Configuring SELinux by Simplified Policy

Yuichi Nakamura *

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*The George Washington University, Hitachi Software, ynakam@gwu.edu

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1 About this document

This document is a reference manual for simplified policy(version 1.0.0). About install, see How to install. Note that this document is under construction, the contents will change.

2 Overview

SELinux[1] implements fine-grained Mandatory Access Control on Linux. However, the access control is too fine-grained and its policy tends to be too complicated. So it is very difficult to understand and configure policy. "Simplified policy" is a policy written in simplified policy language. Simplified policy language reduces the number of policy description by hiding type label from users and integrating object classes and access vectors. User can use SELinux system easily by using this. For example, if httpd_t domain want to read /var/www and use tcp port 80, the configuration is like below.

{ domain httpd_t; allow /var/www r,s; allownet -tcp -port 80;

Simplified policy was originally developed as a part of SELinux Policy Editor[2][3] by Hitachi Software[4]. Now it is maintained in SELinux Policy Editor Project[5]. Fedora Core4 and 3 are supported. Simplified Policy does not affect existing SELinux, you can go back default SELinux easily. Feel free to try!

3 Components of Simplified policy

Simplified Policy is composed of two *must* components, Converter and sample policy. In addition, there is an optional component, GUI(SELinux Policy Editor).

1. converter

A compiler for simplified policy. This reads simplified policy and generates SELinux policy understandable by m4 and checkpolicy.

- 2. sample policy A sample simplified policy.
- 3. GUI(SELinux Policy Editor)(optional)

A Web-based GUI to edit simplified policy. By using GUI, SELinux becomes much easier. Simplified policy with GUI is called *SELinux Policy Editor*.

4 Notice

- Syntax will change in next version. We are reviewing the security of simplified policy. As a result, syntax may change.
- Some permissions are not supported. See 5.2.3.
- Some filesystems are not supported. It is treated as unlabeled_t. To access unsupported file system, use allowadm unlabel.

5 Sample Simplified Policy

This section describes information about sample simplified policy. If you are in a hurry, read 5.1, 5.2.1 and 5.3.

5.1 Default configuration in simplified policy

- Supported services in version 1.0.0 Supported services in sample policy are "auditd, syslogd, httpd, webmin, iptables, network". They run as *servicename_t* domain.
- RBAC configuration

Two roles sysadm_r, user_r. sysadm_r can do *everything*. user_r is limited. By default only root user can login as sysadm_r.

5.2 Contents of directory for simplified policy

Sample simplified policy is located at "/etc/selinux/seedit/src/policy/". Some directories and files are located there.

5.2.1 simplified_policy

This is the most important. At the directory sample simplified policy is stored. For detail of syntax for simplified policy, see 8.

Sample simplified policy are described in *global*, and *domain*.te

• global

This is a configuration commonly used by all domains. Be careful that some access rights (For example, tmpfs usage, tty device access) are granted by default to show that SELinux can become easy.

• domain.a

Here configuration for domains are described. For example, in file *httpd_t.a*, configuration for *httpd_t* domain is described.

• all

global, and *.a are jointed. converter reads this file. This file is automatically generated. Do not edit.

5.2.2 Makefile

This is Makefile to compile simplified policy and to load policy to kernel. See 5.3.

5.2.3 base_policy

Files in this directory is used by converter to generate SELinux policy.

 \bullet default.te

This file is useful. Statements described in this file is included in policy to be generated by converter. In this file, allow statements allowed by default in simplified policy is described. This means you can know which access vectors and object classes are not supported by simplified policy. For example, look at next line.

```
allow global self:capability ~{ net_raw net_bind_service
net_admin sys_boot sys_module sys_rawio sys_ptrace sys_chroot };
```

global attribute is used in generated SELinux policy. global attribute is attached to every domain. So this means, every domain is allowed to use capability other than net_raw net_bind_service net_admin sys_boot etc. This means, simplified policy language does not support those access vectors.

In addition, you can write original SELinux's rules here. To write auditallow rule is a good idea. But allow rules must not be written here, because it can break the security of generated policy.

• attribute.te

In this file, attributes used in policy to be generated by converter is described. Do not edit.

• types.te

In this file, types used in policy generated by converter is described. Do not edit.

