

From Proof to Product

Why Formal Methods is ~~finally ready~~ really, really needed

Martin Dehnel-Wild

Chief Scientist, Kry10

seL4 Summit, September 2026, Vancouver







01

The Stakes

29th December 2025

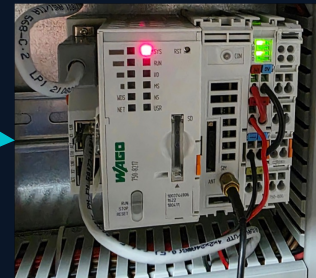
The
Intertubes



18th Dec



Teltonika



WAGO PFC 200

25th December:
Siemens S7-300,
S7-1200, S7-1500



STOP

- No zero-days, no exotic malware: too much trust between vulnerable boxes.
- Poland was done over by hand.
- Two weeks ago, five US agencies warned these same approaches are now being AI-generated and driven.



"This is not a theoretical risk; it is an active threat."

**NSA, CISA, FBI, DOE, EPA
August 2026**

The cost of attack is falling, *fast*

The attacker's ROI just went up.

Ours has to go up faster.



02

Security is economics



There's no such thing as a perfectly secure system.

– Bruce Schneier (probably, idk)

***“I don’t have to outrun the bear,
I just have to outrun you”***

Perfect is the enemy of good

*Most deployed
systems*

*Isolated +
verified
foundations*

*Fully
formally
verified*

Least secure

Most secure



"The economic bound on attack has broken."

– **Gopal Sarma**, RAND, (former White House Cyber Security)



03

This is FM's moment

...if we choose to take it.

What went wrong?

- We over-promised.
- Tools barely talk to each other.
- And we've stayed stuck in the lab.

But this is our moment.

Either we lower the bar to
entry, or we fail

Most real attacks are *boring*:
stolen passwords, default creds,
well-known CVEs, flat networks,
mis-configured devices.



