

Clean Application Compartmentalization with SOAAP

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Vulnerabilities galore...



Heartbleed

[Insert next big
vulnerability here]



Shellshock

Mitigate both **known** and **unknown** vulnerabilities

Principle of least privilege

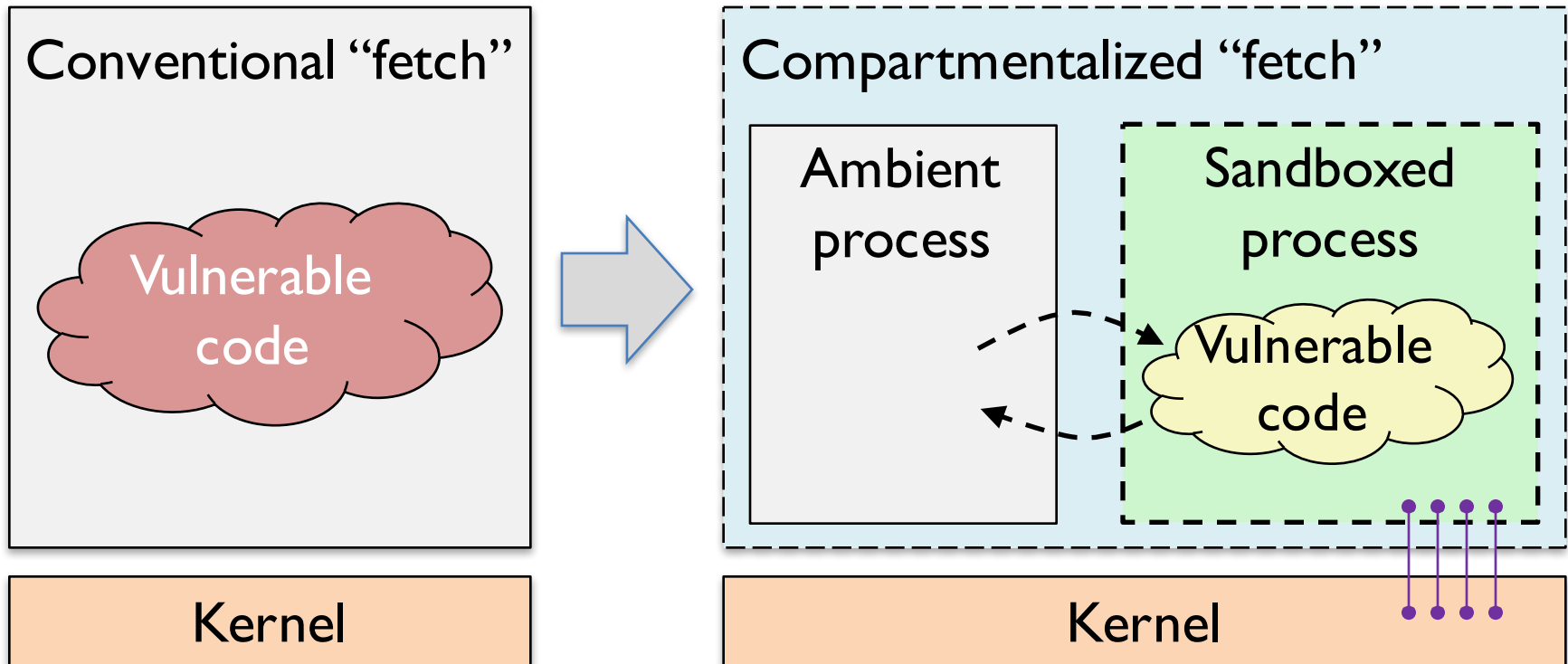
Every program and every privileged user of the system should operate using the least amount of privilege necessary to complete the job.

Saltzer 1974 - CACM 17(7)

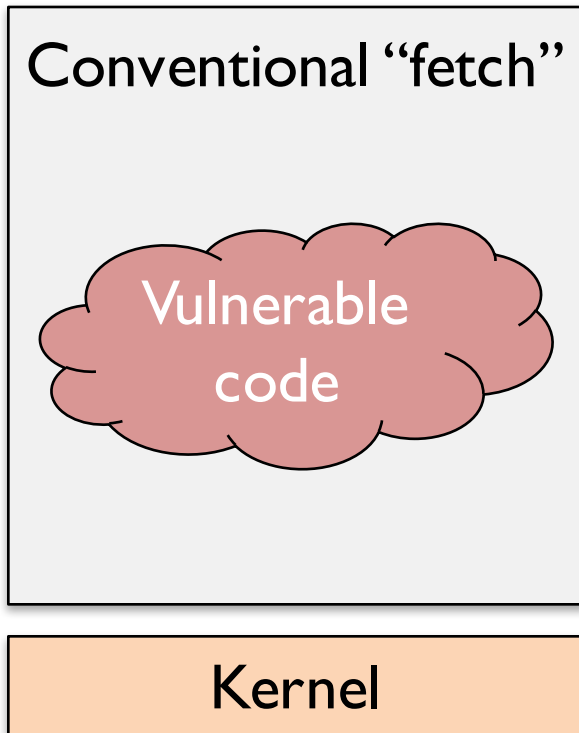
Saltzer and Schroeder 1975 - Proc. IEEE 63(9)

Needham 1972 - AFIPS 41(1)

Application Compartmentalization



Application Compartmentalization

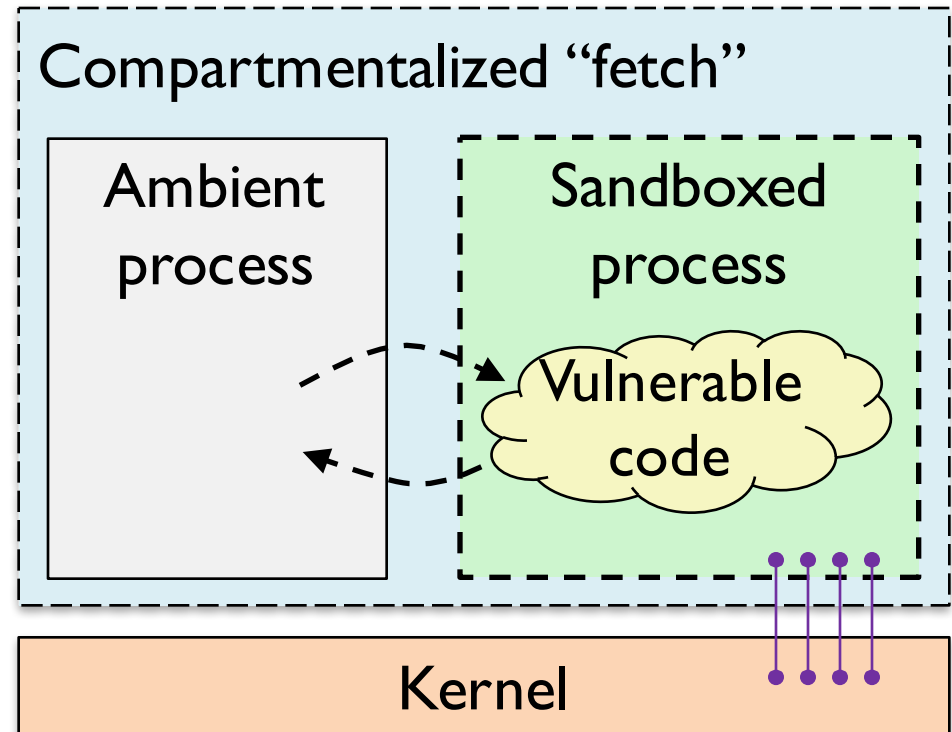


When a conventional application is compromised, its ambient rights are leaked to the attacker, e.g., full network and file system access.