The meaning of below files are the same as original SELinux's policy. Do not edit them.

- genfs_contexts
 - File system that are unlabeled are not supported.
- security_classes
- access_vectors
- initial_sid_contexts
- fs_use
- initial_sids

5.2.4 macros

Macros to generate SELinux policy is stored. Converter generates policy including macros. In make, macros are processed by m4 and policy.conf is generated.

5.2.5 sepolicy

Generated SELinux policy is written in this directory.

5.3 To load policy

If you modify policy in simplified_policy, you must load the modified policy to kernel. There are some targets in Makefile.

First, you have to go /etc/selinux/seedit/src/policy.

- make reload
 - This converts simplified policy in simplified_policy dir into SELinux policy. (1) policy.conf and file_contexts are generated in sepolicy dir.
 - (2) binary policy is created by checkpolicy from generated policy.conf.

(3) binary policy is installed in /etc/seedit/policy, file_contexts is installed in /etc/seedit/contexts/policy. And contents of base_policy/contexts is installed in /etc/seedit/contexts.

(4) binary policy is loaded by load_policy

• make relabel

After make reload, fixfiles restore runs.

make diffrelabel

This is very useful. *make relabel* relabels all files, and it takes a lot of time. On the other hand, *make diffrelabel* relabels only files whose label have changed. So it takes only some seconds. When you load policy, *make diffrelabel* is recommended.

6 Option of converter

converter is usually run by make, you do not have to use converter directly. Following is only for reference.

Usage : converter -i infile -b base policy dir -o policyfile -f file_context

• infile

Simplified policy file. In make this is all.

- base policy dir Directory for base_policy.
- *policyfile* Generated policy file name.
- *file_contexts* Generated file_contexts fine name.

7 Example

7.1 Configuring vsftpd

As an example of configuration of daemon, let's configure vsftpd using simplified policy. In this example, configure Anonymous ftp access.

By default, the domain of vsftpd is $initrc_t$. $initrc_t$ is a domain for scripts under /etc/rc.d. vsftpd is executed by /etc/rc.d/init.d/vsftpd(the domain is initrc_t) and inherits the domain.

However, this is not secure. Because initrc_t has a lots of access rights(see /etc/selinux/seedit/src/policy/simplified_policy/initrc_t.a).

In following current directory is */etc/selinux/seedit/src/policy*, and permissive mode

```
login: root
....
# newrole -r sysadm_r
# id -Z
root:sysadm_r:sysadm_t
# cd /etc/selinux/seedit/src/policy
# setenforce 0
```

And for detail of syntax, see 8 .

7.1.1 Create domain for vsftpd

Let's give vftpd *vsftpd_t* domain.

- Create configuration file Create simplified_policy/vsftpd_t.a.
- Configure domain transition In simplified_policy/vsftpd_t.a write following.

```
# simplified_policy/vsftpd_t.a
{
    domain vsftpd_t;
    domain_trans initrc_t /usr/sbin/vsftpd;
}
```

In line 2, you've defined domain vsftpd_t. In line 3, you've configured domain transition, parent domain is initrc_t, entry point is /usr/sbin/vsftpd.

7.1.2 Test domain transition

When you edit configuration, you must use make command to indicate kernel change of configuration (See 5.3). In this case, type as below.

make diffrelabel

Usually *make diffrelabel* is enough. Restart vsftpd and check the domain of vsftpd.

```
# /etc/init.d/vsftpd restart
# ps -eZ
...
root:system_r:vsftpd_t 13621 pts/1 00:00:00 vsftpd
...
```

You can see that the domain of vsftpd is *vsftpd_t*. Domain transition is successful.

7.1.3 Protect files related to vsftpd

Protect files related to vsftpd If you want to protect files related to domain, the best way is *deny* in global. In this case, let's protect /etc/vsftpd and /var/ftp. Add following in simplified_policy global. Note you have to add between { and }.

```
# In simplifed_policy/global
deny /etc/vsftpd;
deny /var/ftp;
```

And

make diffrelabel

As a result, if some domain want to access /etc/vsftpd and /var/ftp, it must be allowed explicitly. e.g: If httpd_t want to read /etc/vsftpd, *allow /etc/vsftpd r;* must be described in httpd_t, if *allow /etc r;* is described, access to /etc/vsftpd is not allowed. deny is useful to mark important files.

