

THCON 2024
TOULOUSE HACKING CONVENTION

Exploring modern OS Administrative Privileges

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PROTECT

ANRT
ASSOCIATION NATIONALE
RECHERCHE TECHNOLOGIE

Cifre



UNIVERSITÉ
TOULOUSE III
PAUL SABATIER

Σmitt



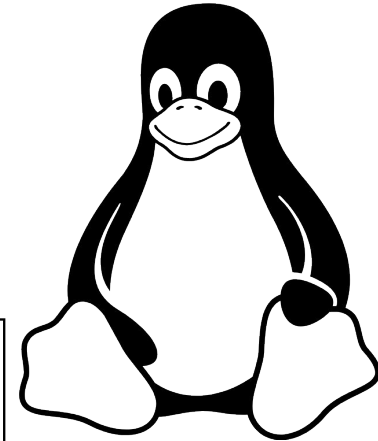
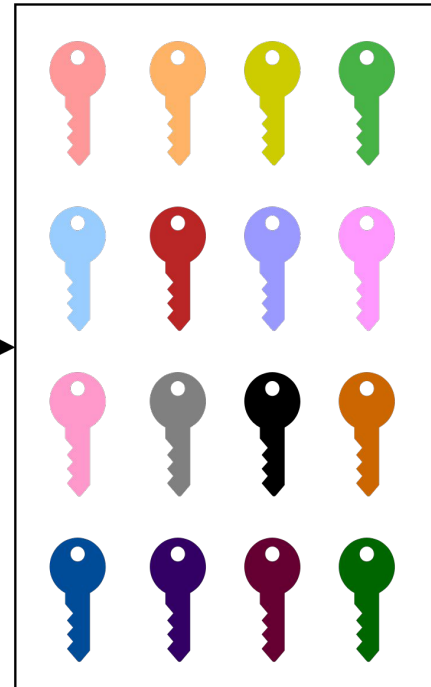
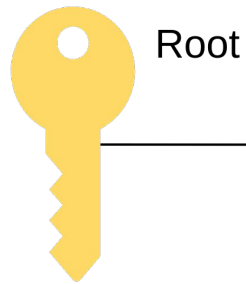
Why do we need Administrative Privileges on OS ?



How can we apply Zero-Trust on Administrator ?



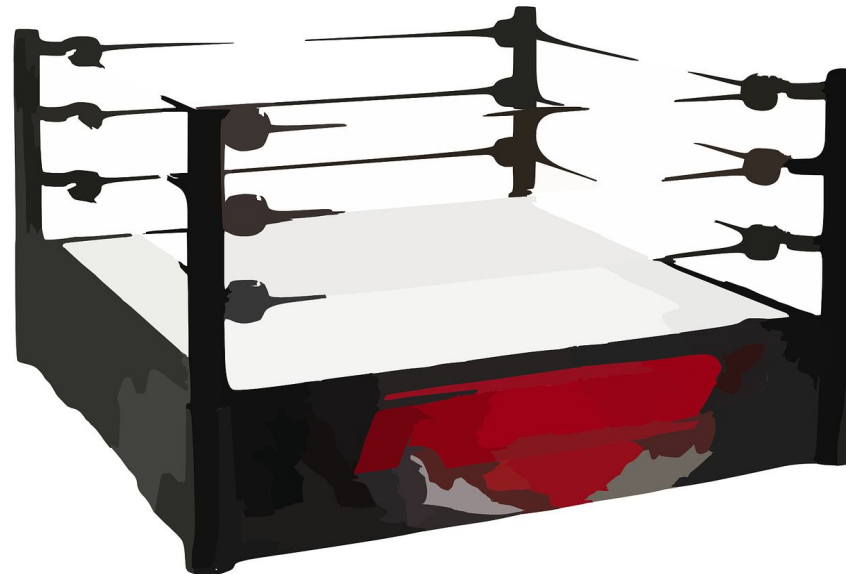
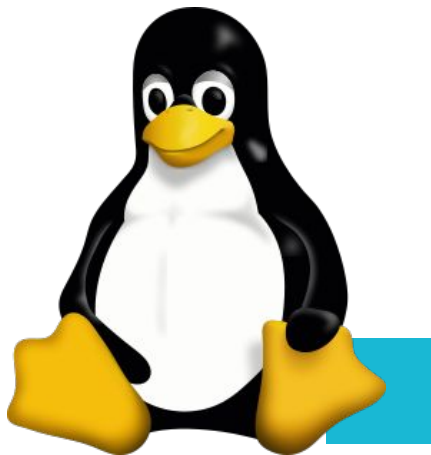
Linux Capabilities
Separation of privileges



