# Model-Checking In-lined Reference Monitors

Language-based Security

## In-lined Reference Monitors (IRMs)

### [Schneider, TISSEC, '00]



- enforce safety policies by injecting security guards directly into untrusted binaries
- maintain *history* of security-relevant events
- Advantages:
  - deployment flexibility (OS/VM remains unmodified)
  - enforce richer policies, sequence-sensitive policies
  - code recipient can specify security policy
  - application-specific policies

## **In-lined Reference Monitors**



## Aspect-Oriented IRMs

Aspect-Oriented Programming [Kiczales et al, ECOOP, 1997] has become a standard approach for implementing IRMs



## Aspect-Oriented IRMs

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#### EXAMPLE:

Policy: at most 10 calls to Mail.mail(Mail.Send,...)

#### AspectJ implementation:

aspect Monitor {						
<pre>private static int counter = 0;</pre>						
<pre>pointcut sendevent(x): call(Mail.mail(int,)) &amp;&amp;     if(thisJoinPoint.getArgs()[0]==x);</pre>						
<b>before</b> () : sendevent(Mail.Send) {						
if (counter >= 10)						
throw new Exception("security violation");						
++counter;						
}						
}						

#### reified security state

pointcuts: identify securityrelevant operations (events)

advice: implement guards and interventions

## **In-lined Reference Monitors**

- Long history of IRM Implementations
  - SASI/PoET [Erlingsson & Schneider, NSPW 99]
  - MOBILE [Hamlen, Morrisett, & Schneider, PLAS 06]
  - Polymer [Ligatti, Bauer, & Walker, TISSEC 09]
  - Java-MOP [Chen & Roşu, TACAS 05]
  - ConSpec [Aktug & Naliuka, SCP 08]
  - FIRM [Li & Wang, ACSAC 10]
  - many others

## IRM Example: Web Ad Security

[Louw, Ganesh, Venkatakrishnan, USENIX Security, 2010]

<b>TurboTax</b>	TurboTax guides you like GPS to your maximum refund.	GPSI) Peter Rather S.1.812 thr	E-Mail Filter: A	Address Book	Settings 😢 Logou v ©
Folders	Subject	Sender	Date 🔻 S	Size 🖒 🖉	Ads by GOOgle
Inbox	<ul> <li>Volunteering opportunity</li> </ul>	Jorge Del Soto	Today 21:15	684 B	Zimbra for Small
Sent	<ul> <li>Important message</li> </ul>	Meagan Molineux	Today 21:11	656 B	<u>Business</u>
junk	<ul> <li>Sale pending</li> </ul>	Leo Benziger	Today 21:10	651 B	Flexible web-based
-older: 🎛 🔗	Subject Sale pending Sender Leo Benziger 1 Recipient adsandbox@mail.n Date Fri 21:10 Dear recipient, Avangar Technologies annound butchery twenties Due to com employment campaign over 150 uear recipient, Avangar Technologies annound butchery twenties Due to com employment campaign over 150 mentor amplication over 150 employed by the company. And Technologies. druggists blan can dedicate 2-4 hours of th Select:	de by AdBrite Advertisement 21 x Google Pays Me \$129 an Hour Google has blessed me with a \$4,800 a Month Income. >> Read How	A Sports Submit a Solution Get Q Solution States Solution So	KCO SECURE Fashie	onably Earl

#### Third Party Ad content given full page access by default! – Confidentiality and Integrity issues

- 1. Banner ad
- 2. Skyscraper ad needs to read page for contextual targeting risk of exposing private content such as email ids
- 3. Inline text ad *contextual targeting* same risk
- 4. Floating ad needs control of page real estate may interfere with trusted components

Phu H. Phung, Maliheh Monshizadeh, Meera Sridhar, Kevin Hamlen and V.N. Venkatakrishnan. Between Worlds: Securing Mixed JavaScript/ActionScript Multi-party Web Content. IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing, November 2014.



- rewriters contain disassemblers, binary analysis tools, compilers, optimizers, codegenerators
- rewriters may be outsourced to third parties with different security interests
- policy specifications can change rapidly as new attacks appear and new vulnerabilities are discovered

Without certification, TCB large & complex!