7.1.4 Give access rights to vsftpd_t

The default access right for vsftpd_t is inherited from simplified_policy/global. It is not enough, you have to add configuration. The best way to know what is necessary is to test vsftpd on permissive mode and see SELinux log(The process is skipped in this document..). Below is a policy for vsftpd_t.

simplifed_policy/vsftpd_t.a

- 1 {
- 2 domain vsftpd_t;
- 3 domain_trans initrc_t /usr/sbin/vsftpd;
- 4 # access to files related to vsftpd
- 5 allow /etc/vsftpd r,s;
- 6 allow /var/ftp r,s;

```
7
   allowonly /var/log r,w,s;
8
  # allow to communicate with syslog
9
   allow dev_log_t r,w,s;
10 allowcom -unix syslogd_t;
   # allow to use tcp 20 and 21
11
12
   allownet;
13
   allownet -connect;
14
   allownet -tcp -port 20;
15
   allownet -tcp -port 21;
16
   #
17
   allowadm chroot;
18
   }
```

After writing this,

make diffrelabel

Let's review the file.

• Line 5 to 7

These are configuration to access files related to vsftpd. In line 5 and 6, giving access rights to read vsftpd configuration files and ftp public directory.

Pay attention to line 7.

```
allowonly /var/log r,w,s;
```

In this, we want to allow to write /var/log/xferlog. If we could configure,

allow /var/log/xferlog r,w,s;

this would be the best. However, /var/log/xferlog may be deleted by administrater, and when re-created the SELinux label information is lost. So we can not control access to /var/log/xferlog. So we used *allowonly* /var/log r,w,s. In this vsftpd_t can write all files on /var/log/, but can not write files on child directories. This is better than *allow* /var/logr,w,s;(This allows write access to all files under /var/log including child directories). Similally, for /tmp, /var/run, you can not controll access per-file, in those directories, files are deleted and re-created, SElinux label information may be lost.

If you have a enough knowledge of SELinux, you can use *allow file exclusive label;* This configures SELinux's file type transition. You can configure access control to files that are deleted and re-created. For detail see 8.8.1.

• Line 9,10

Those are to communicate syslogd. If you want to communicate with syslogd, always include these two lines.

• Line 12-15

These are to communicate via tcp 20 and 21.

7.1.5 Give access rigths to initrc_t

initrc_t is a type for start up script(/etc/init.d/vsftpd). This requires read access to /etc/vsftpd. But access to this file is denied in global, so you have to allow explicitly.

#add to simplified_policy/initrc_t.a
allow /etc/vsftpd r,s;

Then,

make diffrelabel

7.1.6 Test again

Test in permissive mode and see access log. If no deny is outputted, then test in enforcing mode.

8 Specification of simplified policy language

8.1 Terms

8.1.1 Domain/Role/Global domain

• Domain

Domain is the same as domain in SELinux. It is attached to process by domain transition.

• Role

Role in simplified policy language is simplified. Role is identified with a domain for user shell. In simplified language, we describe access rights for role. In fact, it is giving access rights for user shell of the role. For example, when you give access right for $sysadm_r$, access right is given to $sysadm_t$ (Domain for user shell of $sysadm_r$).

Note that in generated SELinux policy, all roles can type every types. There is no syntax corresponding to *role:x:types:y* in simplified language.

• global domain

Domain that is named *global* is special. Configuration described in global domain is inherited by all domains. For example, if you allow to read /etc in global domain, httpd_t, sendmail_t and all other domains can read /etc.

8.2 Default deny rule

Domain and roles are denied all permissions unless allowed by simplified policy language.

8.3 Structure of configuration by simplified language

Configuration is composed of sections. In each section, access control for domains/roles are described. Section begins with { and ends with }.

8.4 Syntax of section

{ (begin of section)
 domain/role (declare domain or role, one domain or role can be declared in one
 section)
 users (This can be used only for role)
 domain_trans (Configure domain transition)
 allow/deny (Describe access control for files)
 allowxxx (Describe access control for resources other than file)
}

8.5 Declaring domain and role

8.5.1 declare domain

- 1. Syntax domain *domainname*;
- 2. Meaning

Declare domain. All configuration in a section is done for the domain declared by this statement. If *domainname* is *global*, configurations in the section is inherited by all other domains.

