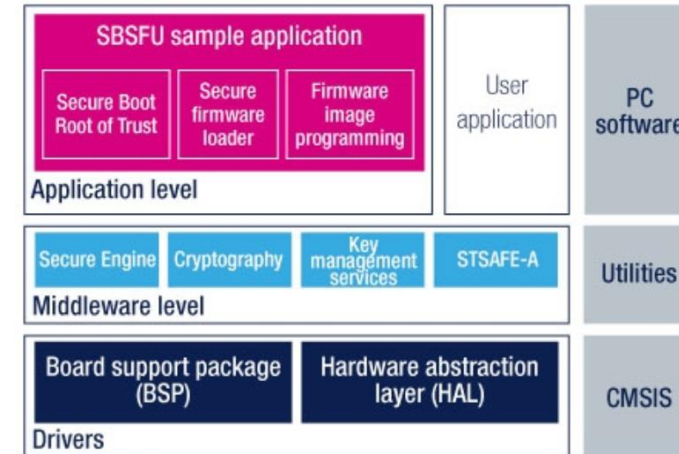
Introducing X-CUBE-SBSFU

- **X-CUBE-SBSFU** is an STM32Cube expansion package which enables the secure update of the built-in STM32 program with new firmware versions and prevents:
 - unauthorized updates
 - access to confidential on-device data
- **X-CUBE-SBSFU** (on **STM32L4**)
 - Certified SESIP Level 3




X-CUBE-SBSFU package overview

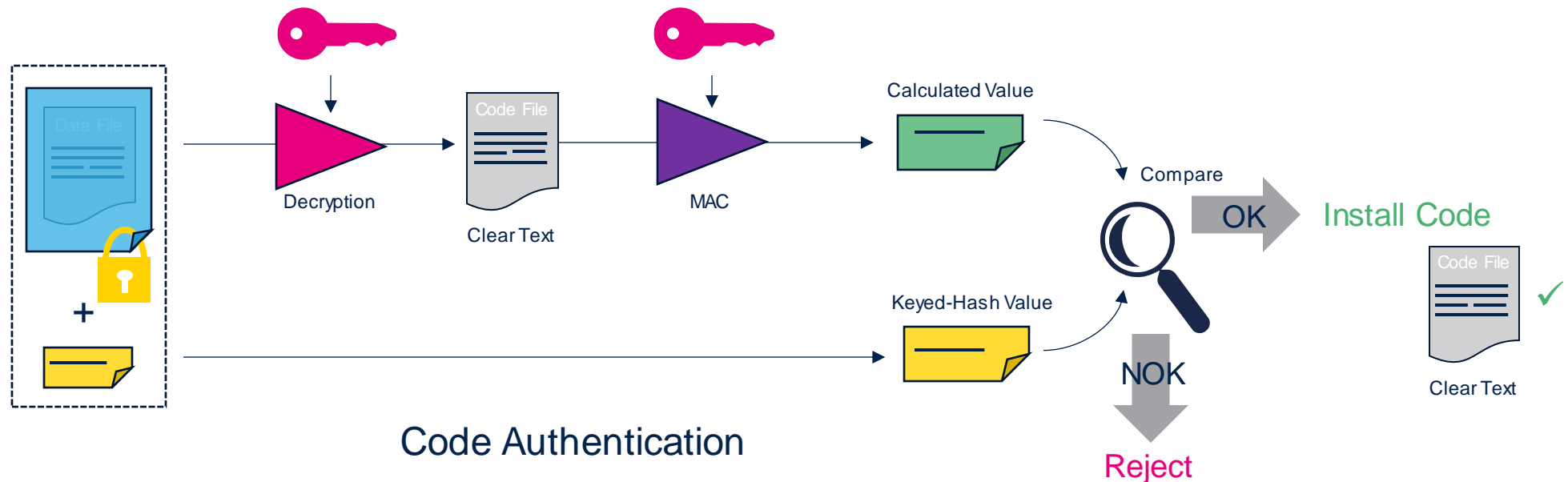
- **Secure Boot (SB) module**
 - Execution with Root of Trust service
 - Application authentication and Integrity check before execution
- **Secure Firmware Update (SFU) module**
 - Detect new FW version to install
 - From local download service
 - Pre-downloaded OTA via User application from previous execution...
 - Manage FW version (check unauthorized updates or unauthorized installation)
 - Secure FW upgrade:
 - FW Authentication and Integrity check / decryption / installation
 - In case of any error occurring during new image installation rollback to the previous valid version
- **Secure element support**
 - STSAFE-A middleware provides a complete set of APIs to access all the features of STSAFE-A110 secure element



- **Secure Engine (SE) module**
 - Code isolated from main firmware → secure execution
 - Dedicated to crypto algorithms execution
 - Manage secure key storage
- **Key Management Services (KMS)**
 - The KMS services provide cryptographic services to the user application through the PKCS #11 APIs (KEY ID-based APIs) that are executed inside the secure enclave

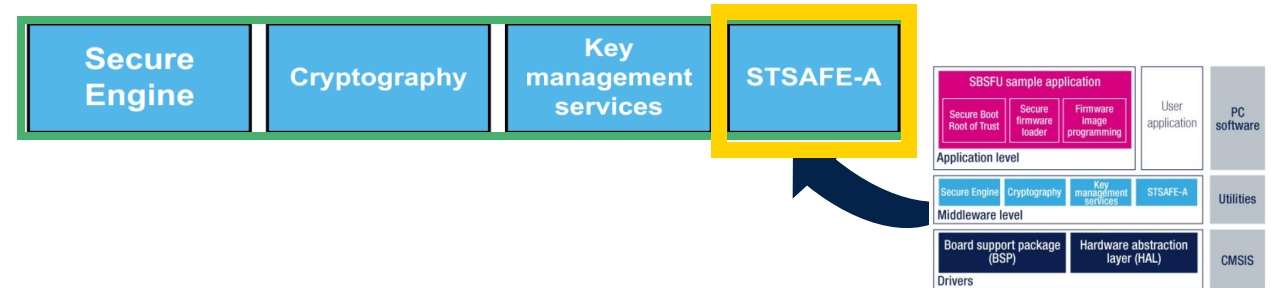
Secure Firmware Update process

- Performed when a new image is available by using a shared key  stored in the device
- Each new image is authenticated before being installed



