

Red Hat Deep Dive Sessions

SELinux

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Agenda

- 1) **Why do we need SELinux? What are the principal concepts?**
- 2) **SELinux Details**
 - Type Enforcement
 - What are the available policies?
 - What's a policy actually made of?
 - How do I {add, change} a policy?
 - What's the associated overhead?
- 3) **Usage**
 - User Perspective
 - Admin Perspective
- 4) **Scenarios**
 - Fixing the RHT Corporate VPN “update”

Why do we need SELinux?

Linux Access Control Problems

1) Access is based off users' access

Example: Firefox can read SSH keys

```
# ps -x | grep firefox
shawn 21375 1 35 11:38 ? 00:00:01 firefox-bin
```

```
# ls -l id_rsa
-rw----- 1 shawn shawn 1743 2008-08-10 id_rsa
```

Fundamental Problem: Security properties not specific enough. Kernel can't distinguish applications from users.

Linux Access Control Problems

2) Processes can change security properties

Example: Mail files are readable only by me..... but Thunderbird could make them world readable

Fundamental Problems:

- Standard access control is discretionary
- Includes concept of “resource ownership”
- Processes can escape security policy

Linux Access Control Problems

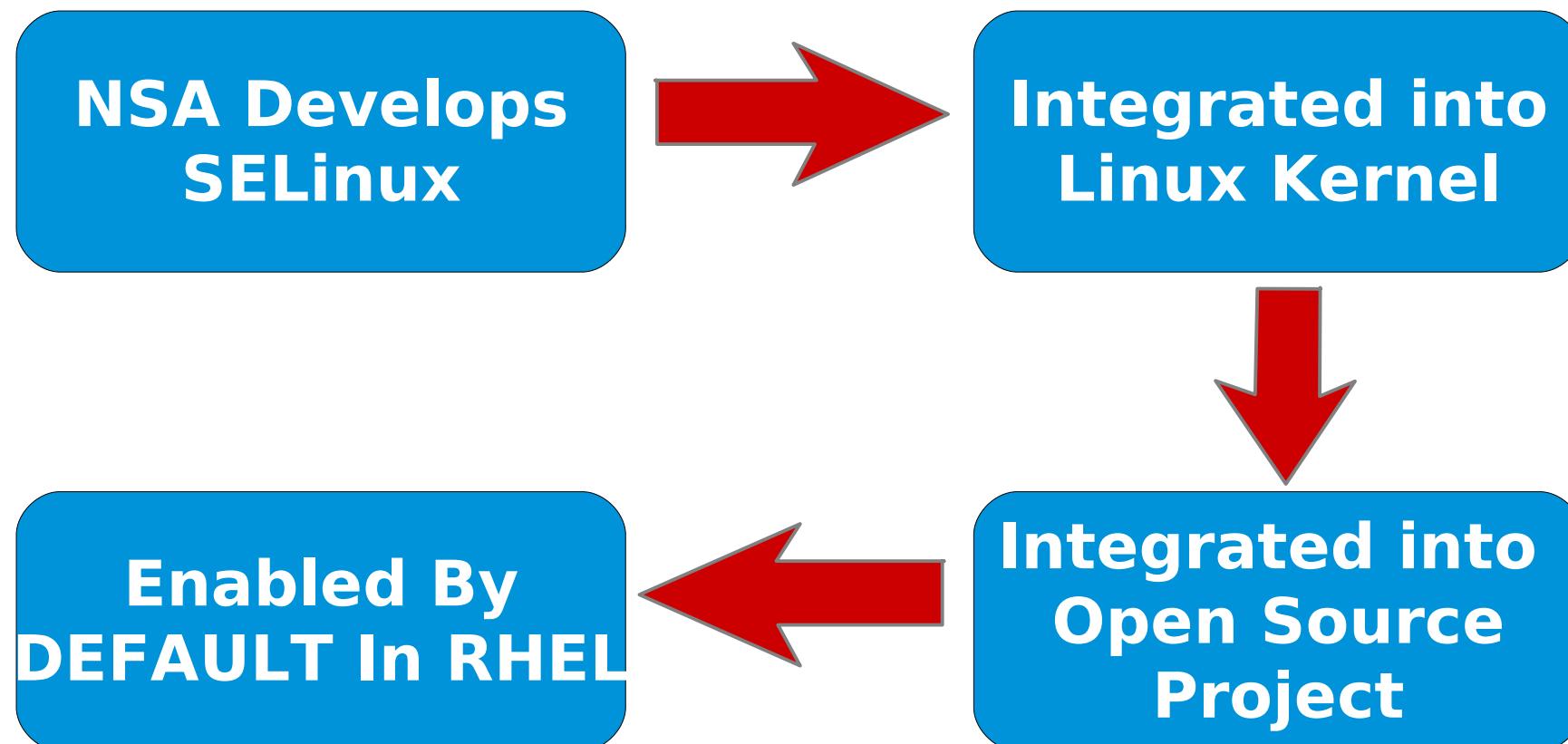
3) Only two privilege levels: User & root

Example: Apache gets hacked, allowing remote access to root. Entire system is compromised.

Fundamental Problems:

- Simplistic security policy
- No way to enforce least-privilege

SELinux: Building Security Openly



Customers, NSA, Community, and Red Hat continue evolution

Red Hat Security Certifications

NIAP/Common Criteria: The most evaluated operating system platform

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 2.1 – EAL 2 (Completed: February 2004)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 EAL 3+/CAPP (Completed: August 2004)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 EAL 4+/CAPP (Completed: February 2006)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 EAL4+/CAPP/LSPP/RBAC (Completed: June 2007)

DII-COE

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 (Self-Certification Completed: October 2004)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux: First Linux platform certified by DISA

DCID 6/3

- Currently PL3/PL4: ask about kickstarts.
- Often a component in PL5 systems

DISA SRRs / STIGs

- Ask about kickstarts.

FIPS 140-2

- Red Hat / NSS Cryptography Libraries certified Level 2

Security Standards Work

Extensible Configuration Checklist Description Format (XCCDF)

- Enumeration for configuration requirements
- DISA FSO committed to deploying STIG as XCCDF
- Others working with NIST
- Security policy becomes one file

Open Vulnerability & Assessment Language (OVAL)

- Machine-readable versions of security advisories

Common Vulnerability and Exposures (CVE) Compatibility

- Trace a vulnerability through multiple vendors



How's it work?

Linux Access Control Introduction

Linux access control involves the kernel controlling

- **Processes** (running programs), which try to access...
 - **Resources** (files, directories, sockets, etc)

For example:

- Apache (process) can read web files
- But **not** the /etc/shadow file (resource)

Traditional methods do not clearly separate the privileges of users and applications acting on the users behalf, increasing the damage that can be caused by application exploits.

So, how should these decisions be made?

