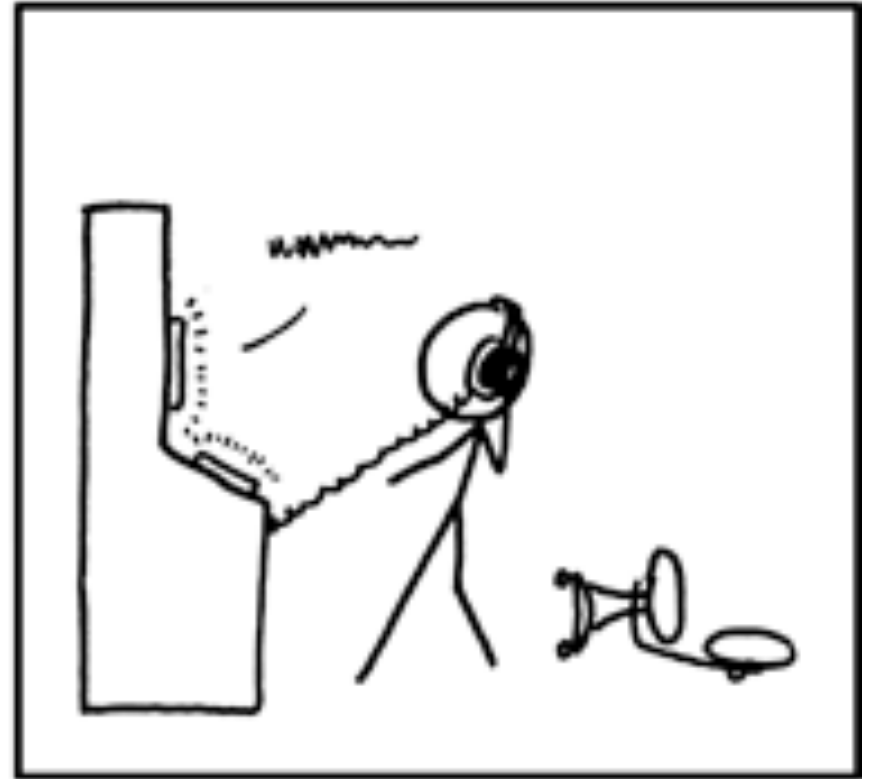


# CS 55: Security and Privacy

Authorization and Multilevel Security (MLS);  
malware

NOW AND THEN, I ANNOUNCE "I KNOW  
YOU'RE LISTENING" TO EMPTY ROOMS.

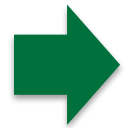


IF I'M WRONG, NO ONE KNOWS.  
AND IF I'M RIGHT, MAYBE I JUST FREAKED  
THE HELL OUT OF SOME SECRET ORGANIZATION.

Big idea: not all information  
has the same value

Implication: we should treat it differently

# Agenda



1. Access control
2. Multilevel Security (MLS)
3. Linux access controls
4. Malware

# Much of the early thinking about computer security began with the Cold War military



In the cold war, each side had lots of information to store and process

Much of the information was sensitive

There was a capable adversary that wanted to learn the information

The ***information confinement*** problem attempts to ensure information doesn't flow to the wrong parties

Need a way to reason about security using a model

# An Access Control Matrix expresses who can do what to whom in a system

## Access Control Matrix

Access control matrix often referred to as the *Security Policy*

		Objects			
		/home/alice	/home/bob	/home/charlie	/etc/password
Subjects	Alice	read, write, execute			read
	Bob		read, write, execute		read
	Charlie	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write

Access modes can include read (r), write (w), execute (x), but also modify, delete, create, destroy, copy, export, ...

Effective separation will keep unauthorized subjects from access to objects

# A row in the matrix represents the capabilities a subject can perform

## Capabilities

		Objects			
		/home/alice	/home/bob	/home/charlie	/etc/password
Subjects	Alice	read, write, execute			read
	Bob		read, write, execute		read
	Charlie	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write

**Easy to see what rights subject Alice has on each object**

**Not easy to see everyone who has access to a particular object**

# A column in the matrix represents an Access Control List (ACL) on an object

## Access Control List (ACL)

		Objects			
		/home/alice	/home/bob	/home/charlie	/etc/password
Subjects	Alice	read, write, execute			read
	Bob		read, write, execute		read
	Charlie	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write, execute	read, write

**In practice it is difficult to maintain an Access Control Matrix (sparse)**  
**Normally create Access Control Lists (ACL -- just a column)**  
**Each object keeps a list of access modes subjects are allowed**  
**Common modes – read, write, execute**



# Access control can be either mandatory or discretionary

## **Mandatory Access Control (MAC)**

- A means of restricting access to objects based on:
  - The classification of the information contained in the object
  - Formal authorization (e.g., clearance) of subjects to access information of such sensitivity
- Access set by central authority (system admin)

## **Discretionary Access Control (DAC)**

- A means of restricting access to objects based on the identity of subject and/or groups to which they belong
- The controls are discretionary in the sense that a subject with a certain access permission can pass that permission (perhaps indirectly) to any other subject

# Systems should check every access, enforce least privilege, and verify acceptable usage

## **Check every access**

- Ensure subject has rights before each object access
- If access revoked, make sure do not use old permissions

## **Enforce least privilege**

- A subject should have access to the smallest number of objects necessary to perform a task
- Avoid even if extra information would be useless or harmless
- Run applications with minimal privileges
- Guards against compromise

## **Verify acceptable usage**

- Ability to access an object in a mode is a yes or no decision
- Must check if access is appropriate when granting/modifying privileges
- Management concept, not a technical concept

# Another approach is to use Role-Based Access Control

## Role-based Access Control (RBAC)

Accountant

Manager



## Role-based Access Control

Instead of Access Control Matrix with one entry per subject, create a role and add multiple subjects to the role

Simplifies management

- All employees can access certain information but not others
- Managers have increased access
- Put employees into appropriate group

**My view: RBAC is solved in theory, but not in practice! Too many roles, too many exceptions, and temporary assignments make it worse!**

# Plan for creating and terminating employee privileges

## **Onboarding new employees**

- Create Acceptable Use Policies (AUP) detailing what is allowed at work (e.g., is Facebook allowed?)
- New employees sign AUP
- Create new user accounts and assign privileges and groups
- Issue hardware (PC, laptop, tablet, phone, etc)

## **Terminating access**

- Recover issued hardware
- Consider what happens to employee's data (assign to supervisor?)
- Accounts often initially deactivated vs. deleted
- Tricky when terminating a system admin (coordinate with HR)

## **Perform periodic audits to ensure privileges still match business need**

- Things change over time, clear up temporary privileges
- Check time of day access

