BusKill – A new USB Kill Cord Switch to Self-Destruct Your Data on Linux Machine

By **GURUBARAN S** - January 3, 2020

BusKill a new laptop kill cord Dead Man Switch for Linux machine to lock, shutdown, or to the linux machine, in case of theft.

The cable dubbed "BusKill" was developed by Linux expert Michael Altfield. It is powered udev commands.

Presenting #BusKill: A $20 #DeadManSwitch triggered by someone physically yanking your laptop away from you.

Powered by #USB & #udev.#opsec #infosec #CyberSecurity #travel #safety #TravelSecurity #security #privacyhttps://t.co/yj3HVDANIf

— Michael Altfield (@MichaelAltfield) January 2, 2020

BusKill

Let's consider a scenario that you are in a public place and accessing some sensitive data thief may snatch and run away with your laptop.

The thief may access all the sensitive data and the data may be posted in the public, Finar loss or leads to other risks.

Michael Altfield's cheapest $20 BusKill lets you lock, shutdown, or self-destruct when it's physically separated from you.

BusKill makes use of udev (device manager that detects when external devices are plugged), $4 USB drive with durable keyring hole, small & strong carabiner keyring to attack with belt loop $6, $7 USB magnetic breakaway adapter and $3 1-meter USB extension cable.

The setup would look like below

BusKill

If the laptop snatched the USB magnetic breakaway adapter gets detached from the Lapto
that would trigger a udev remove action.

You can set up a udev rule that to be triggered when the USB drive is removed, you can set
lock, shutdown, or self-destruct your Laptop.

Technical details and the rules can be found in Michael Altfield's blog post, here is the vide
demonstration.

"it is simple. There is no need for anything to be stored on the USB drive. And if the USB dr
suddenly failed, BusKill would still be triggered. If an attacker quickly inserted a clone of y
drive before or after stealing your laptop, BusKill would still be triggered," Michael Altfield

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