



Inbar Raz

*Reversing a Payphone
for Fun but no Profit*



Introduction:

#WTF?

#whoami

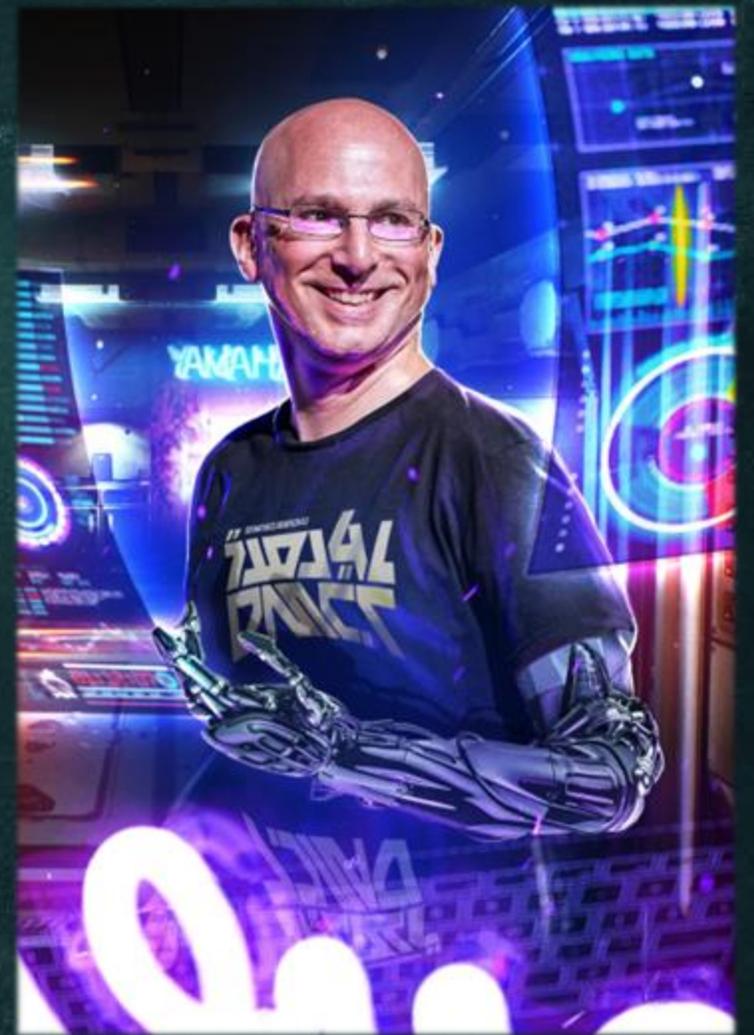
- I'm a geek.
- I'm a reverser.
- I'm a hacker.
- I'm a retro-computing collector and restorer.
- I'm (too) curious.

And...

- I engage technicians.

 @inbarraz / @zenitysec

—HIRING AI RESEARCHERS—





TA0043:

Reconnaissance

Preliminary Research

- Looked for various payphone manuals.
- Guess what?

Preliminary Research

The screenshot shows the payphone.com website with a 33rd anniversary banner. The banner features the text "Celebrating 33 Years" and "Thank you to our customers!" in a cursive font, flanked by blue arrows. Below this is the G-TEL logo and the payphone.com logo. To the right is a circular seal that reads "G-TEL Enterprises, Inc. 33rd Anniversary 1992-2025".

The website header includes the payphone.com logo with the tagline "Quality. Selection. Value.", contact information for G-TEL Enterprises, Inc. (16840 Clay Rd. #110, Houston, TX 77084), and toll-free numbers (1-800-884-4835, 281-550-5592). A search bar and a "Sign in / Sign up" button are also present.

The navigation menu includes: Home, About Us, Customer Support, View Cart, Upgrade, and Contact Us.

On the left side, there is a vertical list of categories:

- Categories
- Accessories
- Armored & Inmate Phones
- Courtesy, No-Dial & Handsfree Phones
- Emergency & Weatherproof Phones
- Handsets & Related Parts
- Hospitals, Schools, & Airport Phones
- Mounting & Enclosures
- Parts
- Payphones
- Clearance Specials

The main content area below the banner contains a paragraph of text:

Payphone.com is the leading source for a wide variety of products including Pay Phones, Armored Courtesy Phones, Inmate Phones, Emergency Phones, and hundreds of related parts and accessories. Our company, G-TEL Enterprises, Inc., has been in the public telecommunications business for over 30 years and has customers in over 20 countries.