3. Constraints

Domain name must end with $_t($ excepting global). This statement can not be used twice in one section.

8.5.2 declare role

- 1. Syntax role *rolename* ;
- 2. Meaning

Declare role. *rolename* is associated to user by using *user* statement as shown below.

3. Constraints rolename must end with _r.

8.6 Configuring RBAC

8.6.1 user

- 1. Syntax user *user name*;
- 2. Meaning Define users who can use the role.
- 3. Example

. . . .

{
role user_r;
user root;
user ynakam;

Above means user root and ynakam can use user_r.

4. Constraints It can be used only section where role is declared.

8.7 Configuring domain transition

8.7.1 domain_trans

- 1. Syntax domain_trans parentdomain filename-of-entrypoint;
- 2. Meaning This defines how domain is attached to process.
- 3. Example

{ domain httpd_t; domain_trans initrc_t /sbin/httpd;

Above means that when process(domain: initrc_t) executes /sbin/httpd, /sbin/httpd runs as httpd_t domain.

8.8 Configuring access control to normal files

8.8.1 allow

. . . .

- 1. Syntax
 - (a) allow filename | label [r], [w], [x], [s];
 - (b) allow *directoryname* exclusive *label*;
- 2. Meaning

- (a) Allow operation to file specified by permissions.
- (b) This is used things corresponding to SELinux's *file_type_auto_trans*. The file created under *directoryname* is identified by the *label*. To allow access to such file, use allow *label* [r],[w],[x],[s]. And if you want to protect file that is deleted and re-created(such as /etc/fstab), you have to use this. The *label* is the same as type in SELinux. When converter finds a file(assume the filename is A) has a type that is named *label*, it includes
 - A system_u:object_r:label

in generated file_contexts.

When file does not exist at the time of configuration, and want to protect file that is deleted/re-created, this is useful. For example, files under /var/run, /tmp, /var/log.

- 3. Meaning of permissions ¹
 - r: read and get attribute
 - w: write
 - x: execute
 - s: For directory, get contents of directory. For file, get attribute.
- 4. Example

domain httpd_t;

allow /var/www r,s;

httpd_t is allowed to read all files and directories under /var/www.

8.8.2 deny

- 1. Syntax deny *filename*;
- 2. Meaning

In normal domain, this is used to cancel allow. For global domain This is used to explicitly deny the access. See examples below.

3. Example

(a) Example 1 { domain httpd_t; ...

¹In [6], problem was pointed out. We are going to re-visit the permission.

```
allow /var r,s;
deny /var/named; ....
httpd_t is allowed to read /var, but denied to read /var/named.
```

(b) Example 2

```
{
domain global;
deny /etc/shadow
...
{
   domain httpd_t;
...
   allow /etc r,s;
...
   httpd_t is allowed to read under /etc, but denied to access /etc/shadow,
   hereave access to /etc/shadow is denied in global. If you have a im
```

because access to /etc/shadow is denied in global. If you have a important file, it is a good idea to describe deny in global.

8.8.3 allowonly

1. Syntax

allowonly *directory name* [r],[w],[x],[s];

2. Meaning

In *allow* access right is inherited by all sub directories. On the other hand, in allowonly access is granted for files in the directory, not granted for sub directories.

3. Example

{

...

. . . .

domain httpd_t;

allowonly /etc r,s;

httpd_t is allowed to read under /etc, but not allowed to access sub directories such as /etc/httpd.

8.8.4 denyonly

1. Syntax

denyonly directory name;

2. Meaning

Deny access is granted for files in the directory, not deny access for sub directories.

8.8.5 Priority of allow, allowonly, deny, denyonly

- 1. For the same directory allow(deny), allowonly(denyonly) in global domain is overwritten by allow(deny), allowonly(denyonly) in normal domain.
 - Ex1) In global:allow /usr/ r; In a_t domain:allowonly /usr/ w; a_t can write to under /usr.
- 2. When allow or deny exists for the child directory, it overwrites allow for parent directory.
 - Ex) In a_t: allow /usr r; allow /usr/local w; a_t can read under /usr including sub directories. But it can write under /usr/local.
- 3. allow or deny for the same directory in the same domain OR operation is processed.

```
Ex1)
{
    domain httpd_t;
    allow /var/www r;
    allow /var/www w;
    httpd_t can read write under /var/www.
Ex2)
    {
```

```
domain httpd_t;
allow /var/www r;
deny /var/www;
httpd_t can not access /var/www.
```

4. More notes about global domain.

To cancel allow/deny in global domain, allow/deny must be explicitly specified.

