



# Cryptech HSM – Preparation Phase

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*(on behalf of the Alphas Cryptech HSM team)*

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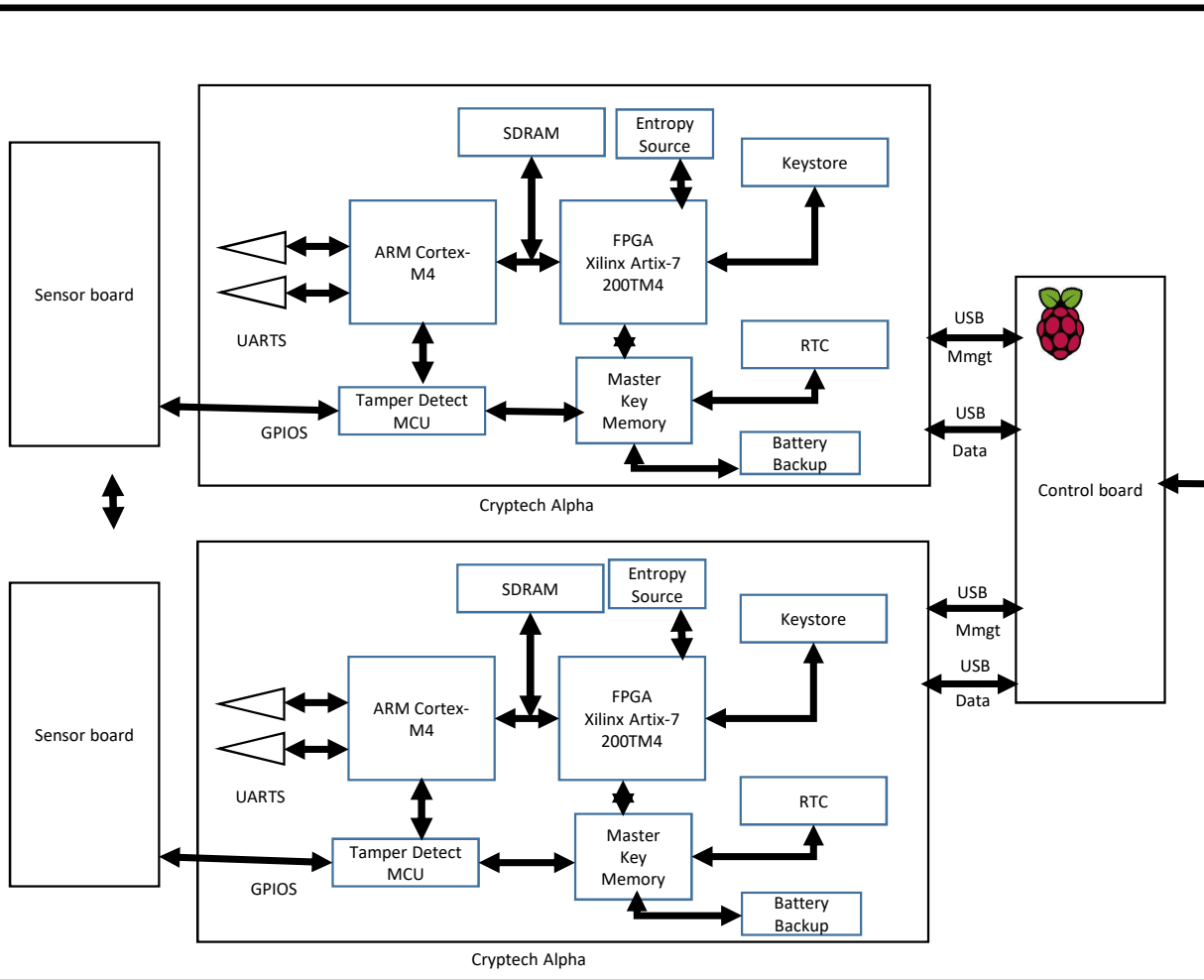
# Background

- Cryptech Project launched in December 2013
  - Aim: Create a reference design for a low-cost, secure, auditable cryptographic engine to:
    - Enable broader use of cryptographic technologies
    - Ensure the technology implementation is trustworthy
- Diamond Key Security launched in 2017
  - Aim: Productise and deliver Cryptech technology to the market to:
    - Deliver a commercial HSM product offering to the market
    - Generate sufficient revenues to sustain the Cryptech project





# Diamond Key HSM



- 19 inch Rack mount appliance
- Single board Raspberry Pi Controller
  - Host command interface
  - External ethernet port
  - USB
- 2x Cryptech Alpha crypto modules
  - ARM Cortex-based
  - Entropy-based TRNG
  - FPGA crypto core
  - Battery-backed Master key storage
  - Tamper detect processor (clears MKM)
- 2x Sensor modules
  - Temperature
  - Motion
  - Light
  - Case open



# Overview

*Investigate the applicability of the Diamond Key (Cryptech) HSM as a low-cost means to maintain and enhance the security of GÉANT and community, services*

- Document GÉANT services HSM use cases
- Determine Diamond Key Capabilities
- Identify hosting for Diamond Key Appliances
- Install the Diamond Key appliances
- Identify service teams interested in HSM testing
- Conduct HSM trials in next Incubator cycle





# Key Use Case Needs

PKI Key Storage/Signing		Code signing		Document Signing		
eduroam Managed IdP Root Certificate	eduroam Managed IdP Intermediate Certificate	eduroam CAT installer signing	eduroam Managed IdP Installer signing	eduGAIN MDS signing	eduGAIN MDQ signing	eduGAIN FaaS MDS signing