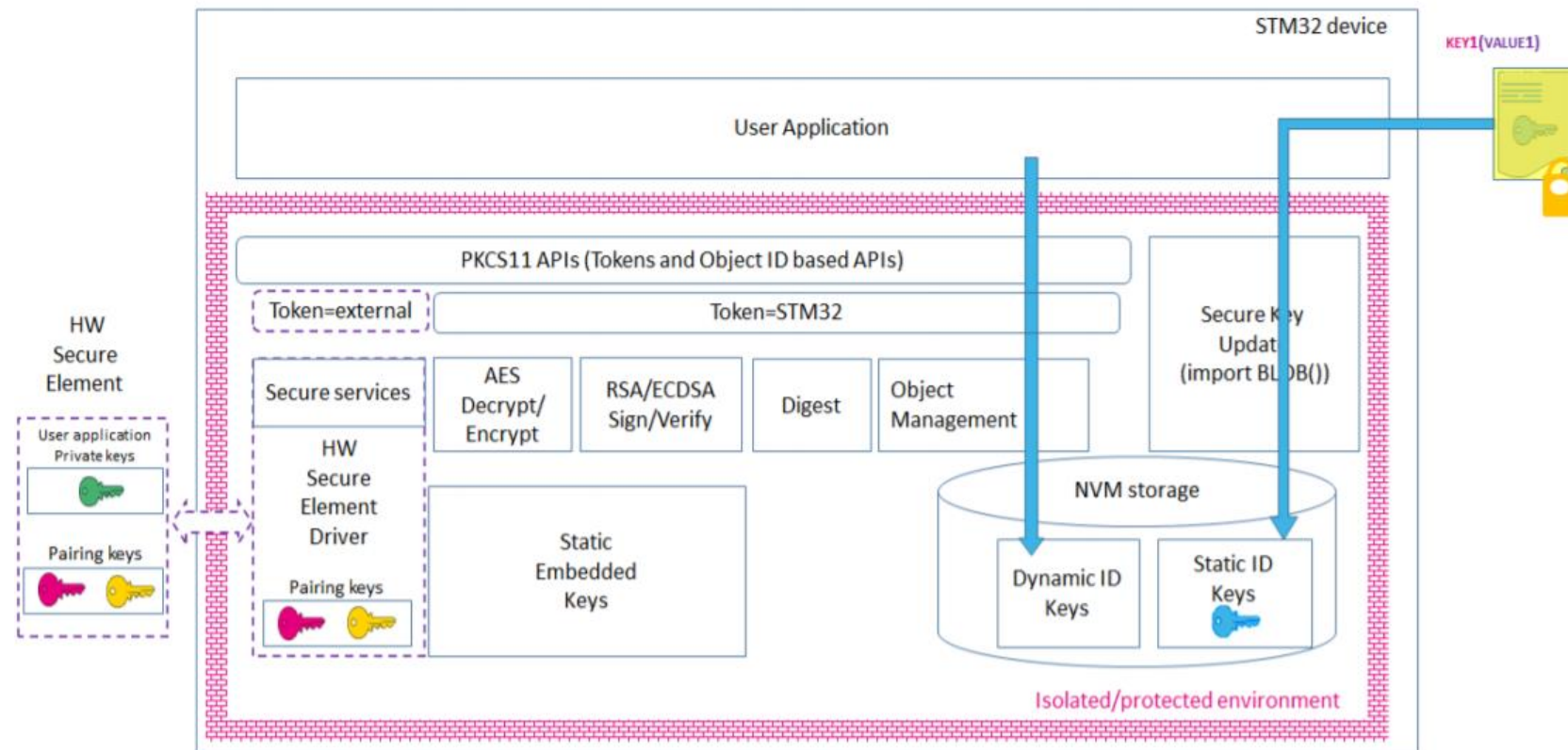
Middleware

- Secure Engine
 - provides a protected environment to manage all critical data and operations
- Cryptography:
 - X-CUBE-CRYPTOLIB
 - mbedTLS
 - mbed-crypto
- Key Management Services
 - The secure key management services provide cryptographic services to the user application through the PKCS #11 APIs (KEY ID-based APIs) that are executed inside the secure enclave
- STSAFE-A
 - STSAFE-A middleware provides a complete set of APIs to access all the features of STSAFE-A110 secure element



Key management services - KMS

- Provide partial PKCS11 support
- Opaque key management
- Access to secure element



Cryptography

Four cryptographic schemes using both asymmetric and symmetric cryptography

- **ECDSA asymmetric** cryptography for firmware verification with AES-CBC or AES-CTR symmetric cryptography for firmware encryption
- **ECDSA asymmetric** cryptography for firmware verification without firmware encryption
- **X509 certificate-based ECDSA asymmetric** cryptography for firmware verification without firmware encryption
- **AES-GCM symmetric** cryptography for both firmware verification and encryption

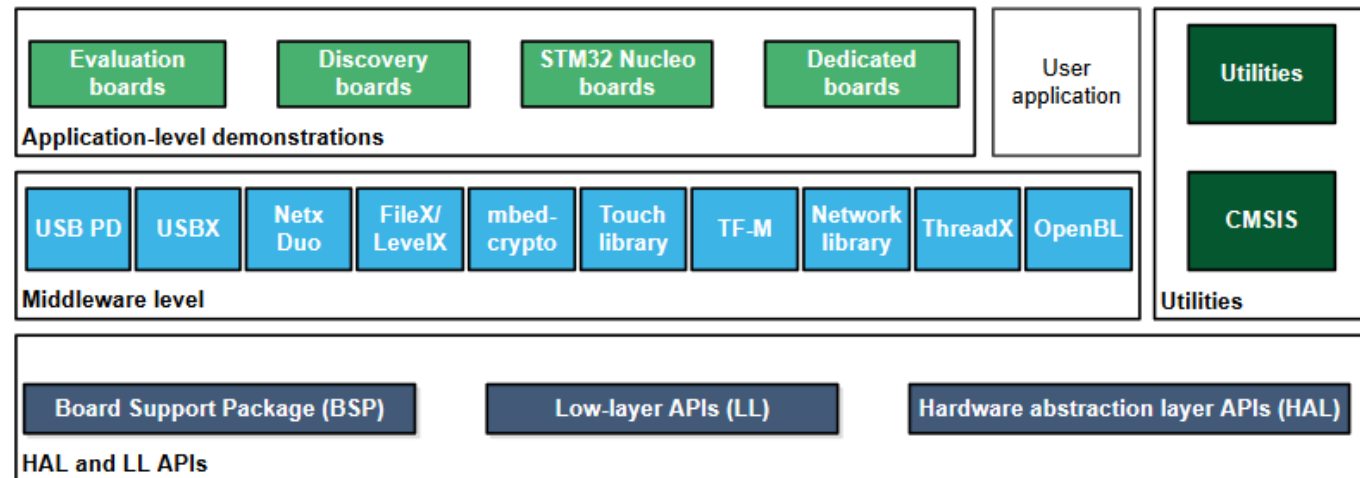
Features	Asymmetric with AES encryption	Asymmetric without encryption	X509 certificate-based asymmetric without encryption	Symmetric (AES-GCM) ⁽¹⁾
Confidentiality	AES-CBC encryption, or AES-CTR encryption for STM32 MCUs supporting OTFDEC processing (FW binary)	No, the user FW is in a clear format.		AES-GCM encryption (FW binary)
Integrity	SHA256 (FW header and FW binary)			AES-GCM Tag (FW header and FW binary)
Authentication	– SHA256 of the FW header is ECDSA signed – SHA256 of the FW binary stored in FW header			
Cryptographic keys in device	Private AES-CBC / AES-CTR key (secret) Public ECDSA key	Public ECDSA key	Public ECDSA key in X509 certificate chain (stored in STSAFE-A or KMS)	Private AES-GCM key (secret)

Secure engine

- The **Secure Engine (SE)** concept defines a protected enclave exporting a set of secure functions executed in a trusted environment
- It allows the partitioning between privileged & un-privileged application segments
- It uses firewall and/or MPU with a call-gate mechanism
 - Preventing un-privileged functions to execute in privileged mode

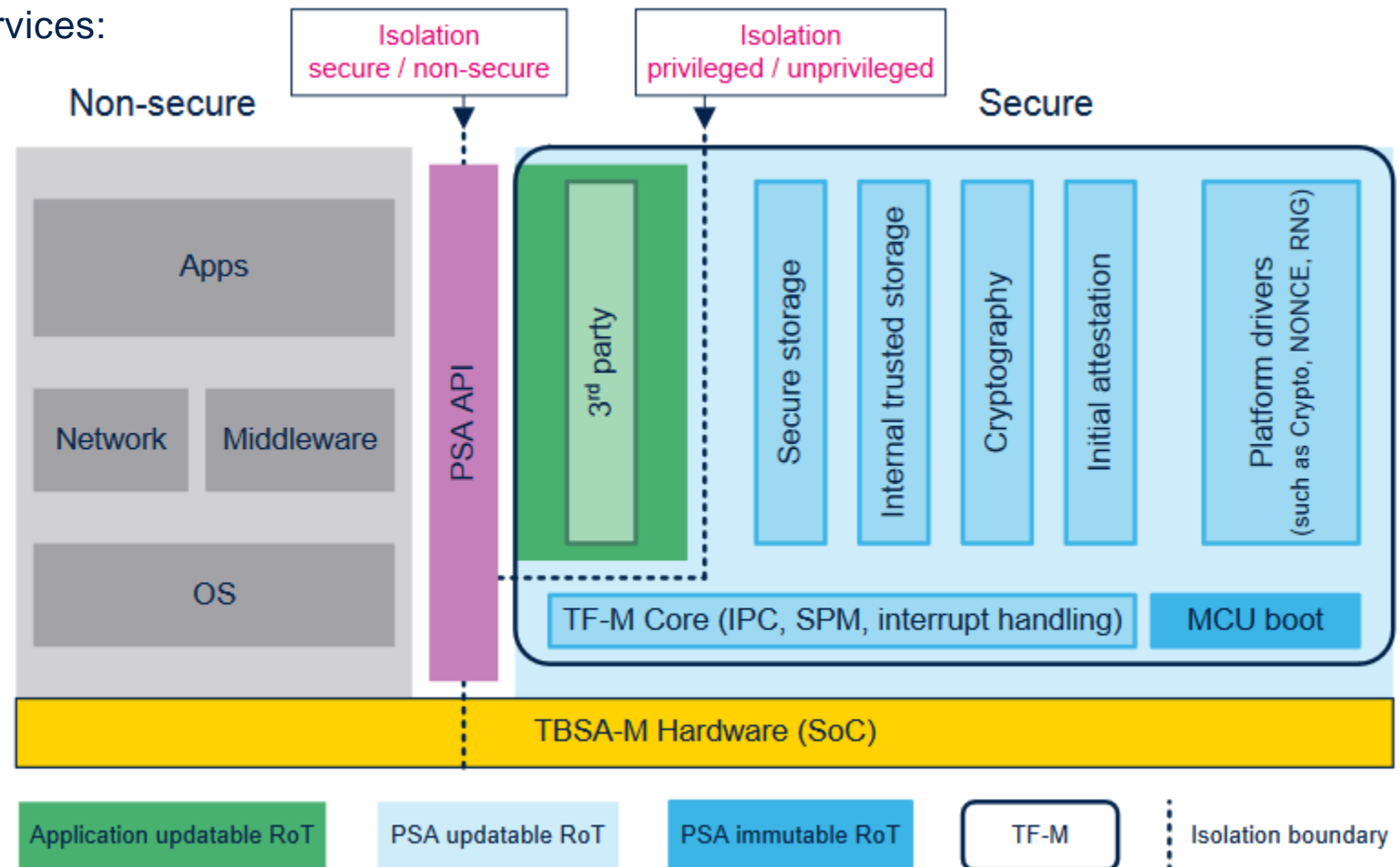
Introducing STM32Cube

- Applies to STM32L5 and STM32U5
- **Embedded SW for STM32U5 Series**
 - Production-ready HAL and LL API drivers
 - CMSIS CORE, DSP and RTOS SW components
 - Comprehensive middleware around Azure RTOS & ARM TF-M
 - Certified SESIP Level 3

