

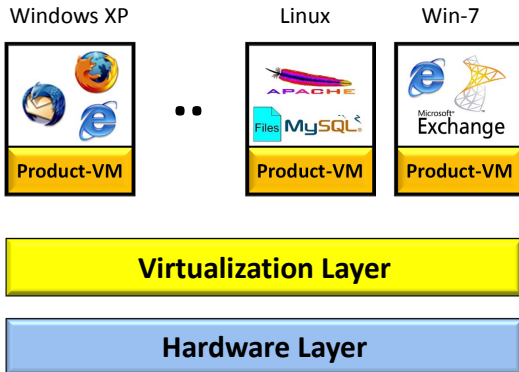
*Malware Memory Forensics (MMF) Workshop at ACSAC'14*  
**Automating Introspection and Forensics  
Software Development via Binary Code Reuse**

**Zhiqiang Lin**

Department of Computer Sciences  
The University of Texas at Dallas

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

# Virtualization, Hypervisor, and the Cloud



# Virtualization, Hypervisor, and the Cloud

Windows XP



• •

Linux



Win-7



Virtualization Layer

Hardware Layer

Virtualization (i.e., hypervisor) [Popek and Goldberg, 1974] has pushed our computing paradigm from **multi-tasking** to **multi-OS**.

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Multiplexing, Isolation, Migration, ...



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Multiplexing, Isolation, Migration, ...



# On Anti-Virus Software Evolution



**Virtualization Layer**

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# On Anti-Virus Software Evolution

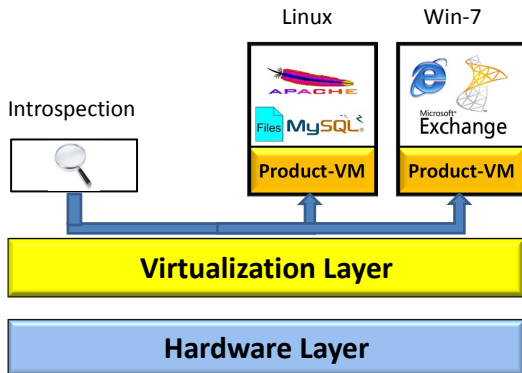


**Virtualization Layer**

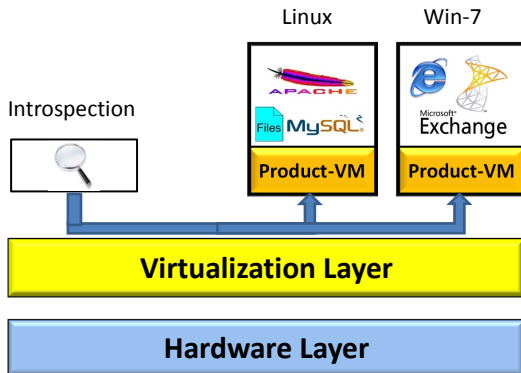
# On Anti-Virus Software Evolution



# Virtual Machine Introspection (VMI) [Garfinkel et al, NDSS'03]



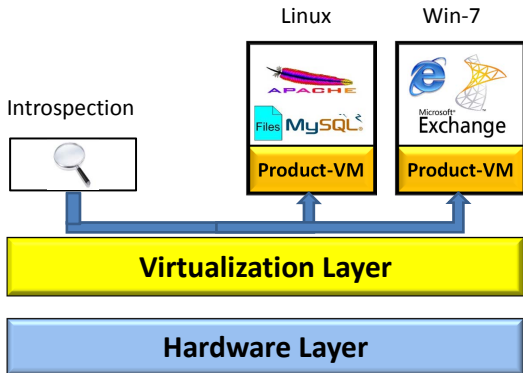
# Virtual Machine Introspection (VMI) [Garfinkel et al, NDSS'03]



Using a **trusted, dedicated** virtualization layer program to **monitor** the running VMs



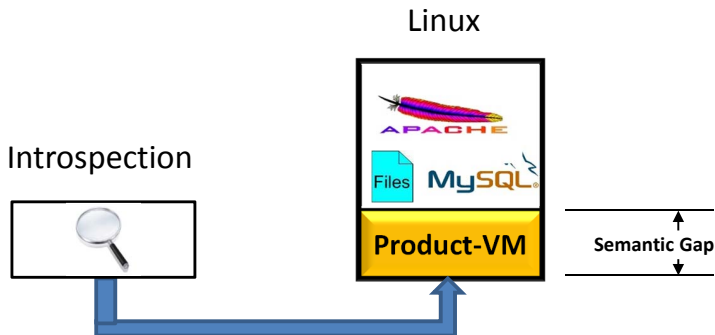
# Virtual Machine Introspection (VMI) [Garfinkel et al, NDSS'03]



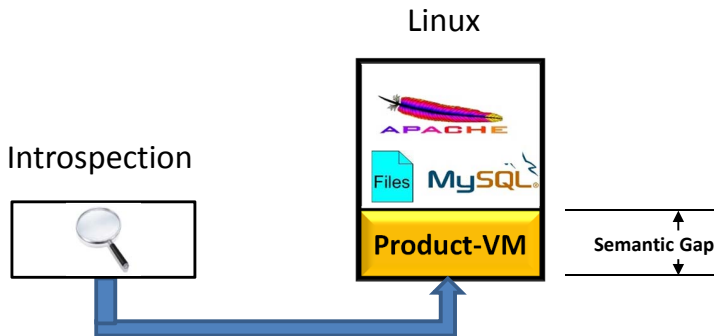
Using a **trusted, dedicated** virtualization layer program to **monitor** the running VMs

- Intrusion Detection
- Malware Analysis
- Memory Forensics

# The Semantic Gap in Out-of-VM (Chen and Noble HotOS'01)

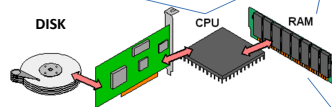
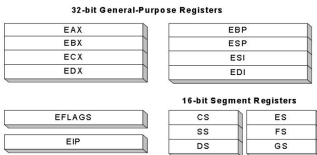


# The Semantic Gap in Out-of-VM (Chen and Noble HotOS'01)



- View exposed by Virtual Machine Monitor is at low-level
- There is no abstraction and no APIs
- Need to reconstruct the guest-OS abstraction

# Example: Inspect `pids` of Guest Memory from VMM



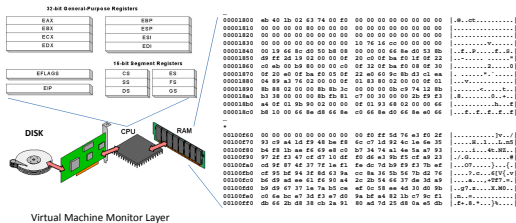
Virtual Machine Monitor Layer

```

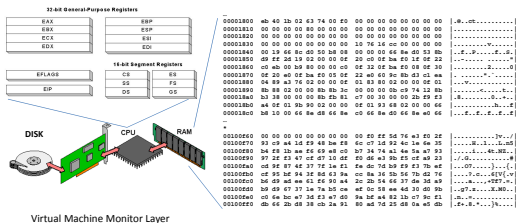
...
00001800 eb 40 1b 02 63 74 00 f0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 |. @...ct.....|
00001810 00 00 00 00 80 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 |.....|
00001820 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 |.....|
00001830 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 10 76 16 cc 00 00 00 00 |.....v.....|
00001840 00 19 66 8c d0 50 b8 08 00 00 00 66 8e d0 53 8b |..f..P....f..S.|
00001850 d9 ff 2d 19 02 00 00 0f 20 c0 0f ba f0 1f 0f 22 |...-....." |
00001860 c0 eb 00 b9 80 00 00 c0 0f 32 0f ba f0 08 0f 30 |.....2.....0|
00001870 0f 20 e0 0f ba f0 05 0f 22 e0 60 9c 8b d3 c1 ea |.....".'.....|
00001880 04 89 a3 76 02 00 00 0f 01 83 80 02 00 00 0f 01 |...v.....|
00001890 8b 88 02 00 00 8b 8b 3c 00 00 00 0b c9 74 12 8b |.....<.....t..|
000018a0 b3 38 00 00 00 8b fb 81 c7 00 30 00 00 2b f9 f3 |.8.....0...+..|
000018b0 a4 0f 01 9b 90 02 00 00 0f 01 93 68 02 00 00 66 |.....h...f |
000018c0 b8 10 00 66 8e d8 66 8e c0 66 8e d0 66 8e e0 66 |...f..f..f..f |
...
*
00100f60 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 f0 ff 5d 76 e3 f0 2f |.....]v.../ |
00100f70 93 c9 a4 1d f9 48 be f8 6c c7 1d 92 4c 1e 6e 35 |.....H..l...L.n5|
00100f80 b4 f8 1b ae f6 69 e8 c0 b7 34 74 a1 4e 5a a7 93 |.....i...4t.NZ..|
00100f90 97 2f f3 47 cf d7 10 df f0 d6 e3 9b f5 cf a9 23 |./..O.....# |
00100fa0 cd 9f 87 4f 37 7f 1e f1 fe dc 7d b9 f9 f3 7b ef |...O7.....}...{. |
00100fb0 cf 95 bf 94 3f 8d 63 9a cc 8a 36 55 56 7b d2 76 |...?.c...6[V{.v |
00100fc0 b6 d9 ad ee 61 f6 90 a4 2c 2b 54 66 37 de 3d a9 |...a...+Tf7...= |
00100fd0 b9 d9 67 37 1e 7a b5 ce ef 0c 58 ee 4d 30 d0 9b |..g7.z...X.M0..|
00100fe0 c0 6e bc e7 3d f3 e7 d0 9a bf a4 82 1b c7 9c f1 |.n...=..... |
00100ff0 db 66 2b d8 38 cb 2a 91 80 ad 7d 25 d8 0a e5 db |.f+.8.*...}%....|