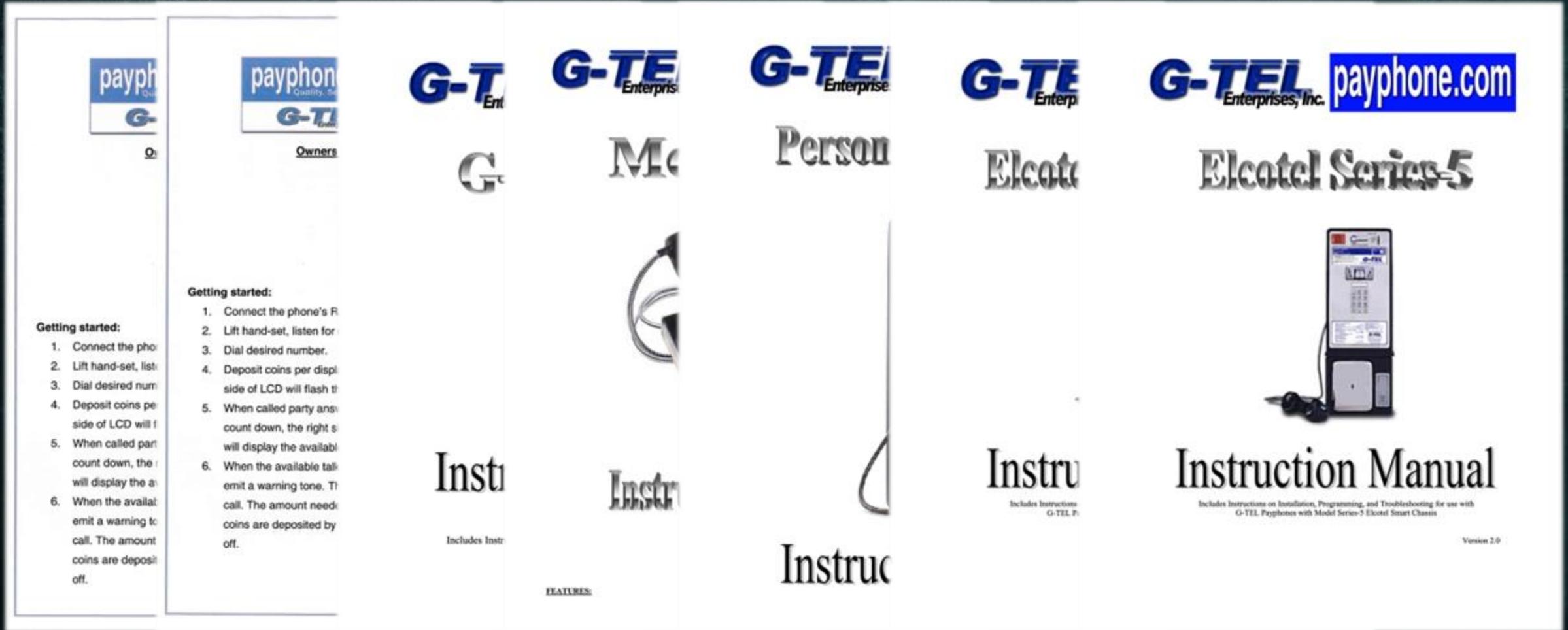
Below the text are four product categories with representative images:

- Accessories: A blue corded phone handset and a blue phone base.
- Armored & Inmate Phones: A black handset and a black phone base.
- Courtesy, No-Dial & Handsfree Phones: A black handset and a black phone base.
- Emergency & Weatherproof Phones: A yellow emergency phone and a black emergency phone.

The footer of the page shows the URL: <https://payphone.com/#>

Preliminary Research

- Has manuals for multiple models:



Preliminary Research

- Kept my eyes (and my camera) open.



© Inbar Raz

Preliminary Research

- Kept my eyes (and my camera) open.



Preliminary Research

- Kept my eyes (and my camera) open.

19/05/2025
TLV





Acquisition



Plan A: Go to the source

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the official page of Bezeq (בזק). The post is a text message in Hebrew. A user has replied to the post with another text message. The interface includes a profile picture, name, verification status, and interaction buttons (reply, info) at the top. The post content includes the company name, a description, and a timestamp. The reply includes a timestamp and the text of the response.

Bezeq בזק ✓

בזק

Bezeq בזק ✓

Typically replies instantly

274K people like this including Michal Yanko Cyncynatus and 43 friends

Telecommunication company

10/28/19, 6:05 AM

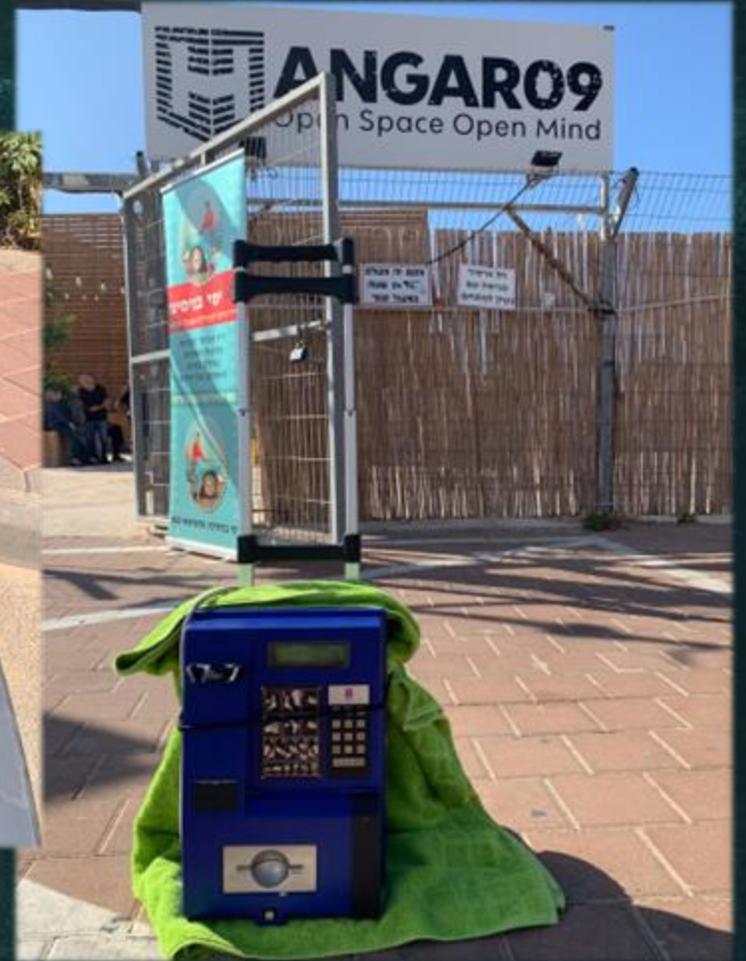
בוקר טוב. אני מחפש טלפון ציבורי כתום מדור הטלכרט. אם אין כתום, גם כחול זה בסדר. הבנתי שמפרקים הרבה מהם ברחבי הארץ. איך אפשר להשיג אחד? תודה רבה!

