



# Secure MCUs For the IoT

# Insights into Digital Security Technologies

**ABI**research  
for visionaries



# Industry Demand

## What stakeholders want:

- Secure connectivity for general purpose, low-power, mass-market devices to enable remote management and monitoring
- SMCU-based offerings that can integrate easily with existing IoT services and cloud platforms
- Appropriate hardware and associated software to allow for identification, authentication, integrity & confidentiality
- Secure programming, provisioning, onboarding & lifecycle management
- An emerging market of secure MCUs packaged with software development platforms

## What vendors are offering:

- New class of general purpose secure MCUs for the IoT (emerging in 2017)
- Primarily based on Arm Cortex M4 cores (M0 - M7 variations as well, especially for dual core offerings) & Arm V7M architecture
- Newer offerings out this year based on Arm Cortex M23 & M33 and Arm V8M with TrustZone TEE (M35P with tamper resistance built-in)

## Competitive Offerings: Vendor Ecosystem



Note other application-specific MCUs include Infineon Aurix (automotive), Goodix GM6256 (fingerprint), TI Simplelink (Wi-Fi)



A close-up photograph of a person's finger, with a small, gold-colored microchip resting on the tip. The background is a blurred, warm-toned surface.

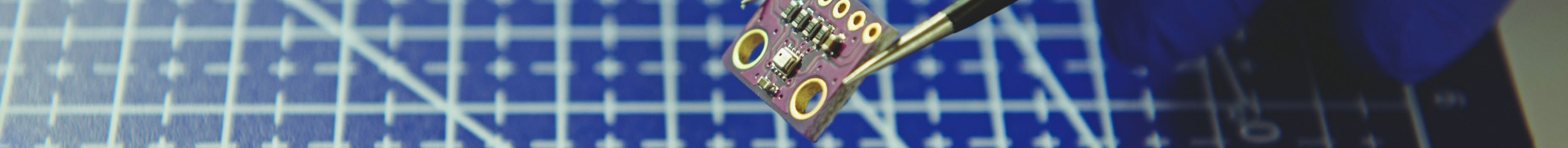
## Technology Highlight: Hardware

SECURITY PROCESSOR		ROOT OF TRUST	SECURE EXECUTION ENVIRONMENT	CRYPTOGRAPHY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security Subsystem</li><li>• Internal Crypto Engines</li><li>• Co-processor (dual core)</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure Boot</li><li>• Unique ID (128-bit)</li><li>• PUF</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arm Trusted Firmware-M</li><li>• Trustonic Kinibi-M</li><li>• Microsoft Pluton Security Subsystem (Azure Sphere)</li><li>• TrustZone TEE</li><li>• Hardware Firewalls</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Symmetric (AES, DES/3DES)</li><li>• Asymmetric (ECC, RSA, DSA)</li><li>• Hash Functions (SHA)</li><li>• TRNG, PRNG</li></ul>
SECURE MEMORY		TAMPER RESISTANCE		CERTIFICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure key / certificate storage</li><li>• Flash readout protection</li><li>• Memory Protection Unit</li><li>• Hardware Firewalls</li><li>• Peripheral Protection</li><li>• OTP Flash, e-fuse block</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time-stamped</li><li>• Anti-tamper pins</li><li>• Voltage, clock, temp, optical, glitch detection</li><li>• CRC, ECC, Parity, Watchdog</li><li>• Zeroizable memories</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arm Platform Security Architecture (PSA)</li><li>• NIST FIPS 140-2</li><li>• NIST Cryptographic Algorithm Validation Program (CAVP)</li></ul>