04

Let's do the fandango

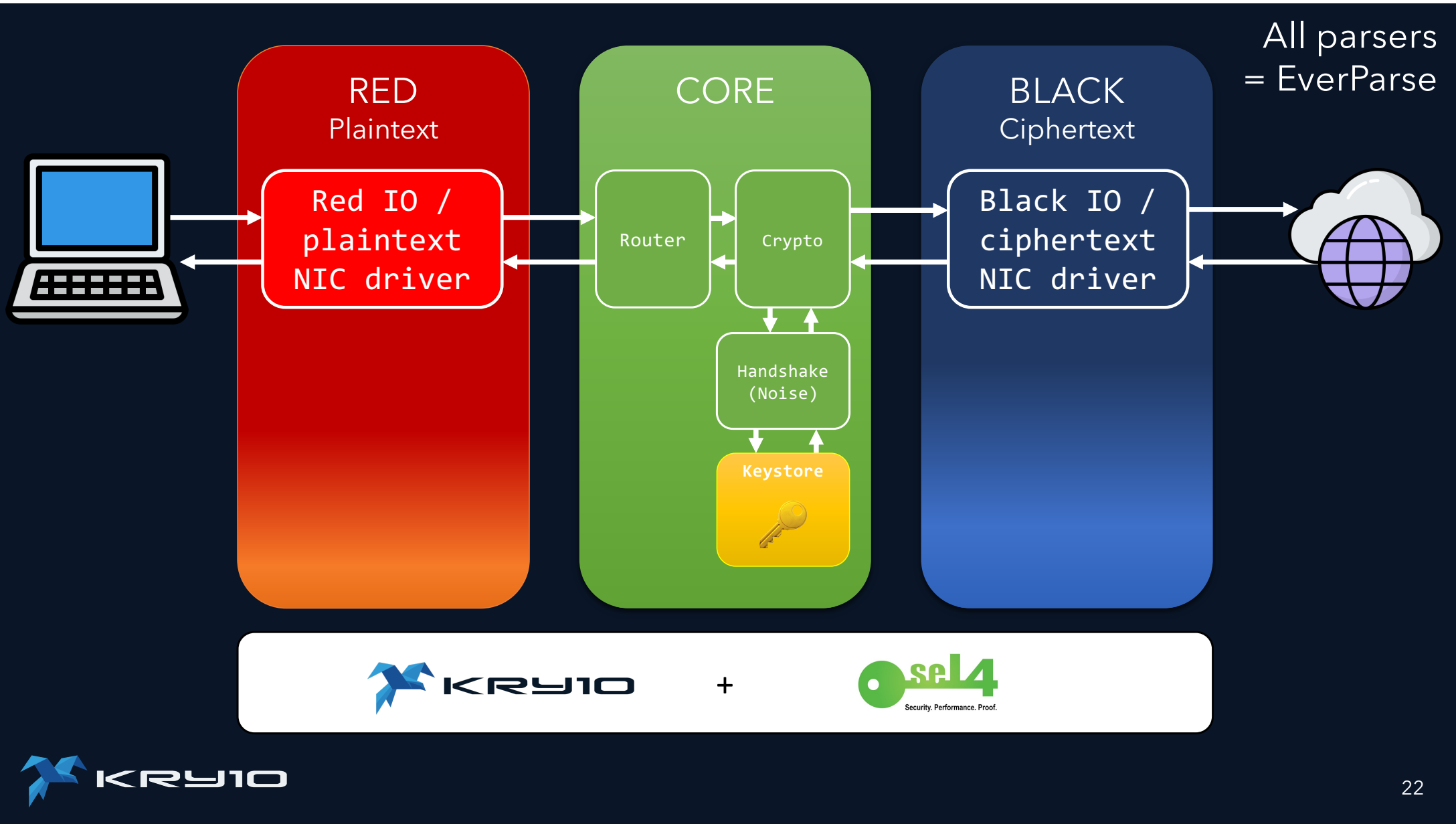
So, I rebuilt the box



compulab.com

Secure by construction

- HACL* for the crypto
- EverParse for the parsers
- seL4 + Kry10 OS for the isolation
- Bad packets are provably rejected





We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen • Helen Oxenbury

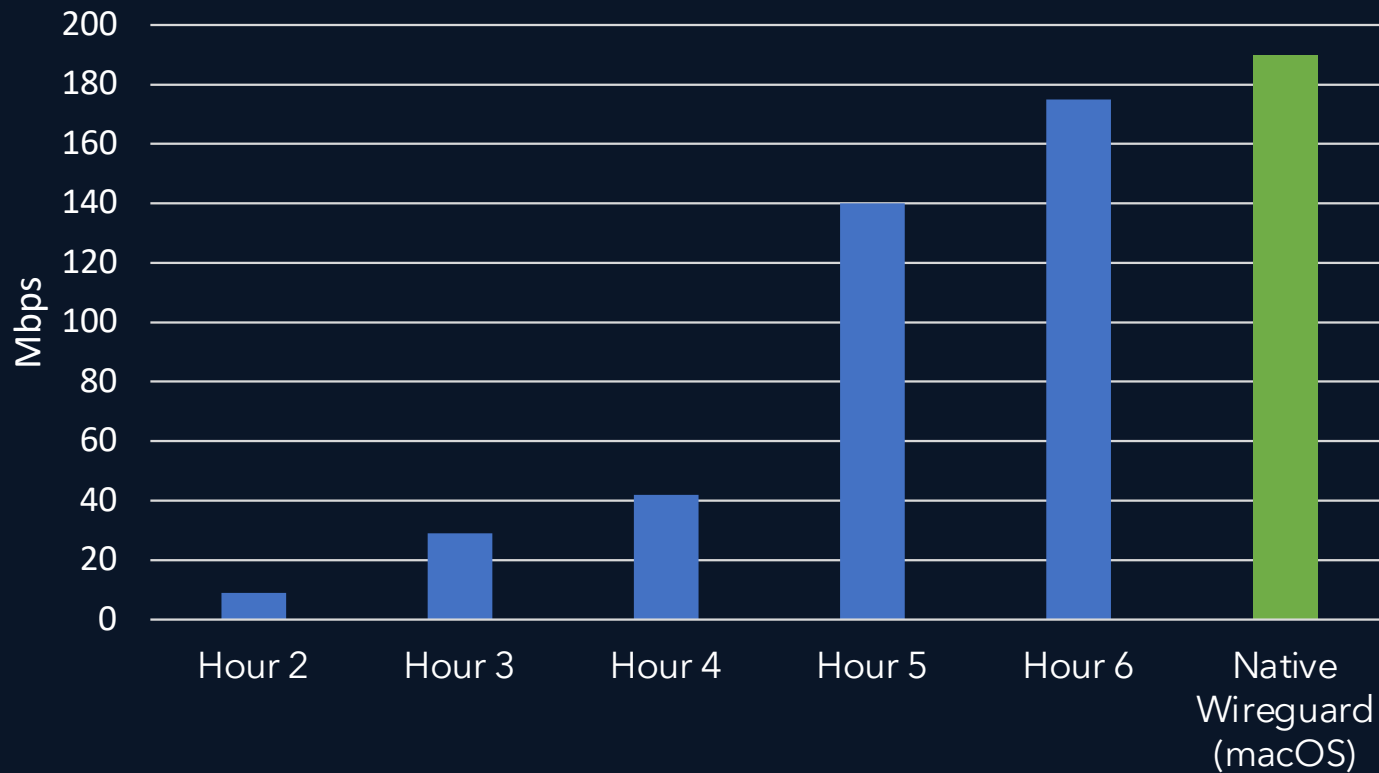
Of course it's not perfect

...but where would you even start?

