

A Monadic Analysis of Information-Flow Security with Mutable State

Enforcing Secrecy with Monadic Types

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joint work with
Karl Crary and Frank Pfenning

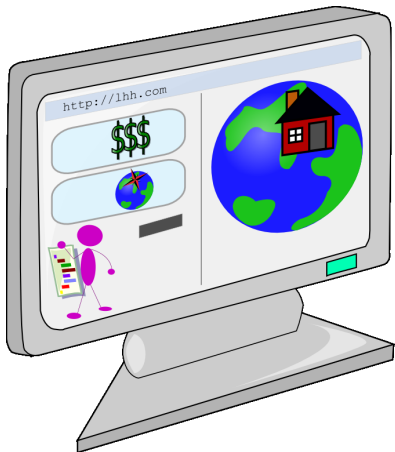
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April 21, 2006 / Stevens Institute of Technology

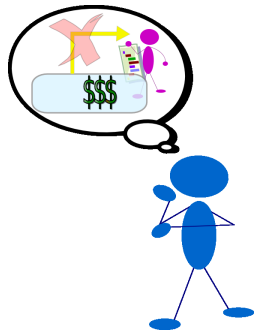
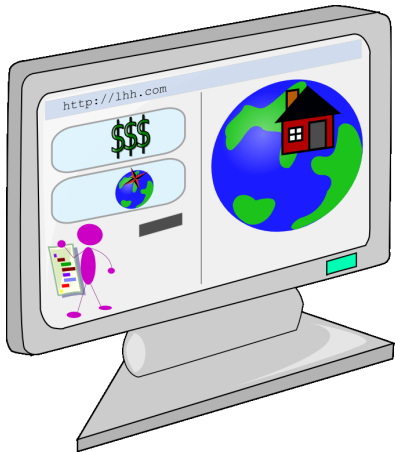
Helen shops for a house



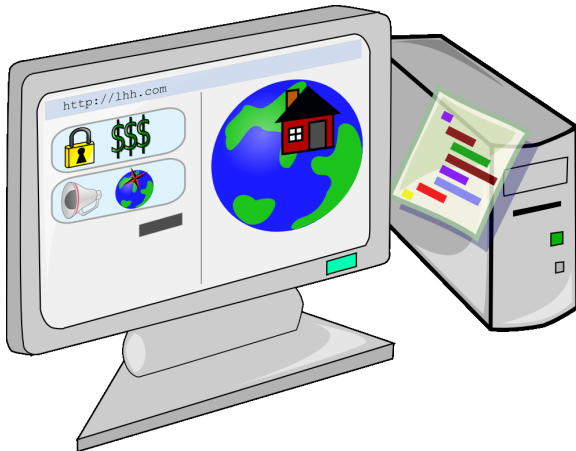
LHH.com



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Running untrusted code

Helen wants

A guarantee that Luke cannot learn income

Luke wants

Reasonable burden of proof

Running untrusted code

Language-based information flow security.

Type system tracks flow of information.

Well typed programs do not leak secrets.