# Agenda

1. Access control



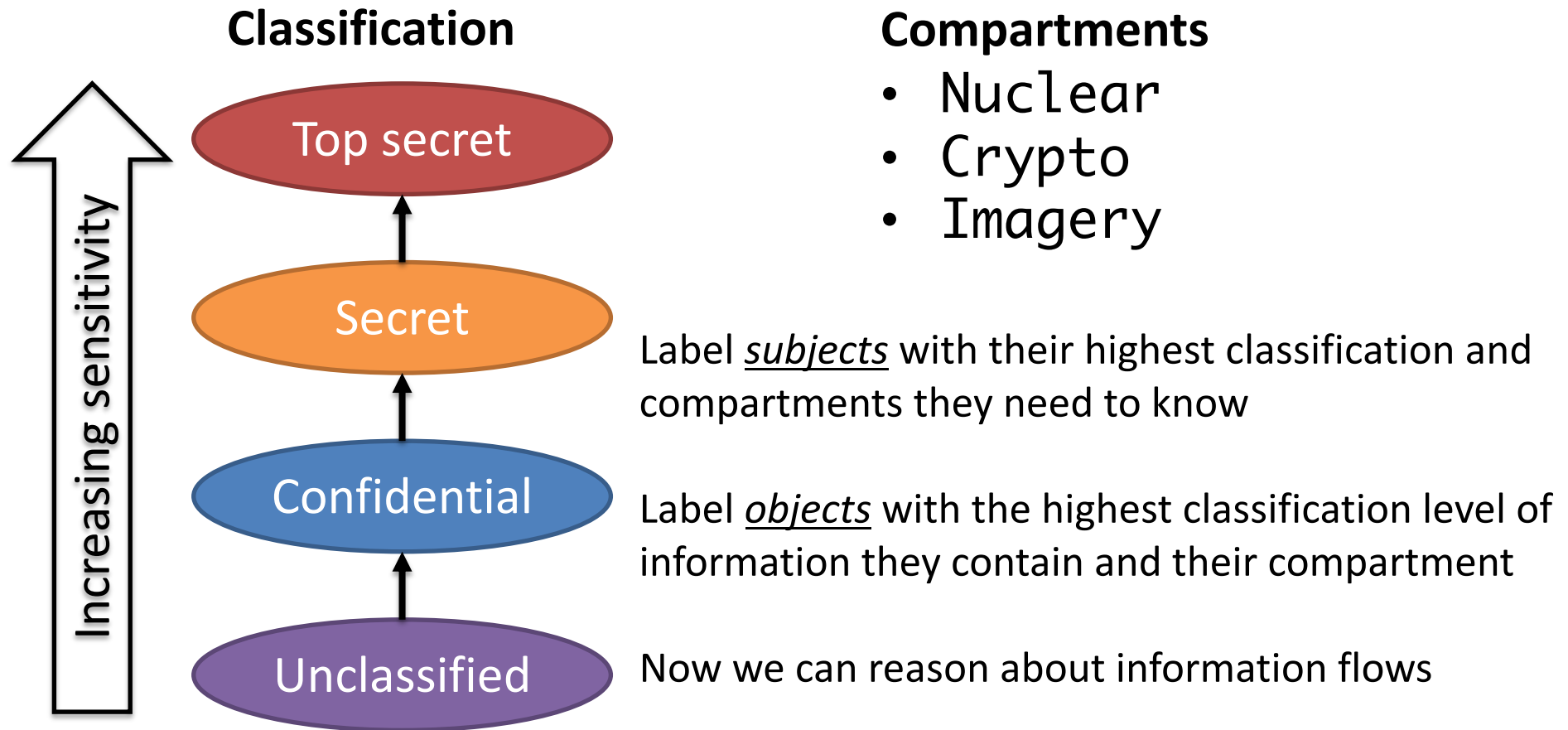
2. Multilevel Security (MLS)

3. Linux access controls

4. Malware

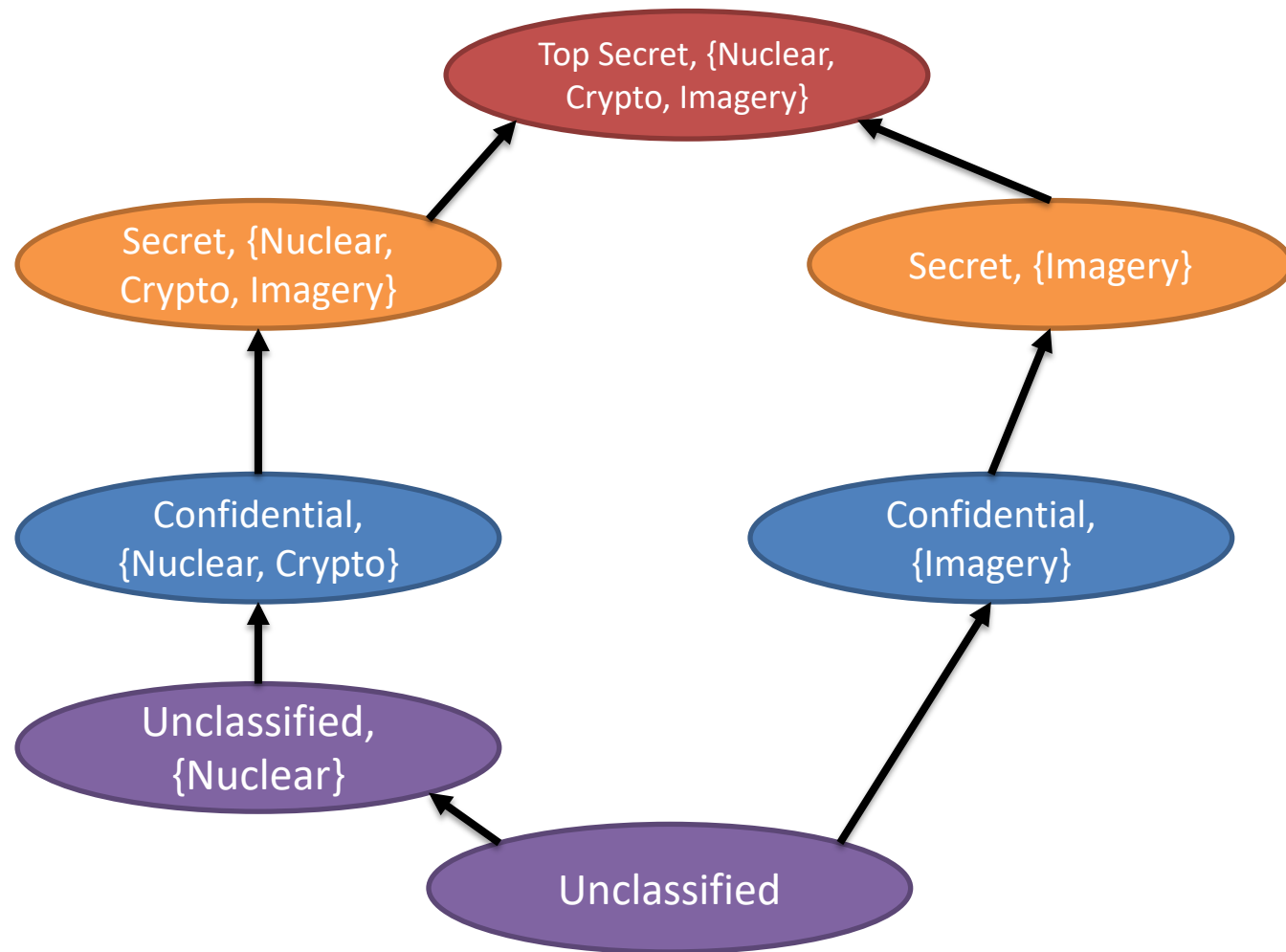
# Multilevel Security (MLS) uses different classification levels and compartments

