

Outline for April 3, 2003

1. Principle of Complete Mediation
 - a. All accesses must be checked
 - b. Forces system-wide view of controls
 - c. Sources of requests must be identified correctly
 - d. Source of problems: caching (because it may not reflect the state of the system correctly); examples are race conditions, DNS poisoning
2. Principle of Open Design
 - a. Designs are open so everyone can examine them and know the limits of the security provided
 - b. Does *not* apply to cryptographic keys
 - c. Acceptance of reality: they can get this info anyway
3. Principle of Separation of Privilege
 - a. Require multiple conditions to be satisfied before granting permission/access/etc.
 - b. Advantage: 2 accidents/errors/etc. must happen together to trigger failure
4. Principle of Least Common Mechanism
 - a. Minimize sharing
 - b. New service: in kernel or as a library routine? Latter is better, as each user gets their own copy
5. Principle of Psychological Acceptability
 - a. Willingness to use the mechanisms
 - b. Understanding model
 - c. Matching user's goal
6. ACM and primitive operations
 - a. Go over subjects, objects (includes subjects), and state (S, O, A) where A is ACM
 - b. Transitions modify ACM entries; primitive operations follow
 - c. **enter** r **into** $A[s,o]$
 - d. **delete** r **from** $A[s,o]$
 - e. **create subject** s' (note $A[s',x] = A[x,s'] = \emptyset$ for all x)
 - f. **create object** o' (note $A[x,o'] = \emptyset$ for all x)
 - g. **destroy subject** s'
 - h. **destroy object** o'
7. Commands
 - a. **command** $c(s_1, \dots, s_k, o_1, \dots, o_k)$

```

if   $r_1$  in  $A[s_1, o_1]$  and
       $r_2$  in  $A[s_2, o_2]$  and
      ...
       $r_m$  in  $A[s_m, o_m]$ 
then
       $op_1$ ;
       $op_2$ ;
      ...;
       $op_n$ ;
end.

```
 - b. Example 1: creating a file


```

command  $create\_file(p, f)$ 
      create object  $f$ ;

```

- ```

enter Own into $A[p, f]$
enter Read into $A[p, f]$
enter Write into $A[p, f]$
end.

```
- c. Example 2: granting one process read rights to a file
- ```

command grant_read( $p, q, f$ )
if Own in  $A[p, f]$ 
then
  enter Read into  $A[q, f]$ 
end.

```
8. What is the safety question?
- An unauthorized state is one in which a generic right r could be leaked into an entry in the ACM that did not previously contain r . An initial state is safe for r if it cannot lead to a state in which r could be leaked.
 - Question: in a given arbitrary protection system, is safety decidable?
 - Mono-operational protection systems: decidable
 - Theorem: there is an algorithm that decides whether a given mono-operational system and initial state is safe for a given generic right.
 Proof: finite number of command sequences; can eliminate **delete**, **destroy**.
 Ignore more than one **create** as all others are conditioned on access rights in the matrix. (One exception: no subjects; then we need one **create subject**).
 Bound: s number of subjects (possibly one more than in original), o number of objects (same), g number of generic rights; number of command sequences to inspect is at most $2^{g(s+1)(o+1)+1}$.
9. General case: It is undecidable whether a given state of a given protection system is safe for a given generic right.
- Represent TM as ACM; reduce halting problem to it