Access Control for Enterprise Apps

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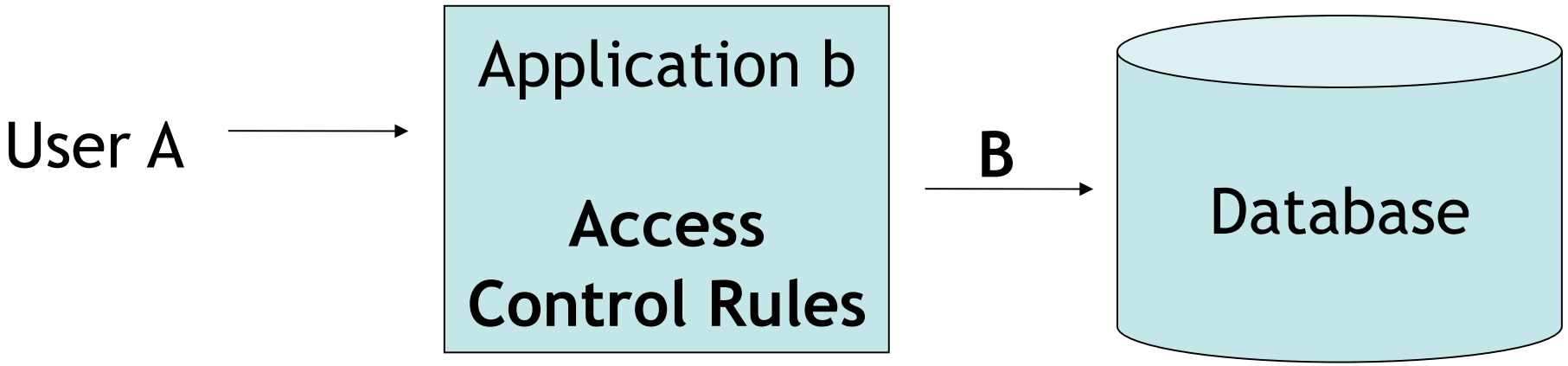
Based on material by Lars Olson and Ross Anderson

SQL ACCESS CONTROL

App vs Database Security

- Multiple users for Apps (A)
- Apps have elevated privileges (B)



SQL grant Syntax

```
grant privilege_list on resource
  to user_list;
```

- Privileges: select, insert, etc.
- Resource: table, database, function, etc.
- Individual users
- User group

Example

- Alice owns a database table of employees:
  - `name varchar(50),`
  - `ssn int,`
  - `salary int,`
  - `email varchar(50)`

Example

- Bob: read-only access

```
grant select on employee to bob;
```

- Carol: read-only access to public info

```
grant select (name, email)
  on employee to carol;
```

  - not implemented in PostgreSQL
  - not implemented for select in Oracle
  - implemented in MySQL

View-Based Access Control

- Carol: read-only access to public info

```
create view employee_public
  as select name,email
  from employee;

grant select
  on employee_public to carol;
```

Row-Level Access Control

- Employees can access their own record:

```
create view employee_Carol as
  select * from employee
  where name='Carol';
grant select on employee_Carol to carol;
```

- Employees can update their e-mail addresses:

```
grant update(email)
  on employee_Carol to carol;
```

  - (Or create yet another new view…)

Delegating Policy Authority

```
grant privilege_list on resource to
  user_list with grant option;
```

- Alice:

```
grant select on table1 to bob
  with grant option;
```

- Bob:

```
grant select(column1) on table1 to carol
  with grant option;
```

SQL revoke Syntax

```
revoke privilege_list on resource
  from user_list;
```

- Griffiths-Wade:
  - Sequences of **`grant`** / **`revoke`** operations
  - ACLs should be indistinguishable from a sequence in which the grant never occurred
  - Cascading revocations