Directed graph



# Bell-LaPadula Model (BLM) formalizes MLS as Finite State Machine obeying three rules

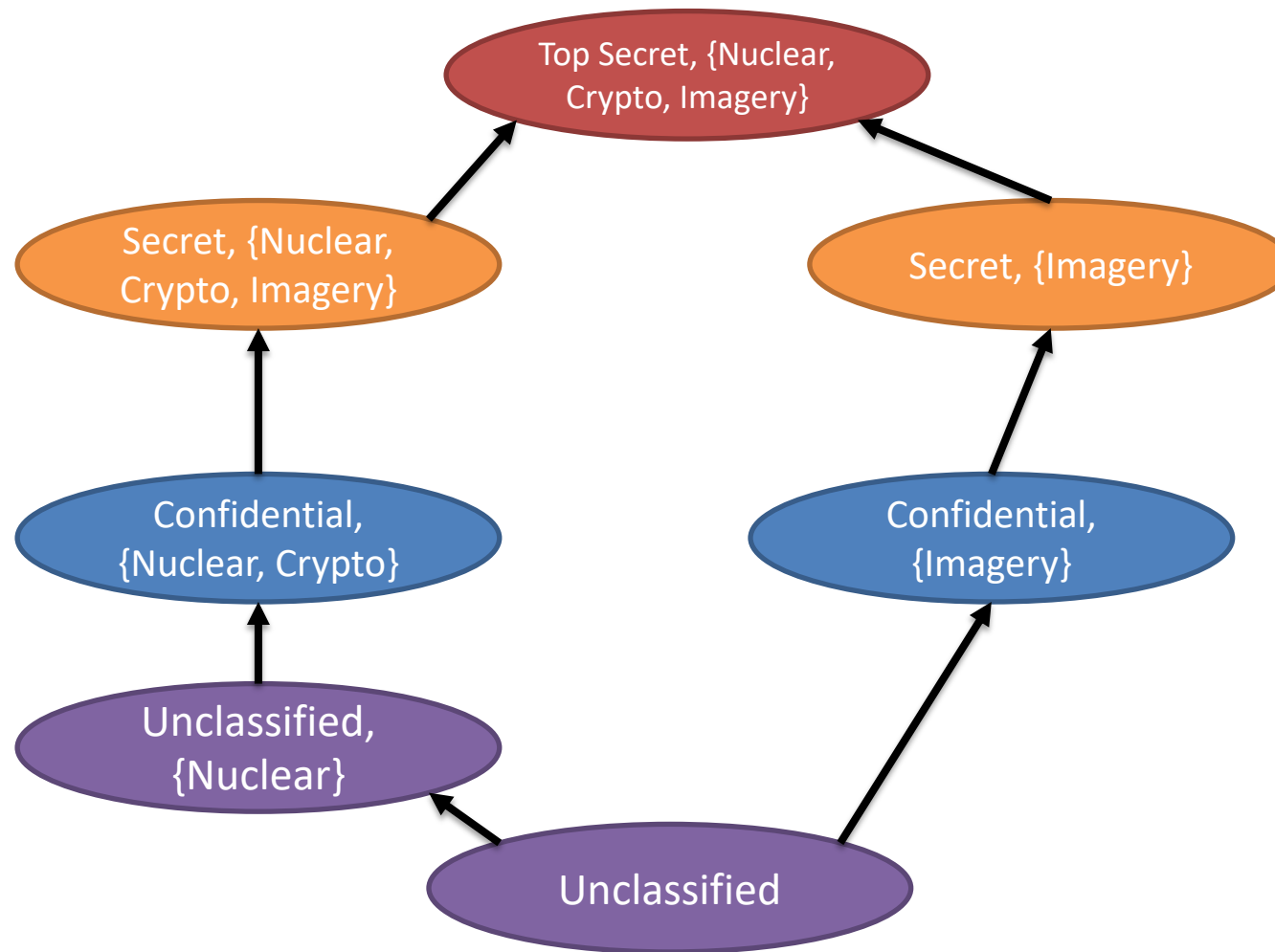
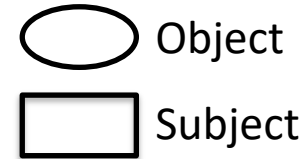
## Finite State Machine



**Model's focus is on confidentiality, not integrity or availability**

# Rule 1: No READ up

## Finite State Machine



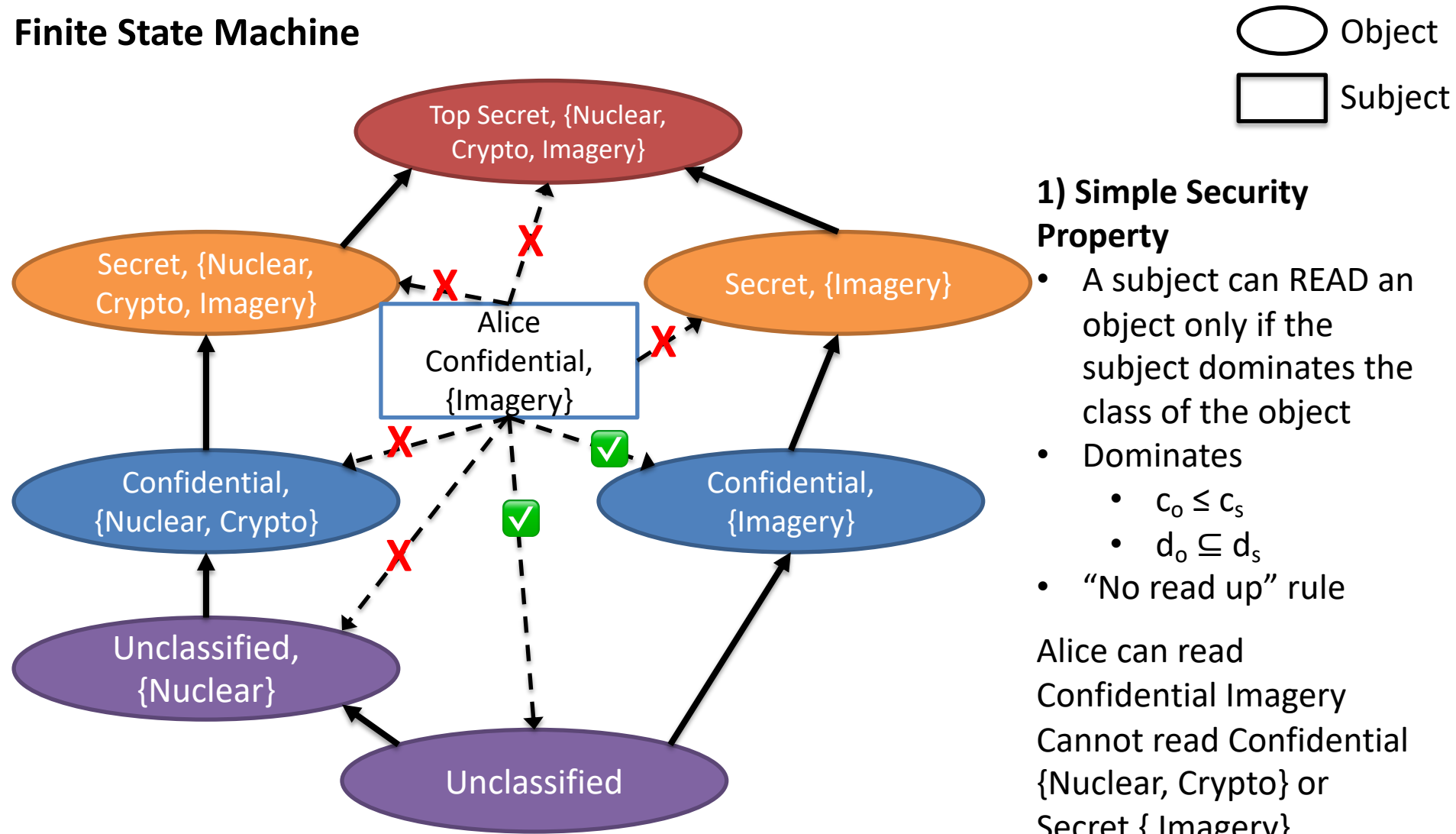
### 1) Simple Security Property

- A subject can READ an object only if the subject dominates the class of the object
- Dominates
  - $c_o \leq c_s$
  - $d_o \subseteq d_s$
- “No read up” rule