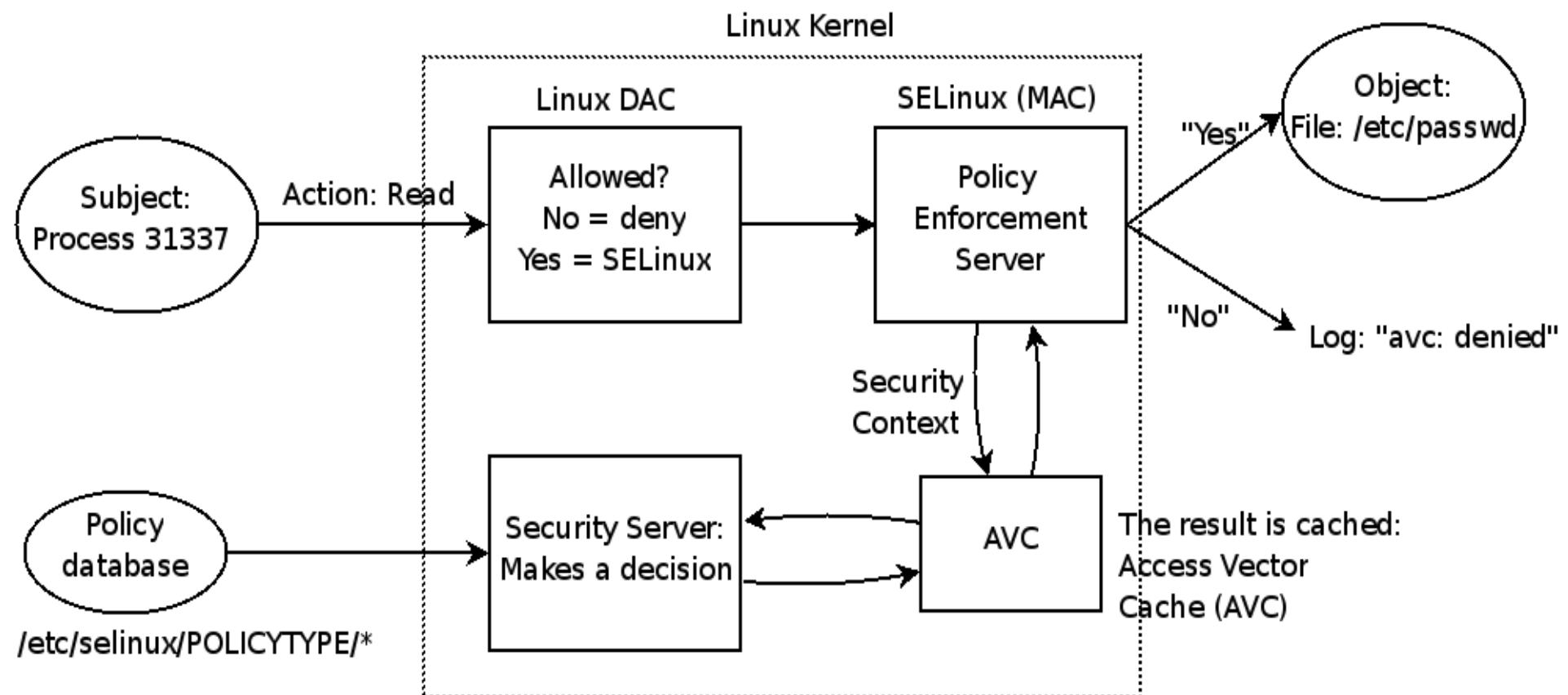
Security Architecture

Every subject (i.e process) and object (i.e. data files) are assigned collections of security attributes, called a **security context**

- 1) Security context of subject & object passed to SELinux
- 2) Kernel/SELinux check, verify access
 - 2a) Grant access. Record allowance in AVC (Access Vector Cache)
 - 2b) Deny access, log error

Security Architecture

Or in picture view...



Role Based Access Control (RBAC)

“root” really isn't “root”

i.e:

root_u:**WebServerAdmin_r**:SysAdmin_t

root_u:**OracleDBAdmin_r**:SysAdmin_t



SELinux Details

Type Enforcement

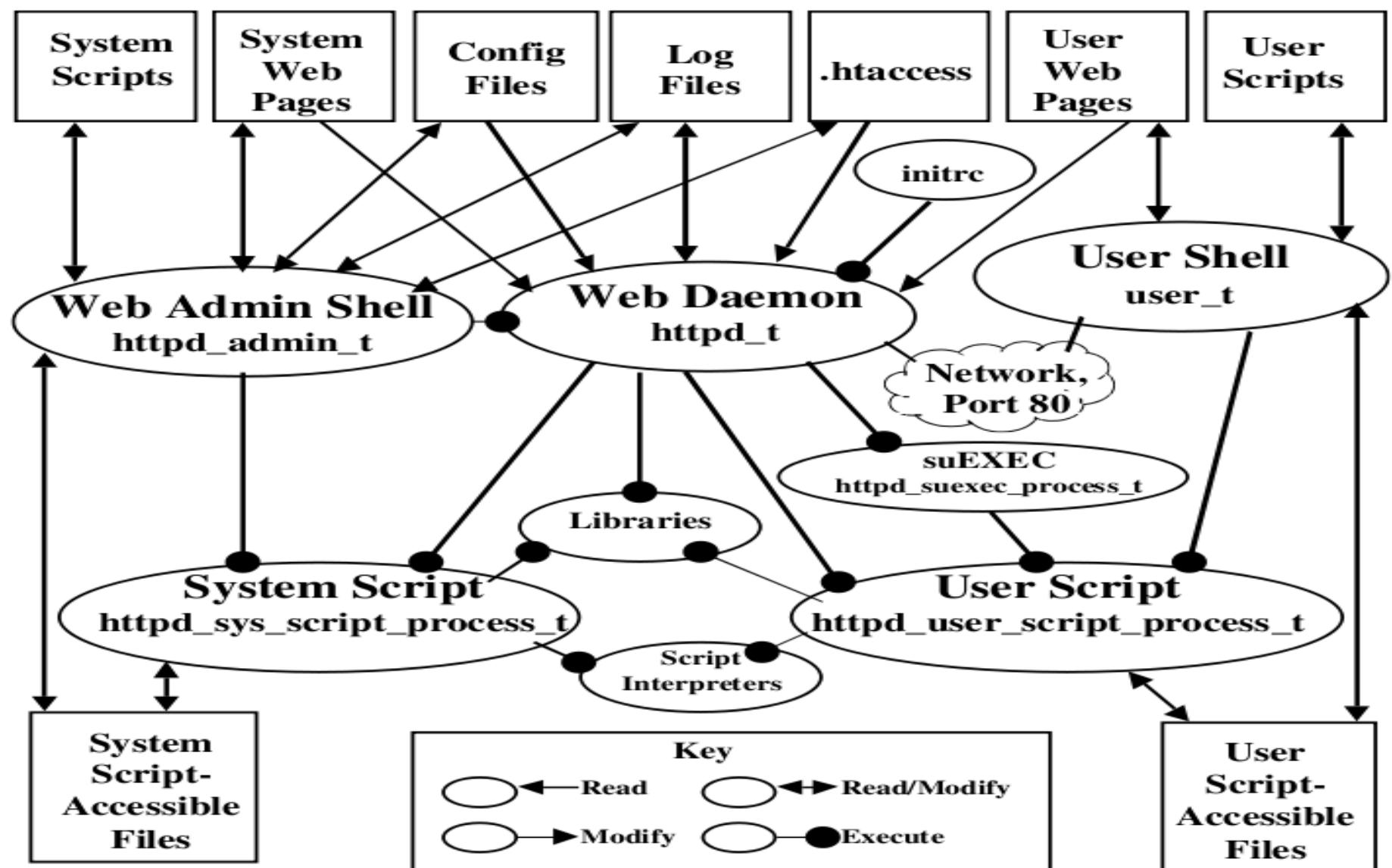
- SELinux implements the MAC model through type enforcement.
- In RHEL5, SELinux also provides RBAC and Bell-LaPadula (MLS), but it uses type enforcement to implement them.
- Type Enforcement involves defining a type for every subject, that is, process, and object on the system.
- Permissions are checked between the source type and the target type for each access.
- Objects include (but are not limited to):
 - Network Sockets
 - Shared Memory Segments
 - Files
 - Processes
 - etc.

SELinux Contexts

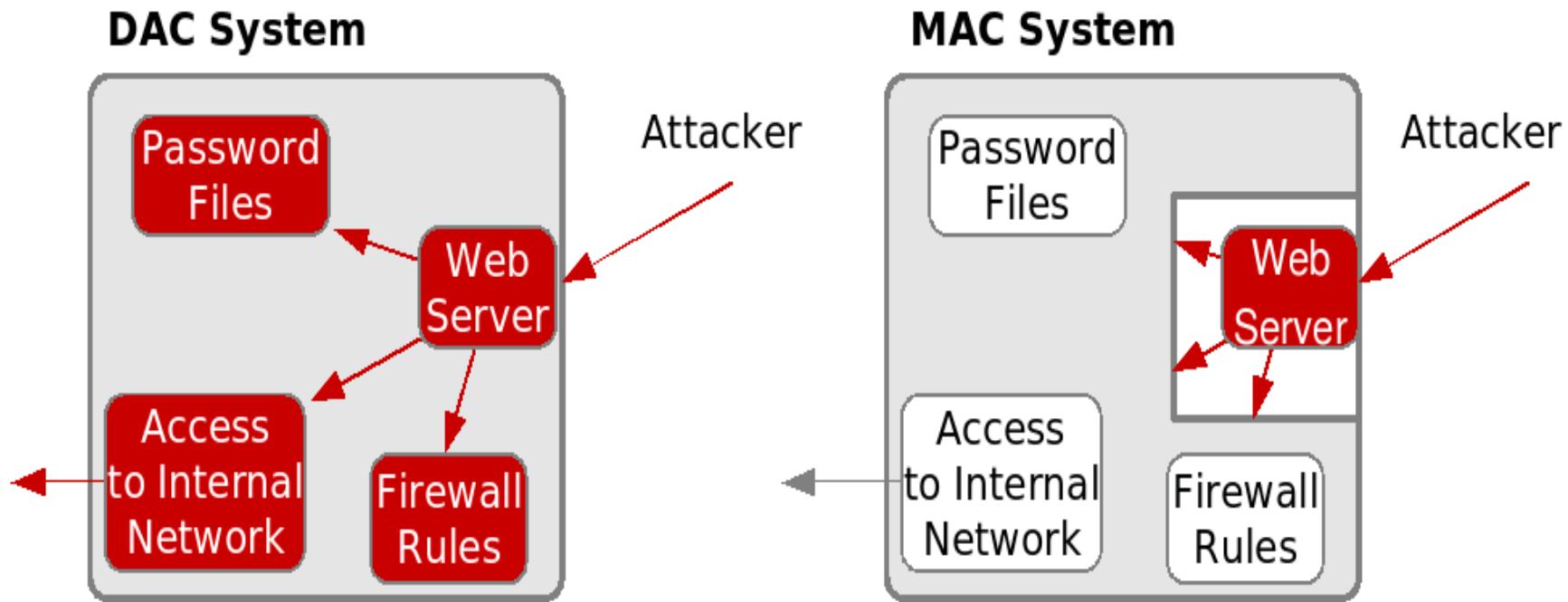
root:object r:sysadm home t:s0:c0

- The above is an SELinux context
- user_t
- role_t
- file_t
- Sensitivity
- category

