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Subject: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)

Posted by [serue](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2008 14:41:42 GMT

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Implement a cgroup using the LSM interface to enforce open and mknod on device files.

This implements a simple device access whitelist. A whitelist entry has 4 fields. 'type' is a (all), c (char), or b (block). 'all' means it applies to all types, all major numbers, and all minor numbers. Major and minor are obvious. Access is a composition of r (read), w (write), and m (mknod).

The root devcgroup starts with rwm to 'all'. A child devcg gets a copy of the parent. Admins can then add and remove devices to the whitelist. Once CAP\_HOST\_ADMIN is introduced it will be needed to add entries as well or remove entries from another cgroup, though just CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN will suffice to remove entries for your own group.

An entry is added by doing "echo <type> <maj> <min> <access>" > devcg.allow, for instance:

```
echo b 7 0 mrw > /cgroups/1/devcg.allow
```

An entry is removed by doing likewise into devcg.deny. Since this is a pure whitelist, not acls, you can only remove entries which exist in the whitelist. You must explicitly

```
echo a 0 0 mrw > /cgroups/1/devcg.deny
```

to remove the "allow all" entry which is automatically inherited from the root cgroup.

While composing this with the ns\_cgroup may seem logical, it is not the right thing to do, because updates to /cg/cg1/devcg.deny are not reflected in /cg/cg1/cg2/devcg.allow.

A task may only be moved to another devcgroup if it is moving to a direct descendent of its current devcgroup.

CAP\_NS\_OVERRIDE is defined as the capability needed to cross namespaces. A task needs both CAP\_NS\_OVERRIDE and CAP\_SYS\_ADMIN to create a new devcgroup, update a devcgroup's access, or move a task to a new devcgroup.

CONFIG\_COMMONCAP is defined whenever security/commoncap.c should be compiled, so that the decision of whether to show the option for FILE\_CAPABILITIES can be a bit cleaner.

## Changelog:

Mar 13 2008: move the dev\_cgroup support into capability hooks instead of having it as a separate security module.

Support root\_plug with devcg.

Note that due to this change, devcg will not be enforcing if the dummy module is loaded, or if selinux is loaded without capabilities.

Mar 12 2008: allow dev\_cgroup lsm to be used when SECURITY=n, and allow stacking with SELinux and Smack. Don't work too hard in Kconfig to prevent a warning when smack+devcg are both compiled in, worry about that later.

Signed-off-by: Serge E. Hallyn <serue@us.ibm.com>

---

```
include/linux/capability.h | 11 +-
include/linux/cgroup_subsys.h | 6 +
include/linux/devcg.h | 69 ++++++++
include/linux/security.h | 7 +-
init/Kconfig | 7 +
kernel/Makefile | 1 +
kernel/dev_cgroup.c | 411 +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
security/Kconfig | 6 +-
security/Makefile | 12 +-
security/capability.c | 2 +
security/commoncap.c | 13 ++
security/dev_cgroup.c | 83 ++++++++
security/root_plug.c | 2 +
security/smack/smack_lsm.c | 5 +
14 files changed, 624 insertions(+), 11 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 include/linux/devcg.h
create mode 100644 kernel/dev_cgroup.c
create mode 100644 security/dev_cgroup.c
```

```
diff --git a/include/linux/capability.h b/include/linux/capability.h
```

```
index eaab759..f8ecba1 100644
```

```
--- a/include/linux/capability.h
```

```
+++ b/include/linux/capability.h
```

```
@@ -333,7 +333,16 @@ typedef struct kernel_cap_struct {
```

```
#define CAP_MAC_ADMIN 33
```

```
+#define CAP_LAST_CAP CAP_MAC_ADMIN
```

```
+/ * Allow acting on resources in another namespace. In particular:
```

```
+ * 1. when combined with CAP_MKNOD and dev_cgroup is enabled,
```

```

+ *    allow creation of devices not in the device whitelist.
+ *    2. whencombined with CAP_SYS_ADMIN and dev_cgroup is enabled,
+ *    allow editing device cgroup whitelist
+ */
+
+#define CAP_NS_OVERRIDE    34
+
+#define CAP_LAST_CAP      CAP_NS_OVERRIDE

#define cap_valid(x) ((x) >= 0 && (x) <= CAP_LAST_CAP)

diff --git a/include/linux/cgroup_subsys.h b/include/linux/cgroup_subsys.h
index 1ddebfc..01e8034 100644
--- a/include/linux/cgroup_subsys.h
+++ b/include/linux/cgroup_subsys.h
@@ -42,3 +42,9 @@ SUBSYS(mem_cgroup)
#endif

/* */
+
+#ifdef CONFIG_CGROUP_DEV
+SUBSYS(devcg)
+#endif
+
+/* */
diff --git a/include/linux/devcg.h b/include/linux/devcg.h
new file mode 100644
index 0000000..32e9f90
--- /dev/null
+++ b/include/linux/devcg.h
@@ -0,0 +1,69 @@
+#include <linux/module.h>
+#include <linux/cgroup.h>
+#include <linux/fs.h>
+#include <linux/list.h>
+#include <linux/security.h>
+
+#include <asm/uaccess.h>
+
+#define ACC_MKNOD 1
+#define ACC_READ 2
+#define ACC_WRITE 4
+
+#define DEV_BLOCK 1
+#define DEV_CHAR 2
+#define DEV_ALL 4 /* this represents all devices */
+
+#ifdef CONFIG_CGROUP_DEV

```

```

+/*
+ * whitelist locking rules:
+ * cgroup_lock() cannot be taken under cgroup->lock.
+ * cgroup->lock can be taken with or without cgroup_lock().
+ *
+ * modifications always require cgroup_lock
+ * modifications to a list which is visible require the
+ * cgroup->lock *and* cgroup_lock()
+ * walking the list requires cgroup->lock or cgroup_lock().
+ *
+ * reasoning: dev_whitelist_copy() needs to kmalloc, so needs
+ * a mutex, which the cgroup_lock() is. Since modifying
+ * a visible list requires both locks, either lock can be
+ * taken for walking the list. Since the wh->spinlock is taken
+ * for modifying a public-accessible list, the spinlock is
+ * sufficient for just walking the list.
+ */
+
+struct dev_whitelist_item {
+ u32 major, minor;
+ short type;
+ short access;
+ struct list_head list;
+};
+
+struct dev_cgroup {
+ struct cgroup_subsys_state css;
+ struct list_head whitelist;
+ spinlock_t lock;
+};
+
+static inline struct dev_cgroup *cgroup_to_devcg(
+ struct cgroup *cgroup)
+{
+ return container_of(cgroup_subsys_state(cgroup, devcg_subsys_id),
+ struct dev_cgroup, css);
+}
+
+extern struct cgroup_subsys devcg_subsys;
+
+extern int devcgroup_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask,
+ struct nameidata *nd);
+extern int devcgroup_inode_mknod(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry,
+ int mode, dev_t dev);
+#else
+static inline int devcgroup_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask,
+ struct nameidata *nd)
+{ return 0; }

