

CONSISTENT PKCS#11 IN OPERATING SYSTEMS

IMPROVING USER EXPERIENCE AND SECURITY IN RHEL AND FEDORA


Jakub Jelen
Software Engineer
Red Hat

jjelen@redhat.com  @JakujeCZ  Jakuje

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of various keys and keychains. The keys are in different colors, including silver, gold, and white. Some keys have small white tags attached to them with handwritten text. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a light beige background.

PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES

WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

The background of the slide is a light gray color with a repeating pattern of various keys and keychains. The keys are in different colors (white, gold, silver) and have different shapes. Some have small white tags attached to them with handwritten text, such as 'CORY', 'ALE', 'ONF', 'KUISEY', 'SSU-NU loll', 'MELISSA', and 'MOR'.

PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES

WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

- Email signatures & decryption
- SSH authentication, remote git

PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES

WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

- Email signatures & decryption
- SSH authentication, remote git
- Git commit/tag signing
- TLS client authentication (eGovernment, banking)

PRIVATE KEYS, CERTIFICATES

WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?

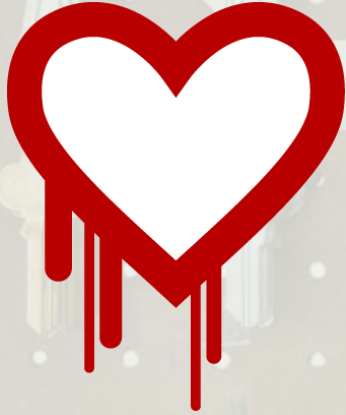
- Email signatures & decryption
- SSH authentication, remote git
- Git commit/tag signing
- TLS client authentication (eGovernment, banking)
- More secure password replacement

The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of various keys and keychains. The keys are in different colors, including silver, gold, and white. Some keys have small white tags attached to them with handwritten text, such as 'CORY', 'ALEX', 'JONIF', 'ALE', 'SSU-101', and '1011'. The keys are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping, creating a textured, busy appearance.

WHERE ARE THEY STORED?

- Hard drive
- Computer memory
- Backup in cloud

ARE THEY SECURE?



DIRTY COW



ARE THEY SECURE?



DIRTY COW



ZERO DAY EXPLOITS?

Last year



Last year





Last year



```
$ pkcs11-tool --read-object --id 01 --type cert \  
  --output-file cert.der
```

```
$ pkcs11-tool --sign --id 01 --mechanism RSA-PKCS --login \  
  --input-file data --output-file data.sig
```

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```

```
$ ssh -I /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com
```