```

## Example: Inspect `pids` of Guest Memory from VMM



## Example: Inspect `pids` of Guest Memory from VMM



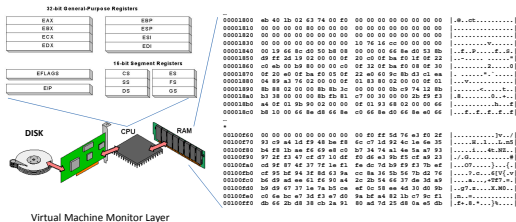
## In Kernel 2.6.18

```

struct task_struct {
    ...
    [188] pid_t pid;
    [192] pid_t tgid;
    ...
    [356] uid_t uid;
    [360] uid_t euid;
    [364] uid_t suid;
    [368] uid_t fsuid;
    [372] gid_t gid;
    [376] gid_t egid;
    [380] gid_t sgid;
    [384] gid_t fsgid;
    ...
    [428] char comm[16];
    ...
}
SIZE: 1408

```

## Example: Inspect `pids` of Guest Memory from VMM



- Kernel specific data structure definition
- Kernel symbols (global variable)
- Virtual to physical (V2P) translation

## In Kernel 2.6.18

```

struct task_struct {
    ...
    [188] pid_t pid;
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    ...
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    ...
    [428] char comm[16];
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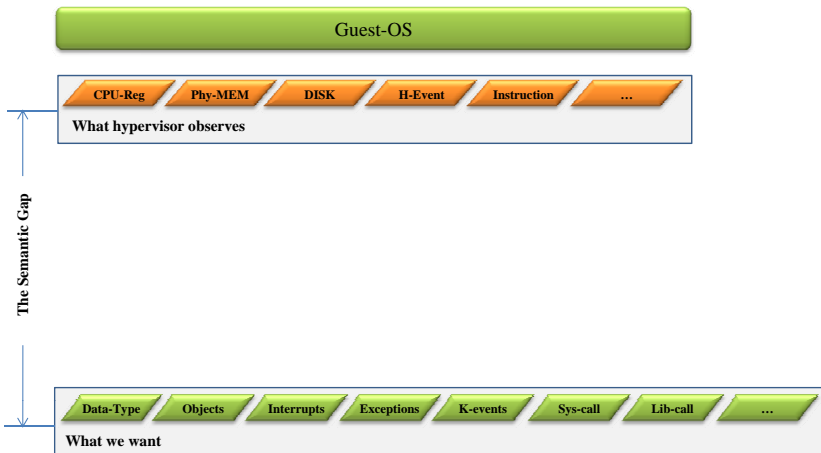
SIZE: 1408

```

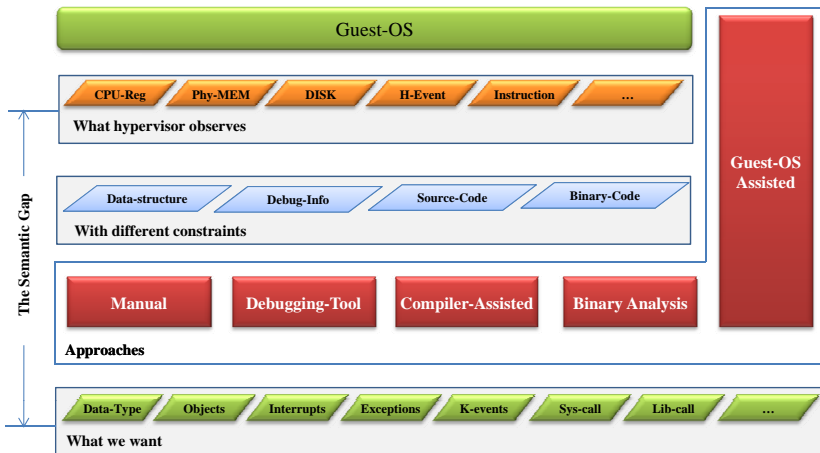
# How to bridge the semantic gap



# How to bridge the semantic gap



# How to bridge the semantic gap



# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



The Semantic Gap  
[Chen et al, HotOS'01]

# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



- In HotOS'01, Chen and Noble first raised **the semantic gap problem** in virtualization

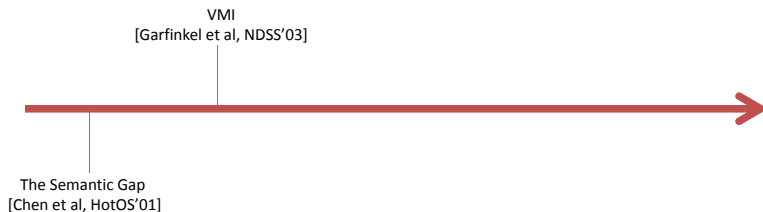
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



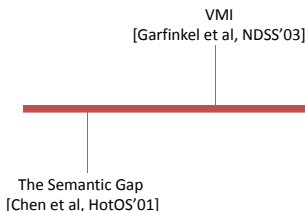
- In HotOS'01, Chen and Noble first raised **the semantic gap problem** in virtualization

“Services in the VM operate **below the abstractions** provided by the guest OS ... This can make it difficult to provide services.”

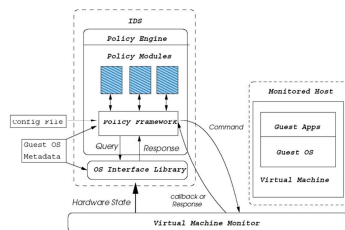
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



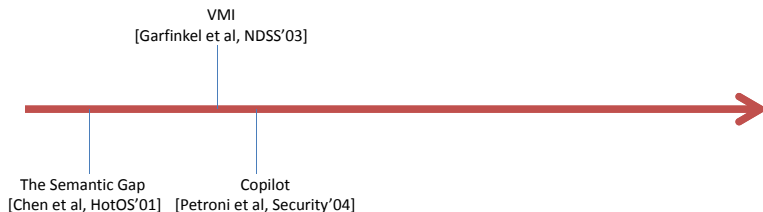
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



- In NDSS'03, Garfinkel et al. first proposed VMI, demonstrated for IDS
- Introspection routine is based on crash utility



# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap

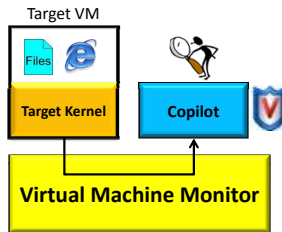




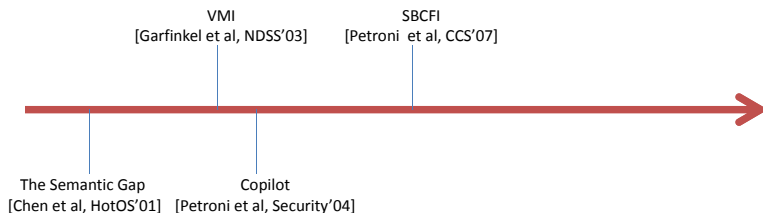
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