SELinux Contexts



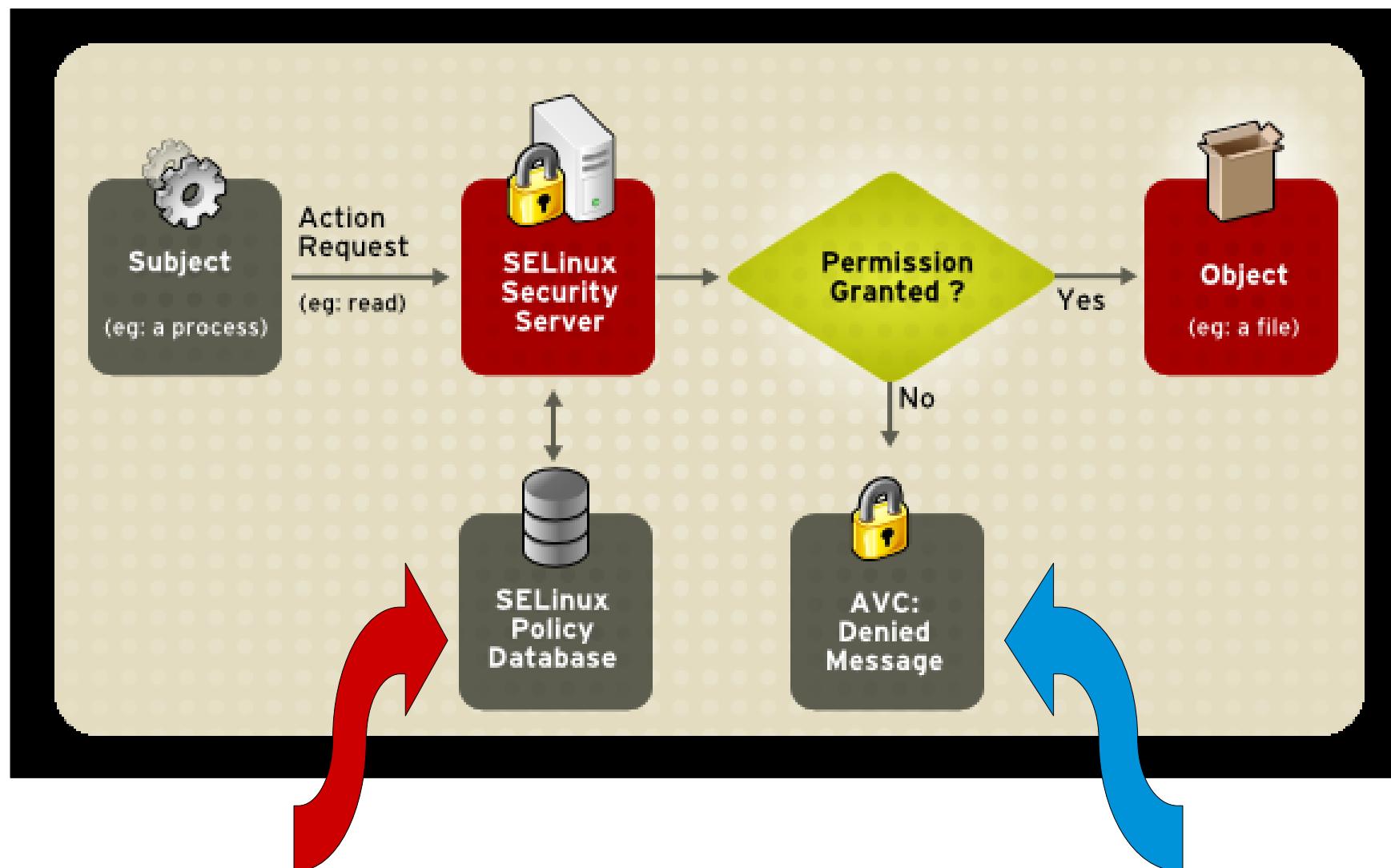
DAC vs MAC



- Application can change attributes
- User privileges
= Process privileges

- Orthogonal to DAC
- Roles, Contexts, Types

How does SELinux Work?



/etc/selinux/{targeted,strict}/policy

/var/log/messages 20

SELinux Policy

- Policies are matrices of statements which tell SELinux if certain actions are allowed based on the context of the objects attempting those actions.
- There are three SELinux Policy Types

The Three SELinux Policy Types

1) Targeted Policy

- *Default policy in RHEL5. Supported by HelpDesk.*
- Targets specific applications to lock down.
- Allows all other applications to run in the unconfined domain (`unconfined_t`)
- Applications running in the unconfined domain run as if SELinux were disabled

The Three SELinux Policy Types

2) Strict Policy

- Denies access to everything by default
- Complete protection for all processes on the system
- Requires that policies be written for **all** applications, often requires customization
- Strict is type enforcement with added types for users (e.g. `user_t` and `user_firefox_t`).
- Not enabled by Red Hat as default

The Three SELinux Policy Types

3) Multi-Level Security (MLS)

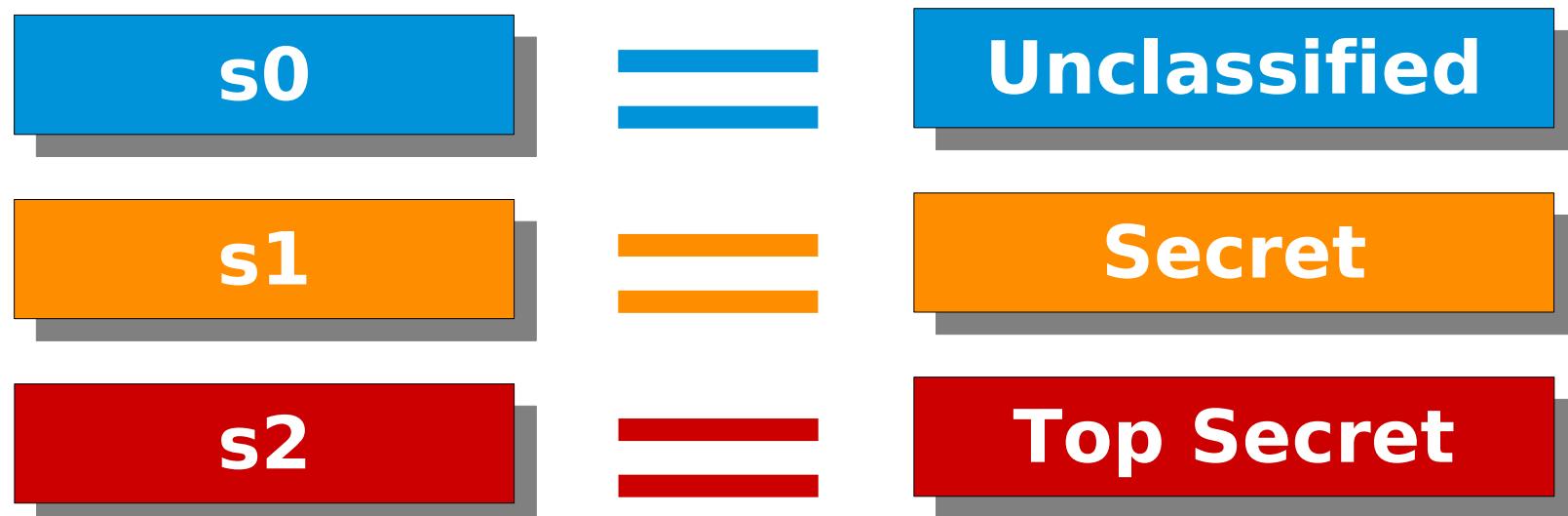
- Focuses on confidentiality (i.e. separation of multiple classifications of data)
- Ability to manage {processes, users} with varying levels of access. (i.e. “*the need to know*”)
- Uses category & sensitivity levels