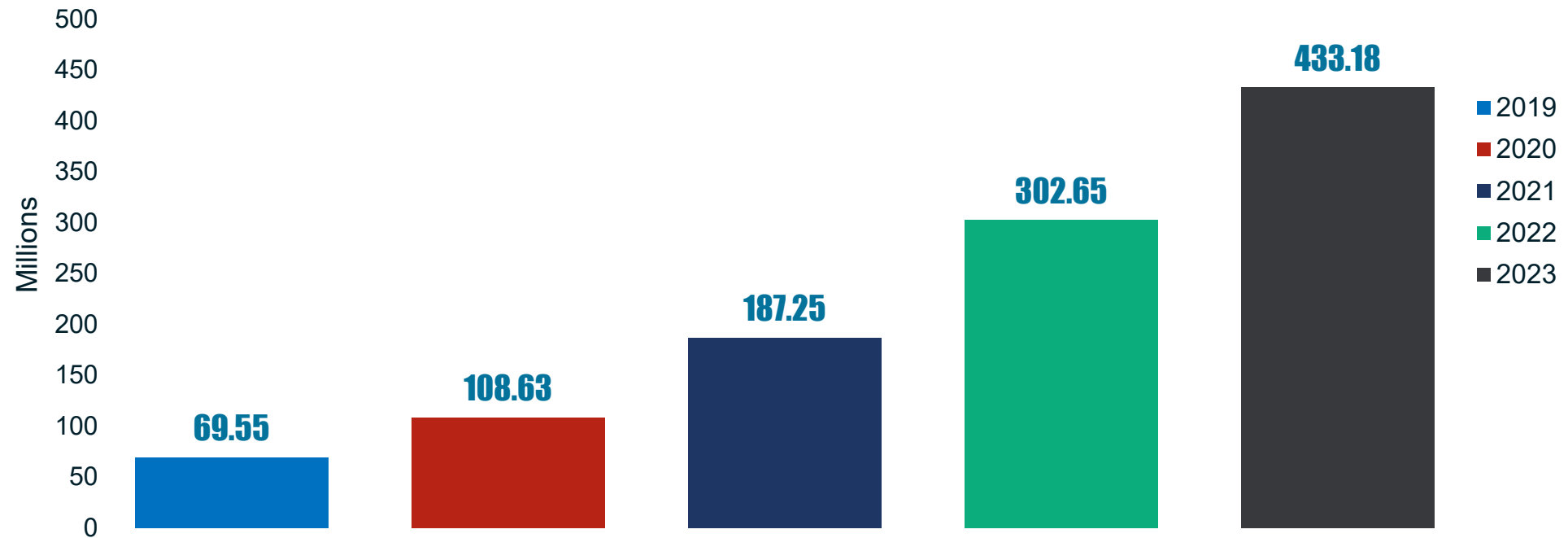


## Technology Highlight: Software and Services

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT	INTEROPERABILITY WITH 3 <sup>RD</sup> PARTIES	ONBOARDING & PROVISIONING	LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proprietary: MCUXpresso, PSoC Creator, X-Cube, NuSMP, Synergy SP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Software, network, communications, key management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cloud Enrollment (Azure, AWS, Google)</li><li>• 0-touch Provisioning</li><li>• Remote Attestation</li><li>• Certificate-based Authentication</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure FOTA updates</li><li>• Security Monitoring</li><li>• Security Analytics</li><li>• Troubleshooting, Failure Reporting, etc.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> party: Eclipse, Visual Studio, Azure Sphere APIs &amp; SDK, Arm Keil MDK, IAR Embedded Workbench, Modbus Toolbox, PSA APIs, Zerynth, Percepio, trustonic SDK, IDE Atmel Studio, Segger Mebedded Studio</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arm Mbed OS &amp; TLS</li><li>• WolfSSL</li><li>• Segger emCrypt</li><li>• Pluton Key Management</li><li>• Amazon FreeRTOS</li><li>• AWS and Google Cloud IoT Core (both use x.509)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arm Pelion</li><li>• Azure Sphere Security Service</li><li>• Trustonic end-to-end solution support</li><li>• Data I/O SentiX secure provisioning platform</li><li>• SecureThingz Key Provisioning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arm Pelion</li><li>• Azure Sphere Security Service</li><li>• Secure Thingz Secure Deploy Architecture</li><li>• Arm Trusted Firmware-M</li></ul>



## Global Shipments of Secure MCUs



- Shipments start around 2018 (sub 50 million), 2019-2023 CAGR 58%
- 2019-2020 slight pressure on growth from current manufacturing recession & uncertain political climate (i.e. US trade/tariff pressure on China & EU), & newness of technology
- Uptick from 2021 onwards with maturing market demand, movement from early adopters to mass market, additional security features, lowering ASPs (esp. for M4 cores) & increased competition



## Target Markets and Applications



### Smart Cities & Buildings

Commercial Building Automation, Smart Parking, Smart Street Lighting, Environmental Monitoring, Video Surveillance, Enterprise Access Points



### Utilities & Industrial IoT

Agriculture, Industrial Equipment, Hospital and Other Healthcare Equipment, Electricity Metering, Water and Gas Metering, Smart Grid Equipment, Renewable Energy, Aerospace, Defense



### Smart Home

Home Automation Controllers, Smart Home Devices, Smart Appliances, Smart Home Lighting Units