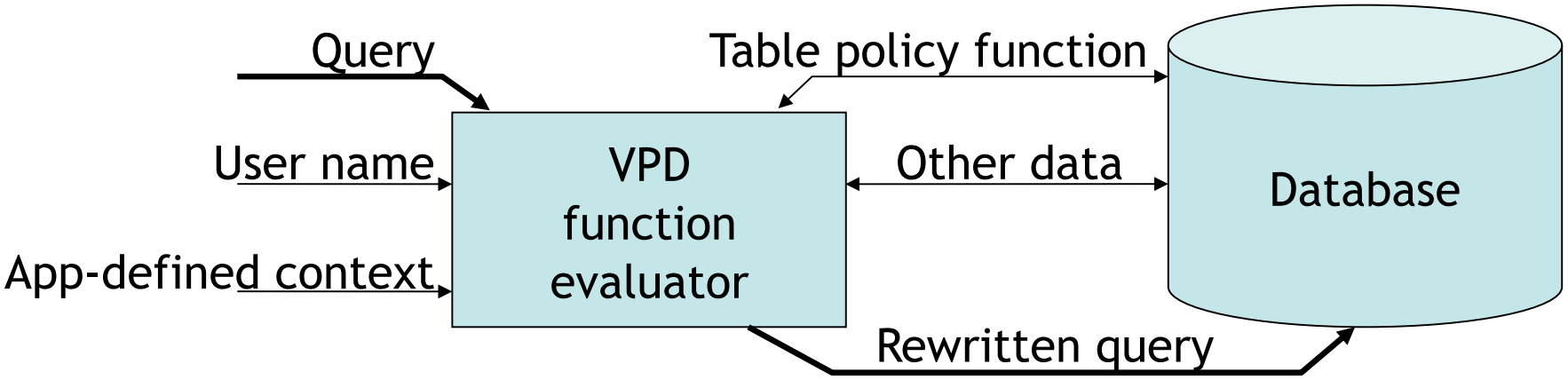
Disadvantages to SQL Model

- Too many views to create
  - Many users, each with their own view
  - View redefinitions
  - Fine-grained policies each require own view
  - Complicated policy logic
  - Update anomalies

VIRTUAL PRIVATE DATABASES

Virtual Private Databases

- Security model for Oracle
- Policies: user-defined functions that return `where` condition
- Applications can define "context," *e.g.* for RBAC



Features

- Functions executed each time table is accessed.
- Multiple functions can be attached to a table.
- Different functions can be defined depending on:
  - Operation (read *vs.* write)
  - Columns being accessed

Simple Policy

- Two users, Alice and Bob
- Alice creates a table:

```
create table data(
  a int primary key,
  b varchar2(50));
insert into data values(1, 'hello');
insert into data values(2, 'world');
commit;
```

- Alice wants to limit Bob's access to the row where a=1

Simple Policy

- Alice wants to limit Bob's access to the row where a=1

- Three steps:
  - Grant Bob access to the table:

```
grant select on data to bob;
```

  - Create a policy function
  - Attach the policy function to the table

Simple Policy

```
create or replace function testFilter
  (p_schema varchar2, p_obj varchar2)
return varchar2 as
begin
  if (SYS_CONTEXT('userenv', 'SESSION_USER')
          = 'BOB') then
     return 'a = 1';
  else
     return '';
  end if;
end;
```

Simple Policy

```
execute dbms_rls.add_policy(
  object_schema => 'alice',
  object_name => ’data',
  policy_name => 'FilterForBob’,
  function_schema => 'alice',
  policy_function => 'testFilter',
  statement_types => 'select, update,
  insert’,
  update_check => true);
```

Logging Policy

```
create or replace function
  testLogging(p_schema varchar2, p_obj varchar2)
return varchar2 as
begin
  insert into alice.logtable values(
      sysdate,
      SYS_CONTEXT('userenv', 'SESSION_USER')
            || ',' ||
            SYS_CONTEXT('userenv', 'CURRENT_SQL'));
  commit;
  return '';
end;
/
```

Reflective Policy

- Table for policy (for table **data**)

```
create table userperms (
  username varchar2(50),
  a int references data);
```

- Populate the table:

```
insert into userperms values('BOB', 1);
insert into userperms values('ALICE', 1);
insert into userperms values('ALICE', 2);
commit;
```

Reflective Policy

```
create or replace function testFilter(
  p_schema varchar2, p_obj varchar2)
return varchar2 as
begin
  return 'a in (select a from alice.userperms '
      || 'where username = '''
      || SYS_CONTEXT('userenv', 'SESSION_USER')
      || ''')';
end;
/
```