```

```

+static inline int devcgroup_inode_mknod(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry,
+ int mode, dev_t dev)
+{ return 0; }
+#endif
diff --git a/include/linux/security.h b/include/linux/security.h
index 2231526..9d562b6 100644
--- a/include/linux/security.h
+++ b/include/linux/security.h
@@ -57,6 +57,8 @@ extern int cap_inode_setxattr(struct dentry *dentry, char *name, void
*value, si
extern int cap_inode_removexattr(struct dentry *dentry, char *name);
extern int cap_inode_need_killpriv(struct dentry *dentry);
extern int cap_inode_killpriv(struct dentry *dentry);
+extern int cap_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask, struct nameidata *nd);
+extern int cap_inode_mknod(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry, int mode, dev_t dev);
extern int cap_task_post_setuid (uid_t old_ruid, uid_t old_euid, uid_t old_suid, int flags);
extern void cap_task_reparent_to_init (struct task_struct *p);
extern int cap_task_kill(struct task_struct *p, struct siginfo *info, int sig, u32 secid);
@@ -1735,6 +1737,7 @@ int security_secctx_to_secid(char *secdata, u32 seclen, u32 *secid);
void security_release_secctx(char *secdata, u32 seclen);

#else /* CONFIG_SECURITY */
+
struct security_mnt_opts {
};

@@ -2011,7 +2014,7 @@ static inline int security_inode_mknod (struct inode *dir,
struct dentry *dentry,
int mode, dev_t dev)
{
- return 0;
+ return cap_inode_mknod(dir, dentry, mode, dev);
}

static inline int security_inode_rename (struct inode *old_dir,
@@ -2036,7 +2039,7 @@ static inline int security_inode_follow_link (struct dentry *dentry,
static inline int security_inode_permission (struct inode *inode, int mask,
struct nameidata *nd)
{
- return 0;
+ return cap_inode_permission(inode, mask, nd);
}

static inline int security_inode_setattr (struct dentry *dentry,
diff --git a/init/Kconfig b/init/Kconfig
index 009f2d8..05343a2 100644
--- a/init/Kconfig
+++ b/init/Kconfig

```



```

+ if (current != task) {
+ if (!cgroup_is_descendant(new_cgroup))
+ return -EPERM;
+ }
+
+ if (atomic_read(&new_cgroup->count) != 0)
+ return -EPERM;
+
+ orig = task_cgroup(task, devcg_subsys_id);
+ if (orig && orig != new_cgroup->parent)
+ return -EPERM;
+
+ return 0;
+}
+
+/*
+ * called under cgroup_lock()
+ */
+int dev_whitelist_copy(struct list_head *dest, struct list_head *orig)
+{
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh, *tmp, *new;
+
+ list_for_each_entry(wh, orig, list) {
+ new = kmalloc(sizeof(*wh), GFP_KERNEL);
+ if (!new)
+ goto free_and_exit;
+ new->major = wh->major;
+ new->minor = wh->minor;
+ new->type = wh->type;
+ new->access = wh->access;
+ list_add_tail(&new->list, dest);
+ }
+
+ return 0;
+
+free_and_exit:
+ list_for_each_entry_safe(wh, tmp, dest, list) {
+ list_del(&wh->list);
+ kfree(wh);
+ }
+ return -ENOMEM;
+}
+
+/* Stupid prototype - don't bother combining existing entries */
+/*
+ * called under cgroup_lock()
+ * since the list is visible to other tasks, we need the spinlock also
+ */

```

```

+int dev_whitelist_add(struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup,
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh)
+{
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *whcopy;
+
+ whcopy = kmalloc(sizeof(*whcopy), GFP_KERNEL);
+ if (!whcopy)
+ return -ENOMEM;
+
+ memcpy(whcopy, wh, sizeof(*whcopy));
+ spin_lock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ list_add_tail(&whcopy->list, &dev_cgroup->whitelist);
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ return 0;
+}
+
+/*
+ * called under cgroup_lock()
+ * since the list is visible to other tasks, we need the spinlock also
+ */
+void dev_whitelist_rm(struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup,
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh)
+{
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *walk, *tmp;
+
+ spin_lock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ list_for_each_entry_safe(walk, tmp, &dev_cgroup->whitelist, list) {
+ if (walk->type == DEV_ALL)
+ goto remove;
+ if (walk->type != wh->type)
+ continue;
+ if (walk->major != ~0 && walk->major != wh->major)
+ continue;
+ if (walk->minor != ~0 && walk->minor != wh->minor)
+ continue;
+
+remove:
+ walk->access &= ~wh->access;
+ if (!walk->access) {
+ list_del(&walk->list);
+ kfree(walk);
+ }
+ }
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+}
+
+/*
+ * Rules: you can only create a cgroup if

```



```

+ * 1. you are capable(CAP_SYS_ADMIN|CAP_NS_OVERRIDE)
+ * 2. the target cgroup is a descendant of your own cgroup
+ *
+ * Note: called from kernel/cgroup.c with cgroup_lock() held.
+ */
+static struct cgroup_subsys_state *devcg_create(struct cgroup_subsys *ss,
+ struct cgroup *cgroup)
+{
+ struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup, *parent_dev_cgroup;
+ struct cgroup *parent_cgroup;
+ int ret;
+
+ if (!capable(CAP_SYS_ADMIN) || !capable(CAP_NS_OVERRIDE))
+ return ERR_PTR(-EPERM);
+ if (!cgroup_is_descendant(cgroup))
+ return ERR_PTR(-EPERM);
+
+ dev_cgroup = kzalloc(sizeof(*dev_cgroup), GFP_KERNEL);
+ if (!dev_cgroup)
+ return ERR_PTR(-ENOMEM);
+ INIT_LIST_HEAD(&dev_cgroup->whitelist);
+ parent_cgroup = cgroup->parent;
+
+ if (parent_cgroup == NULL) {
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh;
+ wh = kmalloc(sizeof(*wh), GFP_KERNEL);
+ wh->minor = wh->major = ~0;
+ wh->type = DEV_ALL;
+ wh->access = ACC_MKNOD | ACC_READ | ACC_WRITE;
+ list_add(&wh->list, &dev_cgroup->whitelist);
+ } else {
+ parent_dev_cgroup = cgroup_to_devcg(parent_cgroup);
+ ret = dev_whitelist_copy(&dev_cgroup->whitelist,
+ &parent_dev_cgroup->whitelist);
+ if (ret) {
+ kfree(dev_cgroup);
+ return ERR_PTR(ret);
+ }
+ }
+
+ spin_lock_init(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ return &dev_cgroup->css;
+}
+
+static void devcg_destroy(struct cgroup_subsys *ss,
+ struct cgroup *cgroup)
+{
+ struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup;

