

Linux Plumbers Conference 2024



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Integer Overflow Prevention

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Integer overflows are a constant source of security problems. Someone needs to do something about it. We'll discuss new approaches using static analysis and runtime sanitizers. These approaches will require creating new rules for writing safe code. Most integer overflows are "harmless". For example, we used to have repeated security issues related to passing negative sizes to `copy_from_user()` but eventually Kees added a check for that so now passing a negative is "harmless". Under the new rules, many integer overflows which were "harmless" are now considered a bug. We want the new rules to be as effective as possible while balancing that against the burden of dealing with false positives.

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