The Three SELinux Policy Types

3) Multi-Level Security (MLS)

(a) Sensitivity Labels

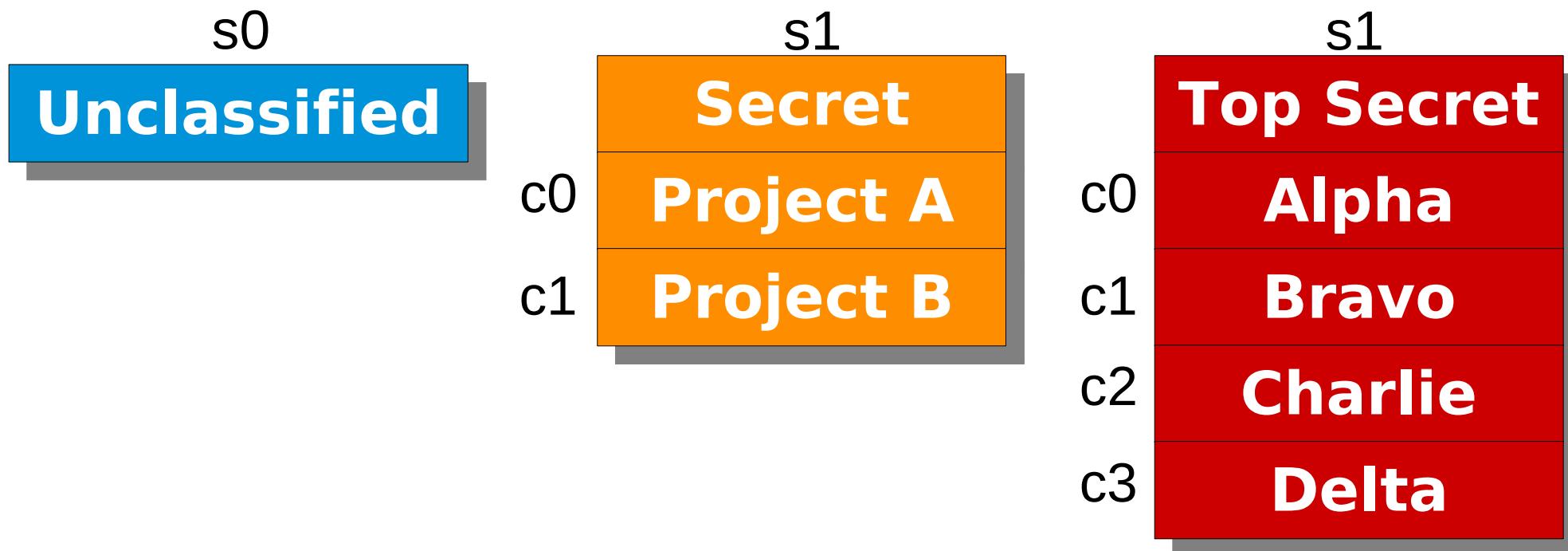
- Mostly used by the government – Top Secret, Secret, Unclassified, etc



The Three SELinux Policy Types

3) Multi-Level Security (MLS) (b) Category Labels

- Separation of data types, compartments, projects, etc



The Three SELinux Policy Types

3) Multi-Level Security (MLS)

(b) Polyinstantiation & pam_namespace

- The pam_namespace PAM module sets up a private namespace for a session with polyinstantiated directories
- A polyinstantiated directory provides a different instance of itself based on user name, or when using SELinux, user name, security context or both

The Three SELinux Policy Types

3) Multi-Level Security (MLS) (b) Polyinstantiation & pam_namespace

```
# id -Z  
staff_u:WebServer_Admin_r:WebServer_Admin_t:s0:c0
```

```
# ls -l /data  
secret-file-1  
secret-file 2
```

```
# id -Z  
staff_u:WebServer_Admin_r:WebServer_Admin_t:s1:c0
```

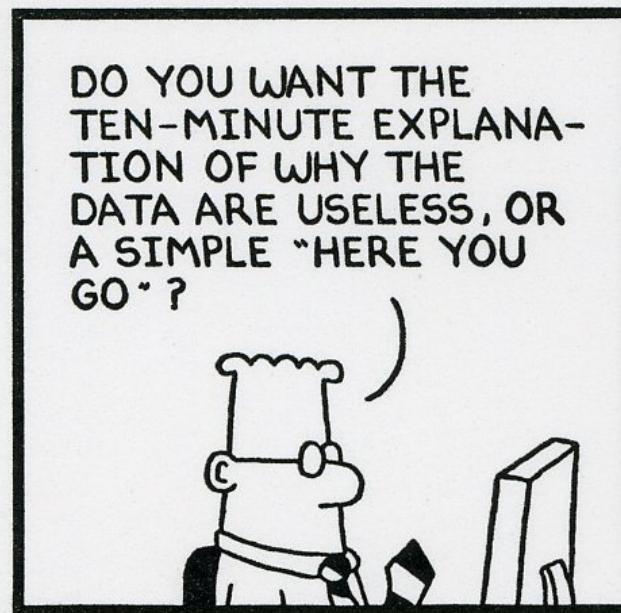
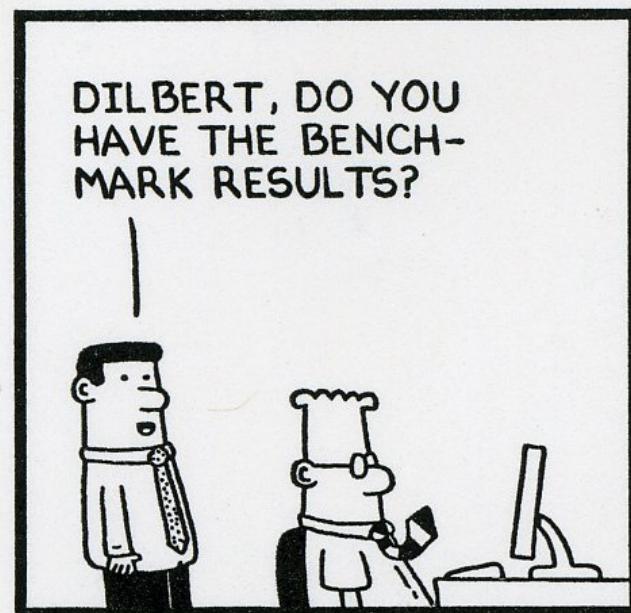
```
# ls -l /data  
secret-file-1  
secret-file 2  
top-secret-file-1
```

The Three SELinux Policy Types

Multi-Level Security (MLS) & Common Criteria

- The Common Criteria (CC) is an international security standard against which systems are evaluated. Many government customers require CC evaluated systems.
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 meets EAL4+ with RBAC/LSPP/CAPP endorsements

What's the Performance Overhead?