היי ענבר,
נבדוק ונעדכן אותך
נטלי

10/28/19, 7:59 AM

תודה רבה!

Plan B: Secondary Market





TA0001:

Initial Access

Chassis is locked



Yale Pin-in-Pin

Chassis is locked

(1281) Kenaurd Pin-in-Pin Lock Picking Tips



Bill Johnson
602K subscribers

Join

Subscribe



On the outside



On the inside

To the Rescue...

IT'S ON!
GET YOUR TICKET FOR #DEFCAMP2019



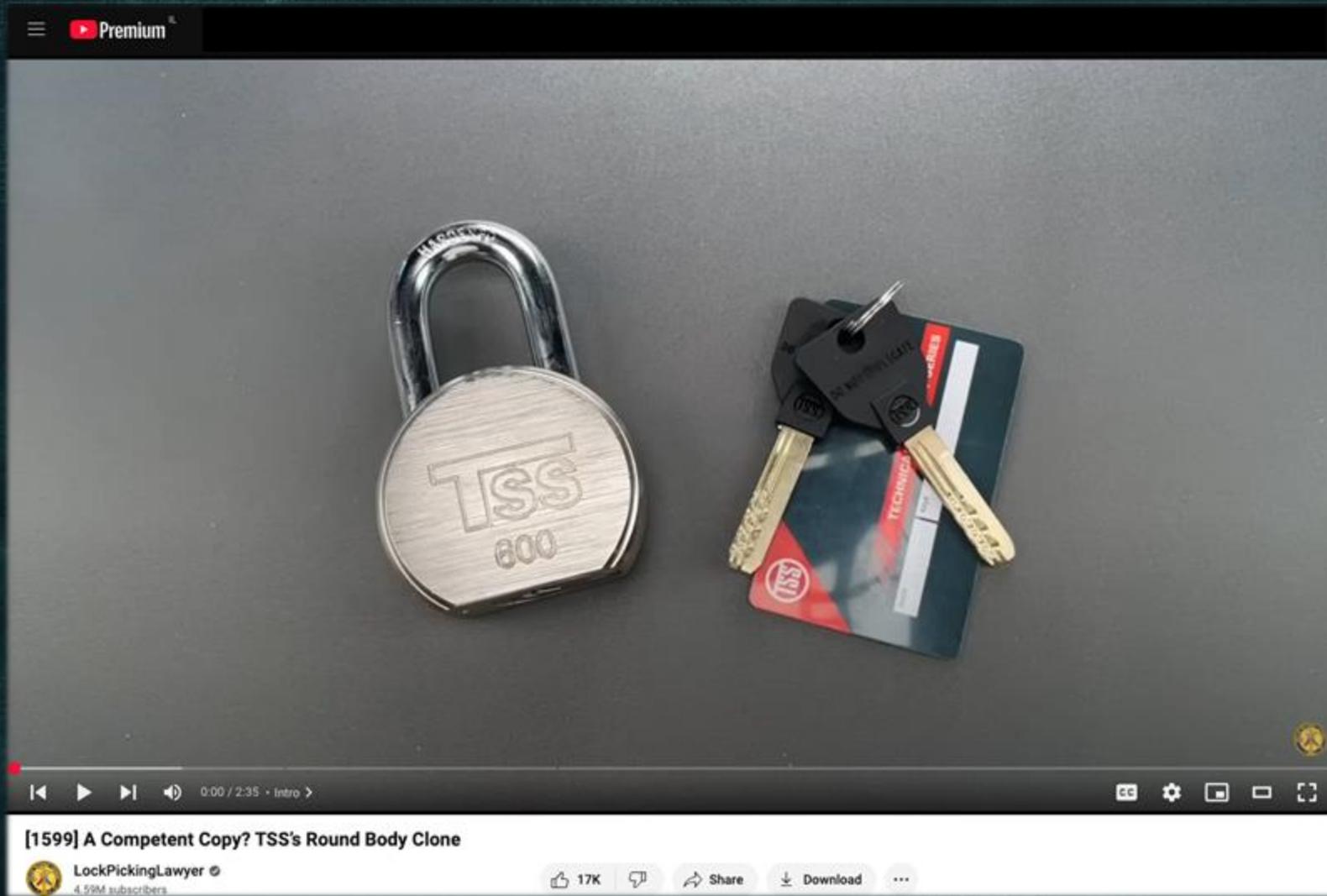
7th-8th Nov/2019
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

To the Rescue...



Gabriel Cirbig

Learning a new Skill



A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video content shows a silver TSS 600 padlock on the left and a set of keys on the right. The keys are attached to a black keychain with a red and white TSS logo. The video player interface includes a Premium logo in the top left, a progress bar at the bottom showing 0:00 / 2:35, and a video title "[1599] A Competent Copy? TSS's Round Body Clone" by LockPickingLawyer, who has 4.59M subscribers. The video has 17K likes and options for sharing, downloading, and more.

Premium

TSS 600

TSS

0:00 / 2:35 • Intro >

[1599] A Competent Copy? TSS's Round Body Clone

LockPickingLawyer ©
4.59M subscribers

17K

Share

Download

Learning a new Skill





And... you get the idea.



**A FEW
MOMENTS LATER**

Lo and Behold!