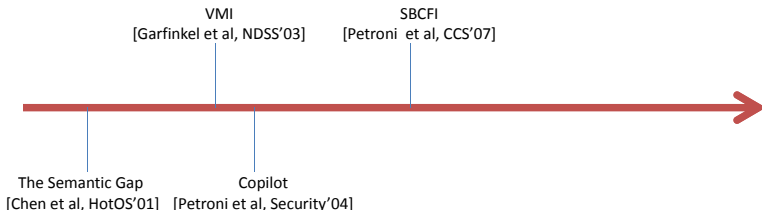
- In USENIX Security'04, Petrone et al. proposed Copilot
- Introspection routine is based on manually created code



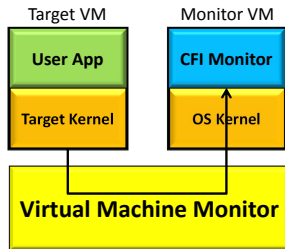
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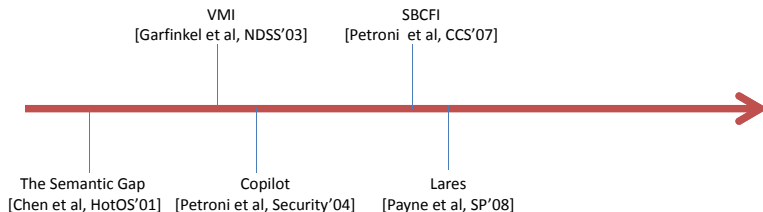
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



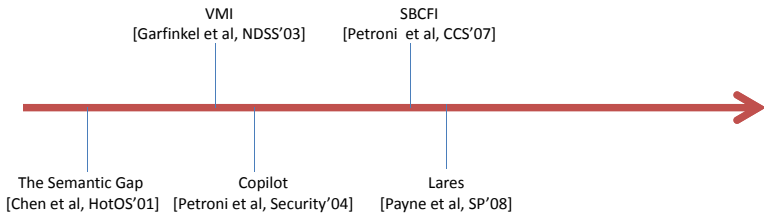
- In CCS'07, Petroni et al. proposed SBCFI
- Introspection routine is based on customized kernel source code



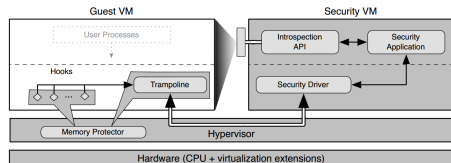
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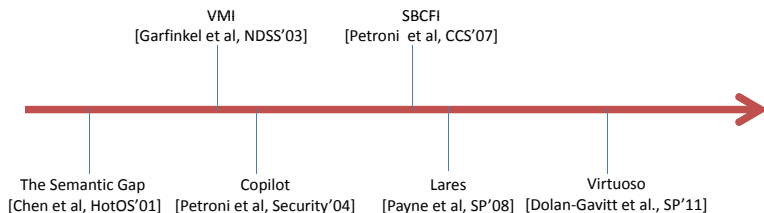
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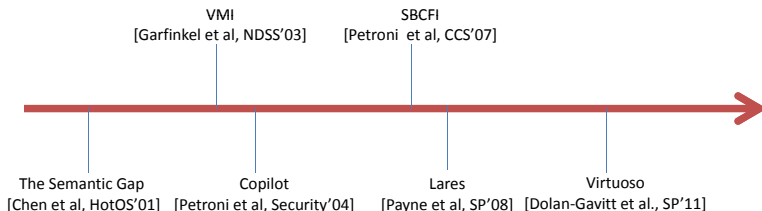
- In SP'08, Payne et al. proposed Lares
- Introspection routine is placed inside the guest OS with special help



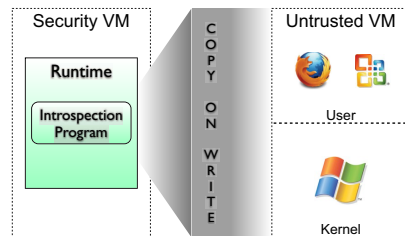
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



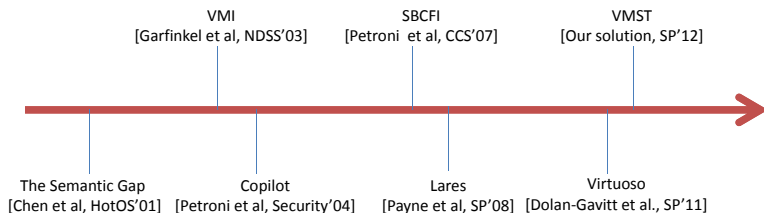
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



- In SP'11, Dolan-Gavitt et al. proposed Virtuoso
- Introspection routine is based on the trained user level and kernel level code

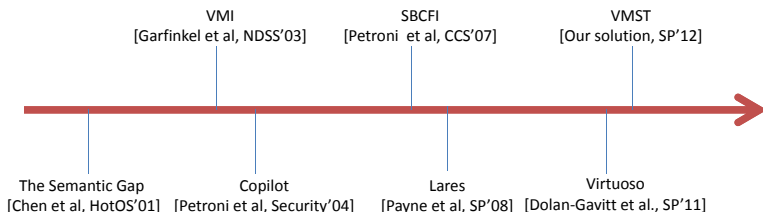


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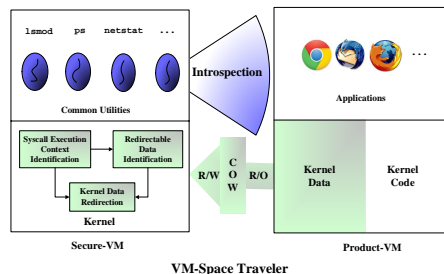




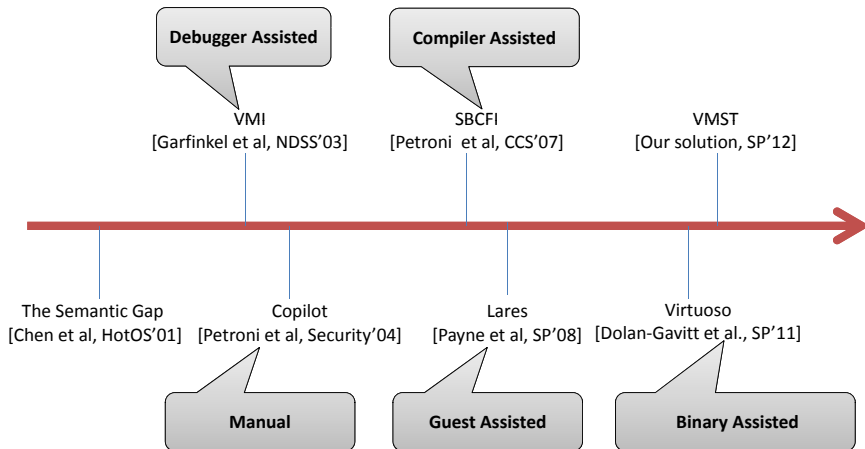
# State-of-the-art in bridging the Semantic Gap



- In SP'12, we propose VM space traveling.
- Introspection routine is automatically generated from the **native** user level and kernel level code

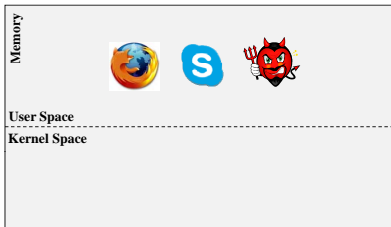


# Approach Evolution



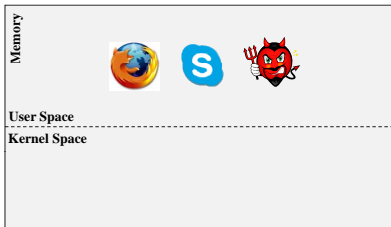
# Two Binary Code Reuse Based Approaches

## Guest VM (GVM)



# Two Binary Code Reuse Based Approaches

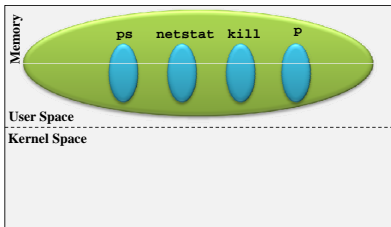
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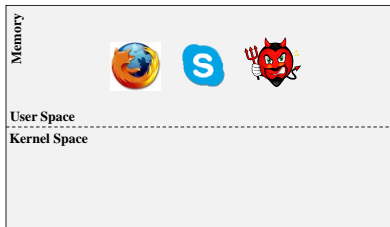
**Hypervisor**

# Two Binary Code Reuse Based Approaches

## Secure VM (SVM)



## Guest VM (GVM)



## Hypervisor

Using a trusted sibling VM to introspect the running guest VM.

