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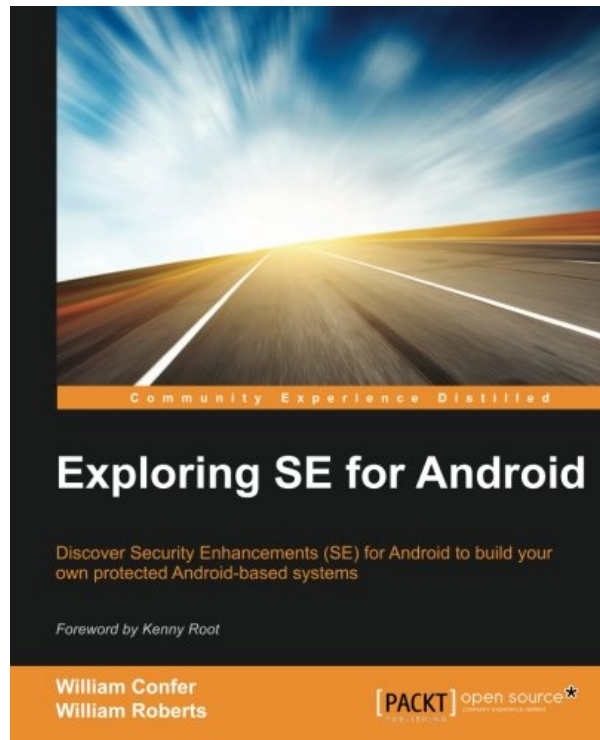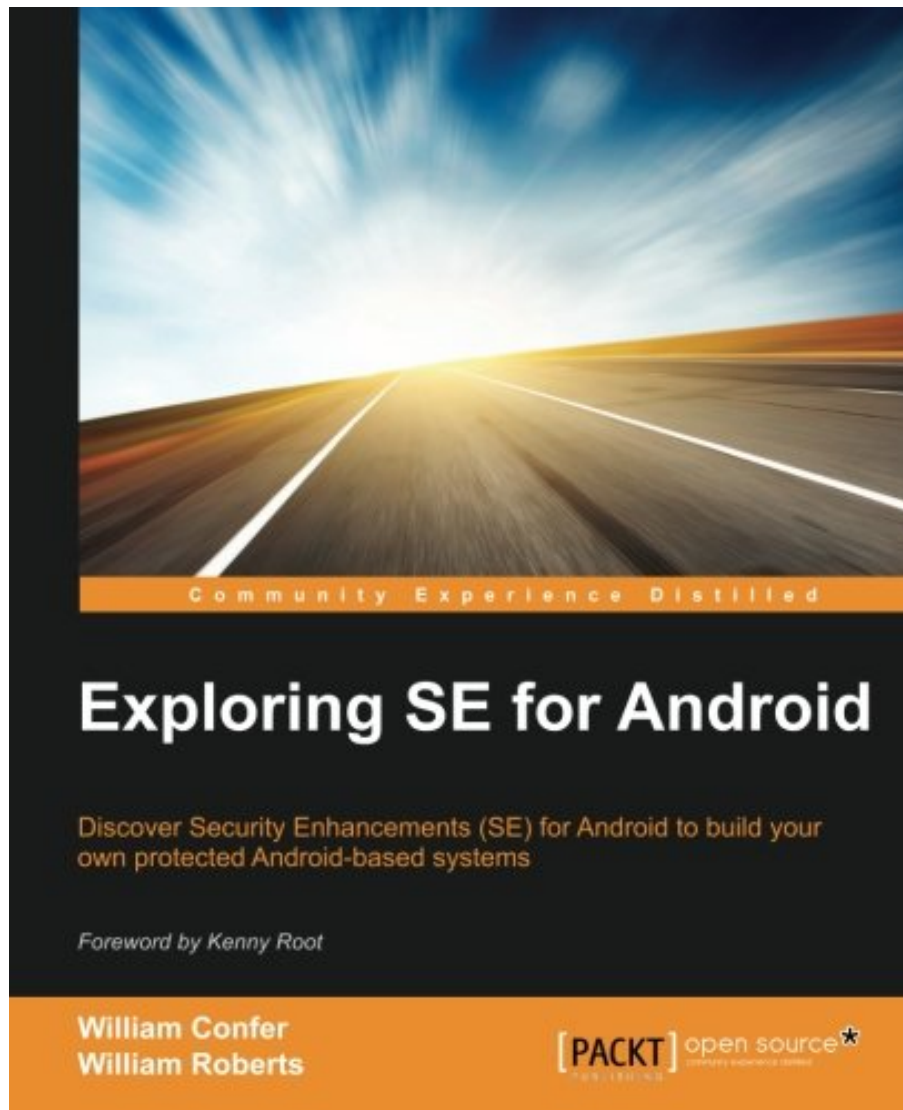