```

```

+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh, *tmp;
+
+ dev_cgroup = cgroup_to_devcg(cgroup);
+ list_for_each_entry_safe(wh, tmp, &dev_cgroup->whitelist, list) {
+ list_del(&wh->list);
+ kfree(wh);
+ }
+ kfree(dev_cgroup);
+}
+
+#define DEVCG_ALLOW 1
+#define DEVCG_DENY 2
+
+void set_access(char *acc, short access)
+{
+ int idx = 0;
+ memset(acc, 0, 4);
+ if (access & ACC_READ)
+ acc[idx++] = 'r';
+ if (access & ACC_WRITE)
+ acc[idx++] = 'w';
+ if (access & ACC_MKNOD)
+ acc[idx++] = 'm';
+}
+
+char type_to_char(short type)
+{
+ if (type == DEV_ALL)
+ return 'a';
+ if (type == DEV_CHAR)
+ return 'c';
+ if (type == DEV_BLOCK)
+ return 'b';
+ return 'X';
+}
+
+static void set_majmin(char *str, int len, unsigned m)
+{
+ memset(str, 0, len);
+ if (m == ~0)
+ sprintf(str, "");
+ else
+ snprintf(str, len, "%d", m);
+}
+
+char *print_whitelist(struct dev_cgroup *devcgroup, int *len)
+{
+ char *buf, *s, acc[4];

```

```

+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh;
+ int ret;
+ int count = 0;
+ char maj[10], min[10];
+
+ buf = kmalloc(4096, GFP_KERNEL);
+ if (!buf)
+ return ERR_PTR(-ENOMEM);
+ s = buf;
+ *s = '\0';
+ *len = 0;
+
+ spin_lock(&devcgroup->lock);
+ list_for_each_entry(wh, &devcgroup->whitelist, list) {
+ set_access(acc, wh->access);
+ set_majmin(maj, 10, wh->major);
+ set_majmin(min, 10, wh->minor);
+ ret = snprintf(s, 4095-(s-buf), "%c %s %s %s\n",
+ type_to_char(wh->type), maj, min, acc);
+ if (s+ret >= buf+4095) {
+ kfree(buf);
+ buf = ERR_PTR(-ENOMEM);
+ break;
+ }
+ s += ret;
+ *len += ret;
+ count++;
+ }
+ spin_unlock(&devcgroup->lock);
+
+ return buf;
+}
+
+static ssize_t devcg_access_read(struct cgroup *cgroup,
+ struct cftype *cft, struct file *file,
+ char __user *userbuf, size_t nbytes, loff_t *ppos)
+{
+ struct dev_cgroup *devcgrp = cgroup_to_devcg(cgroup);
+ int filetype = cft->private;
+ char *buffer;
+ int len, retval;
+
+ if (filetype != DEVCG_ALLOW)
+ return -EINVAL;
+ buffer = print_whitelist(devcgrp, &len);
+ if (IS_ERR(buffer))
+ return PTR_ERR(buffer);
+
+

```

```

+ retval = simple_read_from_buffer(userbuf, nbytes, ppos, buffer, len);
+ kfree(buffer);
+ return retval;
+}
+
+static inline short convert_access(char *acc)
+{
+ short access = 0;
+
+ while (*acc) {
+ switch (*acc) {
+ case 'r':
+ case 'R': access |= ACC_READ; break;
+ case 'w':
+ case 'W': access |= ACC_WRITE; break;
+ case 'm':
+ case 'M': access |= ACC_MKNOD; break;
+ case '\n': break;
+ default:
+ return -EINVAL;
+ }
+ acc++;
+ }
+
+ return access;
+}
+
+static inline short convert_type(char intype)
+{
+ short type = 0;
+ switch (intype) {
+ case 'a': type = DEV_ALL; break;
+ case 'c': type = DEV_CHAR; break;
+ case 'b': type = DEV_BLOCK; break;
+ default: type = -EACCES; break;
+ }
+
+ return type;
+}
+
+static int convert_majmin(char *m, unsigned *u)
+{
+ if (m[0] == '*') {
+ *u = ~0;
+ return 0;
+ }
+ if (sscanf(m, "%u", u) != 1)
+ return -EINVAL;
+ return 0;

```

```

+}
+
+static ssize_t devcg_access_write(struct cgroup *cgroup, struct cftype *cft,
+ struct file *file, const char __user *userbuf,
+ size_t nbytes, loff_t *ppos)
+{
+ struct cgroup *cur_cgroup;
+ struct dev_cgroup *devcgrp, *cur_devcgroup;
+ int filetype = cft->private;
+ char *buffer, acc[4], maj[10], min[10];
+ int retval = 0;
+ int nitems;
+ char type;
+ struct dev_whitelist_item wh;
+
+ if (!capable(CAP_SYS_ADMIN) || !capable(CAP_NS_OVERRIDE))
+ return -EPERM;
+
+ devcgrp = cgroup_to_devcg(cgroup);
+ cur_cgroup = task_cgroup(current, devcg_subsys.subsys_id);
+ cur_devcgroup = cgroup_to_devcg(cur_cgroup);
+
+ buffer = kmalloc(nbytes+1, GFP_KERNEL);
+ if (!buffer)
+ return -ENOMEM;
+
+ if (copy_from_user(buffer, userbuf, nbytes)) {
+ retval = -EFAULT;
+ goto out1;
+ }
+ buffer[nbytes] = 0; /* nul-terminate */
+
+ cgroup_lock();
+ if (cgroup_is_removed(cgroup)) {
+ retval = -ENODEV;
+ goto out2;
+ }
+
+ memset(&wh, 0, sizeof(wh));
+ memset(acc, 0, 4);
+ nitems = sscanf(buffer, "%c %9s %9s %3s", &type, maj, min,
+ acc);
+ retval = -EINVAL;
+ if (nitems != 4)
+ goto out2;
+ wh.type = convert_type(type);
+ if (wh.type < 0)
+ goto out2;

