

Prolog to Lecture 3
CS 236
On-Line MS Program
Networks and Systems Security
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Mandatory Access Control and the Real World

- For a long time, things like Bell-La Padula were hard to run
- Real-world commercial systems did not support them
- That's changing

SE Linux and Flask

- Security Enhanced Linux
 - Developed by NSA researchers
 - Open source, like all Linux
- Implementation of the Flask security architecture
 - Which allows flexible use of mandatory access control

What Can You Do With Flask?

- Multi-level security
 - Including Bell La Padula
- Domain Type Enforcement
- Role-based Access Control
- Many other types of mandatory access control policies
- No superuser, many other common Linux/Unix security problems avoided

What Does This Mean For You?

- You can get usable, commercial operating systems with MAC
- Even operating systems with strong industry support
- Well, so what?

Is MAC For You?

- MAC is only useful where it makes sense to force policy to be followed
- Typically not on a single user's personal machine
- More common on industry installations
 - Especially those with military connections
- Do you need to guarantee access control properties?
 - Regardless of how foolish your users are?