Last year



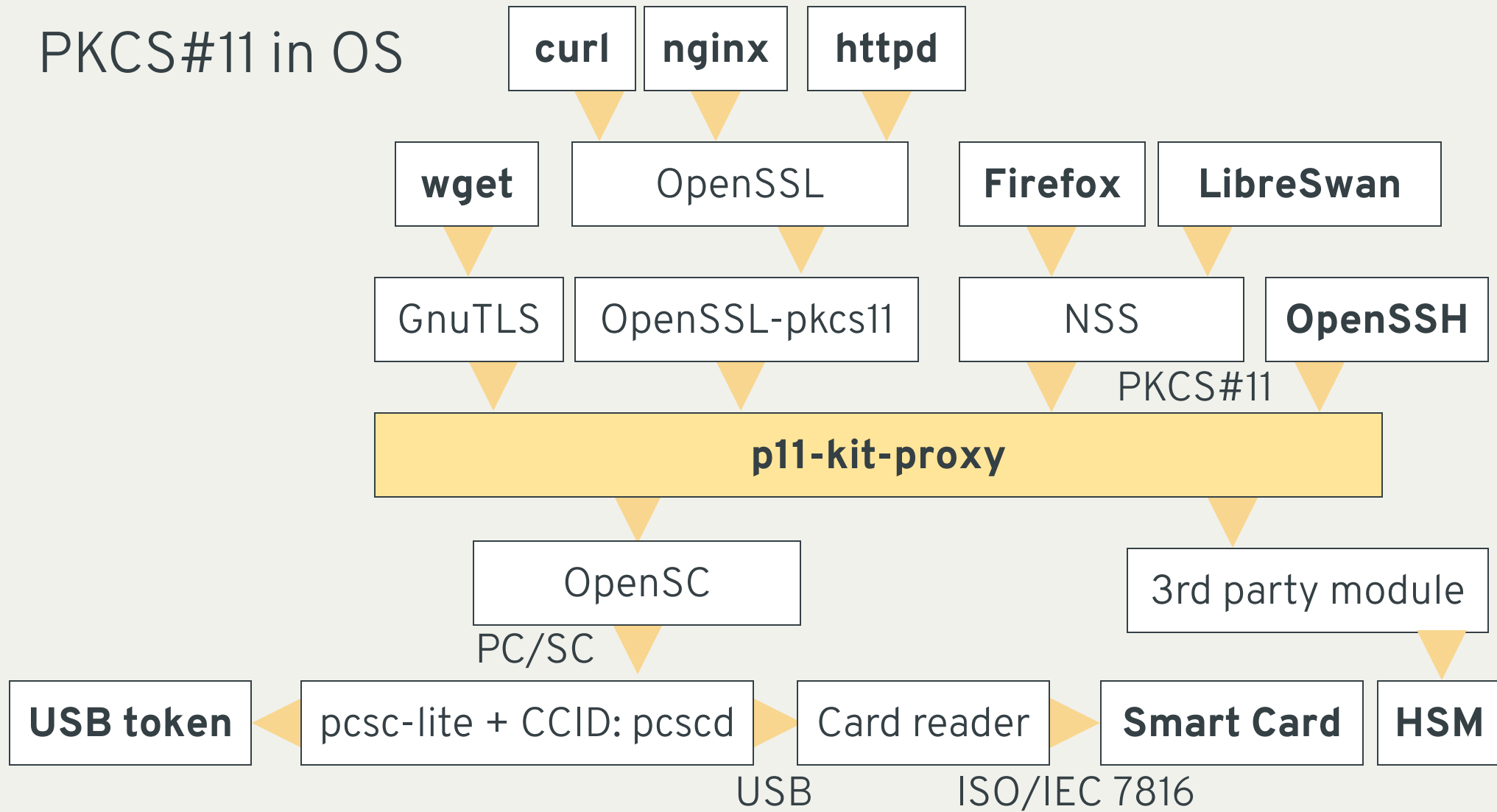
```
$ pkcs11-tool --read-object --id 01 --type cert \  
--output.
```

DEDICATED HARDWARE IN OS IS NOT EASY

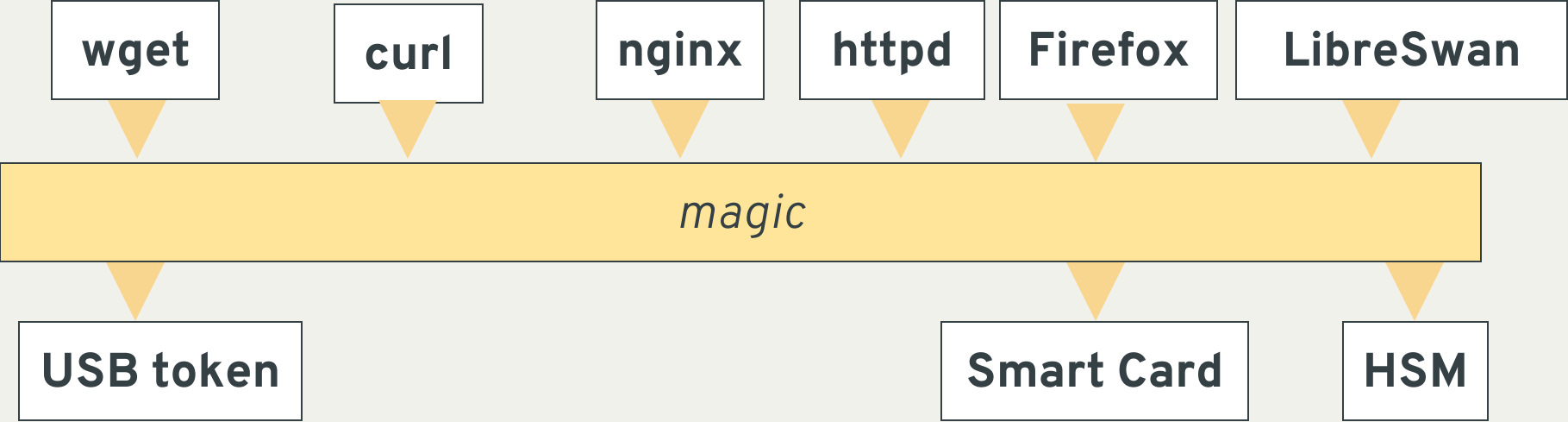
```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
  
$ ssh -I /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com
```

```
pkcs --login \  
--
```

