Completeness-Security Gap in LSM-based provenance capture mechanisms

Aarti Kashyap

Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada
kaarti.sr@gmail.com

Abstract—Information flow control at the Operating system level has been an active area of interest for a long time. Using information flow control techniques we can describe how data came to be in its present form by gathering metadata that describes the history of each object being processed on the system. This is called as data provenance. Data provenance has many uses, from forensics and security to aiding the reproducibility of scientific experiments. The existing implementations for Linux are based on the Linux Security Modules (LSM) framework which implements hooks at specific points to control operations on kernel objects and a set of opaque security fields in kernel data structures for maintaining security attributes. However, while past work on verification of LSMs addressed the reliability of information flow control system built on LSMs, no one has addressed the security of information flow control system built on LSMs. In this work, we show that the current LSM interface captures all security-related flows in the kernel. Next, given the provenance captured at these points, we explore if the security violation shows up as an anomaly in the provenance graph.

Index Terms—component, formatting, style, styling, insert

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An excellent style manual for science writers is [7].

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