Fine-Grained Access Control

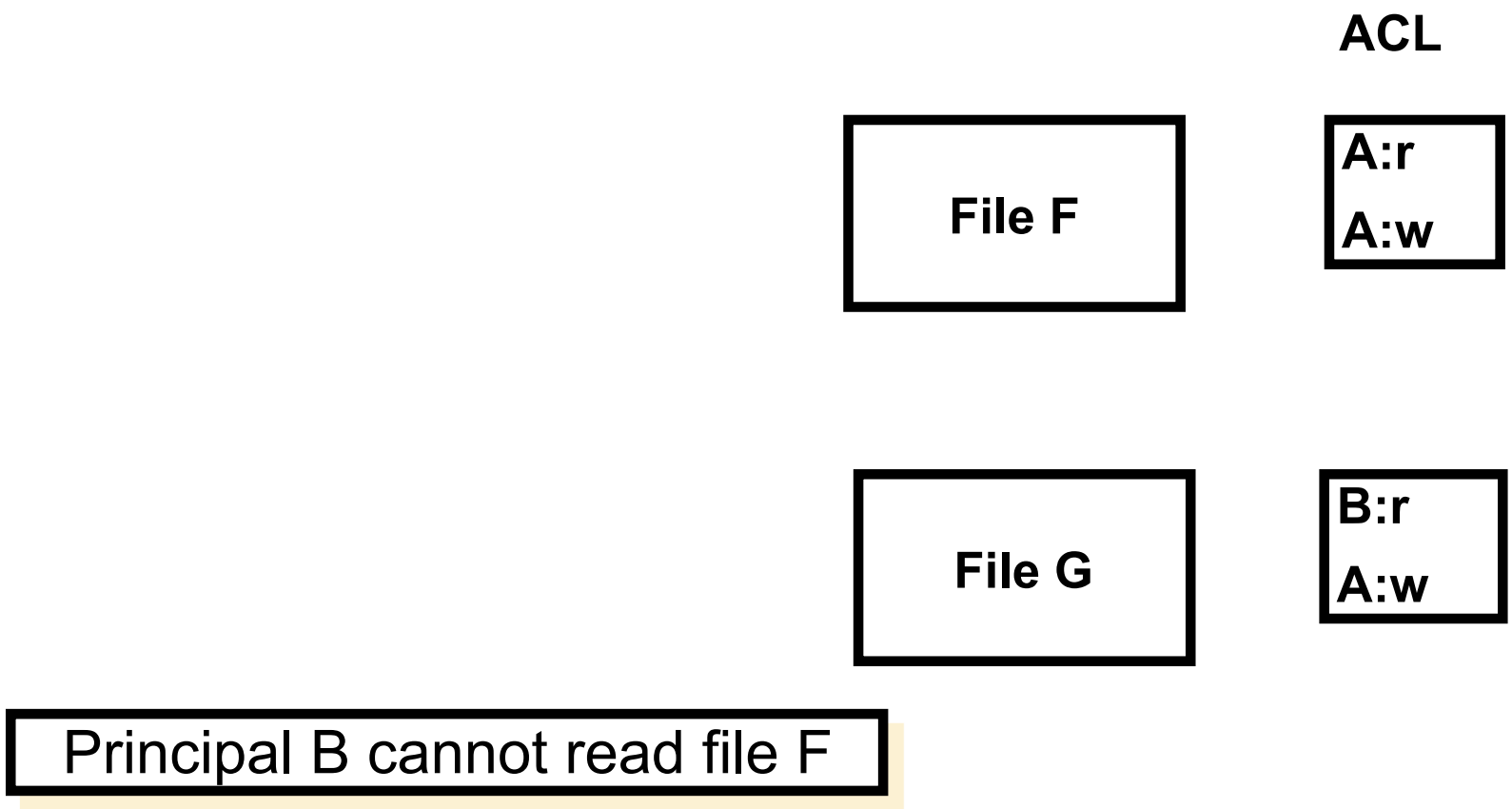
- Predicated grants

```
grant select on employee
  where (empid = userId())
  to public
```

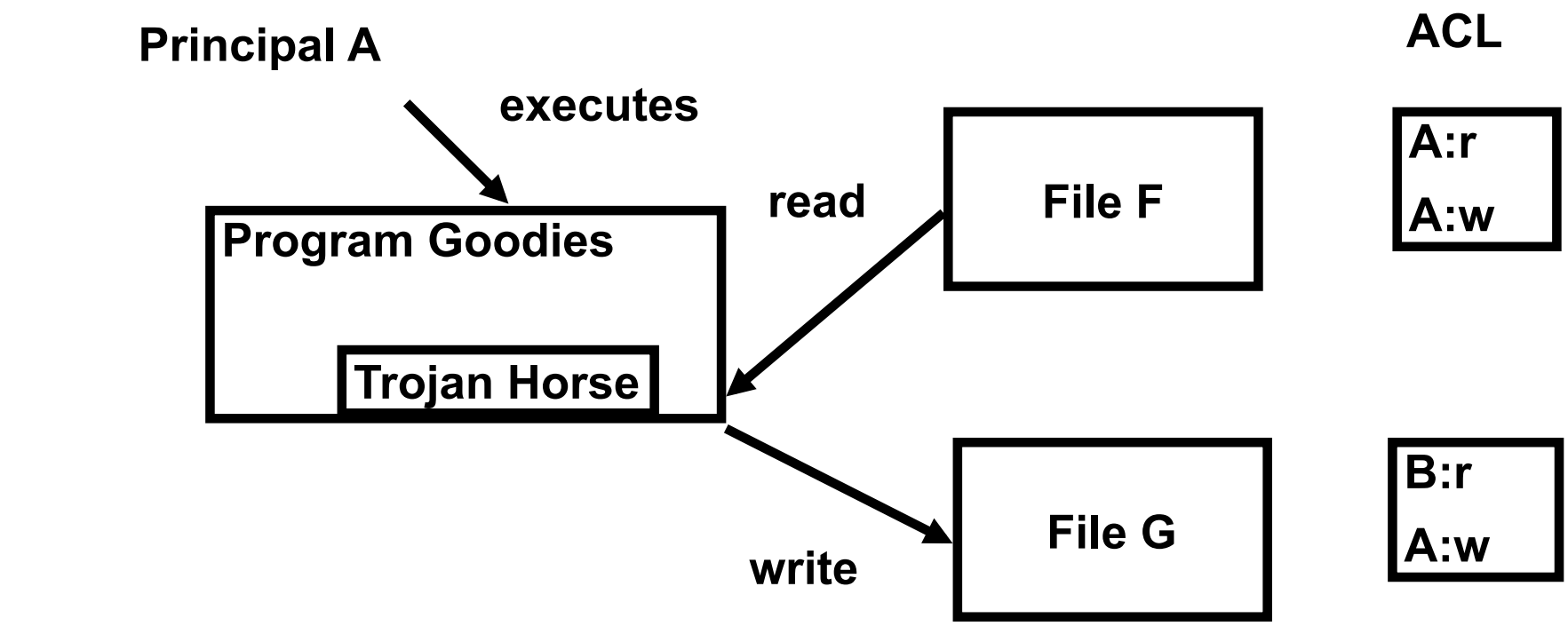
- VPD through app server filtering?
  - http://mattfleming.com/node/243

