

Reference Policy

The security policy at the heart of major Linux distributions



Customer Profile

This U.S. Government agency provides solutions, products, and services that enable defensive information operations. This includes securing information infrastructures critical to U.S. national security interests. A key requirement of the agency is the development of security policies that can provide a higher level of information assurance for government and commercial organizations.

Business Challenge

The implementation of Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux) for Mandatory Access Control (MAC) was the most pragmatic approach to providing higher levels of information assurance for a commercially supported operating system. An SELinux reference policy was required that was modular, extensible and could easily be adapted to the security goals of multiple projects. In addition, it was necessary to engage the SELinux community to ensure that the resulting technology could be transferred to Linux distributions and commercial Linux products.

Solution

Tresys developed the Open Source "Reference Policy" - a modular, comprehensive, well-documented, and secure SELinux security policy. It is now the basis for the standard SELinux security policy shipped by vendors (e.g., Red Hat) and is present in Linux COTS products such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL).

Summary And Benefits

With Reference Policy it is possible for security policy developers to easily create new SELinux policies tailored to specific security requirements. The well-documented, modular architecture enables policy developers to include only those parts of the base policy that are needed. By using Reference Policy as a basis, SELinux security policies can be written with less effort and with a greater degree of confidence that the desired security goals will be met.

About Tresys

Tresys innovates and applies advanced technologies to quickly solve the needs of customers requiring agile responsiveness to security requirements. By leveraging secure open source software, our products and services support the most sensitive security missions around the world. As a result Tresys enjoys a distinct reputation for shifting the way governments and businesses approach security. For more information, visit: www.tresys.com.

