



# Authorization

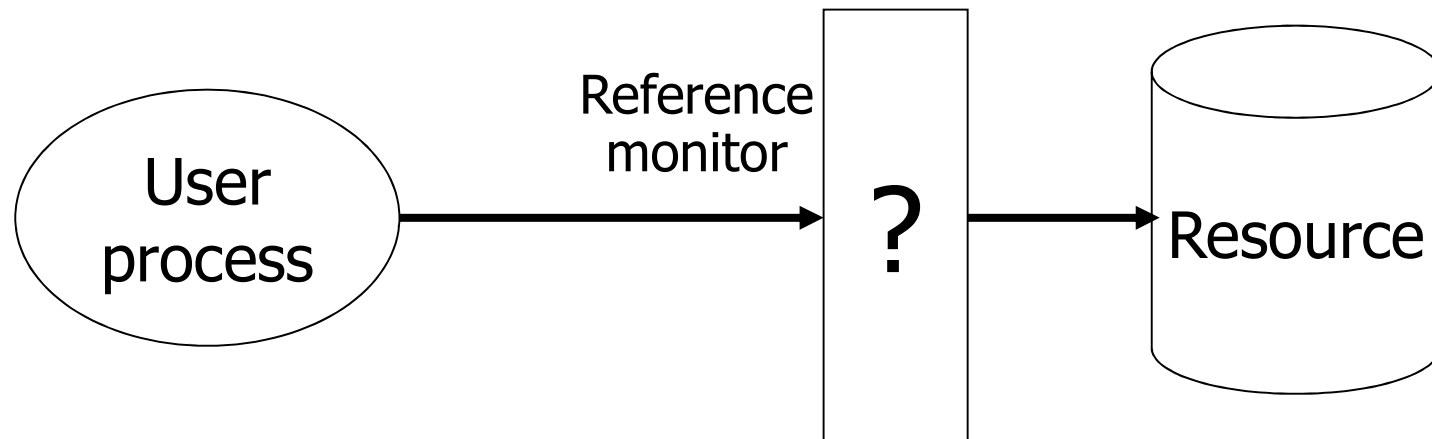
- ◆ **given who you are, what can you do?**
- ◆ **how do we control privileges?**



# Authorization - Access Control

## ◆ Common Assumption

- System knows who the user is
  - User has passed Identification & Authentication
- Access requests pass through gatekeeper
  - System must be designed monitor cannot be bypassed

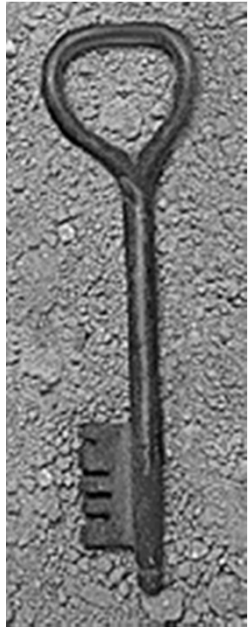


Decide whether user can apply operation to resource



# Agenda

- ◆ Access matrix model
- ◆ Access control lists versus Capabilities
- ◆ Discretionary versus mandatory controls
- ◆ Bell-LaPadula model
- ◆ Advanced: Covert channels
- ◆ Advanced: Beyond MAC and DAC



# Access Control Matrix

[Lampson 1971]

		Objects					rights
		File 1	File 2	File 3	...	File n	
Subjects	User 1	read	write	-	-	read	
	User 2	write	write	write	-	-	
	User 3	-	-	-	read	read	
	...						
	User m	read	write	read	write	read	



# Access Control Matrix

## ◆ Basic Abstractions

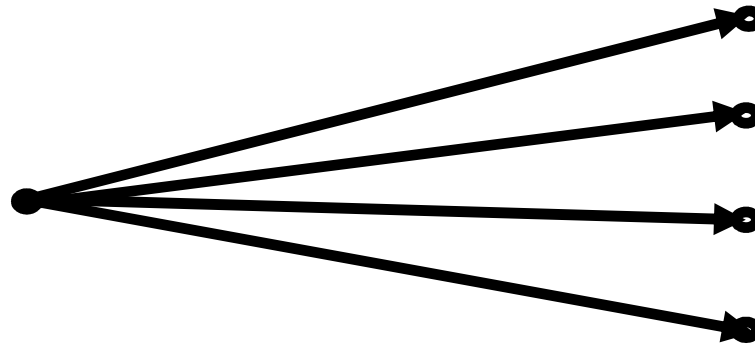
- Subjects
- Objects
- Rights

	File 1	File 2	File 3	...	File n
User 1	read	write	-	-	read
User 2	write	write	write	-	-
User 3	-	-	-	read	read
...					
User m	read	write	read	write	read

- ## ◆ The rights in a cell specify the access of the subject (row) to the object (column)



