

# Linux Systems Troubleshooting

Thomas Uphill

[thomas@uphillian.com](mailto:thomas@uphillian.com)

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Me

Thomas Uphill

Author

Books

Mastering Puppet  
Second Edition

Puppet Cookbook - Third E...

DevOps: Puppet, Docker, and Kubernetes Learning Path

Troubleshooting Puppet

Puppet 5 Cookbook

[View 1+ more](#)

[Feedback](#)

consulting@uphillian.com

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Resources

<https://github.com/uphillian/lisa2019>

<https://github.com/uphillian/troubleshootinglinux>  
tutorial.md



# A story



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# DB

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



DB  $\Rightarrow$

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# DB $\Rightarrow$ gethostname

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



Backup

DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



Backup  $\Rightarrow$

DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



Backup  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname

DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



Backup  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname

Backup  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname

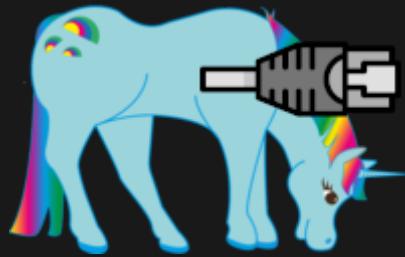


DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname

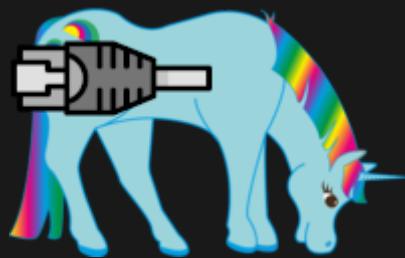


Backup  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname

DB  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



Backup  $\Rightarrow$  gethostname



# Where to start?

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# ltrace

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# ltrace

## Why?

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# ltrace

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# ltrace

Because UNIX is old

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>







<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>





# Love Ken

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>





Love Ken

KISS

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>

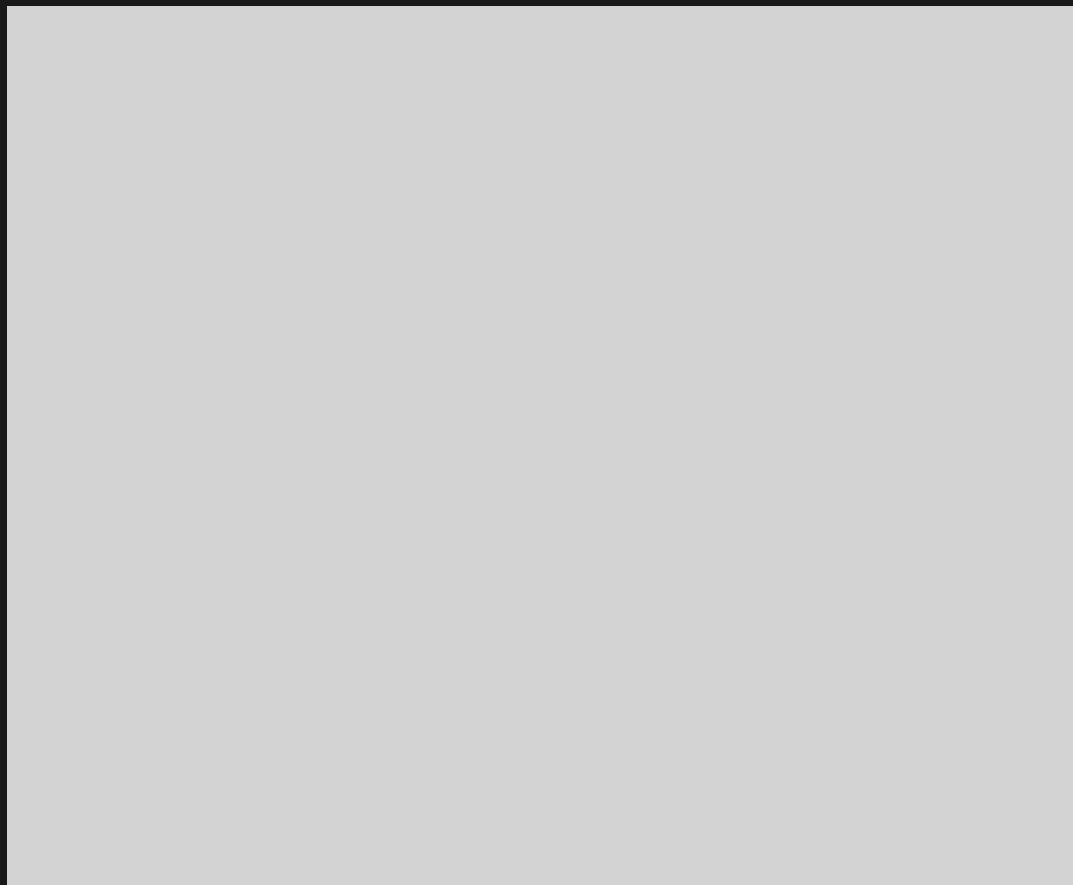


# How it all works

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Kernel



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



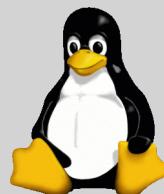
# Kernel



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Kernel



hardware

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



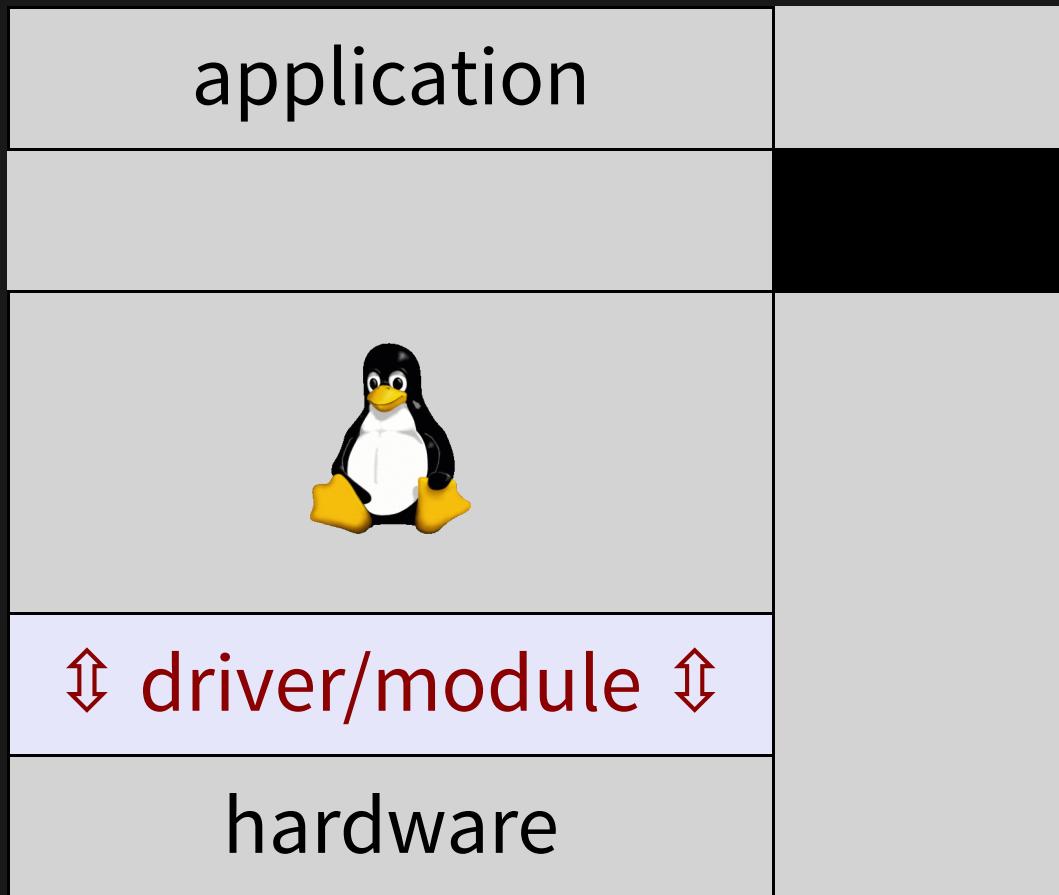
# Kernel



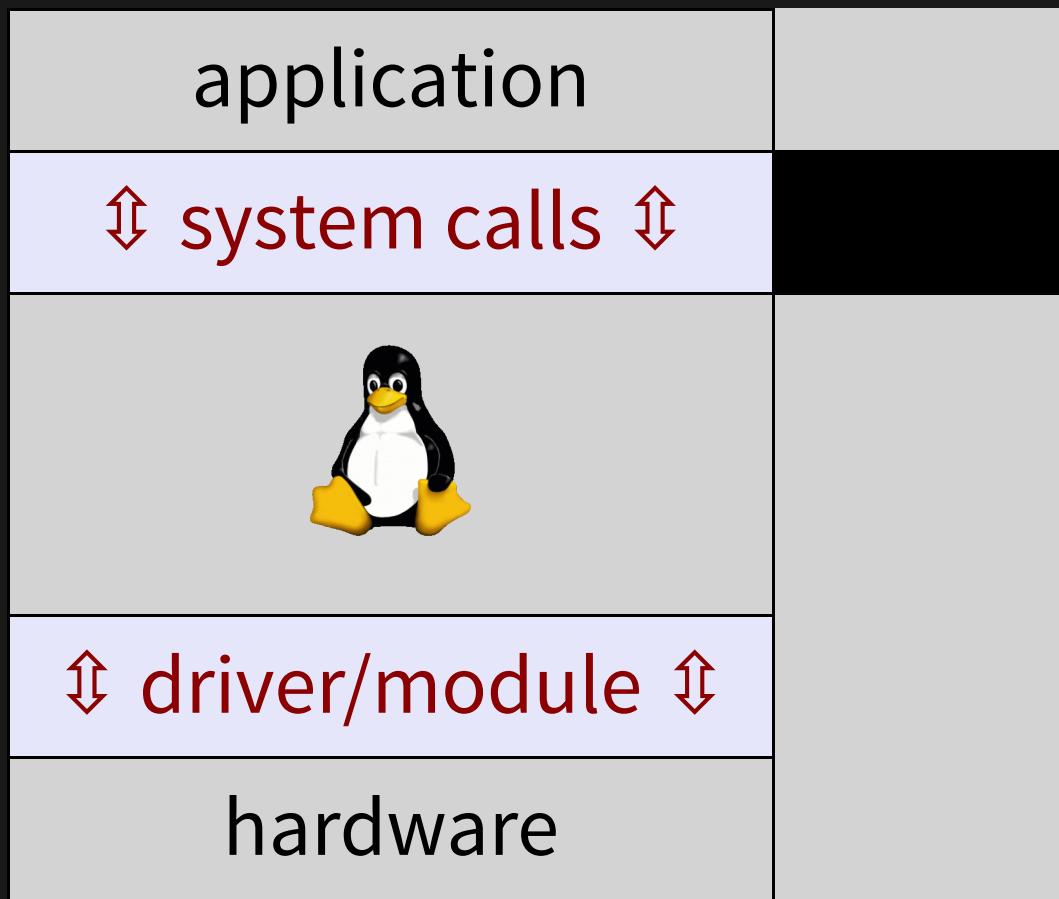
↔ driver/module ↔

hardware

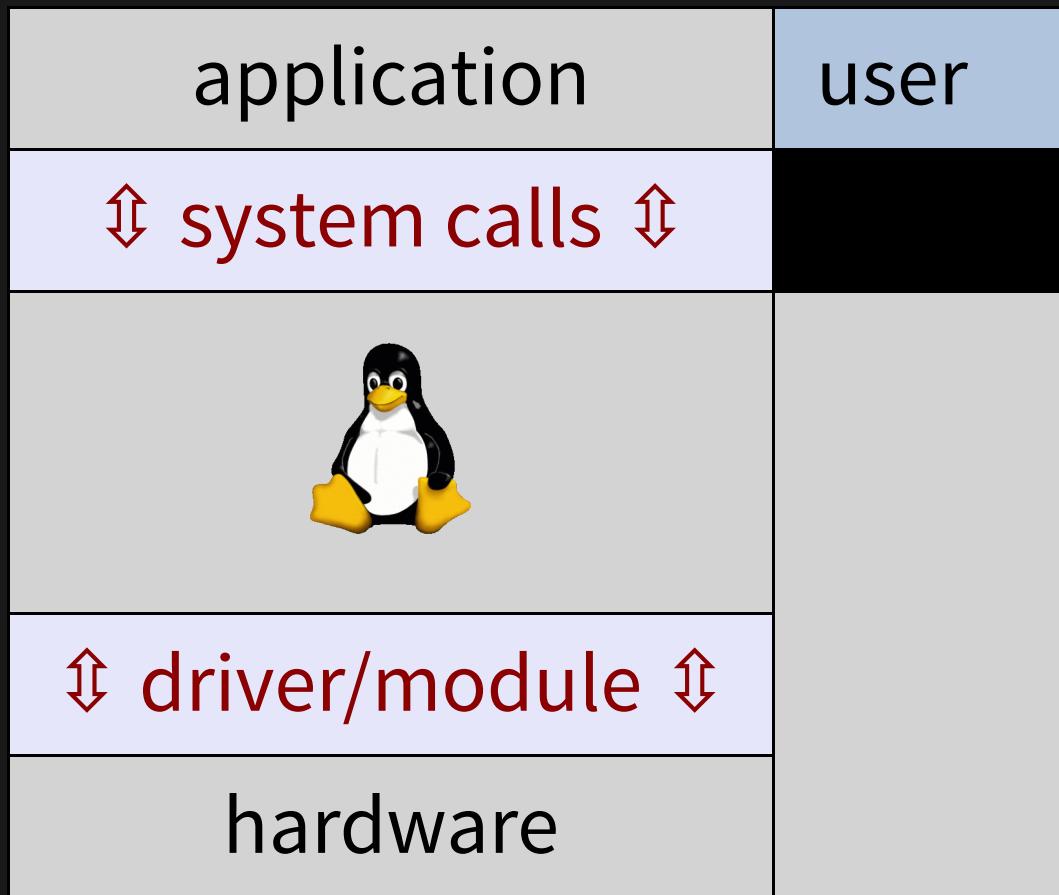
# Kernel



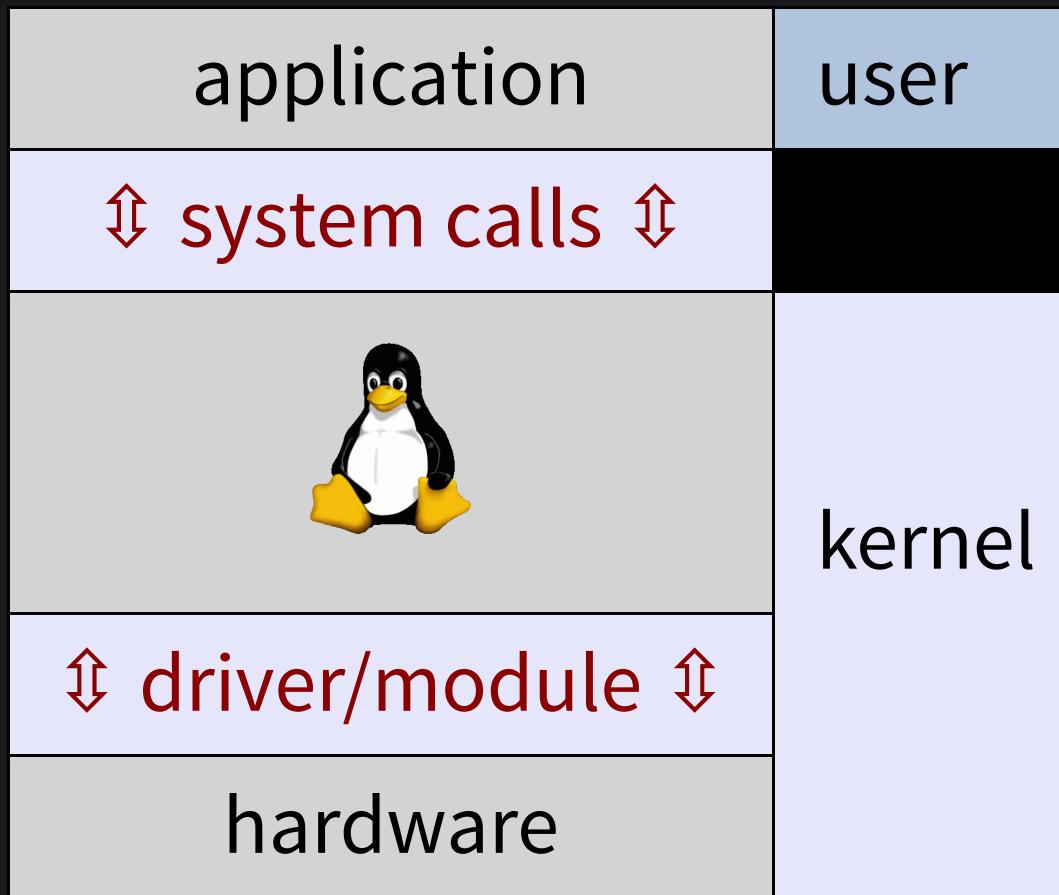
# Kernel



# Kernel



# Kernel



# System Calls

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Documentation

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Documentation