### Wearables

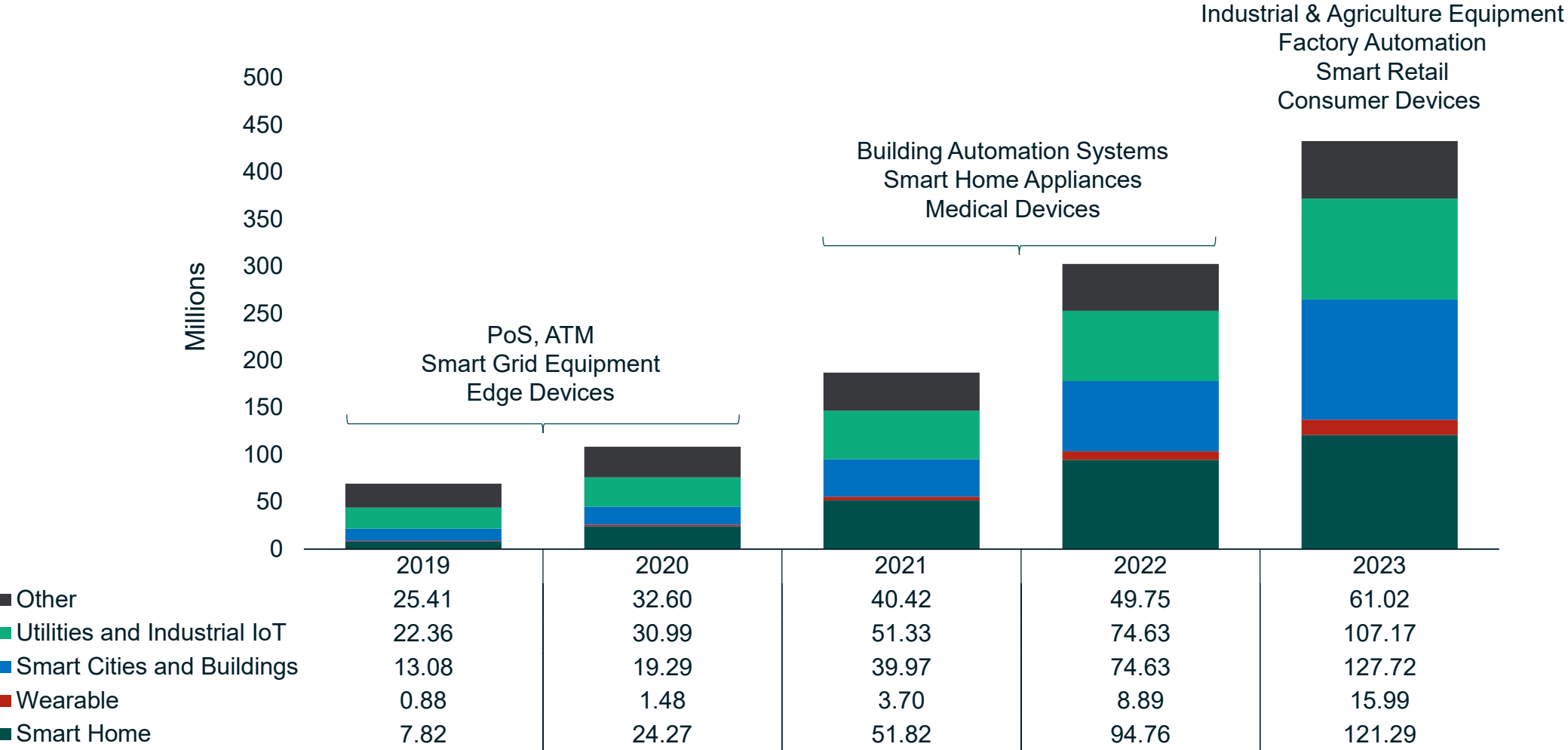
Health and Medical, Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Devices, Smartwatches, Smart Glasses



### Other

POS, ATMs, Kiosks, Vending Machines, Digital Signage, Asset Tracking, Inventory Management, Beacons, Robotics

# Shipment Forecast of Secure NCUs by Sector





# Market Outlook



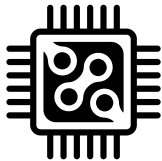
## Adoption

Success will depend on cost & usability of hardware & development platforms but especially on the service/cloud connectivity piece.



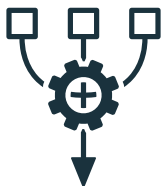
## Competition

Emerging cross-over between microcontrollers and application processors will increase competition, pushing dual core offerings, such as NXP iMX, Samsung Exynos i (T200, T100, S111), leveraging Arm Cortex A & M (for dual core).



## Technology

New Cortex M33 for next generation of Secure MCUs to facilitate TrustZone use, but additional tamper resistance to be served by the Cortex M-35P in the following generation.