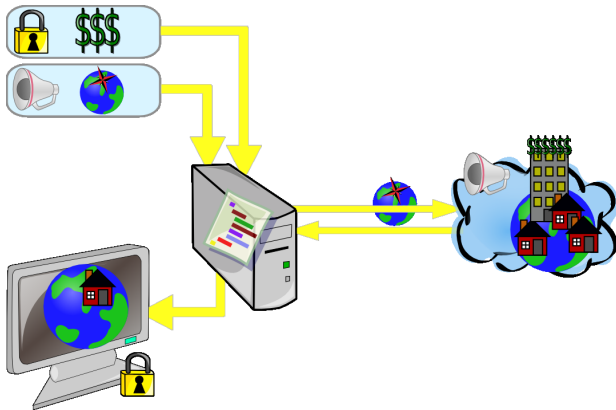
Helen wants

A guarantee that Luke cannot learn income

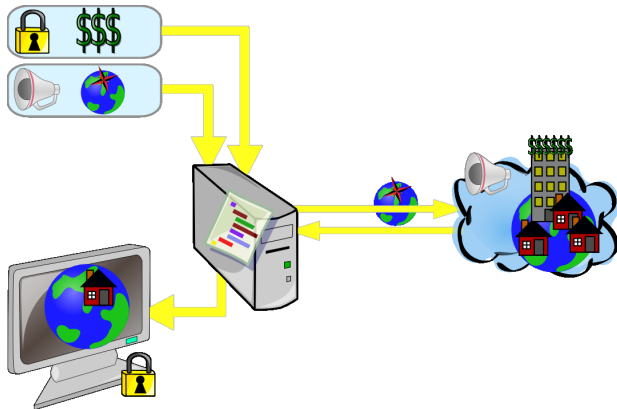
Luke wants

Reasonable burden of proof

Information flow



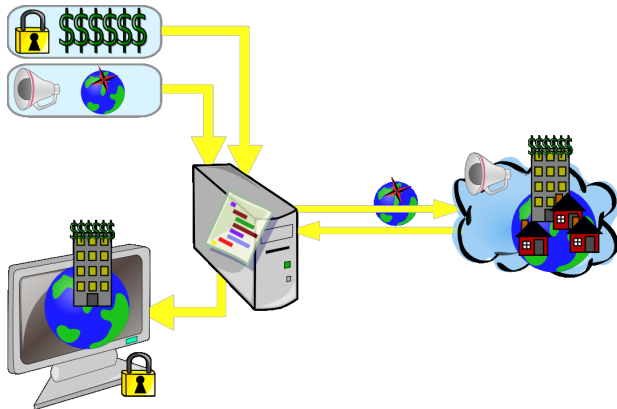
Information flow



Luke thinks

Someone wants
a house in
TriBeCa

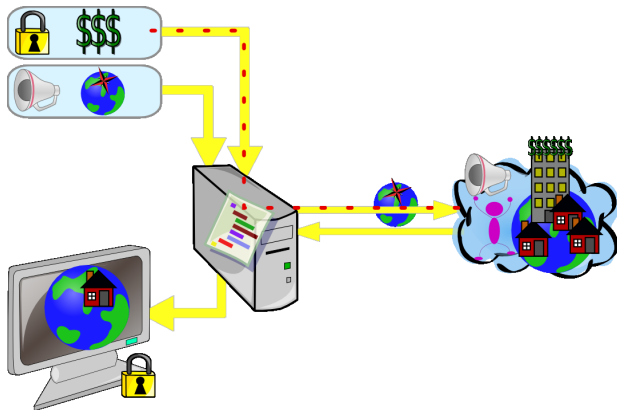
Information flow



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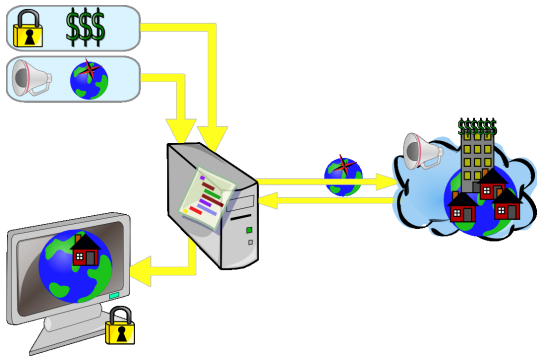
Information flow