- 1 Redirect kernel data [SP'12, VEE'13, NDSS'14]
- 2 Redirect system call execution [USENIX ATC'14]

# Approach-I: Redirect Kernel Data [SP'12]

## In-VM getpid Program

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <unistd.h>
3
4 int main()
5 {
6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid());
7     return 0;
8 }
```

```
1 execve("./getpid",...)           = 0
2 brk(0)                           = 0x83b8000
3 access("/etc/ld.so.nohwcap",..) = -1
...
23 getpid()                        = 13849
...
26 write(1, "pid=13849\n", 10)     = 10
27 exit_group(0)                   = ?
```

# Approach-I: Redirect Kernel Data [SP'12]

## In-VM getpid Program

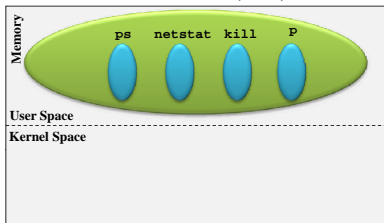
1 #include <stdio.h>	1 execve("./getpid",...) = 0
2 #include <unistd.h>	2 brk(0) = 0x83b8000
3	3 access("/etc/ld.so.nohwcap",.) = -1
4 int main()	...
5 {	23 getpid() = 13849
6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid());	...
7     return 0;	26 write(1, "pid=13849\n", 10) = 10
8 }	27 exit_group(0) = ?

## Key Insight

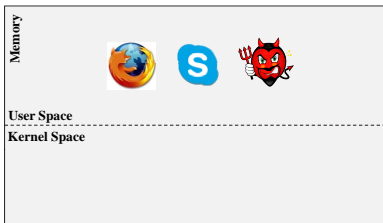
- Reuse the execution context of a native process in SVM.
- When syscall `getpid` executed, redirects the data of interest from the guest VM.

# Approach-I: Redirect Kernel Data [SP'12]

**Secure VM (SVM)**



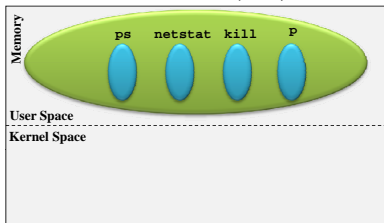
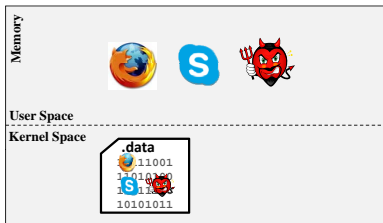
**Guest VM (GVM)**



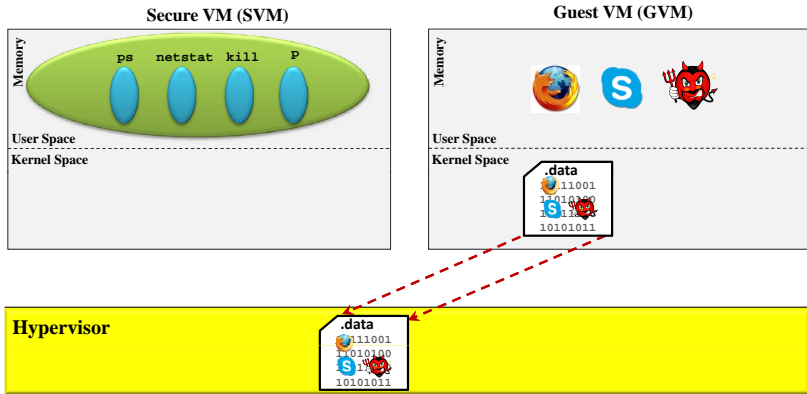
**Hypervisor**



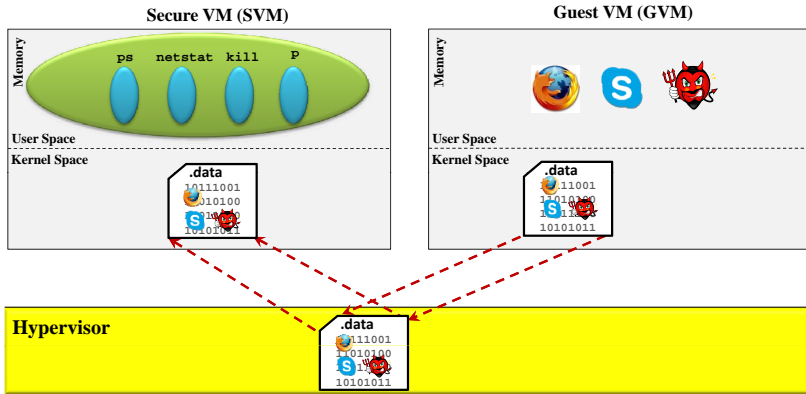
# Approach-I: Redirect Kernel Data [SP'12]

**Secure VM (SVM)****Guest VM (GVM)****Hypervisor**

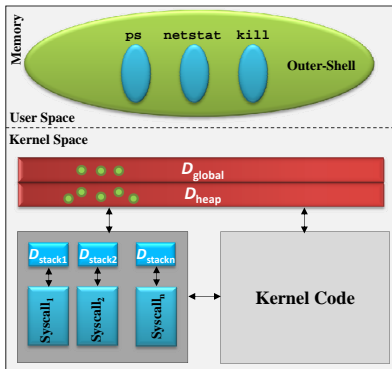
# Approach-I: Redirect Kernel Data [SP'12]



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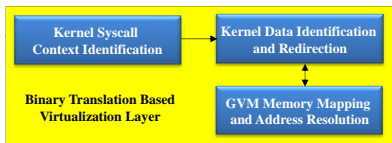
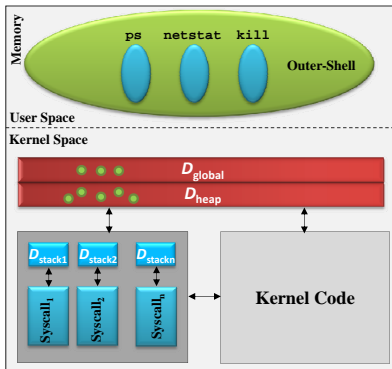


# Approach-I: Design & Implementation [SP'12]



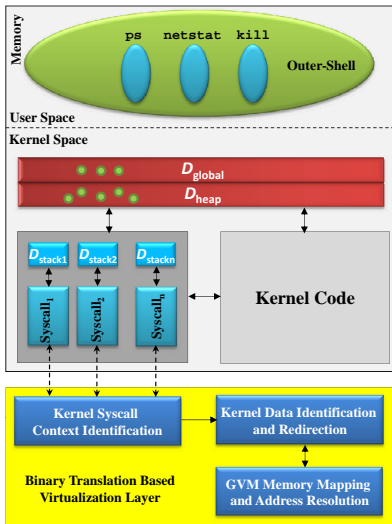
Secure VM (SVM)

# Approach-I: Design & Implementation [SP'12]



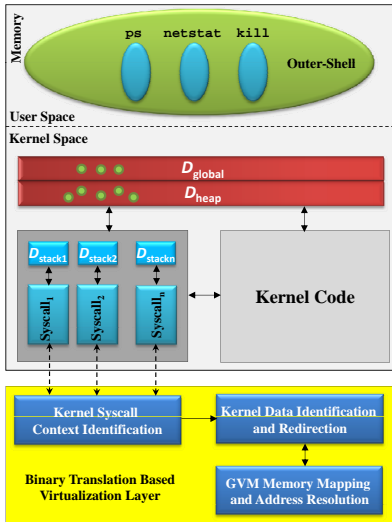
Secure VM (SVM)

# Approach-I: Design & Implementation [SP'12]

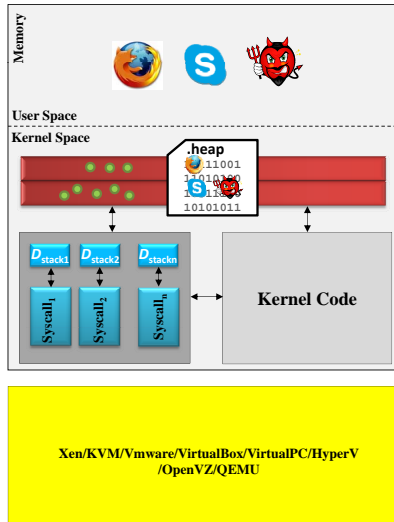


Secure VM (SVM)

# Approach-I: Design & Implementation [SP'12]

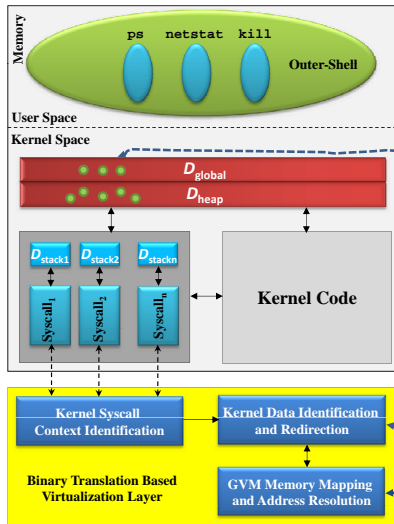


Secure VM (SVM)

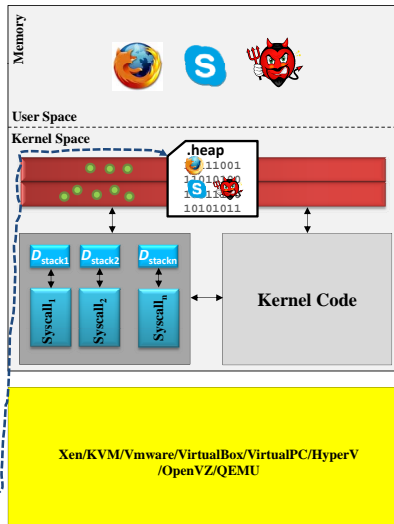


Guest VM (GVM)

# Approach-I: Design & Implementation [SP'12]



Secure VM (SVM)



Guest VM (GVM)



# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]

## In-VM getpid Program

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <unistd.h>
3
4 int main()
5 {
6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid());
7     return 0;
8 }
```

```
1 execve("./getpid",...)           = 0
2 brk(0)                           = 0x83b8000
3 access("/etc/ld.so.nohwcap",..) = -1
...
23 getpid()                        = 13849
...
26 write(1, "pid=13849\n", 10)     = 10
27 exit_group(0)                   = ?
```

# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]

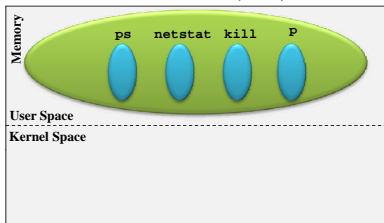
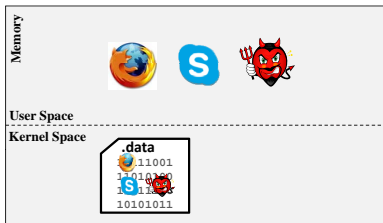
## In-VM getpid Program

<pre>1 #include &lt;stdio.h&gt; 2 #include &lt;unistd.h&gt; 3 4 int main() 5 { 6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid()); 7     return 0; 8 }</pre>	<pre>1 execve("./getpid",...)           = 0 2 brk(0)                           = 0x83b8000 3 access("/etc/ld.so.nohwcap",..) = -1 ... 23 getpid()                        = 13849 ... 26 write(1, "pid=13849\n", 10)     = 10 27 exit_group(0)                   = ?</pre>
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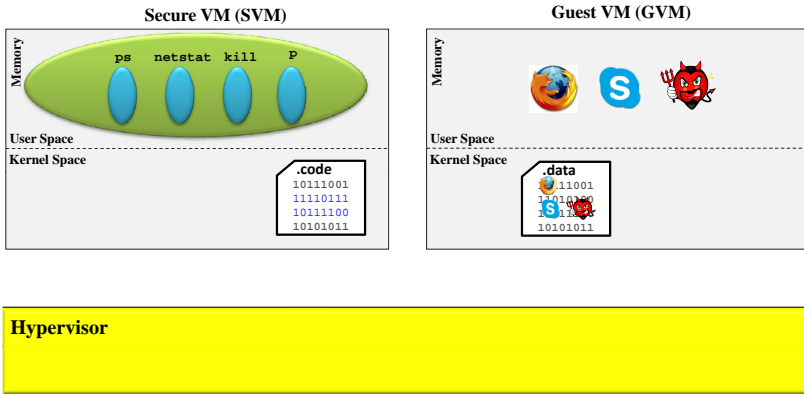
## Key Insight

- System call is the only interface to request OS service.
- Pushing the execution of `getpid` system call from SVM to GVM.

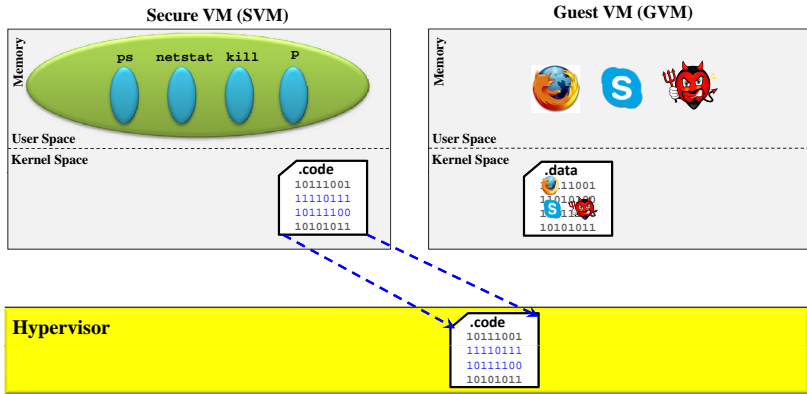
# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]

**Secure VM (SVM)****Guest VM (GVM)****Hypervisor**

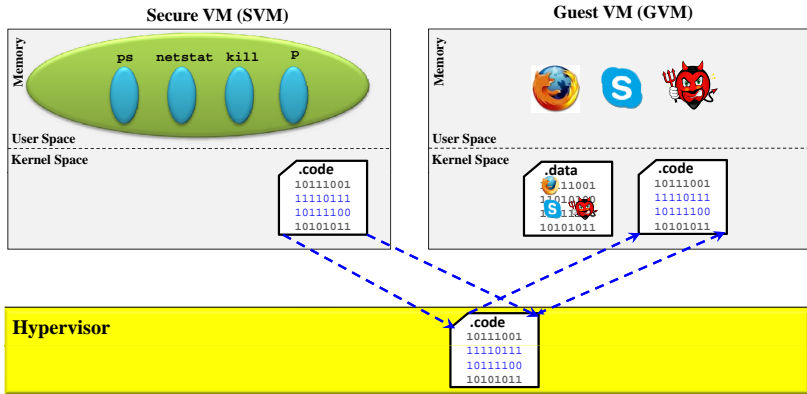
# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]