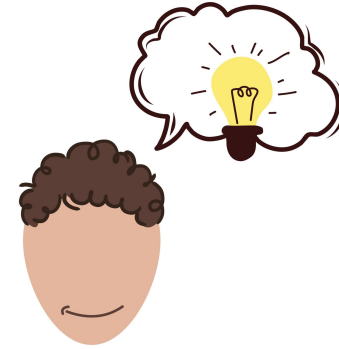
What about other brand new OS?



Let's make a battle ! Who is going to win ?



How can-we compare these OS ?



Basic principles

Usability



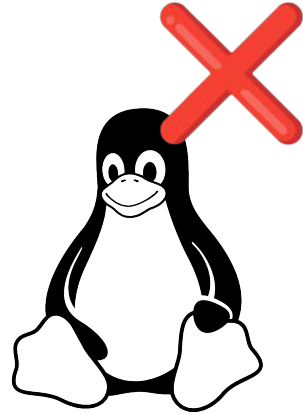
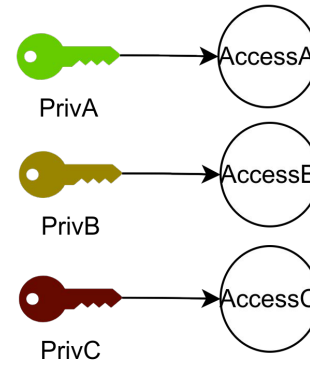
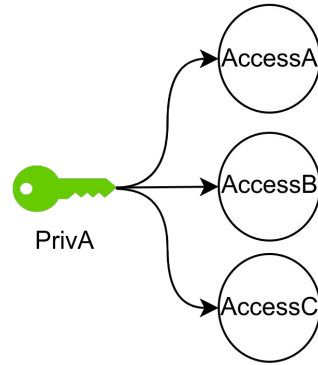
Least Privilege



Granularity

Coarse-grained privilege set

Finer-grained privilege set



Back up files and directories

CAP_SYS_RESOURCE

List is long

- Use reserved space
- make `ioctl(2)` call
- override disk quot
- increase resource
- override `RLIMIT_NP`
- override maximum n allocation;
- override maximum n
- allow more than 64 clock;
- raise `msg_qbytes` l above the limit in

```
#define PRIV_NET_ADDIFGROUP 409
```

