

filepath-securejoin

build passing

An implementation of `SecureJoin`, a [candidate for inclusion in the Go standard library](#). The purpose of this function is to be a "secure" alternative to `filepath.Join`, and in particular it provides certain guarantees that are not provided by `filepath.Join`.

NOTE: This code is only safe if you are not at risk of other processes modifying path components after you've used `SecureJoin`. If it is possible for a malicious process to modify path components of the resolved path, then you will be vulnerable to some fairly trivial TOCTOU race conditions. [There are some Linux kernel patches I'm working on which might allow for a better solution.](#)

In addition, with a slightly modified API it might be possible to use `O_PATH` and verify that the opened path is actually the resolved one -- but I have not done that yet. I might add it in the future as a helper function to help users verify the path (we can't just return `/proc/self/fd/<foo>` because that doesn't always work transparently for all users).

This is the function prototype:

```
func SecureJoin(root, unsafePath string) (string, error)
```

This library **guarantees** the following:

- If no error is set, the resulting string **must** be a child path of `root` and will not contain any symlink path components (they will all be expanded).
- When expanding symlinks, all symlink path components **must** be resolved relative to the provided root. In particular, this can be considered a userspace implementation of how `chroot(2)` operates on file paths. Note that these symlinks will **not** be expanded lexically (`filepath.Clean` is not called on the input before processing).
- Non-existent path components are unaffected by `SecureJoin` (similar to `filepath.EvalSymlinks`'s semantics).
- The returned path will always be `filepath.Clean`ed and thus not contain any `..` components.

A (trivial) implementation of this function on GNU/Linux systems could be done with the following (note that this requires root privileges and is far more opaque than the implementation in this library, and also requires that `readlink` is inside the `root` path):

```
package securejoin

import (
    "os/exec"
    "path/filepath"
)

func SecureJoin(root, unsafePath string) (string, error) {
    unsafePath = string(filepath.Separator) + unsafePath
```

```
cmd := exec.Command("chroot", root,
    "readlink", "--canonicalize-missing", "--no-newline", unsafePath)
output, err := cmd.CombinedOutput()
if err != nil {
    return "", err
}
expanded := string(output)
return filepath.Join(root, expanded), nil
}
```

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