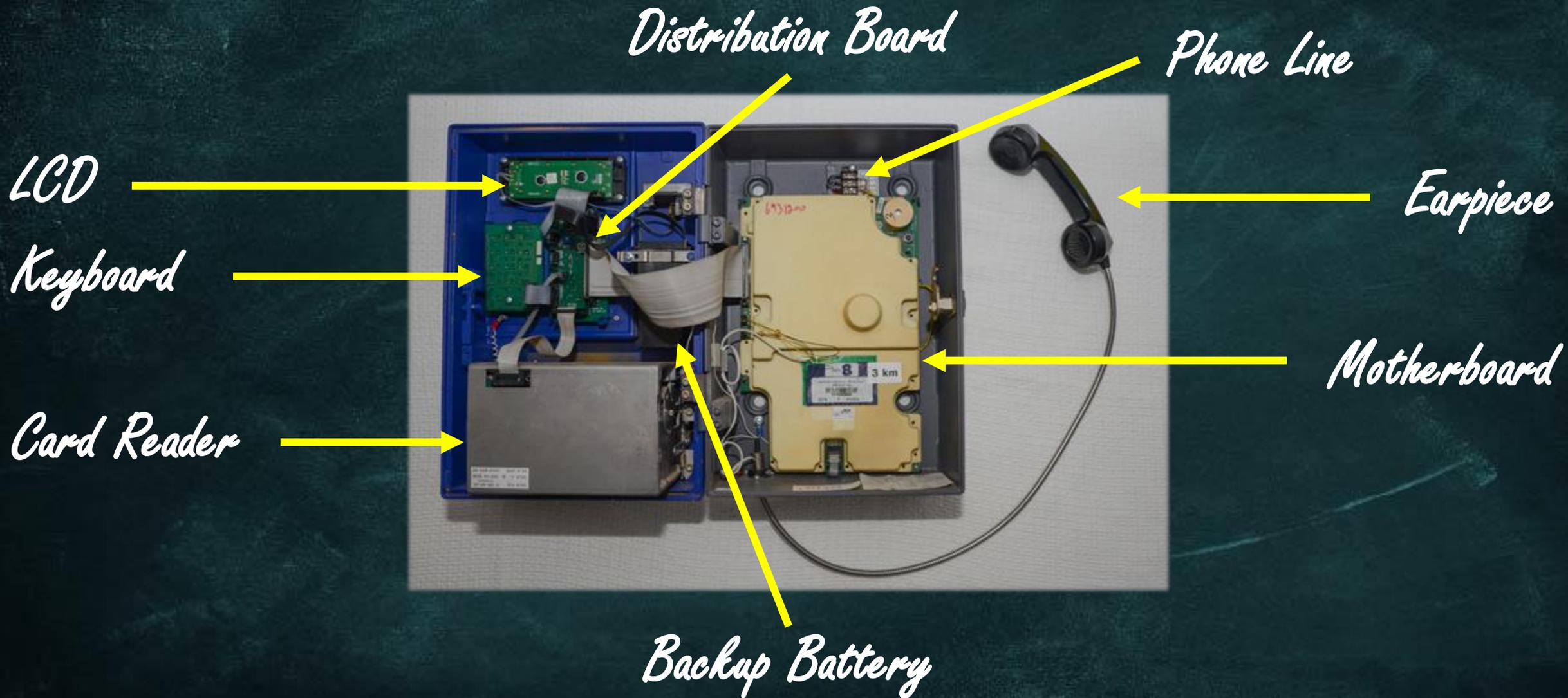


TA0007:

Discovery



An overview



Unexpected surprise

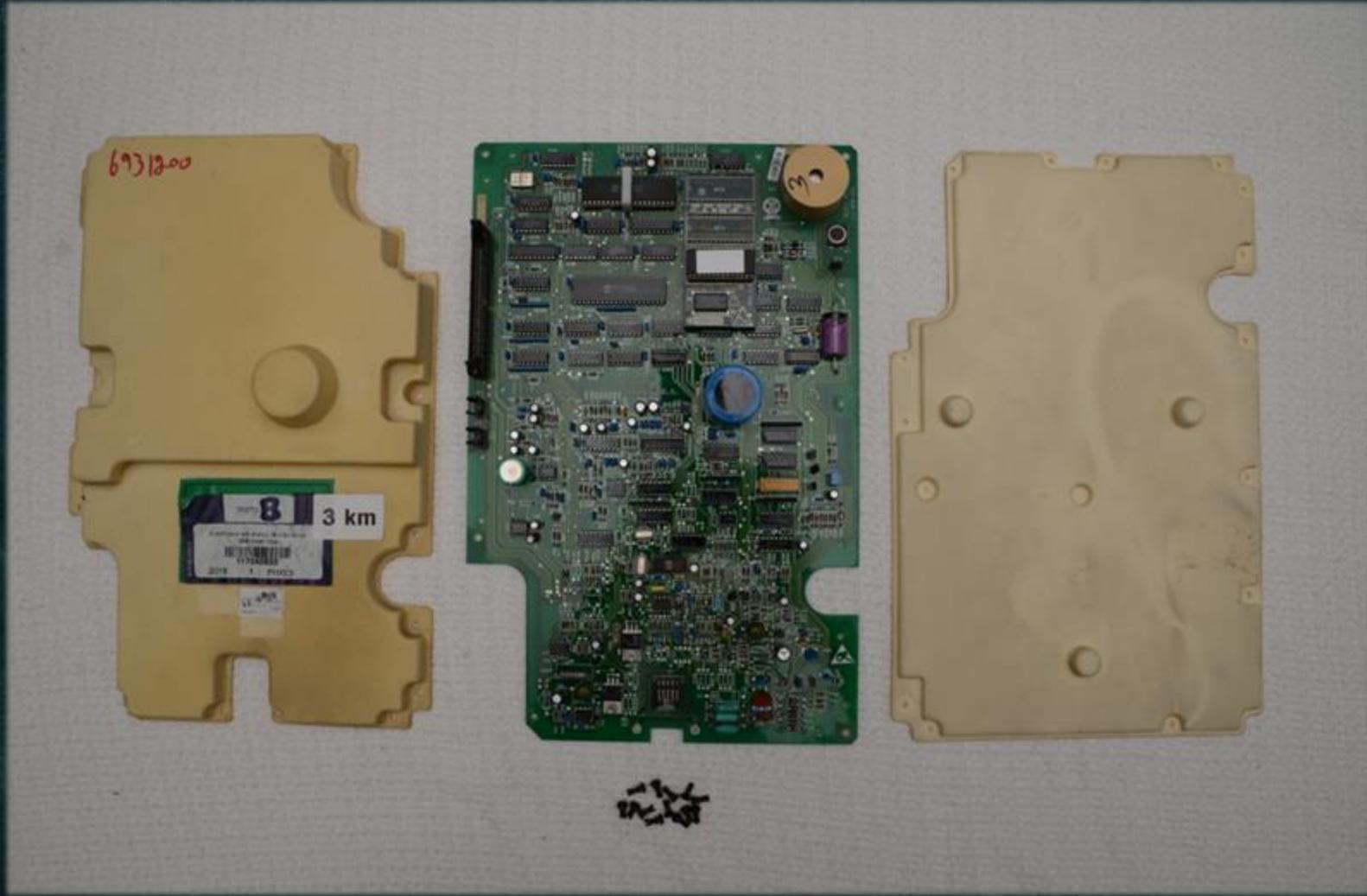
- If I had to guess who the manufacture was, I'd have a few immediate suspects.

