

Thierry Laurion



- **Insurgo Open Technology founder and CEO.**
- Former Security Analyst/Psychology Bachelor/Security Researcher and Developer.
- Now freedom defender as a open source firmware researcher/developer/integrator.

- Past collaborator to Libreboot, QubesOS contributor and Heads collaborator/reviewer.
- **Currently main Heads maintainer.**

- Started Insurgo Open Technologies in 2017.
- Made the PrivacyBeast X230 certified by QubesOS in July 2019.
- Nlnet grantee for the **Accessible Security** project in April 2019.
- *Nlnet grantee once again for Authenticated Heads (**Heads-OpenPGP**) project.*



Insurgo's mission is to **facilitate accessibility to security and confidentiality** to the masses.

Closed source firmware / BIOS Supply chain

• BIOS Software Supply Chain Breakdown

Definition:
IBV

- Independent BIOS Vendors are 3rd-party UEFI developers that sell value-added UEFI, toolkits, and custom development services

CPU Mfg +
TianoCore

AMD

intel

* tianocore

IBV

American
Megatrends

Ginsyde

phoenix

ODM

COMPAL

FOXCONN

PEGATRON

wistron

flex

Inventec

OEM's typically
generate < 10%
of BIOS Code

OEM

Lenovo

NEC

acer

ASUS

DELL

hp

Microsoft

Apple

Lenovo

Typical

Heads today

[heads-tests] QEMU



qemu-coreboot-fbwhiptail-tpm1-hotp | Heads Boot Menu

2023-02-01 16:39:28 UTC
TOTP: 593928 | HOTP: Success

Default boot

Refresh TOTP/HOTP

Options -->

System Info

Power Off

What is Heads?

- Heads as a **payload**:
 - **runtime environment**
 - **bootloader (kexec)**
 - **Recovery environment (Linux shell and tools)**
- Heads as a **build system**

Heads as runtime environment

Heads is:



+



Linux Kernel in ROM

(plus Security research and tools)



33c3
EM ROF SKROW

Heads as a build system

- Heads is basically a 'Make' project
 - Global Makefile <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/blob/master/Makefile>
 - 'make BOARD=board_name [module_name.statement options]'
 - **board** <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/tree/master/boards>
 - Relies on linux/coreboot/modules **configuration** files <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/blob/master/config>
 - **modules** (OSS): <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/tree/master/modules>
 - **patches** to be applied after module verification + extraction: <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/tree/master/patches>
- Produces
 - Artifacts :
 - **coreboot rom(s) images** stitching the following (but produced independently):
 - **BzImage** (compiled kernel + in-kernel modules)
 - **initrd.cpio.xz**
 - **tools.cpio** (compiled modules stripped binaries)
 - **modules.cpio** (compiled as modules kernel drivers to be loaded on demand)
 - **heads.cpio** (scripts and config files generated at build time linked to board config and <https://github.com/osresearch/heads/tree/master/initrd> content)
 - **hashes.txt** file containing individual packed files, cpios, initrd.cpio.xz and coreboot roms

Insurgo Benefits as Partner



- Heads as a *coreboot payload* = “linuxboot”, aka linux as bootloader
 - More eyes on the code (linux kernel, std libraries, libraries and tools)
 - More eyes on applied security policies
- Heads as a *build system*
 - More eyes on the build system, more efficiency
 - More awareness on reproducible builds
- Better sustainability of the project (sustainable *money* stream from subscriptions)
- Get home message:
 - **Better collaboration into Heads, knowledge sharing**
 - **Expend the OSFW ecosystem: its features, its reach and its support**