



Authentication and Authorization

Moshe Kravchik
Credits: Mark Stamp

<https://flic.kr/p/8xzAnc>

1

Agenda

- Authentication vs Authorization
- Access Control
- Mandatory and discretionary AC
- Multilevel security



<https://flic.kr/p/6keSjR>



2

Authentication

- Who are you? (Prove it!)
- Hard for others to fake
- Basis for deciding what you're allowed



3

Authorization

- What are you allowed to do?
- Allow access to Alice
- Prohibit access to everyone else
- Allow access to Alice only to what she needs
- AKA Access control



4

Security policy

- Rules and guidelines for information security in organization
 - Least Privilege principle
 - [Separation of Duties](#)
 - Auditing
 - Accountability



<https://flic.kr/p/6zzNyg>

5

Access Control basics

- Is access control good or bad?
 - [Stallman breaking into professor's office](#)
- **Subject** – a user, a process
- **Object** – a file, database record, a process
- Types of
 - Read, write, execute
 - All are independent



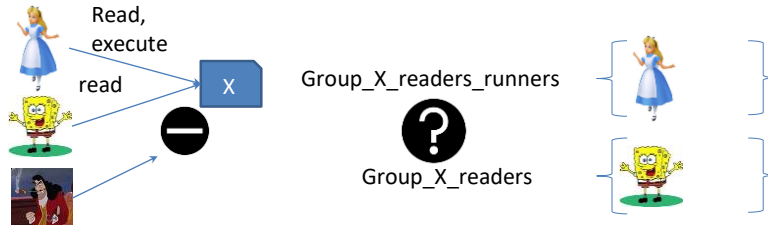
6

Access control example

- Unix :
 - Read, write, execute
 - All, Group, Owner

```
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 26156 Nov 20 2012 sleep
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 71412 Apr 10 2012 ss
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 7 Nov 16 2012 static-sh -> busybox
```

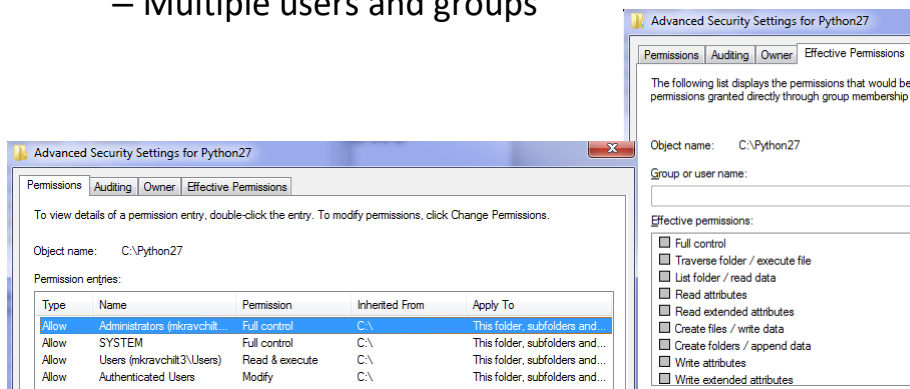
Not owners



7

Access rights on Windows

- Windows :
 - Standard and Specific
 - Multiple users and groups



8

Access matrix (Lampson)

- **Subjects** (users) index the rows
- **Objects** (resources) index the columns

	OS	Accounting program	Accounting data	Insurance data	Payroll data
Bob	rx	rx	r	---	---
Alice	rx	rx	r	rw	rw
Sam	rwX	rwX	r	rw	rw
Accounting program	rx	rx	rw	rw	rw

9

ACL – Access Control List

- ACL: store access control matrix by **column**
- Example: ACL for **insurance data** is in **blue**
- Can contains defaults for other users, groups

	OS	Accounting program	Accounting data	Insurance data	Payroll data
Bob	rx	rx	r	---	---
Alice	rx	rx	r	rw	rw
Sam	rwX	rwX	r	rw	rw
Accounting program	rx	rx	rw	rw	rw

10

Capabilities

- Store access control matrix by **row**
- Example: Capability for **Alice** is in red
- Can be passed in runtime between subjects

	OS	Accounting program	Accounting data	Insurance data	Payroll data
Bob	rx	rx	r	---	---
Alice	rx	rx	r	rw	rw
Sam	rwX	rwX	r	rw	rw
Accounting program	rx	rx	rw	rw	rw