Unexpected surprise

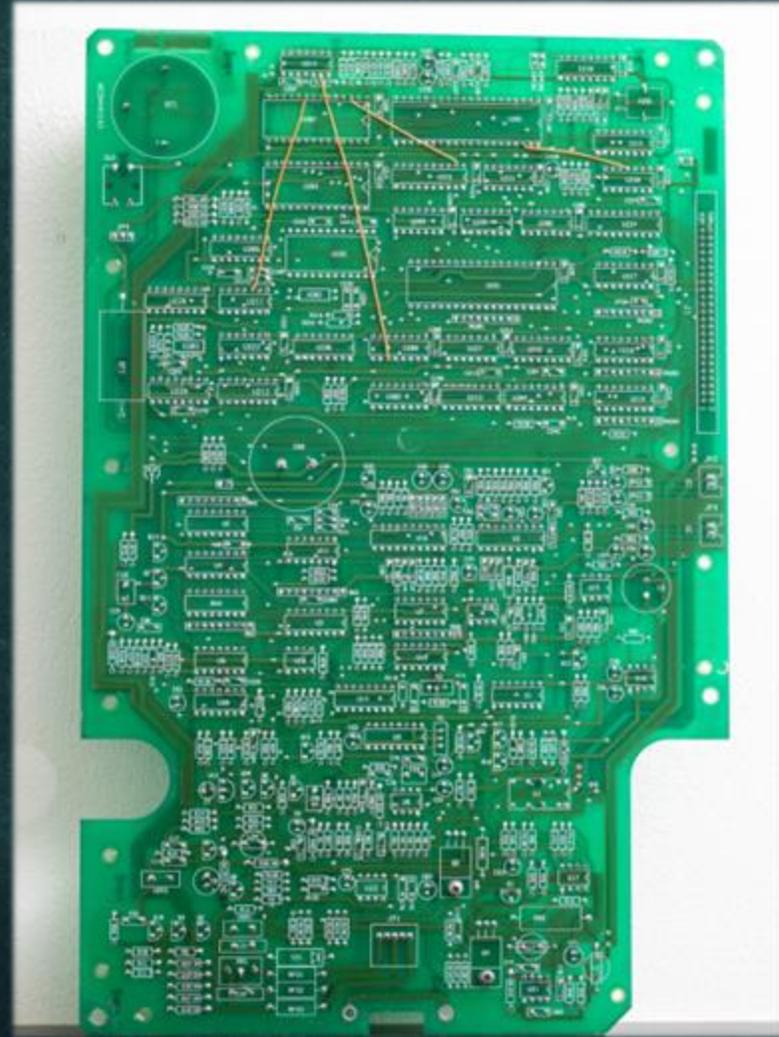
- If I had to guess who the manufacture was, I'd have a few immediate suspects.
- IMI was **NOT** one of them.



The Motherboard



The Motherboard



CPU Identification

RCA 1802

Article [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Tools](#) ▼

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **COSMAC** (Complementary Symmetry Monolithic Array Computer) is an **8-bit microprocessor** family introduced by **RCA**. It is historically notable as the first **CMOS** microprocessor.^[1] The first production model was the two-chip **CDP1801R** and **CDP1801U**, which were later combined into the single-chip **CDP1802**.^[2] The 1802 represented the majority of COSMAC production, and today the entire line is known simply as the **RCA 1802**.

The processor design traces its history to an experimental **home computer** designed by **Joseph Weisbecker** in the early 1970s, built at his home using **TTL** components. RCA began development of the CMOS version of the processor design in 1973, sampling it in 1974 with plans to move to a single-chip implementation immediately. **Jerry Herzog** led the design of the single-chip version, which sampled in 1975 and entered production in 1976.^{[3][4]}

Successors to the 1802 are the CDP1804, CDP1805, and CDP1806, which have an extended instruction set, other enhanced features (like on-chip RAM and ROM, and built-in timer), with some versions running at faster clock speeds, though not a significant speed difference. Some features are also lost, like the **DMA** auto-boot loader functionality. There are also some minor pin function changes, but the line continues to be produced in its original 40-pin **dual in-line package** (DIP) format.^[when?]