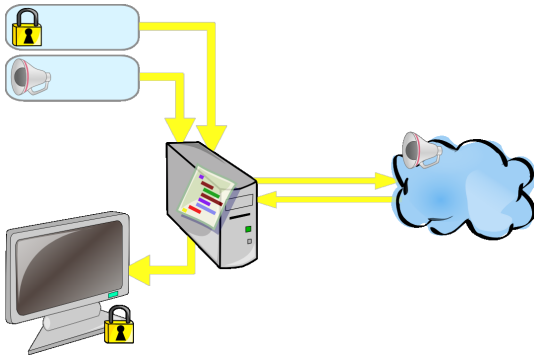
Luke thinks

Someone wants
a **cheap** house in
TriBeCa

Abstracting away



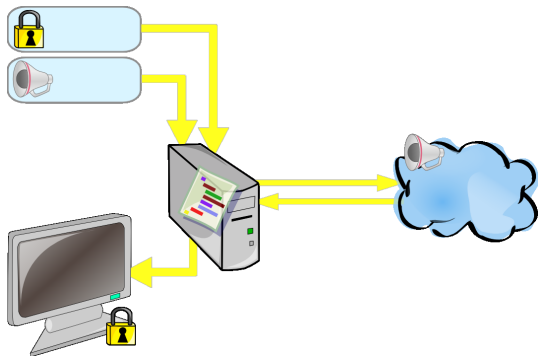
Abstracting away



Situation

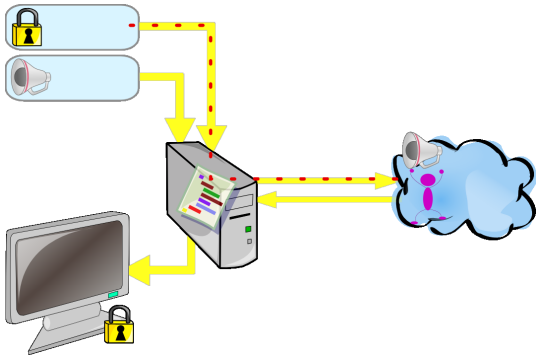
- Untrusted program
- Private data 🔒
- Public data 📢
- Must access both

Abstracting away



Guarantee

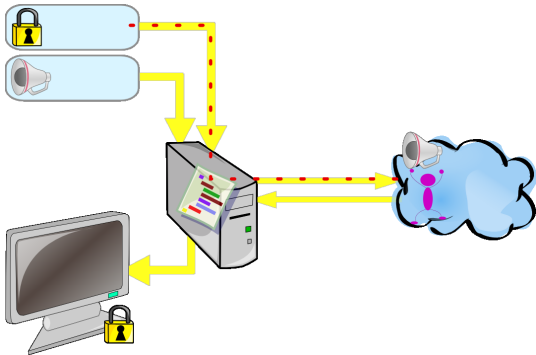
Abstracting away



Guarantee

No information flow of *high*-security data to *low*-security observer.

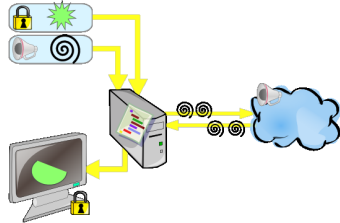
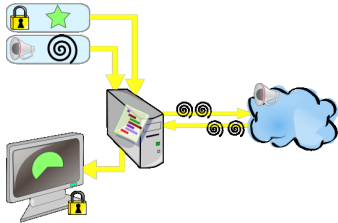
Abstracting away



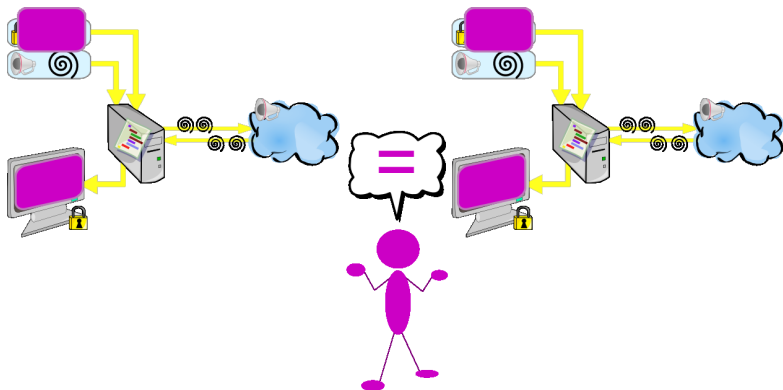
Guarantee

The high-security data **does not interfere** with the low-security behavior of the program.

