

eBPF in kernel lockdown mode

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Linux has a new ‘lockdown’ security mode where changes to the running kernel requires verification with a cryptographic signature and restrictions to accesses to kernel memory that may leak to userspace.

Lockdown’s ‘integrity’ mode requires just the signature, while in ‘confidentiality’ mode in addition to requiring a signature the system can’t leak confidential information to userspace.

Work needs to be done to add cryptographic signatures for eBPF bytecode. The signature be then passed to the kernel via `sys_bpf()` reusing the kernel module signing infrastructure.

The main eBPF loader, `libbpf`, may perform relocations on the received bytecode for things like CO-RE (Compile Once, Run Everywhere), thus tampering with the signature made with the original bytecode.

It is thus needed to move such modifications to the signed bytecode from `libbpf` to the kernel, so that it may be done after the signature is verified.

This presentation is intended to provide a problem statement, some ideas being discussed, provide a reading list, and to foster awareness about this security feature so that BPF can be used in environments where ‘lockdown’ mode is required.

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