COSMAC



RCA CDP 1802

General information

Launched 1974

Physical specifications

Package 40 pin **DIP** ,44 pin **PLCC**

History

Successor CDP1804, CDP1805, CDP1806



CPU Identification

RCA 1802

Article Talk

Read Edit View history Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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COSMAC

Applications [edit]

Space technology and science [edit]

The 1802 was used in many spacecraft and space science programs, experiments, projects and modules such as the [Galileo spacecraft](#),^[27] [Magellan](#),^[28] the Plasma Wave Analyzer instrument on ESA's Ulysses spacecraft, various Earth-orbiting satellites^[29] and satellites carrying amateur radio.^[30]

The 1802 was used in [NASA's Hubble Space Telescope](#).^[31]

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Package 40 pin DIP ,44 pin PLCC

History

Successor CDP1804, CDP1805, CDP1806



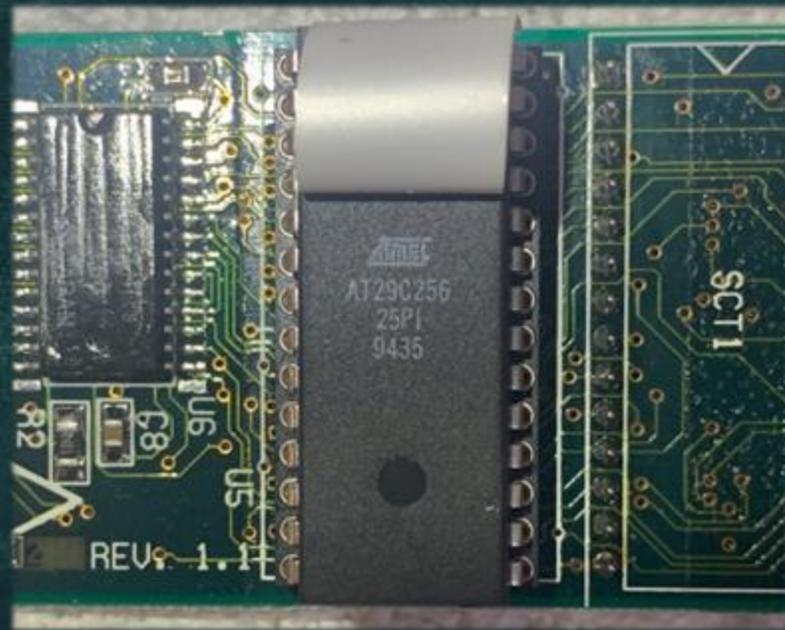
Firmware Extraction

- The firmware IC was easy to find.



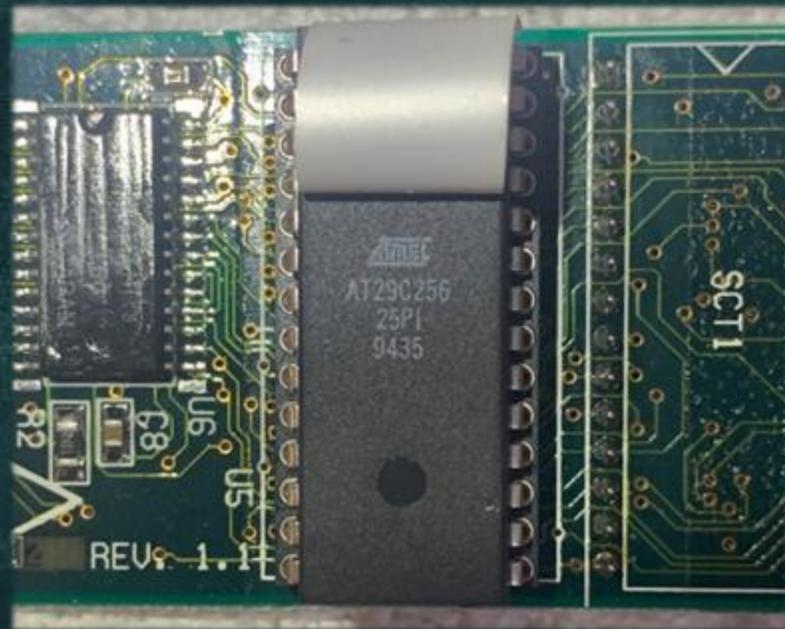
Firmware Extraction

- The firmware IC was easy to find.
- It's an ATMEL AT29C256.



Firmware Extraction

- The firmware IC was easy to find.
- It's an ATMEL AT29C256.
 - 32KB



Features

- Fast Read Access Time – 70 ns
- 5-volt Only Reprogramming
- Page Program Operation
 - Single Cycle Reprogram (Erase and Program)
 - Internal Address and Data Latches for 64 Bytes
- Internal Program Control and Timer
- Hardware and Software Data Protection
- Fast Program Cycle Times
 - Page (64 Byte) Program Time – 10 ms
 - Chip Erase Time– 10 ms
- DATA Polling for End of Program Detection
- Low-power Dissipation
 - 50 mA Active Current
 - 300 μ A CMOS Standby Current
- Typical Endurance > 10,000 Cycles
- Single 5V \pm 10% Supply
- CMOS and TTL Compatible Inputs and Outputs
- Commercial and Industrial Temperature Ranges

Description

The AT29C256 is a five-volt-only in-system Flash programmable and erasable read only memory (PEROM). Its 256K of memory is organized as 32,768 words by 8 bits. Manufactured with Atmel's advanced nonvolatile CMOS technology, the device offers access times to 70 ns with power dissipation of just 275 mW. When the device is deselected, the CMOS standby current is less than 300 μ A. The device endurance is such that any sector can typically be written to in excess of 10,000 times.

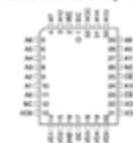
Pin Configurations

Pin Name	Function
A0 - A14	Addresses
CE	Chip Enable
OE	Output Enable
WE	Write Enable
I/O0 - I/O7	Data Inputs/Outputs
NC	No Connect
DC	Don't Connect

DIP Top View



PLCC and LCC Top View



Note: PLCC package pins 1 and 17 are DONT CONNECT.

