

# SMART CARDS IN LINUX

## AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Jakub Jelen

Red Hat

[jjelen@redhat.com](mailto:jjelen@redhat.com)

PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES:  
WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

# PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES: WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

- Email signatures & encryption
- SSH authentication
- Git commit/tag signing
- TLS client authentication (eGovernment)
- More secure password replacement



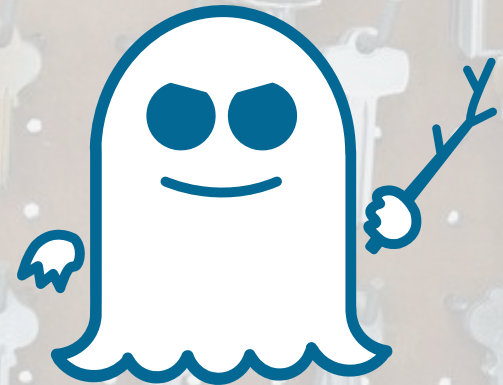
# WHERE ARE THEY STORED?

- Hard drive
- Computer memory

# ARE THEY SECURE?



**DIRTY COW**





SMART CARD: DEDICATED HW



THE MOST OBVIOUS  
CREDITCARD-SIZE FORM

"SMART CARD": HW TOKEN



MORE PRACTICAL FORM

# IN THIS TALK

- Anatomy of smart card and software
- OpenSC project
- Practical examples
  - Smart Card
  - Other features
- Troubleshooting



