

Data-Aware Adaptive Tracing

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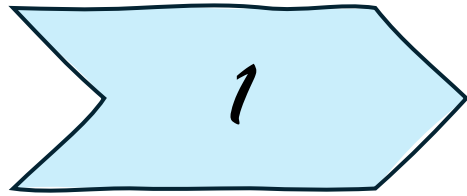
PRM - May 2025



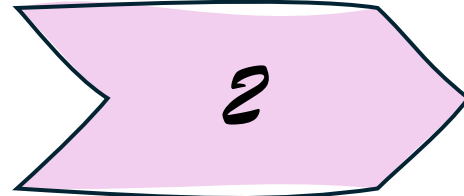
DORSAL



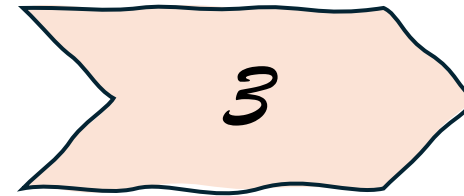
Outline



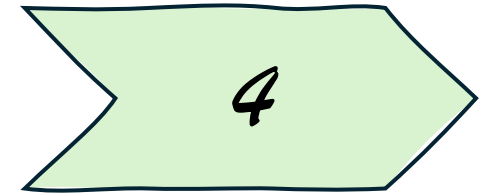
Motivation



Methodology



Tools



Objectives

Motivation

ASPECT

	Adaptive Data-Aware Tracing	Full-Fidelity Tracing
Overhead Reduction	✓	✗
Data Load Management	✓	✗
Analysis Clarity	✓	✗
Scalability	✓	✗
Resource Efficiency	✓	✗

Methodology

Selective Tracing Triggered by Predefined, Unexpected or Abnormal Data

Idea 1: Representative Inputs of Equivalent Partitions

- Middle values
- Boundary values

Idea 2: Uncommon Function Inputs

- distribution of inputs by sampling (fixed/dynamic)

Methodology

Selective Tracing Triggered by Predefined
or Abnormal Data

```
int foo (int a, int b)
{
    int sum;
    sum = a + b;
    return sum;
}
```

Idea 1: Representative Inputs of Equivalent Partitions

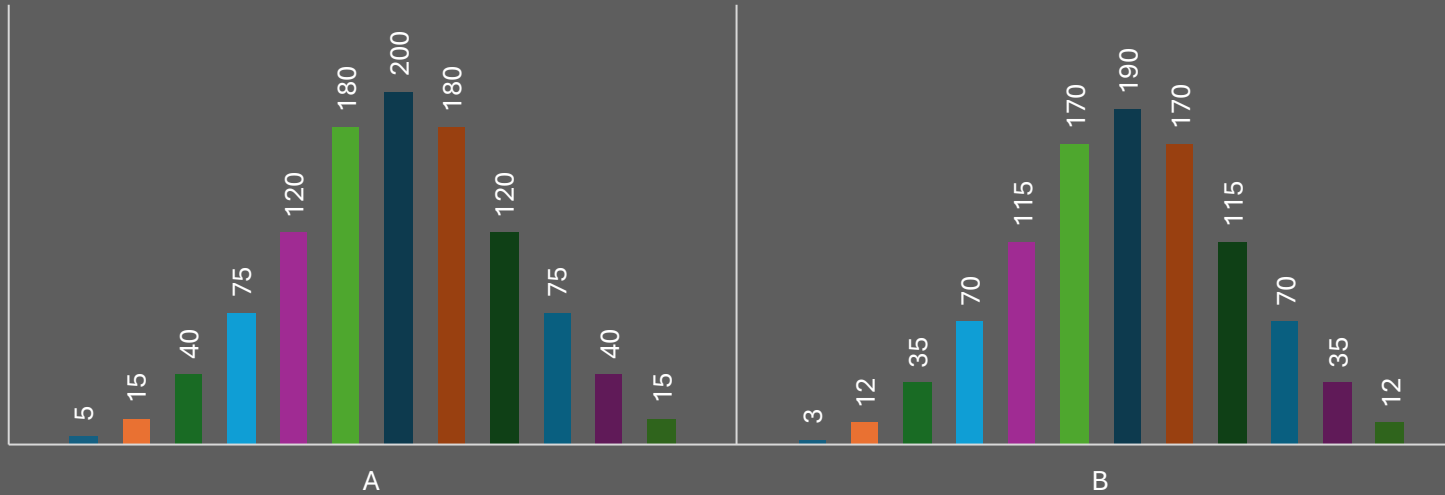
- Middle values
- Boundary values

range a: [-100, 100] on Function Inputs

if $a \leq -100$ or $a \geq 100$ then trace on (fixed/dynamic)

