

A Decentralized Model for Information Flow Control

Andrew C. Myers and Barbara Liskov, 1997

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Introduction

Decentralized Label Model

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Christensen

1

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

The result of this paper is a model for controlling information flow: **Decentralized Label Model (DLM)**.

13



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

13



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

- Access Control (inter-application communication)



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label
Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

- ▶ Access Control (inter-application communication)
- ▶ Authentication, Authorization, Confidentiality, etc.



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

- ▶ Access Control (inter-application communication)
- ▶ Authentication, Authorization, Confidentiality, etc.

This means that DLM will **not** ensure:

13



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

- ▶ Access Control (inter-application communication)
- ▶ Authentication, Authorization, Confidentiality, etc.

This means that DLM will **not** ensure:

- ▶ secure communication between applications



Introduction

What it is not

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

2

It is not:

- ▶ Access Control (inter-application communication)
- ▶ Authentication, Authorization, Confidentiality, etc.

This means that DLM will **not** ensure:

- ▶ secure communication between applications
- ▶ limited access to data once released



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

13



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label
Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

► Information Flow Control



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

- ▶ Information Flow Control
- ▶ Decentralized



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjær
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

- ▶ Information Flow Control
- ▶ Decentralized

This means that DLM will help ensuring:



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

- ▶ Information Flow Control
- ▶ Decentralized

This means that DLM will help ensuring:

- ▶ not releasing sensitive data

13



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjær
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

- ▶ Information Flow Control
- ▶ Decentralized

This means that DLM will help ensuring:

- ▶ not releasing sensitive data
- ▶ not implicitly releasing sensitive data



Introduction

What it is

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

3

It is:

- ▶ Information Flow Control
- ▶ Decentralized

This means that DLM will help ensuring:

- ▶ not releasing sensitive data
- ▶ not implicitly releasing sensitive data
- ▶ not giving away hints of inner workings



Introduction

How it differs

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

4

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

DLM differs from previous solutions as it is:



Introduction

How it differs

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

4

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

DLM differs from previous solutions as it is:

- decentralized



Introduction

How it differs

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

4

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

DLM differs from previous solutions as it is:

- ▶ decentralized
- ▶ less restrictive of allowed computations



Introduction

How it differs

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

4

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

DLM differs from previous solutions as it is:

- ▶ decentralized
- ▶ less restrictive of allowed computations
- ▶ not completely disallowing inter-application communication



DLM Basics

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

5



DLM Basics

Terminology

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.

6



DLM Basics

Terminology

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.
Values are entities computations can manipulate.

6

13



DLM Basics

Terminology

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.

Values are entities computations can manipulate.

Slots are value-holders (e.g. variables, objects, and other storage locations).

6

13



DLM Basics

Terminology

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

6

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.

Values are entities computations can manipulate.

Slots are value-holders (e.g. variables, objects, and other storage locations).

Input channels are read-only sources that allow information to enter the system.



DLM Basics

Terminology

Decentralized Label
Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not

What it is

How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

6

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.

Values are entities computations can manipulate.

Slots are value-holders (e.g. variables, objects, and other storage locations).

Input channels are read-only sources that allow information to enter the system.

Output channels are information sinks that transmit information outside the system.

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkjaer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

6

Principals represent users and other authoritative entities.

Values are entities computations can manipulate.

Slots are value-holders (e.g. variables, objects, and other storage locations).

Input channels are read-only sources that allow information to enter the system.

Output channels are information sinks that transmit information outside the system.

Labels are attached to values, slots or channels (more to follow).

13



DLM Basics

Labels

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology

Labels

Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

7



DLM Basics

Operations

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels

Operations

8

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works



Example

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

9

13



Example

Code Example

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

10

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

13



Advanced

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

11

13



Conclusion

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

12

13



Conclusion

Future Works

Decentralized Label Model

Mikael Elkizer
Christensen

Introduction

What it is not
What it is
How it differs

DLM Basics

Terminology
Labels
Operations

Example

Code Example

Advanced

Conclusion

Future Works

13

13

Questions?



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