# Subjects = Users ?



**USERS**

**PRINCIPALS**

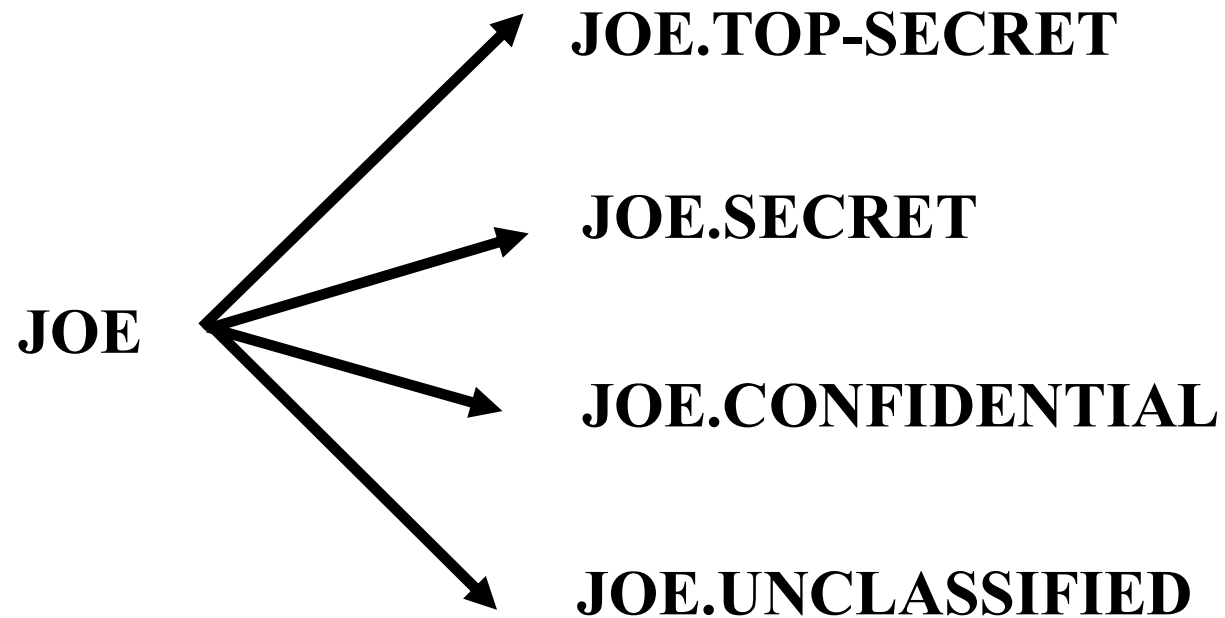
**Real World User**

**Unit of Access Control  
and Authorization**

the system authenticates the user in  
context of a particular principal



# Subjects = Users ?

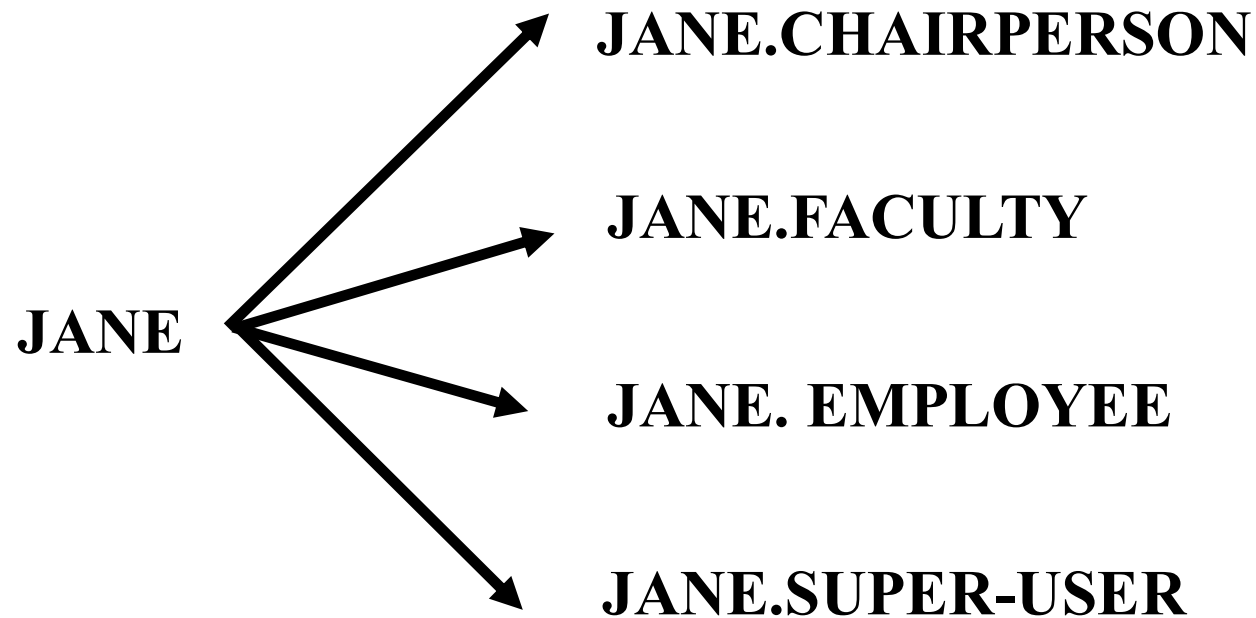


**USER**

**PRINCIPALS**



# Subjects = Users ?



**USER**

**PRINCIPALS**





# Subjects = Users ?

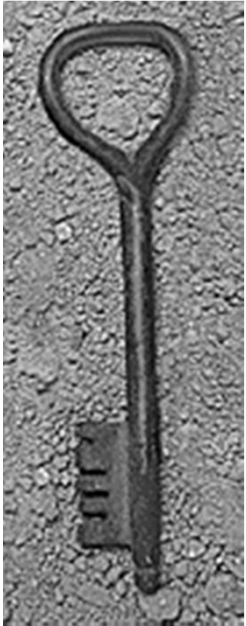
- ◆ There should be a one-to-many mapping from users to principals
  - a user may have many principals, but
  - each principal is associated with an unique user
- ◆ This ensures accountability of a user's actions

**In other words, shared accounts  
(principals) are bad for accountability**



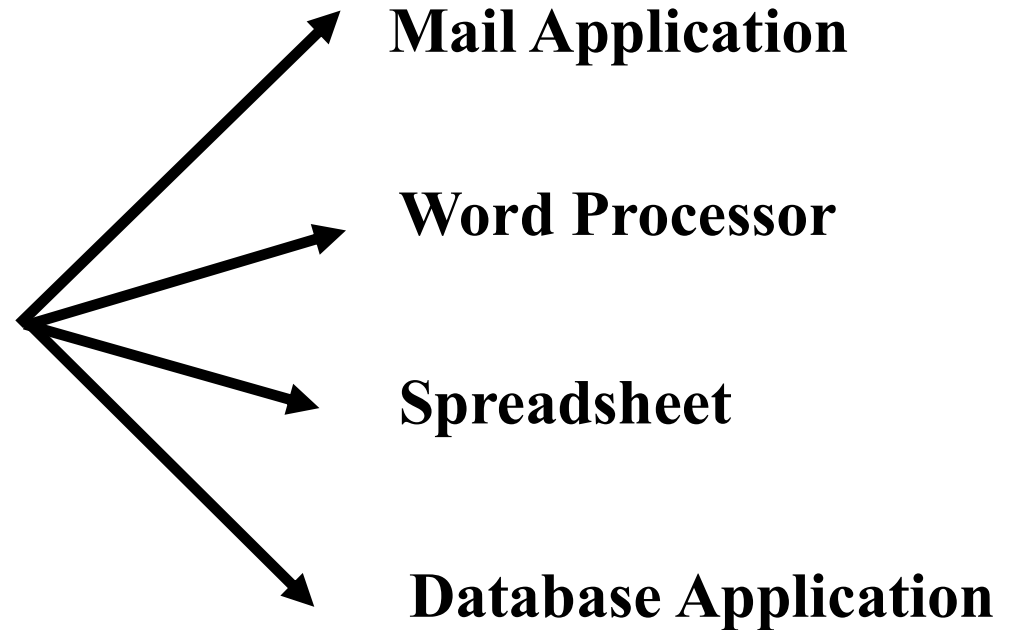
# Subjects = Users ?