INPUT VALUE REPETITION DISTRIBUTION

[−∞, −100] [−100, −80] [−80, −60] [−60, −40] [−40, −20] [−20, 0]
 [0, 20] [20, 40] [40, 60] [60, 80] [80, 100] [100, ∞]



```

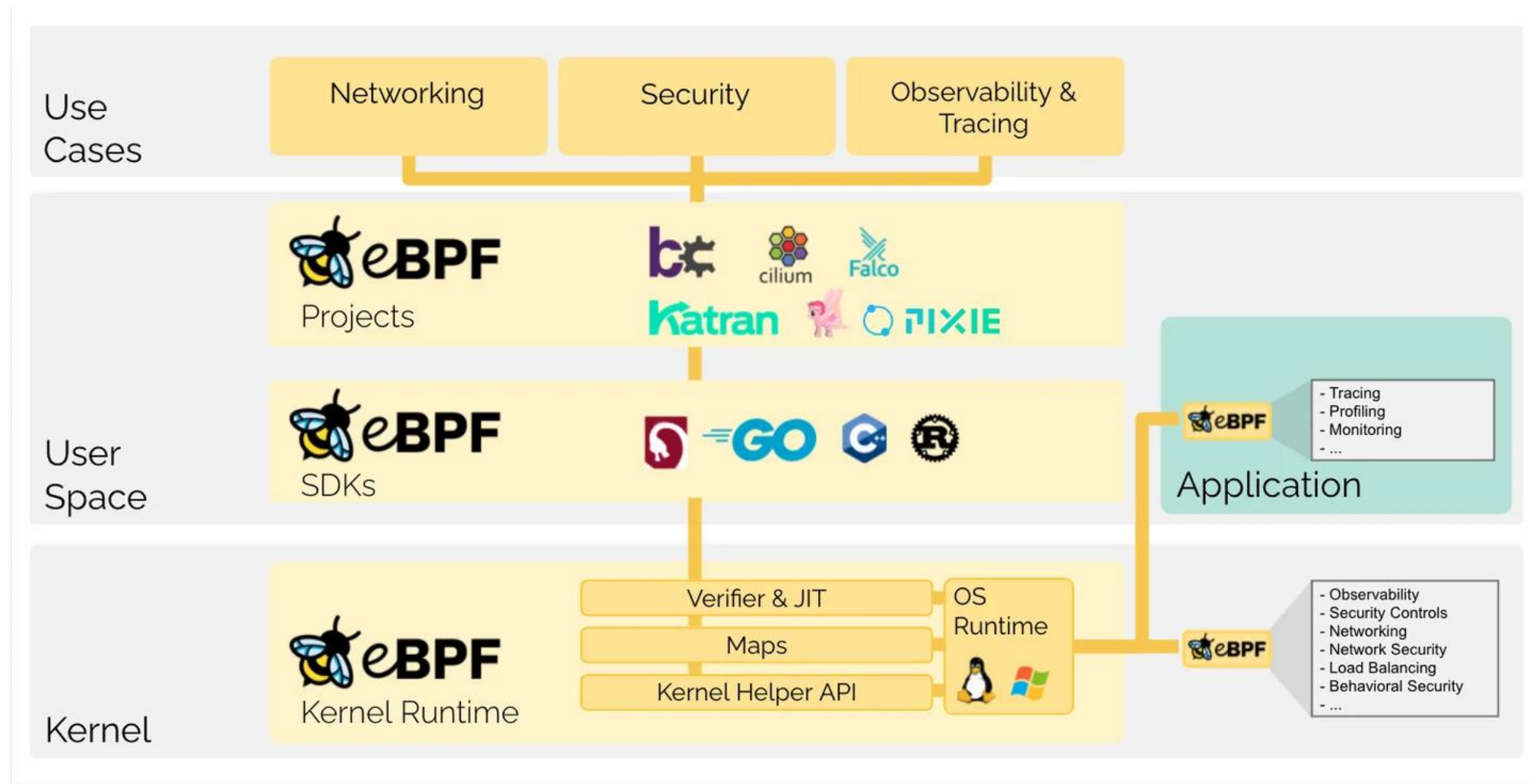
int foo (int a, int b)
{
    int sum;
    sum = a + b;
    return sum;
}
  