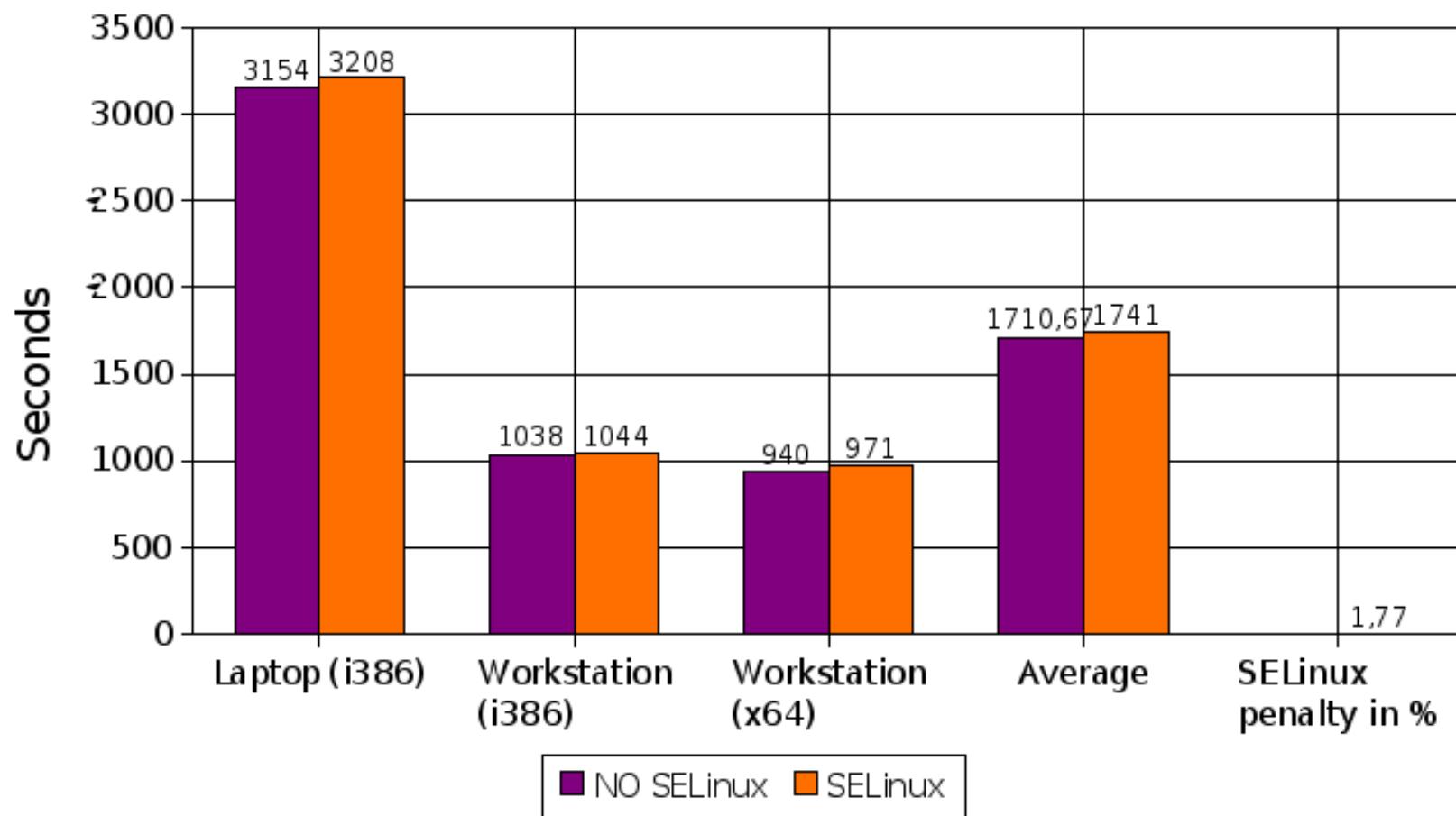


12-15-04 ©2004 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by UFS, Inc.

What's the Performance Overhead?

RHEL5 SELinux: MySQL 5.0.22

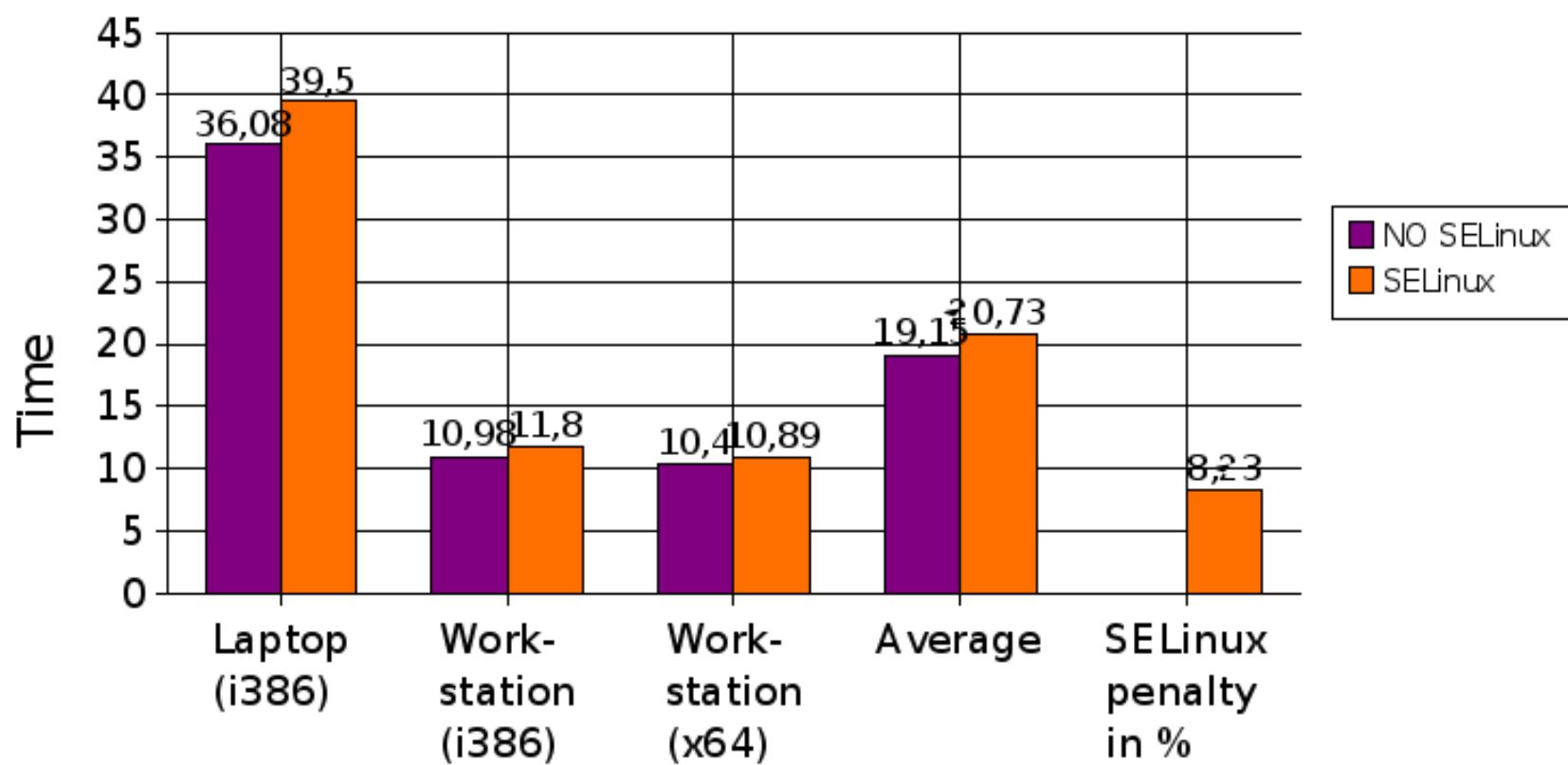
MySQL Benchmark suite: run-all-tests. Lower is better.



What's the Performance Overhead?

RHEL5 SELinux: Apache 2.2.3 (worker)

11 tests: 100000 requests with 1-255 concurrent connections. Lower is better.



What's the Performance Overhead?

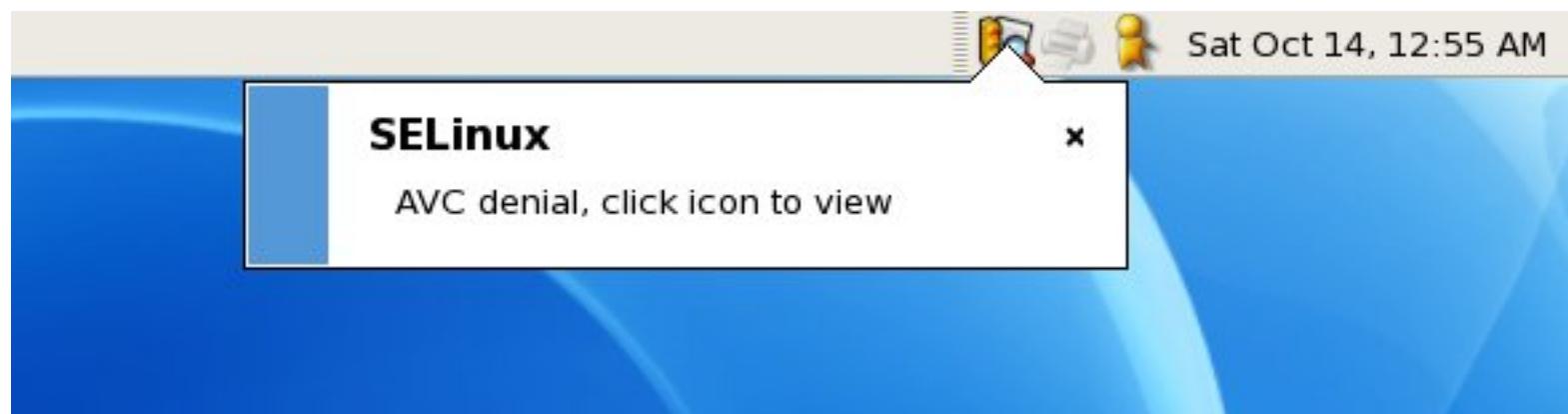
- Not official statistics
- Laptop = 2GHz, 2x 1GB RAM
- Workstation = 2.13GHz, 4x 1GB RAM
- Apache = Lots of threads
- MySQL = Lots of disk I/O