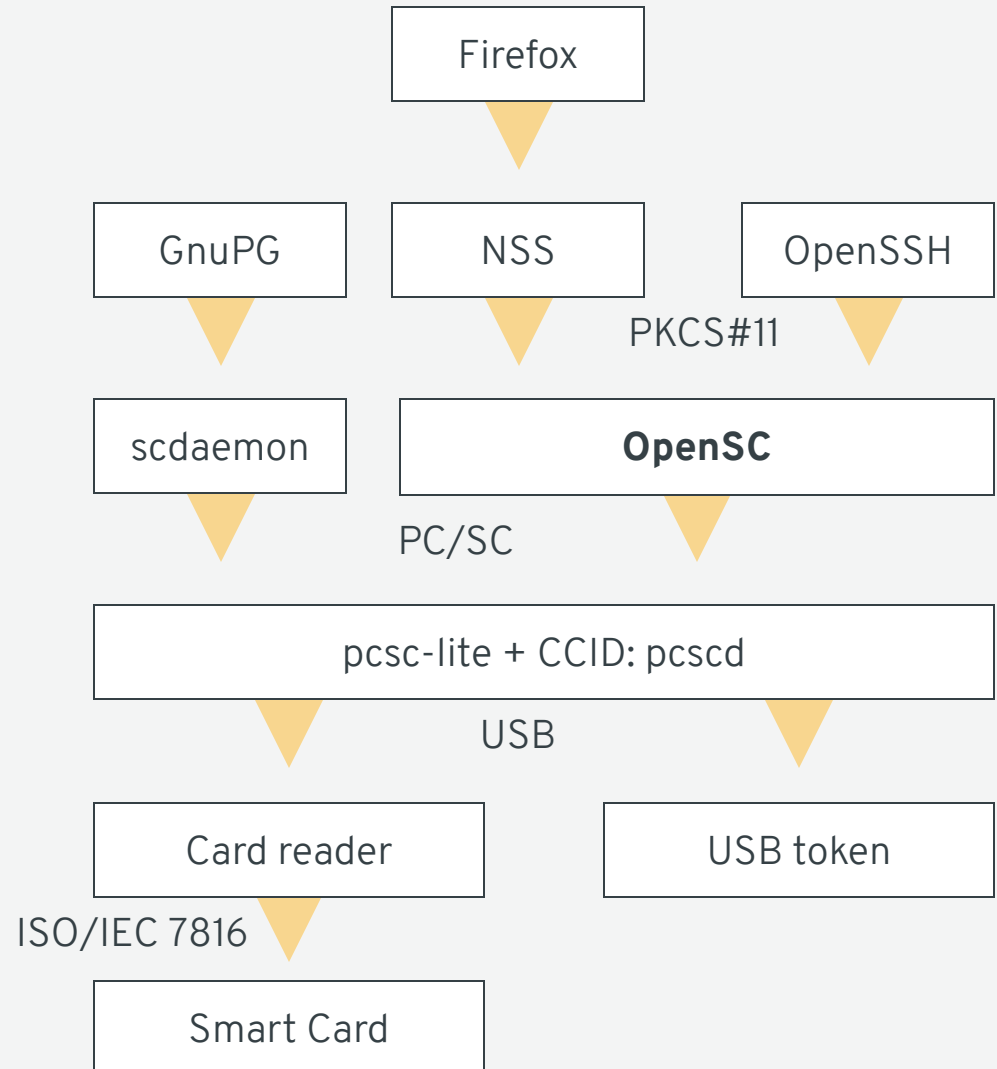
# ANATOMY OF SMART CARD

AND ITS SOFTWARE STACK



# ANATOMY

- Smartcard
- ISO/IEC 7816 - closed :(
  - Electrical specification
  - Commands (APDU)
- pcsc-lite, CCID
  - PC/SC protocol
  - Chip card interface device
  - pcscd system daemon
- OpenSC
  - drivers for cards
  - exposing PKCS#11 interface
- PKCS#11 interface
  - for applications/libraries
- Applications, Libraries





# OPENSC PROJECT

OPEN SOURCE SMART CARD TOOLS AND  
MIDDLEWARE

**OpenSC**

# OPENSC PROJECT

- Card drivers
  - Most of current cards (almost 40)
  - PIV, OpenPGP, CardOS, myEID
  - Contributions: CAC, Coolkey (RHCS)
- Multiplatform (Linux, Mac, Windows, ...)
- Exposes PKCS#11 interface for other applications
  - Way to read, write and operate on keys
  - Prevents reading private data
- Testing
  - Mostly manual
  - CI running PKCS#11 testsuite for "our" cards

# EXAMPLES

HOW CAN I DO ... WITH A SMART CARD?

(assuming already provisioned card with preloaded keys)

# EXAMPLES

- Card inspection
- Atomic operations
- OpenSSH client
- sudo
- TLS Client Authentication
- Concurrent access
- GnuPG



# CARD INSPECTION

*PC/SC level (pcsc-tools)*

```
$ pcsc_scan
PC/SC device scanner
V 1.4.25 (c) 2001-2011, Ludovic Rousseau
<ludovic.rousseau@free.fr>
Compiled with PC/SC lite version: 1.8.22
Using reader plug'n play mechanism
Scanning present readers...
0: OMNIKEY AG CardMan 3121 00 00

Thu Jan 11 15:52:13 2018
Reader 0: OMNIKEY AG CardMan 3121 00 00
  Card state: Card inserted, Shared Mode,
  ATR: 3B FF 14 00 FF 81 31 FE 45 80 25 A0 00 00 00 56 57 53 43
36 35 30 03 03 38
[...]
```

# CARD INSPECTION

*PKCS#11 level: Token (opensc)*

```
$ pkcs11-tool --list-slots
Available slots:
Slot 0 (0x0): OMNIKEY AG CardMan 3121 00 00
  token label      : jjelen (jjelen)
  token manufacturer : 534e SafeNet
  token model       : PKCS#15 emulated
  token flags       : login required, token initialized, PIN
initialized
  hardware version   : 0.0
  firmware version   : 0.0
  serial num         : 4e06500042005002
  pin min/max        : 4/32
```

# CARD INSPECTION

*PKCS#11 level: Objects (opensc)*

```
$ pkcs11-tool --list-objects --login
Using slot 0 with a present token (0x0)
Logging in to "jjelen (jjelen)".
```

**Private Key Object; RSA**

```
label:      signing key for jjelen
ID:         01
Usage:      sign
```

**Public Key Object; RSA 1024 bits**

```
label:      signing key for jjelen
ID:         01
Usage:      verify
```

**Certificate Object; type = X.509 cert**

```
label:      signing key for jjelen
ID:         01
```

```
[...]
```

# ATOMIC OPERATIONS

*Download the certificate from a card and show its content*

```
$ pkcs11-tool --read-object --id 01 --type cert \  
    --output-file cert.der  
Using slot 0 with a present token (0x0)  
$ openssl x509 -inform DER -in cert.der > cert.pem  
$ openssl x509 -in cert.pem -text  
Certificate:  
    Data:  
        Version: 3 (0x2)  
        Serial Number: 41 (0x29)  
        Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption  
        Issuer: O = sjc.redhat.com Security Domain, CN = CA  
Signing Certificate  
    Validity  
        Not Before: Jul 15 20:57:58 2016 GMT  
        Not After : Jul 14 20:57:58 2021 GMT  
        Subject: CN = Jakub Jelen, O = Token Key User, UID =  
jjelen
```