- ◆ A subject is a program (application) executing on behalf of a principal
- ◆ A principal may at any time be idle, or have one or more subjects executing on its behalf



# Principles and Subjects

**JOE.TOP-SECRET**



**PRINCIPAL**

**SUBJECTS**



# Principles and Subjects

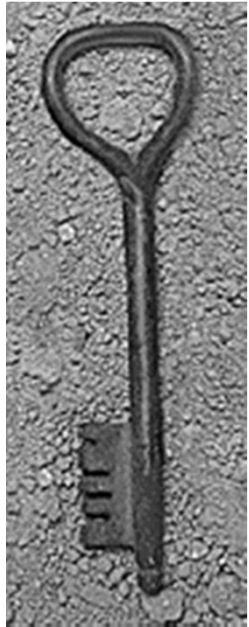
- ◆ Usually (but not always)
  - each subject is associated with a unique principal
  - all subjects of a principal have identical rights (equal to the rights of the invoking principal)
- ◆ This case can be modeled by a one-to-one mapping between subjects and principals

**For simplicity, a principal and subject can be treated as identical concepts. On the other hand, a user should always be viewed as multiple principals**



# Objects

- ◆ An object is anything on which a subject can perform operations (mediated by rights)
- ◆ Usually objects are passive, for example:
  - File
  - Directory (or Folder)
  - Memory segment
- ◆ But, subjects can also be objects, with operations
  - Kill, Suspend, Resume



# Access Control Matrix [Lampson]

		Objects					rights
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	User 2	write	write	write	-	-	
	User 3	-	-	-	read	read	
	...						
	User m	read	write	read	write	read	



# Agenda

- ◆ Access matrix model
- ◆ Access control lists versus Capabilities
- ◆ Discretionary versus mandatory controls
- ◆ Bell-LaPadula model
- ◆ Covert channels
- ◆ Beyond MAC and DAC



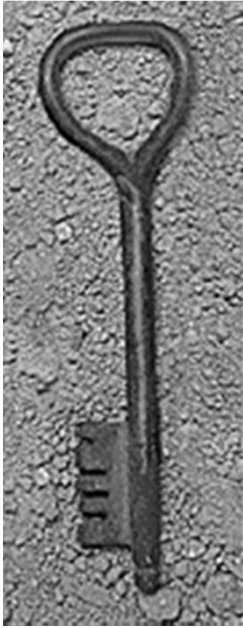
# How to Implement ?

- ◆ Access control list (ACL)
  - Store column of matrix with the resource
- ◆ Capability
  - User holds a unforgeable “ticket” for each resource

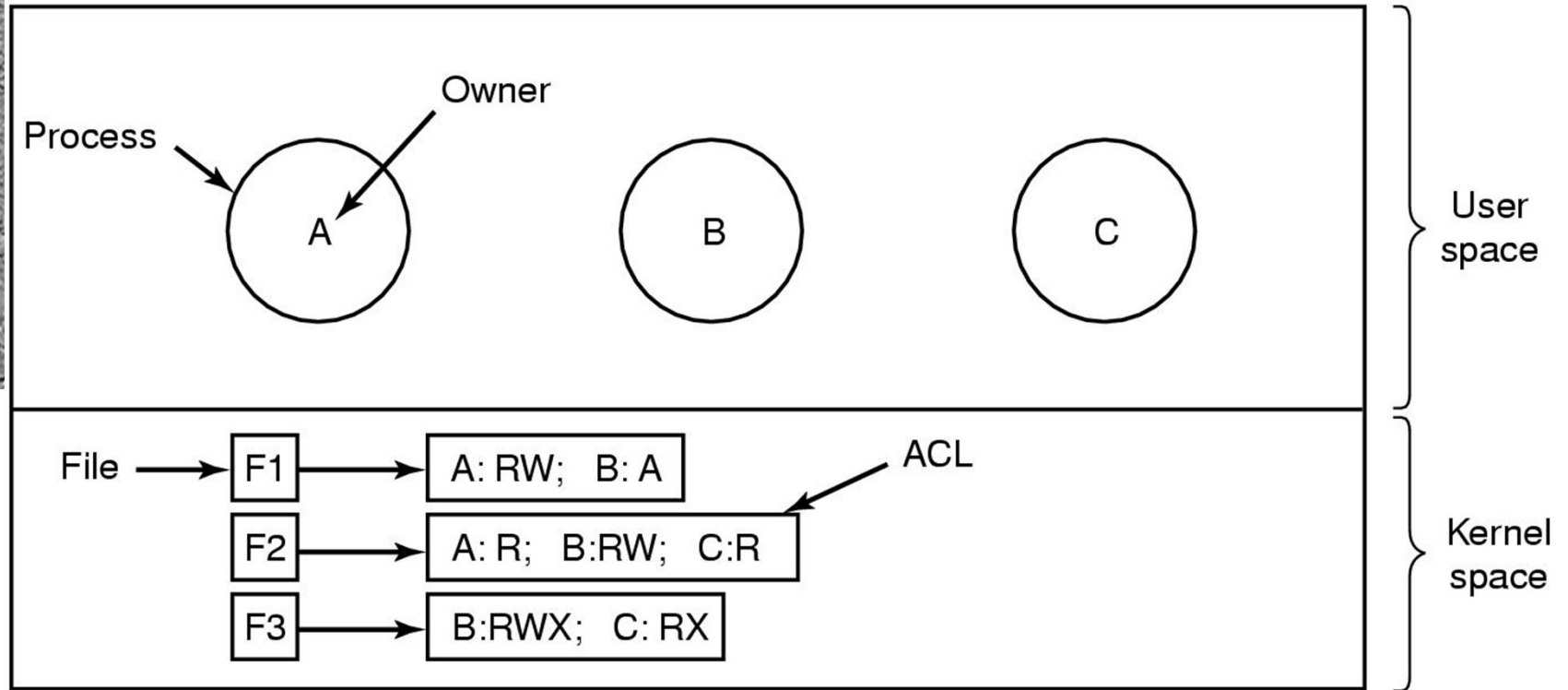
	File 1	File 2	...
User 1	read	write	-
User 2	write	write	-
User 3	-	-	read
...			
User m	read	write	write