• Ex1)

In global: deny /etc/shadow; If you want a_t domain to read /etc/shadow, you must specify allow $a_t / etc/shadow r$;.

• Ex2)

In global:allow /usr/local r;

In a_t: allow /usr w;

a_t can not write under /usr/local. If you want write access to /usr/local, you must specify allow a_t /usr/local w;.

- Ex3) global: allowonly /usr/local r; a_t: allow /usr w; a_t is allowonly read for /usr/local.
- 5. GUI will be useful to know which files a domain can access.

8.8.6 Special files

Access to following files are special.

- /dev/tty* /dev/pts /dev/ptmx If you write allow for those file, this does nothing. Access control to these files must be done by allowtty and allowpts.
- /proc, /sysfs, /selinux, /dev/tmpfs
 Allow to these files do nothing, because these files are mounted on filesystems that do not support xattr. For /proc and /sys see allowproc. For /dev/tmpfs see allowtmpfs, and for /selinux see allowadm.

8.9 Configuring access control to network

8.9.1 allownet

- 1. syntax
 - (a) allownet;
 - (b) allownet -connect;
 - (c) allownet -raw;
 - (d) allownet -netlink;
 - (e) allownet -wellknown;
 - (f) allownet (-tcp|-udp) -port *port number*;
 - (g) allownet (-tcp|-udp) -allport;
- 2. meaning

They are related to usage of network.

- (a) Allow to use tcp/ip network. This includes usage of tcp, udp socket, ports more than 1024. Note that to initiate network connection is not allowed. To allow network connection, use allownet -connect. And usage of well-known ports is not allowed.
- (b) Allow to connect network. This means to use *name_connect* and *connect* permission in SELinux.
- (c) Allow to use raw socket. Usage of raw socket is necessary for such as ICMP.
- (d) Allow to use netlink socket (This is used to communicate with kernel).

- (e) This permission is obsolete now. Do nothing. Exists only for compatibility.
- (f) When you want to use well-known port, you have to reserve port by this.

```
Ex)
{
    domain httpd_t;
    allownet -tcp 80;
    ...
    httpd_t has reserved tcp 80 port, and can use it.
```

- (g) Allow to use all unreserved well-known ports.
- 3. Constraints

These can not be canceled once declared. Be careful using in global domain. If you use them in global domain, all domain has specified access right and can not be denied in individual domain.

8.10 Configuring access control to process communication

8.10.1 allowcom (network socket)

- 1. Syntax allowcom -tcp|-udp|-unix todomain;
- 2. Meaning

Controls usage of socket in process communication. If *todomain is global* the domain can communicate with every domain.

3. Example

domain httpd_t; allowcom -unix syslogd_t;

•••

This means httpd_t can communicate with process that has syslogd_t by unix domain socket.

4. Constraints

-tcp and -udp can not be used in kernel 2.6 based SELinux. They do nothing if specified.

8.10.2 allowcom (IPC)

1. Syntax

allowcom -sem|-msg|-msgq|-shm|-pipe to domain [r],[w];

2. Meaning

Allow to communicate with to domain by specified IPC. If to domain is self, this means IPC within domain. If to domain is global the domain can IPC to every domain.

8.10.3 allowcom(Signal)

1. Syntax

allowcom -sig to domain [c],[k],[s],[o];

2. Meaning

Allow to send signal to *to domain*. [c] is sigchld, [k] is sigkill, [s] is sigstop, [o] is other signals. signull is not supported, this means all domains are allowed to use signull.

8.11 Configuring access control to tty/pts devices

8.11.1 allowtty

allowtty is used to control access to tty device files(/dev/tty*). In SELinux environment, tty device files are given label according to login user's role. So tty device files should be treated differently in simplified language.