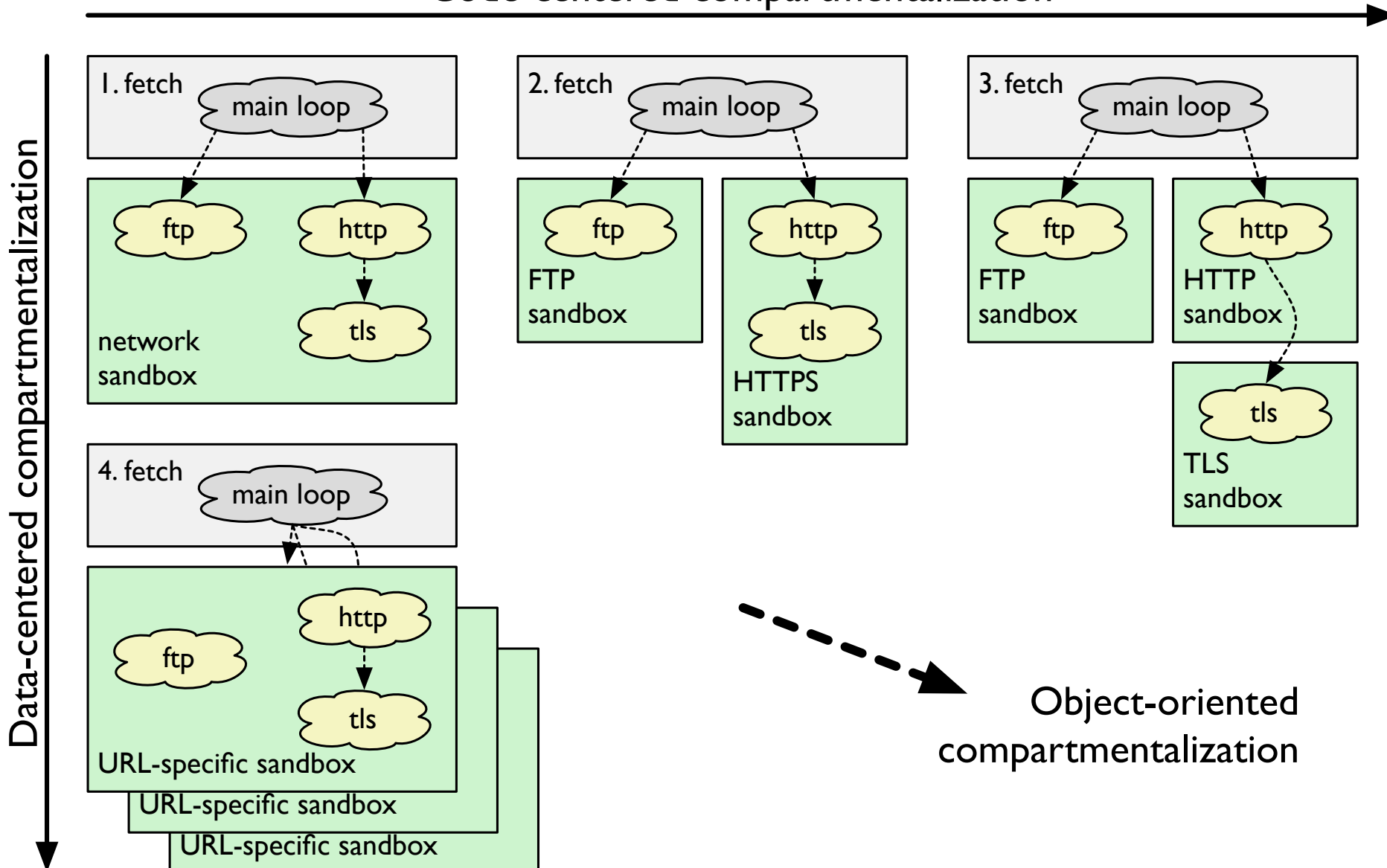
Application Compartmentalization

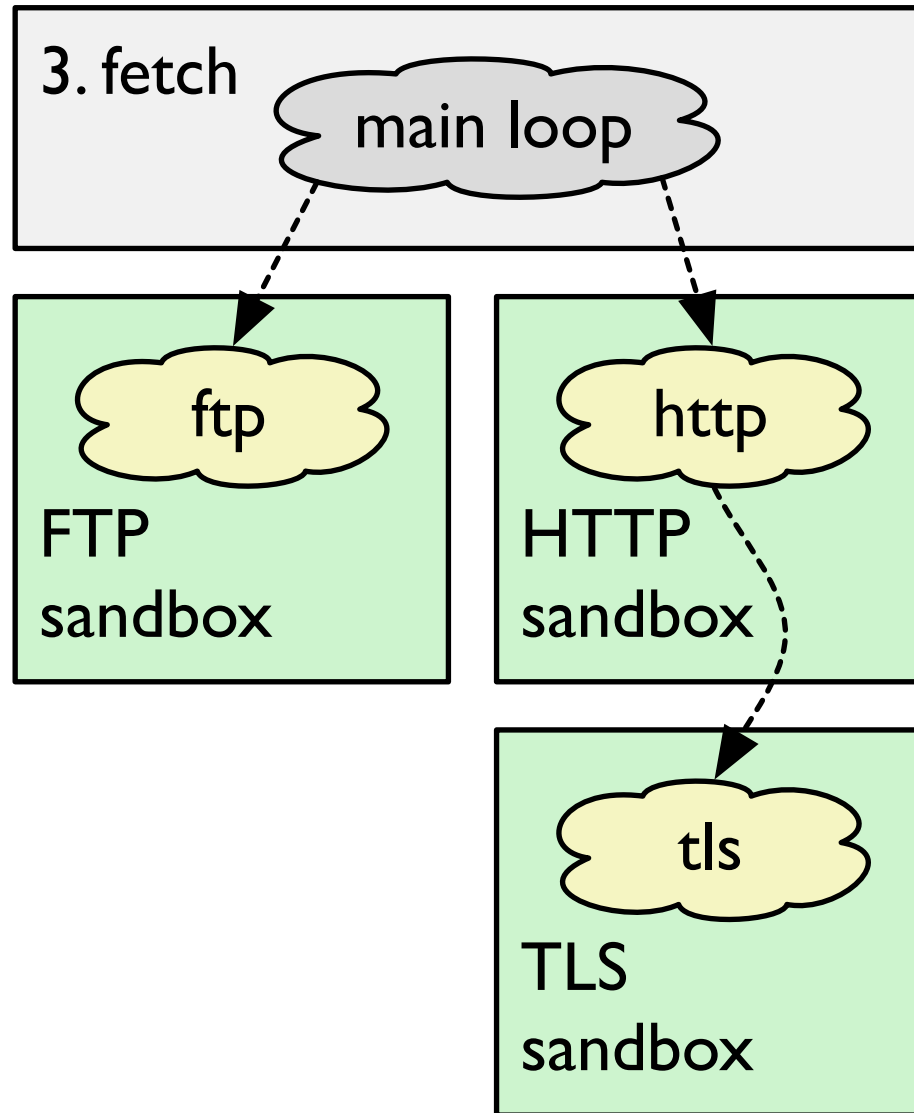
When a compartmentalized application is compromised, only rights held by the exploited component leak to the attacker.