11

ACLs vs Capabilities

- ACLs
 - Stored with the object, simple
 - Good when users manage their own files
 - Easy to determine & change rights to a resource
- Capabilities
 - Easy to delegate
 - Easy to add/delete users (opposite of ACL)
 - More difficult to implement (security of tickets)

12

Role Based Access Control

- Access is given to Roles, not users
- A user can have multiple roles
 - A subset is active during a **session**
- Simplifies access management
 - Easy to change user's role
 - Easy to add new rights to the role
- Follows known security principles
 - Least privilege
 - Separation of duties

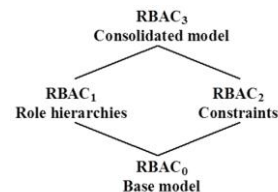


<https://flic.kr/p/6jwq7>

13

RBAC models

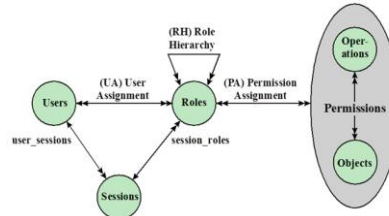
- $RBAC_0$ – user can act in different Roles using Sessions
- $RBAC_1$ – hierarchy or Roles.
 - An accounting manager has all permissions of an accountant
- $RBAC_2$ Constraints on Roles
 - A person who gives the loan can't approve it
- $RBAC_3$ – Constraints on hierarchies



14

RBAC advantages

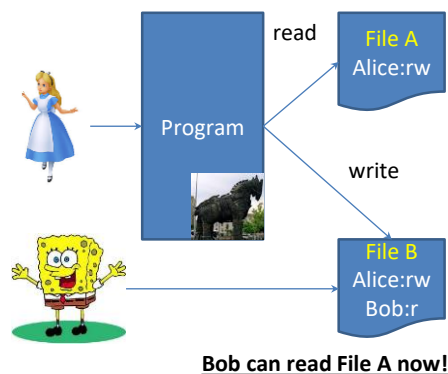
- Reflects organizational structure
 - Assigns permissions to Roles, not users
- Allows defining domain specific permissions
 - Debit/Credit for banking system
- User can use only some of permissions
- Hierarchy of roles – efficient administration



15

Information flow problem

- Bob can't read A
 - But can read B
- Alice can read A and write to B
- Alice or Trojan infecting Alice's program leaks A to Bob!
- Hard to solve with ACLs and capabilities



16

Security Models

- Theoretical models formalizing access control
- Many of them rooted in military systems
- US DoD levels of classifications:
 - Top Secret, Secret, Confidential, Unclassified
- Practical classification problems
 - Proper classification not always clear
 - Level of granularity to apply classifications



<https://flic.kr/p/8xzAnc>

17

Mandatory and discretionary policy

- Multilevel security models (MLS) are an example of **mandatory** protection (**MAC**)
- Mandatory protection – enforced in a way that users can't change or violate it
- In order to get access to Top Secret document the user must have Top Secret clearance (and gets access to all Top Secret docs)



<https://flic.kr/p/e7ULKC>

18

Mandatory and Discretionary Access Control

- **Discretionary** – the users decide which protection to apply to objects (**DAC**)
- Modern OSES are discretionary, with some examples of mandatory policy
- In discretionary systems access is defined based on **Need-To-Know** principle
- SELinux and Integrity in Windows

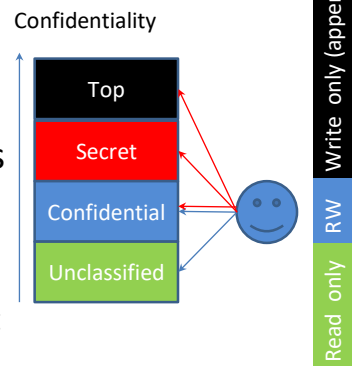


<https://flic.kr/p/nrwgpV>

19

Bell LaPadula

- The most famous security model
- Defines minimal requirements that MLS must satisfy
- Every object and subject has security level
 - Unclassified, Secret, Top Secret
- Simple Security – No read up
- *-Property – No Write Down
- ds-property – DAC constrained by MAC



20

Bell LaPadula

- Very simple, solves information flow
- Not practical, administrator will try to declassify documents
- Provable, but not realistic
- Inspired other models
- **High Water Mark** property – the actual process level is equal to the highest document it read