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Documentation



man syscalls

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Documentation



man syscalls ⇒

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Shared Libraries

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Shared Libraries

glibc

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Shared Libraries

glibc

libc.so

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Itrace

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Itrace

...finally

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



```
[root@localhost ~]# ltrace hostname
__libc_start_main(0x401230, 1, 0x7ffd4a91dd48, 0x401ea0 <unfinished ...
rindex("hostname", '/') = ni
strcmp("hostname", "domainname") = 4
strcmp("hostname", "ypdomainname") = -1
strcmp("hostname", "nisdomainname") = -6
 getopt_long(1, 0x7ffd4a91dd48, "aAdfbF:h?iIsVy", 0x4028a0, nil) = -1
 __errno_location() = 0x
 malloc(128) = 0x
 gethostname("localhost.localdomain", 128) = 0
 memchr("localhost.localdomain", '\0', 128) = 0x
 puts("localhost.localdomain") = 22
+++ exited (status 0) +++
```

```
[root@localhost ~]# ltrace -S hostname
brk@SYS(nil)
mmap@SYS(nil, 4096, 3, 34, -1, 0)
access@SYS("/etc/ld.so.preload", 04)
open@SYS("/etc/ld.so.cache", 524288, 01)
fstat@SYS(3, 0x7ffcfb5c0830)
mmap@SYS(nil, 22425, 1, 2, 3, 0)
close@SYS(3)
open@SYS("/lib64/libnsl.so.1", 524288, 022033410520)
read@SYS(3, "\177ELF\002\001\001", 832)
fstat@SYS(3, 0x7ffcfb5c0890)
