

## CUSTOMER STORY

## Home Security Meets Cybersecurity

August Home had a vision to revolutionize home security by bringing it into the Internet Age. August Home saw the front door not only as a mechanism for keeping the bad guys out, but also as a tool for letting the right people in — at the right times, on the right terms, and always at the homeowner's discretion.



### Built-in Security in IoT Devices

The August Smart Lock lets users create virtual keys to their home and easily grant access to house cleaners, dog walkers, delivery services, guests, friends, and family—and control how long that access lasts—all from a smartphone.

Connecting devices to the internet introduces new areas for innovation, improvement, and intrusion. Connecting a lock to the internet meant that August Home had the unique challenge of maintaining customer confidence while introducing a new approach to securing their front door using the August Smart Lock.

### The Challenge

First, August Home had to solve the challenges introduced by hosting their product's functionality in the digital rather than physical realm — they needed to secure homes without introducing backdoors to the back door.

*“We are an IoT company, but we are also a security and lock company. We looked at our lock differently than some of the IoT products that are out there. Those products could afford to leave IoT security as a bit of an afterthought. But we couldn't.”*

— Tom Russo,  
August Home Product Manager

**WEBSITE:**

august.com

**INDUSTRY:**

IoT

**SERVICES PROVIDED:**

Application Assessments  
Penetration Testings

**ABOUT AUGUST:**

August's mission is to make their customer's lives more simple and secure by offering unprecedented visibility and control over their front door. Their commitment is to design products and services that let everyday people monitor and manage entry into their homes from wherever they are.



***“As we designed the encryption and authentication model for the lock itself, Bishop Fox’s team reviewed the design as we did it.”***

*— Chris Dow,*

*Vice President of Software at August Home*



“When you look at our product ... if it were to get hacked or compromised in some way, it’s not just a camera or an air conditioner,” said Tom Russo.

To ensure the security of its product, August Home sought a firm that could assess all aspects of the product — hardware, firmware, and software. Their search led them to Bishop Fox.

Eager to help pioneer and architect the security design with August Home, we brought our top mobile experts and leading product security researchers in to assess the project.

As Bishop Fox identified potential issues, the August Home team got to work on implementing new and innovative methods to strengthen their products’ security. This collaborative approach led to more creative and effective solutions.

Chris Dow, Vice President of Software at August Home wanted more than just a checkbox tick saying that their Smart Lock was secure, he wanted to work with a team that would partner closely with his team along the way.

#### **The goals of the engagement:**



- Assess the security of its IoT products August Smart Lock and Application August Connect
- Conduct a thorough review of both platform components and deliver a findings and recommendations report



***“Trust and collaboration is important when the stakes are high. It was great working as an extension of the August Home team over several versions and releases of the Smart Lock.”***

*— Rob Ragan,*

*Partner at Bishop Fox*

*"Bishop Fox is a group of security professionals who are experts in their field. They brought a number of different disciplines to the project, people who understood all aspects of what we were working with."*

*— Chris Dow,  
Vice President of Software at August Home*



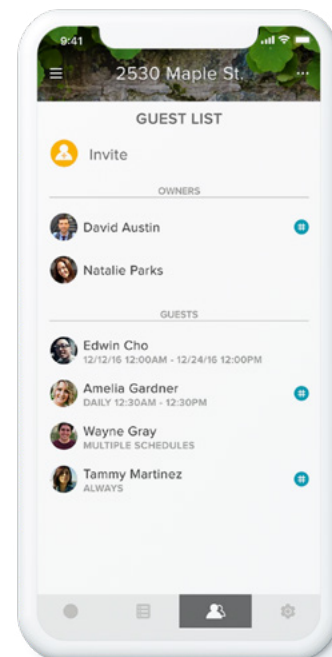
## The Result

August Home put the security of their product and their stomer's peace of mind at the forefront of their design. As a result of their partnership with Bishop Fox, their Smart Lock went to market with two-factor authentication, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology encryption, and an update feature that allows August Home to seamlessly release security advancements to users.

August Home's commitment to the security and well-being of its customers led to a well-designed and industry-leading product — a product that we at Bishop Fox use in our own offices.

*"Early on, it was apparent to us that August Home had a talented engineering team and they cared about being the most secure Smart Lock on the market."*

*— Rob Ragan,  
Partner at Bishop Fox*



## ABOUT BISHOP FOX

### The Leader in Offensive Security

Bishop Fox is the leading authority in offensive security, providing solutions ranging from continuous penetration testing, red teaming, and attack surface management to product, cloud, and application security assessments. We've worked with more than 25% of the Fortune 100, 8 of the top 10 tech companies, and hundreds of other organizations to improve their security.

Our Cosmos platform was named Best Emerging Technology in the 2021 SC Media Awards and our offerings are consistently ranked as "world-class" in customer experience surveys. We're an active participant in the security community and have published more than 15 open source tools and 50 security advisories in the last 5 years. Learn more at [bishopfox.com](https://bishopfox.com) or follow us on Twitter.