- 1. Syntax
 - (a) allowtty -create;
 - (b) allowtty role [r],[w];
 - (c) allowtty -change *role*;
- 2. Meaning
 - (a) This is usually used in role section. Allow role to have its own tty device. At the time of login, by login program, role's tty device file is given type *role prefix*_tty_device_t.
 - (b) Allow to read/write *role*'s tty device.
 - (c) Allow to change label of tty device, and rename, unlink.
- 3. Special role

If *role* is *general*, this means tty before labeled(The type is devtty_t and tty_device_t). If *role* is *global*, this means all tty devices.

8.11.2 allowpts

allowpts is used to control access to pseudo tty device files(/dev/pts). Device under /dev/pts is terminal for remote login and login from gdm.

- 1. Syntax
 - (a) allowpts -create;

- (b) allowpts *role* [r],[w];
- (c) allowpts -change *role*;
- 2. Meaning

The meaning the same as allowity except that target is pseudo thy device.

8.12 Configuring access control to /proc file system

8.12.1 allowproc

You can describe access control to procfs and sysfs by allowproc.

- 1. Syntax allowproc -self|-other|-system|-kmsg [r],[w];
- 2. Meaning
 - (a) -self

Access control to /proc/pid. /proc/pid is process information of program running its domain.

- (b) -other This means /proc/pid for other domain's process.
- (c) -system /proc/kcore and /sysfs
- (d) -kmsg /proc/kmsg
- (e) r,wr is for read, w is for write. Domain can read or write above proc/sysfs files.

8.13 Configuring access control to tmpfs

8.13.1 allowtmpfs

- 1. Syntax
 - (a) allowtmpfs -create;
 - (b) allowtmpfs *domain* r|w;
- 2. Meaning
 - (a) Allow to create domain's own file in tmpfs. The created files have type domain_prefix_tmpfs_t, and can not be accessed by other domains unless specified by allowtmpfs(b).
 - (b) Allow access to domain's tmpfs files.If domain is general, allow access to default tmpfs's type(tmpfs_t).If domain is global allow access to all tmpfs.

8.14 Configuring access control other administrative access rights

8.14.1 allowadm

1. Syntax

allowadm [relabel]|[part_relabel]|[getsecurity]|[setenforce]|[load_policy]|[net]|[boot] |[insmod]|[quotaon]|[swapon]| [mount]|[raw_io]|[ptrace]|[chroot]|[search]| [unlabel]| [read] | [write] | [all];

- 2. Meaning
 - (a) relabel

Allow to relabel all files. You must also allow getsecurity.

(b) part_relabel

Allow to relabel files that the domain can write. You must also allow getsecurity.

- (c) getsecurity Allow to get security policy decisions, by accessing /selinux.
- (d) setenforce

Allow to toggle enforcing/permissive mode.

- (e) load_policy Allow to load policy to kernel.
- (f) net

Allow capability *CAP_NET_ADMIN*(Such as administrate NIC, route table).

(g) boot

Allow capability *CAP_SYS_BOOT*. This means allow the usage of reboot system call.

(h) insmod

Allow capability CAP_SYS_MODULE . This means allow to install kernel module.

- (i) quotaon Allow to quotaon.
- (j) swapon Allow to swapon.
- (k) mount Allow to mount device.
- raw_io Allow capability CAP_SYS_RAWIO. This means usage of ioperm, iopl system call and access to /dev/mem.
- (m) ptrace Allow to use ptrace.

(n) chroot

Allow to use chroot.

(o) unlabel

Allow full access to unlabeled files(Files labeled as unlabeled_t or file_t). This also allows access to unsupported file systems. To see what is unsupported see base_policy/genfs_contexts.

(p) search

Allow s permission to all files.

(q) read

Allow r permission to all files.

(r) write Allow w permission to all files.(s) all Allows EVERYTHING!!

8.15 conflict in global and domain

For allow excepting allow for file, allow can not be canceled once declared. Be careful using in global domain. If you use them in global domain, all domain has specified access right and can not denied in individual domain.

9 Contact us

For comment, suggestion, feedback, please send e-mail to seedit-admin@lists.sourceforge.net

10 TODO

- Review security of simplified policy language. Problems are pointed out such as access control to devices and permissions for file.
- Review and unify syntax
- Extend language to be able to include raw SELinux policy
- Support deny syntax for access control other than file.
- Prepare tutorial.

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