SELinux Usage

(GUI & console)

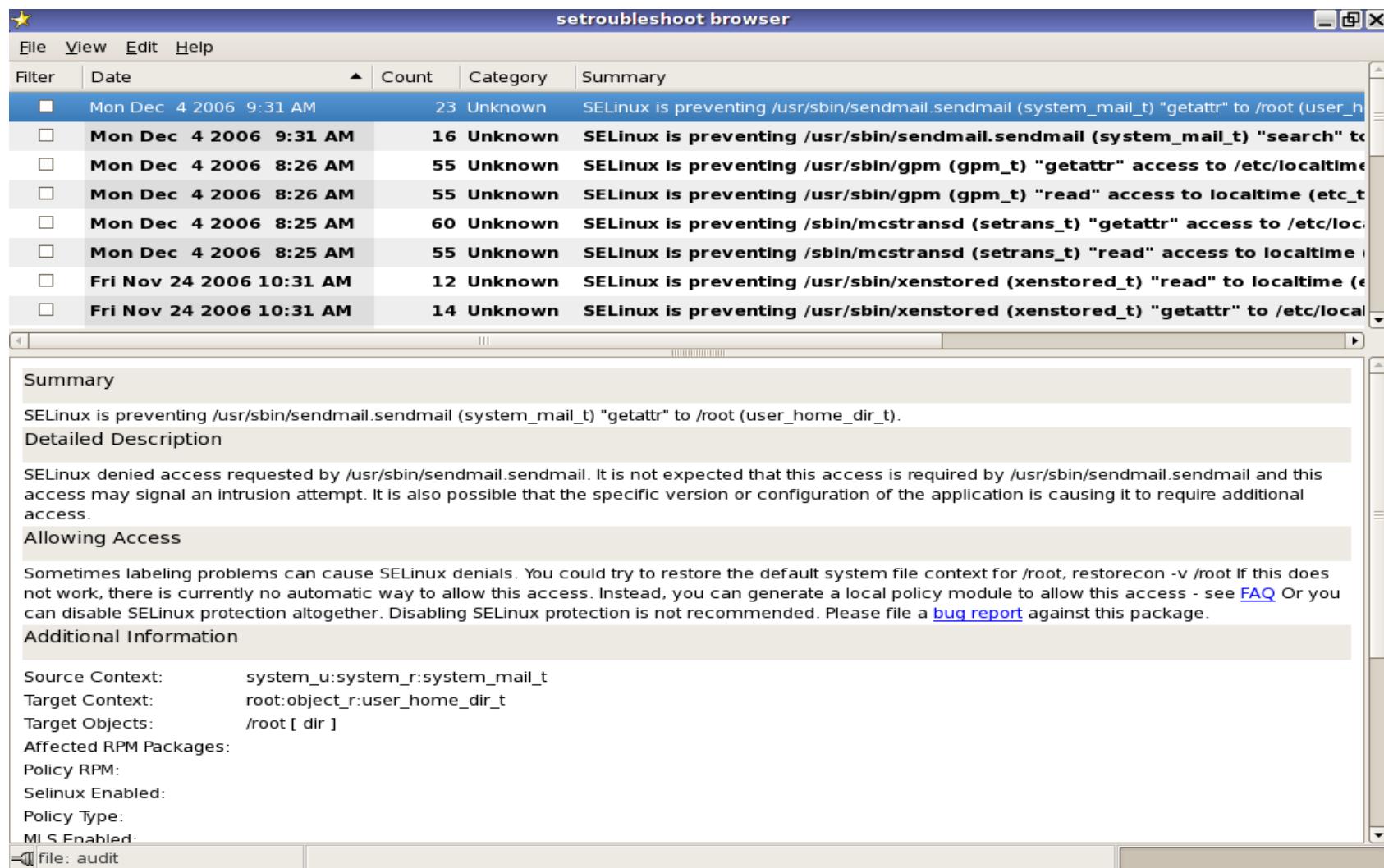
End-User Perspective

- sealert Notifications



End-User Perspective

- sealert Browser



The screenshot shows the sealert Browser application window. The title bar reads "setroubleshoot browser". The main area is a table of audit logs:

Date	Count	Category	Summary
Mon Dec 4 2006 9:31 AM	23	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/sendmail.sendmail (system_mail_t) "getattr" to /root (user_home_dir_t)
Mon Dec 4 2006 9:31 AM	16	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/sendmail.sendmail (system_mail_t) "search" to /root (user_home_dir_t)
Mon Dec 4 2006 8:26 AM	55	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/gpm (gpm_t) "getattr" access to /etc/localtime (etc_t)
Mon Dec 4 2006 8:26 AM	55	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/gpm (gpm_t) "read" access to localtime (etc_t)
Mon Dec 4 2006 8:25 AM	60	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /sbin/mcstransd (setrans_t) "getattr" access to /etc/localtime (etc_t)
Mon Dec 4 2006 8:25 AM	55	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /sbin/mcstransd (setrans_t) "read" access to localtime (etc_t)
Fri Nov 24 2006 10:31 AM	12	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/xenstored (xenstored_t) "read" to localtime (etc_t)
Fri Nov 24 2006 10:31 AM	14	Unknown	SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/xenstored (xenstored_t) "getattr" to /etc/localtime (etc_t)

The bottom panel contains a "Summary" section with the following text:

SELinux is preventing /usr/sbin/sendmail.sendmail (system_mail_t) "getattr" to /root (user_home_dir_t).

The "Detailed Description" section provides more context:

SELinux denied access requested by /usr/sbin/sendmail.sendmail. It is not expected that this access is required by /usr/sbin/sendmail.sendmail and this access may signal an intrusion attempt. It is also possible that the specific version or configuration of the application is causing it to require additional access.

The "Allowing Access" section suggests a workaround:

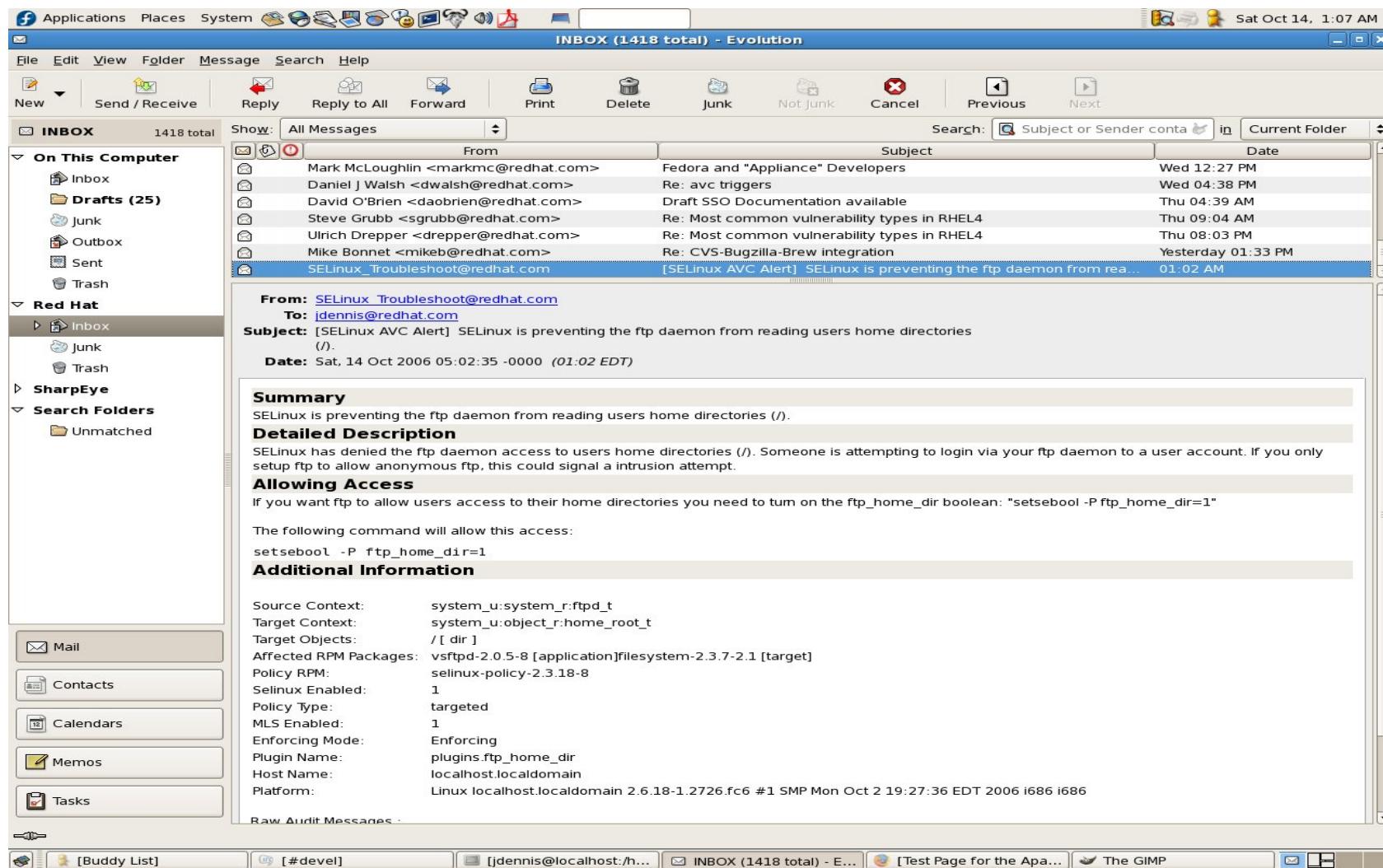
Sometimes labeling problems can cause SELinux denials. You could try to restore the default system file context for /root, restorecon -v /root If this does not work, there is currently no automatic way to allow this access. Instead, you can generate a local policy module to allow this access - see [FAQ](#) Or you can disable SELinux protection altogether. Disabling SELinux protection is not recommended. Please file a [bug report](#) against this package.