# Rule 1: No READ up

## Finite State Machine



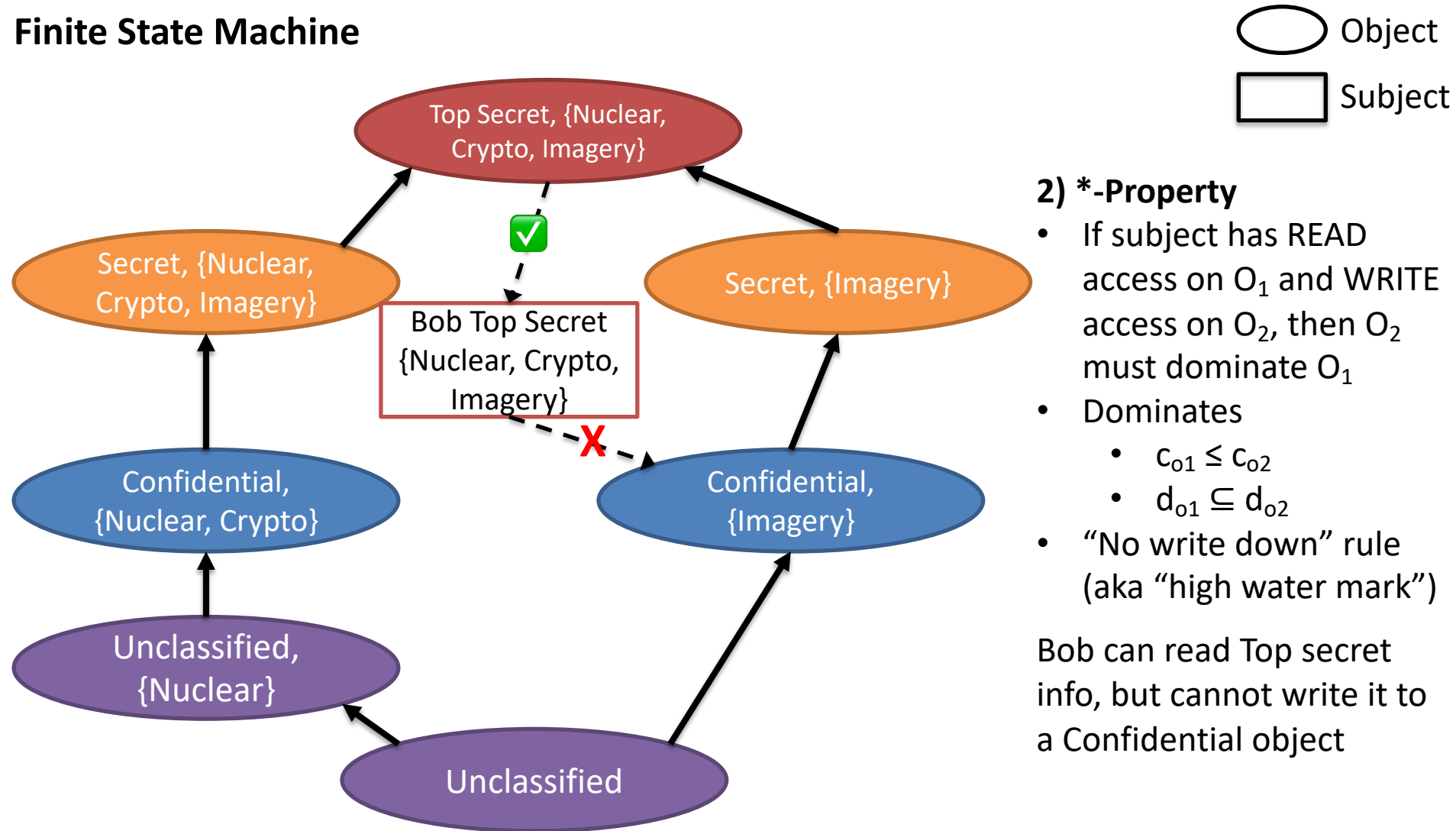
### 1) Simple Security Property

- A subject can READ an object only if the subject dominates the class of the object
- Dominates
  - $c_o \leq c_s$
  - $d_o \subseteq d_s$
- “No read up” rule

Alice can read  
Confidential Imagery  
Cannot read Confidential  
{Nuclear, Crypto} or  
Secret {Imagery}

