

# Unix security hole

- ➔ Even without root (or setuid)  
attackers can trick root owned processes into doing things

Example - clear unused files in /tmp every night

```
$ find /tmp -atime +3 -exec rm -f -- {} \;
```

- `find` identifies files not accessed in 3 days
- `rm -f -- path` deletes file path

# Let us look at the system calls

## **find/rm**

---

```
readdir (“/tmp”) → “badetc”  
lstat (“/tmp/badetc”) → DIRECTORY  
readdir (“/tmp/badetc”) → “passwd”
```

```
unlink (“/tmp/badetc/passwd”)
```

## **Attacker**

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```
mkdir (“/tmp/badetc”)  
creat (“/tmp/badetc/passwd”)
```