Non-interference



Non-interference



Outline

1 Introduction

Motivation

Abstracting Away

2 Secure Information Flow

Tracking Effects

A Monadic Security Calculus

Informativeness

3 Non-interference proof

4 Related and Future Work

Tracking Information Flow

Key Idea

Only two things
matter:

Tracking Information Flow

Key Idea

Only two things matter:

- Communication channels

Channels

Memory Mark each cell with security level:

- zipcodeField : 
- incomeField : 

I/O

- Network (Luke) : 
- Display (Helen) : 

Tracking Information Flow

Key Idea

Only two things matter:

- Communication channels
- Computations with side-effects

Channels

Memory Mark each cell with security level:

- zipcodeField : 
- incomeField : 

I/O

- Network (Luke) : 
- Display (Helen) : 

Computations

Track inputs and outputs

Security Levels

Definition

Security levels form a lattice $\mathcal{L} = (\perp, \top, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap)$

Example



Operation Levels

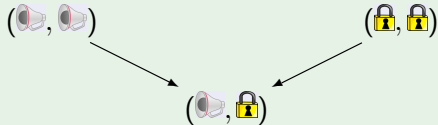
Definition

An **operation level** o is a pair (In, Out) of security levels with $In \sqsubseteq Out$.

Operation levels form a meet-semilattice $\mathcal{O} = (\perp, \preceq, \wedge)$ given by

$$(r_1, w_1) \preceq (r_2, w_2) \iff (r_1 \sqsubseteq r_2 \text{ and } w_2 \sqsubseteq w_1)$$

Example



Security Levels



Tracking inputs and outputs

First try at LHH.com

Example (A very imperative example)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses📢 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField);  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange);  
}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

First try at LHH.com

Example (A very imperative example)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses🔊 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField); In: 🔊,🔊, Out: 🔊,🔊. ✓  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange);  
}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

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Tracking inputs and outputs

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  showJustAffordable (houses,  
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}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

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Example (A very imperative example)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses📢 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField);  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange); In: 📢, 🔒 Out: 🔒. ?  
}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

First try at LHH.com

Example (A very imperative example)

```
proc processForm () {
```

```
  houses 
```

```
    fetchHouses
```

```
  priceRange
```

```
    calcPricerange (income1e10);
```

```
  showJustAffordable (houses,
```

```
    priceRange); In:  Out:  ✓
```

```
}
```

To Combine Inputs: Join

   = 

Tracking inputs and outputs

Another try at LHH.com

Example (What if houses is secret)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses🔒 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField);  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange);  
}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

Another try at LHH.com

Example (What if houses is secret)

```
proc processForm () {  
    houses🔒 :=  
        fetchHouses (zipcodeField); In: 🔊,🔊, Out: 🔒,🔊. ?  
    priceRange🔒 :=  
        calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
    showJustAffordable (houses,  
                        priceRange);  
}
```


Tracking inputs and outputs

Another try at LHH.com

Example (What if houses is secret)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses🔒 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField); In: 📢, Out: 📢. ✓  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (houses, minPrice, maxPrice)  
  showJustA  
}
```

To Combine Outputs: Meet



Tracking inputs and outputs

Another try at LHH.com

Example (What if houses is secret)

```
proc processForm () {  
  houses🔒 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField);  
  priceRange🔒 :=  
    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  In: 🔒, Out: 🔒. ✓  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange);  
}
```

Tracking inputs and outputs

Another try at LHH.com

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  houses🔒 :=  
    fetchHouses (zipcodeField);  
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    calcPriceRange (incomeField);  
  showJustAffordable (houses,  
                      priceRange); In: 🔒, 🔒 Out: 🔒. ✓  
}
```

A monadic language

Syntax (Types)

Types $A ::= \dots \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \dots$
 $\mid \mathbf{Ptr} A \mid \bigcirc A$

Contexts $\Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x:A$

A monadic language

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Syntax (Terms)

Pure terms $M, N ::= x \mid \dots \mid \mathbf{lam}x.M \mid M N \mid \dots$
 $\mid \mathbf{do} E$
Effectful Expressions $E, F ::= \mathbf{return} M$
 $\mid x \leftarrow M ; E$
 $\mid M ; E$
 $\mid M$

Writing monadic programs

Imperative code

Example (increment)