# Rule 2: No WRITE down

## Finite State Machine



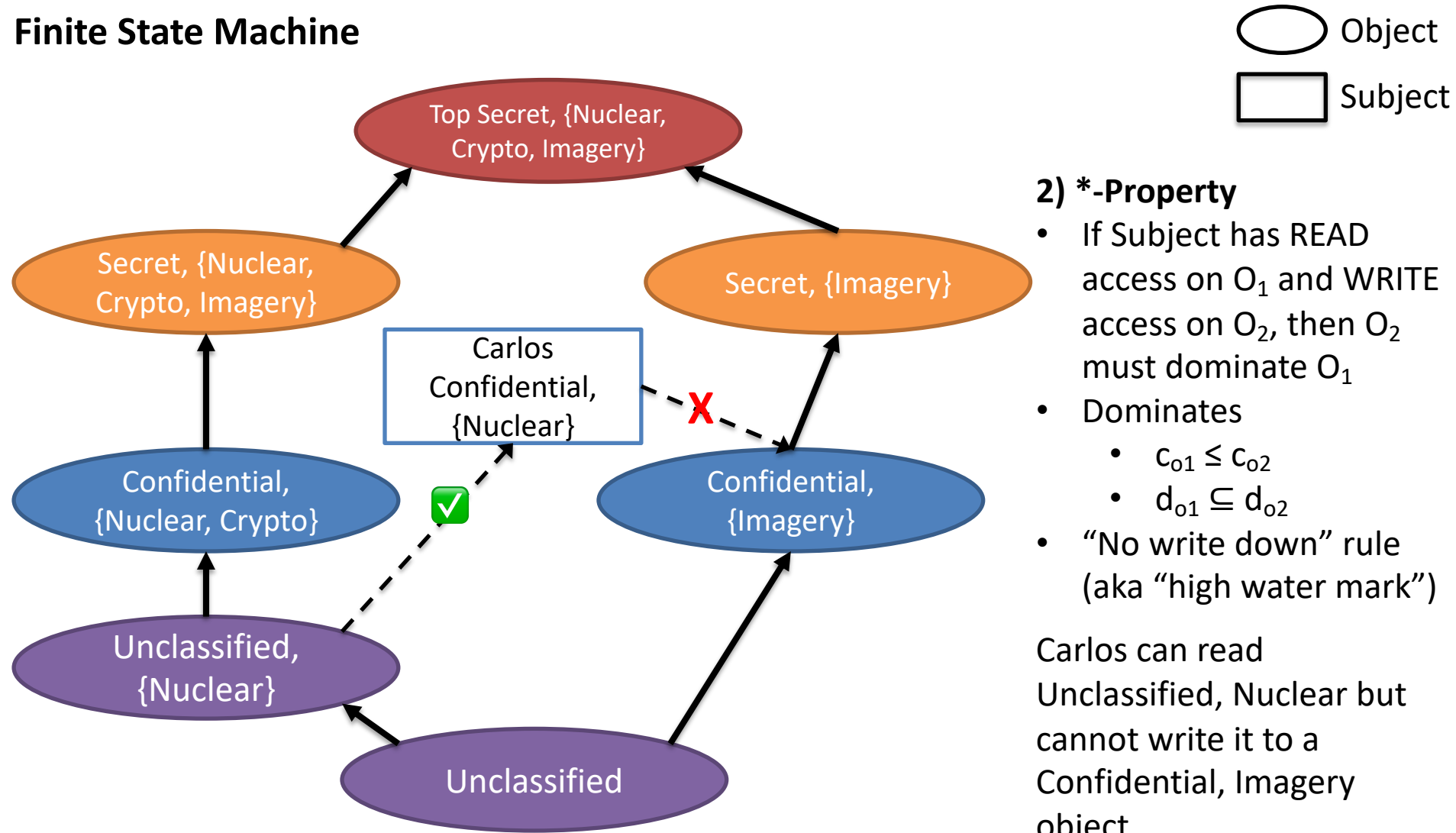
## 2) \*-Property

- If subject has READ access on  $O_1$  and WRITE access on  $O_2$ , then  $O_2$  must dominate  $O_1$
- Dominates
  - $c_{o1} \leq c_{o2}$
  - $d_{o1} \subseteq d_{o2}$
- “No write down” rule (aka “high water mark”)

Bob can read Top secret info, but cannot write it to a Confidential object

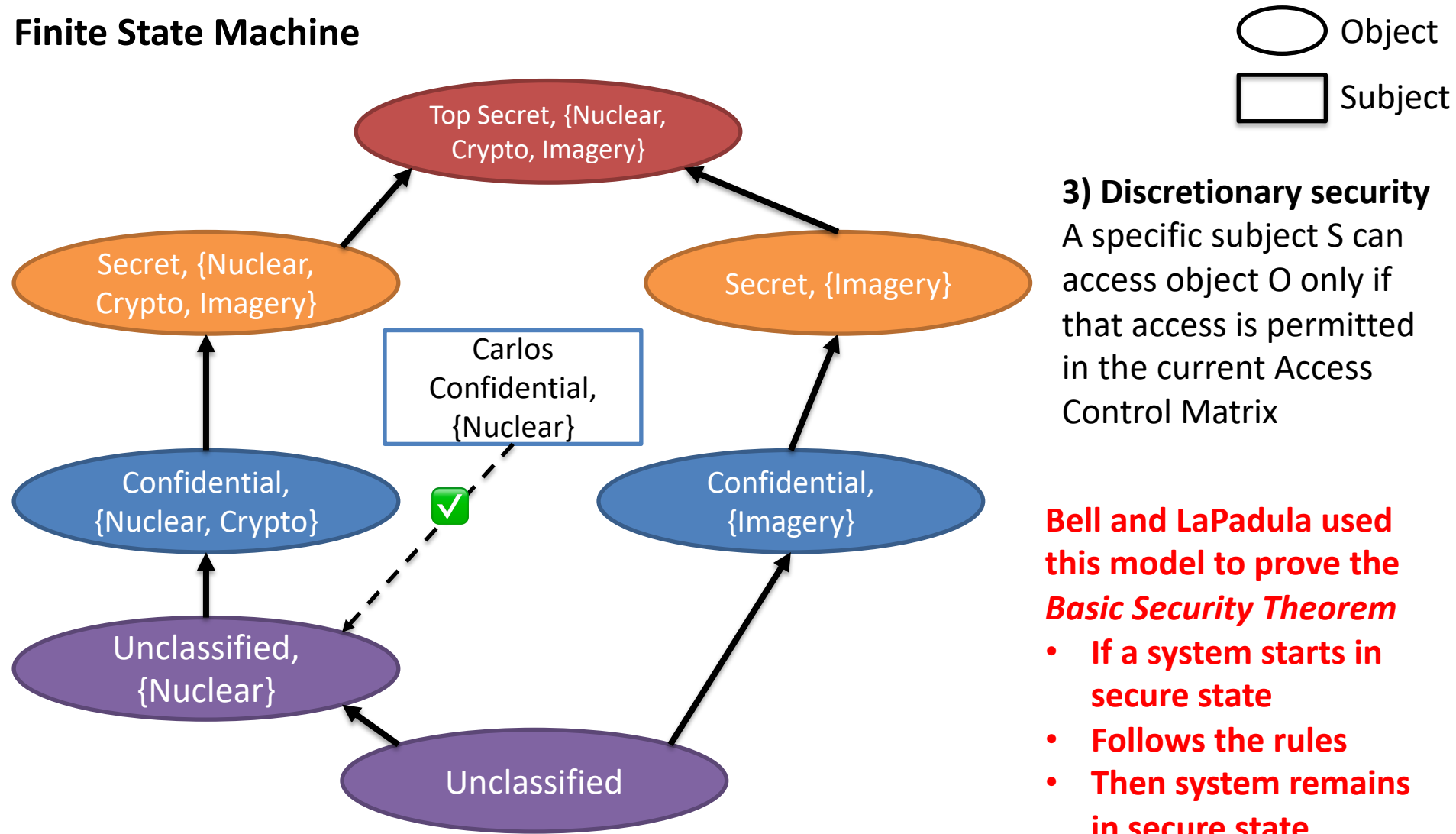
# Rule 2: No WRITE down

## Finite State Machine



# Rule 3: Discretionary security

## Finite State Machine



### 3) Discretionary security

A specific subject  $S$  can access object  $O$  only if that access is permitted in the current Access Control Matrix

**Bell and LaPadula used this model to prove the Basic Security Theorem**

- If a system starts in secure state
- Follows the rules
- Then system remains in secure state

# The Bell-LaPadula Model has been criticized on several fronts

- Security level of objects remains static (no inherent ability to upgrade or downgrade classification levels)
- Properties of hierarchical access control don't effectively support the “need to know” principle which is often necessary outside the strict military operations in which this idea works best
- Strict emphasis on confidentiality. There are no inherent policies for changing access rights. No focus on integrity or availability
- Even with the emphasis on confidentiality, there exist covert channels by which a subject at a lower clearance may intuit the existence of high-level objects through the simple act of the subject's being denied access to them