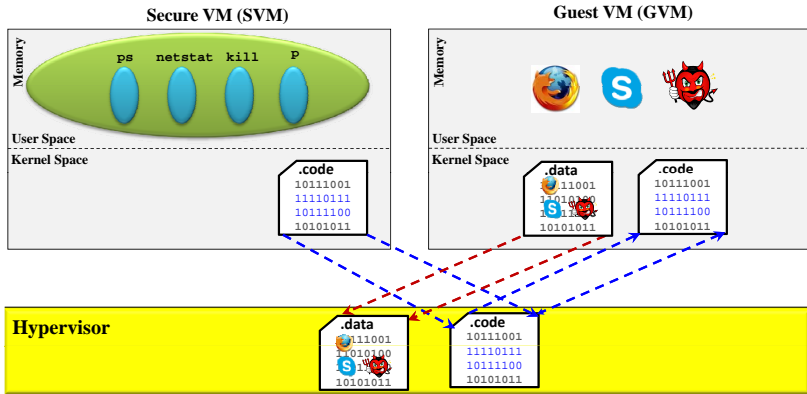
# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]



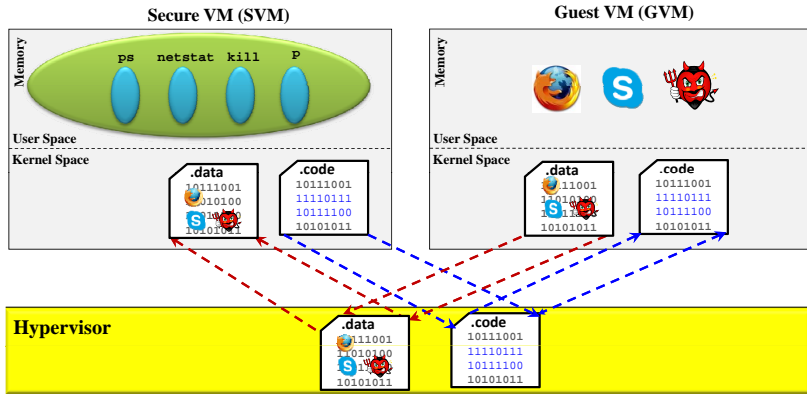
# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]



# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]

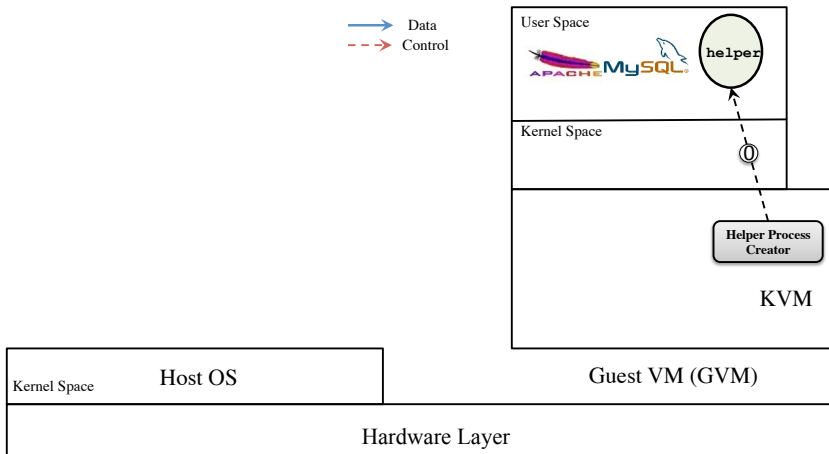


# Approach-II: Redirect System call Execution [ATC'14]

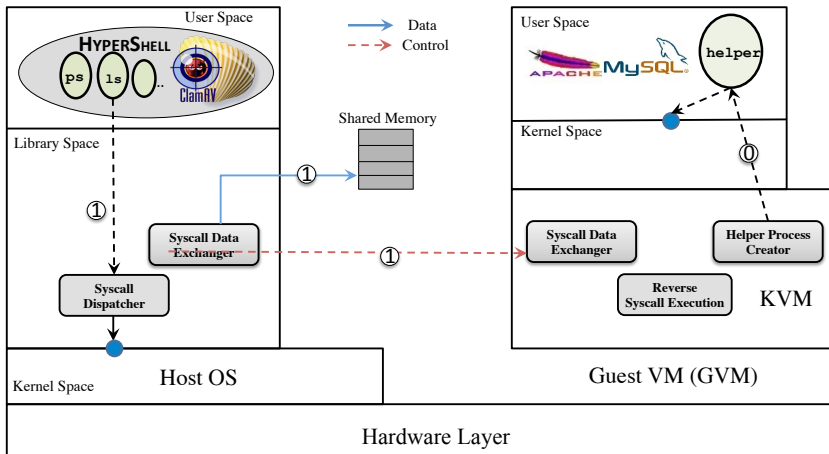




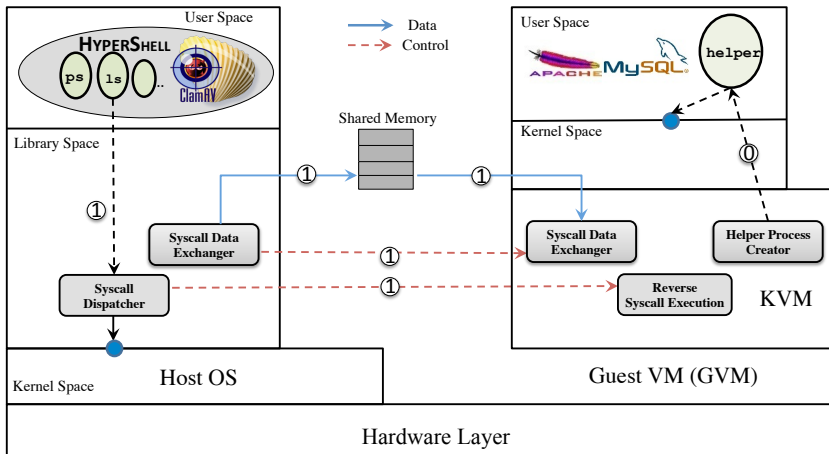
# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



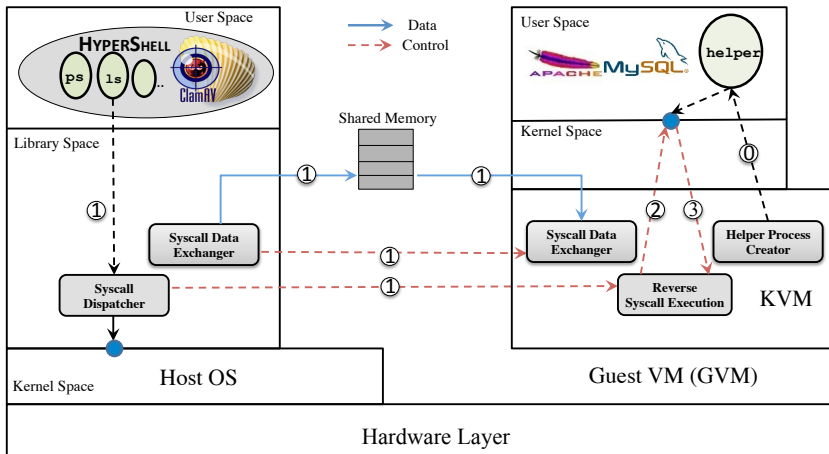
# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



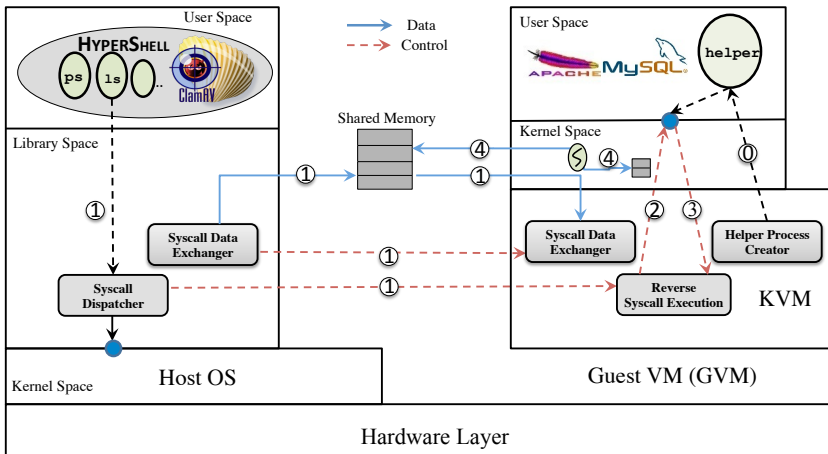
# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