```

```

+ wh.access = convert_access(acc);
+ if (convert_majmin(maj, &wh.major))
+ goto out2;
+ if (convert_majmin(min, &wh.minor))
+ goto out2;
+ if (wh.access < 0)
+ goto out2;
+ retval = 0;
+ switch (filetype) {
+ case DEVCG_ALLOW:
+ retval = dev_whitelist_add(devcgrp, &wh);
+ break;
+ case DEVCG_DENY:
+ dev_whitelist_rm(devcgrp, &wh);
+ break;
+ default:
+ retval = -EINVAL;
+ goto out2;
+ }
+
+ if (retval == 0)
+ retval = nbytes;
+
+out2:
+ cgroup_unlock();
+out1:
+ kfree(buffer);
+ return retval;
+}
+
+static struct cftype dev_cgroup_files[] = {
+ {
+ .name = "allow",
+ .read = devcg_access_read,
+ .write = devcg_access_write,
+ .private = DEVCG_ALLOW,
+ },
+ {
+ .name = "deny",
+ .write = devcg_access_write,
+ .private = DEVCG_DENY,
+ },
+ };
+
+static int devcg_populate(struct cgroup_subsys *ss,
+ struct cgroup *cont)
+{
+ return cgroup_add_files(cont, ss, dev_cgroup_files,

```

```

+ ARRAY_SIZE(dev_cgroup_files));
+}
+
+struct cgroup_subsys devcg_subsys = {
+ .name = "devcg",
+ .can_attach = devcg_can_attach,
+ .create = devcg_create,
+ .destroy = devcg_destroy,
+ .populate = devcg_populate,
+ .subsys_id = devcg_subsys_id,
+};
diff --git a/security/Kconfig b/security/Kconfig
index 5dfc206..c7960c0 100644
--- a/security/Kconfig
+++ b/security/Kconfig
@@ -81,9 +81,13 @@ config SECURITY_CAPABILITIES
     This enables the "default" Linux capabilities functionality.
     If you are unsure how to answer this question, answer Y.

+config COMMONCAP
+ bool
+ default !SECURITY || SECURITY_CAPABILITIES || SECURITY_ROOTPLUG ||
SECURITY_SMACK || CGROUP_DEV
+
+ config SECURITY_FILE_CAPABILITIES
+   bool "File POSIX Capabilities (EXPERIMENTAL)"
+ - depends on (SECURITY=n || SECURITY_CAPABILITIES!=n) && EXPERIMENTAL
+ + depends on COMMONCAP && EXPERIMENTAL
+   default n
+   help
+     This enables filesystem capabilities, allowing you to give
diff --git a/security/Makefile b/security/Makefile
index 9e8b025..6093003 100644
--- a/security/Makefile
+++ b/security/Makefile
@@ -6,15 +6,13 @@ obj-$(CONFIG_KEYS) += keys/
subdir-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_SELINUX) += selinux
subdir-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_SMACK) += smack

-# if we don't select a security model, use the default capabilities
-ifeq ($(CONFIG_SECURITY),y)
-obj-y += commoncap.o
-endif
+obj-$(CONFIG_COMMONCAP) += commoncap.o

# Object file lists
obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY) += security.o dummy.o inode.o
# Must precede capability.o in order to stack properly.

```

```

obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_SELINUX) += selinux/built-in.o
-obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_SMACK) += commoncap.o smack/built-in.o
-obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_CAPABILITIES) += commoncap.o capability.o
-obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_ROOTPLUG) += commoncap.o root_plug.o
+obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_SMACK) += smack/built-in.o
+obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_CAPABILITIES) += capability.o
+obj-$(CONFIG_SECURITY_ROOTPLUG) += root_plug.o
+obj-$(CONFIG_CGROUP_DEV) += dev_cgroup.o
diff --git a/security/capability.c b/security/capability.c
index 8340655..1202991 100644

```

```

--- a/security/capability.c
+++ b/security/capability.c
@@ -39,6 +39,8 @@ static struct security_operations capability_ops = {
    .inode_removexattr = cap_inode_removexattr,
    .inode_need_killpriv = cap_inode_need_killpriv,
    .inode_killpriv = cap_inode_killpriv,
+   .inode_permission = cap_inode_permission,
+   .inode_mknod = cap_inode_mknod,

```

```

    .task_kill = cap_task_kill,
    .task_setscheduler = cap_task_setscheduler,
diff --git a/security/commoncap.c b/security/commoncap.c
index 83f2691..68c6a97 100644

```

```

--- a/security/commoncap.c
+++ b/security/commoncap.c
@@ -26,6 +26,7 @@
#include <linux/sched.h>
#include <linux/prctl.h>
#include <linux/securebits.h>
+#include <linux/devcg.h>

```

```

int cap_netlink_send(struct sock *sk, struct sk_buff *skb)
{
@@ -160,6 +161,18 @@ static inline void bprm_clear_caps(struct linux_binprm *bprm)
    bprm->cap_effective = false;
}

```

```

+int cap_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask,
+   struct nameidata *nd)
+{
+   return devcgroup_inode_permission(inode, mask, nd);
+}
+
+int cap_inode_mknod(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry,
+   int mode, dev_t dev)
+{
+   return devcgroup_inode_mknod(dir, dentry, mode, dev);
+}

```



```

+
+ #ifdef CONFIG_SECURITY_FILE_CAPABILITIES

+ int cap_inode_need_killpriv(struct dentry *dentry)
diff --git a/security/dev_cgroup.c b/security/dev_cgroup.c
new file mode 100644
index 0000000..eb65411
--- /dev/null
+++ b/security/dev_cgroup.c
@@ -0,0 +1,83 @@
+/*
+ * LSM portion of the device cgroup subsystem.
+ *
+ * Copyright 2007 IBM Corp
+ */
+
+ #include <linux/devcg.h>
+
+ int devcgroup_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask,
+     struct nameidata *nd)
+ {
+     struct cgroup *cgroup;
+     struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup;
+     struct dev_whitelist_item *wh;
+
+     dev_t device = inode->i_rdev;
+     if (!device)
+         return 0;
+     if (!S_ISBLK(inode->i_mode) && !S_ISCHR(inode->i_mode))
+         return 0;
+     cgroup = task_cgroup(current, devcg_subsys.subsys_id);
+     dev_cgroup = cgroup_to_devcg(cgroup);
+     if (!dev_cgroup)
+         return 0;
+
+     spin_lock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+     list_for_each_entry(wh, &dev_cgroup->whitelist, list) {
+         if (wh->type & DEV_ALL)
+             goto acc_check;
+         if ((wh->type & DEV_BLOCK) && !S_ISBLK(inode->i_mode))
+             continue;
+         if ((wh->type & DEV_CHAR) && !S_ISCHR(inode->i_mode))
+             continue;
+         if (wh->major != ~0 && wh->major != imajor(inode))
+             continue;
+         if (wh->minor != ~0 && wh->minor != iminor(inode))
+             continue;
+     }
+ acc_check:

```

```

+ if ((mask & MAY_WRITE) && !(wh->access & ACC_WRITE))
+ continue;
+ if ((mask & MAY_READ) && !(wh->access & ACC_READ))
+ continue;
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ return 0;
+ }
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+
+ return -EPERM;
+}
+
+int devcgroup_inode_mknod(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry,
+ int mode, dev_t dev)
+{
+ struct cgroup *cgroup;
+ struct dev_cgroup *dev_cgroup;
+ struct dev_whitelist_item *wh;
+
+ cgroup = task_cgroup(current, devcg_subsys.subsys_id);
+ dev_cgroup = cgroup_to_devcg(cgroup);
+ if (!dev_cgroup)
+ return 0;
+
+ spin_lock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ list_for_each_entry(wh, &dev_cgroup->whitelist, list) {
+ if (wh->type & DEV_ALL)
+ goto acc_check;
+ if ((wh->type & DEV_BLOCK) && !S_ISBLK(mode))
+ continue;
+ if ((wh->type & DEV_CHAR) && !S_ISCHR(mode))
+ continue;
+ if (wh->major != ~0 && wh->major != MAJOR(dev))
+ continue;
+ if (wh->minor != ~0 && wh->minor != MINOR(dev))
+ continue;
+acc_check:
+ if (!(wh->access & ACC_MKNOD))
+ continue;
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ return 0;
+ }
+ spin_unlock(&dev_cgroup->lock);
+ return -EPERM;
+}
diff --git a/security/root_plug.c b/security/root_plug.c
index a41cf42..090015d 100644
--- a/security/root_plug.c

```

```

+++ b/security/root_plug.c
@@ -80,6 +80,8 @@ static struct security_operations rootplug_security_ops = {
    .capset_check = cap_capset_check,
    .capset_set = cap_capset_set,
    .capable = cap_capable,
+ .inode_mknod = cap_inode_mknod,
+ .inode_permission = cap_inode_permission,

    .bprm_apply_creds = cap_bprm_apply_creds,
    .bprm_set_security = cap_bprm_set_security,
diff --git a/security/smack/smack_lsm.c b/security/smack/smack_lsm.c
index 20ec35c..6814aaa 100644
--- a/security/smack/smack_lsm.c
+++ b/security/smack/smack_lsm.c
@@ -523,6 +523,10 @@ static int smack_inode_rename(struct inode *old_inode,
static int smack_inode_permission(struct inode *inode, int mask,
    struct nameidata *nd)
{
+ int err;
+ err = cap_inode_permission(inode, mask, nd);
+ if (err)
+ return err;
/*
 * No permission to check. Existence test. Yup, it's there.
 */
@@ -2460,6 +2464,7 @@ struct security_operations smack_ops = {
    .inode_getsecurity = smack_inode_getsecurity,
    .inode_setsecurity = smack_inode_setsecurity,
    .inode_listsecurity = smack_inode_listsecurity,
+ .inode_mknod = cap_inode_mknod,

    .file_permission = smack_file_permission,
    .file_alloc_security = smack_file_alloc_security,
--
1.5.1

```

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [James Morris](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2008 10:17:12 GMT  
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---

On Thu, 13 Mar 2008, Serge E. Hallyn wrote:

> Implement a cgroup using the LSM interface to enforce open and mknod  
> on device files.

Actually, I'm not sure that the LSM approach in general is best here.

The LSM model is that standard DAC logic lives in the core kernel, and that extended security logic (e.g. MAC) is called after DAC via hooks. cgroups has introduced new security logic of its own, which is arguably "standard DAC" when cgroups is enabled.

I can understand Greg not wanting this security logic in the core kernel, but it is specific to cgroups (which itself is security model agnostic) and does not stand alone as a distinct security framework.

The fact that all existing LSMs need to invoke exactly the same code is an indicator that it doesn't belong in LSM.

Moving this logic into LSM means that instead of the cgroups security logic being called from one place in the main kernel (where cgroups lives), it must be called identically from each LSM (none of which are even aware of cgroups), which I think is pretty obviously the wrong solution.

This is baggage which comes with cgroups -- please don't push it into LSM to try and hide that.

- James

--

James Morris

<jmorris@namei.org>

---

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---

Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)

Posted by [Stephen Smalley](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2008 13:27:28 GMT

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---

On Fri, 2008-03-14 at 21:17 +1100, James Morris wrote:

> On Thu, 13 Mar 2008, Serge E. Hallyn wrote:

>

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>

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> to try and hide that.

I agree with the above, and would further note that I would expect the SELinux solution to the problem would be done not by stacking with or calling this device whitelist lsm but instead by introducing the ability to bind security labels to devices within the kernel (independent of the particular device node(s) in the filesystem used to access that device) and applying permission checks on those device labels when processes attempt to create or access those devices (again independent of the particular device node used to access them). That keeps the policy integrated and analyzable and avoids an external dependency.

--  
Stephen Smalley  
National Security Agency

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [serue](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2008 14:32:16 GMT  
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---

Quoting Stephen Smalley (sds@epoch.ncsc.mil):  
>

> On Fri, 2008-03-14 at 21:17 +1100, James Morris wrote:  
>> On Thu, 13 Mar 2008, Serge E. Hallyn wrote:  
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>>> Implement a cgroup using the LSM interface to enforce open and mknod  
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>>> but it is specific to cgroups (which itself is security model agnostic)  
>>> and does not stand alone as a distinct security framework.

I completely disagree. We have two separate frameworks in the kernel, one to enforce generic additional security stuff, and one to track tasks. When I need a feature which tracks tasks to do some security tasks, it seems obvious that I would use both, just like to enforce a certain type of MAC I end up using both netfilter and LSM through selinux.

>> The fact that all existing LSMs need to invoke exactly the same code is an  
>> indicator that it doesn't belong in LSM.

No, that's like saying capabilities don't belong in LSM because all LSMS need to invoke it the same way. What it is an indicator of is that there are (not-quite-)orthogonal pieces of security which users might want to use together.