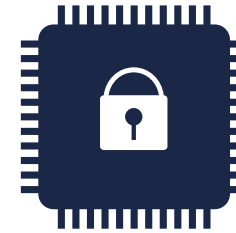


STM32Cube with ARM PSA & TF-M

- **TF-M a reference implementation of ARM PSA standard**
 - ARM Cortex-M33 processor with TrustZone
 - PSA immutable RoT as Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Update
 - PSA updateable RoT featuring secure services:
 - Secure Storage (SST)
 - Internal Trusted Storage (ITS)
 - Crypto
 - Initial attestation
 - Application updatable RoT
 - 3rd-party secure services in secure/unprivileged environment



Security layering



- MCU Security Features
 - Used to establish a robust platform on which trusted processes and associated cryptography can be performed
- Cryptographic Functions
 - Preserve confidentiality, verify integrity, authenticity
- Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Update
 - Establishing a Root of Trust
 - Building a system that can evolve to counter new threats, add new functionality, fix bugs in a controlled and secure way once device is in the field

Application

- Features / Services
- Communication (TLS)

Security Services

- Secure Boot, Secure Firmware Update

Cryptographic functions

- Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability

MCU Security Features

Isolation

HDP

RDP

WRP

MPU



STM32 Static Memory Protections

Readout Protection (RDP)

- Level 0: no readout protection
- Level 0.5: secure memory readout protection (L5/U5 with TrustZone)
- Level 1: memory readout protection
- Level 2: chip readout protection



Flash code, register and secure SRAM
Can't be dumped through debug I/F or by the CPU itself booted from external memory

Write protection (WRP)

- 1 each per Flash / SRAM sector



Flash code is protected from unwanted write/erase operations

Hide protection (HDP)

- Applies to U5



Watermark-based secure area
Execute once then access denied

STM32 Dynamic Protections

Isolation

- Code or data protection in Flash or SRAM



Trusted execution region
Ideal to protect sensitive function and IP from the rest of the application
Firewall on L4, ARM TrustZone on L5/U5

MPU

- Memory isolation
- Hard-fault or core lock-up in case of violation



Read, Write, execute attribute per region
Prevent Stack Overflow
System protection against unintended modification

Backup domain and Anti-Tamper

- Independent voltage
- RTC, Backup SRAM
- Tamper detection pin



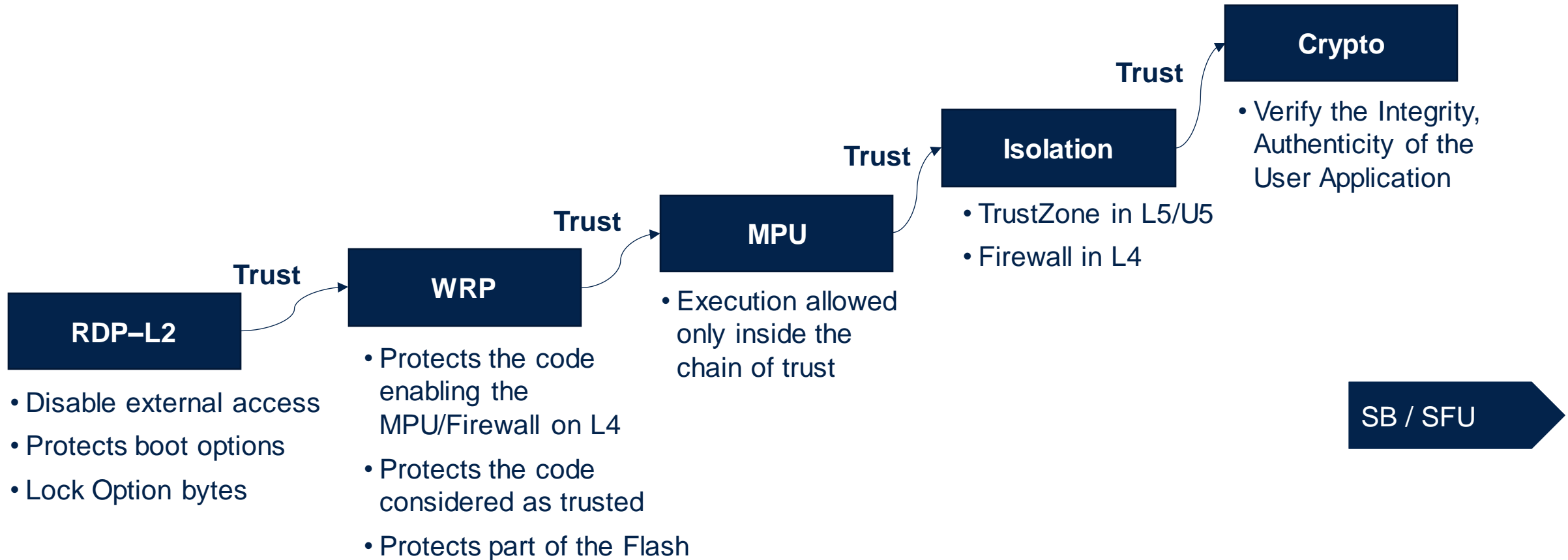
Detection of tamper event
Reset of all backup register
Time stamp event

Security mindset

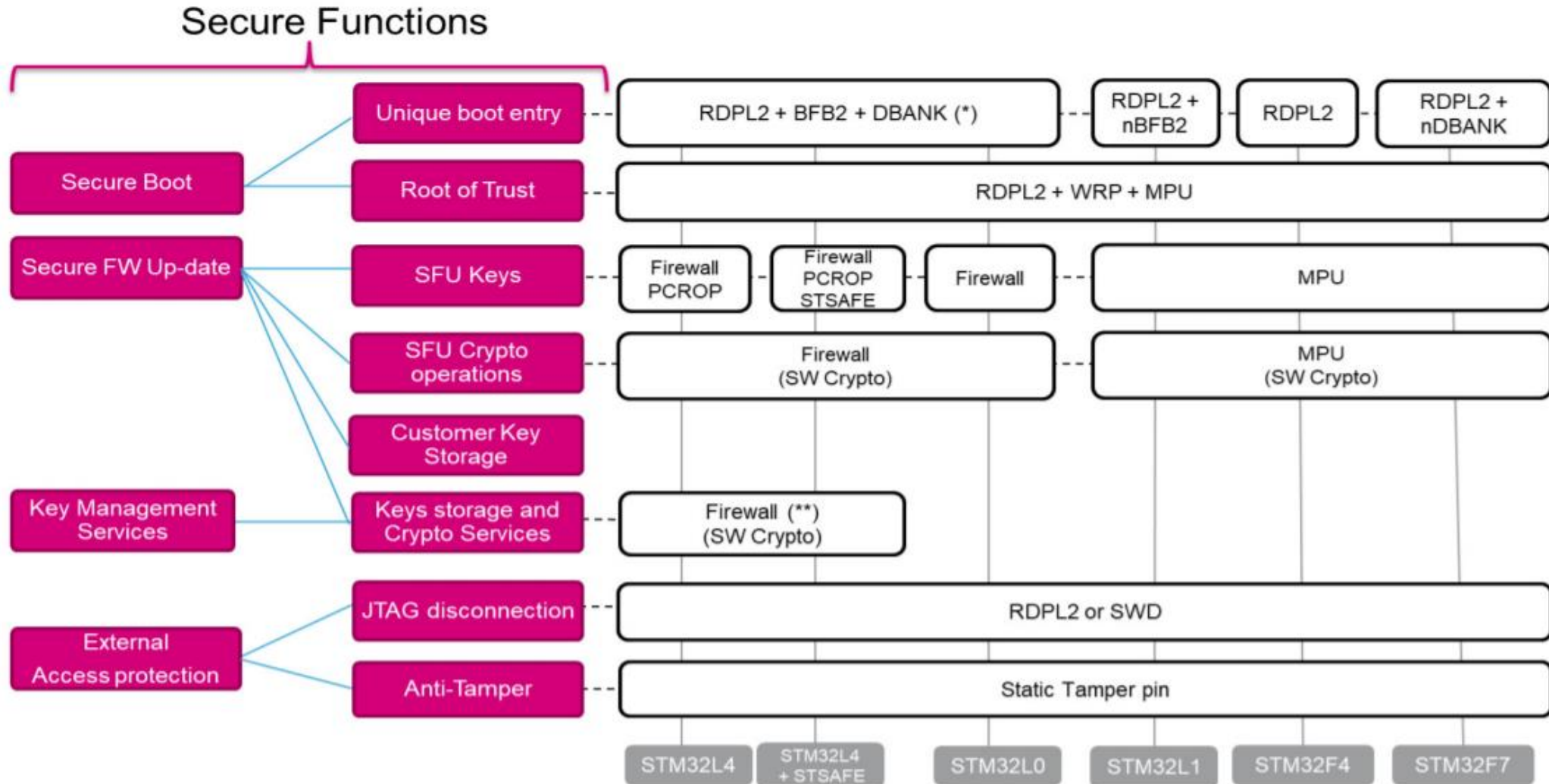
- Start by defining your security needs
 - What do you want to protect?
 - What do you want to protect your asset against?
- Look into how to protect your asset
- Evaluate the level of protection
 - Does it fully protect your application?
 - Does it bring additional weaknesses?
 - Does it require additional elements to be optimal?