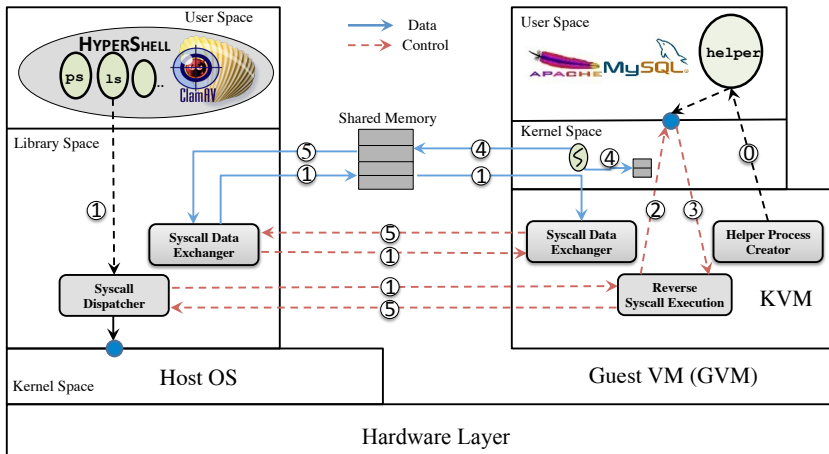
# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



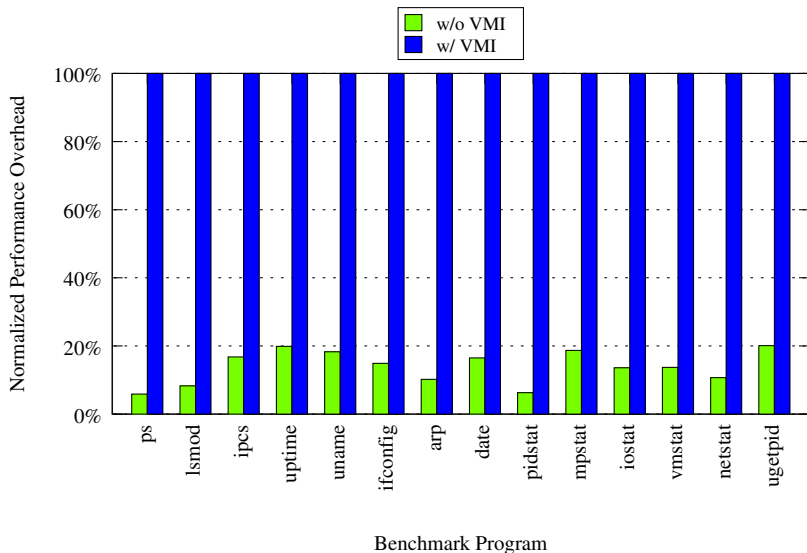
# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



# Approach-II: Design & Implementation [ATC'14]



# I. Virtual Machine Introspection ([SP'12])



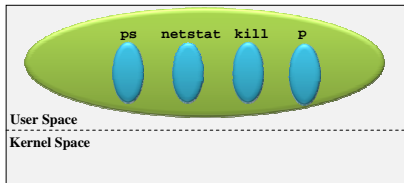
## II. Out-of-Box Attack Recovery, Repair

Rootkit	Targeted Function Pointer	Repaired?
adore-2.6	kernel global, heap object	✗
hookswrite	IDT table	✓
int3backdoor	IDT table	✓
kbdv3	syscall table	✓
kbeast-v1	syscall table, tcp4_seq_show	✓
mood-nt-2.3	syscall table	✓
override	syscall table	✓
phalanx-b6	syscall table, tcp4_seq_show	✓
rkit-1.01	syscall table	✓
rial	syscall table	✓
suckit-2	IDT table	✓
synapsys-0.4	syscall table	✓

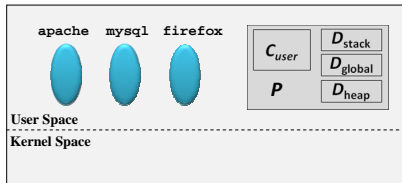
Table : Rootkit Repairing with An Exterior [VEE'13] Tool.



# III. Developing Out-of-VM Programs Natively



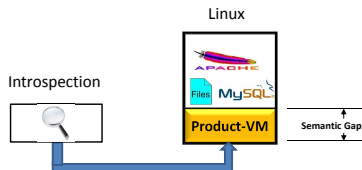
Secure VM (SVM)



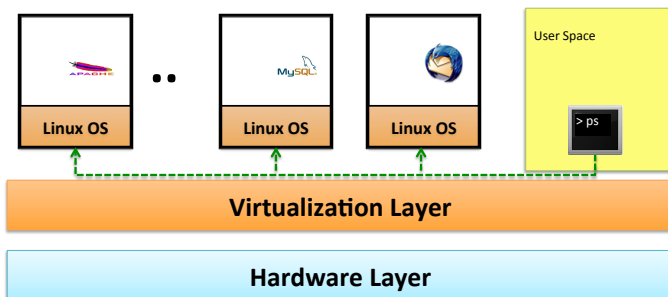
Guest VM (GVM)

## In-VM getpid Program

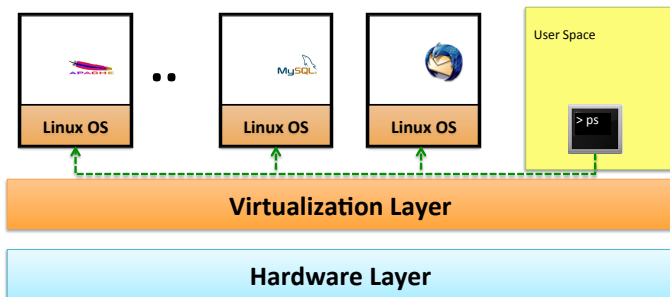
```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <unistd.h>
3
4 int main()
5 {
6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid());
7     return 0;
8 }
```



## IV. Writable VMI [VEE'13, ATC'14]



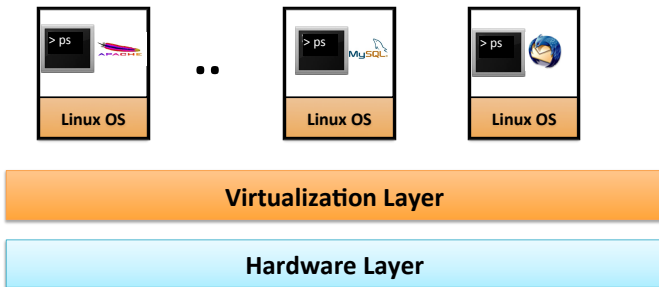
## IV. Writable VMI [VEE'13, ATC'14]



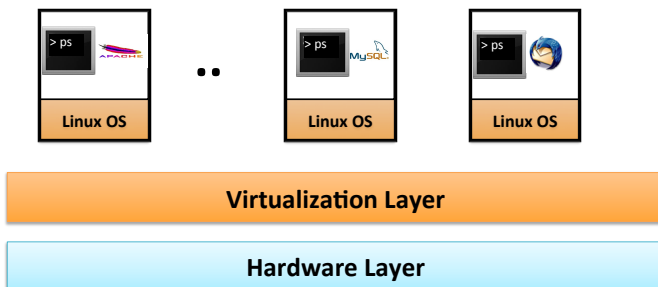
### Advantages

- Only install the management utilities at hypervisor layer.
- Automated, uniformed, and centralized management.