# Often separate networks are established for information of varying sensitivity



**Networks are “air gapped”**


Details hard to find

**Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet)** for non-classified but sensitive information (FOUO)

**Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET)** for Secret data

**Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System (JWICS)** for Top Secret data

# Agenda

1. Access control
2. Multilevel Security (MLS)
-  3. Linux access controls
4. Malware

# Every file in Linux has three types of different owners: Owner, Group, and Other

## **Owner (user)**

- By default, the user that created a file is its owner

## **Group**

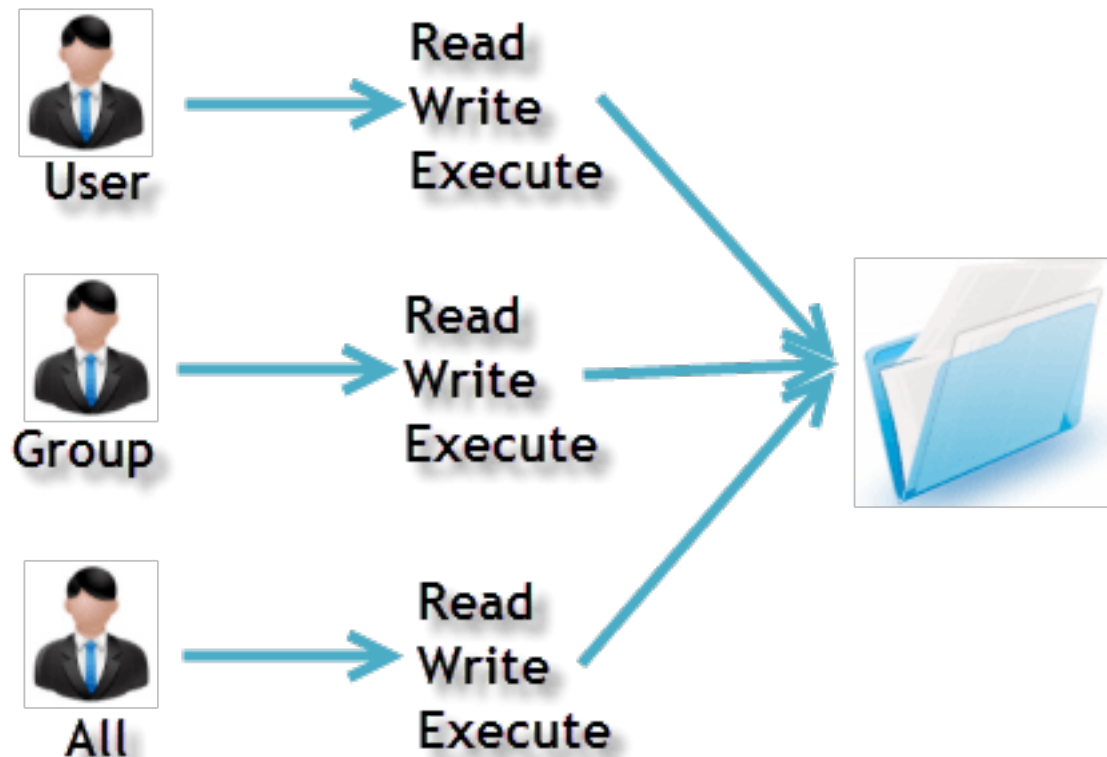
- A user group can contain multiple users
- All users belonging to a group will have the same permissions on a file

## **Other**

- Any other user non-owner, non-group member who has access to file
- Sometimes called “world” because it is everyone else



# Linux defines three permissions: Read, Write, and Execute



## Read

- Open and read a file
- Read on a directory lets you list its content

## Write

- Ability to modify a file
  - Write on directory lets you add, remove, and rename files
- If have Write permission on file, but not on directory file is in, can modify file, but not rename, move, or remove file from directory

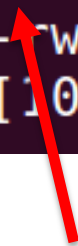
## Execute

- Can run program
- If Execute not set, might still be able to change program
- Can enter directory

# ls -l shows permissions on files and directories

## Directory vs. file

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed   0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$
```



**d indicates this is a directory**  
**- indicates it is a file**

### Permissions:

**r = read**

**w = write**

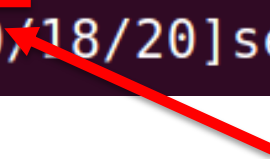
**x = execute**

**- = no permission**

# Owner permissions are shown after directory indicator

## Owner

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed    0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$
```



After directory flag, next three are read, write, and execute permissions for the owner of the file or directory

The owner has full read, write, execute permissions on the `test_directory`, but only read and write (no execute) on the `text.txt` file

The owner of `test_directory` and `text.txt` is the user *seed*

# Group permissions are shown after owner permissions

## Group

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$
```



Like the owner, the group has full read, write, execute permissions on the test\_directory, but only read and write (no execute) on the test.txt file

The group is *seed* (all users initially in their own group named after the user)

# Other (everyone else) permissions are shown after the group permissions

## Other

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$
```

Other (everyone else) has read and execute permissions on the test\_directory, but only read (no write or execute) on the text.txt file

# Linux uses a discretionary access control model; permissions changed with chmod

Change mode – chmod permissions filename

#	Permission Type	Symbol
0	No Permission	---
1	Execute	--x
2	Write	-w-
3	Execute+Write	-wx
4	Read	r--
5	Read+Execute	r-x
6	Read+Write	rw-
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwX

Can change permissions using absolute mode

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod 752 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-x-w- 1 seed seed   0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```

On test.txt

- Set Owner to 7 (rwx)

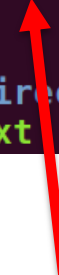
# chmod can run in absolute mode

## Change mode – chmod permissions filename

#	Permission Type	Symbol
0	No Permission	---
1	Execute	--x
2	Write	-w-
3	Execute+Write	-wx
4	Read	r--
5	Read+Execute	r-x
6	Read+Write	rw-
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwx

Can change permissions using absolute mode

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod 752 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-x-w- 1 seed seed   0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```



**On test.txt**

- **Set Owner to 7 (rwx)**
- **Set Group to 5 (r-x)**

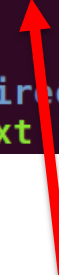
# chmod can run in absolute mode

## Change mode – chmod permissions filename

#	Permission Type	Symbol
0	No Permission	---
1	Execute	--x
2	Write	-w-
3	Execute+Write	-wx
4	Read	r--
5	Read+Execute	r-x
6	Read+Write	rw-
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwX

Can change permissions using absolute mode

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod 752 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-x-w- 1 seed seed   0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```



**On test.txt**

- Set Owner to 7 (rwx)
- Set Group to 5 (r-x)
- Set Other to 2 (-w-)



# chmod can run with symbolic mode

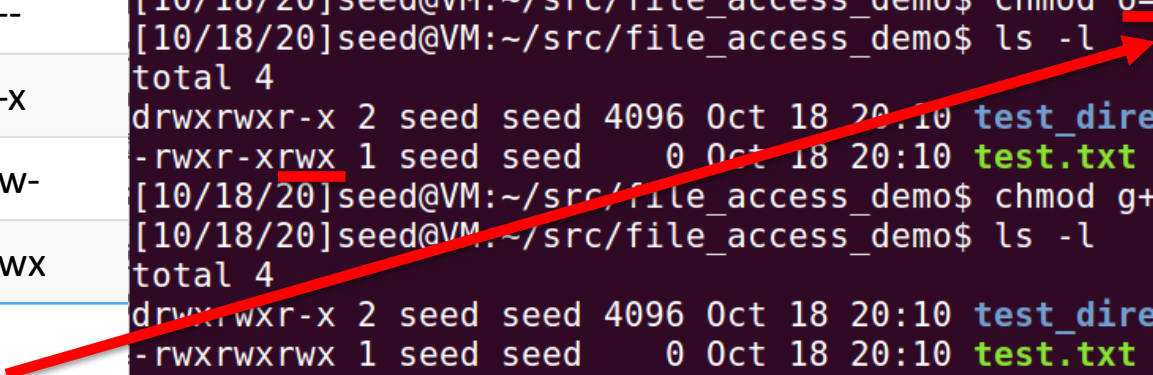
Change mode – chmod permissions filename

Can change permissions using **symbolic** mode

#	Permission Type	Symbol	Op	Description	User	Description
0	No Permission	---	+	Add a permission	u	User/owner
1	Execute	--x	-	Remove a permission	g	Group
2	Write	-w-	=	Set (overwrite) a permission	o	Other
3	Execute+Write	-wx			a	All
4	Read	r--				
5	Read+Execute	r-x				
6	Read+Write	rw-				
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwX				

[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ chmod o=rwx test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-xrwx 1 seed seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ chmod g+w test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxrwxrwx 1 seed seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ chmod u-r test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo\$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
--wxrwxrwx 1 seed seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt



**Overwrite other's  
permissions to rwx**

# chmod can run with symbolic mode

Change mode – chmod permissions filename

Can change permissions using **symbolic** mode

#	Permission Type	Symbol	Op	Description	User	Description
0	No Permission	---	+	Add a permission	u	User/owner
1	Execute	--x	-	Remove a permission	g	Group
2	Write	-w-	=	Set (overwrite) a permission	o	Other
3	Execute+Write	-wx			a	All
4	Read	r--				
5	Read+Execute	r-x				
6	Read+Write	rw-				
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwX				

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod o=rwx test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-xrwx 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod g+w test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxrwxrwx 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod u-r test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
--wxrwxrwx 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```

**Add write permission to group**

# chmod can run with symbolic mode

Change mode – chmod permissions filename

Can change permissions using **symbolic** mode

#	Permission Type	Symbol	Op	Description	User	Description
0	No Permission	---	+	Add a permission	u	User/owner
1	Execute	--x	-	Remove a permission	g	Group
2	Write	-w-	=	Set (overwrite) a permission	o	Other
3	Execute+Write	-wx			a	All
4	Read	r--				
5	Read+Execute	r-x				
6	Read+Write	rw-				
7	Read+Write+Execute	rwX				

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod o=rwx test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxr-xrwx 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod g+w test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxrwxr-x 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ chmod u-r test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
--wxrwxrwx 1 seed seed  0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```

**Remove read permission from user**

# In Linux we can change the owner with chown and change the group with chgrp

## Change owner – chown

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ sudo chown root test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxrwxrwx 1 root seed 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```

Use sudo to change owner to root (does not change group)

## Change group - chgrp

```
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ sudo chgrp cdrom test.txt
[10/18/20]seed@VM:~/src/file_access_demo$ ls -l
total 4
drwxrwxr-x 2 seed seed 4096 Oct 18 20:10 test_directory
-rwxrwxrwx 1 root cdrom 0 Oct 18 20:10 test.txt
```

Use sudo to change group to cdrom (does not change owner)

### Miscellaneous tips

Use command “groups” to get a list of all groups

Two groups cannot own the same file

No nested groups in Linux

x permission on a directory allows you to enter a directory and possible sub directories

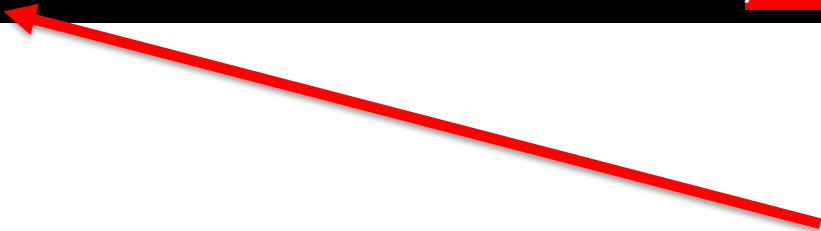
# SetUID allows a program to run with permissions of file's owner

## SetUID

```
$ id
uid=1000(seed) gid=1000(seed) groups=1000(seed),4(adm),24(cdrom),27(sudo),<snip>

$ which sudo
/usr/bin/sudo

$ ls -l /usr/bin/sudo
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 159852 Jan 20 2017 /usr/bin/sudo
```



User is seed  
Owner of sudo is root  
Sudo is a SetUID program (has s, not x)  
Users can run sudo as file's owner (root)

# To create a program to run as root first change owner and group to root

## SetUID

```
$ touch temp  
$ sudo chown root temp  
$ sudo chgrp root temp  
$ ls -l  
-rw-rw-r-- 1 root root  0 Jan 14 17:58 temp
```

**Change to owner and group with**  
**sudo chown root temp.txt**  
**Sudo chgrp root temp.txt**

# Next add SetUID to file by setting privileges starting with 4

## SetUID

```
$ touch temp
$ sudo chown root temp
$ sudo chgrp root temp
$ ls -l
-rw-rw-r-- 1 root root  0 Jan 14 17:58 temp


$ sudo chmod 4755 temp
$ ls -l
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root  0 Jan 14 17:58 temp
```

**Change to owner and group with**  
**sudo chown root temp.txt**  
**Sudo chgrp root temp.txt**

**Make SetUID with:**  
**sudo chmod 4755 temp**  
**Note: 4 sets x to s**

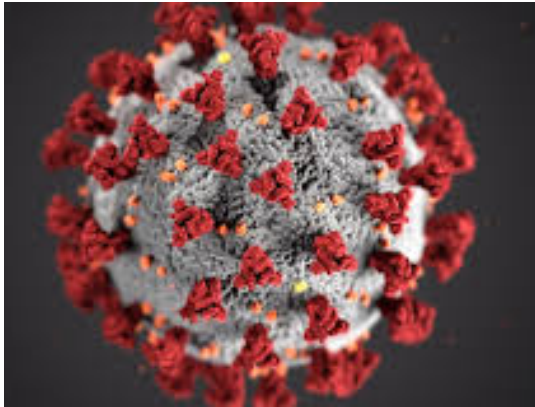
**The ability to run with privileges of another user will be key in buffer overflow attacks**  
**Goal: find vulnerable SetUID program owned by root to launch a shell (shell then runs as root)**

# Agenda

1. Access control
2. Multilevel Security (MLS)
3. Linux access controls
-  4. Malware



# Virus and worms are malware that can reproduce themselves



## Viruses/worms

- Often sent via email or file upload
- Users must execute the virus program
- On execution
  - Infects computer
  - Reproduces through file system or network
  - Tries to infects other computers
- May not be destructive (used for pentesting)
- New viruses discovered all the time
- Worms can spread itself, without human intervention



Some viruses run in:

- Boot sector (doesn't infect OS)
- Scripts in OS or browser
- Macros in Microsoft Office (using VBA) or other programs

**Update antivirus!**

**IPS's can sometimes stop worms and viruses**

# Ransomware encrypts data, asks for payment in exchange for decryption key

## Ransomware

- Your most valuable asset is your data
- Ransomware tries to make data unreadable by encrypting data
- Does not encrypt operating system (so computer keeps working)
- May say FBI has locked your computer or something official sounding
- Asks for payment (typically bitcoin) for decryption key
- We will see how encryption works next week

**If you pay ransom, does it go away?  
Are criminals honorable?**



**Antivirus may stop it**

**Make sure you have offline backups!**

**Modern ransomware looks for online backup!**

# A trojan is malicious software that pretends to be something it is not



## **Trojan**

- Tries to trick you into running it by appearing to be something it is not
- Often reaches out to Command-and-Control server
- Downloads more malware

## **Remote Access Trojan (RAT)**

- Embeds itself into Operating System
- Allows outsider to have remote access to system
  - Files
  - Camera
  - Microphone

# Rootkits modify the kernel of the Operating System

## Rootkit

- Invisible because part of Operating System
- Task Manager or other won't show it running
- Antivirus cannot see it
- Particularly nasty!