mmap@SYS(nil, 2202232, 5, 2050, 3, 0)
mprotect@SYS(0x7f28902ba000, 2097152, 0)
mmap@SYS(0x7f28904ba000, 8192, 3, 2066, 3, 90112)
mmap@SYS(0x7f28904bc000, 6776, 3, 50, -1, 0)
close@SYS(3)
open@SYS("/lib64/libc.so.6", 524288, 022033410520)
read@SYS(3, "\177ELF\002\001\001\003", 832)
fstat@SYS(3, 0x7ffcfb5c0860)
mmap@SYS(nil, 3981792, 5, 2050, 3, 0)
mprotect@SYS(0x7f2890099000, 2097152, 0)
mmap@SYS(0x7f2890299000, 24576, 3, 2066, 3, 1843200)
mmap@SYS(0x7f289029f000, 16864, 3, 50, -1, 0)
ltrace: error: /lib64/libc.so.6: undefined symbol: __stack_chk_guard
```

```
# file /bin/hostname  
/bin/hostname: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), d
```



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Executable

and

# Linkable

# Format

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Linker

ld.so

/etc/ld.so.conf

/lib64/ld-linux-x86\_64.so.2

man ld.so



```
# ldd /bin/hostname
    linux-vdso.so.1 => (0x00007ffcda7dd000)
    libnsl.so.1 => /lib64/libnsl.so.1 (0x00007f43c4f06000)
    libc.so.6 => /lib64/libc.so.6 (0x00007f43c4b39000)
    /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007f43c5120000)
# objdump -R /bin/hostname

/bin/hostname:      file format elf64-x86-64

DYNAMIC RELOCATION RECORDS
OFFSET          TYPE            VALUE
...
00000000000603140 R_X86_64_JUMP_SLOT  gethostname@GLIBC_2.2.5
# man ld.so
```

man ld.so

LD\_PRELOAD

A list of additional, user-specified, ELF shared libraries  
to be loaded before all others.