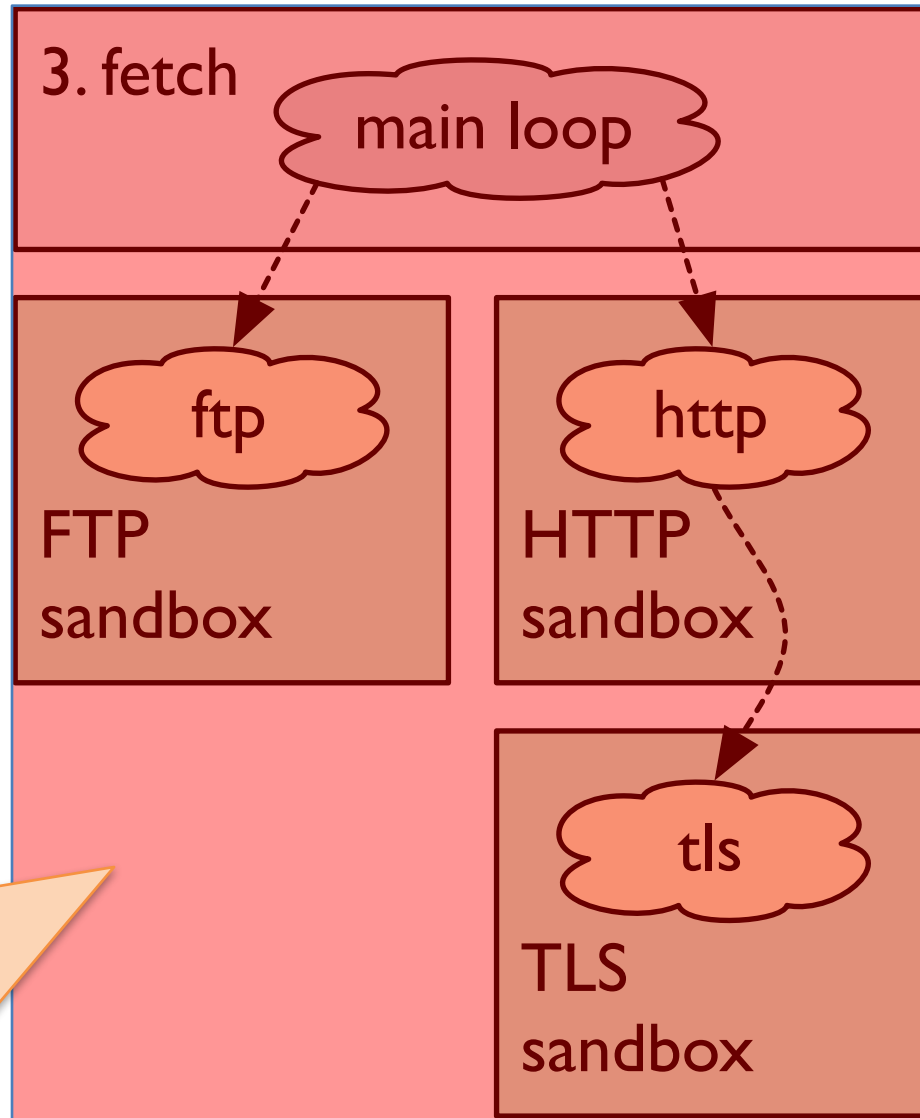
Most vulnerabilities will no longer yield significant rights, and attackers must exploit many vulnerabilities to meet their goals.