访问控制列表，权限跟着每个文件。



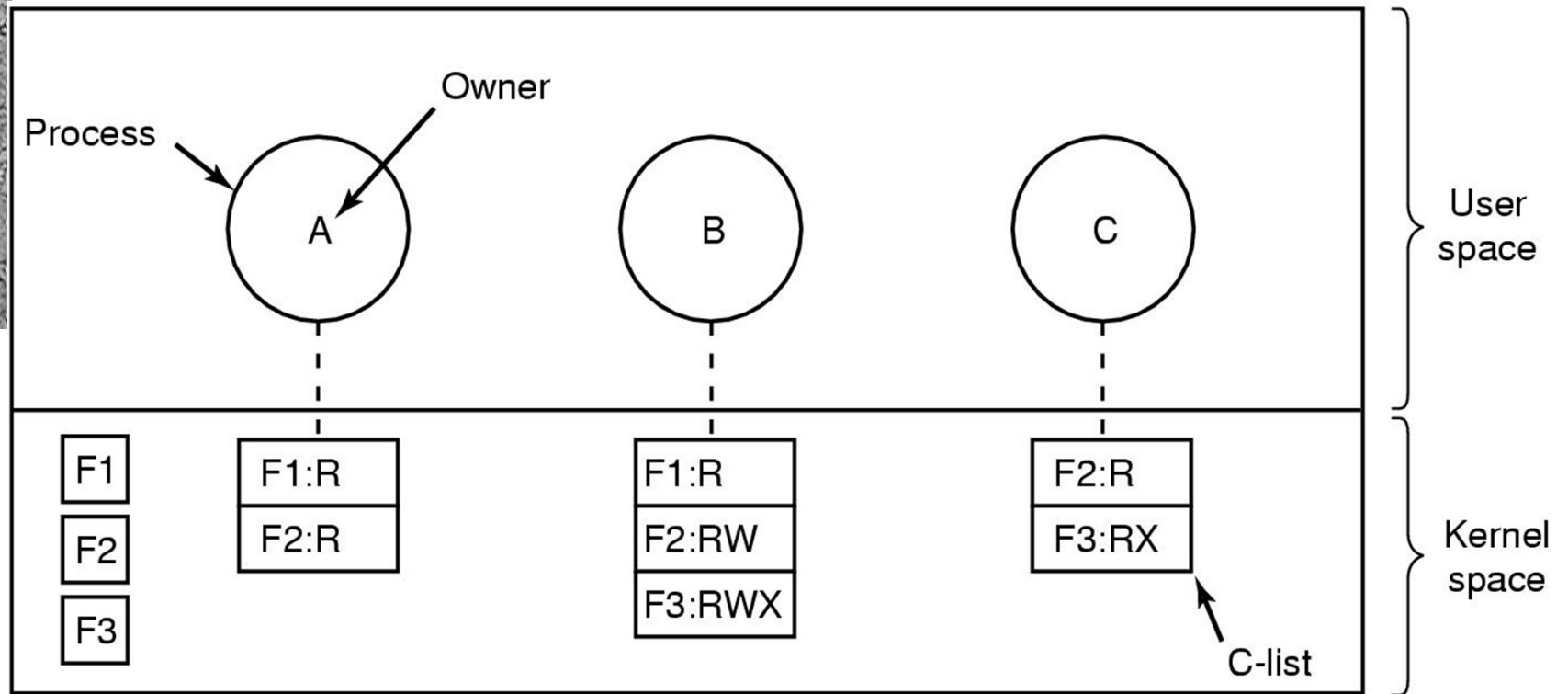
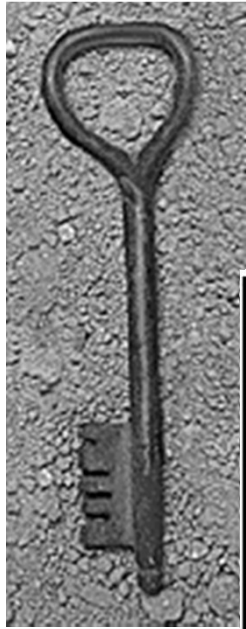
# Access Control Lists (1)



Use of access control lists of manage file access

能力列表，人 有 权限表，当回收时，直接把A的删除掉，不用遍历所有客体。

# Capabilities (1)



Each process has a capability list



# ACL'S vs Capabilities

- ◆ ACL's require authentication of subjects
- ◆ Capabilities do not require authentication of subjects, but do require unforgeability and control of propagation of capabilities



# ACL'S vs Capabilities

## Access Review

- ACL's provide for superior access review on a per-object basis
- Capabilities provide for superior access review on a per-subject basis

## Revocation

- ACL's provide for superior revocation facilities on a per-object basis
- Capabilities provide for superior revocation facilities on a per-subject basis



# ACL usually wins out !

- ◆ The per-object basis usually wins out so most Operating Systems protect files by means of ACL's
- ◆ Many Operating Systems use an abbreviated form of ACL's with just three entries (Like Unix)
  - Owner, Group, Other
  - **`rwX-rwX-rwX`**

每个列表只需要九个bit



## Case Study: UNIX O.S.

- ◆ Unix and other operating systems using access lists for file management often “abbreviate” the lists by dividing users into categories based on their relationships
- ◆ Typical categories
  - **User** who *owns* the file
  - Users in the same *group* as the file’s owner
  - All *other* users (or everyone else in the *world*)



# Unix-style representation

- ◆ We minimize the privileges in Unix-like systems to: **R**ead, **W**rite, **E**xecute
- ◆ We therefore need nine bits to represent a file's access list:
  - First three: owner bits
  - Second three: group bits
  - Third three: world/other bits



# Equivalent Expressions

R W X

R X

R

1 1 1

1 0 1

1 0 0

7

5

4







# Issues

节省了空间，但是权限表达不是那么精准。

- ◆ We have traded \*space\* reduction and speed of checking for reduced flexibility in expressing an access control policy
- ◆ Some operating systems (DEC VMS, some variants of HPUNIX) allow these abbreviated access lists to be augmented by additional entries - such as the ability to add privileges for a specific user or more than one group.

特权



# Capabilities ?

Least Privilege

高安全系统，情报系统：最小特权。  
完成一个任务需要的最小的权限和知识。

- Capabilities provide for finer grained least privilege control with respect to subjects, especially dynamic short-lived subjects created for specific tasks



# Agenda

- ◆ Access matrix model
- ◆ Access control lists versus Capabilities
- ◆ Discretionary versus mandatory controls  
谨慎的，自主的。 强制
- ◆ Bell-LaPadula model
- ◆ Covert channels
- ◆ Beyond MAC and DAC



## Discretionary vs Mandatory Access Controls

- ◆ Discretionary Access Controls (DAC) allow access rights to be propagated from one subject to another

主人可以自主决定让谁看。

Possession of an access right by a subject is sufficient to allow access to the object

- ◆ Mandatory Access Controls (MAC) restrict the access of subjects to objects on the basis of security labels

强制访问中文件权限受限于安全等级。

核专家想把核武器资料复制给他老婆，系统会拒绝，因为其老婆安全级别不够。



## Inherent Weakness of DAC

- ◆ Unrestricted DAC allows information from an object which can be read to any other object which can be written by a subject
- ◆ Suppose our users are trusted not to do this deliberately. It is still possible for Trojan Horses to copy information from one object to another.



