



SELinux news in Fedora 16

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ABSTRACT

SELinux overview

File name transitions

Pre-built policy

Shrinking policy

Permissivedomains module

WHAT IS SELINUX

The screenshot displays a Linux desktop environment with a terminal window and a notification area. The terminal window shows the following content:

```
root@avalanche: ~ 78x24
</body></html>
[root@avalanche ~]# curl http://localhost
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>403 Forbidden</title>
</head><body>
<h1>Forbidden</h1>
<p>You don't have permission to access /
on this server.</p>
<hr>
<address>Apache/2.2.17 (Fedora) Server at localhost Port 80</address>
</body></html>
[root@avalanche ~]# curl http://localhost
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>403 Forbidden</title>
</head><body>
<h1>Forbidden</h1>
<p>You don't have permission to access /
on this server.</p>
<hr>
<address>Apache/2.2.17 (Fedora) Server at localhost Port 80</address>
</body></html>
[root@avalanche ~]#
```

The notification area on the right side of the terminal window shows four "New SELinux security alert" notifications, each with a warning icon and the text "AVC denial, click icon to view".

The terminal window also shows the following content:

```
mgrepl@avalanche: ~/Devel/Rawhide/Commit/selinux-policy/nsaserefpolicy 78x23
policy/modules/admin/alsa.if: files_etc_filetrans($1, alsa_etc_rw_t, file, "
asound.state")
policy/modules/admin/alsa.if: files_etc_filetrans($1, alsa_etc_rw_t, dir, "p
cm")
policy/modules/admin/alsa.if: files_etc_filetrans($1, alsa_etc_rw_t, dir, "a
sound")
policy/modules/admin/bootloader.te:#files_etc_filetrans(bootloader_t,bootloade
r_etc_t,file)
policy/modules/admin/bootloader.te:files_etc_filetrans_etc_runtime(bootloader
_t, file)
policy/modules/admin/quota.te:files_etc_filetrans(quota_t, quota_db_t, file)
policy/modules/admin/kudzu.te:files_etc_filetrans_etc_runtime(kudzu_t, file)
policy/modules/admin/shutdown.te:files_etc_filetrans(shutdown_t, shutdown_etc
_t, file)
policy/modules/apps/kdumpgui.te:files_etc_filetrans_etc_runtime(kdumpgui_t, fi
le)
policy/modules/apps/firewallgui.te:files_etc_filetrans_system_conf(firewallgui
_t)
[mgrepl@avalanche nsaserefpolicy]$ vim policy/modules/system/authlogin.if
[mgrepl@avalanche nsaserefpolicy]$ vim policy/modules/kernel/domain.te
[mgrepl@avalanche nsaserefpolicy]$ vim policy/modules/system/authlogin.if
[mgrepl@avalanche nsaserefpolicy]$ vim policy/modules/system/authlogin.te
[mgrepl@avalanche nsaserefpolicy]$
```

The terminal window also shows the following content:

```
mgrepl@shell: ~ 77x23
[mgrepl@shell ~]$
```



WHAT IS SELINUX

SELinux knows if you do bad things



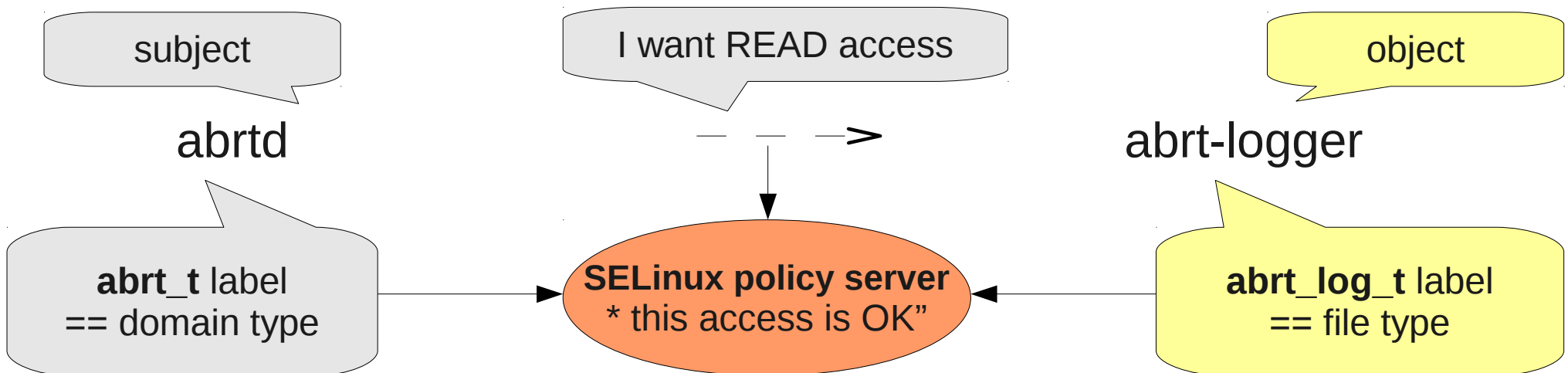
WHAT IS SELINUX

- Implementation of Mandatory Access Control (MAC)
 - which subject can access which object
 - subjects (processes, users) and objects (files, devices) have

security context == label

system_u:system_r:abrt_t:s0

- SELinux makes decisions based on these labels



DON'T TURN OFF SELINUX

- your `/etc/selinux/config` **should not contain**

`SELINUX=disabled`

- rather please use

- **PERMISSIVE MODE** – you can do anything but SELinux reports Access Vector Cache (AVC) messages