# man ld.so

## LD\_DEBUG

```
# LD_DEBUG=help /bin/true
Valid options for the LD_DEBUG environment variable are:

libs          display library search paths
reloc         display relocation processing
files         display progress for input file
...
# LD_DEBUG=versions /bin/true
checking for version `GLIBC_2.3' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
checking for version `GLIBC_2.3.4' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
checking for version `GLIBC_2.14' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
```



# man ld.so

## LD\_DEBUG

```
# LD_DEBUG=help /bin/true
Valid options for the LD_DEBUG environment variable are:

libs          display library search paths
reloc         display relocation processing
files         display progress for input file
...
# LD_DEBUG=versions /bin/true
checking for version `GLIBC_2.3' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
checking for version `GLIBC_2.3.4' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
checking for version `GLIBC_2.14' in file /lib64/libc.so.6 [0]
```



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Terminal

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# You cannot escape



wikipedia.org

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# getip.c

```
#include <netdb.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <netinet/in.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <arpa/inet.h>

int main()
{
    char hostname[256];
    char *IPbuffer;
    struct hostent *hostStruct;
    int h;

    gethostname(hostname, sizeof(hostname));

    hostStruct = gethostbyname(hostname);
```

# gethostname

```
#include <unistd.h>

int gethostname(char *name, size_t len);
```

# gethostname\_wrap.c

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int gethostname (char *name, size_t len) {
    char newname[] = "getip_hostname";
    int name_len = strlen(newname);
    memcpy(name,newname, name_len < len ? name_len : len);
    return 0;
}
```

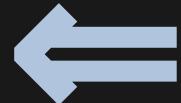
# Solution



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Solution



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



It's a machine, Skroeder.  
It doesn't get pissed off.  
It doesn't get happy,  
it doesn't get sad,  
it doesn't laugh at your jokes.  
It just runs programs.

Short Circuit

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# More background

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Booting process

---

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Booting process

BIOS



# Booting process

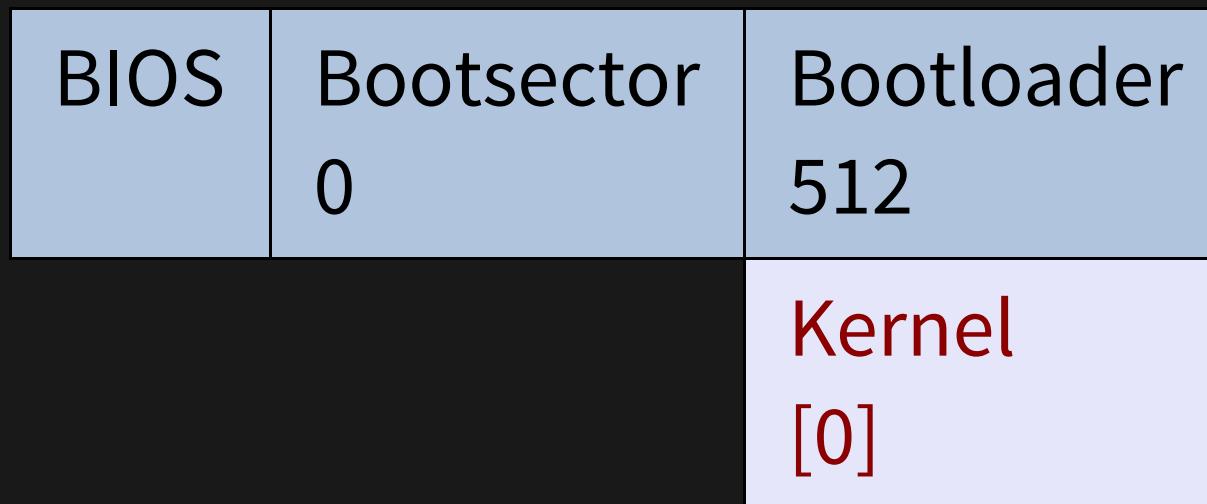


# Booting process

BIOS	Bootsector 0	Bootloader 512
------	-----------------	-------------------



# Booting process



# Booting process

BIOS	Bootsector 0	Bootloader 512	
		Kernel [0]	init 1



# Processes



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>

# Processes

fork

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Processes

fork



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# parent/child

```
$ ps -eo "ppid pid stat cmd" |sort -n |less  
$ psx  
$ psk
```

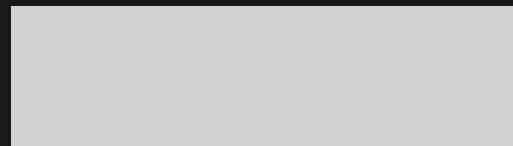


# parent/child