# Trojan Horses

特洛伊木马，把自己伪装成好的东西，诱使主人去做。

- ◆ A Trojan Horse is rogue software installed, perhaps unwittingly, by duly authorized users
- ◆ A Trojan Horse does what a user expects it to do, but in addition exploits the user's legitimate privileges to cause a security breach



# Trojan Horse Example

自主访问系统，B不能读文件F，可以先让A把文件F内容写入文件G，这样B就可以读到F的内容。

**ACL**

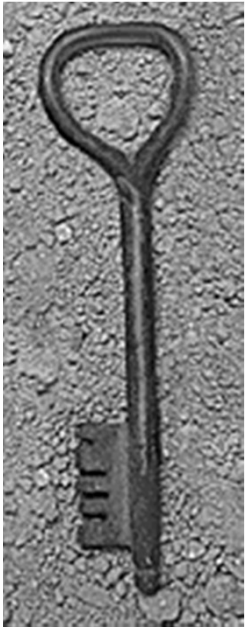
**File F**

**A:r**  
**A:w**

**File G**

**B:r**  
**A:w**

**Principal B cannot read file F**



# Trojan Horse Example

**Principal A**

**executes**

**Program Goodies**

**Trojan Horse**

**read**

**File F**

**write**

**File G**

**ACL**

**A:r**

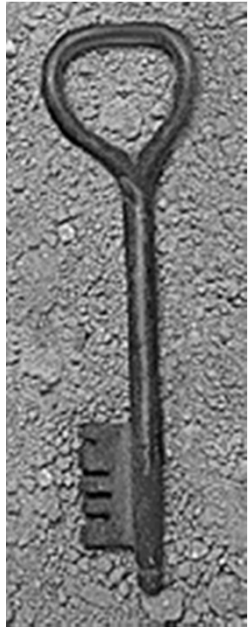
**A:w**

**B:r**

**A:w**

**Principal B can read contents of file F copied to file G**





# Trojan Horses – very hard to handle

- ◆ Trojan Horses are the most insidious threat
- ◆ Viruses and logic bombs are examples of Trojan Horses
- ◆ It is possible to embed Trojan Horses in hardware and firmware (Ex. Printer Virus in Yugoslavia War)
- ◆ It is possible to embed Trojan Horses in critical system software such as compilers and Database Management Systems (Ex. The Thompson's C Compiler)



# Agenda

- ◆ Access matrix model
- ◆ Access control lists versus Capabilities
- ◆ Discretionary versus mandatory controls
- ◆ Bell-LaPadula model 强制访问控制最有名的模型  
BLP模型
- ◆ Covert channels
- ◆ Beyond MAC and DAC



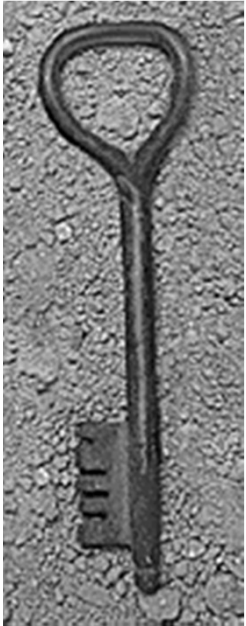
# Mandatory Access Control

- ◆ Goal: prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information
  - Usually used in Military Applications
  - Deals with the “Hidden” information flow
- ◆ Multi-level security models are best-known examples 多级安全的模型
  - Bell-LaPadula Model (BLP) basis for many, or most, of these



# Bell-LaPadula Model, Step 1

- ◆ Security levels arranged in linear ordering
  - Top Secret: highest
  - Secret
  - Confidential
  - Unclassified: lowest
- ◆ Levels consist of *security clearance*  $L(s)$ 
  - Objects have *security classification*  $L(o)$



# Multilevel Security

**TS: Top Secret**

**S: Secret**

**C: Classified**

**U: Unclassified**



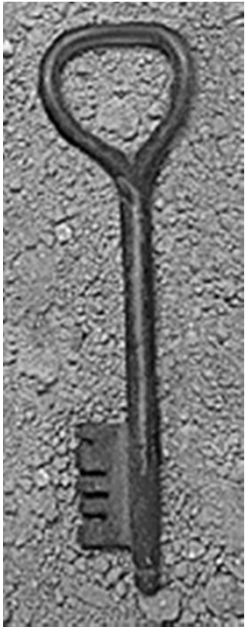
**Dominance**



**Information  
Flow**

写的过程

**Lattice of security labels**



# Example

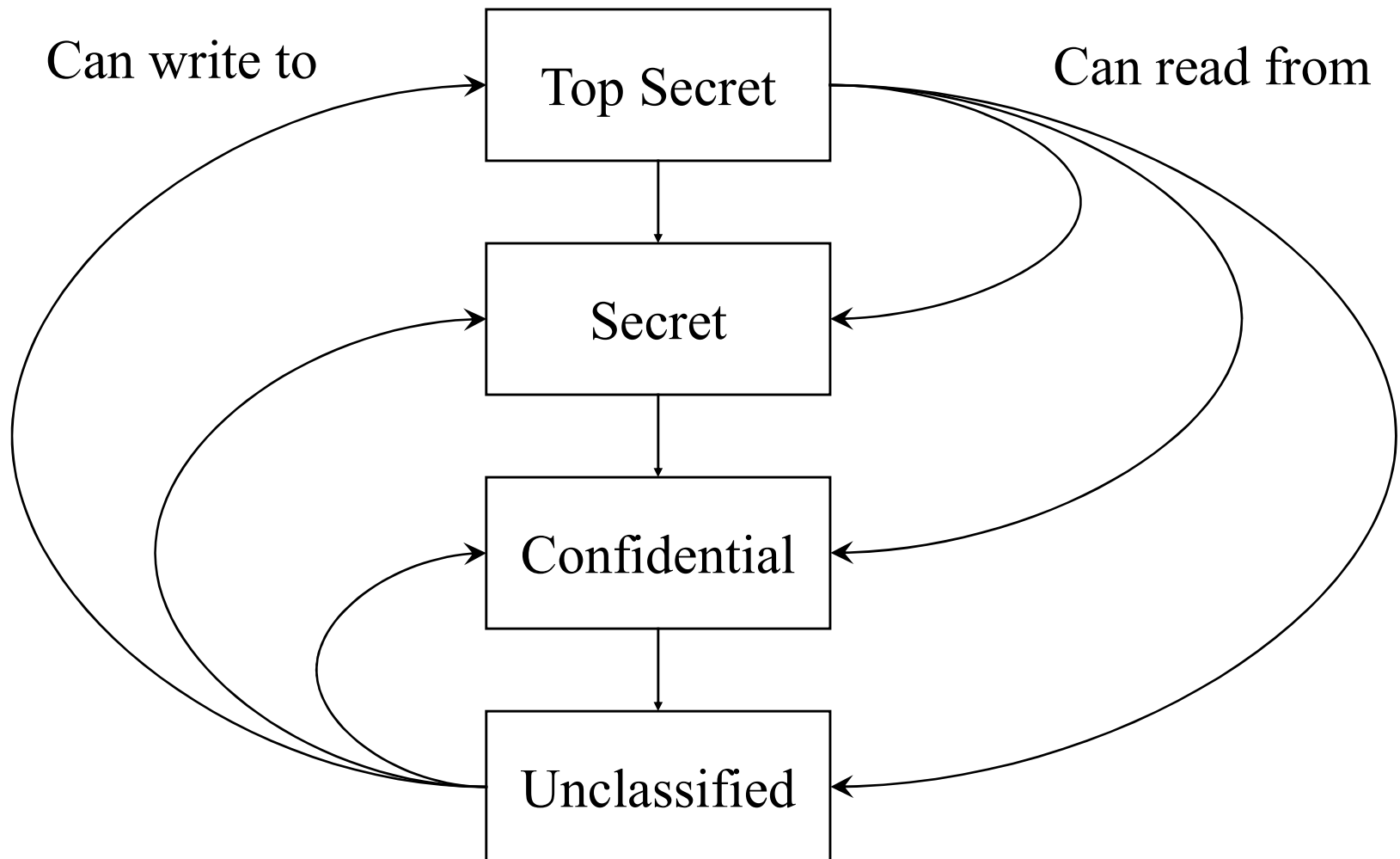
top secret不能写一个文件，所有人都能读。防止特洛伊木马。

<i>security level</i>	<i>subject</i>	<i>object</i>
Top Secret	Tamara	Nuclear Files
Secret	Samuel	Battleship Files
Confidential	Claire	Logistics Files
Unclassified	Alice	Telephone Lists