As I told stephen I hope to provide the enhanced selinux support for devices, and at that point perhaps you won't want to support SELINUX+CGROUPS\_DEV anymore.

Now that's just my opinion and it doesn't count for much. I'll do whatever everyone can agree on, but will wait for Paul's opinion about adding cgroup hooks next to the two security hooks.

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> and applying permission checks on those device labels when processes  
> attempt to create or access those devices (again independent of the  
> particular device node used to access them). That keeps the policy  
> integrated and analyzable and avoids an external dependency.

Agreed.

-serge

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [Stephen Smalley](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2008 17:41:56 GMT  
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---

On Fri, 2008-03-14 at 09:32 -0500, Serge E. Hallyn wrote:  
> Quoting Stephen Smalley (sds@epoch.ncsc.mil):  
>>  
>> On Fri, 2008-03-14 at 21:17 +1100, James Morris wrote:  
>>> On Thu, 13 Mar 2008, Serge E. Hallyn wrote:  
>>>>  
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>>>> tasks. When I need a feature which tracks tasks to do some security  
>>>> tasks, it seems obvious that I would use both, just like to enforce a

> certain type of MAC I end up using both netfilter and LSM through  
> selinux.

Depends on whether you think LSM hooks are like netfilter hooks (i.e. fine for each module to just implement a few here and there, then combine resulting modules), or whether they are about implementing complete security models (ala SELinux or Smack). As they currently exist, they aren't very well suited to the former - they impose a cost on all hooked operations in order to hook any at all, as has been a concern for your device controller.

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> want to use together.

Likely not a popular view, but capabilities don't belong in LSM. Look at them: the capability state is still directly embedded in the relevant kernel data structures, various bits of capability specific logic and interfaces remain in the core kernel, they don't present a complete security model (just an auxiliary to some other model like DAC or Smack for privilege purposes), they use only a small subset of the hooks, they force LSM to violate its usual restrictive-only paradigm to support capable(), CONFIG\_SECURITY=n still has to invoke the capability functions, and all of the other LSMs do need to call it the same way to keep Linux working as expected for applications and users.

The original promise was that LSM would allow kernels to be built that shed capabilities altogether, but in practice no one seems to do that as both users and applications expect them to exist in Linux. In fact, the possibility of not having capabilities present has caused problems that have led to the dummy module being turned more and more into a clone of the capabilities module (actually managing and testing the capability bits rather than just uid == 0 as originally).

So I wouldn't point to capabilities as a counter example to James' point - they are actually a supporting example.

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> Agreed.

>  
> -serge  
--  
Stephen Smalley  
National Security Agency

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [Casey Schaufler](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2008 22:44:26 GMT  
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---

--- Stephen Smalley <sds@epoch.ncsc.mil> wrote:

>  
> ...  
> > I completely disagree. We have two separate frameworks in the kernel,  
> > one to enforce generic additional security stuff, and one to track  
> > tasks. When I need a feature which tracks tasks to do some security  
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I don't intend that Smack be thought of as a complete security model. Smack implements Mandatory Access Control, but leaves the privilege mechanism (root and/or capabilities) to the whims of others. Similarly Smack does not do DAC (unlike SELinux with MCS) although "owned rules" has been proposed as an additional feature. I certainly wouldn't want every new facility that comes in to require multiple versions that depend on the other LSMs involved. It's true that today's LSM is optimized for the only LSM that existed a year ago, and that was a monolithic security model.

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I share this view, which add credibility to the claim that it's not popular. (smiley)

> Look at them: the capability state is still directly embedded in the relevant kernel data structures, various bits of capability specific logic and interfaces remain in the core kernel,

It does seem as if a separate Linux Privilege Module framework might be a better scheme. It would be very easy to pull out, and simple to create the obvious LPMs:

- Traditional root hooks look like "return (euid == 0) ? 0 : -EACCES;"
- No access check at all hooks look like "return 0;"
- Root or capabilities hooks look like "return (euid == 0 || capable(xxx)) ? 0 : -EACCES;"
- Pure capabilities

hooks look like "return capable(xxx) ? 0 : -EACCES;"

- > they don't present a
- > complete security model (just an auxiliary to some other model like DAC
- > or Smack for privilege purposes), they use only a small subset of the
- > hooks, they force LSM to violate its usual restrictive-only paradigm to
- > support capable(), CONFIG\_SECURITY=n still has to invoke the capability
- > functions, and all of the other LSMs do need to call it the same way to
- > keep Linux working as expected for applications and users.

Plus, if SELinux wants to abandon capabilities they can add thier own scheme or insist the user use the noop LPM and do whatever they like in the LSM. Smack has no intention of mucking with the privilege mechanism, and will happily go along with whatever the rest of the system wants to use, although the noop LSM seems a bit pointless in that case.

- > The original promise was that LSM would allow kernels to be built that
- > shed capabilities altogether,

I don't remember that, but it's been a long time so it could be true.

- > but in practice no one seems to do that as
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- > possibility of not having capabilities present has caused problems that
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- > bits rather than just uid == 0 as originally).

This is why Smack is sticking to MAC rather than trying to be a wholistic security policy mechanism. To quote the prophet, "God created the world in 7 days, but then, He didn't have an install base".

- > So I wouldn't point to capabilities as a counter example to James' point
- > - they are actually a supporting example.

In particular, capabilities are not an access control mechanism, they are a privilege mechanism. A lot of discussion about LSM has centered around the appropriate characteristics of an LSM, and these discussions always assume that the LSM in question is exactly an access control mechanism. If we split the LSM into a LACM for access control and an LPM for privilege management maybe we can eliminate the most contentious issues.

Does anyone know why that would be stupid before I whack out patches?

Thank you.

Casey Schaufler  
casey@schaufler-ca.com

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [Stephen Smalley](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2008 13:26:39 GMT  
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---

On Fri, 2008-03-14 at 15:44 -0700, Casey Schaufler wrote:

> --- Stephen Smalley <sds@epoch.ncsc.mil> wrote:

>

>>

>> ...

>>> I completely disagree. We have two separate frameworks in the kernel,  
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> that depend on the other LSMs involved. It's true that today's LSM is  
> optimized for the only LSM that existed a year ago, and that was a  
> monolithic security model.

By complete security model, I don't mean it has to be MAC+DAC  
+privileges. Just that it does in fact implement a well formed security  
model, not just an ad hoc set of stupid security tricks. Smack and

SELinux are examples of the former.

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> that case.

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> > The original promise was that LSM would allow kernels to be built that  
> > shed capabilities altogether,  
>  
> I don't remember that, but it's been a long time so it could be true.