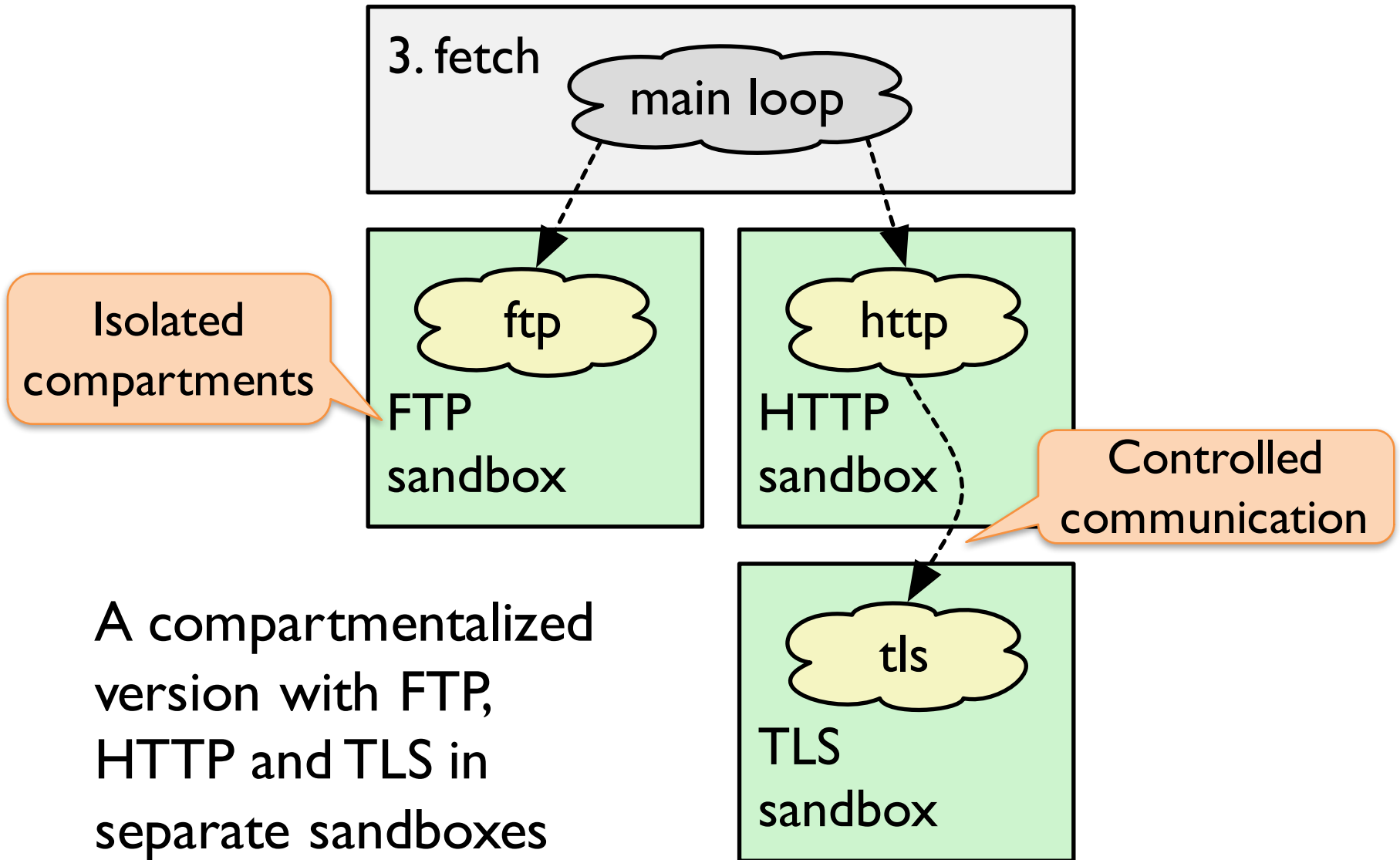
Code-centered compartmentalization



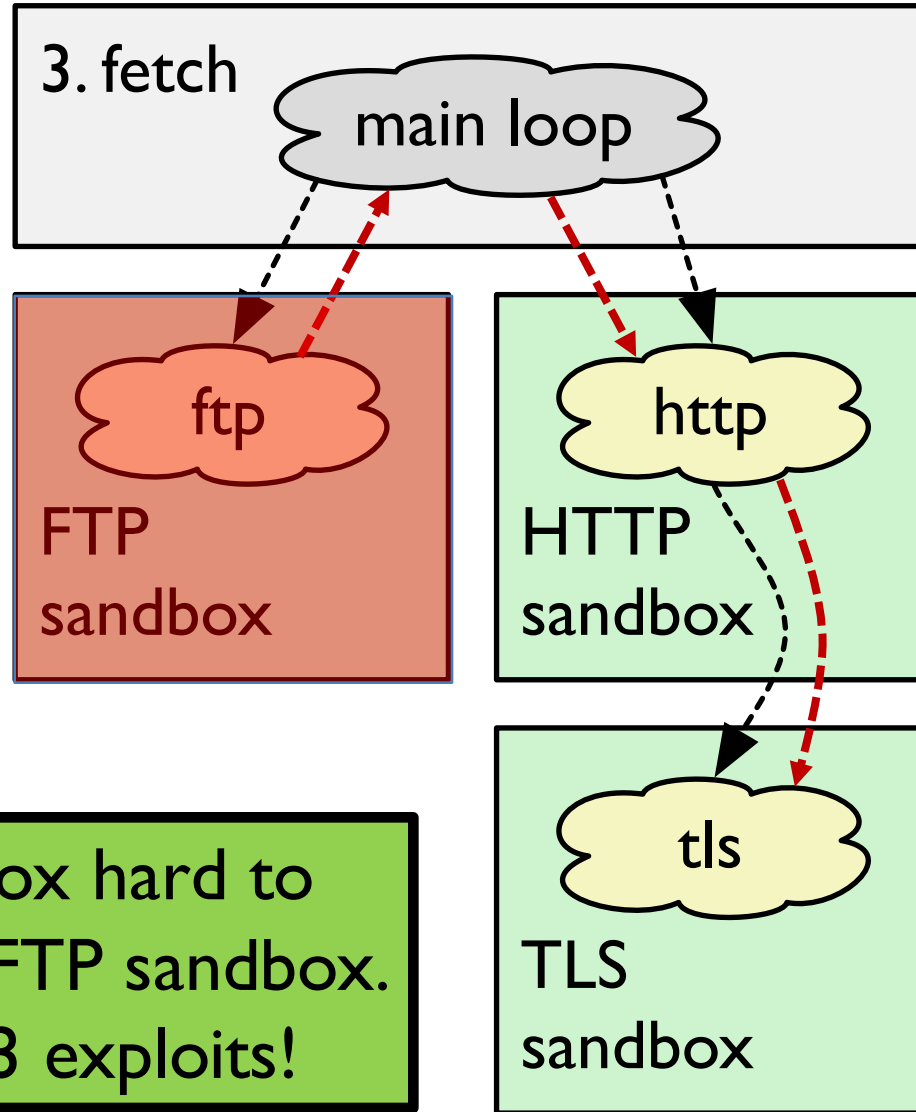




Before, a single exploit anywhere in the program would have leaked ambient rights



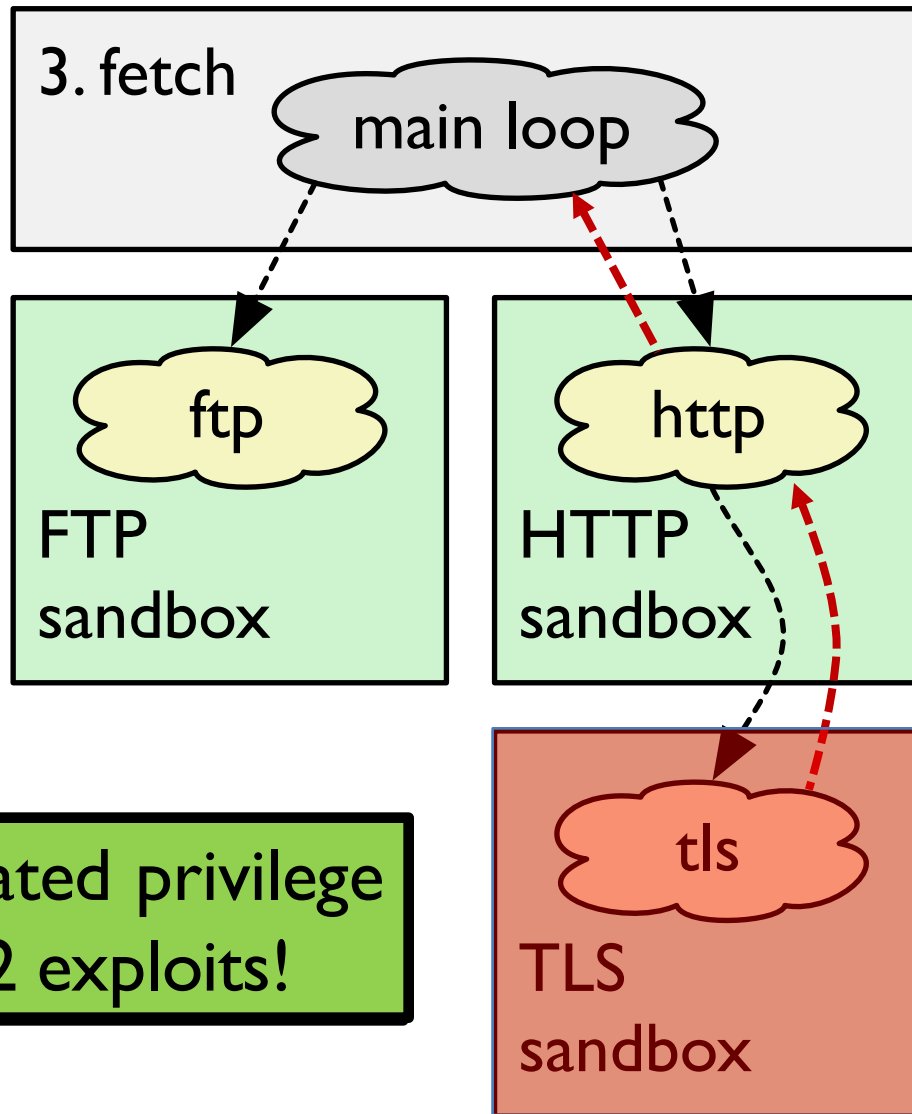
A compartmentalized version with FTP, HTTP and TLS in separate sandboxes



“exploit FTP to access TLS state”

TLS sandbox hard to access from FTP sandbox. Requires 3 exploits!

“exploit TLS to gain elevated privilege”



Gaining elevated privilege requires 2 exploits!



Compartmentalization is hard!

- “local” program turned into a distributed one
- Preserving functional correctness
- Mapping security model to sandboxing substrate
- Different compartmentalization tradeoffs
- Hard to change and maintain