- Tamara can read all files
- Claire cannot read Nuclear or Battleship Files
- Alice can only read Telephone Lists



# Linear Access Level Lists





# Reading Information

只能往上写，往下读。

- ◆ Information flows *up*, not *down*
  - “Reads up” disallowed, “reads down” allowed
- ◆ Simple Security Condition (Step 1)
  - Subject  $s$  can read object  $o$  iff,  $L(o) \leq L(s)$  and  $s$  has permission to read  $o$ 
    - Note: combines mandatory control (relationship of security levels) and discretionary control (the required permission)
  - Sometimes called “no reads up” rule





# Writing Information

- ◆ Information flows up, not down
  - “Writes up” allowed, “writes down” disallowed
- ◆ \*-Property (Step 1)
  - Subject  $s$  can write object  $o$  iff  $L(s) \leq L(o)$  and  $s$  has permission to write  $o$ 
    - Note: combines mandatory control (relationship of security levels) and discretionary control (the required permission)
  - Sometimes called “no writes down” rule



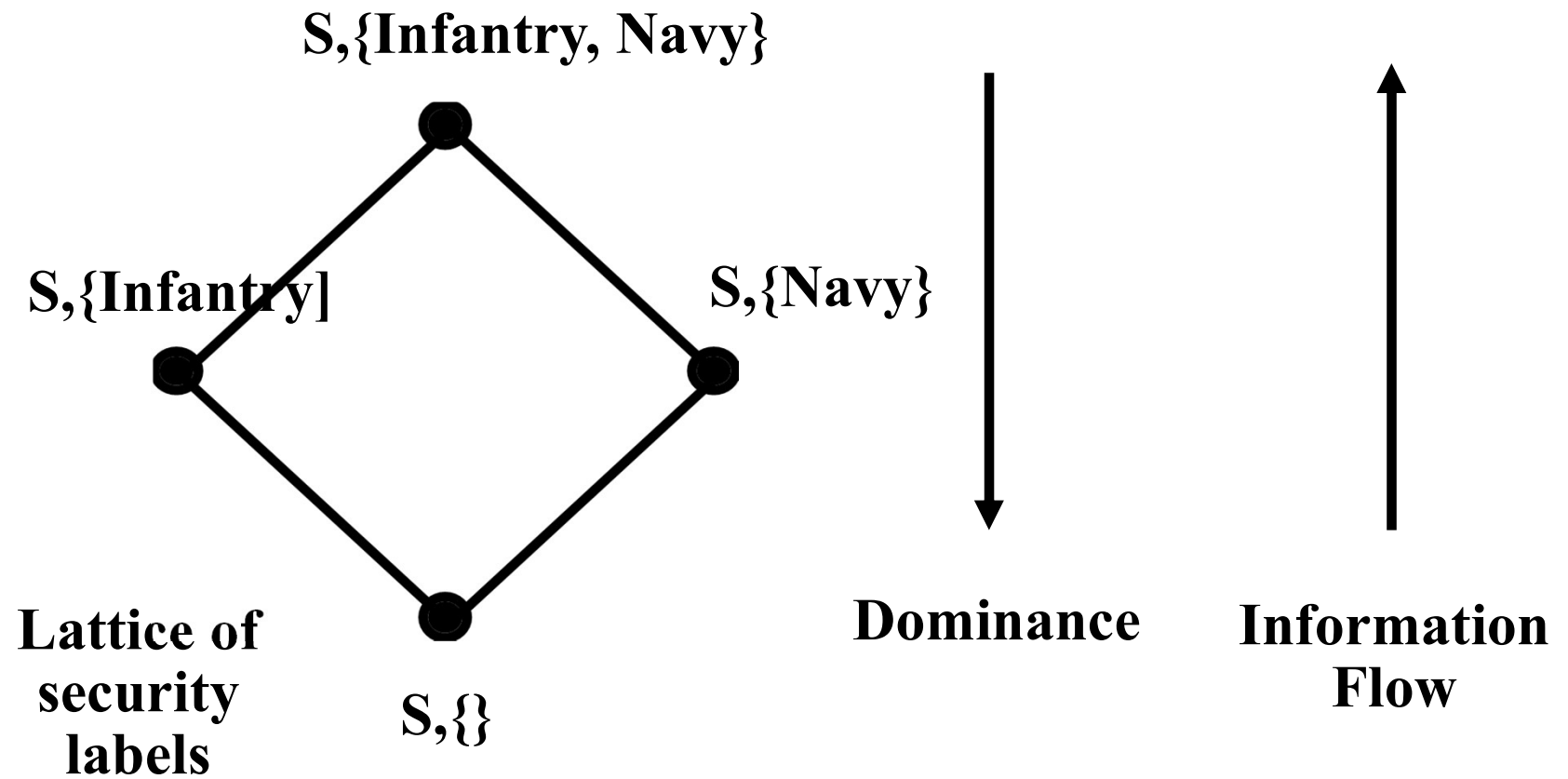
## Bell-LaPadula Model, Step 2

- ◆ Expand notion of security level to include categories 增加了类别。
- ◆ Security level is (*clearance*, *category set*) 类别集合
- ◆ Examples
  - ( Top Secret, { General Staff, Infantry, Navy } )
  - ( Confidential, { General Staff, Infantry } )
  - ( Secret, { General Staff, Navy } )
  - ( Unclassified, { Navy } )



# MULTILEVEL SECURITY

格状，线性有序。





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- ◆ Beyond MAC and DAC

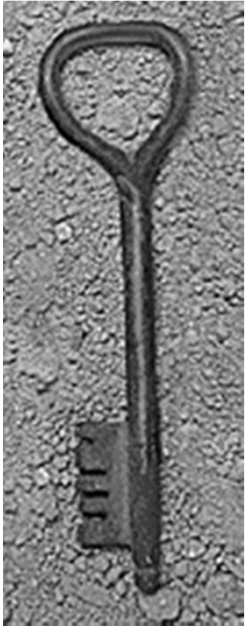


# Covert Channels

隐通道



- ◆ A covert channel is a communication channel based on the use of system resources not normally intended for communication between the subjects (processes) in the system



# Covert Channels

当有噪声时，增加校验码。

High Principal



High Trojan Horse  
Infected Subject

用多个特洛伊木马

Information is leaked and the  
high principal doesn't know it!!!