```

R(a): repetition a
 - Middle values
 - Boundary values
 if $R(a) < 10$ then trace on

Idea 2: Uncommon Function Inputs

- distribution of inputs by sampling (fixed/dynamic)

eBPF



eBPF related tools

- bpftrace:
High-level tracing language for Linux



- bpftime:
Userspace eBPF runtime for Observability,
Network & General extensions Framework



bpftrace example 1: calculate_sum

- Example summation function
- Attach uprobe to calculate_sum function
- Record ustack when $a > 10$ and $b < 200$

```
#!/usr/bin/env bpftrace

uprobe:/home/alient/user_apps/bin/example_program:calculate_sum
{
    printf("%s %d %d\n", comm, arg0, arg1);
    if (arg0 > 10 && arg1 < 200 )
    {
        @sus[comm, arg0, arg1]=ustack;
    }
}
```

bpftrace script (calsum.bt)

```
alient@Desltop:~/Codes/bpftrace_scripts$ sudo bpftrace calsum.bt
Attaching 1 probe...
example_program 5 300
example_program 42 100
example_program 50 500
^C

@sus[example_program, 42, 100]:
calculate_sum+0
__libc_start_call_main+122
__libc_start_main@GLIBC_2.2.5+139
_start+37
```

Recorded
ustack

Terminal output

bpftrace example 2: ioctl

- Example ioctl bug*
- Attach uprobe to ioctl
- Record ustack when arg2 == 0x541c

```
// author by ziiiro@thu
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <sys/ioctl.h>
#include <fcntl.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    int fd = open("/dev/tty1", O_RDWR, 0);
    unsigned short size1[3] = {3, 0x21, 0};
    ioctl(fd, 0x5609, size1); // VT_RESIZE
    for (int i = 0; i < 30; i++) {
        write(fd, "\x0a", 1);
    }

    signed int args[3] = {13, -5, 0};
    ioctl(fd, 0x541c, args); // TIOCLINUX
    unsigned short size2[3] = {3, 0x39, 0};
    ioctl(fd, 0x5609, size2); // VT_RESIZE
}
```

ioctl_example.c

```
alient@Desltop:~/Codes/bpftrace_scripts$ sudo bpftrace ioctl.bt
Attaching 1 probe...
Comm: ioctl_example, PID: 219954, FD: -1, Command: 0x541c, Arg: 0x7ffef36bf5dc
^C

@sus[ioctl_example]:
  0x7e17ded24db0
  0x7e17dec2a1ca
  0x7e17dec2a28b
  0x631ee0013025
```

Terminal output

```
#!/usr/bin/env bpftrace

uprobe:/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6:ioctl
/ arg2 == 0x541c / {
    printf("Comm: %s, PID: %d, FD: %d, Command: 0x%x, Arg: 0x%x\n", comm, pid, arg1, arg2, arg3);
    // Save the kernel stack trace in the map
    @sus [comm] = ustack;
}
```

bpftrace script (ioctl.bt)

* The example program bug has not been reproduced

Other tools (to be checked)

- ufttrace

<https://github.com/namhyung/uftrace>

- LTTng

<https://lttng.org/>

Objectives

- Reduce resource overhead and the performance overhead compared to full tracing
- Maximize the number of recorded traces that lead to bugs

Next steps...

- Find inputs in open-source benchmarks that trigger **rare** or **erroneous** or **exceptional** branches
- Fuzzing/Random testing on Phoronix Test Suite
OpenSSL unit tests

Thank you

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