What we're trusting

Relied on, proven	Relied on, unverified	No claims made
seL4	Manifest + tooling	Physical access
HACL* outputs	Handshake state machine code	Side channels / timing
EverParse outputs	Boot chain & firmware	Board supply chain
WireGuard protocol	Hardware	Red-side laptop
	F* extraction toolchain	

Martin & Claude Code vs. Native WireGuard on macOS



- ~93% of WireGuard's native throughput
- 5-6 hours' human work, over a weekend

Where Claude confidently wasted my afternoon

- Confident wrong diagnosis of a boot loop
- Diagnostic deadlock
- Silent packet loss

Skill files are the new documentation

- How did you get Claude not just to produce slop?
- 'KOS Context'
- "Making your platform legible to a model is now part of making it adoptable."
- Teaching models what you want is key

What's actually *in* KOS Context?

Not really API docs, more describing the gaps

- Decision guidance
- Anti-priors
- Silent footguns
- Measured platform behaviour
- Composition & security wiring
- Hardware / driver mechanics
- Toolchain & workflow

Show & tell



Is high assurance now something you can build in an afternoon?

05

We already have the thing

The whole point of a
microkernel is that
the code on top matters less.

Let's use that.



A safer world needs more deployments.

"More deployments" needs easier retrofit

...and *one* fast way to get there is LLMs.



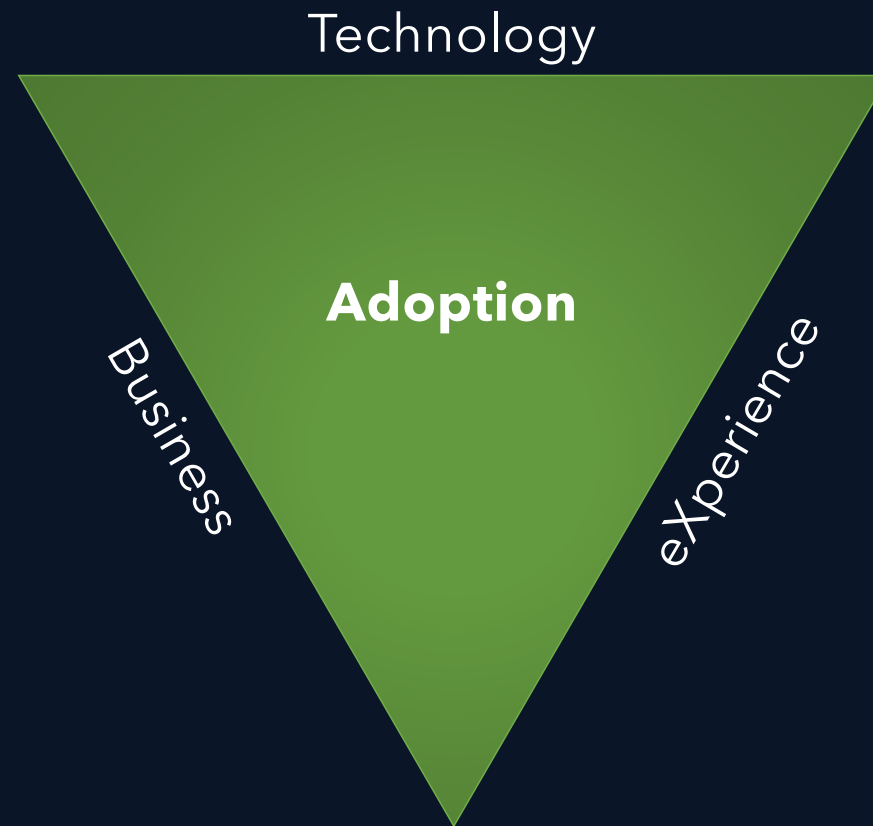
06

Ship and iterate

You can't predict every
environment you'll deploy into.

So you have to be able to update it – live.

Adoption needs all three. We're currently only great at one.



“Build what customers will actually buy, not what we think they need.”

The unglamorous question

- FOSS security infrastructure is maintained by people who find it *interesting*
- Security work is mostly gruelling, boring, and never finished
- So: **who pays for the boring parts?**

07

Money where our mouth is

What are Kry10 building?