**Covert  
Channel**

隐蔽的通道



Low Principal



Low Trojan Horse  
Infected Subject



# Covert Channels

- ◆ The concern is with subjects not users
  - users are trusted (must be trusted) not to disclose secret information outside of the computer system
  - subjects are not trusted because they may have Trojan Horses embedded in the code they execute
- ◆ \*-property prevents overt leakage of information and does not address the covert channel problem



# Resource Exhaustion Channel

资源耗尽型的通道

Given 5MB pool of dynamically allocated memory

High-Level Process

$\text{bit} = 1 \Rightarrow \text{request 5MB of memory}$

$\text{bit} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{request 0MB of memory}$

Low-Level Process

当资源用光，收到1  
当资源为0，收到0。

request 5MB of memory

if allocated then  $\text{bit} = 0$  otherwise  $\text{bit} = 1$





# Load Sensing Channel

负载敏感型通道

## High-Level Process

让CPU的负载发生改变。

bit = 1  $\Rightarrow$  enter computation intensive loop

bit = 0  $\Rightarrow$  go to sleep

## Low-Level Process

perform a task with known computational requirements

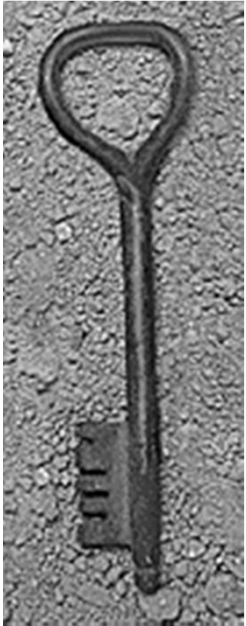
if completed quickly then bit = 0 otherwise  
bit = 1



# Coping with Covert Channels

对抗隐通道：带宽，不共享硬件资源。

- ◆ After Identification
  - close the channel or slow it down
  - detect attempts to use the channel
  - tolerate its existence



# Orange Book Criteria (TCSEC)

- ◆ Level D DOS
  - No security requirements
- ◆ Level C
  - Discretionary Access Control (DAC)
- ◆ Level B, A
  - Must enforce Bell-LaPadula model (MAC)



# Orange Book Criteria (TCSEC)

商用系统

## ◆ C1

- Cooperating users at same level of sensitivity
- Access control; users can protect their own data
- Discretionary access control

## ◆ C2

- Finer granularity of control
- Better audit functions; each individual access to each object can be tracked



# Orange Book Criteria (TCSEC)

## ◆ B1

- Non-discretionary access control; subjects and (most) objects assigned a security level
- Bell-LaPadula model + DAC to further limit access

## ◆ B2

- Independent modules
- Design and implementation go through more thorough review/testing based on verifiable top-level design
- Principle of least privilege 最小特权，能力列表。



# Orange Book Criteria (TCSEC)

## ◆ B3

- Security functions small enough for extensive testing/review and tamperproof

## ◆ A1

- Verifiable design
- Formal model and proof of consistency



# Covert Channels and the Orange Book

- C2 No labels
- B1 Labels with Bell-LaPadula controls, but no need to address covert channels
- B2 Must address storage channels (such as resource exhaustion channel)
- B3 Must also address timing channels (such as load sensing channel)
- A1 Must use formal techniques (where available)



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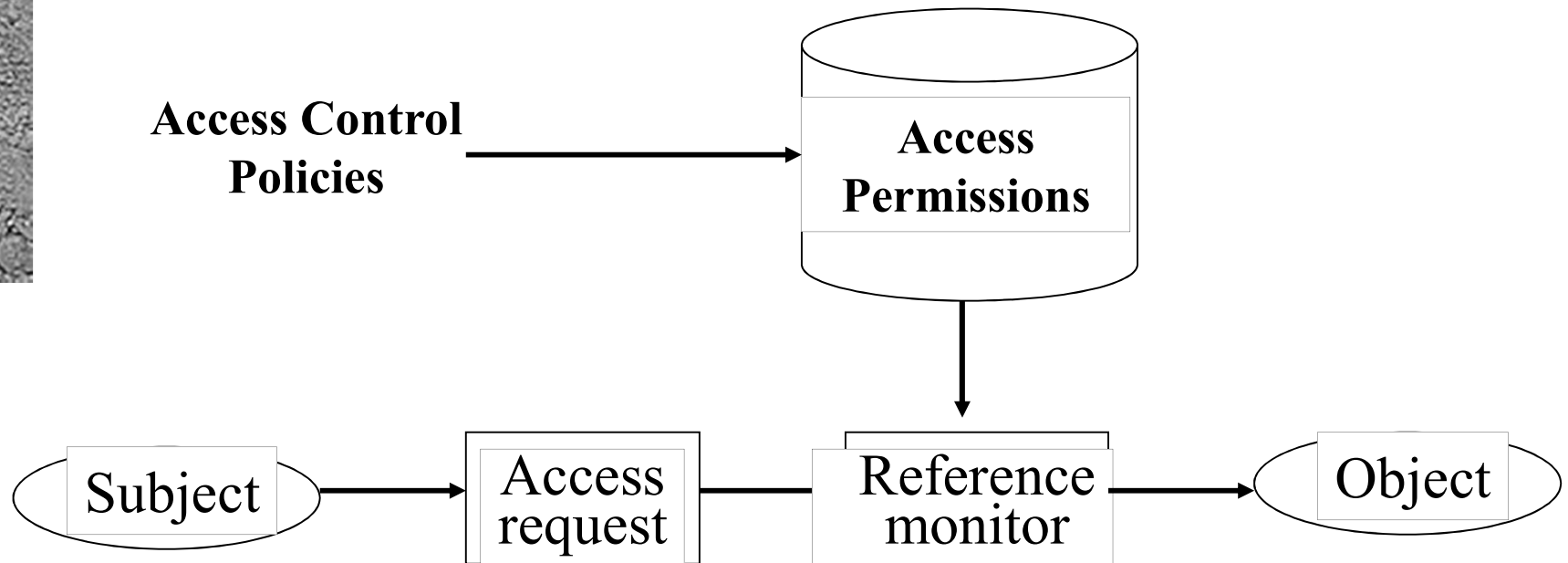


## Beyond MAC/DAC

- ◆ DAC and MAC are extreme points of a continuum of access controls
- ◆ There are legitimate policies that fall in between, for example:
  - Document release: a document cannot be released by a scientist without first obtaining approvals from a patent-officer and a security-officer
  - Originator control: information in an object should not be propagated without permission of the owner of the object



