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Future of Memory Protection Keys

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Memory Protection Keys (pkeys) was originally an Intel-only CPU feature to protect userspace memory. Since its introduction, support has materialized for powerpc, AMD and ARM, and Intel has expanded the original implementation to cover kernel memory.

There have been a number of attempts to expand the original implementation.

Let's take stock of where the original implementation stands and consider if protection keys use should be expanded to cover kernel memory or if the userspace ABI should be enhanced to cover more use cases.

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