BEYOND ACCESS CONTROL

Trojan Horse



Trojan Horse



Principal B can read contents of file F copied to file G

MLS (Bell-Lapadula)

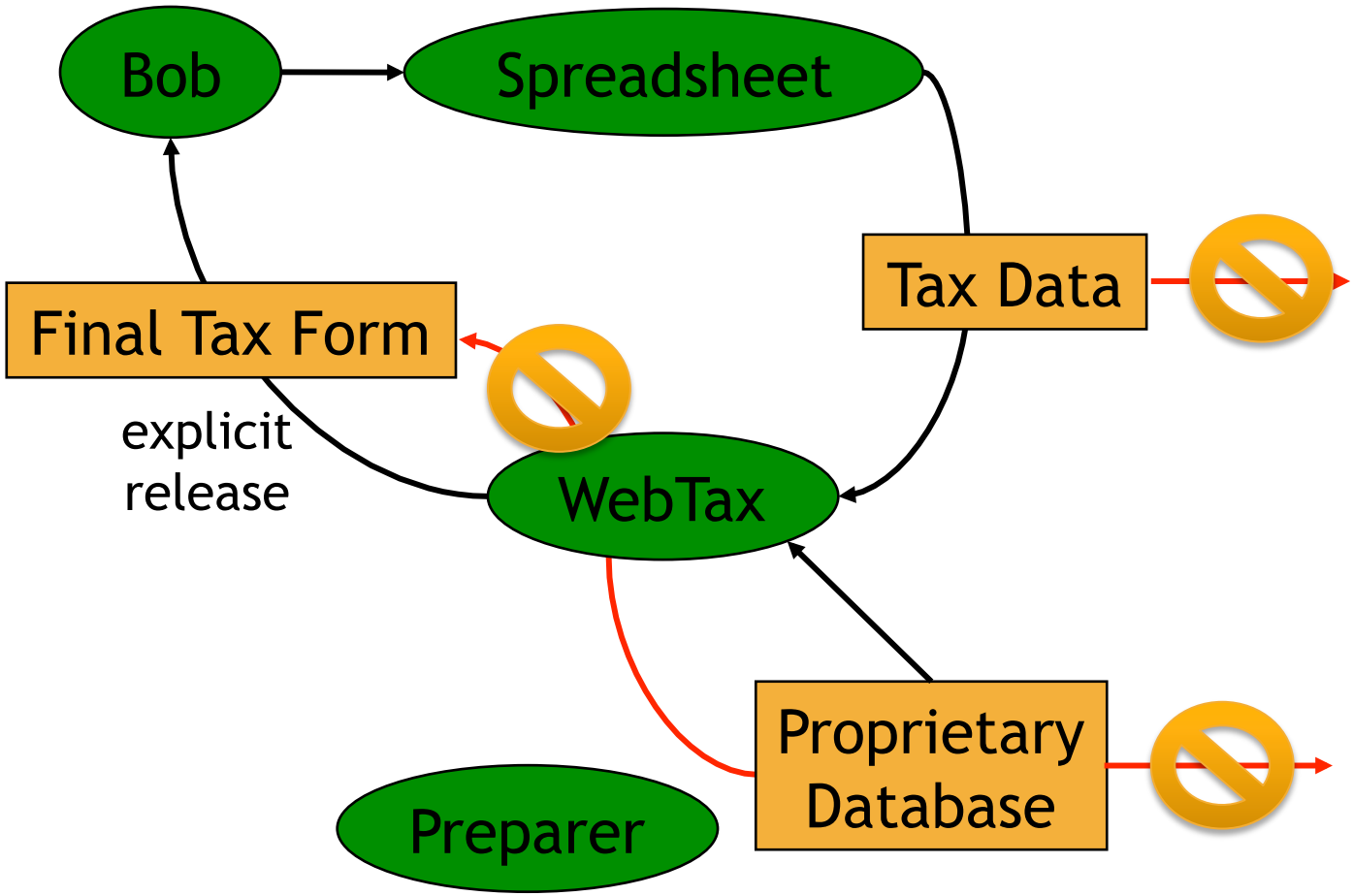
L_{Max}(General)=TopSecret

L_{Max}(Colonel)=Secret

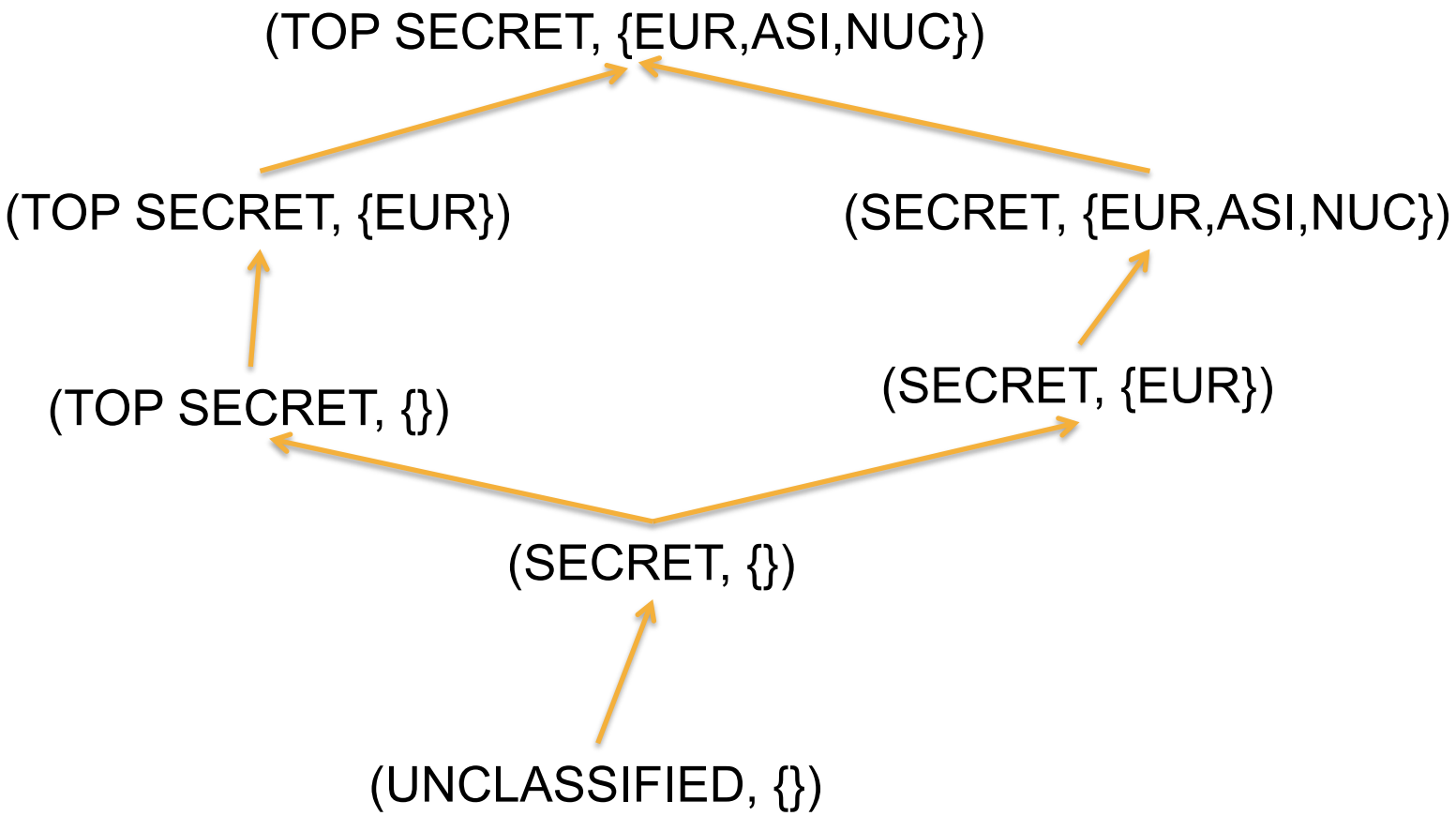
$L_{Current}$(General)=Secret

L_{Max}(President)=Classified

Declassification: Intentional Leaks



Multi-Level and Multi-Lateral



Clark-Wilson

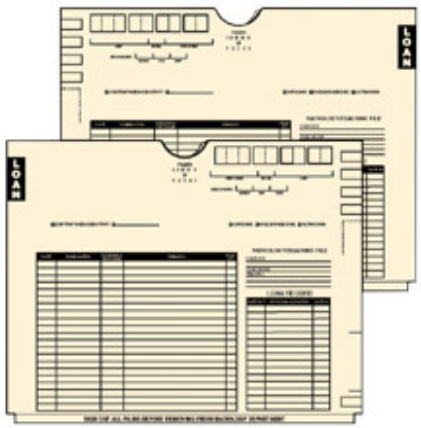
- Principles for data integrity