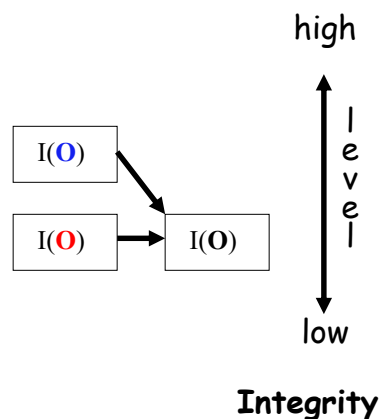


<https://flic.kr/p/4fWUk>

21

Biba's Model

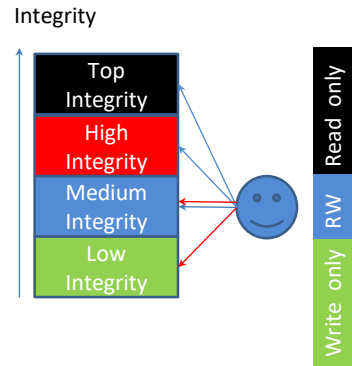
- BLP for confidentiality, Biba for **integrity**
 - Biba is to prevent unauthorized **writing**
 - Not reading low integrity data
- Integrity model
 - Suppose you trust the integrity of **O** but not **O**
 - If object **O** includes **O** and **O** then you cannot trust the integrity of **O**
 - Integrity level of **O** is minimum of the integrity of any object in **O**



22

Biba's Model

- $I(O)$ - the integrity of object O , $I(S)$ - the integrity of subject S
 - Simple Integrity:** S can write O if and only if $I(O) \leq I(S)$
 - Integrity confinement:** S can read O if and only if $I(S) \leq I(O)$
 - Low Water Mark Policy:** If S reads O , then $I(S) = \min(I(S), I(O))$
- BLP ignores integrity, Biba - confidentiality



23

Compartments

- Multilevel Security (MLS) enforces access control **up and down**
- Simple hierarchy of security labels is generally *not* flexible enough
- Compartments enforces restrictions **across**
- Suppose **TOP SECRET** divided into **TOP SECRET {Administration}** and **TOP SECRET {Intelligence}**
- Both are **TOP SECRET** but information flow restricted across the **TOP SECRET** level

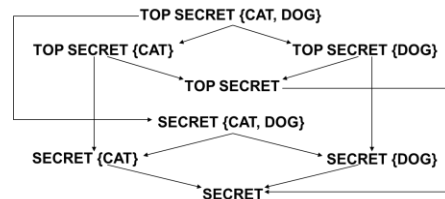


<https://flic.kr/p/8E7pP>

24

Compartments

- Why compartments?
 - Why not create a new classification level?
- May not want either of
 - $\text{TOP SECRET \{Admin\}} \geq \text{TOP SECRET \{Intelligence\}}$
 - $\text{TOP SECRET \{Intelligence\}} \geq \text{TOP SECRET \{Intelligence\}}$
- Compartments designed to enforce the **need to know** principle
 - Regardless of clearance, you only have access to info that you need to know to do your job



25

SEAndroid/SELinux



- Based on SELinux by NSA, enforced in 5.0
- Mandatory Access Control policy enforced by kernel
- Each processes gets a label

Label	u0_a11	2677	58	com.android.sharedstoragebackup
u:r:platform_app:s0	root	5418	67	/system/bin/sh
u:r:kernel:s0	root	6179	2	kworker/0:0
u:r:untrusted_app:s0	u0_a69	13821	58	com.appsec.hackmepal
u:r:kernel:s0	root	13843	2	flush-31:1

- Each resource gets a context
- | | File Context | File Name |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| drwxrwx--x system system | u:object_r:dalvikcache_data_file:s0 | dalvik-cache |
| drwxrwx--x system system | u:object_r:system_data_file:s0 | data |
| drwxr-x-- root log | u:object_r:system_data_file:s0 | dontpanic |
| drwxrwx--- drn drn | u:object_r:drm_data_file:s0 | drm |

- Policy matches between them

```

# Some apps ship with shared libraries and binaries that they write out
# to their sandbox directory and then execute.
allow untrusted_app app_data_file:file { rx_file_perms execmod };

```

26



Questions?

<https://flic.kr/p/pqijNt>

27

Terms learnt

- Authentication vs Authorization
- Least Privilege, Separation of Duties
- Subject & Object
- ACL & Capabilities
- DAC, MAC and RBAC
- Multi Level Security
- Bell LaPadula
- Biba
- Compartments
- Need to know



28

28