# ATOMIC OPERATIONS

*Signature & Verification from command-line*

```
$ pkcs11-tool --sign --id 01 --mechanism RSA-PKCS --login \  
    --input-file data --output-file data.sig  
Using slot 0 with a present token (0x0)  
Logging in to "jjelen (jjelen)".  
Please enter User PIN:  
Using signature algorithm RSA-PKCS  
$ openssl rsautl -verify -certin -inkey cert.pem \  
    -in data.sig  
[original signed data]
```

# OPENSSH CLIENT

- List public keys on the smart card in OpenSSH format

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQgQCXBle8[...]2YuRJF6AuwrpQ==
```

- Install the keys to the server
- Connect to server

```
$ ssh -I /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com  
Enter PIN for 'PIV_II (PIV Card Holder pin)':
```

- Store permanent configuration in client configuration

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/config  
Host example.com  
    PKCS11Provider /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```

- RSA keys only (OpenSSH bug [#2474](#))



# OPENSSH CLIENT (SSH-AGENT)

- Start ssh-agent (does not work with gnome-keyring):

```
$ test -e "$SSH_AUTH_SOCK" || eval $(ssh-agent)
```

- Add a card:

```
$ ssh-add -s /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
Enter passphrase for PKCS#11:  
Card added: /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```

- Connect to server:

```
$ ssh example.com
```

# SUDO (PAM\_SSH\_AGENT\_AUTH)

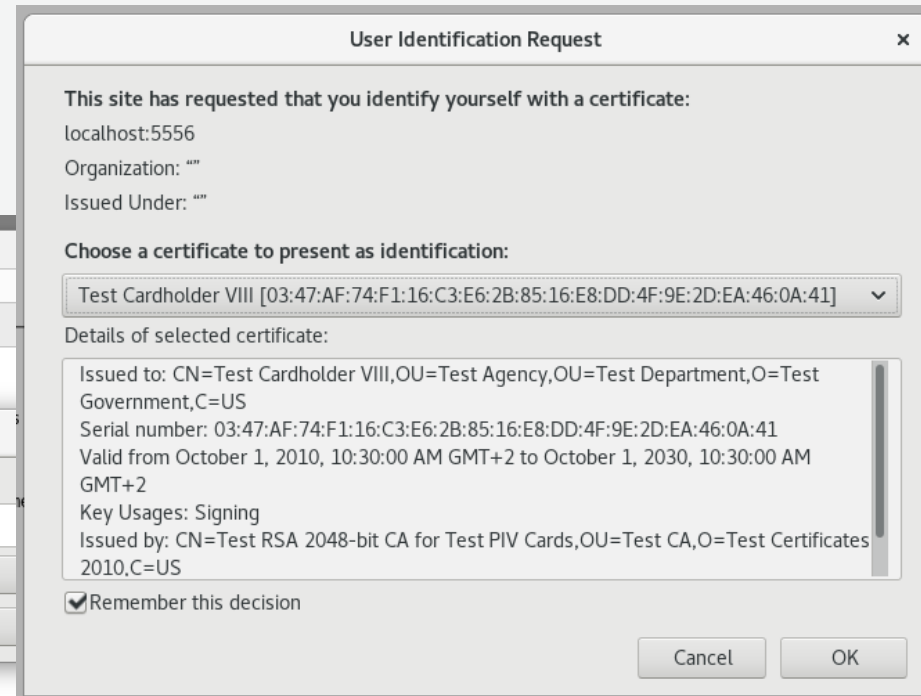
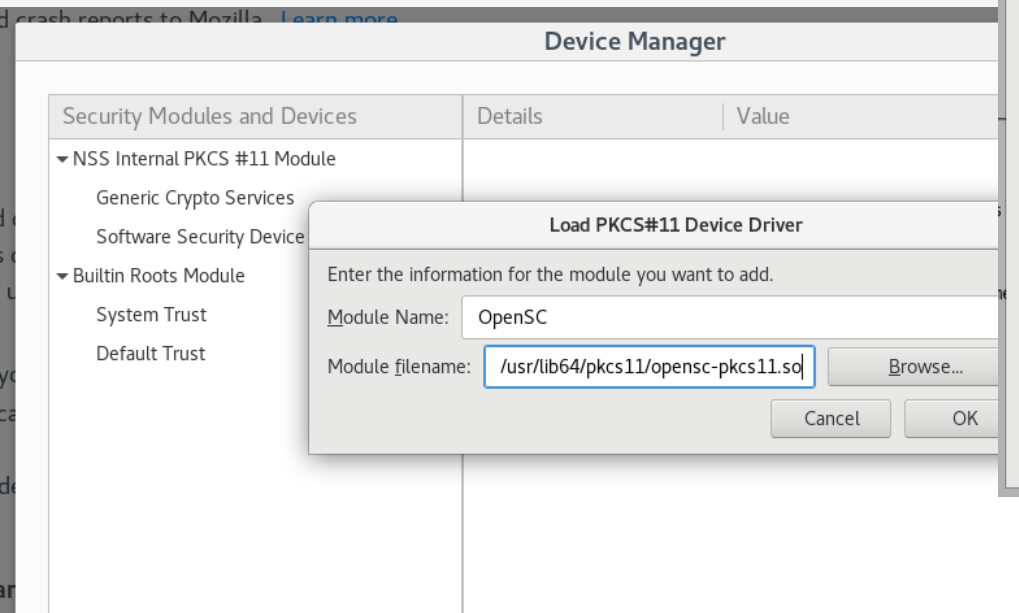
- Set up ssh-agent as in previous slide
- Store public key in
  - `/etc/security/authorized_keys`
- Configure sudo through pam:

```
$ cat /etc/pam.d/sudo
...
auth sufficient pam_ssh_agent_auth.so \
    file=/etc/security/authorized_keys
```