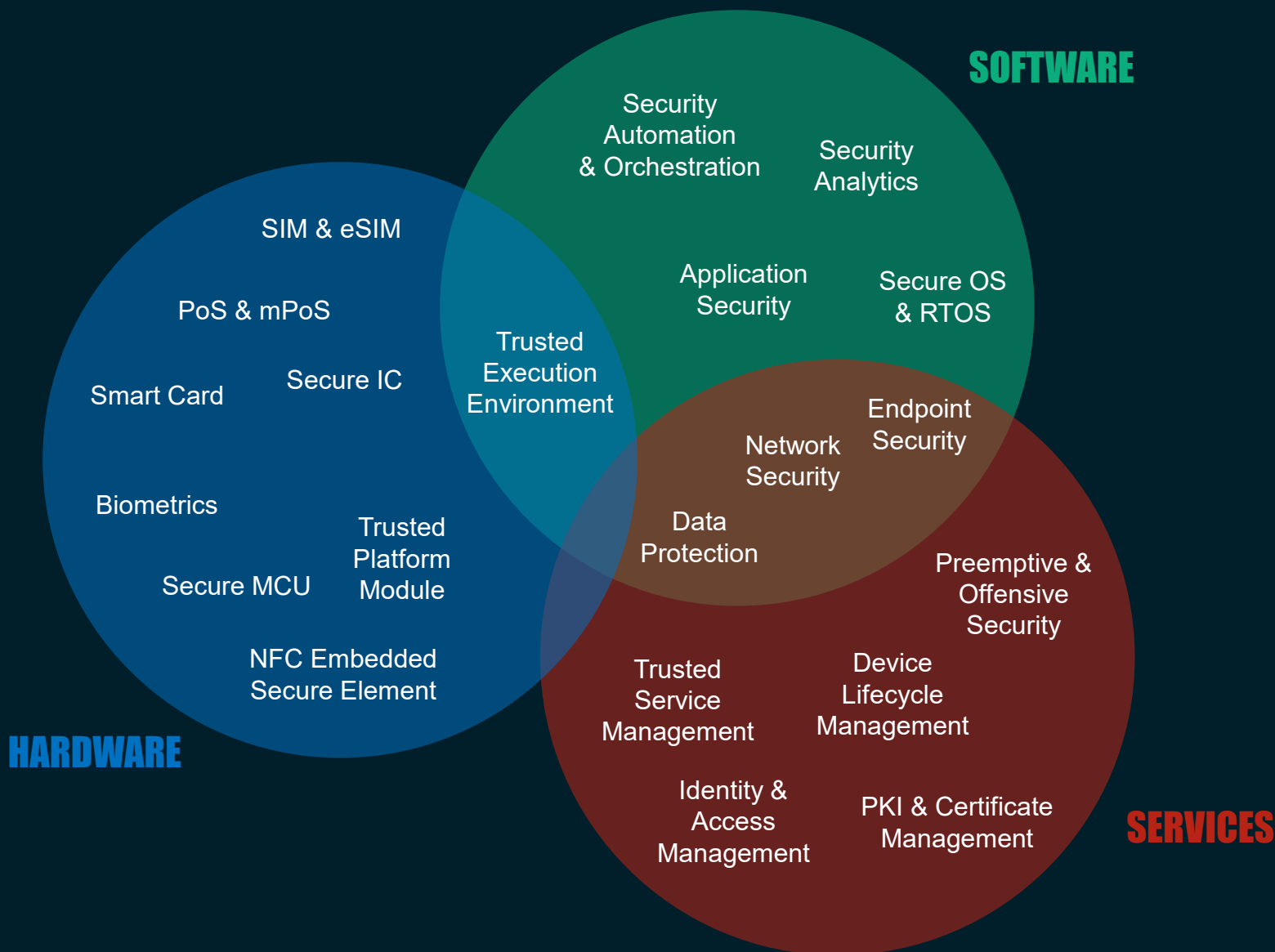
## Bottlenecks

Secure provisioning services are still costly & technically challenging to implement, with the main obstacle around key management for less than 100k devices. Future offerings could focus on providing pre-provisioned secure elements with fixed configuration use cases for cloud authentication at low-cost.

# Deep Digital Security Insight

## Coverage

ABI Research's Digital Security Research Service offers end-to-end market coverage from information and communication technologies to operational control processes.



## What Makes Our Research Different?

### Best-in-class Market Data

We have the most comprehensive secure IC & smart card market data coverage.  
No other research firm can match the detail of our datasets.

### Close Vendor Relationships

We maintain close relationships with the top vendors in the secure hardware space,  
ensuring that we have direct and accurate insight into shipment numbers.

### First to Publish on Emerging IoT & OT Security

ABI Research was the first to identify and publish on a number of new market opportunities, including M2M security, critical infrastructure security, automotive cybersecurity, medical device security, IoT security, blockchain IoT applications, and secure MCUs.

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