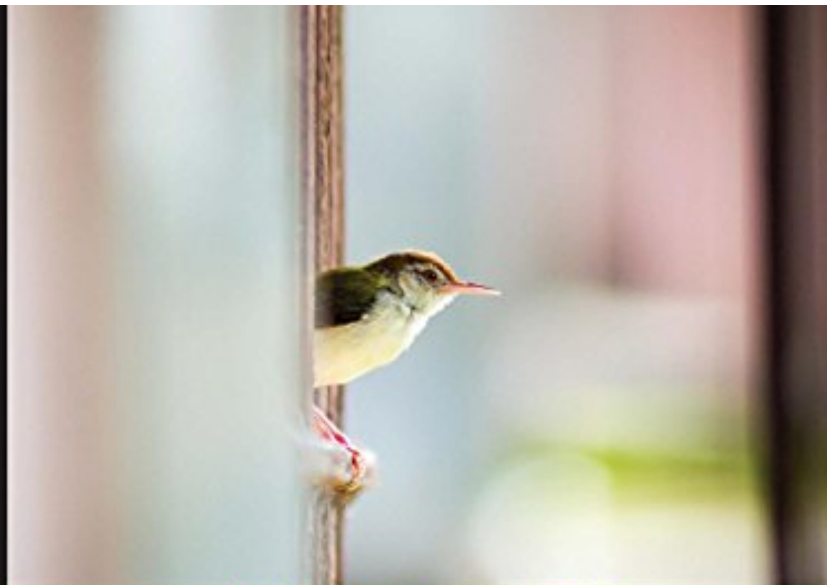


SELINUX COOKBOOK BY SVEN VERMEULEN



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Quick answers to common problems

SELinux Cookbook

Over 70 hands-on recipes to develop fully functional policies to confine your applications and users using SELinux

Sven Vermeulen

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About the Author

Sven Vermeulen

Sven Vermeulen is a long-term contributor to various free software projects and the author of various online guides and resources. He got his first taste of free software in 1997 and never looked back. In 2003, he joined the ranks of the Gentoo Linux project as a documentation developer and has since worked in several roles, including Gentoo Foundation trustee, council member, project lead for various documentations, and (his current role) project lead for Gentoo Hardened SELinux integration and the system integrity project. During this time, Sven gained expertise in several technologies, ranging from operating system level knowledge to application servers. He used his interest in security to guide his projects further in the areas of security guides using SCAP languages, mandatory access controls through SELinux, authentication with PAM, (application) firewalling, and more. Within SELinux, Sven contributed several policies to the Reference Policy project, and he is actively participating in the policy development and user space development projects. In his daily job, Sven is an IT infrastructure architect with a European financial institution. The secure implementation of infrastructures (and the surrounding architectural integration) is, of course, an important part of this. Prior to this, he graduated as an MSE in Computer Engineering from Ghent University, and then worked as a web application infrastructure engineer using IBM WebSphere Application Server. Sven is the main author of Gentoo Handbook, which covers the installation and configuration of Gentoo Linux on several architectures. He has also authored the Linux Sea online publication, which is a basic introduction to Linux for novice system administrators and SELinux System Administration, Packt Publishing, which covers SELinux for system administrators.

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SELINUX COOKBOOK BY SVEN VERMEULEN PDF

Over 70 hands-on recipes to develop fully functional policies to confine your applications and users using SELinux

About This Book

- Design custom SELinux policies and understand the reference policy interface constructions to build readable SELinux policy rules
- Experience the wide range of security controls SELinux offers by customizing web application confinement
- Step-by-step recipes exploring the SELinux environment

Who This Book Is For

If you are a Linux system administrator or a Linux-based service administrator and want to fine-tune SELinux to implement a supported, mature, and proven access control system, then this book is for you. Basic experience with SELinux enabled distributions is expected.

What You Will Learn

- Manage resource labels and fine-tune your policies to automatically handle labeling
- Gain an insight into how to tune the web server SELinux policy for secure web application hosting
- Learn how to confine desktop applications through custom-built policies
- Protect a server's assets by creating your own service-specific SELinux policies
- Discover how to restrict users without hindering them by installing role-based access control
- Troubleshoot and debug the behavior of SELinux-enabled applications

In Detail

In SELinux Cookbook, we cover everything from how to build SELinux policies to the integration of the technology with other systems and look at a wide range of examples to assist in creating additional policies. The first set of recipes work around file labeling as one of the most common and important SELinux administrative aspects. Then, we move on to custom policy development, showing how this is done for web application confinement, desktop application protection, and custom server policies. Next, we shift our focus

to the end user, restricting user privileges and setting up role-based access controls. After that, we redirect our focus to the integration of SELinux with Linux systems, aligning SELinux with existing security controls on a Linux system. Finally, we will learn how applications interact with the SELinux subsystem internally; ensuring that whatever the challenge, we will be able to find the best solution.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

At last - a way to use SELinux, and understand how it works!

By Steven A. Falco

For a long time I avoided SELinux. It was too complicated and too poorly documented; so I just disabled it on my computers. Yet, I was always uncomfortable that I was leaving my systems open to being hacked. Along comes the "SELinux Cookbook", and I finally have enough info to use SELinux effectively. The book covers a number of topics: First, it helps set up some tools for building SELinux modules as well as examining the default configuration provided by the Operating System. It then goes on to provide techniques for securing Web servers, applications, and entire server systems. It has an excellent chapter on debugging SELinux problems that helped me determine if SELinux was actually at fault. (In some cases, other subsystems like firewalls might be at fault - you need to determine that before wasting time looking in the wrong place for a problem).

One thing I particularly like about this book is that it clearly states the "why" behind the various examples.

Too often, a book will say "do this" and leave me wondering "why? " That is not the case here - the author always explains how to do something , and then follows up with a justification for the given solution. In many of the examples, there is additional information describing limitations within SELinux. That is a big help; there is no point to trying to make the tools do something they cannot do.

Altogether I am happy to have found this book. Any time I can learn something new, it is a good day. :-)

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent, smart, take your time to full digest!

By Roger Heslop

I read this book a few weeks ago. This is not another introductory, fundamentals, or beginners-guide type of book. To get the most from this book you should be comfortable in a Linux environment, have some experience with SELinux as well as some passing experience with programming concepts. Sven Vermeulen writes with a style that will demand some expertise, as his years of professional involvement with the topic is readily exposed. After a high level review of SELinux, the author dives write into setting up a development environment to walk you through developing and compiling up to 70 unique, functional SELinux policies. Reading through the manuscript won't be light after-dinner reading. Have your coffee ready, and your troubleshooting hat on. To keep it short, the book is very in depth, very informative, and not for the light dabbler - my full review can be read here: tinyurl.com/m3oa7um

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Various examples to tame the SELinux monster

By Matteo

This book provides a simple(relative to SELinux) rulebook to create and evaluate SELinux rulesets so that you can harden or evaluate your linux server security. If you never touched SELinux before, chances are that you will find that book complex beyond reason, keep some references/documentation within reach and, more importantly, try "breaking stuff" with some test VMs so you will understand what you are typing/executing(don't do it on a production server as borked SELinux rules can and will bring it down hard :)).

See all 6 customer reviews...

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