$inc : (\mathbf{Ptr} \text{ Int}, \text{Int}) \rightarrow \bigcirc \text{Int}$

$inc \text{ (ptr, amt) =}$

do

oldVal $\leftarrow$ **deref** ptr

ptr := oldVal + amt

return oldVal

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
  ( $A \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$ ,  $\bigcirc A$ )  $\rightarrow \bigcirc A$   
repeatUntil  
  (test, comp) =  
do  
  x  $\leftarrow$  comp  
  if (test (x))  
    then return x  
    else repeatUntil  
      (test, comp)
```

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
    ( $A \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$ ,  $\bigcirc A$ )  $\rightarrow \bigcirc A$   
repeatUntil  
    (test, comp) =  
do  
     $x \leftarrow \text{comp}$   
    if (test (x))  
    then return x  
    else repeatUntil  
        (test, comp)
```

Example (Sample Output)

```
State = {ptr  $\mapsto$  0}  
repeatUntil (above100,  
              inc (ptr, 1))
```


Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
  (A → Bool, ○A) → ○A  
repeatUntil  
  (test, comp) =  
do  
  x ← comp  
  if (test (x))  
    then return x  
    else repeatUntil  
      (test, comp)
```

Example (Sample Output)

```
State = {ptr ↦ 0}  
  
do  
  x ← inc (ptr, 1)  
  if (above100 (x))  
    then return x  
    else repeatUntil  
      (above100,  
        inc(ptr, 1))
```

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
  (A → Bool, ○A) → ○A  
repeatUntil  
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do  
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Example (Sample Output)

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⇒ x ← inc (ptr, 1)  
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Writing monadic programs

Control flow

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repeatUntil :  
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```

Example (Sample Output)

```
State = {ptr ↦ 1}  
  
do  
  x ← inc (ptr, 1)  
⇒ if (above100 (0))  
  then return 0  
  else repeatUntil  
    (above100,  
      inc(ptr, 1))
```

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
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Example (Sample Output)

```
State = {ptr  $\mapsto$  1}  
if (above100 (0))  
  then return 0  
  else repeatUntil  
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```

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

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repeatUntil :  
  ( $A \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$ ,  $\bigcirc A$ )  $\rightarrow \bigcirc A$   
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```

Example (Sample Output)

State = {ptr $\mapsto$ 1}

```
repeatUntil  
  (above100,  
   inc (ptr, 1))
```

Writing monadic programs

Control flow

Example

```
repeatUntil :  
    ( $A \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$ ,  $\bigcirc A$ )  $\rightarrow \bigcirc A$   
repeatUntil  
    (test, comp) =  
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```

Example (Sample Output)

State = {ptr $\mapsto$ 1}

```
repeatUntil  
    (above100,  
     inc (ptr, 1))
```

The Language with security monads

Syntax (Types)

Security Levels $a, In, Out ::=$  | 

Types $A ::= \dots \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \dots$
 $\mid \mathbf{Ptr}_a A \mid \bigcirc_{(In, Out)} A$

Contexts $\Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x:A$

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The Language with security monads

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 $\mid M$

LHH.com with security monads

Types

Monadic code

```
processForm =  
do  
  h ← fetchHouses (zipcodeField)  
  do  
    i ← deref incomeField  
    showJustAffordable (h, calcPriceRange (i))
```

LHH.com with security monads

Types

fetchHouses : **Ptr**  *ZipCode* $\rightarrow$ $\bigcirc$ ,  **List** *House*

Monadic code

processForm =

do

h $\leftarrow$ *fetchHouses* (*zipcodeField*)

do

i $\leftarrow$ **deref** *incomeField*

showJustAffordable (*h*, *calcPriceRange* (*i*))

LHH.com with security monads

Types

deref incomeField : $\bigcirc$   **Int**

Monadic code

processForm =

do

h $\leftarrow$ *fetchHouses* (zipcodeField)

do

i $\leftarrow$ **deref** incomeField

showJustAffordable (h, *calcPriceRange* (i))

LHH.com with security monads

Types

calcPriceRange : **Int** $\rightarrow$ *Range*

Monadic code

```
processForm =  
do  
  h  $\leftarrow$  fetchHouses (zipcodeField)  
  do  
    i  $\leftarrow$  deref incomeField  
    showJustAffordable (h, calcPriceRange (i))
```

LHH.com with security monads

Types

showJustAffordable : (**List** *House*, *Range*) →  , ()

Monadic code