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About the Author

William Confer

William Confer has been engineering embedded and mobile systems since 1997. He has worked for Samsung Mobile as a managing staff engineer and currently teaches computer science at SUNY Polytechnic Institute. He holds a patent in low-cost character recognition for extremely resource-limited devices and has multiple other patents pending for mobile technologies.

William Roberts

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Discover Security Enhancements (SE) for Android to build your own protected Android-based systems

About This Book

- Learn the fundamental security models and motivations behind Linux, SELinux, and SE for Android.
- Build and enable current security enhancements from the SE for Android project onto a working embedded UDOO board.
- Discover how to leverage SE for Android to secure your own projects in powerful ways using this step by step guide.

Who This Book Is For

This book is intended for developers and engineers with some familiarity of operating system concepts as implemented by Linux. A basic background in C code would be helpful. Their positions range from hobbyists wanting to secure their Android powered creations to OEM engineers building handsets to engineers of emerging areas where Android is seeing growth.

What You Will Learn

- Experiment with Linux and SELinux access controls
- Build custom Android kernels
- Backport SE for Android patches to different Android versions
- Explore binder and property services, what they are, and how and why SELinux integrates them
- Work with Android core internal systems like init and zygote
- Learn how to keep pace with and navigate the details of fast moving open source projects
- Overcome obstacles in policy development through directed experimentation

In Detail

You will start by exploring the nature of the security mechanisms behind Linux and SELinux, and as you complete the chapters, you will integrate and enable SE for Android into a System on Chip (SoC), a process that, prior to this book, has never before been documented in its entirety! Discover Android's unique user space, from its use of the common UID and GID model to promote its security goals to its custom binder IPC mechanism. Explore the interface between the kernel and user space with respect to SELinux and investigate contexts and labels and their application to system objects.

This book will help you develop the necessary skills to evaluate and engineer secured products with the Android platform, whether you are new to world of Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux) or experienced in secure system deployment.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
A good book for a hobbyist to learn about SELinux in Android
By Darren Shu
It's worth noting the authors state in the preface that this book is "not just a step-by-step technology book, but a book that directs you to fail your way to success." That said, the examples in the book step through using a UDOO board (www.udoo.org). While I have not personally purchased one, this would appear to be another investment of ~$150 or so. Personally, I would have preferred using an emulator rather than having to deal with hardware platform headaches. There's even mention within Chapter 7 how the UDOO kernel version 3.0.35 does not support CONFIG_AUDITSYSCALL. While a patch is referenced in the book, the patch causes a deadlock on the UDOO that could not be traced down by the authors.

Chapter 1 covers Discretionary Access Control (DAC), Chapter 2 talks about Mandatory Access Control (MAC) and starts to touch on SE Linux. Chapter 3 talks about Android and the security mechanisms within it a high level. Chapter 4 talks about setting up the UDOO board. Chapter 5 covers bootup, but more specifically loading the SE Linux policy. Chapter 6 discusses SELinuxFS which is the kernel-to-userspace interface. The remaining chapters (7-13) walk through how to setup SELinux to get from Permissive to Enforcing Mode. Finally, the Appendix covers the development environment.

Overall, I was able to gain more insight in SELinux for Android and solve a particular problem that I was

working on.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Great topics and great format
By frequent buyer
This book covers two very important topics in Android that aren't as fully explained in any other single source: Security and building custom versions of Android. The format is especially enjoyable and useful - the book acts as a comprehensive tutorial that you can follow along with on actual hardware.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
book started great with clear explanations
By Justin Grover
book started great with clear explanations; learned a lot, thanks! Lost me a couple chapters in though as the explanations got shorter and the technical content grew larger.

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