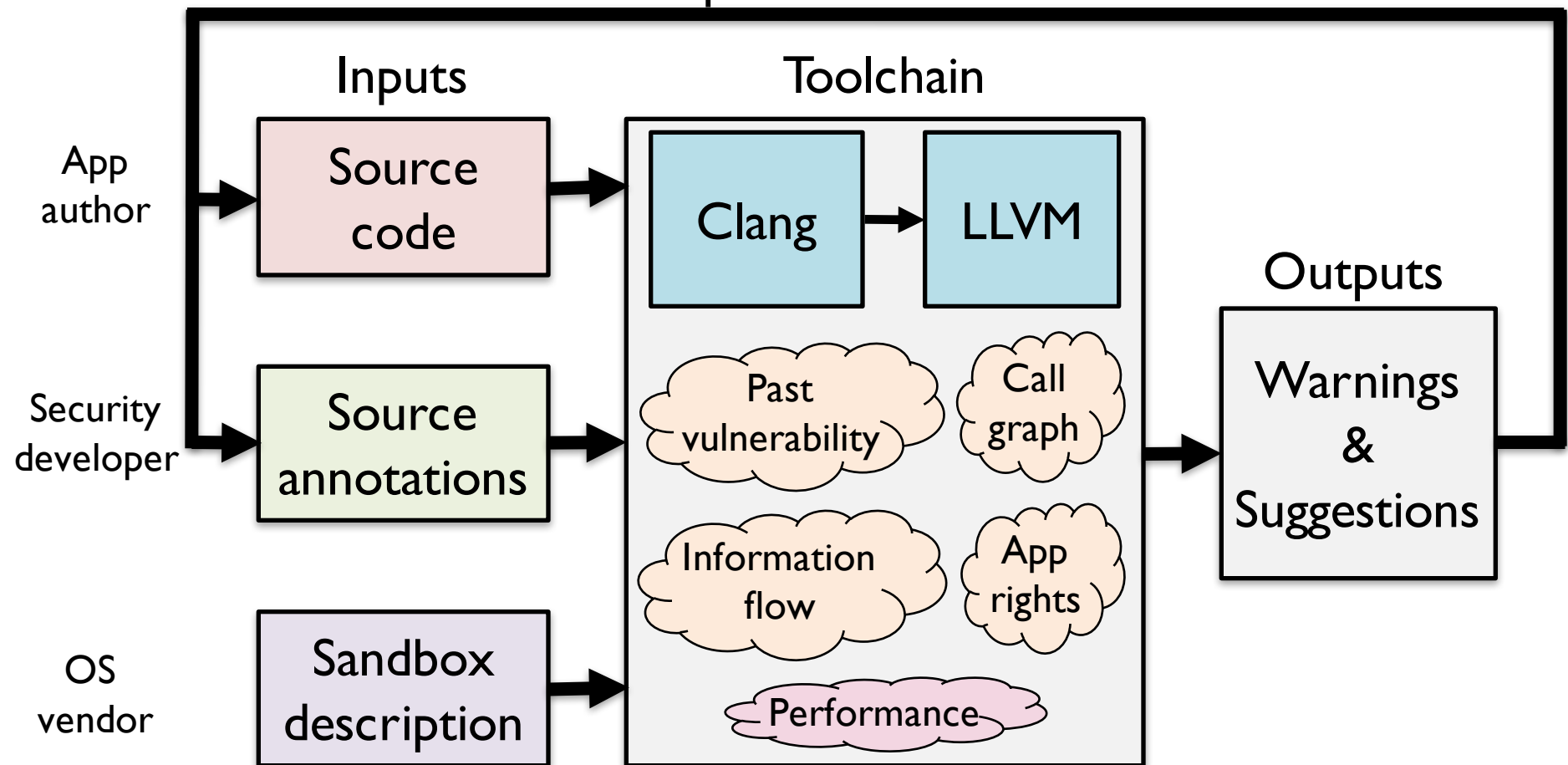
Onus is on the developer

“It’s up to you to understand these elements [of App Sandbox] and then to use your understanding to create a plan for adopting App Sandbox.”

- Apple App Sandbox Design Guide

Security-Oriented Analysis of Application Programs

Repeated refinement



Example: Confidentiality/IFC

```
char* server_key __soap_classify("secret");
extern void compute_session_key(char*,char*);

void main() {
    ...
    while (...) {
        accept_connection();
    }
}

__soap_sandbox_persistent("session")
void accept_connection() {
    char session_key[256] __soap_private;
    compute_session_key(session_key,server_key);
    ...
}
```


Example: Confidentiality/IFC

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char* server_key __soap_classify("secret");
extern void compute_session_key(char*,char*);

void main() {
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    compute_session_key(session_key,server_key);
    ...
}
```

Classify tag

Sandbox entrypoint

Private state

Example: Past vulnerabilities/ supply-chain trojans

```
__soap_provenance("some vendor")
__soap_sandbox_ephemeral("parser")
void parse(__soap_fd_permit(read) int ifd, DOMTree* out) {
    if (...) {
        __soap_vuln_pt("CVE-2005-ABC");
        ...
    }
}

__soap_vuln_fn("CVE-2005-DEF")
void not_sandboxed() {
    ...
}
```

Example: Past vulnerabilities/ supply-chain trojans

Provenance

```
__soap_provenance("some vendor")
__soap_sandbox_ephemeral("parser")
void parse(__soap_fd_permit(read) int ifd, DOMTree* out) {
    if (...) {
        __soap_vuln_pt("CVE-2005-ABC");
        ...
    }
}