PKCS#11 in OS



User expectations



AGENDA

- PKCS#11
- Usability improvements
 - PKCS#11 URI
 - p11-kit-proxy
- Application support
 - OpenSSH
 - HTTPS clients & servers
 - Firefox
 - Your application?
- Further work

PKCS#11

- *Open Standard for cryptographic tokens controlling authentication information (personal identity, cryptographic keys, certificates, digital signatures, ...)*
- PKCS#11 module: implementation of PKCS#11 interface providing access to cryptographic tokens
- low-level C API

CONSISTENT PKCS#11

system-wide consistency for usage and configuration

CONSISTENT PKCS#11

system-wide consistency for usage and configuration

```
$ p11tool --list-all "pkcs11:manufacturer=piv_II;token=SSH%20key"
```

```
$ pkcs11-tool --read-object --id 01 --type cert \  
--output-file cert.der
```

```
$ ssh -I /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com
```

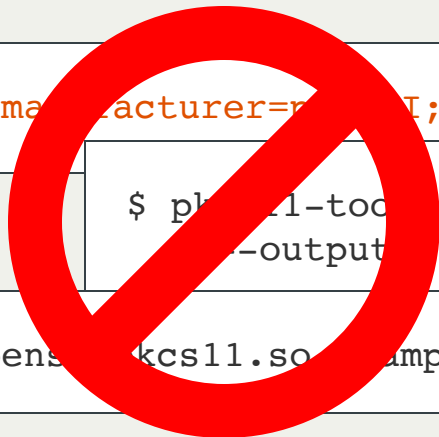
CONSISTENT PKCS#11

system-wide consistency for usage and configuration

```
$ p11tool --list-all "pkcs11:manufacturer=netscout;token=SSH%20key"
```

```
$ p11tool --read-object --id 01 --type cert \
--output file cert.der
```

```
$ ssh -I /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so sample.com
```



PKCS#11 URI (RFC 7512)

- Strongest and simplest expression
- **pkcs11:** uri scheme -- distinguishable from filenames
- Uniquely identifies each object in the system
- Non-mandatory filtering by PKCS#11 attributes
- Can provide also PIN or pkcs11 module

pkcs11:

pkcs11:manufacturer=piv_II;token=SSH%20key;**id=%04**;object=PIV%20AUTH%20pubkey;**type=private**

P11-KIT

- PKCS#11 modules exposed to users
- System-wide registry of PKCS#11 modules
- Automatically loaded by applications
- PKCS#11 modules registered in one place:
 - System and 3rd party

```
$ cat /usr/share/p11-kit/modules/opensc.module  
module: opensc-pkcs11.so
```

APPLICATION SUPPORT

How does it work?



OPENSSH CLIENTS (WAS)

- Listing keys

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nza[...]  
/usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```

- Public key authentication

```
$ ssh -i /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```

- Filtering keys
 - N/A

OPENSSH CLIENTS (WAS)

- Listing keys

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nza[...]  
/usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```



- Public key authentication

```
$ ssh -i /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```

- Filtering keys
 - N/A

OPENSSH CLIENTS (WAS)

- Listing keys

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nza[...]  
/usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```



- Public key authentication

```
$ ssh -i /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```



- Filtering keys
 - N/A

OPENSSH CLIENTS (WAS)

- Listing keys

```
$ ssh-keygen -D /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nza[...]  
/usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so
```



- Public key authentication

```
$ ssh -i /usr/lib64/pkcs11/opensc-pkcs11.so example.com  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```



- Filtering keys

- N/A



OPENSSH CLIENTS

- Listing keys

```
$ ssh-keygen -D pkcs11:  
ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nza[...]  
pkcs11:id=%03;[...]?module-path=/usr/lib64/p11-kit-proxy.so  
ecdsa-sha2-nistp256 AAAAE2VjZHNhLXNoYTItbmlzd[...]
```

- Public key authentication

```
$ ssh -i pkcs11: example.com  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```

- Filtering keys

```
$ ssh -i pkcs11:id=%02 localhost  
Enter PIN for 'SSH key':
```

OPENSSSH CLIENTS 2

- Using ssh-agent

```
$ ssh-add pkcs11:id=%02
Enter passphrase for PKCS#11:
Card added: pkcs11:id=%02
$ ssh-add -l
521 SHA256:5BrE5wevULd[...] +kF5hA9X8 ECDSA jjelen (ECDSA)
$ ssh example.com
```

- Configuration

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/config
IdentityFile "pkcs11:id=%01?module-path=/usr/lib64/opensc-pkcs11.so"
```