- Even on remote hosts (forwarded ssh-agent)

# TLS CLIENT AUTHENTICATION

- Firefox -> Preferences -> Privacy&Security -> Security -> Security Devices -> Load



OK

# CONCURRENT ACCESS

- Configuration: opensc.conf

```
drivers = PIV-II; # speed up detection and avoid mismatches
reader_driver pcsc {
    disconnect_action=leave; # do not break concurrent sessions
}
```

- OpenSSH ssh-agent: long-running session

```
eval `ssh-agent` && ssh-add -s /usr/lib64/opensc-pkcs11.so
ssh example.com
```

- pkcs11-tool: ad-hoc commands

```
pkcs11-tool --login --sign --id02 -mRSA-PKCS -i data -o data.sig
```

- Some applications require exclusive access (GnuPG sdaemon) :(
- More applet on a single card = problems

# GNUPG

- Email, git commit signing
- GnuPG's scdaemon
  - not using PKCS#11 to access OpenPGP applets
  - directly accessing PC/SC with **exclusive** access
  - preventing other applications to use the card
- gnupg-pkcs11-scd
  - Accessing cards using PKCS#11
  - More complicated configuration

# KERBEROS

- pkinit: pre-authentication (RFC 4556)
  - Certificate and signature from PKCS#11
  - krb5.conf
  - `pkinit_identity = PKCS11:`
- FreeIPA 4.5: Mapping certificates to users
  - Whole blobs X.509 blobs
  - Flexible mapping rules
  - replacing pam\_pkcs11



# EXAMPLES

WHAT CAN I DO WITH OTHER HARDWARE  
TOKENS?

