

# Advanced Linux stuff



Zack Orndorff  
Previous edition: Chris and Zack



# Agenda

- Linux Permissions review + advanced - I can't let you do that Dave
- Symlinks!
- Pipes! (with cool examples!)
- System Administration 101



# CSAW Update

We finished 10th in the Undergraduate / North America bracket

That qualifies us for the North American finals at NYU Tandon in New York

Thanks to those of you that helped out, and hope to see the rest of you playing next year!



# Linux Perms (review)

read = 4  
write = 2  
execute = 1

d = directory  
l = symlink  
b = block device  
c = character device

---

```
:)-22:18-zack@sperfari:56551:0:~/ctf/linux_talk
$ ls -l
total 28K
drwxr-xr-x 2 zack zack 4.0K Sep 12 22:13 a_directory/
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack zack 0 Sep 12 22:17 afile
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack zack 3 Sep 12 22:17 bfile
crw-r--r-- 1 root root 1, 3 Sep 12 22:15 devicefile
brw-r--r-- 1 root root 1, 3 Sep 12 22:15 devicefile2
-rwxr-xr-x 1 zack zack 8.5K Sep 12 22:16 hello*
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack zack 64 Sep 12 22:16 hello.c
drwxr-xr-x 2 zack zack 4.0K Sep 12 22:18 other_files/
lrwxrwxrwx 1 zack zack 11 Sep 12 22:13 some_symlink -> a_directory/
```

# SUID/SGID

```
~) -22:25-zack@sperfari:56602:0:~/ctf/linux_talk/other_files
```

```
$ ls -l
total 44K
-rwsr-sr-x 1 zack zack 8.5K Sep 12 22:17 hello_crazy*
-rwxr-sr-x 1 zack zack 8.5K Sep 12 22:17 hello_sgid*
-rwsr-xr-x 1 zack zack 8.5K Sep 12 22:16 hello_suid*
drwxr-sr-x 2 zack adm 4.0K Sep 12 22:22 somedir/
drwxrwxrwt 2 pair pair 4.0K Sep 12 22:25 someother/
```

```
~) -22:25-zack@sperfari:56603:0:~/ctf/linux_talk/other_files
```

```
$ ls -l somedir
total 0
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack adm 0 Sep 12 22:22 afile
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack adm 0 Sep 12 22:22 bfile
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack adm 0 Sep 12 22:22 cfile
-rw-r--r-- 1 zack adm 0 Sep 12 22:22 dfile
```

```
~) -22:25-zack@sperfari:56604:0:~/ctf/linux_talk/other_files
```

```
$ ls -l someother
total 0
-rw-r--r-- 1 junk junk 0 Sep 12 22:25 afile
```

```
~) -22:25-zack@sperfari:56605:0:~/ctf/linux_talk/other_files
```

```
$ rm someother/afile
rm: remove write-protected regular empty file 'someother/afile'? y
rm: cannot remove 'someother/afile': Operation not permitted
```

There are 3 more permission bits

setuid (4)

setgid (2)

Sticky bit (1)

Files:

- setuid/setgid mean the file runs as owning user/group
- Sticky bit is useless

Directories:

- setuid is useless
- setgid means that new files are owned by that group
- Sticky bit means only owner can create files

So you can set a file suid with:

```
chmod 4755 /usr/local/bin/suidfile
```



# setcap

The Linux kernel has a concept of “capabilities”. Idea is to split **root** up into pieces so a process can have just part of the privs.

Unfortunately, most of them are equivalent to full root

But they're useful in a few cases, such as ping, which needs to send ICMP packets

```
zack@zack:~$ ls -l | grep ping
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 60K Nov 10 2016 ping*
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 4 Nov 10 2016 ping4 -> ping*
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 4 Nov 10 2016 ping6 -> ping*
```

```
zack@zack:~$ getcap ping
ping = cap_net_raw+ep
```

CAP\_AUDIT\_CONTROL  
CAP\_AUDIT\_READ  
CAP\_AUDIT\_WRITE  
CAP\_BLOCK\_SUSPEND  
CAP\_CHOWN  
CAP\_DAC\_OVERRIDE  
CAP\_IPC\_LOCK  
CAP\_IPC\_OWNER  
CAP\_KILL  
CAP\_LEASE  
CAP\_LINUX\_IMMUTABLE  
CAP\_MKNOD  
CAP\_NET\_ADMIN  
CAP\_NET\_BIND\_SERVICE  
CAP\_NET\_RAW  
CAP\_SETGID  
CAP\_SETFCAP  
CAP\_SETPCAP  
CAP\_SETUID  
CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN  
... and more



# Linux attributes

These are Linux specific, not to be confused with POSIX extended attributes

Change them with `chattr`, see them with `lsattr`

Most are useless, the two important ones are immutable and appendonly

Immutable makes the file unchangable, even for root!

Appendonly makes it so you can only append stuff to the file, again, even for root!

```
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# echo "hello" >> myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# chmod 000 myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# ls -l
total 4
----- 1 root root 6 Sep 12 23:23 myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# echo "goodbye" >> myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# cat myfile
hello
goodbye
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# chattr +i myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# echo "nope" >> myfile
-bash: myfile: Operation not permitted
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# lsattr myfile
----i-----e---- myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# cat myfile
hello
goodbye
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# chattr -i myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# echo "yes" >> myfile
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk# cat myfile
hello
goodbye
yes
root@sperfari:~/linux_talk#
```



# Symbolic Links (Symlinks)

Symlinks are literally my favorite filesystem feature

Basically a reference to another file. Inherits permission, content, etc from the file it points to.

Created with the `ln` command (`ln -s /path/to/file /path/to/link`)

Can't remember the order? It's like `cp`

Since it has the same permissions as the file it points to but a different name, it can help you bypass a blacklist or whitelist in a SUID program. (hint for wargame)

Also, if you have a program that expects a file in a certain location, but you want it somewhere else, symlinks help with that

Think "Portal"





# Pipes! | | | | |

Pipes sends the output of one program to another program. Pipes can be chained together to form pipelines, which can do some pretty powerful stuff.

Common pipe recipients:

grep - search input for some pattern

cut - extract text from input based on some delimiters

tail/head - Get only the last few/first few lines of the input

sed - text processing tool, generally useful for substituting things

awk - another text processing tool, has a bit of a learning curve



# Pipe demos

Find top 10 commands

```
cat .bash_history | grep -v "^#" | sed "s/sudo //" | sed -E "s/^\s+//" | cut -f 1 -d " " | sort | uniq -c |  
sort -nr | head -40
```

Defcon CTF Qualifiers 2017: crackme2000 solutions

```
objdump -M intel -d $1 | grep "cmp" | grep "rdi,0x" | cut -d"," -f2 | xxd -r -p
```

```
objdump -M intel -d $1 | grep -1 "e.x,BYTE PTR \[rax" | grep cmp | grep -v "eax" | grep -v  
"al" | cut -d"," -f2 | xxd -r -p
```

Fork bombs!

```
:(){:|:& }::
```