```
$ ps -eo "ppid pid stat cmd" |sort -n |less  
$ psx  
$ psk
```



# fake filesystems

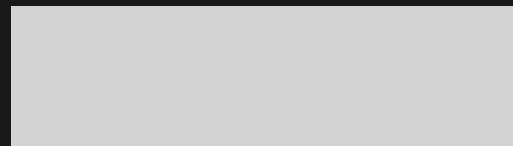


<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# fake filesystems

FAKE  
NEWS



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# fake filesystems

FAKE  
NEWS

/proc

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# fake filesystems

FAKE  
NEWS

/proc	/sys
-------	------

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# fake filesystems

FAKE  
NEWS

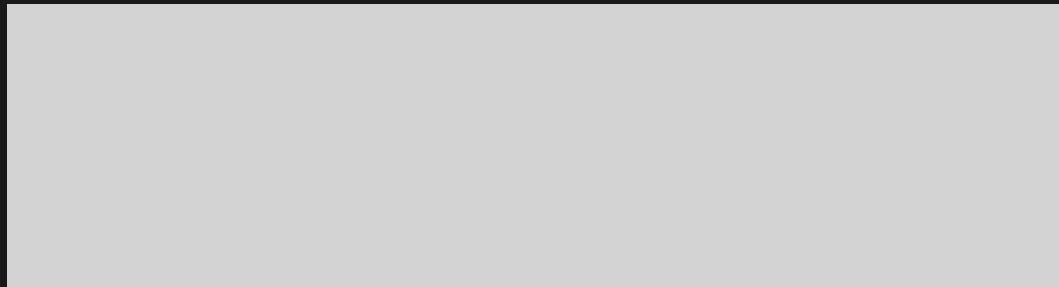
/proc		/sys
-------	--	------



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# File Descriptors



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# File Descriptors

STDIN

0



# File Descriptors

STDIN	STDOUT	
0	1	



# File Descriptors

STDIN	STDOUT	STDERR
0	1	2



# File Descriptors

*everything is a file...*

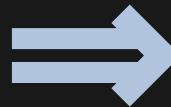
STDIN	STDOUT	STDERR
0	1	2



# File Descriptors

*everything is a file...*

STDIN	STDOUT	STDERR
0	1	2



# Processes

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Processes

fork



# Processes

fork



double fork



# Processes

fork



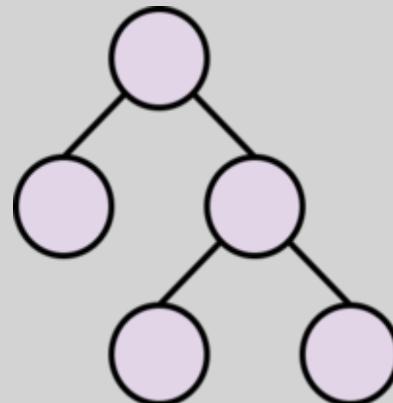
double fork

# Processes

fork



double fork

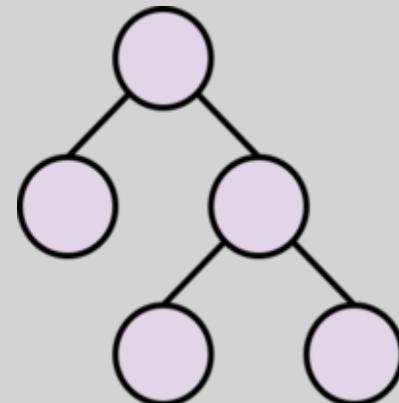


# Processes

fork



double fork



zombie



# fork

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import os
import time

pid = os.fork()
if pid == 0:
    print("Child")
    while True:
        time.sleep(10)
else:
    print("Parent, Child PID: %s" % pid)
    while True:
        time.sleep(10)
```

# doublefork

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import os
import time

pid = os.fork()
if pid == 0:
    pid = os.fork()
    if pid == 0:
        print("I am the Grandchild(%s)\n" % os.getpid())
        while True:
            time.sleep(10)
    else:
        print("I am the Child(%s), Grandchild(%s)\n" % (os.getpid(),pid))
else:
    print("I am the Parent(%s), my Child(%s)\n" % (os.getpid(),pid))
```

# zombie

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import os
import sys
import time
import signal

def sigalrm(signum, frame):
    print("Received %d" % signum)

signal.signal(signal.SIGALRM, sigalrm)
pid = os.fork()
if pid == 0:
    print("Child exiting")
    sys.exit(0)
else:
    print("Parent PID %s, Child PID: %s\nWaiting for Signal" % (os.getp
    signal.pause()
    os.wait()
    print("Zombie is gone\n")
    sys.exit(0)
```



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Threads

```
$ ./thread.py
$ pst thread
PPID  PID STAT CMD                                SPID
4671  6760 - /usr/bin/python ./thread.py      -
-      - Tl  -
$ ls /proc/6760/task
6760  6761  6762  6763  6764  6765  6766  6767  6768  6769  6770
```

# Limits



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# PAM

## Pluggable Authentication Modules

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# PAM

## Pluggable Authentication Modules

man pam

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Terminal

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Another story



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# inodes

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# inodes

```
$ stat /lib64/libc.so.6
File: /lib64/libc.so.6 -> libc-2.29.so
Size: 12 Blocks: 0 IO Block: 4096 symbolic link
Device: fd01h/64769d Inode: 2268443 Links: 1
Access: (0777/lrwrxrwxrwx)Uid:(0/root) Gid:(0/root)
Context: system_u:object_r:lib_t:s0
Access: 2019-10-24 20:01:01.282015177 -0700
Modify: 2019-09-04 12:33:47.000000000 -0700
Change: 2019-09-08 19:57:02.255027798 -0700
Birth: 2019-09-08 19:57:02.254027799 -0700
```



# Unlink

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Unlink

```
# man 2 unlink
```

## DESCRIPTION

unlink() deletes a name from the filesystem. If that name was the last link to a file and no processes have the file open, the file is deleted and the space it was using is made available for reuse.

If the name was the last link to a file but any processes still have the file open, the file will remain in existence until the last file descriptor referring to it is closed.