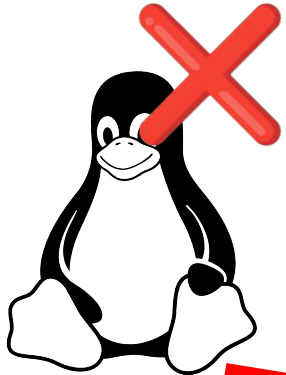
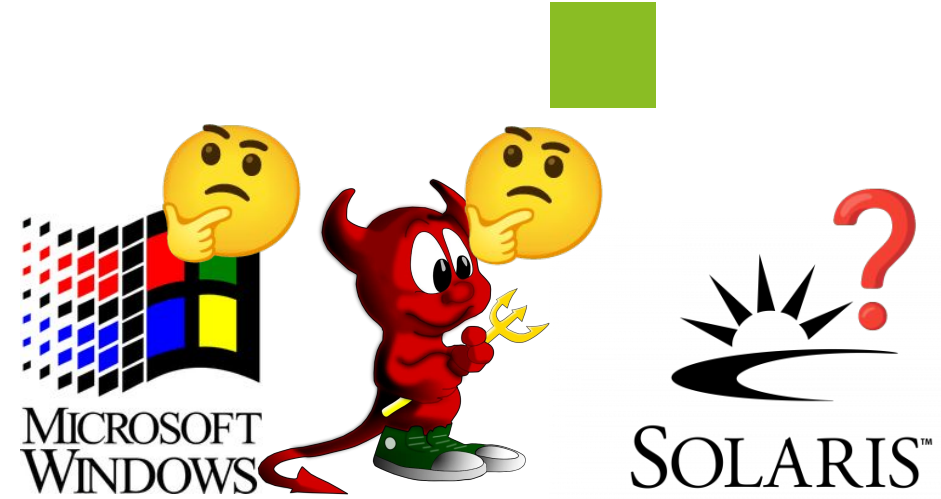
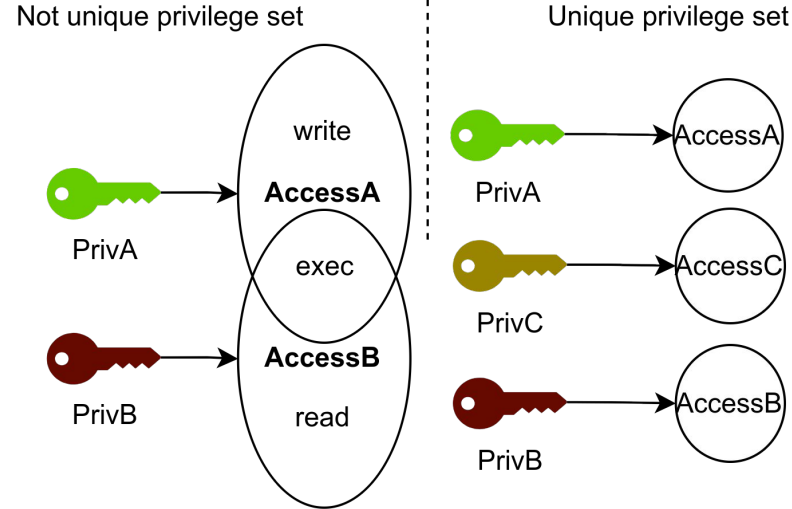
```
/* Add new interface group. */
```

```
sys_config
```

```
Allows a process to perform various system configuration tasks.
```



Uniqueness



It could be unique if there were a dedicated file read privilege.

CAP_DAC_OVERRIDE

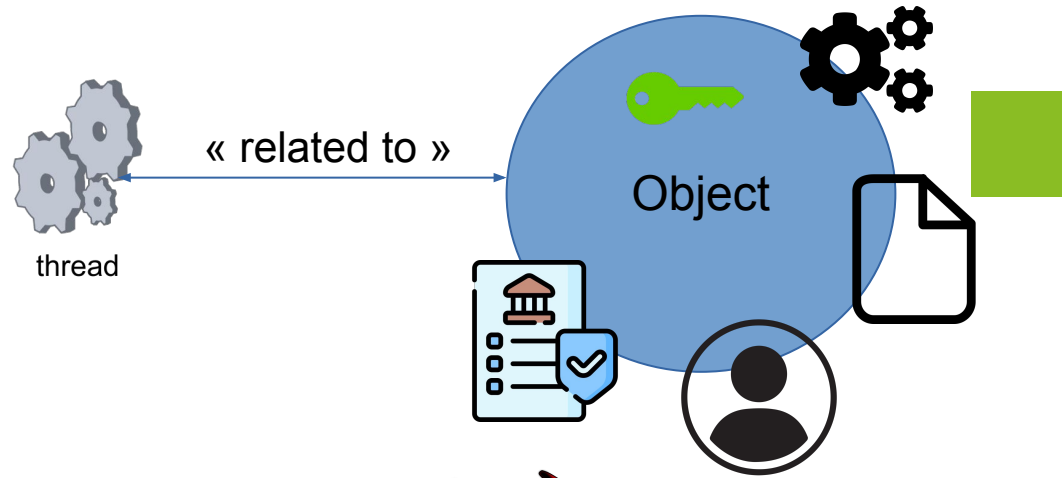
Bypass **file read**, write, and execute permission checks (DAC is an abbreviation of "discretionary access control".)