- **Healthcare:** devices you can't patch or take offline
- **Manufacturing:** an IT/OT bridge to protect factories
- **Maritime / Defence:** designed assuming isolation, now not!
- **Power grids:** Poland, again
- **Drones:** PX4 onto KOS in about six engineer-months

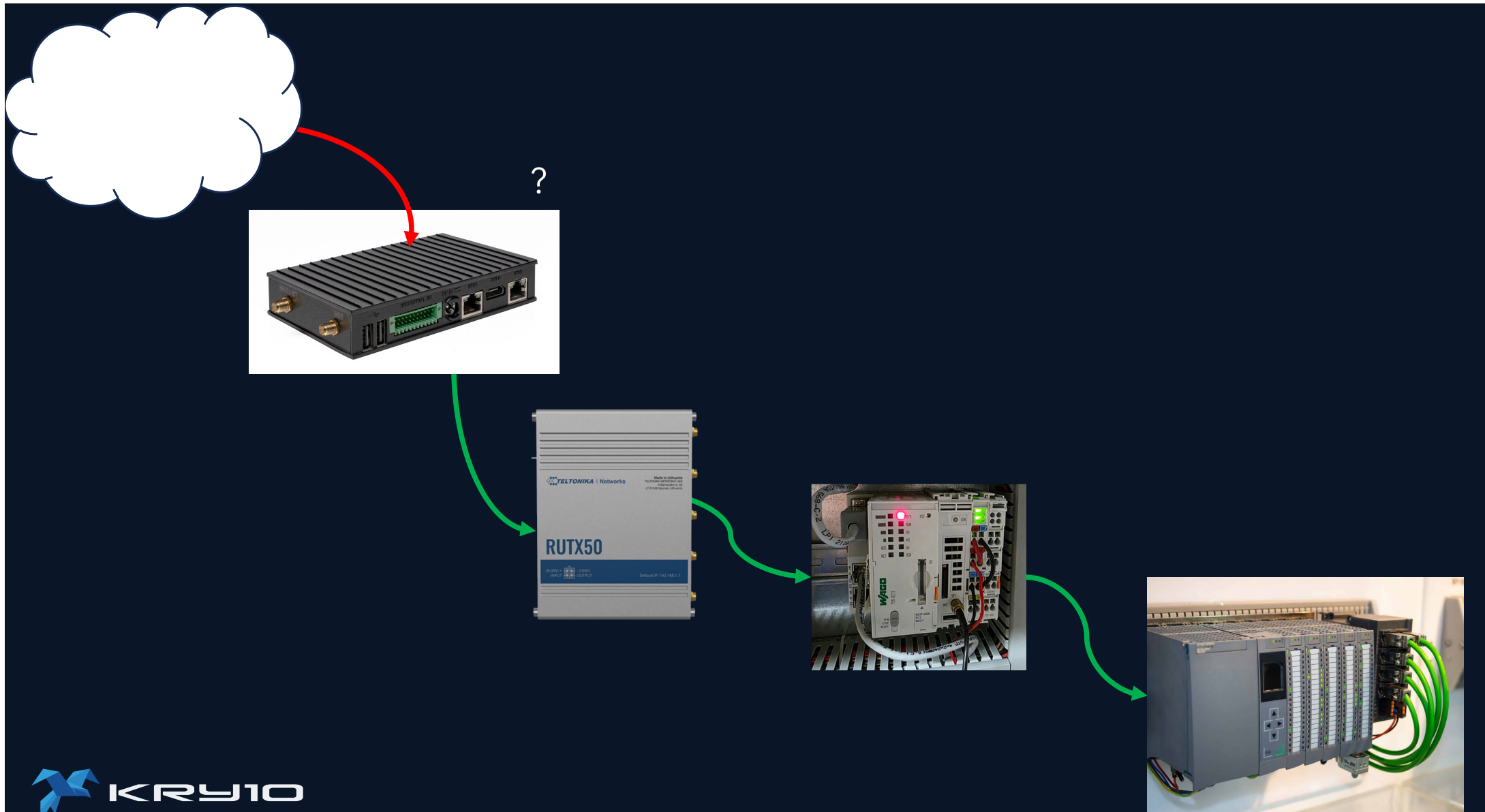


08

Now what?

This isn't "deploy because we can,"

It's "deploy because we have to."



Recap

1. Security is economics, and the attacker's costs are collapsing.
2. We already have the thing: verified foundations, isolation, boring architectures.
3. What's left is deployment.



"We don't have time to get this wrong."

– Kathleen Fisher, CEO ARIA, former Director I2O @ DARPA