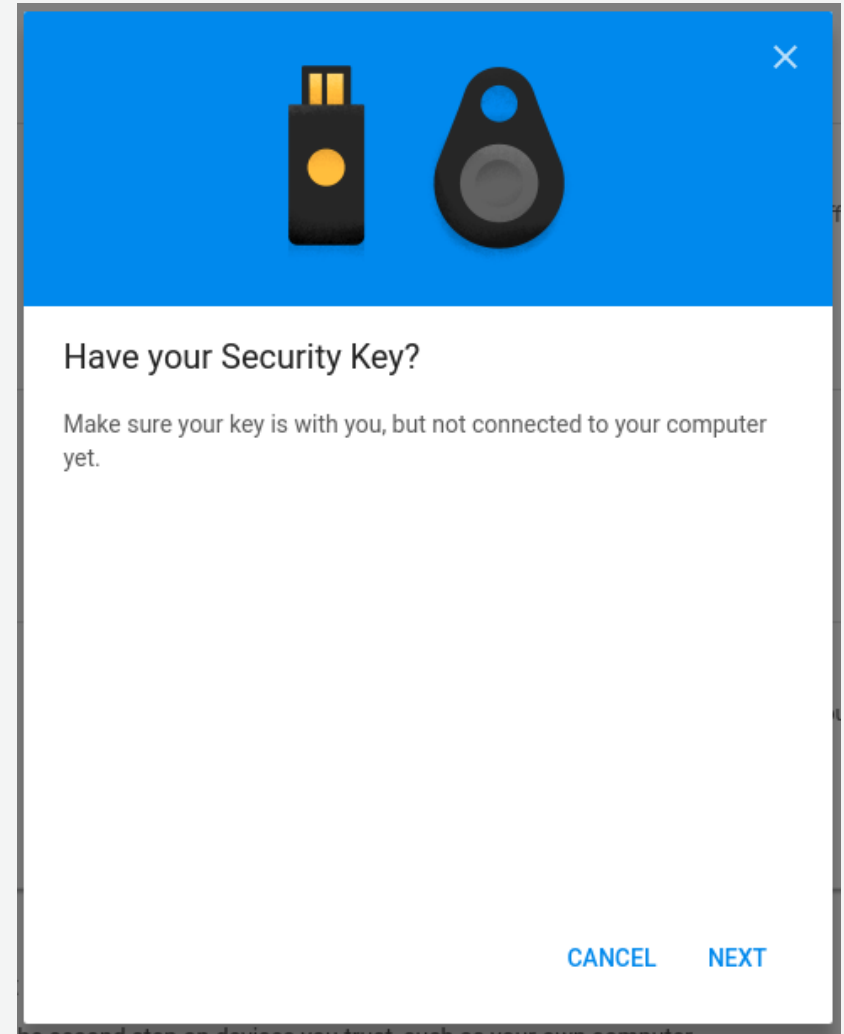
# EXAMPLES

- Yubikey, Nitrokey, Feitian
- 2nd factor authentication
  - FIDO U2F
  - OTP
  - Yubico OTP
- Does not verify PIN
  - can not be the only factor!