Protecting the chain of trust using memory protection assets



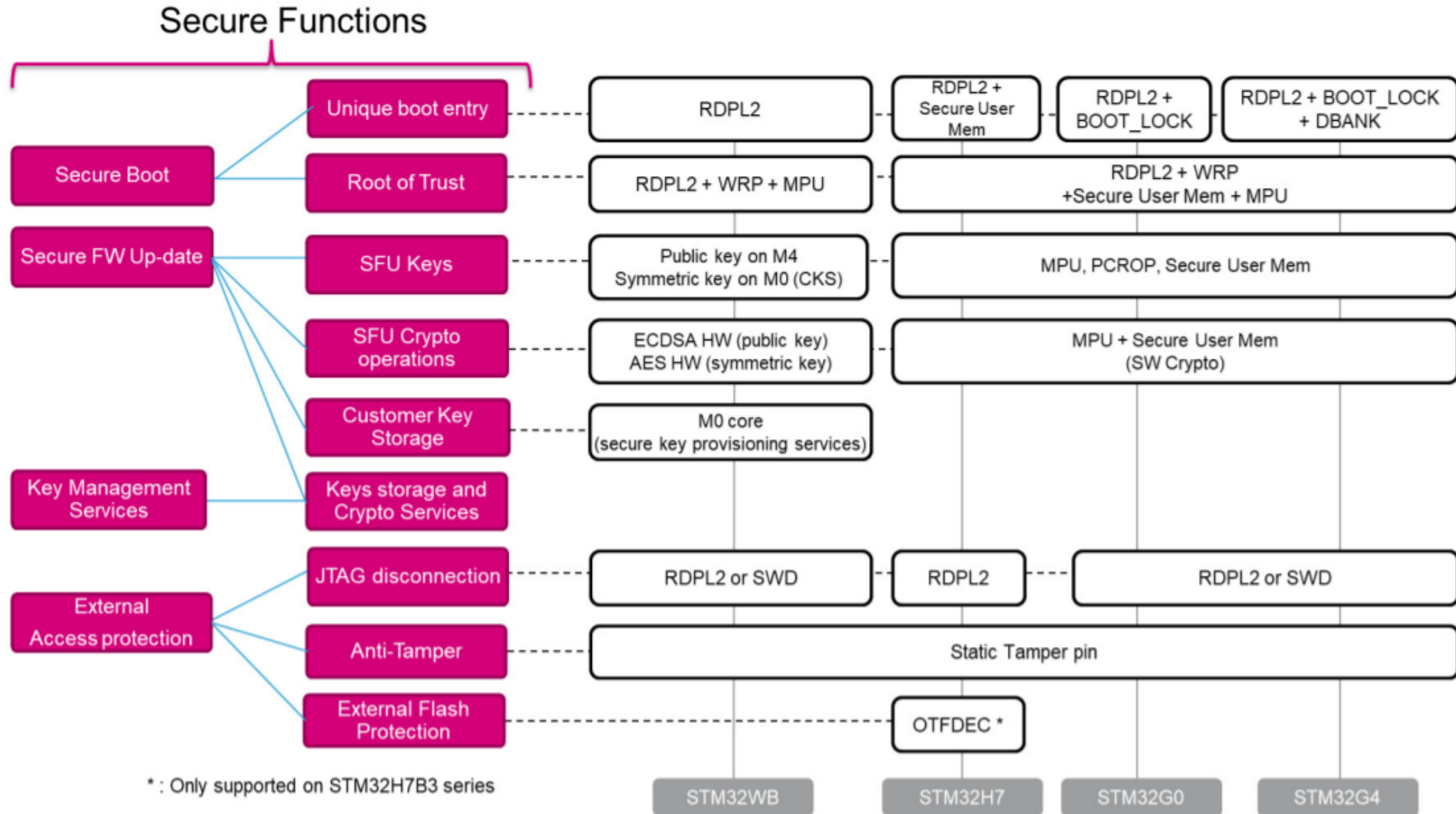
Security implementations 1/2



(*) available only on STM32L4S5 series

(**) example provided on B-L475E-IOT01A and B-L4S5I-IOT01A boards

Security implementations 2/2

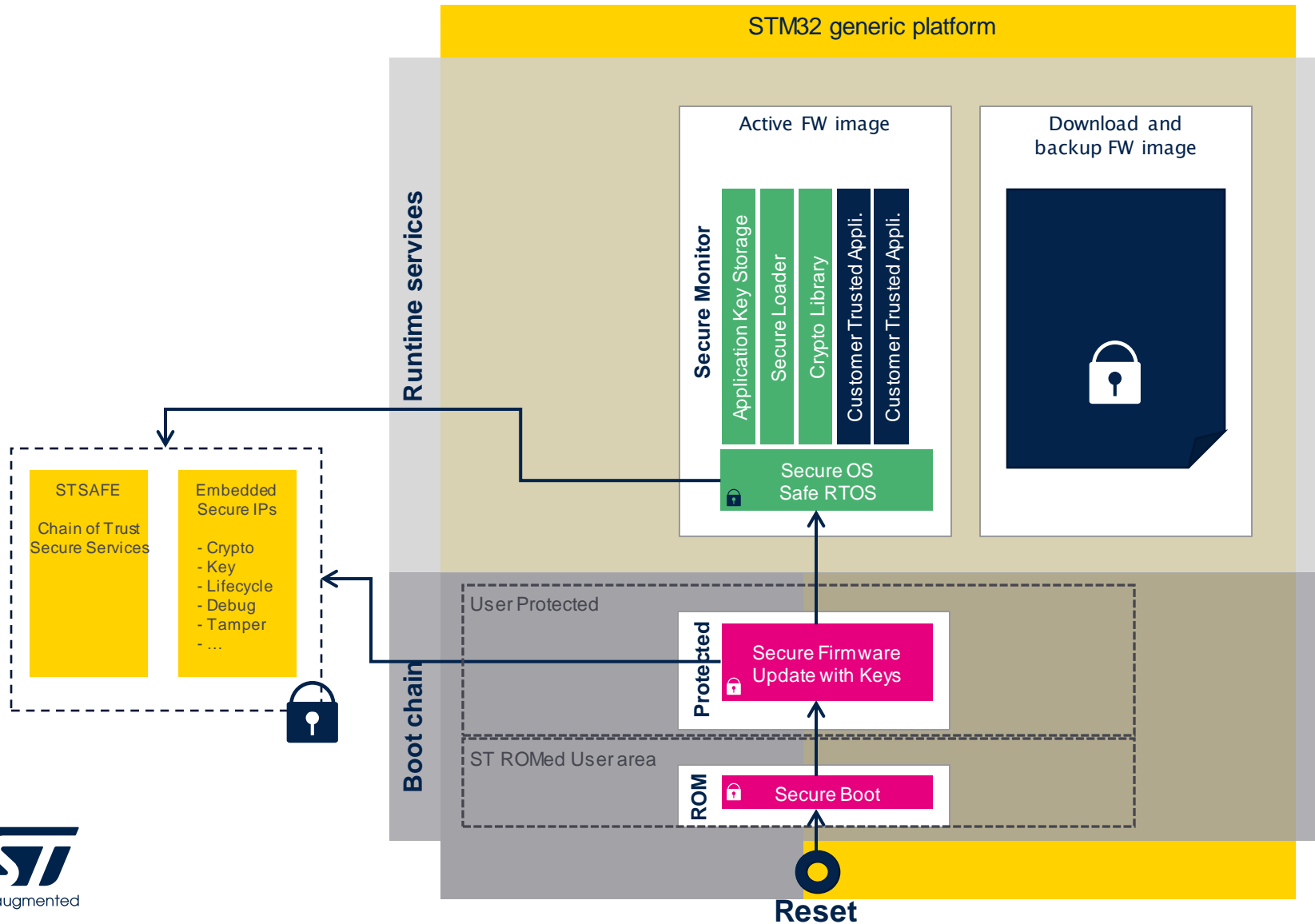


SBSFU

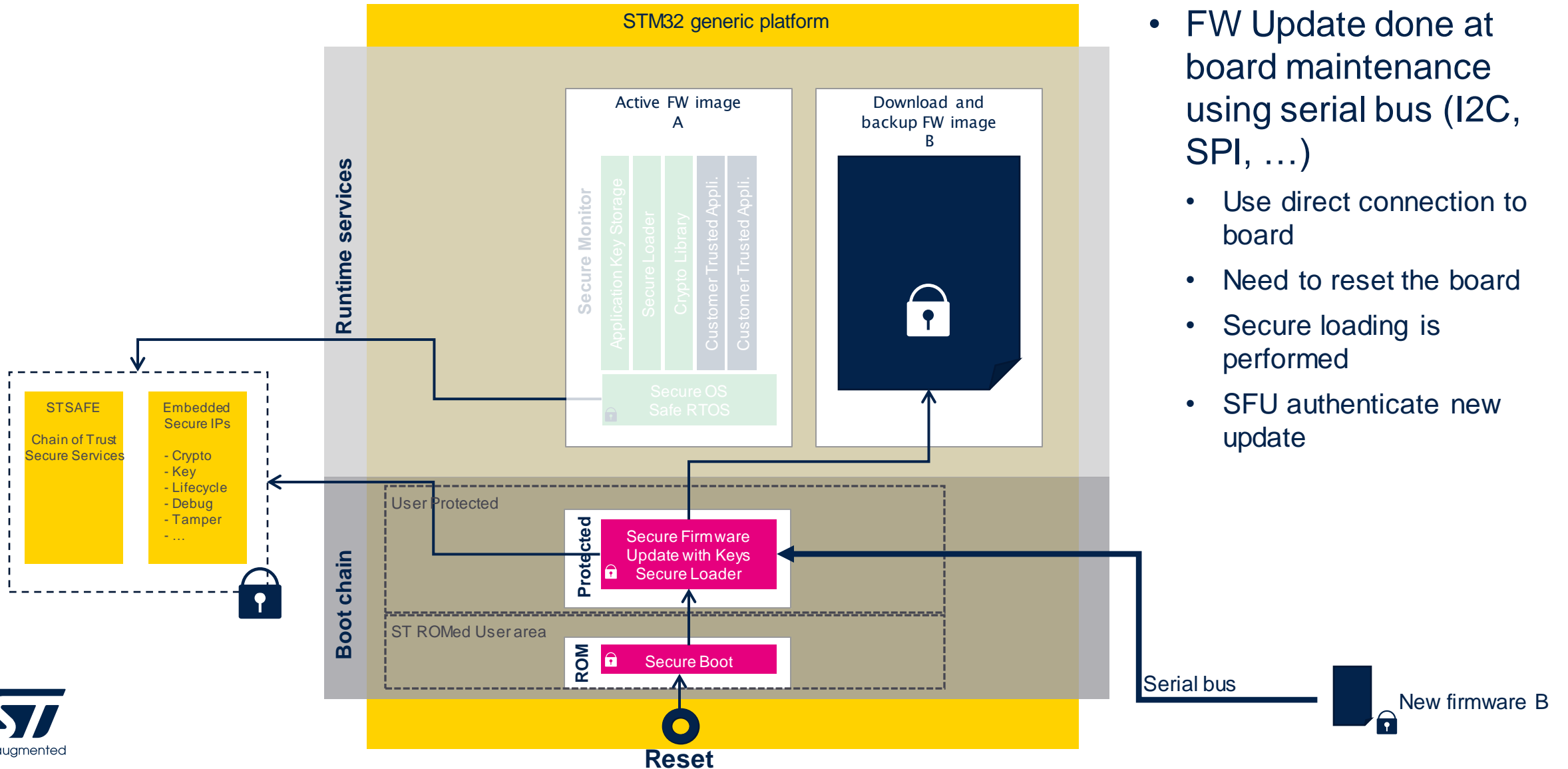
use cases covered

- Manual Firmware Update
 - Usually operated by a human action
 - Use a physical connection between the updater tool and the MCU like
 - UART, SPI, USB... Wired connection
 - Allow to stop the running application during the update
 - In case of update error, retry is manually managed
- Over-The-Air Firmware Update (FOTA)
 - Stand alone update operation
 - Use device connectivity to receive and manage the update
 - Wi-Fi, LPWAN, BT/BLE...
 - Running application shall manage its own firmware update
 - Retry may be difficult to support