`SELINUX = permissive` `/etc/selinux/config`
`enforcing = 0` as a kernel parameter
`setenforce 0` on the command line

- **PERMISSIVE DOMAINS** – SELinux allows a domain to do anything but reports AVC's

`semanage permissive -a DOMAIN`





New features in Fedora 16

FILE NAME TRANSITIONS

- labeling files is now easier for users/administrators
- accidental mislabeling of file objects is now sanitized

Previously

```
$ mkdir /root/.ssh  
$ ls -dZ /root/.ssh  
system_u:object_r:admin_home_t:s0  
$ matchpathcon /root/.ssh  
/root/.ssh system_u:object_r:ssh_home_t:s0
```

Now

```
$ mkdir /root/.ssh  
$ ls -dZ /root/.ssh  
system_u:object_r:ssh_home_t:s0
```



FILE NAME TRANSITIONS

- we can write a policy rule that states

*“If the unconfined_t user process creates the “.ssh” directory in a directory labeled admin_home_t, then it will get created with the ssh_home_t label. *”*

- example of a rule

```
filetrans_pattern(unconfined_t, admin_home_t, ssh_home_t, dir, ".ssh")
```

```
filetrans_pattern(unconfined_t, etc_t, passwd_file_t, file, "group")
```

- reduce many errors => **BIG STEP FORWARD**

```
$ ssearch -T -c file | grep \" | wc -l
```

```
1384
```



PRE-BUILT POLICY

Previously

- SELinux policy has been always re-built in the post install
=> more time, more memory

Now

- selinux-policy-TYPE packages are shipped with a pre-built policy
- installation selinux-policy packages is faster



SHRINKING POLICY

- systemd output in Fedora 16 devel phase
 - part of boot message on boot

“I also added some basic profiling output for SELinux which unfortunately shows that SELinux costs around 5s on every boot on f16 (and that on my really fast machine!). Sad.”

- everyone could know how much time SELinux was costing them on boot
- the policy contained over 300 thousands rules => where did come from?



SHRINKING POLICY

- policy language uses attributes to reduce rules
 - attributes can cover more types
 - port_type attribute => for all defined ports
 - reserved_port_type attribute => for all defined reserved ports

- we can define a single rule rather than many

```
allow domain_t dhcpc_port_t:tcp_socket name_bind
```

```
allow domain_t dns_port_t:tcp_socket name_bind
```

```
....
```

VS

```
allow domain_t reserved_port_type:tcp_socket name_bind
```

```
$ seinfo -axreserved_port_type
```

```
58
```



SHRINKING POLICY

- we can define a rule like

```
allow ssh_t { port_type -reserved_port_type }:tcp_socket  
name_bind
```

- we ended with a rule for each type

```
allow ssh_t amqp_port_t:tcp_socket name_bind;  
allow ssh_t asterisk_port_t:tcp_socket name_bind;
```

...

=> **100's** of allow rules

- we changed the rule

```
allow ssh_t unreserved_port_type:tcp_socket name_bind;
```

=> **only 1** rule



SHRINKING POLICY

Previously

- on a Fedora 15

\$ seinfo

Allow: **282 444**

Dontaudit: **184 516**

Now

- on Fedora 16

\$ seinfo

Allow: **88 242**

Dontaudit: **11 302**

=> tools use load policy run about 3 times as fast

=> policy takes less kernel memory



PERMISSIVEDOMAINS MODULE

Previously

- permissive flag was in individual policy modules

```
$ cat /etc/fedora-release
```

```
Fedora release 15 (Lovelock)
```

```
$ grep permissive PATHTO/abrt.te
```

```
permissive abrt_dump_oops_t;
```

```
permissive abrt_retrace_worker_exec_t;
```

```
permissive abrt_retrace_coredump_t;
```

=> permissive statement was permanent



PERMISSIVEDOMAINS MODULE

Now

- flags have been moved to a new policy module called *permissivedomains.pp*
- you can disable all permissive domains from the system

```
$ semanage permissive -l | wc -l
```

```
62
```

```
$ semodule -d permissivedomains.pp
```



PERMISSIVEDOMAINS MODULE

- **permissive domain** – can do everything and AVC messages are logged
- **unconfined domain** – can do everything but AVC messages are not logged

```
$ seinfo -xaunconfined_domain_type
```

```
unconfined_domain_type
```

```
rpm_t
```

```
anaconda_t
```

```
rpm_script_t
```

```
...
```

- stricter policy in one step + confined users

```
$ semodule -d unconfined.pp permissivedomains.pp
```



REFERENCES

- <http://danwalsh.livejournal.com>
 - <http://danwalsh.livejournal.com/43264.html>
 - <http://danwalsh.livejournal.com/46018.html>
 - <http://danwalsh.livejournal.com/46245.html>
 - <http://danwalsh.livejournal.com/46388.html>
- <http://mgrepl.wordpress.com/>





QUESTIONS?