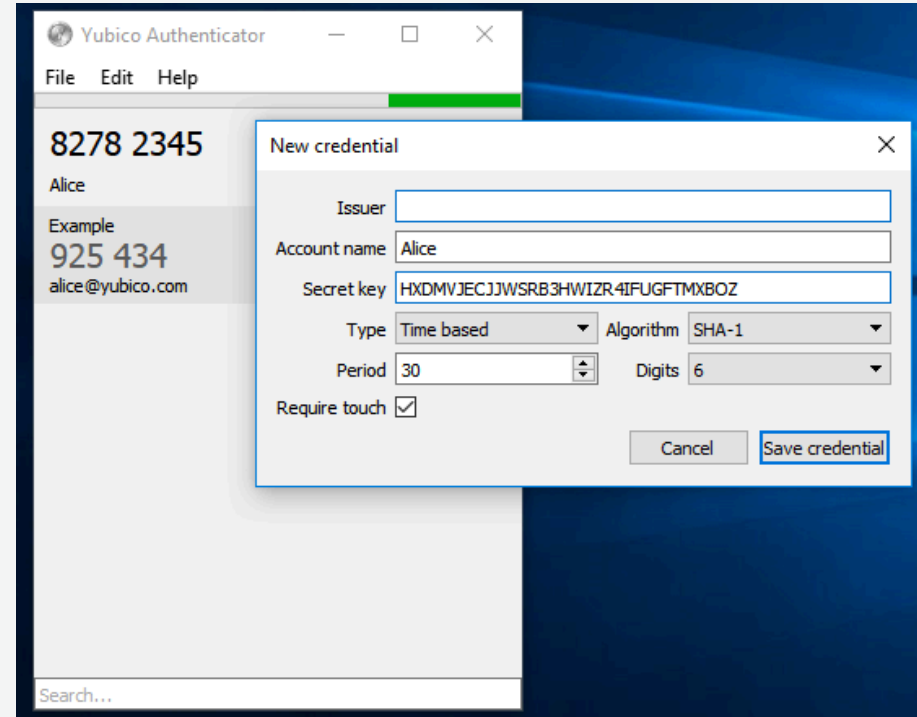
# FIDO U2F

- FIDO Universal 2nd Factor
- Support:
  - Chromium out of box
  - Firefox 57: about:config
    - security.webauth.u2f = true
- Use cases
  - Fortify authentication to websites
  - Local login (pam\_u2f)
- Alternative to SMS or OTP apps
- Physical verification with touch



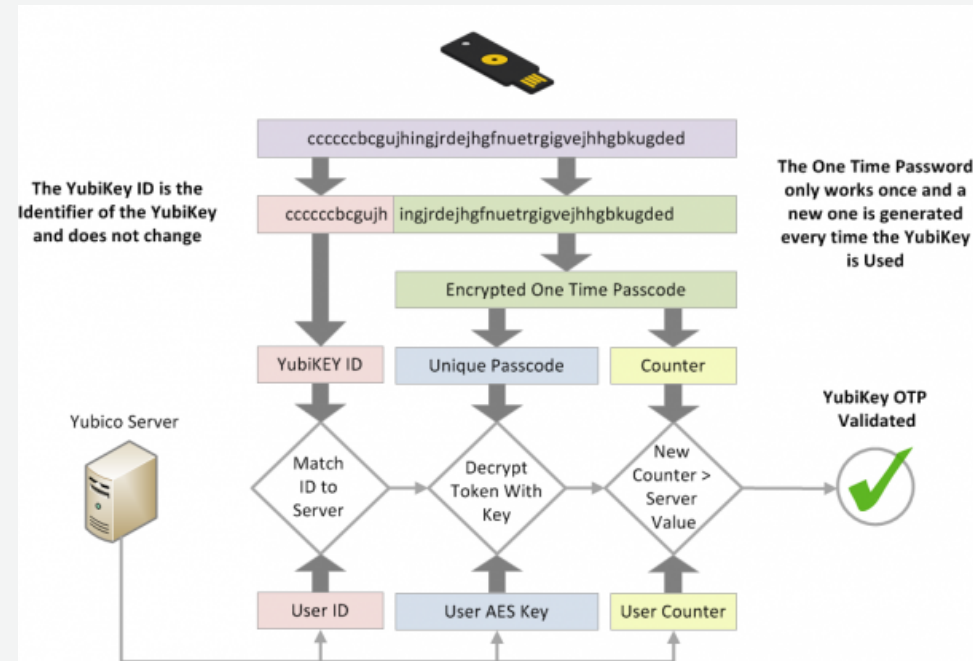
# OATH-HOTP/TOTP

- One-Time Password
  - Standard OATH
  - HMAC hash-based
  - Securely stored secret key
- Client:
  - Yubikey Authenticator
  - + Android version
- Server (verification):
  - Usually with PAM module
- Physical verification with touch



# YUBICO OTP

- One-Time Password
  - Yubico-version
- Client:
  - no drivers needed
  - USB HID keyboard
- Server (verification):
  - Usually with PAM module
- Physical verification with touch
- AES encryption



# **TROUBLESHOOTING**

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

# TROUBLESHOOTING SMART CARD

- Is the reader/USB device detected?
  - `$ lsusb`
- Is the card detected in pcsc-lite?
  - `$ pcsc_scan`
- PCSC trace (APDU messages)
  - `$ systemctl stop pcscd`  
`$ sudo LIBCCID_ifdLogLevel=0x000F pcscd --foreground --debug --apdu --color`
- Is the card detected in OpenSC?
  - `pkcs11-tool -L`
- PKCS#11 level trace:
  - `export PKCS11SPY=/usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so`
  - `pkcs11-tool -L /usr/lib64/pkcs11-spy.so`
- OpenSC debug logs:
  - `OPENS_DEBUG=9 pkcs11-tool -L`

# SMART CARDS SUMMARY

- Not only cards!
- Stores private keys securely
- PKCS#11 interface for developers
- Can replace passwords
- Can strengthen passwords:
  - U2F or OTP for second factor

Thank you for your attention