CAP_DAC_READ_SEARCH

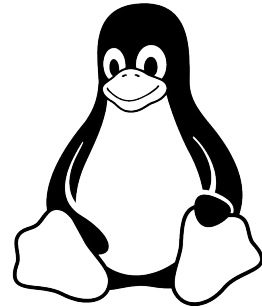
- Bypass **file read** permission checks and directory read and execute permission checks;
- invoke `open_by_handle_at(2)`;
- use the `linkat(2) AT_EMPTY_PATH` flag to create a link to a file referred to by a file descriptor.



Enforcement Objects



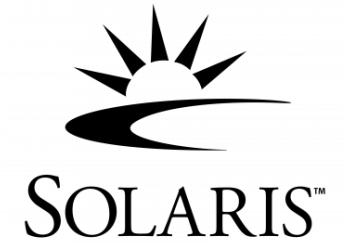
User
Group
Service



User
Group
Program File



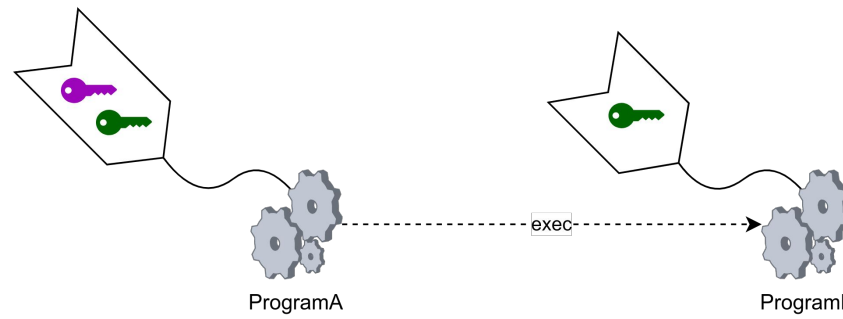
Nothing 🙄
So it's safe
(133t members only)



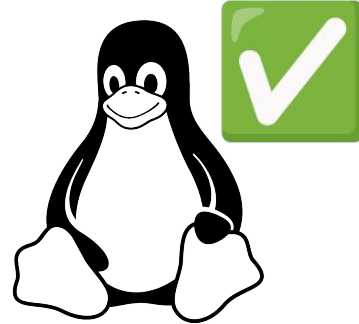
User
Role



Dynamic Initialisation



with 56 C lines



with 14 C lines



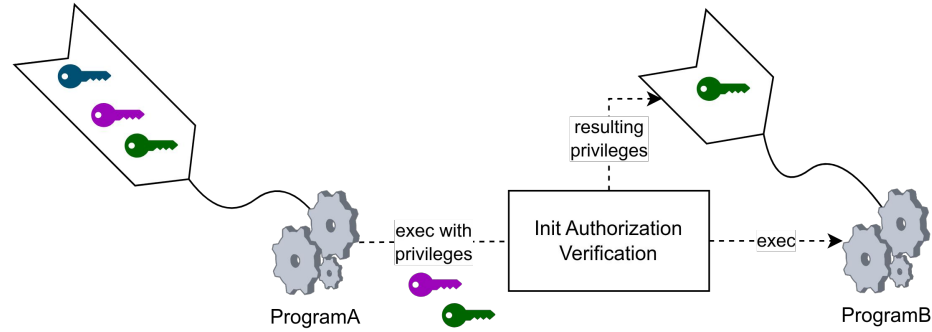
No 😞
So it's safe



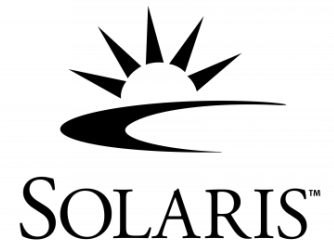
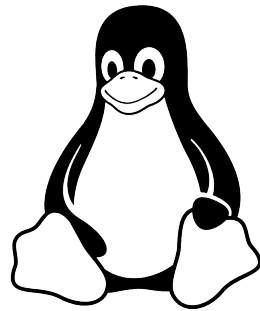
with 19 C lines



