

Re: Does kernel 2.6 include an NSA backdoor?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.misc/2008-03/msg00011.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 5 Mar 2008 15:16:30 +0100
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On Wed, 5 Mar 2008 05:13:14 -0800 (PST)
plenty900@xxxxxxxx wrote:

Well if you understood what SELinux is, then you wouldn't be asking such a naïve question.

If you understood what the NSA is, you wouldn't be making such a naïve response.

Consider that SELinux is fully open source and reviewed at a large scale. It doesn't contain any questionable parts (like cryptographic code or esoteric algorithms), which could be hard to reason about. Please review the source code and decide yourself, whether it's safe to use SELinux-enabled kernels.

The major downside of SELinux is its complexity. That's why I'd prefer other packages for ACLs and other security techniques, but not because of some conspiracy theories.

You could just as well claim that alien technology is being explored at Area 51. Have you ever been there? No. Unlike Area 51, you can view the source code of SELinux. That's a major difference.

Of course this doesn't mean that there can't be any NSA backdoors in the kernel, but if the NSA is smart, they have incorporated the backdoors elsewhere, not in the SELinux part of the kernel. In that sense, software with a restricted developer group may be more secure.

Regards,
Ertugrul.

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<http://ertes.de/>

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