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>

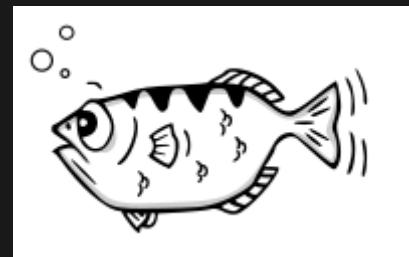


# gdb

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# gdb



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



```
# man open  
SYNOPSIS  
#include <sys/types.h>  
#include <sys/stat.h>  
#include <fcntl.h>
```

... /usr/include/fcntl.h

```
/* Get the definitions of O_*, F_*, FD_*: all the  
numbers and flag bits for `open', `fcntl', et al. */  
#include <bits/fcntl.h>
```

... /usr/include/bits/fcntl.h

```
#define O_RDWR          02  
#ifndef O_CREAT  
# define O_CREAT      0100 /* Not fcntl. */  
#endif
```

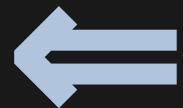


```
# man dup2
int dup2(int oldfd, int newfd);

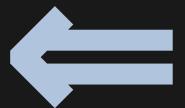
dup2()
```

The `dup2()` system call performs the same task as `dup()`, but instead of using the lowest-numbered unused file descriptor, it uses the file descriptor number specified in `newfd`. If the file descriptor `newfd` was previously open, it is silently closed before being reused.





<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Troubleshooting

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Troubleshooting

...finally

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Have a Plan

- **What is broken?**
  - Did it ever work?
  - How do I know when it's fixed?
- **What are the requirements?**
  - How can I test the requirements?
- **When did it last work?**



# Troubleshooting Steps

- Make a backup
- Read Logs
- Just one thing.



# Troubleshooting Steps

- Make a backup
- Read Logs
- Just one thing.



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



change one  
thing

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



change one  
thing

verify  
status



**change one  
thing**

**verify  
status**

**if unfixed, undo  
change**



**change one  
thing**

**verify  
status**

**if unfixed, undo  
change**

**repeat**

# Trace

- ltrace
- man <call>
- SEE ALSO



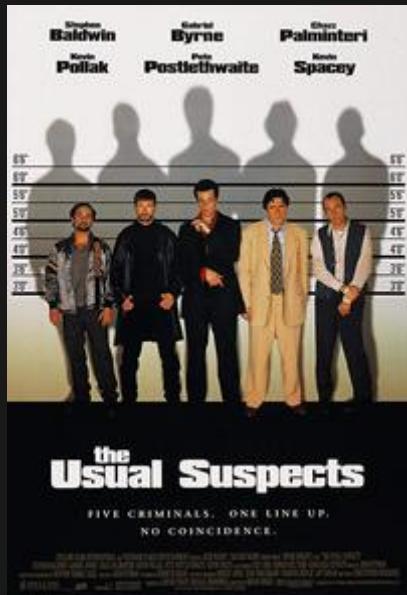
# Trace

- ltrace
- man <call>
- SEE ALSO
- ...keep reading



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>





imdb.com

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



- Processes

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



- Processes
- Users/Groups



- Processes
- Users/Groups
- Permissions



- Processes
- Users/Groups
- Permissions

runuser



- Processes
- Users/Groups
- Permissions
  - runuser
- Space



- Processes
- Users/Groups
- Permissions
  - runuser
- Space
- NSS



- Processes
- Users/Groups
- Permissions
  - runuser
- Space
- NSS
- Network



# Always check permissions

## runuser



# Please check permissions

Hokey religions and ancient weapons  
are no match for



# Please check permissions

Hokey religions and ancient weapons  
are no match for

# BASIC UNIX PERMISSIONS



# runuser

```
# cat /var/www/html/index.html
Hello World!
# runuser apache -s /bin/bash -c 'cat /var/www/html/index.html'
cat: /var/www/html/index.html: Permission denied
```



# Networking

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Networking



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# nss

## name service switch

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# nss

## name service switch

/etc/hosts

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# nss

## name service switch

**/etc/hosts**

**/etc/nsswitch.conf**



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



```
hosts:  files mdns4_minimal [NOTFOUND=return] dns myhostname
```



```
hosts:  files mdns4_minimal [NOTFOUND=return] dns myhostname
```

```
passwd: db sss files systemd
```



$\Leftarrow \Leftarrow$

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk> 

```
# ltrace tar cf lisa2019:f.tar /etc/hosts 2>&1 |grep gethost  
gethostbyname("lisa2019" <unfinished ...="">  
    </unfinished>
```



```
# ltrace tar cf lisa2019:f.tar /etc/hosts 2>&1 |grep gethost  
gethostbyname("lisa2019" <unfinished ...="">  
    </unfinished>
```

```
# ltrace -S ping -w1 -c1 lisa2019 2>&1 |grep nss  
open@SYS("/etc/nsswitch.conf", 524288, 0666) = 4  
read@SYS(4, "#\n# /etc/nsswitch.conf\n#\n# An ex...., 4096) =  
open@SYS("/lib64/libnss_files.so.2", 524288, 020165240000) = 4
```