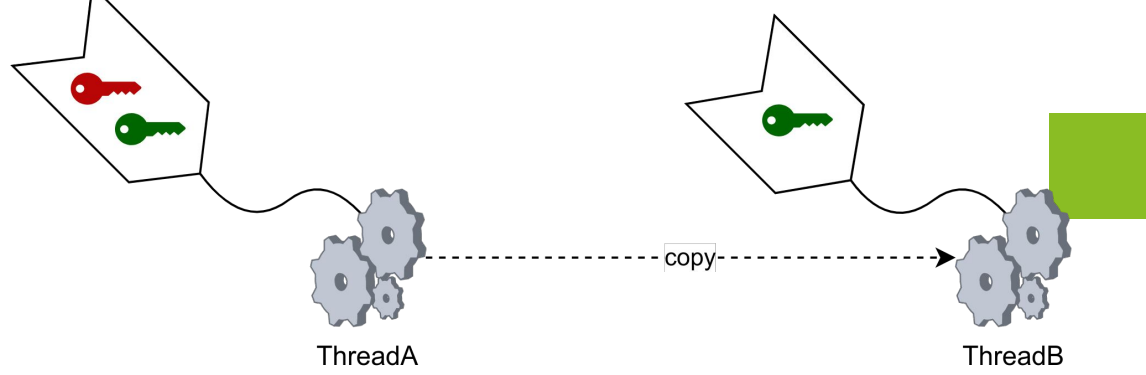
Init Authorization Verification



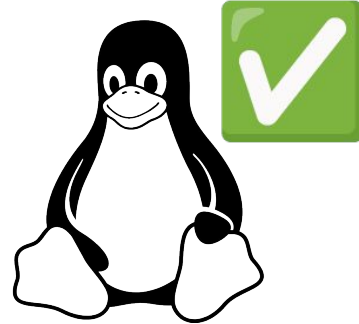
No one does.