HTTPS CLIENTS

- wget

```
$ wget --certificate 'pkcs11:id=%01;type=cert' \  
--private-key 'pkcs11:id=%01;type=private' https://example.com/
```

- curl

```
$ curl --cert 'pkcs11:id=%01;type=cert' \  
--key 'pkcs11:id=%01;type=private' https://example.com/
```

HTTPS SERVERS



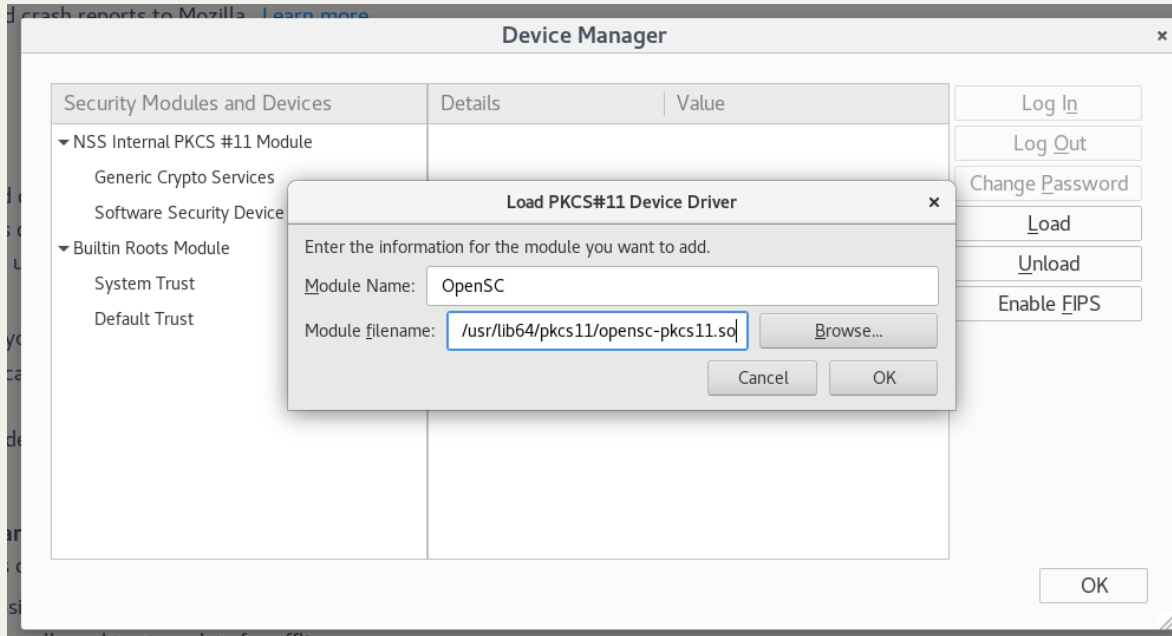
- httpd configuration file

```
SSLCertificateFile pkcs11:id=%01;type=cert  
SSLCertificateKeyFile pkcs11:id=%01;type=private
```

- nginx configuration file

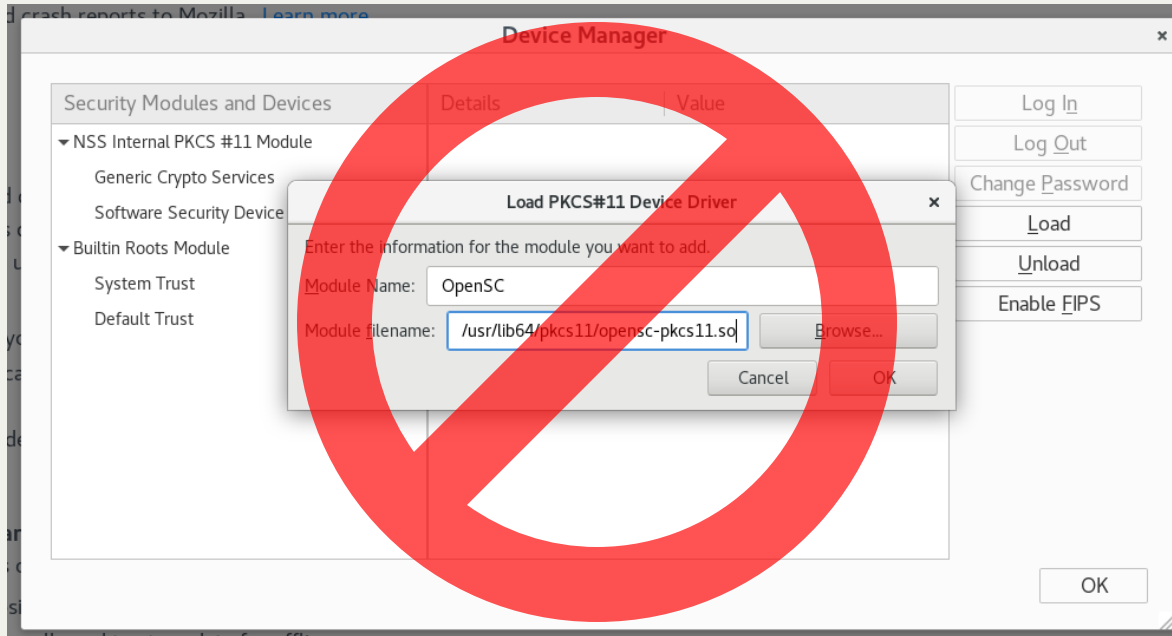
```
# ssl_certificate # does not work  
ssl_certificate_key "engine:pkcs11:id=%01;type=private";
```