TSOP Top View Type 1



256K (32K x 8)
5-volt Only
Flash Memory

AT29C256



Rev. 00480-FLASH-06/02

Firmware Extraction

- Read the Flash



Firmware Extraction

- Read the Flash
 - There are better tools: TL866



Firmware Extraction

- Read the Flash
 - There are better tools: TL866
- Inspect the content
- Look for strings
 - Indictive strings

```
TAMAC-18 V2.8 9513.bin
67C0 20 AA BA A5 B8 B9 AC 20 20 B7 A6 A1 20 20 20 00
67D0 41 20 42 45 5A 45 51 20 20 53 45 52 56 49 43 45
67E0 00 20 20 20 20 20 2E 2E 2E AF BA AE A4 20 A0 B0
67F0 A0 00 50 4C 45 41 53 45 20 57 41 49 54 2E 2E 2E
6800 20 20 00 A5 A0 20 20 20 A8 B8 AB AC A8 20 20 B1
6810 B0 AB A4 00 A9 A0 B8 B9 A0 20 B1 A9 A8 B8 AB 20
6820 B8 A1 B2 A4 00 49 4E 53 45 52 54 20 54 45 4C 45
6830 43 41 52 44 2F 00 53 57 49 50 45 20 43 52 45 44
6840 49 54 20 43 52 44 00 A3 A1 AC A1 20 20 A9 B9 B4
6850 A5 A7 20 A2 A5 A9 A7 00 46 52 45 45 20 43 41 4C
6860 4C 53 20 20 4F 4E 4C 59 00 A3 A1 AC A1 20 A8 B8
6870 AB AC A8 20 B1 A9 A8 B8 AB 00 54 45 4C 45 43 41
6880 52 44 20 20 20 20 4F 4E 4C 59 00 A3 A1 AC A1 20
6890 A9 A0 B8 B9 A0 20 BA A5 A7 A9 B9 00 43 52 45 44
68A0 49 54 20 43 41 52 44 20 4F 4E 4C 59 00 B9 A9 AE
68B0 B9 20 A5 B0 A9 A0 20 AF A5 B4 AC A8 A4 00 4F 55
68C0 54 20 20 4F 46 20 20 53 45 52 56 49 43 45 00 A2
68D0 A9 A9 A7 2D A4 B8 B9 A5 A0 20 AA BA B9 B7 A1 00
68E0 A4 B8 B9 A5 A0 20 20 A0 AC 20 20 AA BA B9 B7 A1
68F0 00 43 41 52 44 20 20 20 20 52 45 4A 45 43 54 45
6900 44 00 BA A9 B0 B9 20 AA B1 A9 A8 B8 AB 20 B8 A1
6910 B2 A4 00 50 4C 45 41 53 45 20 20 20 20 52 45 50
6920 45 41 54 00 A4 AE A9 A9 BA B1 A4 20 20 20 20 AA
6930 BA B8 BA A9 00 43 52 45 44 49 54 20 20 20 45 58
6940 50 49 52 45 44 00 20 20 50 4C 45 41 53 45 20 20
6950 44 49 41 4C 20 20 00 20 20 A4 B9 B7 A1 A1 20 20
6960 20 A2 A9 A9 A7 20 20 00 20 AD A5 AC B9 BA A1 20
6970 20 BA A5 B8 A9 B9 A4 20 00 20 41 20 50 41 59 20
6980 20 53 45 52 56 49 43 45 20 00 B7 A5 A3 A1 2D 20
6990 20 3A 27 B1 AE 20 A4 AC B7 BA 00 BA A5 B4 B1 A5
69A0 B0 20 BA A5 AC B7 BA 20 AF A9 A0 00 20 20 20 20
69B0 20 20 20 3A AE 22 B9 A9 20 27 B1 AE 00 20 20 20
69C0 20 20 20 3A AF A5 B4 AC A8 20 27 B1 AE 00 2A 2A
```

x+y, 1~ .!.

A BEZEQ SERVICE

...~+0# *

PLEASE WAIT...

¥ ~, «~ ±

*«# 0 , 1 ±0", «

.. 2# INSERT TELE

CARD/ SWIPE CRED

IT CRD £.-. 0'1

¥\$ ¥\$0\$ FREE CAL

LS ONLY £.-. "

«~ ±0", « TELECA

RD ONLY £.-.

0 , 1 +¥\$0'1 CRED

IT CARD ONLY 100

1 ¥'0 ~¥'~" # OU

T OF SERVICE ¥

00\$-# , 1¥ x+1..

, 1¥ ~ x+1..

CARD REJECTE

D +0'1 x±0", « ..

2# PLEASE REP

EAT #000+±# x

+ , +0 CREDIT EX

PIRED PLEASE

DIAL #1..

¥00\$ -¥-1+.