"One of the explicit requirements to get LSM into the kernel was to have the ability to make capabilities be a module. This allows the embedded people to completely remove capabilities, as they really want this. I don't think we can ignore this, no matter how much of a pain in the butt it is :)" - Greg KH

Quoted from:

<http://marc.info/?l=linux-security-module&m=99236500727804&w=2>

Ironically, since that time, capabilities have doubled in size and still can't be removed from the core kernel since LSM didn't push the state into the security blobs.

>  
> > but in practice no one seems to do that as  
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> > have led to the dummy module being turned more and more into a clone of  
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>  
> > So I wouldn't point to capabilities as a counter example to James' point  
> > - they are actually a supporting example.  
>  
> In particular, capabilities are not an access control mechanism,  
> they are a privilege mechanism. A lot of discussion about LSM has  
> centered around the appropriate characteristics of an LSM, and  
> these discussions always assume that the LSM in question is  
> exactly an access control mechanism. If we split the LSM into  
> a LACM for access control and an LPM for privilege management  
> maybe we can eliminate the most contentious issues.  
>  
> Does anyone know why that would be stupid before I whack out  
> patches?

If you do re-factor it in that manner, SELinux will have to register under both schemes in order to preserve its current logic, of course.

And there are points of overlap between the two schemes even for non-privilege-managing security modules (e.g. they both need hooks on ptrace, inode\_setxattr, etc).

Lastly, since LSM didn't really do the job of migrating the capability state out of the core kernel data structures and fully encapsulating the capability logic, you'd have to do that work too to do it right.

--

Stephen Smalley  
National Security Agency

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [serue](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2008 14:08:53 GMT  
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Quoting Casey Schaufler (casey@schaufler-ca.com):

>  
> --- Stephen Smalley <sds@epoch.ncsc.mil> wrote:  
>  
>>  
>> ...  
>>> I completely disagree. We have two separate frameworks in the kernel,  
>>> one to enforce generic additional security stuff, and one to track  
>>> tasks. When I need a feature which tracks tasks to do some security  
>>> tasks, it seems obvious that I would use both, just like to enforce a  
>>> certain type of MAC I end up using both netfilter and LSM through  
>>> selinux.  
>>  
>> Depends on whether you think LSM hooks are like netfilter hooks (i.e.  
>> fine for each module to just implement a few here and there, then  
>> combine resulting modules), or whether they are about implementing  
>> complete security models (ala SELinux or Smack). As they currently  
>> exist, they aren't very well suited to the former - they impose a cost  
>> on all hooked operations in order to hook any at all, as has been a  
>> concern for your device controller.  
>  
> I don't intend that Smack be thought of as a complete security model.  
> Smack implements Mandatory Access Control, but leaves the privilege  
> mechanism (root and/or capabilities) to the whims of others. Similarly  
> Smack does not do DAC (unlike SELinux with MCS) although "owned rules"

> has been proposed as an additional feature. I certainly wouldn't  
> want every new facility that comes in to require multiple versions  
> that depend on the other LSMs involved. It's true that today's LSM is  
> optimized for the only LSM that existed a year ago, and that was a  
> monolithic security model.

>

>>>>> The fact that all existing LSMs need to invoke exactly the same code is  
>> an  
>>>>> indicator that it doesn't belong in LSM.

>>>

>>> No, that's like saying capabilities don't belong in LSM because all LSMS  
>>> need to invoke it the same way. What it is an indicator of is that  
>>> there are (not-quite-)orthogonal pieces of security which users might  
>>> want to use together.

>>

>> Likely not a popular view, but capabilities don't belong in LSM.

>

> I share this view, which add credibility to the claim that it's  
> not popular. (smiley)

>

>> Look  
>> at them: the capability state is still directly embedded in the  
>> relevant kernel data structures, various bits of capability specific  
>> logic and interfaces remain in the core kernel,

>

> It does seem as if a separate Linux Privilege Module framework  
> might be a better scheme. It would be very easy to pull out, and  
> simple to create the obvious LPMs:

>

> - Traditional root  
> hooks look like "return (euid == 0) ? 0 : -EACCES;"

> - No access check at all  
> hooks look like "return 0;"

> - Root or capabilities  
> hooks look like "return (euid == 0 || capable(xxx)) ? 0 : -EACCES;"

> - Pure capabilities  
> hooks look like "return capable(xxx) ? 0 : -EACCES;"

>

>> they don't present a  
>>> complete security model (just an auxiliary to some other model like DAC  
>>> or Smack for privilege purposes), they use only a small subset of the  
>>> hooks, they force LSM to violate its usual restrictive-only paradigm to  
>>> support capable(), CONFIG\_SECURITY=n still has to invoke the capability  
>>> functions, and all of the other LSMs do need to call it the same way to  
>>> keep Linux working as expected for applications and users.

>

> Plus, if SELinux wants to abandon capabilities they can add thier own  
> scheme or insist the user use the noop LPM and do whatever they like



> in the LSM. Smack has no intention of mucking with the privilege  
> mechanism, and will happily go along with whatever the rest of the  
> system wants to use, although the noop LSM seems a bit pointless in  
> that case.  
>  
>> The original promise was that LSM would allow kernels to be built that  
>> shed capabilities altogether,  
>  
> I don't remember that, but it's been a long time so it could be true.  
>  
>> but in practice no one seems to do that as  
>> both users and applications expect them to exist in Linux. In fact, the  
>> possibility of not having capabilities present has caused problems that  
>> have led to the dummy module being turned more and more into a clone of  
>> the capabilities module (actually managing and testing the capability  
>> bits rather than just uid == 0 as originally).  
>  
> This is why Smack is sticking to MAC rather than trying to be a  
> wholistic security policy mechanism. To quote the prophet, "God  
> created the world in 7 days, but then, He didn't have an install  
> base".  
>  
>> So I wouldn't point to capabilities as a counter example to James' point  
>> - they are actually a supporting example.  
>  
> In particular, capabilities are not an access control mechanism,  
> they are a privilege mechanism. A lot of discussion about LSM has  
> centered around the appropriate characteristics of an LSM, and  
> these discussions always assume that the LSM in question is  
> exactly an access control mechanism. If we split the LSM into  
> a LACM for access control and an LPM for privilege management  
> maybe we can eliminate the most contentious issues.  
>  
> Does anyone know why that would be stupid before I whack out  
> patches?

No I'd like to see those patches. It would ideally allow LSM to become  
\*purely\* restrictive and LPM to be purely empowering, presumably making  
the resulting hook sets easier to review and maintain. The LPM wouldn't  
(I assume) gain any \*new\* hook points so we wouldn't be adding any new  
places for hooks to be overridden by a rootkit.