__soap_vuln_fn("CVE-2005-DEF")
void not_sandboxed() {
    ...
}
```

Sandbox entrypoint

Delegated rights

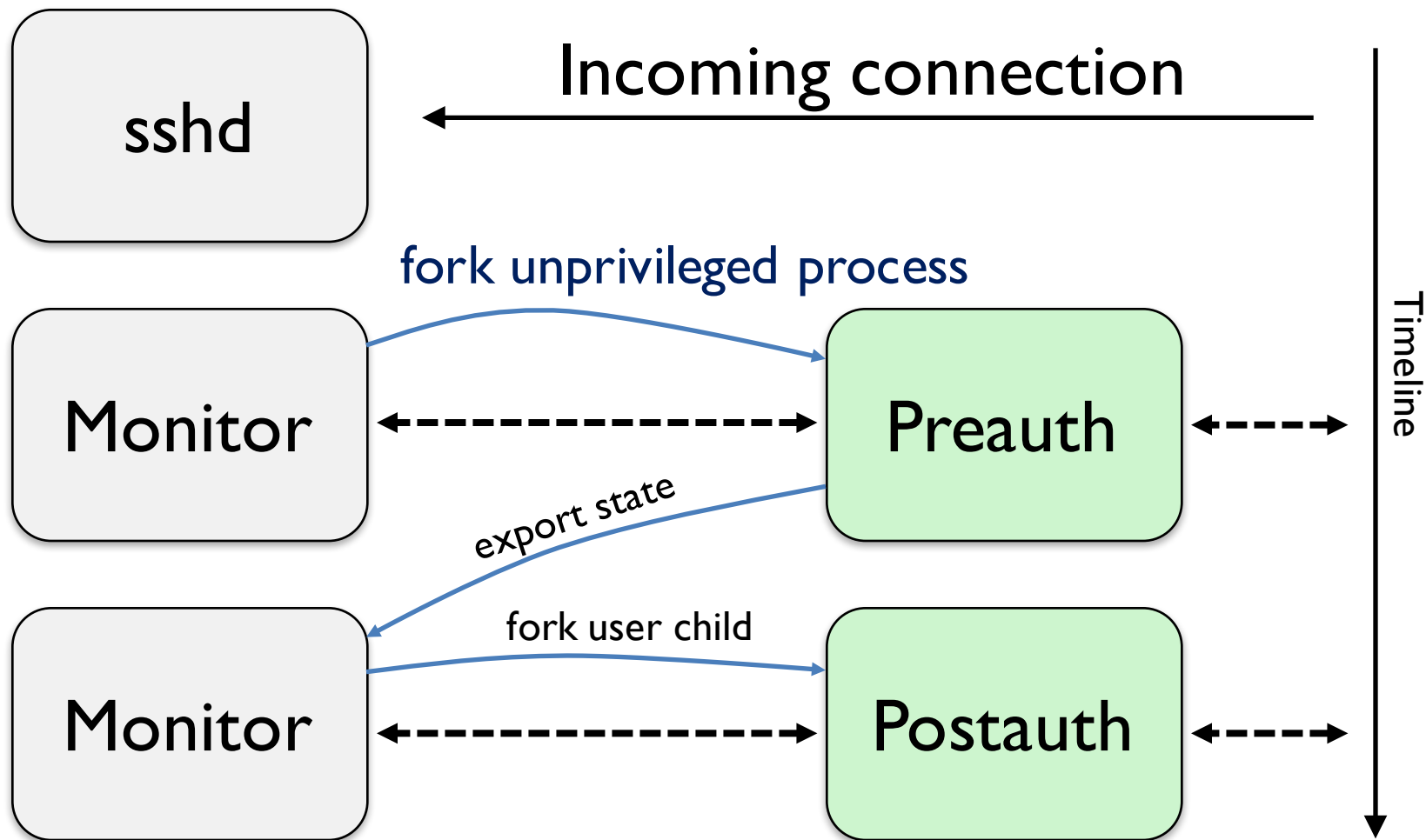
Past vulnerable point

Past vulnerable
function

Case studies

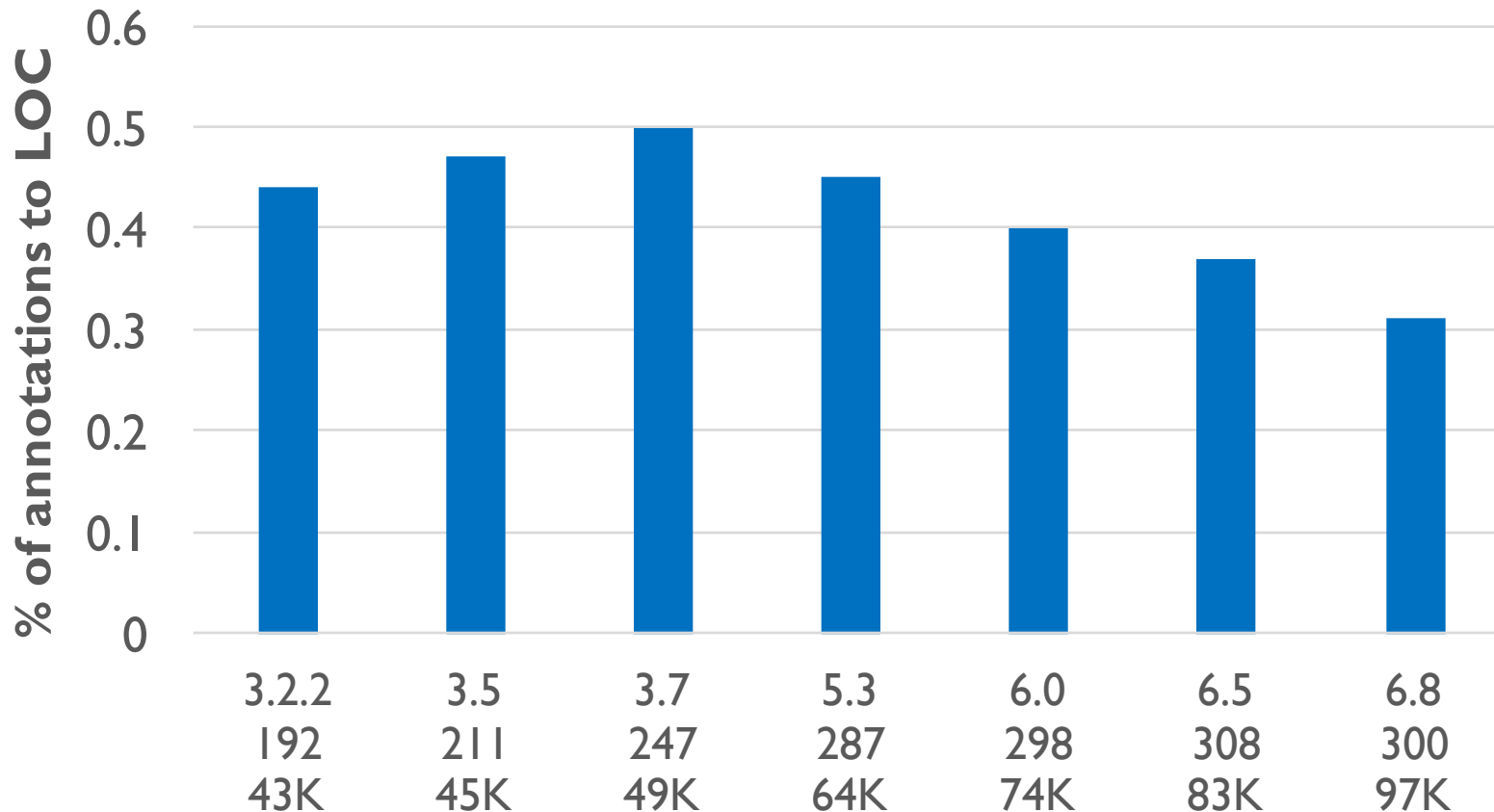
- Fetch – design-space exploration
- Okular – large-scale new compartmentalization
- **OpenSSH – long-term maintenance**
- **Chromium – sandboxing effectiveness**

OpenSSH



OpenSSH

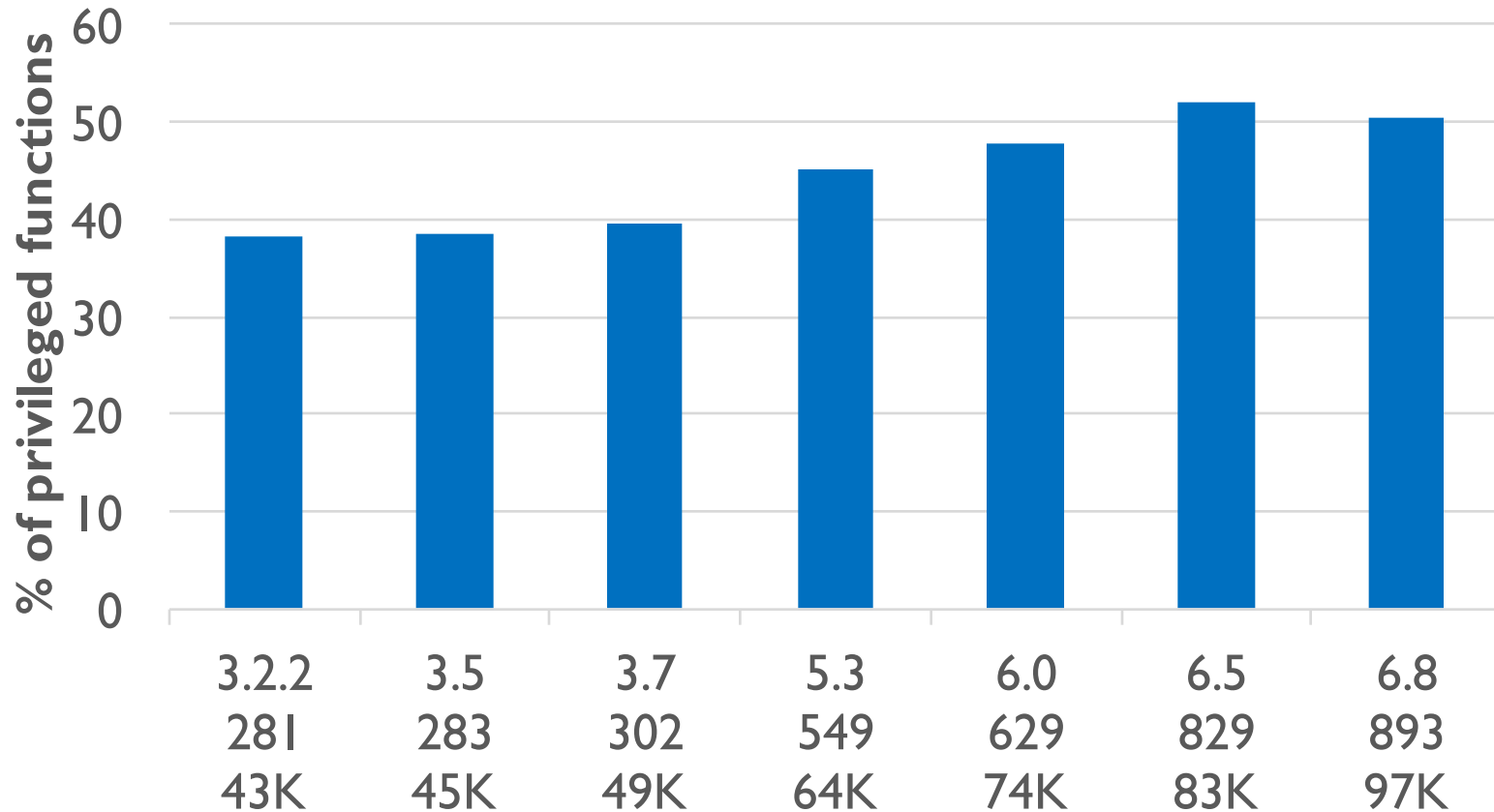
Percentage of annotations to LOC



OpenSSH Version, No. of annotations and LOC

OpenSSH

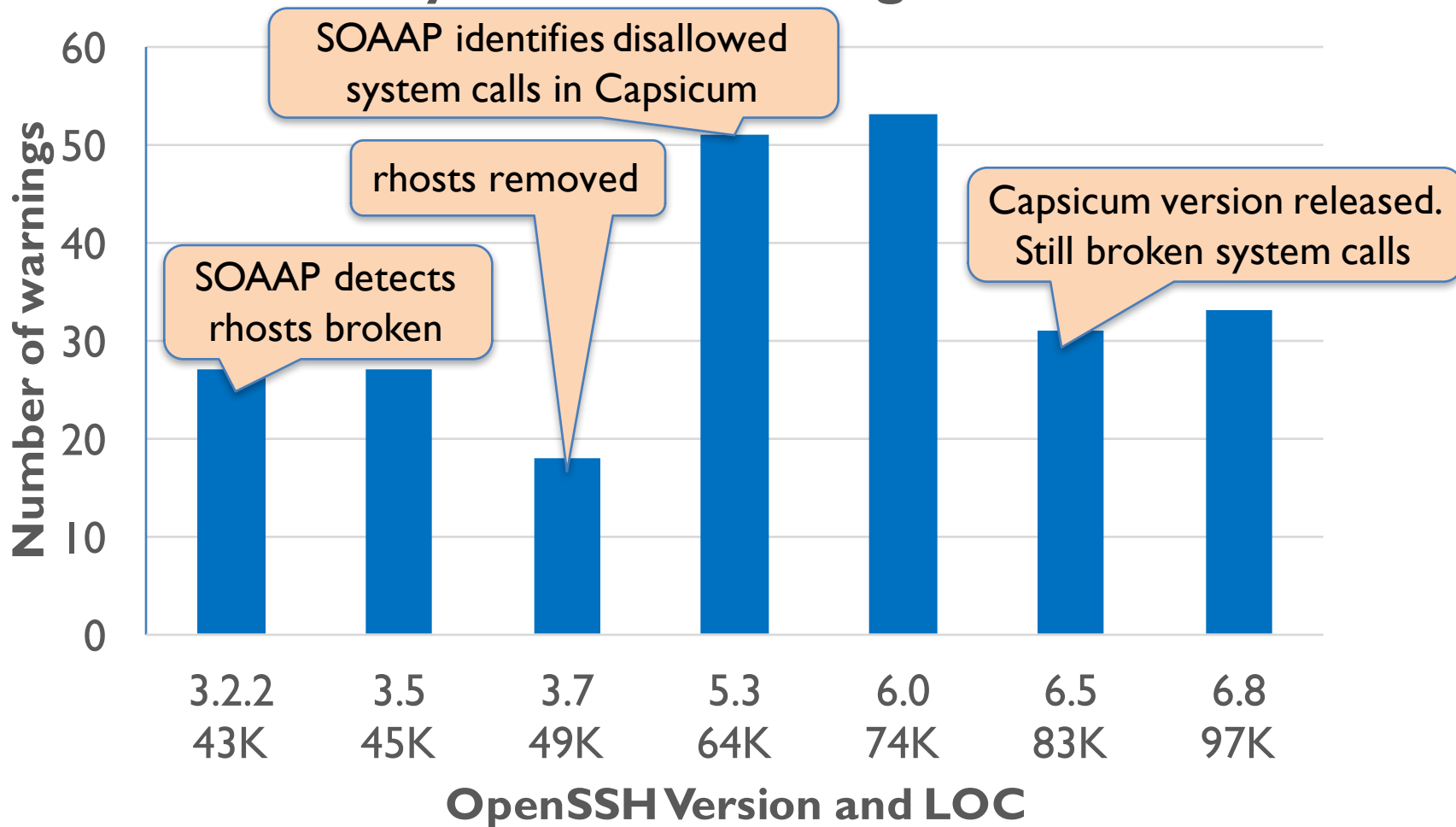
Percentage of privileged functions



OpenSSH Version, No. of privileged funcs and LOC