+¥, 0'1# A PAY

SERVICE -¥£.-

: '±0 #~.+ +¥'±¥

* +¥~.+ ~0

:0"10 '±0

:~¥'~" '±0 **

Unsigned Int (select some data) le, dec

0 out of 32768 bytes

Firmware Extraction

- Read the Flash
 - There are better tools: TL866
- Inspect the content
- Look for strings
 - Indictive strings
 - Author names!

```
TAMAC-18 V2.8 9513.bin
7B90 FF FF
7BA0 FF FF
7BB0 FF FF
7BC0 FF FF 77 72 69 74 74 65 6E 20 62 79 3A 4D 4F 54 ..written by:MOT
7BD0 49 20 53 48 41 42 54 41 49 20 61 6E 64 20 42 45 I SHABTAI and BE
7BE0 52 45 4E 49 48 45 20 53 48 41 4D 53 48 4F 4E 54 RENIKE SHAMSHONT
7BF0 41 4D 41 43 31 38 03 97 00 00 04 30 00 00 7A AE AMAC18 0 z@
7C00 03 1C 00 9E 00 00 7C 1C 7C 23 7C 51 7D 4A 7E 59 | |#IQ}J~Y
7C10 7E D2 7F 19 7F 1A 7F 1B 7F 1C 7F 1D 01 01 0A 01 ~.
7C20 0B 01 AA 01 01 01 01 02 01 01 03 01 01 04 01 01 x
7C30 05 01 01 06 01 01 07 01 01 08 01 01 09 01 01 0A
7C40 01 0A 01 01 0A 0A 88 0B 01 01 0B 04 01 0B 07 20
7C50 AA 01 01 02 20 01 01 04 20 01 01 06 10 01 01 07 x
7C60 20 01 01 08 11 01 01 0A 10 01 02 03 01 01 02 0A
7C70 01 01 03 02 20 01 03 03 20 01 03 04 01 01 03 05
7C80 20 01 03 06 20 01 03 07 20 01 03 08 20 01 03 09
7C90 20 01 04 02 10 01 04 03 20 01 04 04 02 01 04 05
7CA0 01 01 04 06 20 01 04 07 01 01 05 05 20 01 06 04
7CB0 10 01 06 06 10 01 06 08 20 01 07 01 20 01 07 04
7CC0 20 01 07 05 20 01 07 08 01 01 08 02 01 01 08 03
7CD0 01 01 08 04 01 01 08 05 01 01 08 07 01 01 08 08
7CE0 88 01 08 09 01 01 08 0A 01 01 09 01 01 01 09 05
7CF0 01 01 09 09 10 01 09 0A 01 01 0A 01 10 01 0A 02
7D00 10 01 0A 03 10 01 0A 05 C0 01 0A 06 C0 01 0A 07 . .
7D10 C0 01 0A 08 C0 01 0A 09 C0 01 0A 0A 10 0A 01 02 . . .
7D20 88 0A 01 03 88 0A 01 04 88 0A 01 05 20 0A 01 07
7D30 20 0A 01 08 88 0A 01 09 20 0B 01 01 01 0B 04 01
7D40 20 0B 04 02 20 0B 04 03 20 AA 01 02 03 02 10 01 x
7D50 02 03 04 10 01 02 03 05 10 01 02 03 06 10 01 02
7D60 03 09 10 01 02 03 0A 10 01 02 0A 01 10 01 02 0A
7D70 02 10 01 02 0A 03 10 01 03 04 02 20 01 03 04 04
7D80 02 01 03 04 06 20 01 04 05 05 C0 01 04 07 05 20 .
7D90 01 07 08 06 20 01 07 08 08 20 01 08 02 01 10 01
```

Unsigned Int le, dec (select some data) 0 out of 32768 bytes

Moti Shabtai



Moti Shabtai · 2nd
President

DEC 9, 2024



Inbar Raz · 1:25 PM

Weird question: Did you use to work at TAAS (IMI)?

Hi Moti,

I have a blog post about retro-computing and my last post is actually about an unrelated subject: Reverse Engineering the Israeli payphone.

Inside the firmware I found the names "Moti Shabtai" and "Berenike Shamshon", and I was wondering whether you are the same Moti?

Here's the blog post, it's in Hebrew:

<https://www.retro.unarmedsecurity.net/post/%D7%9E%D7%A1%D7%AA%D7%91%D7%A8-%D7%A9%D7%92%D7%9D-%D7%98%D7%9C%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%9F-%D7%A6%D7%99%D7%91%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99-%D7%94%D7%95%D7%90-%D7%98%D7%9C%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%9F-%D7%97%D7%9B%D7%9D>

Inbar



Moti Shabtai · 2:41 PM

Hi Raz. I read your blog. Wow. Very impressive. I am the Moti Shabtai who wrote this software initially and then joined by Berenike along the project.



Inbar Raz · 2:43 PM

Oh wow, what an honor :-) I did the project 5 years ago and I had so many questions and no one to ask... What language did you guys write this in? C? ASM?



Moti Shabtai · 2:45 PM

We wrote it initially in assembler but then developed a C like interpreter using the development system we had for the 1806.



Inbar Raz · 2:48 PM

Oh man. The 1806 is so different from other platforms - I've reversed everything from 8-bit microcontrollers to 64-bit Intel and ARM and this was, well, a small nightmare :-)

Do you live in Israel? Tal Be'ery recommended to apply to speak at one of the conferences about this and if that happened, I'd be willing to continue the research and maybe interview you, if you were willing to play along.



Moti Shabtai · 2:52 PM

I live in the US. The reason we chose the 1806 is that at that time it was then only CMOS microprocessor with the smallest power consumption. It was vital since the phone had to use the power coming from the telephone line (48 volts) with no local power supply.

Berenike Shamshon


Berenike Shamshon · 3rd+
Software Engineer & Systems Analyst at imisystems

DEC 9, 2024

 **Inbar Raz**  · 1:25 PM

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Inbar


Berenike Shamshon · 3rd
Systems Analyst and Software engineer at IMI

DEC 9, 2024

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Inbar

No luck 😞



TA0008:

Lateral Movement

Scaling up

- Hitting the Jackpot!
- Payphones were being dismantled and dumped.
- Pity and compassion took over.
 - Probably opportunism, too.



Hitting a snag

- Almost all phones were attached to poles.



Hitting a snag

- Almost all phones were attached to poles.
- The mounting bolts are inside the chassis.



Hitting a snag

- Almost all phones were attached to poles.
- The mounting bolts are inside the chassis.
- Lockpicking is no longer viable.

When the going gets tough...



Easier said than done...

- Some went easy.



Easier said than done...

- Some went easy.
- Some not so much...

