

Re: help a novelist sound credible?

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2005-05/0117.html>

From: justMe (*justMe_at_not.here*)

Date: 05/04/05

Date: Tue, 03 May 2005 22:53:06 GMT

"David Heddle" <heddle@fbyg.org> wrote in
news:ZKNde.8863\$cZ6.5369@fe02.lga:

- > *Hello,*
- >
- > *I am writing a novel, a sort of techno thriller. So I am a writer, not*
- > *a hacker, although I am fairly computer savvy.*
- >
- > *If you want to verify that I am a writer, not a hacker, see the page*
- > *for my latest book at http://heddle.typepad.com/here_eyeball_this/ and*
- > *match the name and email to what is in this message.*
- >
- > *What I am looking for is a credible way that someone could have hidden*
- > *something in Linux (or any OS) so that a process with a "magic" name*
- > *could run undetected.*
- >
- > *As I understand it, processes are given an ID and are stored in a*
- > *hashtable. But processes also have names, which I guess is the name of*
- > *the executable? So could a magic name have been (hypothetically) place*
- > *in the Linux code that allowed a process to run but perhaps avoid*
- > *being placed in the process table?*
- >
- > *Maybe that's dumb, probably it is, but I think it is enough to make my*
- > *point. I am looking for credible suggestions, even if they only*
- > *"sound" believable--i.e. you experts would know it wasn't possible,*
- > *but even seasoned application (though non-OS) programmers would say,*
- > *hmm, that might be possible, both of these points:*
- >
- > *1) A way that a process could run completely hidden, even from*
- > *root, preferably based on a hidden magic name*

The only completely hidden process, is the one that isn't running.

- > *2) How someone might have hidden that "feature" in the linux*
- > *source code, and it remained undetected. I thought about a hash of the*
- > *magic name represented in octal and hidden in a C macro somehow.?*

alt.os.linux: Re: help a novelist sound credible?

A hidden *feature in Linux source code? You'll need to write about Linus Torvalds, or how CVS servers were compromised in pushing your code.

If you want your novel to be believable by the Linux community, write it about microsoft. Gawd knows there are plenty of real world examples to draw from.