- certifying IRMs easier than verifying safety of arbitrary code!
- lighter weight
  - SPIN vs. our early work
- different from Proof-Carrying Code (PCC)
  - PCC rewriters (certifying compilers) leverage source level info typically unavailable to binary rewriters
- Related work:
  - ConSpec (certification via contracts)
  - MoBILe (certification via type-checking)

**Bottom Line:** Runtime monitoring is very powerful, but we want the high assurance of static analysis.

**Solution:** *Static verification of IRMs* yields best of both worlds! Combine the power & flexibility of runtime monitoring with strong formal guarantees of static analysis.

What do we want from the certifier?

- automatic, machine-certification of IRMs ondemand
- formal guarantees of
  - ✓ soundness
  - ✓ transparency (behavior-preservation)
- light-weight certifier (embedded systems)

## Aspect-Oriented IRM In-lining and Certification



## SPoX Policy Example [Hamlen, Jones, PLAS, 2008]

Policy: at most 10 calls to Mail.mail(Mail.Send,...)

#### Security Automaton:



## Aspect-Oriented IRM In-lining and Certification



# Approach: Model-checking

- policy model + new binary code are the two inputs to model-checker
- model-checking process
  - abstract-interpret new binary code
  - interpreter bi-simulates code and automaton
  - model-checker proves that there are no automaton-rejected states in any reachable flows
- Main Challenge: How to curb state-space explosion?

Meera Sridhar and Kevin W. Hamlen. *Model Checking In-Lined Reference Monitors*. In Proc. of the Eleventh International Conference on Verification, Model Checking, and Abstract Interpretation (VMCAI), Jan 2010.

Kevin W. Hamlen, Micah M. Jones, and Meera Sridhar. *Aspect-oriented Runtime Monitor Certification*. In Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS), March 2012.

# In-lining Example

**Policy:** at most 10 calls to Mail.mail(Mail.Send,...)

```
if (x == Mail.Send) {
    if (counter >= 0 && counter <= 9)
        temp_counter = counter + 1;
    else
        throw new Exception("security violation");
        counter = temp_counter;
}
Mail.mail(x,...);</pre>
```

# Abstract Interpretation Example



#### **Legend:** s = abstract security state (from SPoX policy)

- c = counter (reified state)
- t = temp\_counter (reified state)

# Abstract Interpretation Example



#### Legend:

- s = abstract security state (from SPoX policy)
- c = counter (reified state)
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# Abstract Interpretation Example



# Synchronization States

- Definition
  - A state is synchronized when the abstract and reified security states "match"
  - different definition of "match" for each aspect implementation
  - each binary rewriter declares its definition of "match"
  - definition remains untrusted by verifier!
- Certification
  - verifies that initial symbolic state is synchronized
  - abstracts state to just "sync" whenever possible
  - uses "sync" as a loop invariant whenever possible
  - conservatively rejects if "sync" is insufficient to verify safety
- Controlling state-space explosion
  - vast majority of state-exploration reduces to linear-time sync-preservation checks
  - remaining exploration verifies that small blocks of in-lined code are sync-preserving, and that sync-preservation implies safety
  - "wrong" definition of sync just causes conservative rejection or slow convergence

Kevin W. Hamlen, Micah M. Jones, and Meera Sridhar. *Aspect-oriented Runtime Monitor Certification*. In Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS), March 2012.

### Model-checking Certifier Implementation for SPoX IRM System

- IRM system for Java bytecode
- Prolog (about 5200 lines)
  - implements abstract interpreter
  - implements model-checker
    - decides boolean sentences over symbolic states
    - implemented with Constraint Logic Programming (CLP)
- Java code (about 9100 lines)
  - parses Java bytecode binaries using BCEL
  - outputs Prolog structures for certification
  - answers Prolog's questions(e.g., class inheritence)
- Capabilities and limitations
  - certifier fully inter-procedural and inter-modular
  - almost all loops verify easily using sync as loop invariant
    - monitor-introduced loops in non-sync regions (rare) are the only hard ones
  - supports most forms of reflection
    - certifier just verifies adequacy of guards of reflective operations
  - synchronization invariant must be expressible as linear constraints
  - multithreading not supported