  - Only access data through well-formed transactions
    - E.g. double-entry book-keeping (financial)
    - E.g. audit log (HPPA)
  - Separation of duties
- Policy triples (S, TP, CDI)
  - S = subject
  - TP = transformation procedure
  - CDI = constrained data item

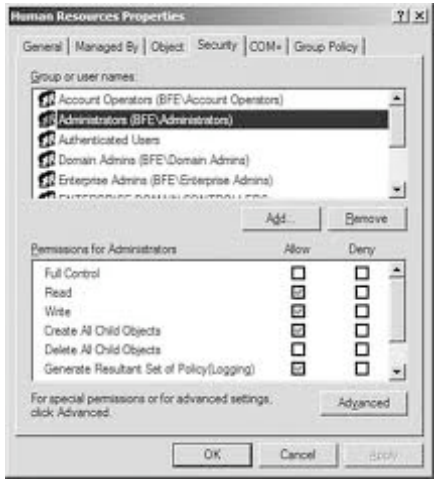
BMA Security Model

- Decentralized
  - Patient record = the maximum set of health information with a single access control list
  - "Peer-to-peer" alternative to centralized databases

BMA Principle #1

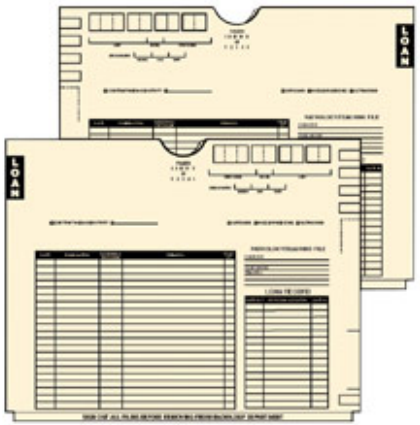
- Access Control
  - Each identifiable record is marked with an ACL naming the people or groups of people who may read it and append data to it

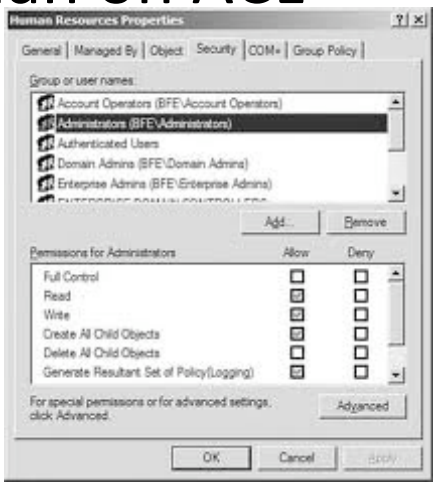




BMA Principle #2

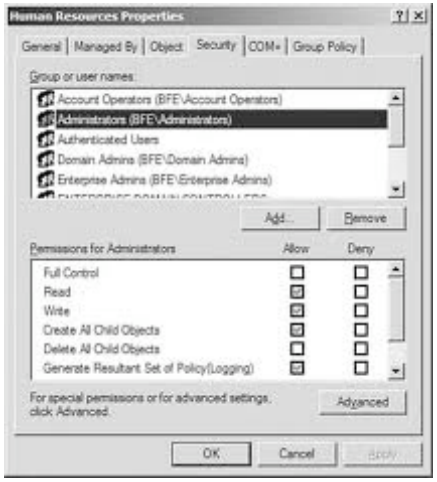
- Record Opening
  - Clinician can open a record with herself and patient on the ACL.
  - Where patient referred, can open record with herself, patient and referring clinician on ACL