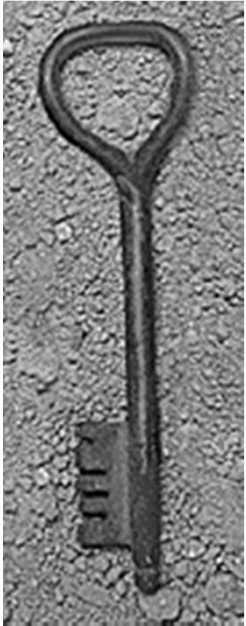
# Access Control Policies





# Content Dependent Access Control

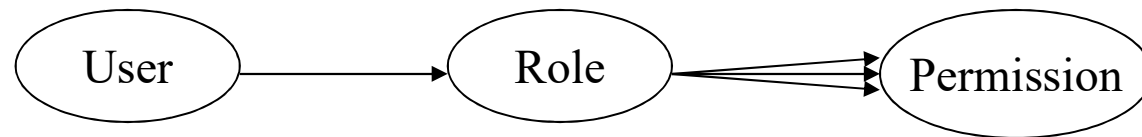
- ◆ Content dependent controls such as
  - you can only see salaries less than 50K, or
  - you can only see salaries of employees who report to you
- ◆ Beyond the scope of Operating Systems and usually are provided by Database Management Systems



# Role-Based Access Control

- ◆ Sandu et al. formalized Role-Based Access Control in 1996

基于角色的权限控制



- ◆ User U acting in role R is granted permission P
  - Advantage: greatly improved efficiency
  - Disadvantage: cannot specify fine-grained rules



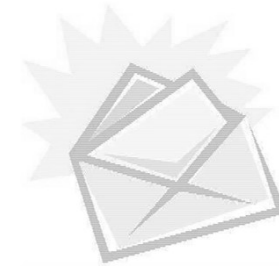
# Context-Based Access Control

- ◆ What is “context”?
  - Circumstances in which an event occurs



**Subject**

Name  
Age  
ID  
Location



**Object**

Read  
Write  
Delete  
Owner

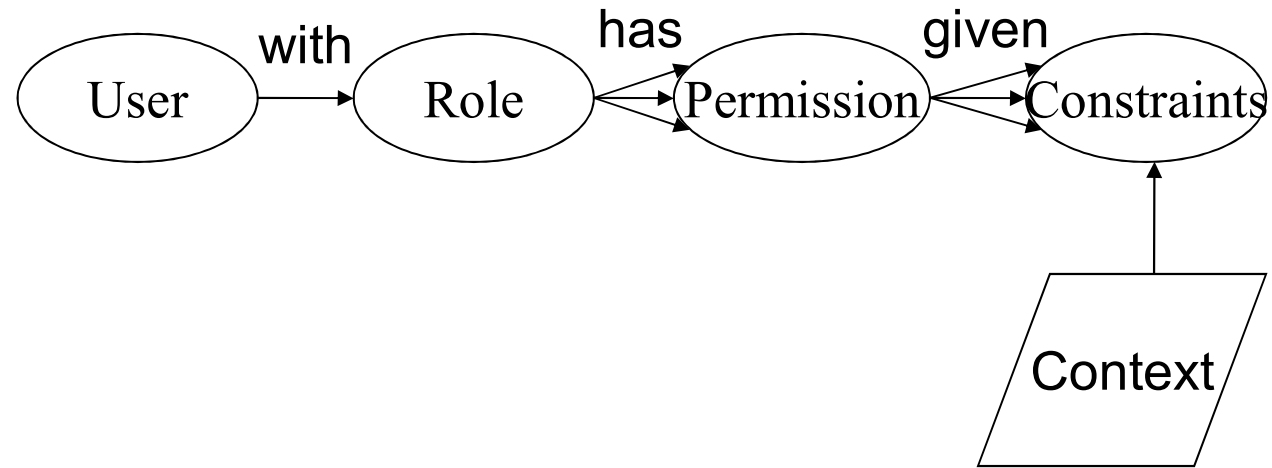
**System**



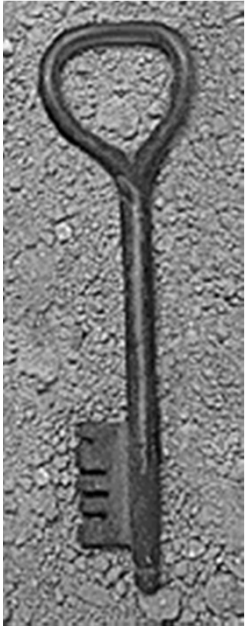
Time  
Date  
CPU Load



# Context-Based Access Control



- ◆ Advantage: access control is context-aware
- ◆ Disadvantage: this is still a static model



# Context-Based Access Control

- ◆ Examples 1: Cannot access classified information via a remote login
- ◆ Examples 2: Salary information can be updated only at year end
- ◆ Examples 3: Company's earnings report is confidential until announced at the stockholders meeting
- ◆ can be partially provided by the Operating System and partially by the Database Management System
- ◆ more sophisticated context dependent controls such as based on past history of accesses definitely require Database support



# What Else Might We Add?

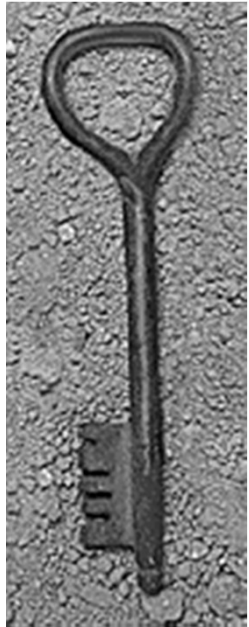
- ◆ Default Rule (Telephone Sys. Example)
  - General default: Receive
  - Object default: Call Internal
- ◆ Time-based access
  - Allow long distance call after hours?
- ◆ History-based access





# Access Control by History

- ◆ Example: Statistical Database
  - Allows queries for general statistics
  - But not individual values
- ◆ Valid queries: Statistics on 20+ individuals
  - Total salary of all Deans
  - Salary of Computer Science Professors
- ◆ See a problem coming?
  - Salary of CS Professors who aren't Deans



## Solution: Query Set Overlap Control (Dobkin, Jones & Lipton '79)

- ◆ Query valid if intersection of query coverage and each previous query  $< r$
- ◆ Given  $K$  minimum query size,  $r$  overlap:
  - Need  $1 + (K-1)/r$  queries to compromise
- ◆ Can represent as access control matrix
  - Subjects: entities issuing queries
  - Objects: *Powerset* of records
  - $O_s(i)$  : objects referenced by  $s$  in queries  $1..i$
  - $A[s,o] = \text{read}$  iff  $\forall_{q \in O_s(i-1)} |q \cap o| < r$