### Model-checking Certifier Implementation for SPoX IRM System

		File Sizes (KB)		B)	# Classes		Rewrite	#	Total Verif	Model-
Program	Policy	old	new	libs	old	libs	Time (s)	 Events	Time (s)	Time (s)
EJE	NoExecSaves	439	439	0	147	0	6.1	1	202.8	16.3
RText		1264	1266	835	448	680	52.1	7	2797.5	54.5
JSesh		1923	1924	20878	863	1849	57.8	1	5488.1	196.0
vrenamer	NoExecRename	924	927	0	583	0	50.1	9	1956.8	41.0
jconsole	NoUnsafeDel	35	36	0	33	0	0.6	2	115.7	15.1
jWeather	NoSendsAfterReads	288	294	0	186	0	12.3	46	308.2	156.7
YTDownload		279	281	0	148	0	17.8	20	219.0	53.6
jfilecrypt	NoGui	303	303	0	164	0	9.7	1	642.2	2.8
jknight	OnlySSH	166	166	4753	146	2675	4.5	1	650.1	3.0
Multivalent	EncryptPDF	1115	1116	0	559	0	129.9	7	3567.0	26.9
tn5250j	PortRestrict	646	646	0	416	0	85.4	2	2598.2	23.6
jrdesktop	SafePort	343	343	0	163	0	8.3	5	483.0	17.8
JVMail	TenMails	24	25	0	21	0	1.6	2	35.1	8.0
JackMail		165	166	369	30	269	2.5	1	626.7	8.9
Jeti	CapLoginAttmpts	484	484	0	422	0	15.3	1	524.3	8.8
ChangeDB	CapMembers	82	83	404	63	286	4.3	2	995.3	12.0
projtimer	CapFileCreates	34	34	0	25	0	15.3	1	56.2	6.1
xnap	NoFreeRiding	1250	1251	0	878	0	24.8	4	1496.2	56.4
Phex		4586	4586	3799	1353	830	69.4	2	5947.0	172.7
Webgoat	NoSqlXss	429	431	6338	159	3579	16.7	2	10876.0	120.0
OpenMRS	NoSQLInject	1781	1783	24279	932	17185	78.7	6	2897.0	37.3
Averages		747	748	2522	369	1120	32.4	5	1846.6	45.2

### IRM Implementation Challenges & Logic Programming Advantage

- 1. IRMs must be fairly light-weight because they run on the code-consumer side
- 2. binary code parsing, code generation: tedious and error-prone
  - DCG's facilitate binary parser implementation
  - Reversible predicates combine parser and code-generator into one piece of code!
- 3. IRM must elegantly implement many AST analyses and optimizations during rewriting
  - needed to preserve policy-compliant programs, generate efficient code
  - ASTs very elegantly represented and manipulated as Prolog structures
- 4. Instrumented code should be amenable to formal verification
  - Prolog implementation of binary rewriting isomorphic to a search for a correctness proof
  - excellent for integration with a certifying IRM system or a PCC system

Brian W. DeVries, Gopal Gupta, Kevin W. Hamlen, Scott Moore, and Meera Sridhar. *ActionScript Bytecode Verification With Co-Logic Programming*. In Proc. of the ACM SIGPLAN Workshop on Prog. Languages and Analysis for Security (PLAS), June 2009.

Meera Sridhar and Kevin W. Hamlen. *ActionScript In-Lined Reference Monitoring in Prolog*. In Proceedings of the Twelfth Symposium on Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages (PADL), Jan 2010.