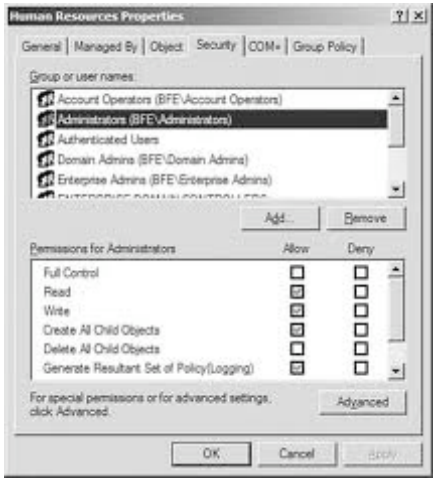
BMA Principle #3

- Designated Control
  - One of the clinicians on the ACL must be marked as being responsible
  - Only she may alter the ACL
  - Only health professionals should be added to ACL

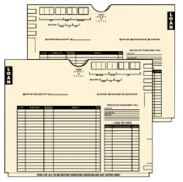


BMA Principle #4

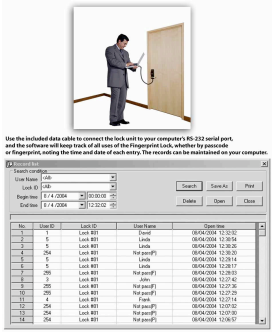
- Consent and notification
  - Responsible clinician must notify the patient
    - of the names on his record's ACL when it is opened,
    - of all additions to ACL and
    - whenever responsibility is transferred

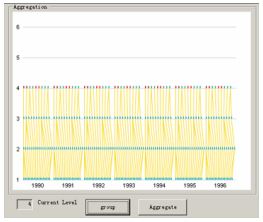


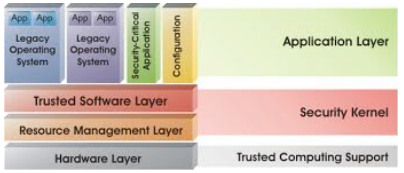
BMA Policy



- Access control
- Record opening
- Designated control
- Consent and notification
- Persistence
- Attribution
- Information flow
- Aggregation control
- Trusted computing base



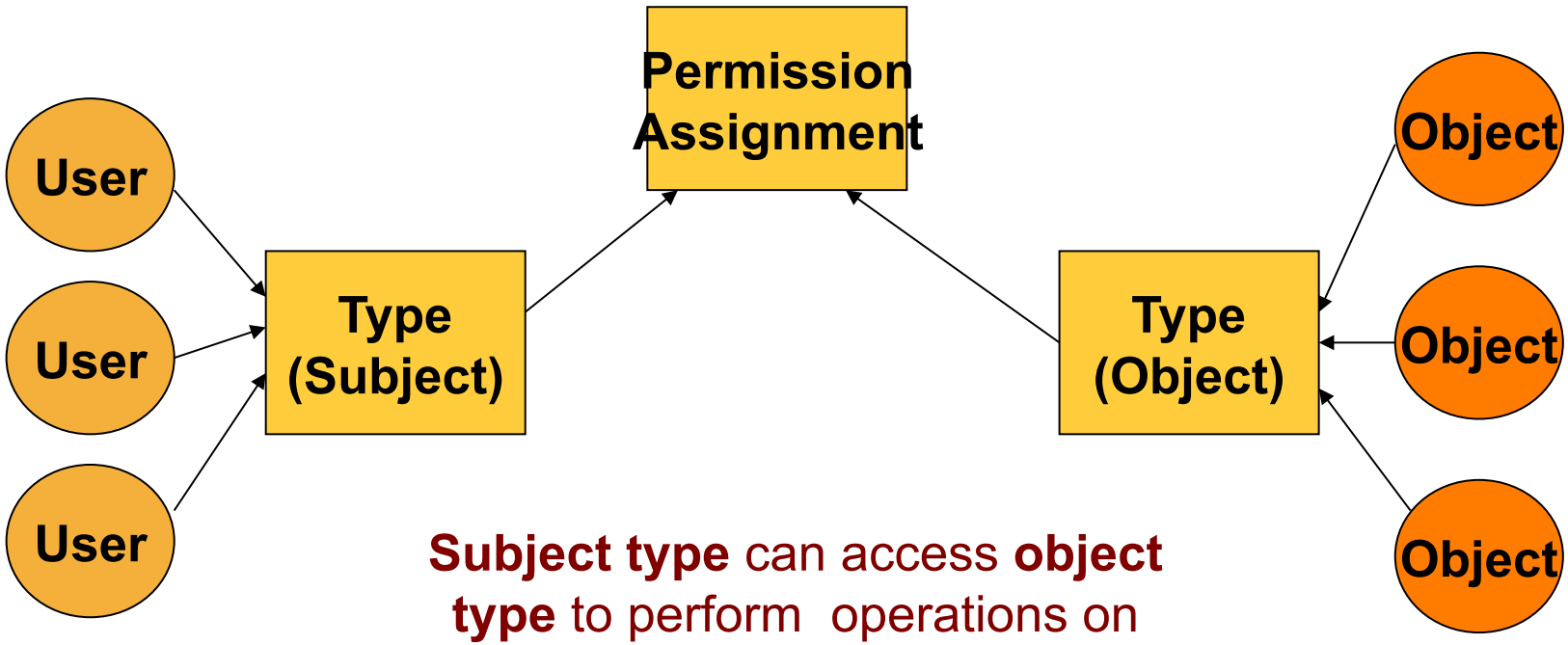




Relationship-Based Access Control (ReBAC)