Dynamic Delegation



with 56 C lines



with 21 C lines



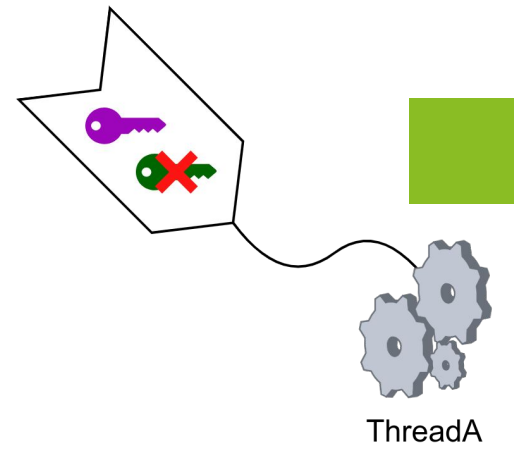
No 😞
So it's safe



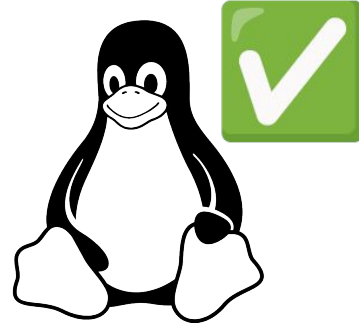
with 18 C lines



Self Revocability



with 34 C lines



with 58 C lines



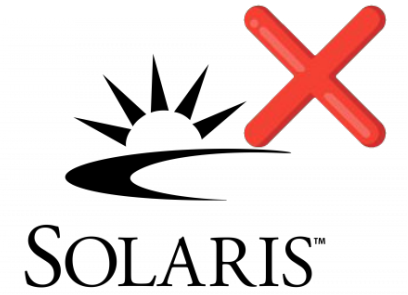
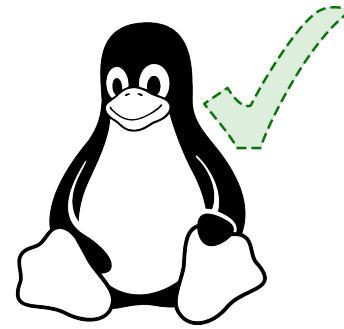
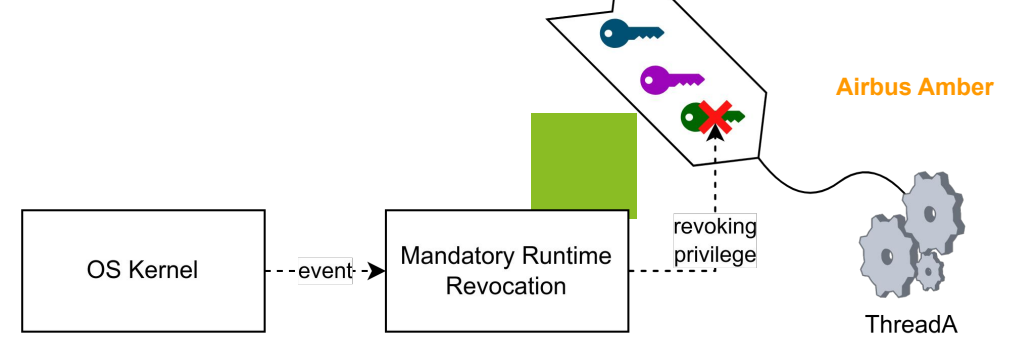
No 🙄
So it's safe