### A Simple LTL Model Checker written in Prolog for ActionScript Bytecode

```
1% verify/2 takes a state and an existentially
 2% quantified LTL formula and checks
 3% whether the formula holds for that state.
 4 %
 5% Atomic Propositions are labeled by 'ap'.
 6 %
 7\% holds/2 is true when the atomic proposition holds
 8% in the current state
 9%
10% ftype/2 is a mapping from top-level temporal
11% operators to their interpretation semantics
12 %
13% The clause for 'a and b' should ensure that 'a' and
14% 'b' hold on the same execution path. For simplicity
15% of presentation, we omit this check here.
16
17 verify(State, F) :- ftype(F, inductive),
18
          verify_inductive(State, F).
19 verify(State, F) :- ftype(F, coinductive),
20
          verify_coinductive(State, F).
21
22 :- tabled verify_inductive/2.
23 verify_inductive(S, ap(AP)) :- holds(S,AP). % p
24 % Logical operators
25 verify_inductive(S, not(ap(AP))) :-
                                           % not(p)
          + holds(S, AP).
26
                                           % a or b
27 verify_inductive(S, or(A,B)) :-
28
          verify(S, A) ; verify(S, B).
29 verify_inductive(S, and(A,B)) :-
                                            % a and b
30
          verify(S, A), verify(S, B).
31 % Inductive temporal operators
                                           % X(a)
32 verify_inductive(S, x(A)) :-
33
          trans(S, S1), verify(S1, A).
34 verify_inductive(S, f(A)) :-
                                            % F(a)
35
          verify(S, A); verify(S, x(f(A))).
                                           % a U b
36 verify_inductive(S, u(A,B)) :-
37
          verify(S, B);
38
          verify_inductive(S, and(A, x(u(A,B)))).
39
40 :- coinductive verify_coinductive/2.
41 % Coinductive temporal operators
                                           % G(a)
42 verify_coinductive(S, g(A)) :-
43
          verify(S, and(A, x(g(A))).
44 verify_coinductive(S, r(A,B)) :-
                                            % a R b
45
          verify(S, and(A,B)).
46
          % {a and b both occur, releasing b}
47 verify_coinductive(S, r(A,B)) :-
48
          verify(S, and(B, x(r(A,B)))).
49
          % {a does not hold, so b is not released}
```

### FlashJaX: IRM technology for Web Ads



## Proof of Certifier Correctness

certifier returns true  $\implies$  for all executions of the program there is no policy violation

Proof based on Cousot's abstract interpretation framework [Cousot & Cousot, POPL 77]

- bismulation of concrete and abstract machines
  - concrete operational semantics of Java bytecode based on ClassicJava [Flatt, Krishnamurthi, & Felleisen, POPL 98]
  - abstract operational semantics of our interpreter
  - soundness relation between abstract and concrete states
- denotational semantics of SPoX [Hamlen & Jones, PLAS 08]
- <u>preservation</u>: The abstract machine soundly abstracts the concrete machine step-wise (uses soundness relation).
- <u>progress</u>: If the abstract machine doesn't reject, the concrete machine doesn't violate the policy. Abstract machine covers all real executions.

Kevin W. Hamlen, Micah M. Jones, and Meera Sridhar. *Aspect-oriented Runtime Monitor Certification*. In Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS), March 2012.

Kevin W. Hamlen, Micah M. Jones, and Meera Sridhar. *Chekov: Aspect-oriented Runtime Monitor Certification via Model-checking (Extended Version)*. Technical Report UTDCS-16-11, Computer Science Department, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, May 2011.

## **Concrete Machine**

LANGUAGE SYNTAX $i ::= ifle L \mid getlocal n \mid setlocal n \mid jmp L \mid$ (SIMPLIFIED ACTIONSCRIPT) $event e \mid setstate n \mid ifstate n L$					
PROGRAMS AND LABELS	$P ::= (L, p, s)$ $p : L \to i$ $s : L \to L$	(programs) (instruction labels) (label successors)			
Concrete states	$\begin{aligned} &\chi ::= \langle L : i, \sigma, \nu, m, \tau \rangle \\ &\sigma ::= \cdot \mid v :: \sigma \\ &v \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\nu : \mathbb{Z} \to v \\ &m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &e \in \Sigma \\ &\tau \in \Sigma^* \\ &\chi_0 = \langle L_0 : p(L_0), \cdot, \nu_0, 0, \epsilon \rangle \\ &\nu_0 = \mathbb{Z} \times \{0\} \end{aligned}$	(configurations) (concrete stacks) (concrete values) (concrete stores) (concrete reified state) (events) (concrete traces) (initial configurations) (initial stores)			

Meera Sridhar and Kevin W. Hamlen. *Model Checking In-Lined Reference Monitors*. In Proc. of the Eleventh International Conference on Verification, Model Checking, and Abstract Interpretation (VMCAI), Jan 2010.