The "Additional Information" section lists system details:

Source Context: system_u:system_r:system_mail_t
Target Context: root:object_r:user_home_dir_t
Target Objects: /root [dir]
Affected RPM Packages:
Policy RPM:
Selinux Enabled:
Policy Type:
MLS Enabled:
File: audit

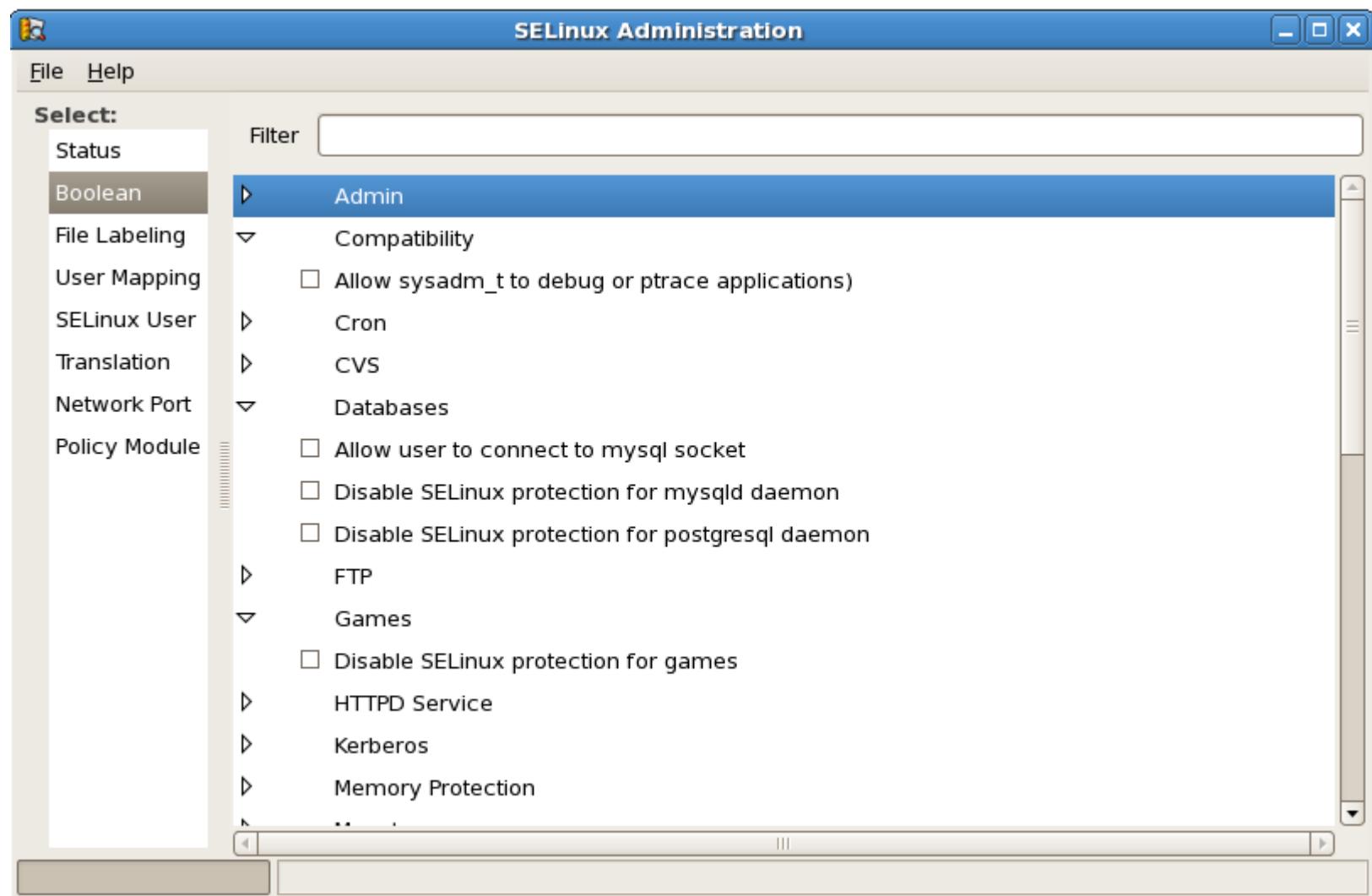
System Administrator Perspective

- sealert + EMail Notifications



System Administrator Perspective

- **system-config-selinux**



System Administrator Perspective

- **sediffx**

Semantic Policy Difference Tool

File Edit Tools Help

Open Policies Remap Types Run Diff

Differences Policy 1: policy.conf Policy 2: policy2.conf

Differences

- ▶ Summary
- ▶ Classes 0
- ▶ Commons 0
- ▶ Types 1097
- ▶ Attributes 159
- ▶ Roles 5
- ▶ Users 4
- ▶ Booleans 106
- ▶ Role Allows 4
- ▶ Role Transitions 0
- ▶ TE Rules 1219615
 - Added 21656
 - Added Type 940865
 - Removed 198261
 - Removed Type 45885
 - Modified 12948

Difference Key

Added(+):
Items added in policy 2.

Removed(-):
Items removed from policy 1.