- RBAC: Policies are sets
  - "Who are you?"
- ReBAC: Policies are relations
  - "Who do you know?"
- Scenario: Temporary access for consultation

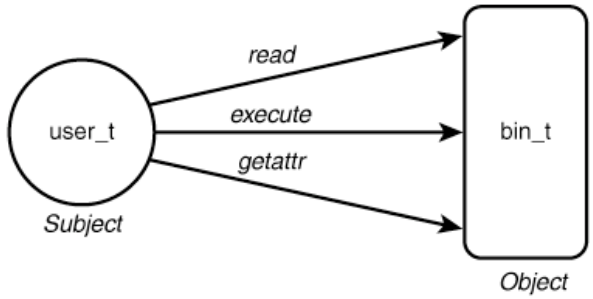
Type Enforcement (SELinux)



Type Enforcement Access Control

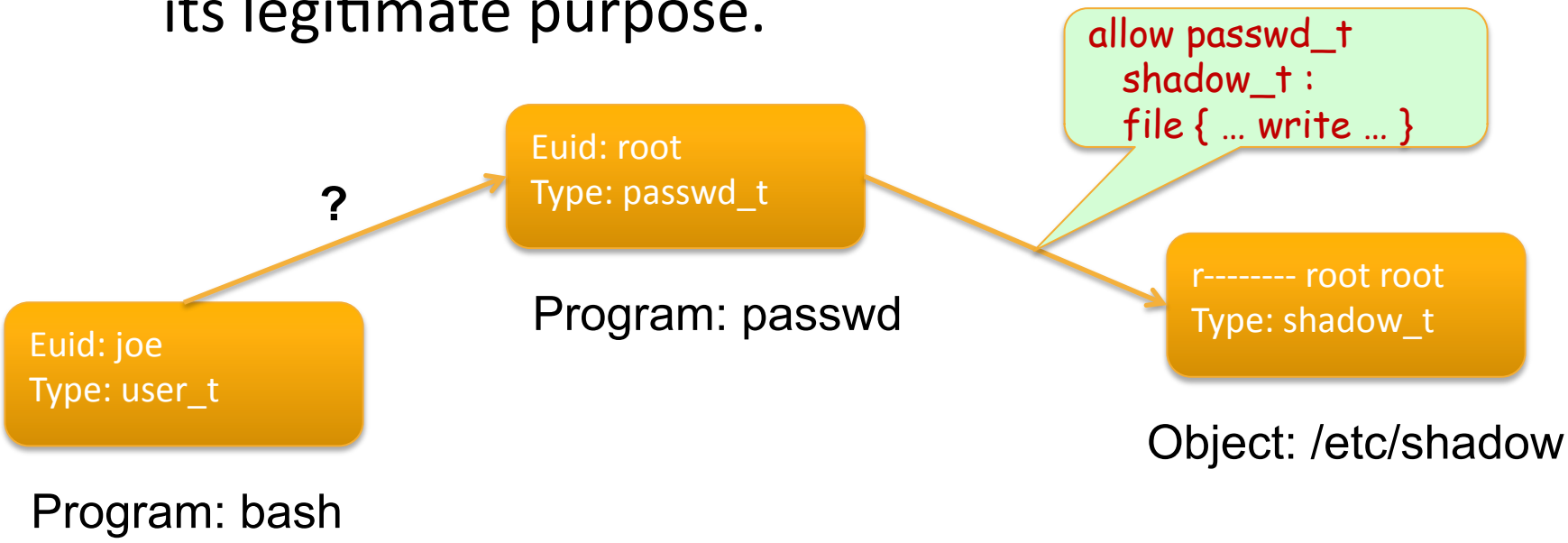
- All accesses must be explicitly granted in policy
- "Allow" rules specify:
  - Source type (domain type of process)
  - Target type (object type being accessed)
  - Object class
  - Permissions
- Example:

  allow user_t bin_t : file {read



Domain Transitions

- **Principle of Least Privilege:**
  - Any process must be able to access only such information and resources that are necessary to its legitimate purpose.



Conclusions

- Security is hard