### **Concrete Small-step Operational Semantics**

## Abstract Machine

#### **ABSTRACT STATES**

$\hat{\chi} ::= \bot \mid \langle L : i, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, m, (Res(q_m), \bar{\tau}) \rangle \mid \langle L : i, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \top_{VS}, \hat{\tau} \rangle$	(abstract configs)
$\hat{\sigma} ::= \cdot \mid \hat{v} :: \hat{\sigma}$	(evaluation stacks)
$\hat{v} \in VS$	(abstract values)
$\hat{\nu}: \mathbb{Z} \to \hat{v}$	(abstract stores)
$\hat{m} \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \top_{VS}$	(abstract reified state)
$\bar{\tau} \in \cup_{n \le k} \Sigma^n$	(bounded traces)
$\hat{\tau} \in SS$	(abstract traces)

### Abstract Small-step Operational Semantics

$$\begin{split} \frac{n_{1} \leq n_{2}}{\langle L_{1}: \text{ifle } L_{2}, n_{1}::n_{2}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle L_{2}: p(L_{2}), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFLEPOS)} \\ \frac{n_{1} > n_{2}}{\langle L_{1}: \text{ifle } L_{2}, n_{1}::n_{2}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L_{1}): p(s(L_{1})), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFLENEG)} \\ \frac{\top_{VS} \in \{va_{1}, va_{2}\} \qquad L' \in \{L_{2}, s(L_{1})\}}{\langle L_{1}: \text{ifle } L_{2}, va_{1}::va_{2}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle L': p(L'), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFLETOP)} \\ \hline \langle L: \text{getlocal } n, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\nu}(n)::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AGETLOCAL)} \\ \hline \langle L: \text{getlocal } n, va_{1}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}[n:=va_{1}], \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(ASETLOCAL)} \\ \hline \langle L: \text{setlocal } n, va_{1}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(ASETLOCAL)} \\ \hline \hline \langle L: \text{setlocal } n, va_{1}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(ASETLOCAL)} \\ \hline \hline \langle L: \text{setlocal } n, va_{1}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(ASETLOCAL)} \\ \hline \hline \langle L: \text{setlocal } n, va_{1}::\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(ASETTLOCAL)} \\ \hline \hline \langle L: \text{setstate } n, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFNEPOS)} \\ \hline \hline \hline \langle L: \text{setstate } n, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L): p(s(L)), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, n, (Res(q_{n}), \epsilon) \rangle} \text{(AIFSTATEPOS)} \\ \hline \hline \frac{\hat{m} \neq n \qquad (S - Res(q_{n}))\tau \subseteq \hat{\tau}}{\langle L_{1}: \text{ifstate } n \ L_{2}, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, (S, \tau) \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L_{1}: p(s(L_{1})), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFSTATENEG)} \\ \hline \hline \frac{\hat{m} \neq n \qquad (S - Res(q_{n}))\tau \subseteq \hat{\tau}}{\langle L_{1}: \text{ifstate } n \ L_{2}, \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, (S, \tau) \rangle \rightsquigarrow \langle s(L_{1}: p(s(L_{1})), \hat{\sigma}, \hat{\nu}, \hat{m}, \hat{\tau} \rangle} \text{(AIFSTATENEG)} \\ \hline \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \hline \\ \hline \hline \end{array}$$

## **Other Proofs of Correctness**

- Proof of Convergence
  - proof bounds height of abstraction lattice
  - abstract machine reaches fixed point in  $O(n^2)$ , n = security automaton size

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- Proof of Correctness of IRM Transparency Certifier
  - SCP paper presents the first automated transparency-verifier for IRMs
  - untrusted, external invariant-generator
    - safely leverages rewriter-specific instrumentation information during verification
  - correctness of IRM transparency certifier extends previous proof with trace equivalence

Meera Sridhar, Richard Wartell and Kevin W. Hamlen. *Hippocratic Binary Instrumentation: First Do No Harm*. Science of Computer Programming: Special Issue on Invariant Generation, 93(B):110-124, Nov. 2014.

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