FIREFOX



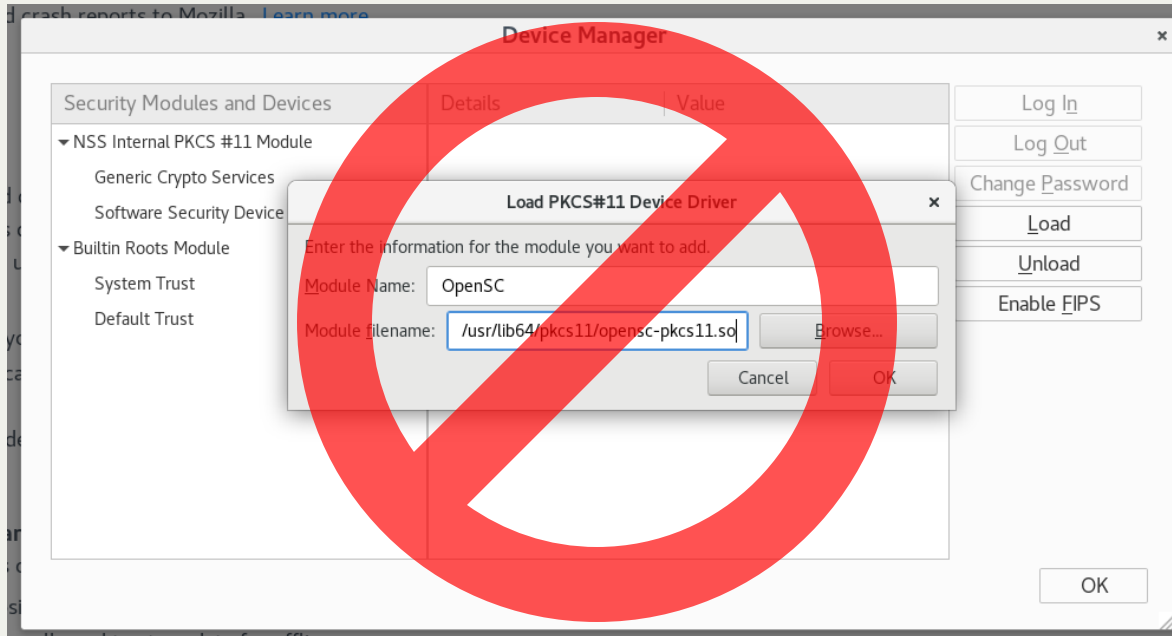
FIREFOX

- No more adding PKCS#11 modules



FIREFOX

- No more adding PKCS#11 modules



- Just works

YOUR OTHER APPLICATION?

- might already work
- high-level crypto applications
- p11-kit
 - Available tokens
- PKCS#11 URI
 - Identify objects
 - Handled p11-kit

TRY IT AT HOME

- TPM2.0
 - any computer from last years
 - alternative to storing private keys on hard drive
 - tied to specific machine
 - TCG provides PKCS#11 module (tpm2-pkcs11)
- SoftHSM
 - PKCS#11 module
 - data stored on filesystem
 - integrated in p11-kit

SUMMARY

- Security bugs in processors, OS, software
- Smart cards and HSMs to store secrets in HW
- Consistent identification using PKCS#11 URI
- System-wide registration in p11-kit-proxy
- Support for most important system applications

QUESTIONS?