OpenSSH

System call warnings

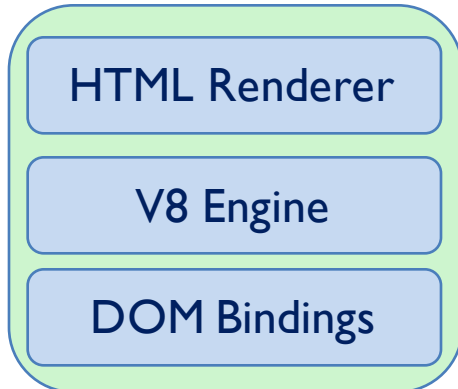


Chromium

Browser process



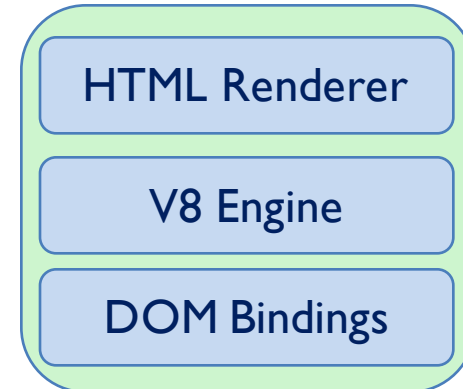
Renderer process



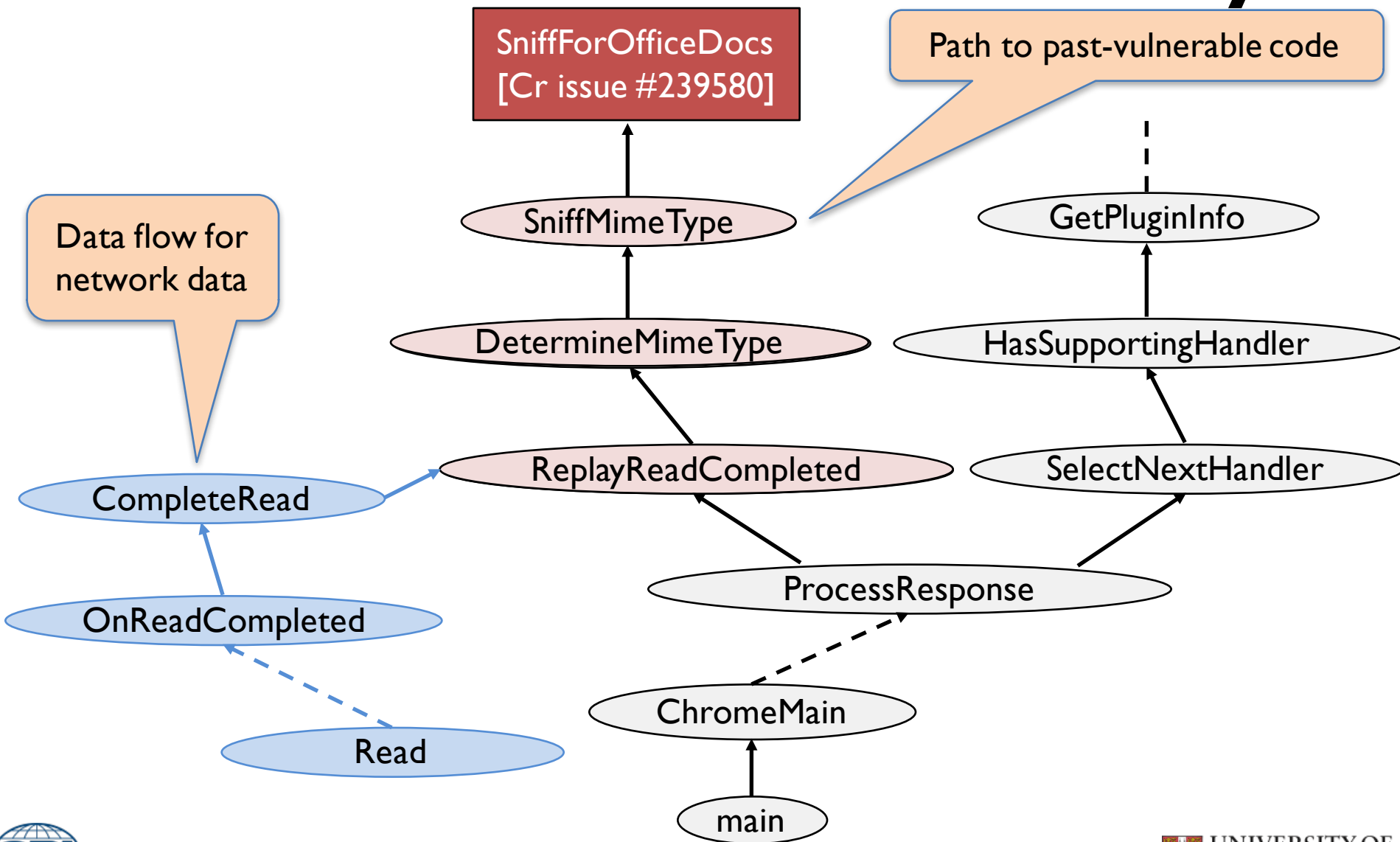
.....



Renderer process

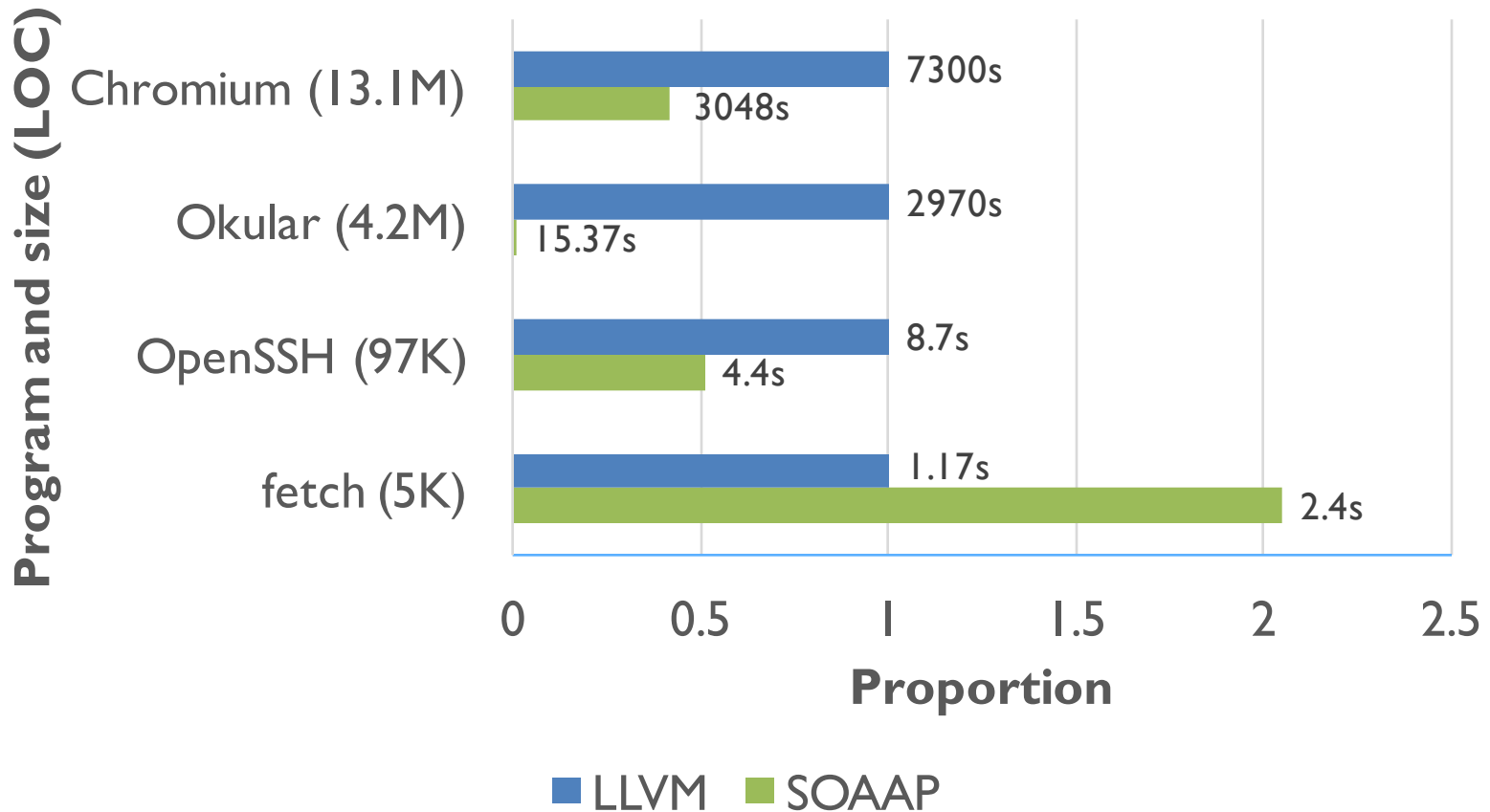


New Chromium vulnerability?



SOAAP tool performance

SOAAP running times as proportion of
compile+link time



Conclusion

- Application compartmentalization is important but hard to get right
- Conceptual framework gives structure
- SOAAP enables reasoning about tradeoffs
- SOAAP can scale to multi-million LoC programs

<http://bit.ly/soaap>

Example SOAAP output (I)