SBSFU Flow

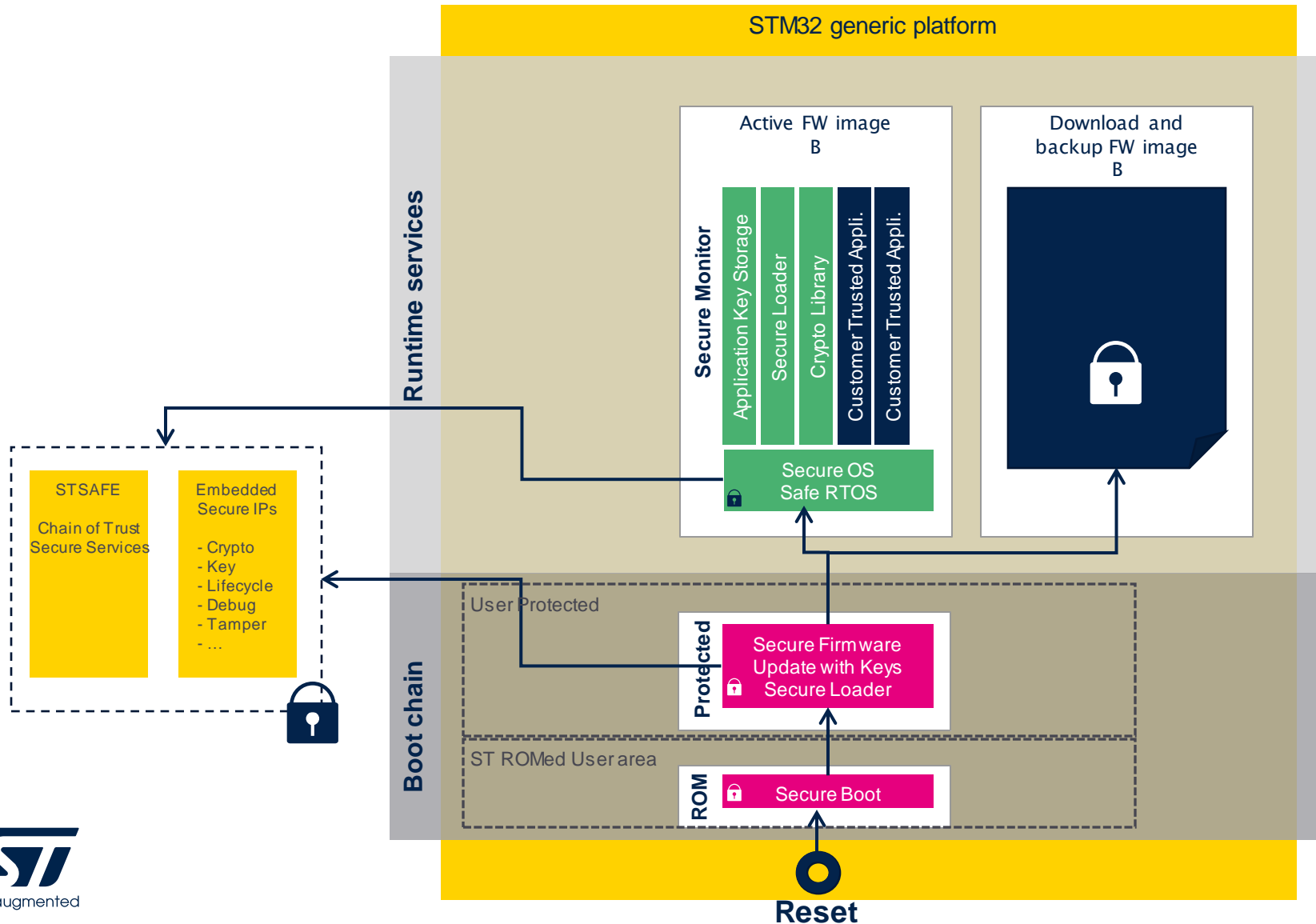


Use case 1: industrial firmware update



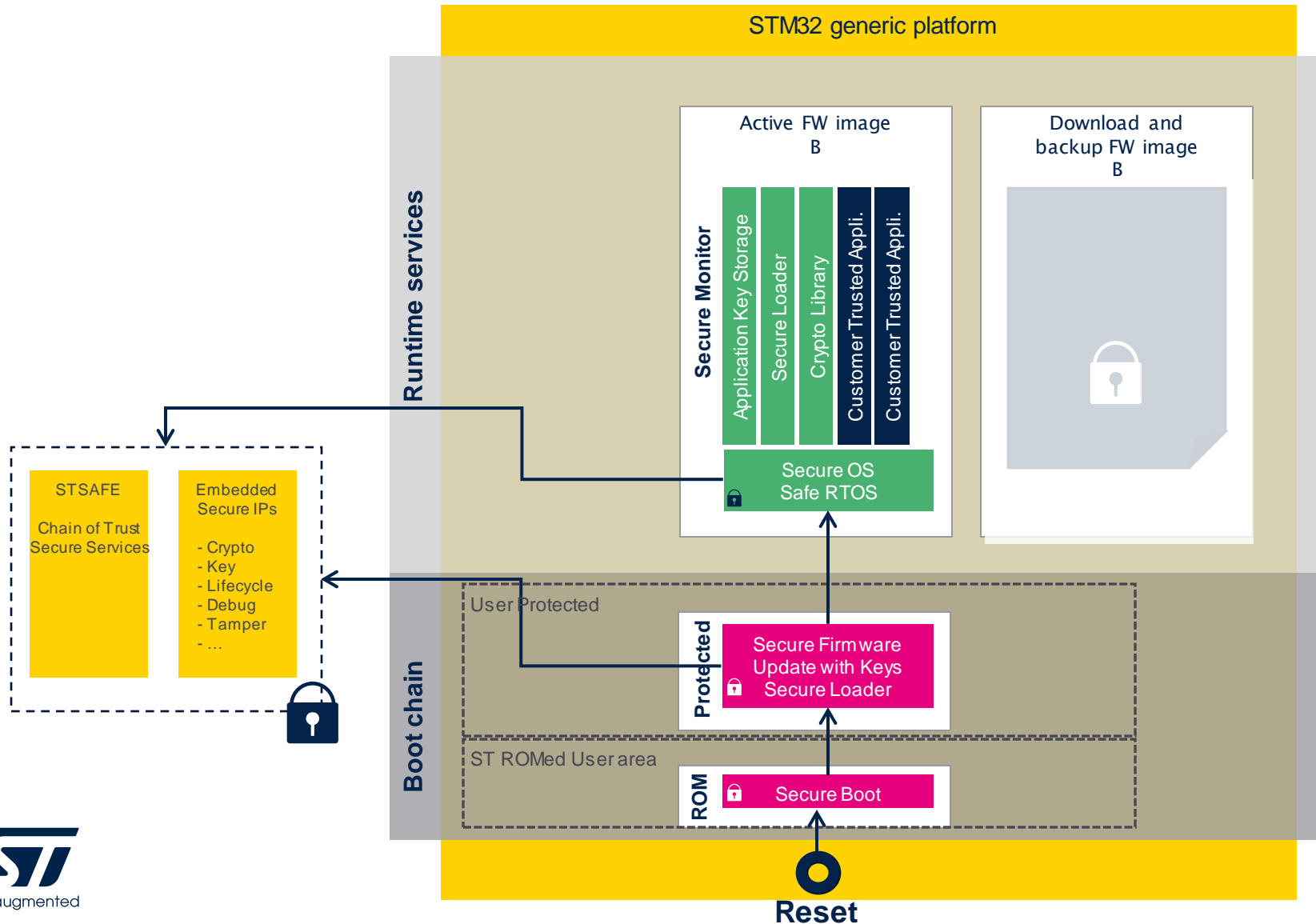
- FW Update done at board maintenance using serial bus (I2C, SPI, ...)
- Use direct connection to board
- Need to reset the board
- Secure loading is performed
- SFU authenticate new update

Use case 1: industrial firmware update



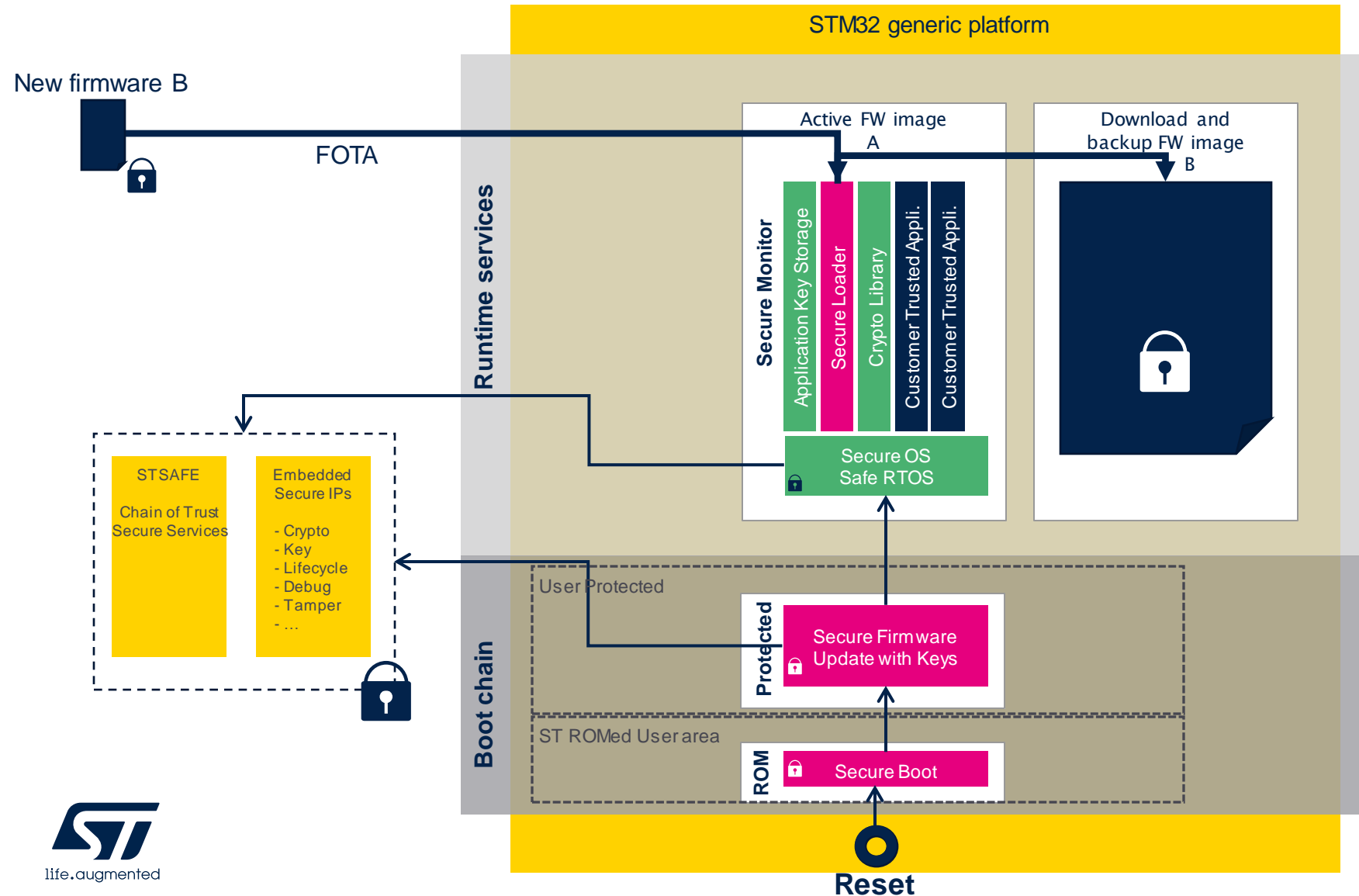
- FW Update done at board maintenance using serial bus (I2C, SPI, ...)
- Use direct connection to board
- Need to reset the board
- Secure loading is performed
- SFU authenticate new update
- SFU decrypt and flash the new code