-serge

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)

Posted by [Casey Schaufler](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2008 16:16:42 GMT

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--- "Serge E. Hallyn" <serue@us.ibm.com> wrote:

> Quoting Casey Schaufler (casey@schaufler-ca.com):

> ...

>> In particular, capabilities are not an access control mechanism,  
>> they are a privilege mechanism. A lot of discussion about LSM has  
>> centered around the appropriate characteristics of an LSM, and  
>> these discussions always assume that the LSM in question is  
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> No I'd like to see those patches. It would ideally allow LSM to become  
> \*purely\* restrictive and LPM to be purely empowering, presumably making  
> the resulting hook sets easier to review and maintain. The LPM wouldn't  
> (I assume) gain any \*new\* hook points so we wouldn't be adding any new  
> places for hooks to be overridden by a rootkit.

I don't expect to put in any additional hook points, although  
it's safe to bet that someone will want to pretty quickly. What  
I see as the big concern is our old friend the granularity question.  
I can pretty well predict that we'll have quite a bruhaha over  
whether each hook point should have its own hook or if they should  
be shared based on the privilege supported. For example, in `namei.c`  
the function `generic_permission()` currently calls  
`capable(CAP_DAC_OVERRIDE)`. The privilege supported approach would  
be to create a hook that gets used in many places that is a drop-in  
replacement for that,

```
    if (capable(CAP_DAC_OVERRIDE))  
becomes  
    if (lpm_dac_override())
```

The alternative is to go the same route as the LSM, where it  
becomes

```
    if (lpm_generic_permission_may_exec())
```

The former scheme is much easier to implement. It also would  
mean that if you would want to implement a finer granularity on  
DAC overrides (e.g. `CAP_DAC_READ`, `CAP_DAC_WRITE`, `CAP_DAC_EXECUTE`)  
you would have to introduce new hooks. That wouldn't be any worse

than today's situation where you would have to change the argument passed to capable as far as the calling (e.g. generic\_permission) code is concerned, but it would mean updating all the LPMS. I currently count 1084 calls to capable (sloppy grep method) and that's way too many hooks in my mind. But, if there's anyone who thinks that the way to go is for each existing capable call to be a hook, feel free to make a convincing argument.

This should be fun.

Casey Schaufler  
casey@schaufler-ca.com

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [Stephen Smalley](#) on Mon, 17 Mar 2008 16:48:10 GMT  
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On Mon, 2008-03-17 at 09:16 -0700, Casey Schaufler wrote:

> --- "Serge E. Hallyn" <serue@us.ibm.com> wrote:

>

> > Quoting Casey Schaufler (casey@schaufler-ca.com):

> > ...

> > > In particular, capabilities are not an access control mechanism,  
> > > they are a privilege mechanism. A lot of discussion about LSM has  
> > > centered around the appropriate characteristics of an LSM, and  
> > > these discussions always assume that the LSM in question is  
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> > >

> > > Does anyone know why that would be stupid before I whack out  
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> >

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> > the resulting hook sets easier to review and maintain. The LPM wouldn't  
> > (I assume) gain any \*new\* hook points so we wouldn't be adding any new  
> > places for hooks to be overridden by a rootkit.

>

> I don't expect to put in any additional hooks points, although  
> it's safe to bet that someone will want to pretty quickly. What  
> I see as the big concern is our old friend the granularity question.

> I can pretty well predict that we'll have quite a bruhaha over  
> whether each hook point should have it's own hook or if they should  
> be shared based on the privilege supported. For example, in namei.c  
> the function generic\_permission() currently calls  
> capable(CAP\_DAC\_OVERRIDE). The privilege supported approach would  
> be to create a hook that gets used in many places that is a drop-in  
> replacement for that,  
>  
> if (capable(CAP\_DAC\_OVERRIDE))  
> becomes  
> if (lpm\_dac\_override())

nit: I'd use priv\_ rather than lpm\_, just as we use security\_ rather than lsm\_.

Do you plan to pass other arguments to the privilege hook call, like the object? If not, then there is no point in changing the capable call sites at all - just change its implementation to invoke a priv\_capable() hook instead of a security\_capable() hook.

> The alternative is to go the same route as the LSM, where it  
> becomes  
>  
> if (lpm\_generic\_permission\_may\_exec())  
>  
> The former scheme is much easier to implement. It also would  
> mean that if would wanted to implement a finer granularity on  
> DAC overrides (e.g. CAP\_DAC\_READ, CAP\_DAC\_WRITE, CAP\_DAC\_EXECUTE)  
> you would have to introduce new hooks. That wouldn't be any worse  
> than today's situation where you would have to change the argument  
> passed to capable as far as the calling (e.g. generic\_permission)  
> code is concerned, but it would mean updating all the LPMs. I  
> currently count 1084 calls to capable (sloppy grep method) and that's  
> way too many hooks in my mind. But, if there's anyone who thinks  
> that the way to go is for each existing capable call to be a hook,  
> feel free to make a convincing argument.  
>  
> This should be fun.

Changing all of the call sites seems a bit prohibitive for an initial implementation; rewiring the internals of capable() to use a new privilege hook interface would be a lot simpler.

You also have to migrate the other security hooks presently used to support capabilities to your privilege framework.

--

Stephen Smalley

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] cgroups: implement device whitelist lsm (v3)  
Posted by [Greg KH](#) on Tue, 18 Mar 2008 06:48:42 GMT  
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On Mon, Mar 17, 2008 at 09:26:39AM -0400, Stephen Smalley wrote:  
> > > The original promise was that LSM would allow kernels to be built that  
> > > shed capabilities altogether,  
> >  
> > I don't remember that, but it's been a long time so it could be true.  
>  
> "One of the explicit requirements to get LSM into the kernel was to have  
> the ability to make capabilities be a module. This allows the embedded  
> people to completely remove capabilities, as they really want this. I  
> don't think we can ignore this, no matter how much of a pain in the butt  
> it is :)" - Greg KH  
>  
> Quoted from:  
> <http://marc.info/?l=linux-security-module&m=99236500727804&w=2>  
>  
> Ironically, since that time, capabilities have doubled in size and still  
> can't be removed from the core kernel since LSM didn't push the state  
> into the security blobs.

Maybe we need to seriously revisit this and perhaps rip capabilities  
back out and put it always into the kernel if it's always a requirement.

Comments made 7 years ago might be totally wrong when we have now  
learned how this all has worked out...

thanks,

greg k-h

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