# Keyloggers attempt to steal each keystroke



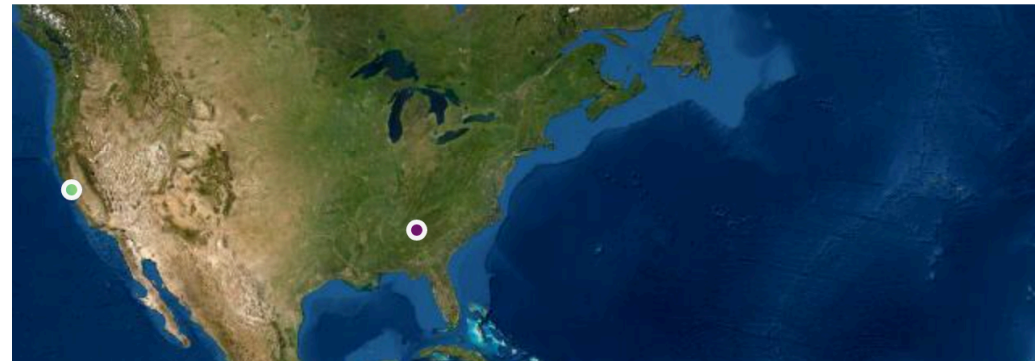
## Keylogger

- Capture keystrokes so no encryption
- Can sometimes store screenshots
- Send data to adversaries
- Sometimes hidden as hardware device that goes between keyboard and computer ("bump in the line")
- Often a software program

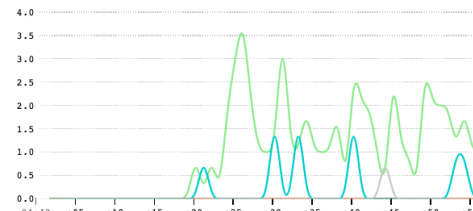
# Botnets command large numbers of devices via Command-and-Control server

## Botnet

- “Robot network”
- Sometimes installed via trojan or virus
- Sometimes install with default passwords
- Wait for command from Command-and-Control server
- Can rent time on botnet for DOS attack
- Example: Mirai botnet
- Real time view:  
<https://map.lookingglasscyber.com/>



INFECTIONS / SECOND (1)



Start Date: 2020/12/20 16:42:15  
End Date: 2020/12/20 16:42:58

LIVE ATTACKS (75)

Sality	CN	Changsha
Mobile Fakeinst	IR	N/A
Sality	DO	Santo Domingo
Sality	RU	N/A
Sality	CN	Zhuzhou
Sality	NL	Amsterdam
Sality	CN	Jiaxing
Sality	RU	Saint Petersburg
Sality	SY	N/A
Mobile Fakeinst	IR	N/A
Mobile Fakeinst	DZ	N/A
Mobile Fakeinst	IR	Shadegan
Sality	TH	N/A



# Logic bombs are malware that execute when an event occurs



## Logic bomb

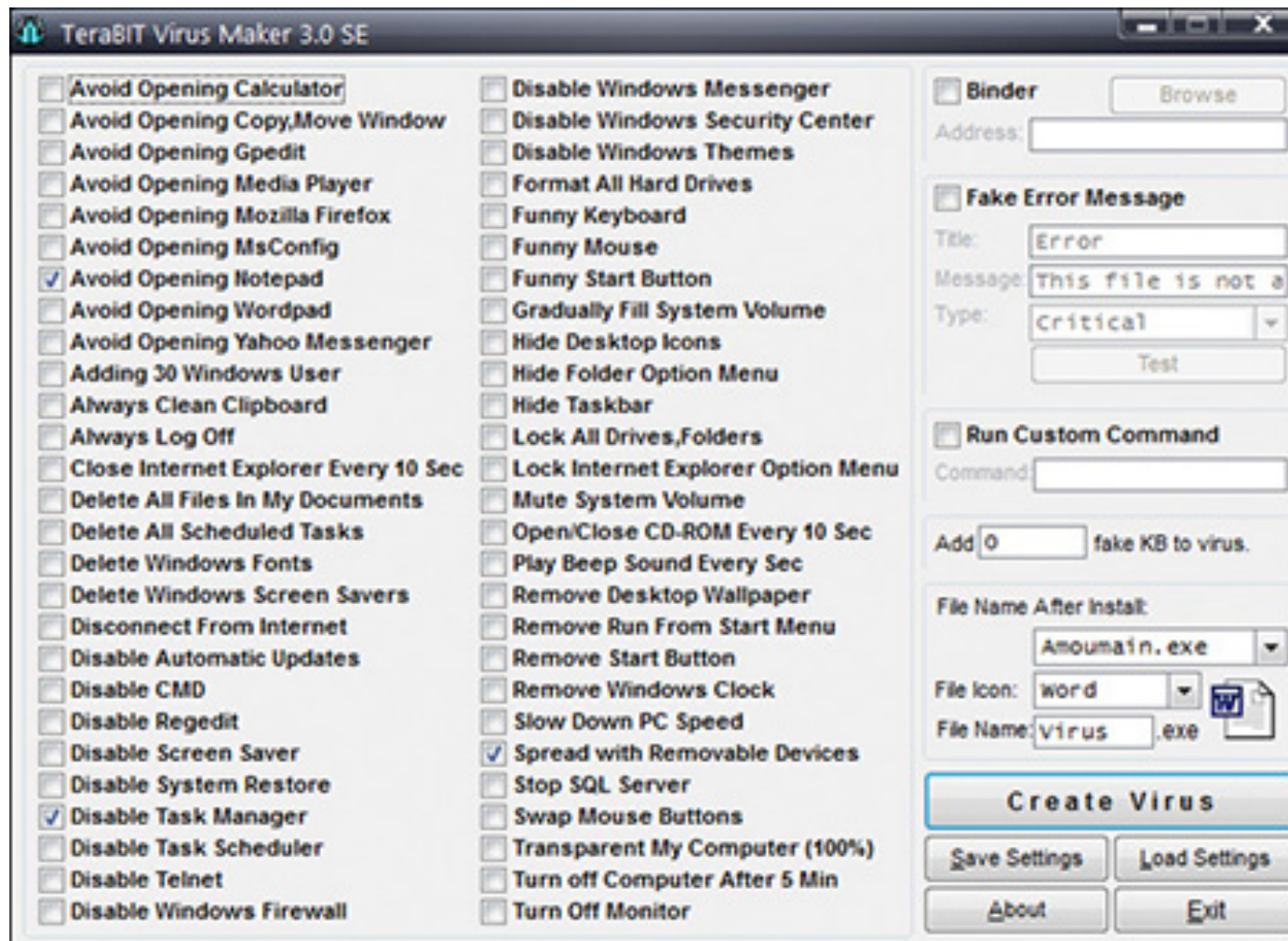
- Software installed (often by admin)
- Waits for a condition
  - Day/time
  - Check that admin is still employed
- Takes action to cause severe damage

Ukraine power system taken down on Dec 17, 2016 at 11:53pm

- **Supply chain attacks try to embed malware during the manufacture or distribution process**
- **Sometimes embedded in hardware (“chipping”)**
- Logic bomb turned off electrical circuits
- Bomb written for SCADA networks

# There are several GUI-based virus creators that require no skill to make new viruses

## Terabit Virus Maker



Click the properties you'd like, and virus maker creates a new virus for you

Useful for penetration testing!



# Pierson's imperfect method of patching an organization

## Modified “patch and pray”

- New patches come out frequently
- Patch Tuesday (second Tues in month) -> exploit Wednesday
- Could apply them across your organization and hope updates don't break anything (called “patch and pray”)

## Instead roll out over a couple of days

- Choose the least time-dependent part of the organization
- Roll out patch to half of that group on day 1
- See if anything breaks
- Next day
  - Complete patch of first part of organization
  - Roll out patches to half of another of another group in organization
- Continue until whole organization covered
- This approach is imperfect to be sure!

### Significant problems:

- Parts of organization exposed for a few days
- Problems for one group may not affect another
- If patch causes problem, taking down half a group may still be a big issue!