```
$ make soaap
```

```
*** Sandboxed method "accept_connection" read data  
*** value of class: [secret] but only has clearances for: []
```

```
+++ Line 28 of file session.c
```

```
*** Sandboxed method "accept_connection" executing in  
*** sandboxes: [session] may leak private data through  
*** the extern function "compute_session_key"
```

```
+++ Line 28 of file session.c
```

```
*** Persistent sandbox "session" contains private data that  
*** may leak when the sandbox is reused. Consider using an  
*** ephemeral sandbox instead or scrub the memory region  
*** before control returns
```

Example SOAAP output (2)

```
$ make soap
```

```
*** Method "not_sandboxed" had past vulnerability  
*** "CVE-2005-DEF" but is not sandboxed. Another  
*** vulnerability here could leak ambient authority  
*** to an attacker including full network and file  
*** system access
```

```
*** Sandboxed method "parse" has a past-vulnerability  
*** annotation for "CVE-2005-ABC". Another vulnerability  
*** here would only leak the following:
```

```
+++ Read access to file descriptor "ifd"
```

Chromium security disparity

| | OS | Sandbox | LoC | FS | IPC | NET | S≠S' | Priv |
|-----|----------|----------|--------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| DAC | Windows | DAC ACLs | 22,350 | ⚠ | ⚠ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| | Linux | chroot() | 600 | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| MAC | Mac OS X | Sandbox | 560 | ✓ | ⚠ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Linux | SELinux | 200 | ✓ | ⚠ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Cap | Linux | seccomp | 11,300 | ⚠ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | FreeBSD | Capsicum | 100 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Watson et al., “Capsicum: practical capabilities for UNIX”