```
processForm =  
do  
  h ← fetchHouses (zipcodeField)  
  do  
    i ← deref incomeField  
    showJustAffordable (h, calcPriceRange (i))
```

Composing suspensions

Typing rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \bigcirc_{o_1} A \quad \Gamma, x:A \vdash E \div_{o_2} C \quad o_1 \preceq o \quad o_2 \preceq o}{\Gamma \vdash x \leftarrow M; E \div_o C}$$

Portion of processForm

do

`i ← deref incomeField` `:  $\bigcirc_{\text{🔒,🔒}}$  Int`
`showJustAffordable`
 `(h, calcPriceRange (i))` `÷📢,🔒 ()`

Composing suspensions

Typing rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \bigcirc_{o_1} A \quad \Gamma, x:A \vdash E \div_{o_2} C \quad o_1 \preceq o \quad o_2 \preceq o}{\Gamma \vdash x \leftarrow M; E \div_o C}$$

Portion of processForm

do

`i ← deref incomeField` `:  $\bigcirc_{\text{lock,lock}}$  Int`

`showJustAffordable`

`(h, calcPriceRange (i))` `÷lock ()`

`÷lock,lock ()`

Composing suspensions, cont'd

processForm

do

h ← *fetchHouses*

(zipcodeField) : ○ 🔊 🔊 **List** *House*

do

i ← **deref** incomeField

showJustAffordable (h, *calcPriceRange* (i))

: ○ 🔒 🔒 ()

Composing suspensions, cont'd

Compose Inputs



Compose Outputs



processForm

do

h ← *fetchHouses*

(zipcodeField) : ○   **List** *House*

do

i ← **deref** incomeField

showJustAffordable (h, *calcPriceRange* (i))

: ○   ()

÷   ()

What are the types telling us?

Suppose `showJustAffordable` had type

$(\mathbf{List} \text{ House}, \text{Range}) \rightarrow \bigcirc \text{Int}$

Consider

do

`nHouses` $\leftarrow$ **do**

`i` $\leftarrow$ **deref** `incomeField`

`showJustAffordable (...)`

: $\bigcirc \text{Int}$

`sendL (nHouses)` : $\bigcirc \text{Int}$

() is not informative

Definition ($A \nearrow$ judgment)

A type A is **informative only at high-security**
if no computation with low-security input can make use of it.

Observation

Any computation that could make use of A can read
the same secrets as the computation that produced A

Typing rule

$$\frac{M : \bigcirc \text{🔒🔒} A \quad A \nearrow}{\text{upcall } M : \bigcirc \text{🔊🔒} A}$$

processForm is well-typed

Promote the inner do-block

processForm =

do

h ← *fetchHouses* (*zipcodeField*) :  **List** *House*

upcall do

i ← **deref** *incomeField*

showJustAffordable (...)

:   ()

:   ()

Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$\overline{\text{Ptr} \circ A \nearrow}$

Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$$\frac{A \nearrow}{\text{Ptr} \text{ } A \nearrow}$$

Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$$\frac{A \nearrow \quad B \nearrow}{(A, B) \nearrow}$$

Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$$\frac{A \nearrow}{A + B \nearrow} \times \quad \frac{B \nearrow}{A + B \nearrow} \times$$

Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$$\frac{B \nearrow}{A \rightarrow B \nearrow}$$

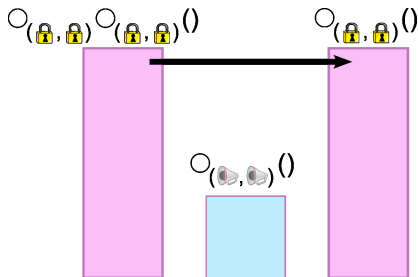
Other informative types?

Rules for the $A \nearrow$ judgment

Rule

$$\frac{A \nearrow}{\text{O}_{-}, \text{A} \nearrow}$$

Secure computation continuation passing



Example

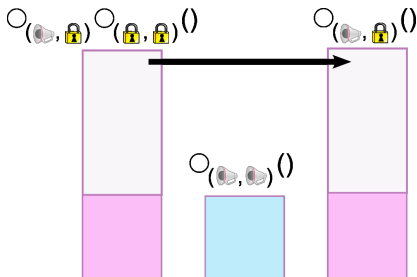
do

`cont ← highComp`

`lowComp`

`cont`

Secure computation continuation passing



Example

do

cont $\leftarrow$ **upcall** highComp

lowComp

upcall cont

Outline

1 Introduction

Motivation

Abstracting Away

2 Secure Information Flow

Tracking Effects

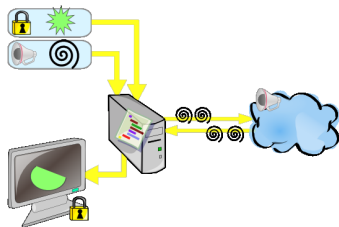
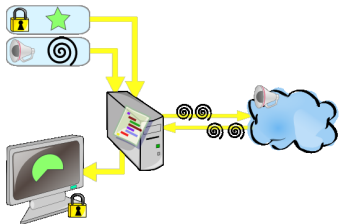
A Monadic Security Calculus

Informativeness

3 Non-interference proof

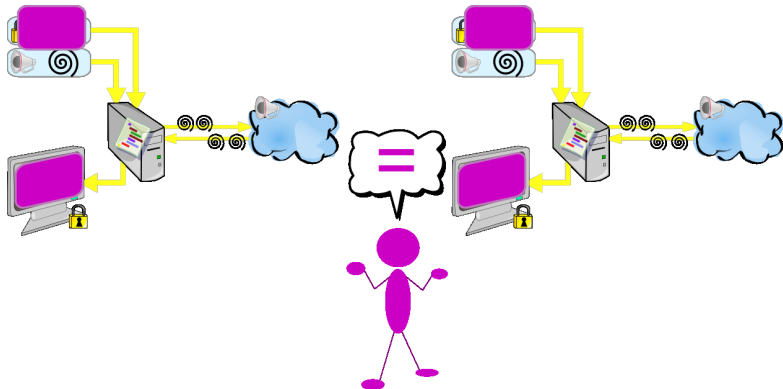
4 Related and Future Work

Is it secure?



Is it secure?

Yes



Proof outline

Definition (Program)

A **program** P is a memory $H : \Sigma$ along with a (closed) effectful expression E

- Formalize equivalence relation $\vdash P_1 \approx_{\text{🔊}} P_2 \div (In, -) A$
- Prove two lemmas:
 - High Security Step** If $In = \text{🔒}$ then P_1 and P_2 can do whatever they want and stay related.
 - Hexagon Lemma (relative confluence)** If $In = \text{🔊}$ then if P_1, P_2 execute in lock step.
- Put everything together: If you run P_1, P_2 to completion, the final states are related.

Equivalence Relation

The only non-trivial rule

$$\frac{\Sigma_1; \Gamma \vdash V_1 : A \quad \Sigma_2; \Gamma \vdash V_2 : A \quad A \nearrow}{\Sigma_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma \vdash V_1 \approx_{\text{speaker}} V_2 : A}$$

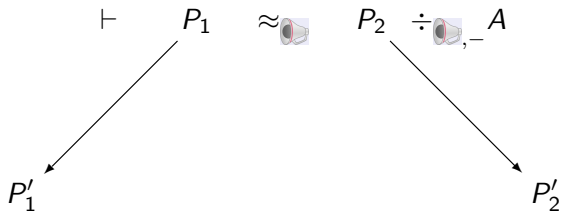
Lemma (Functionality)

If $\Sigma_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma \vdash V_1 \approx_{\text{speaker}} V_2 : A$
and $\Sigma_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma, x:A \vdash E_1 \approx_{\text{speaker}} E_2 \div_{(In, Out)} B$
then $\Sigma_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma \vdash E_1[V_1/x] \approx_{\text{speaker}} E_2[V_2/x] \div_{(In, Out)} B$

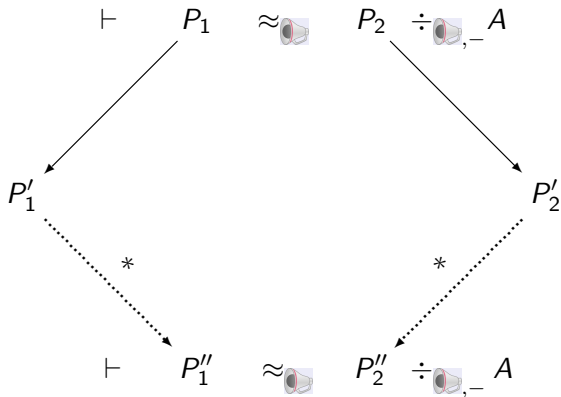
Lemma (Single High Security Step)

If $\vdash P \div_{-, \text{lock}} A$ and $P \rightarrow P'$
then “memory of P ” $\approx_{\text{speaker}}$ “memory of P' ”

Hexagon Lemma



Hexagon Lemma



Outline

1 Introduction

Motivation

Abstracting Away

2 Secure Information Flow

Tracking Effects

A Monadic Security Calculus

Informativeness

3 Non-interference proof

4 Related and Future Work

Related work

Monads in language design

Foundations

