

Kernel module loading

- `sudo insmod /path/of/module`
- Internally calls `init_module()` syscall that invokes syscall implementation `sys_init_module()`,
- It does following things:
 - Check if user has enough permission (`CAP_SYS_MODULE`).
 - Invokes `load_module()` kernel API. It does following:
 - Loads module binary into kernel space in a temp memory.
 - Create struct module for this module and initialize its members.
 - Check version magic number of module against current kernel.
 - Replace relocatable address in module binary by the absolute address in temp memory.
 - Module params are copied from user space to kernel space.
 - Module state is changed to `MODULE_STATE_COMING`.
 - Actual location in kernel memory is allocated to copy code & data.
 - Unresolved symbols are resolved from kernel symbol table.
 - Pointer to struct module is returns.
 - Returned module struct is added into kernel module linked list.
 - Module initialization function is called i.e. `module->init` function pointer.
 - Release module initialization data.
 - Module state is changed to `MODULE_STATE_LIVE`

Kernel module unloading

- `sudo rmmod module_name`
 - Internally calls `delete_module()` syscall that invokes syscall implementation `sys_delete_module()`.
 - It does following things:
 - Check if current user has enough permissions (`CAP_SYS_MODULE`).
 - Check if module is in use (using member `source_list`).
 - Check if module is already loaded or not i.e. state is `MODULE_STATE_LIVE`.
 - Update state of module to `MODULE_STATE_GOING` and call cleanup function i.e. `module->exit` func pointer.
 - Invoke kernel API `free_module()` is called. It does following:
 - Remove all kernel module references.
 - Perform arch specific cleanup (if any).
 - Unloads module from kernel i.e. release its memory.
 - Frees memory used by the module parameters.