Use case 1: industrial firmware update



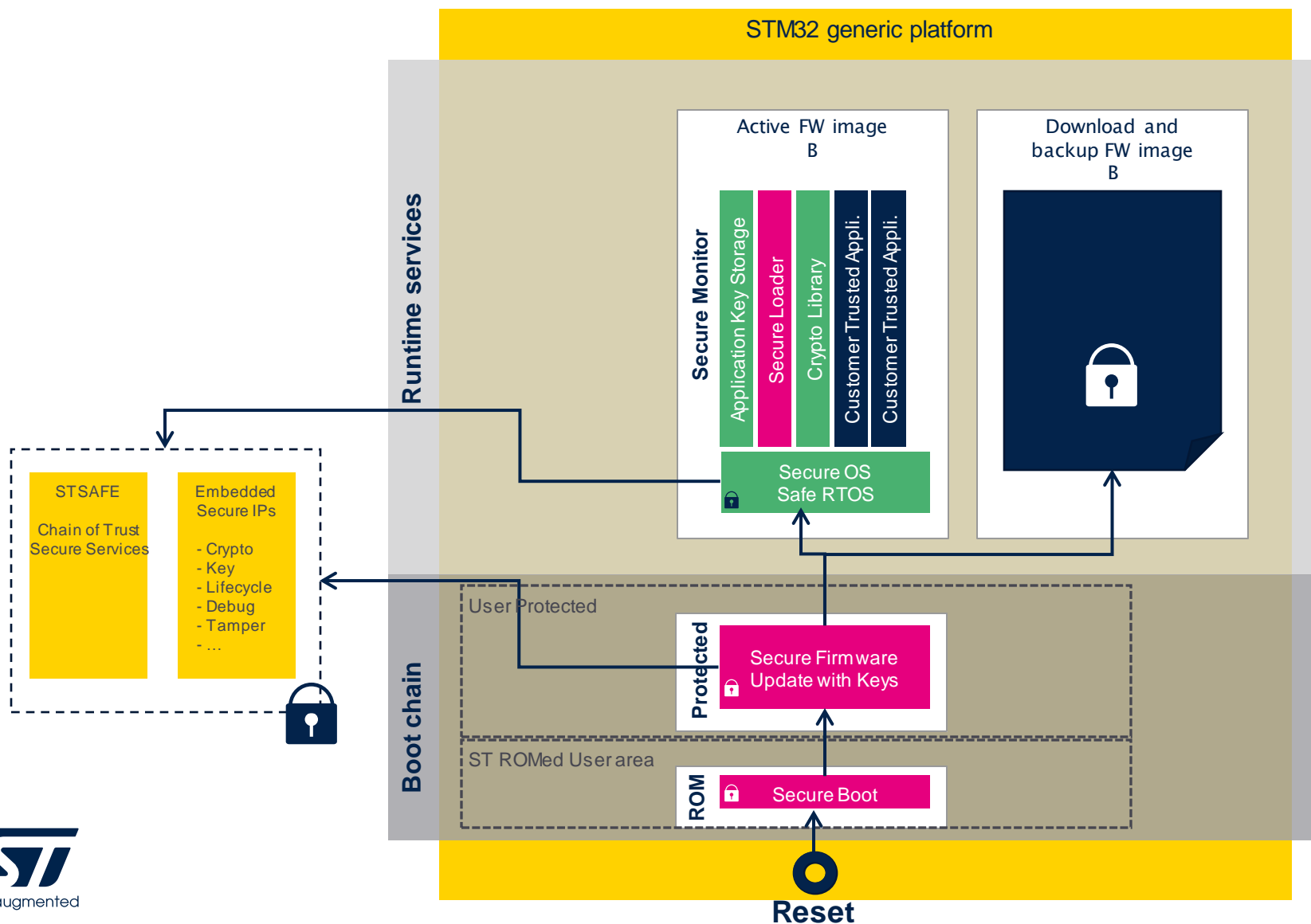
- FW Update done at board maintenance using serial bus (I2C, SPI, ...)
- Use direct connection to board
- Need to reset the board
- Secure loading is performed
- SFU authenticate new update
- SFU decrypt and flash the new code
- Application restart after Secure Boot authentication

Use case 2: firmware update over-the-air



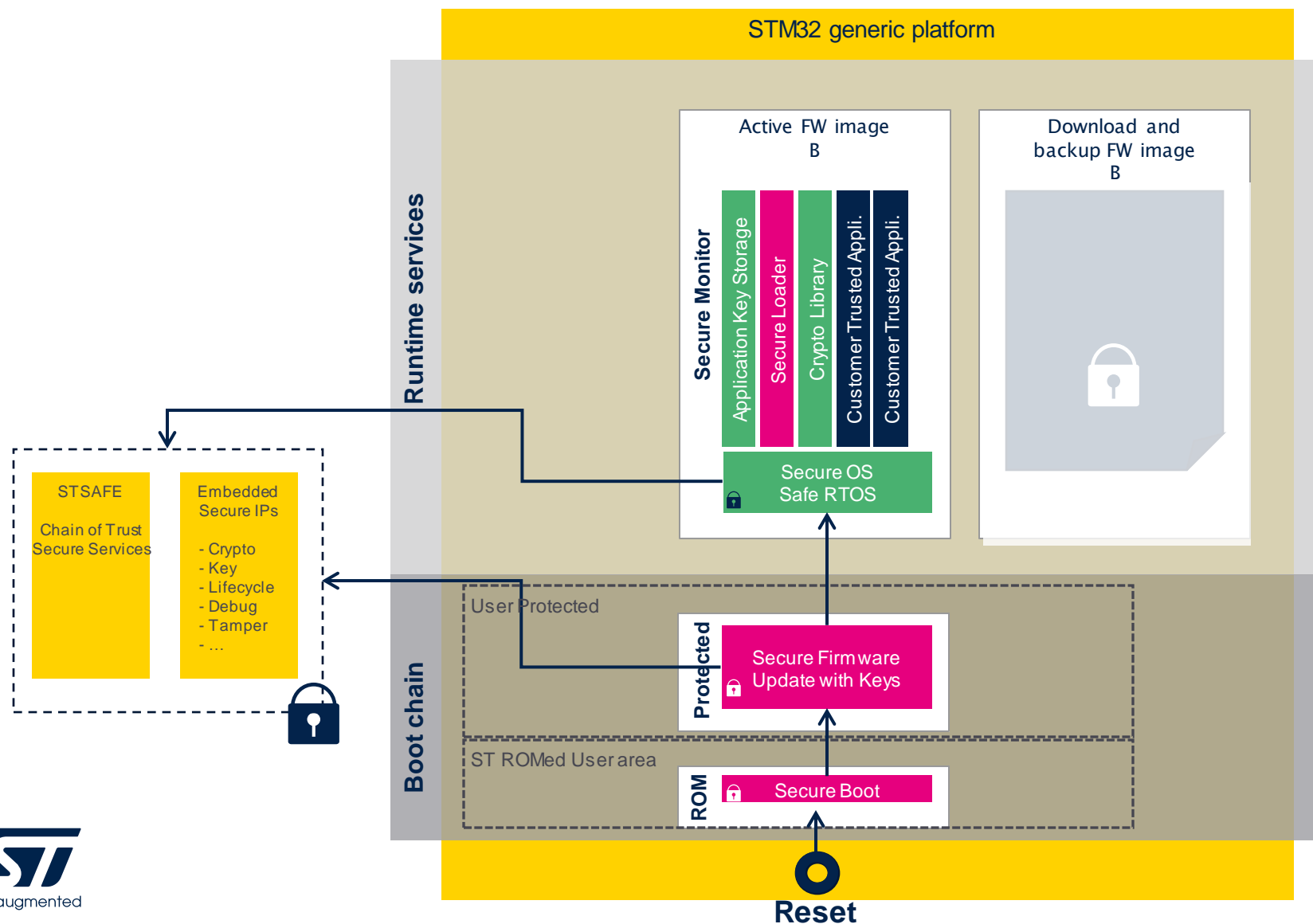
- FW update carried out using application connectivity channel
- Use application connectivity channel
- Secure loading is performed at runtime

Use case 2: firmware update over-the-air



- FW update carried out using application connectivity channel
 - Use application connectivity channel
 - Secure loading is performed at runtime
 - Need to reset the firmware
 - SFU authenticate new update, decrypt and Flash the new code

Use case 2: firmware update over-the-air



- FW update carried out using application connectivity channel
 - Use application connectivity channel
 - Secure loading is performed at runtime
 - Need to reset the firmware
 - SFU authenticate new update, decrypt and Flash the new code
 - Application restart after Secure Boot authentication

SBSFU: 2 implementations

1. Modular approach: SBSFU solution & TF-M

- Secure Boot module is immutable code
- Secure Engine is isolated from the rest of the codes
- Secure Firmware Update includes Root of Trust verification runtime code
- iROT with SBSFU, uROT with TF-M services on L5/U5

2. Monolithic approach: BFU solution

- Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Updates form a single immutable code protected by a single method: we call it Boot – FW Update
- It includes cryptographic and SFU key
- Introduce Root-of-Trust protection mechanism into STM32

SBSFU support on STM32

Modular approach

	F4	F7	H7 dual	H7 single	L0	L1	L4 / L4+	U5 / L5*	G0	G4	WB
X-CUBE-SBSFU STM32Cube for L5/U5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (M4)
FW Update											
FW Update key and crypto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (M4)
Engine for User Application	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Key Storage code							✓	✓			
Key Storage (volatile data storage)							✓	✓			
Secure Key management PKCS#11							✓				
STSAFE lib							✓				
Customer Key Storage											✓ (Sec-M0)