- Most requirements are for signing
- Performance requirement general low/moderate
- Must support RSA (4096), ECDSA P-384 and SHA-512/SHA-2
- Must support standard PKCK#11 interface
- Cost must be low to overcome inertia

## HSM Suitability

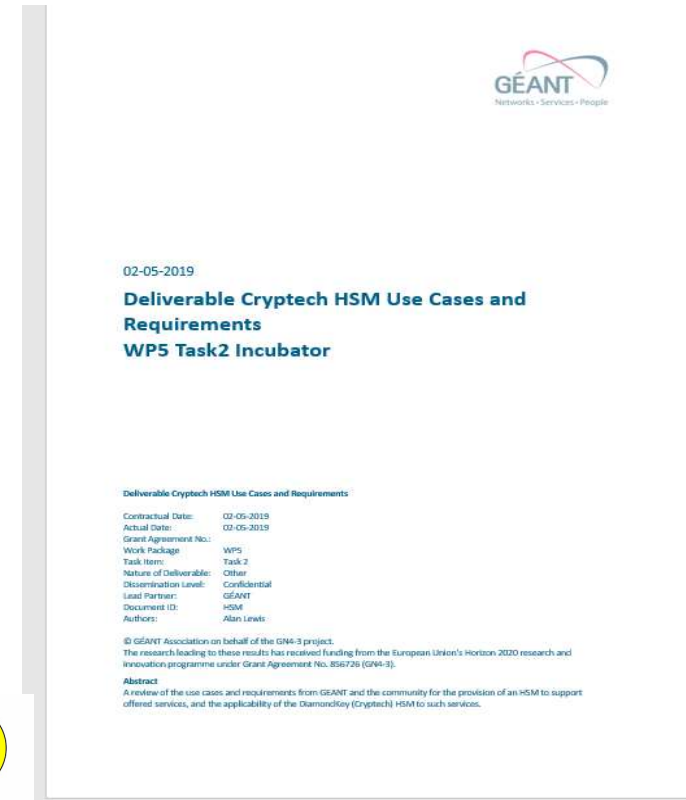
- So how well suited is the HSM to our needs?
  - Supports RSA(4096) but performance < 1 sig./sec
  - ECDSA supported up to. c. 100 sig./sec
  - Supports necessary hash algorithms (SHA-512/256)
  - PKCS#11 client APIs available for Linux and Windows
  - Tamper resistant design... but not FIPS 140-2 certified
  - Will sell @ cost \$6,000 (c.w. nShield Connect c. \$40,000)





# Achievements Summary

- Use cases for GEANT services documented
- Applicability to services determined
- GEANT, JISC and SURFnet interest in trials
- Devices deployed at SURFnet offices
- Diamond Key cease operations
- Hardware and software upgrade pending

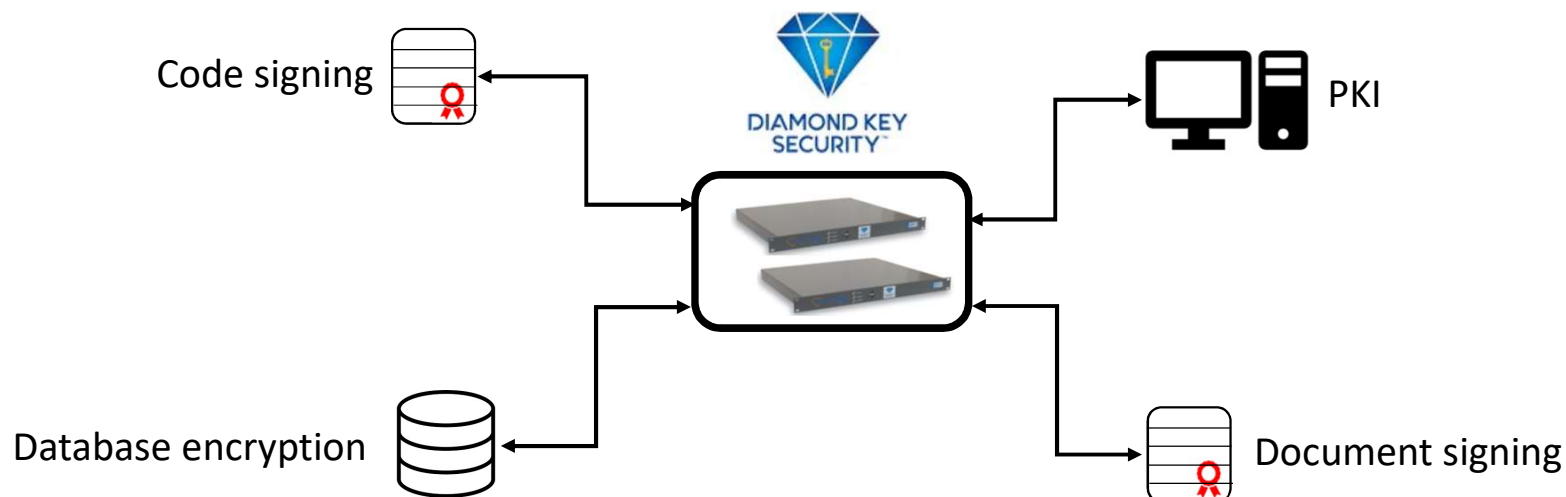


# Looking ahead

The trust in many T&I services rests on the security of their secret key material  
Best practice recommends the use of an HSM to securely store such material

## BUT ...

HSMs are expensive and there is suspicion of commercial closed solutions  
Developers lack access to HSMs during development reducing their adoption



Goal: Enable developer access to an HSM to improve security of their offerings





# Thank you

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