nc



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>

nc



<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



← ← ←

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk> 

tcpdump / wireshark  
mtr / traceroute

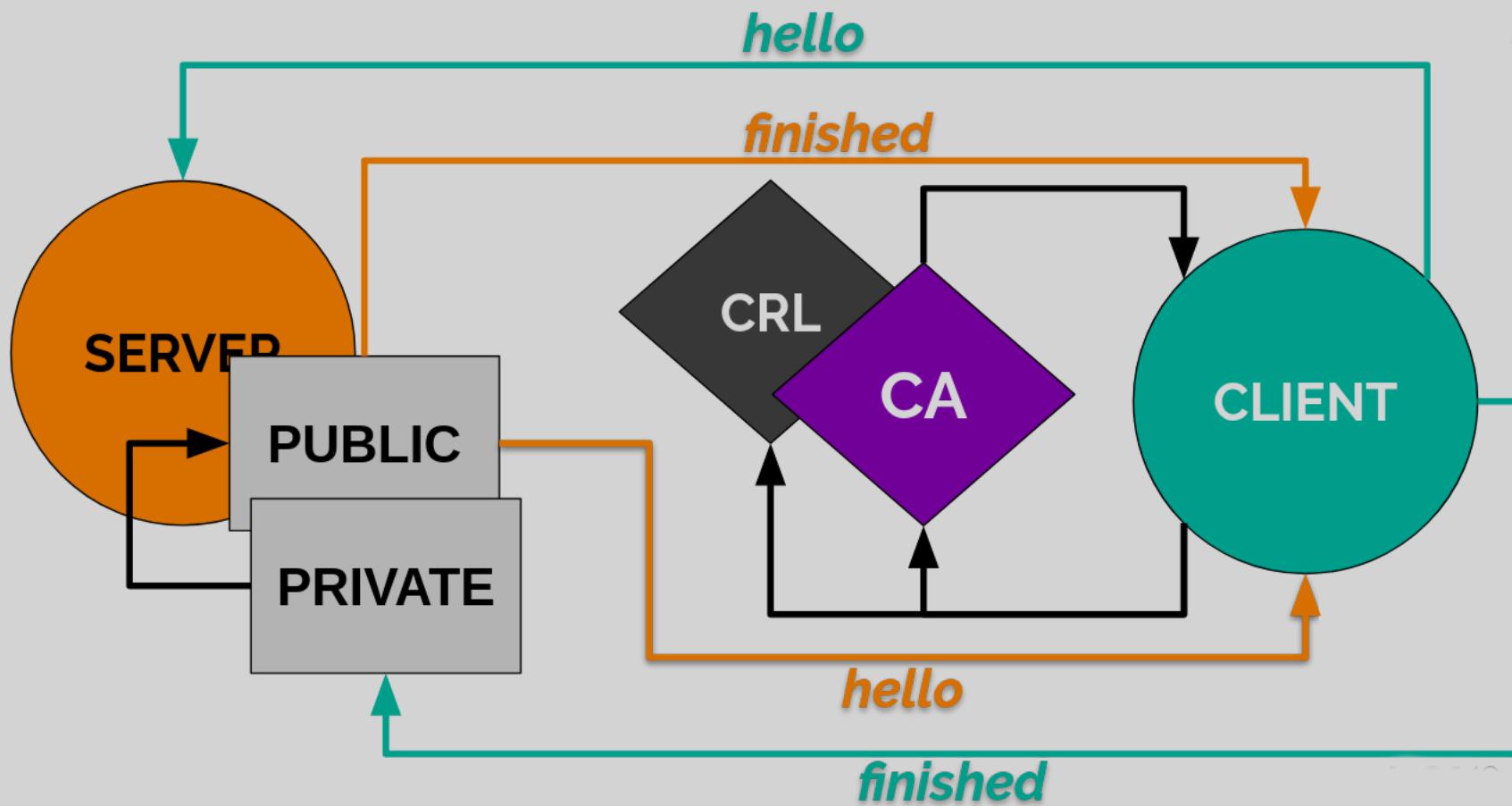


# Encryption / Certificates

x509

large primes





# CA / verify

```
$ openssl verify -CAfile ca.pem getip.example.com.pem  
getip.example.com.pem: OK
```



# CA / verify

```
$ openssl verify -CAfile ca.pem getip.example.com.pem  
getip.example.com.pem: OK
```

```
$ cat ca.pem crl-revoked.pem >ca_crl.pem  
$ openssl verify -CAfile ca_crl.pem -crl_check getip.example.c  
getip.example.com.pem: CN = getip.example.com  
error 11 at 0 depth lookup:CRL is not yet valid  
CN = getip.example.com  
error 23 at 0 depth lookup:certificate revoked
```



```
$ openssl x509 -in getip.example.com.pem -noout -modulus  
Modulus=ACCBE50557F389F778505BD8C147FAD75A91DDA346D6CB4D006496  
...  
$ openssl x509 -in getip.example.com.pem -noout -modulus | sha2  
2688b20c253241e1e291f4cab938d6a1b43a68ac158da47ebba60cfa48e641
```

```
$ openssl x509 -in getip.example.com.pem -noout -modulus  
Modulus=ACCBE50557F389F778505BD8C147FAD75A91DDA346D6CB4D006496  
...  
$ openssl x509 -in getip.example.com.pem -noout -modulus | sha2  
2688b20c253241e1e291f4cab938d6a1b43a68ac158da47ebba60cfa48e641
```

```
$ openssl rsa -in private_keys/getip.example.com.pem -noout  
2688b20c253241e1e291f4cab938d6a1b43a68ac158da47ebba60cfa48e641
```



```
$ gnutls-cli -p <port> <host>
$ openssl s_client <host>:<port>
</port></host></host></port>
```



# Summary

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Summary

Trust no one



# Summary

Trust no one

Check permissions (runuser)



# Summary

Trust no one

Check permissions (runuser)

Read: Logs, Docs



# Summary

Trust no one

Check permissions (runuser)

Read: Logs, Docs

One thing



# Questions?

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Questions?

## Thank-you

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>



# Questions?

Thank-you

[consulting@uphillian.com](mailto:consulting@uphillian.com)



μ

<http://bit.ly/33NpWEk>