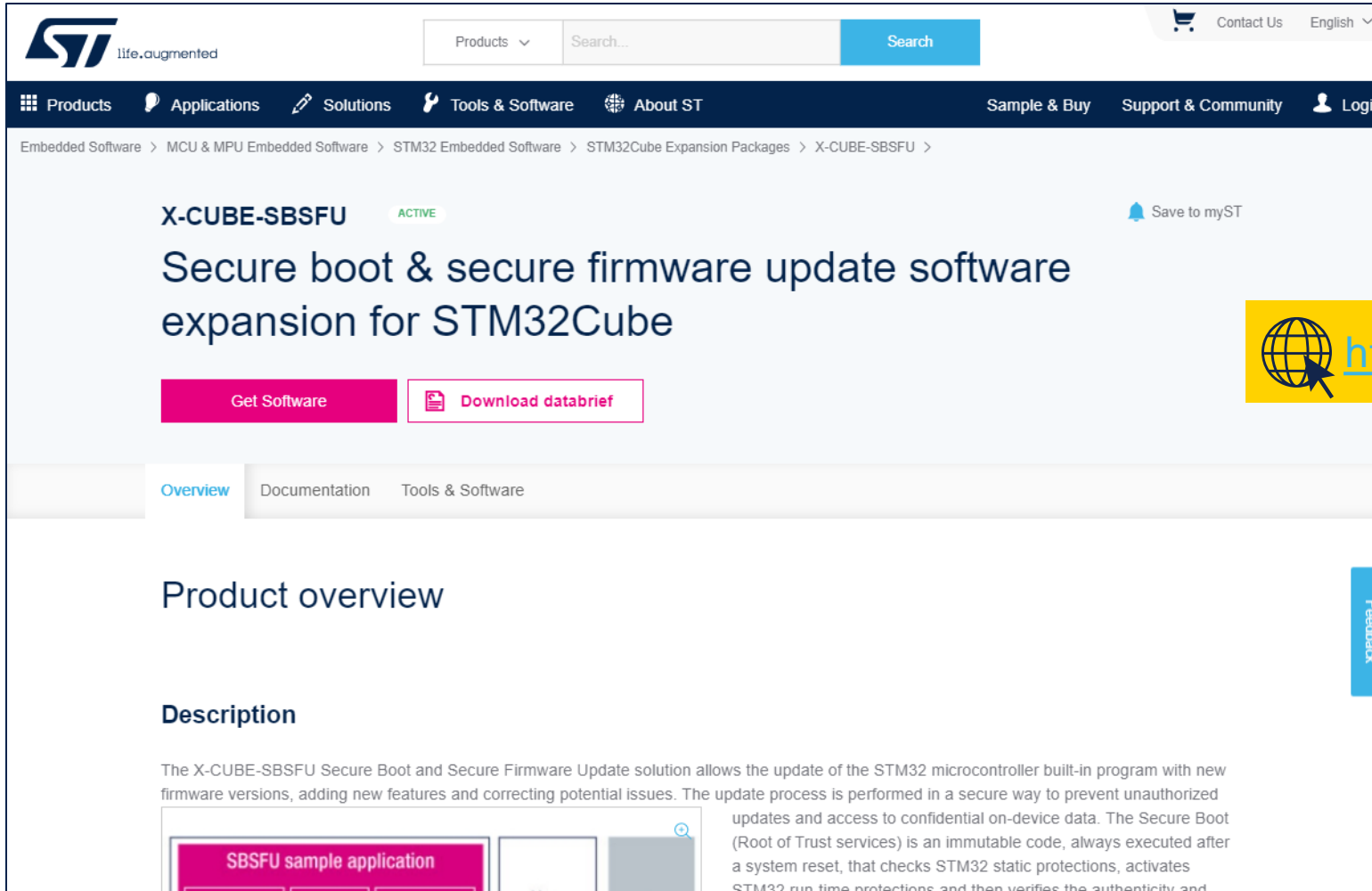
Note: *Using ARM TrustZone

BFU support on STM32

Monolithic approach

	F4	F7	H7 dual	H7 single	L0	L1	L4 / L4+	U5 / L5 With TZ	G0	G4	WB
BFU: SW Modules source code without HW memory protection											
Boot	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FW Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crypto Engine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Key Storage	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓

X-CUBE-SBSFU package on the web



The screenshot displays the STMicroelectronics website interface. At the top, the ST logo and 'life.augmented' tagline are on the left, while a search bar and 'Contact Us' link are on the right. A navigation menu below the header includes 'Products', 'Applications', 'Solutions', 'Tools & Software', 'About ST', 'Sample & Buy', 'Support & Community', and 'Login'. The breadcrumb trail indicates the path: 'Embedded Software > MCU & MPU Embedded Software > STM32 Embedded Software > STM32Cube Expansion Packages > X-CUBE-SBSFU >'. The main heading is 'X-CUBE-SBSFU' with an 'ACTIVE' status and a 'Save to myST' button. Below this is the subtitle 'Secure boot & secure firmware update software expansion for STM32Cube'. Two buttons are present: 'Get Software' and 'Download databrief'. A tabbed interface shows 'Overview' (selected), 'Documentation', and 'Tools & Software'. The 'Product overview' section is visible, followed by a 'Description' section. The description text states: 'The X-CUBE-SBSFU Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Update solution allows the update of the STM32 microcontroller built-in program with new firmware versions, adding new features and correcting potential issues. The update process is performed in a secure way to prevent unauthorized updates and access to confidential on-device data. The Secure Boot (Root of Trust services) is an immutable code, always executed after a system reset, that checks STM32 static protections, activates STM32 run-time protections and then verifies the authenticity and'. A 'Feedback' button is located on the right side of the page.

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X-CUBE-SBSFU ACTIVE Save to myST

Secure boot & secure firmware update software expansion for STM32Cube

Get Software Download databrief

Overview Documentation Tools & Software

Product overview

Description

The X-CUBE-SBSFU Secure Boot and Secure Firmware Update solution allows the update of the STM32 microcontroller built-in program with new firmware versions, adding new features and correcting potential issues. The update process is performed in a secure way to prevent unauthorized updates and access to confidential on-device data. The Secure Boot (Root of Trust services) is an immutable code, always executed after a system reset, that checks STM32 static protections, activates STM32 run-time protections and then verifies the authenticity and

SBSFU sample application



<http://www.st.com/x-cube-sbsfu>

STM32Cube MCU package on the web

The screenshot shows the STM32CubeU5 product page on the ST website. The page features the ST logo and tagline 'life.augmented' in the top left. A navigation bar includes links for Products, Applications, Solutions, Tools & Software, and About ST. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area displays the product name 'STM32CubeU5' with an 'ACTIVE' status and a 'Save to MyST' button. Below this is a detailed description of the package: 'STM32Cube MCU Package for STM32U5 series (HAL, Low-Layer APIs and CMSIS, USB, File system, RTOS, TF-M - coming with examples running on ST boards)'. Two buttons, 'Get Software' and 'Download databrief', are provided. A yellow banner on the right side of the page contains a globe icon and the text 'STM32CubeU5'. The page also includes a 'Product overview' section with tabs for Description, All features, Get Software, More from the..., You might also..., Featured Videos, and Recommended for you. The 'Description' section provides a brief overview of the STM32Cube initiative and its components, including STM32CubeMX and the STM32CubeU5 MCU Package.

STM32CubeU5 ACTIVE [Save to MyST](#)

STM32Cube MCU Package for STM32U5 series (HAL, Low-Layer APIs and CMSIS, USB, File system, RTOS, TF-M - coming with examples running on ST boards)

[Get Software](#) [Download databrief](#)

[Overview](#) [Documentation](#) [Tools & Software](#)

Product overview

[Description](#) [All features](#) [Get Software](#) [More from the...](#) [You might also...](#) [Featured Videos](#) [Recommended for you](#)

Description

STM32Cube is an STMicroelectronics original initiative to significantly improve developer productivity by reducing development effort, time and cost.

STM32Cube covers the whole STM32 portfolio. STM32Cube includes STM32CubeMX, a graphical software configuration tool that allows the generation of C initialization code using graphical wizards. It also comprises the STM32CubeU5 MCU Package composed of the STM32Cube hardware abstraction layer (HAL) and the low-layer (LL) APIs, plus a consistent set of middleware components (Azure RTOS

Recommendations

- Reduce risk
 - Design products protected against attacks within their whole life cycle
- Understand the value of your assets
 - Perform threat analysis
 - Confidentiality, availability and integrity are key
- Apply best security practices to develop and maintain secure products
 - Use security features and tools to achieve robust products
 - Work with trusted and experienced partners
- Visit st.com for more information on [X-CUBE-SBSFU](#) and for updates on [STM32CubeU5](#)

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