Modified(*):
Items modified from policy 1 to policy 2.

```
* allow httpd_suexec_t etc_t : file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15192] [p2: 477232]
* allow httpd_suexec_t etc_t : lnk_file { read +setattr +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15195] [p2: 477234]
* allow httpd_suexec_t home_root_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 15185] [p2: 477305]
* allow httpd_suexec_t httpd_suexec_t : lnk_file { read +setattr +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15168] [p2: 461156]
* allow httpd_suexec_t httpd_suexec_t : process { sigchld sigkill signal signull sigstop +fork }; [p1: 15136] [p2: 461164]
* allow httpd_suexec_t lib_t : file { setattr ioctl lock read -execute }; [p1: 15152, 15197, 15798] [p2: 477679]
* allow httpd_suexec_t locale_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15205] [p2: 477631]
* allow httpd_suexec_t proc_t : lnk_file { read +getattr }; [p1: 15168] [p2: 477074]
* allow httpd_suexec_t sysctl_kernel_t : dir { search +setattr +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 15218] [p2: 477024]
* allow httpd_suexec_t sysctl_kernel_t : file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15220] [p2: 477026]
* allow httpd_suexec_t sysctl_t : dir { search +setattr +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 15216] [p2: 477022]
* allow httpd_suexec_t urandom_device_t : chr_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 15227] [p2: 477100]
* allow httpd_suexec_t usr_t : file { setattr ioctl read +lock }; [p1: 15798] [p2: 477259]
* allow httpd_suexec_t var_run_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 87702] [p2: 479746]
* allow httpd_suexec_t var_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 15184, 87762] [p2: 477454, 479744]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t bin_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 12998] [p2: 463225]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t device_t : dir { search +setattr +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 11942, 13018] [p2: 462165, 462191, 46
* allow httpd_sys_script_t device_t : dir { setattr search +ioctl +lock +read }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12126] [p
* allow httpd_sys_script_t devtty_t : chr_file { setattr read write +append +ioctl +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [
* allow httpd_sys_script_t etc_runtime_t : file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12092] [p2:
* allow httpd_sys_script_t etc_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 12998, 13118] [p2: 463349, 463393]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t httpd_sys_script_exec_t : file { entrypoint -execute -setattr -ioctl -lock -read }; [httpd
* allow httpd_sys_script_t httpd_sys_script_ro_t : dir { setattr read search -ioctl -lock }; [p1: 13128] [p2: 463053]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t httpd_sys_script_ro_t : file { setattr read -ioctl -lock }; [p1: 13130] [p2: 463055]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t httpd_sys_script_t : process { sigchld sigkill signal signull sigstop -fork }; [httpd_ena
* allow httpd_sys_script_t locale_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12106] [p2: 4
* allow httpd_sys_script_t mysql_var_run_t : sock_file { write -append -setattr -ioctl -lock -read }; [p1: 14283] [p2: 4
* allow httpd_sys_script_t proc_t : lnk_file { read +getattr }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12122] [p2: 464063]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t sbin_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 12998] [p2: 463267]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t sendmail_exec_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 80450] [p2: 465123]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t sysctl_kernel_t : dir { search +getattr +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 14734] [p2: 479809]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t sysctl_kernel_t : file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 14736] [p2: 479811]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t sysctl_t : dir { search +getattr +ioctl +lock +read }; [p1: 14732] [p2: 479807]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t urandom_device_t : chr_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 120
* allow httpd_sys_script_t usr_t : file { setattr ioctl read +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12078] [p2: 464175]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t usr_t : lnk_file { setattr read +ioctl +lock }; [httpd_enable_cgi]:TRUE [p1: 12080] [p2: 4641
* allow httpd_sys_script_t var_lib_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 14743] [p2: 479835, 479943]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t var_run_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 87739] [p2: 466083]
* allow httpd_sys_script_t var_t : dir { search +getattr }; [p1: 87739] [p2: 463005, 466081, 479835, 479858, 479943]
* allow httpd_t bin_t : lnk_file { read +getattr +ioctl +lock }; [p1: 10663] [p2: 470430]
```

Classes 0 Commons 0 Types: 1097 Attribs: 159 Roles: 5 Users: 4 Booleans: 106 TE Rules: 1219615 Role Allows: 4 Role Trans: 0

System Administrator Perspective

- apol

The screenshot shows the SELinux Policy Analysis interface. The title bar reads "SELinux Policy Analysis - /tmp/policy.conf". The menu bar includes File, Search, Query, Advanced, and Help. The top navigation bar has tabs for Policy Components, Policy Rules, File Contexts, Analysis, and policy.conf. Below these are sub-tabs for TE Rules, Conditional Expressions, RBAC Rules, and Range Transition Rules. A "Rule Selection" panel on the left lists various SELinux booleans: allow, neverallow, auditallow, dontaudit, type_trans, type_member, type_change, and type_context. It also contains a "Search Options" section with checkboxes for "Search only enabled rules" and "Search using regular expression". The main search interface consists of two dropdown menus: "Source type/attribute" set to "Adom" and "Target type/attribute" set to "sha.*_t", both with "Types" and "Attribs" checkboxes. There are also "Only direct matches" and "As source" options. To the right are buttons for "New Search", "Update Search", and "Reset Criteria". The bottom pane, titled "Type Enforcement Rules Display", shows the results of the search. It displays 9 rules matching the criteria, with 0 enabled and 2 disabled. The rules listed are:

```
[24498] dontaudit auth_chkpwd shadow_t : file {read getattr};  
[46025] dontaudit firstboot_t shadow_t : file getattr;  
[69382] dontaudit local_login_t shadow_t : file {read getattr};  
[70808] dontaudit remote_login_t shadow_t : file {read getattr};  
[87833] allow nsqd_t shadow_t : file getattr;  
[102697] allow kernel_t {file_type -shadow_t} : file {ioctl read write create setattr lock append unlink link rename}; [Disabled]  
[102704] dontaudit kernel_t shadow_t : file getattr;  
[102714] allow kernel_t {file_type -shadow_t} : file {ioctl read setattr lock}; [Disabled]  
[108140] allow smhd_t samha share_t : file {ioctl read write create setattr lock append unlink link rename};
```

A "Close Tab" button is at the bottom of the results pane. The footer of the window shows statistics: Classes: 55, Perms: 205, Types: 804, Attribs: 123, TE rules: 570443, Roles: 6, Users: 3, and v.18 (source, non-mls).



SELinux Usage (Hints & Tips)

System Administrator Perspective

- **semanage**
 - Configure elements of SELinux policy without modification/recompilation of policy sources
 - aka on the fly

Example: Dynamically Allowing Apache to listen on port 1234

```
# semanage port -a -t httpd_port_t -p tcp 1234
```

System Administrator Perspective

- **semanage** (more examples)

Example: Allow shawn to join “`webadmin_u`” group

```
# semanage login -a -s webadmin_u shawn
```

Example: Relabel files for access by Apache

```
# semanage fcontext -a -t \
httpd_sys_content_t "/data/webpages(/.*)?"
```

System Administrator Perspective

- **semanage** (most important example)

You don't need to disable SELinux to fix a single error!

```
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1204719775.306:738): arch=40000003 syscall=54
success=no exit=-19 a0=4 a1=8933 a2=bfcec1bc a3=bfcec1bc items=0
ppid=3900 pid=5003 auid=501 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0
sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) comm="ip" exe="/sbin/ip"
subj=user_u:system_r:ifconfig_t:s0 key=(null)
```

The Fix:

```
# semanage permissive -a ifconfig_t
```

System Administrator Perspective

- **audit2allow**

Allows generation of SELinux policy rules from logs of denied operations

Example: Fix all the errors on the system (completely not a good idea on a real system)

```
# cat /var/log/audit/audit.log | audit2allow -M FixAll
Generating type enforcement file: FixAll.te
Compiling policy: checkmodule -M -m -o FixAll.mod FixAll.te
Building package: semodule_package -o FixAll.pp -m FixAll.mod

# semodule -i FixAll.pp
```

Scenarios

Scenario: Fixing the RHT corporate VPN “update”

- Red Hat has a Corporate Standard Build (CSB) for desktop environments
- Red Hat pushes updates to said CSB
- I “tweak” my configuration files
- When RHT pushed a CSB update, it broke my VPN settings

Scenario: Fixing the RHT corporate VPN “update”

/var/log/messages:

```
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1204719775.306:738): arch=40000003 syscall=54  
success=no exit=-19 a0=4 a1=8933 a2=bfcec1bc a3=bfcec1bc items=0  
ppid=3900 pid=5003 auid=501 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0  
sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) comm="ip" exe="/sbin/ip"  
subj=user_u:system_r:ifconfig_t:s0 key=(null)
```

Now what?

Scenario: Fixing the RHT corporate VPN “update”

```
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1204719775.306:738): arch=40000003 syscall=54  
success=no exit=-19 a0=4 a1=8933 a2=bfcec1bc a3=bfcec1bc items=0  
ppid=3900 pid=5003 auid=501 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0  
sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) comm="ip" exe="/sbin/ip"  
subj=user_u:system_r:ifconfig_t:s0 key=(null)
```

What I Know:

- 1) AVC Event ID 738
- 2) syscall=54 (I'd have to google this)
- 3) root (or an application on its behalf) was running /sbin/ip
- 4) context = user_u:system_r:ifconfig_t:s0

Scenario: Fixing the RHT corporate VPN “update”

```
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```

My Options:

- 1) Create a SELinux Policy Module

```
# ausearch -x "/sbin/ip" | audit2allow -M MyVPNFix
```

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My Options:

- 1) Create a SELinux Policy Module

```
# ausearch -x "/sbin/ip" | audit2allow -M MyVPNFix  
# semodule -i MyVPNFix.pp
```

Scenario: Fixing the RHT corporate VPN “update”

```
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subj=user_u:system_r:ifconfig_t:s0 key=(null)
```

My Options:

- 2) Disable enforcement of ifconfig_t (**there is no need to turn SELinux completely off!**)

```
# semanage permissive -a ifconfig_t
```

Questions