- Semantics [Moggi 1989]
- Lax Logic [Fairtlough, *et al.* 1994] [Pfenning, *et al.* 1999]

Have been used for:

- I/O in Haskell [Peyton-Jones, *et al.* 1993]
- Parsing Combinators [Wadler 1992]
- Composable Transactional Memory [Peyton-Jones, *et al.* 2005]
- Probabilistic Computation [Park, *et al.* 2005]
- and much more...

Related work

Language-based security

Non-interference:

- [Volpano, *et al.* 1996]
- SLam [Heintze, *et al.* 1998],
DCC [Abadi *et al.* 1999]
- CoreML² [Pottier, *et al.* 2003]
- and many others ...
[Sabelfeld, *et al.* 2003]

Extensions:

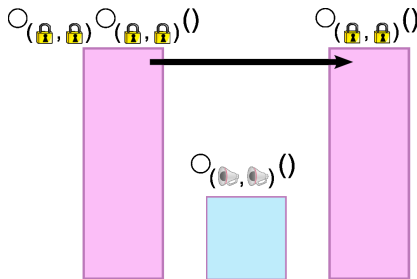
- Concurrency [Honda, *et al.* 2002]
- Timing channels [Agat 2000]
- Robust declassification
[Zdancewic, *et al.* 2001],
[Myers, *et al.* 2004]
- and many others...

Our contributions

- Informativeness
- Monads for tracking information flow

Informativeness: $A \nearrow$

Allow high-security computations to pass temporary results through low-security computations



Monads for tracking information flow

Isolate security concerns: simplify reasoning
Only monads and channels are tagged

Example

$\text{fetchHouses} : \mathbf{Ptr} \text{ ZipCode} \rightarrow \bigcirc \text{ List House}$
 $\text{calcPriceRange} : \mathbf{Int} \rightarrow \text{Range}$

New!

For a fixed security lattice, a Haskell library of security monads
(as long as you don't use `unsafePerformIO`, etc)

Future work

Richer languages Concurrency (e.g. transactional memory),
robust declassification

Trustless computing Formalize all proofs in Twelf

Logical foundations Decomposition of lax modality $\bigcirc A$ as $\Diamond \Box A$

Thanks

Questions?



The three monad laws

Program equivalences

Within each security level, we obey the monad laws
(Upcalls are an additional relationship between monad families)

① **do** $x \leftarrow \text{return } \text{expr}$
 func (x)

① **do**
 func (expr)

② **do** $x \leftarrow \text{comp}$
 return x

② **do**
 comp

③ **do** $y \leftarrow \text{do}$
 $x \leftarrow \text{comp1}$
 comp2 (x)
 comp3 (y)

③ **do**
 $x \leftarrow \text{comp1}$
 $y \leftarrow \text{comp2 } (x)$
 comp3 (y)

Differences in the paper

Additions in the paper

- Full lattice of security levels
- Subtypes of $\mathbf{Ptr}_a A$ type
- A proof of non-interference
- Discussion of allocation
- Encoding of a prior work

Stylistic differences

- Pfenning-style expressions vs. **do**-notation

Allocation

Rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{alloc} \ M : \bigcirc \text{🔊🔒} \mathbf{Ptr}_a A}$$

Since no pointer comparison operators, only read/writes **with aliasing** to observe a pointer.

New memory is unaliased, so effectively no Input or Output.