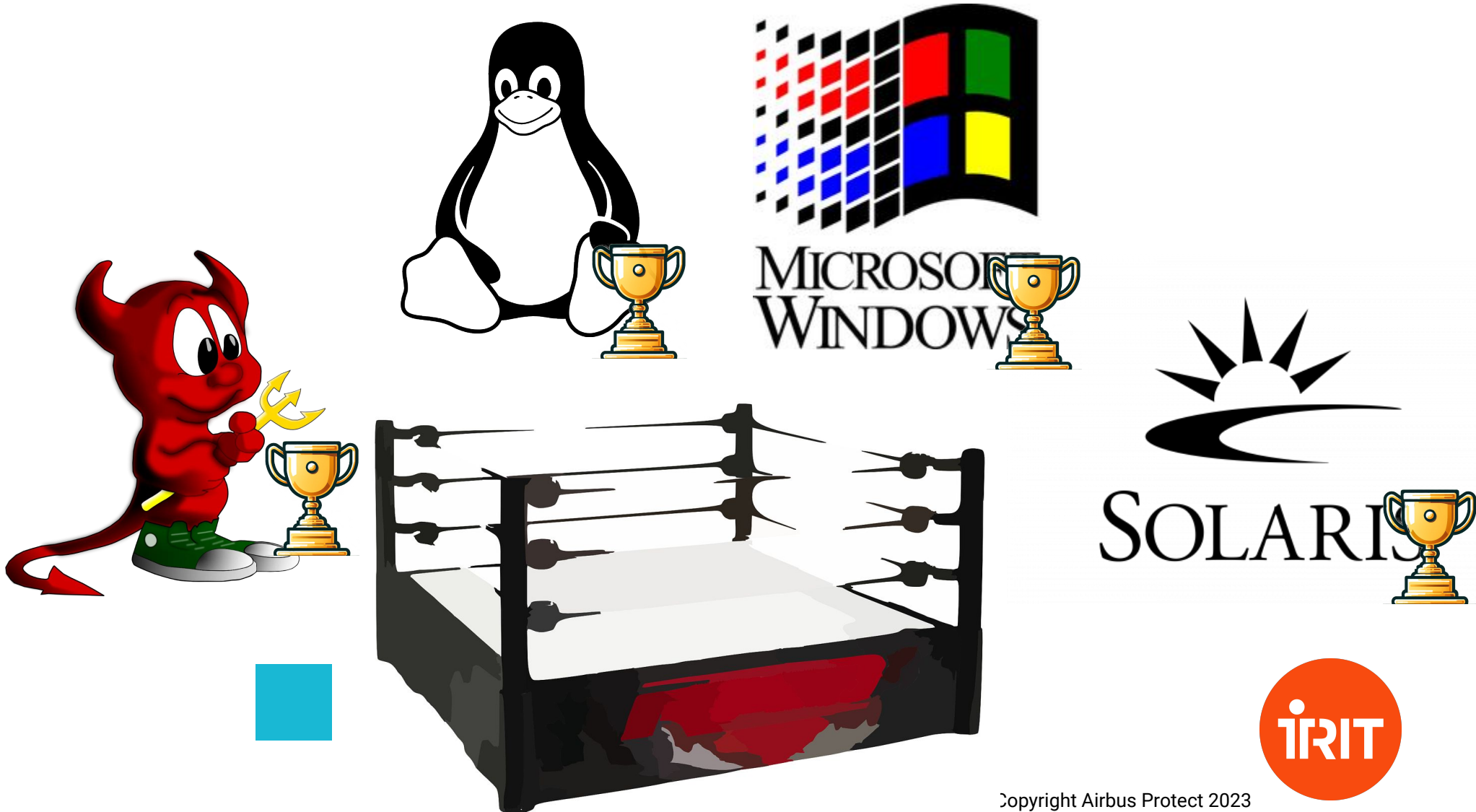
with 18 C lines



Mandatory Runtime Revocation



Which one is winning ?



What could-we do next ?



Make Linux the real winner because

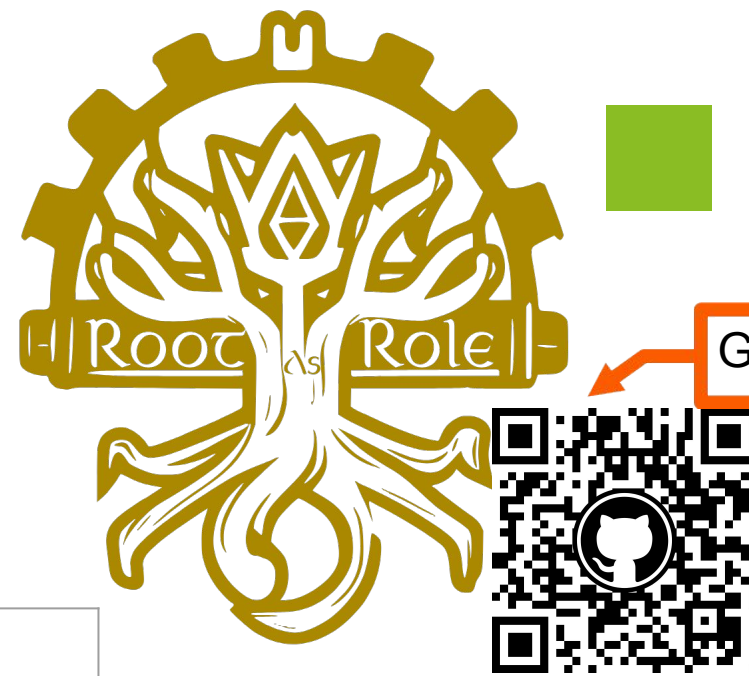
...

we need a winner



RootAsRole project

- Find out which capability is requested for a program.
- And many more incoming features !



Give us a star

	setcap	sudo	sr
change user		✓	✓
change groups		✓	✓
set capabilities	✓		✓
strict command		✓	✓
prevent direct privilege escalation			✓
unknown features that nobody knows		⚠️ ✓ ⚠️	





Give us a star 



Let's talk !

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Questions ?



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