# In-VM Management: Existing Approaches



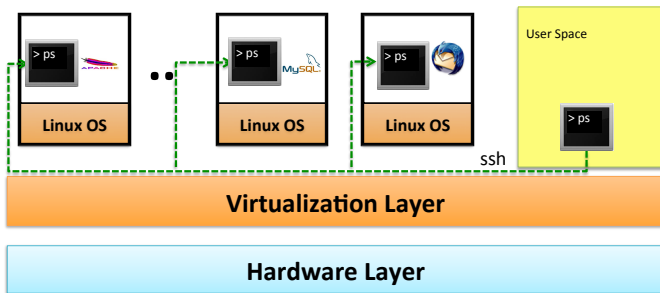
# In-VM Management: Existing Approaches



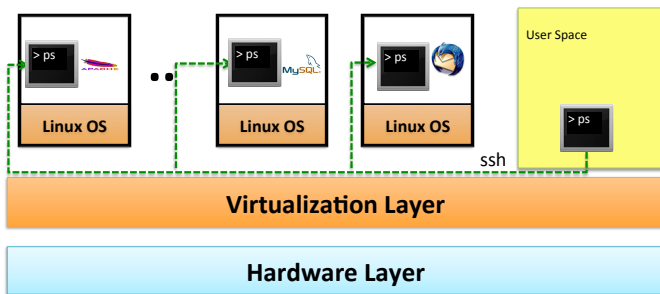
## Disadvantages

- Scattered, distributed
- Install, update, and execute in each VM

# In-VM Management: Existing Approaches



# In-VM Management: Existing Approaches



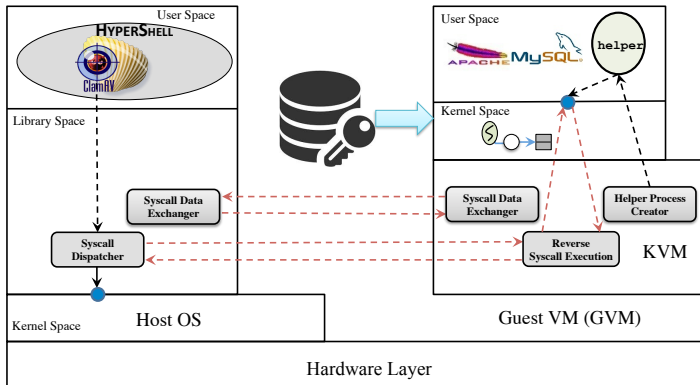
## Disadvantages

- Requiring the (admin) login password.
- Requiring install the management utilities in each VM.

3	Avg.	-	7.27	8.45	2.73
---	------	---	------	------	------



# Disk Introspection: FDE disk virus scanning [ATC'14]



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1. Encrypted by dm-crypt
2. 101,415 files
3. 1336.09 megabytes in size

# Disk Introspection: FDE disk virus scanning [ATC'14]



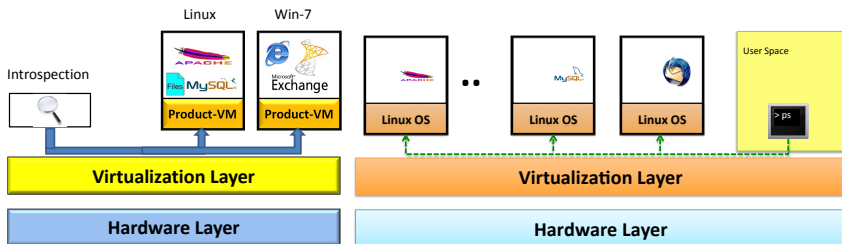
1. Encrypted by dm-crypt
2. 101,415 files
3. 1336.09 megabytes in size

Clamav successfully detect two viruses!!

# Comparison with the most related work

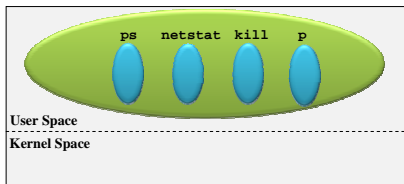
Systems	Execution Context Reuse	wo/ Dual-VM Architecture	wo/ Identical Kernel	wo/ Trust to Guest Kernel	High Code Coverage	Fully Automated	Memory Introspection	Disk Introspection	Guest Management	Process Monitoring
VIRTUOSO	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
VMST	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
EXTERIOR	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
PROCESSIMPLANTING	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
PROCESSOUTGRAFTING	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
GEARS	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
HYPER SHELL	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Virtualization (Hypervisor) Layer Applications

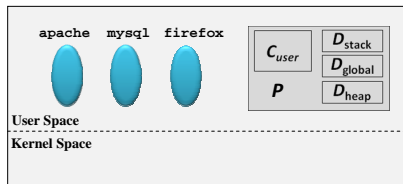


- Virtual Machine Introspection
- Virtual Machine (Re)Configuration, Repair
- Automated Out-of-VM Management

# Two Approaches to bridging the semantic gap

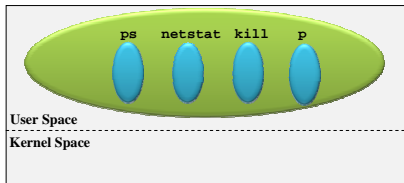


Secure VM (SVM)

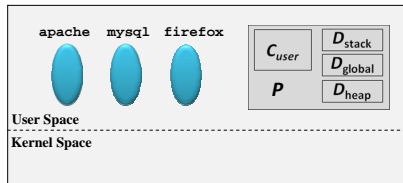


Guest VM (GVM)

# Two Approaches to bridging the semantic gap



Secure VM (SVM)

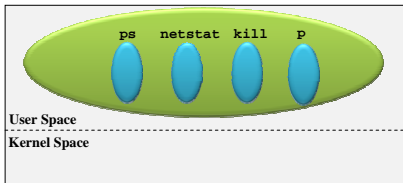


Guest VM (GVM)

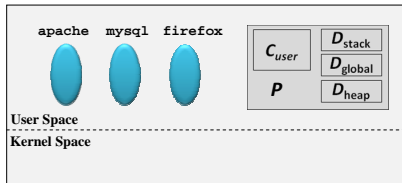
Reusing (**legacy**) **binary code** with a trusted sibling VM to introspect the running guest VM.

- 1 Redirect kernel data [SP'12, VEE'13, NDSS'14] → Fine-grained, slower performance
- 2 Redirect system call execution [USENIX ATC'14] → More practical, fast performance

# For Cloud Developers: No Gap, Everything is Native



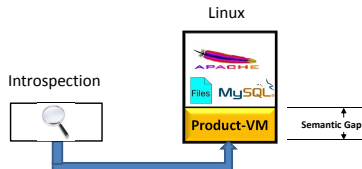
Secure VM (SVM)



Guest VM (GVM)

## In-VM getpid Program

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <unistd.h>
3
4 int main()
5 {
6     printf("pid=%d\n",getpid());
7     return 0;
8 }
```





# References

- 1 **VM Space Traveling: Automatically Bridging the Semantic Gap in Virtual Machine Introspection via Online Kernel Data Redirection** (*IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy* [SP'12])
- 2 **EXTERIOR: Using A Dual-VM Enabled External Shell for Guest-OS Introspection, Configuration, and Recovery** (*ACM SIGPLAN/SIGOPS International Conference on Virtual Execution Environments* [VEE'13])
- 3 **Hybrid-Bridge: Efficiently Bridging the Semantic-Gap in Virtual Machine Introspection via Decoupled Execution and Training Memoization** (*Network and Distributed System Symposium* [NDSS'14])
- 4 **HyperShell: A Practical Hypervisor Layer Guest OS Shell for Automated In-VM Management** (*USENIX Annual Technical Conference* [ATC'14])

<http://www.utdallas.edu/~zhiqiang.lin/s3.html>

## Summary



EXTERIOR

```

root@Debian:~# uname -a
Linux Debian 2.6.32-5-686 #1 SMP Fri Sep 9 20:51:05 UTC 2011 i686 GNU/Linux
root@Debian:~# ps -a
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 1752 tty1      00:00:10 bash
 1768 tty1      00:00:00 ps
root@Debian:~# ps -a
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 1645 tty1      00:00:00 bash
 1673 tty1      00:00:00 vi
 1674 tty1      00:00:00 vi
root@Debian:~# kill -9 1673
root@Debian:~# _

```

QEMU-KVM

```

demo@Debian:~$ ps -a
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 1645 tty1      00:00:00 bash
 1672 tty1      00:00:00 ps
demo@Debian:~$ vi &
[1] 1673
demo@Debian:~$ vi &
[2] 1674

[1]+  Stopped                  vi
demo@Debian:~$ ps -a
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 1645 tty1      00:00:00 bash
 1673 tty1      00:00:00 vi
 1674 tty1      00:00:00 vi
 1675 tty1      00:00:00 ps

[2]+  Stopped                  vi
demo@Debian:~$ ps -a
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 1645 tty1      00:00:00 bash
 1674 tty1      00:00:00 vi
 1676 tty1      00:00:00 ps
[1]-  Killed                   vi
demo@Debian:~$

```