eBPF
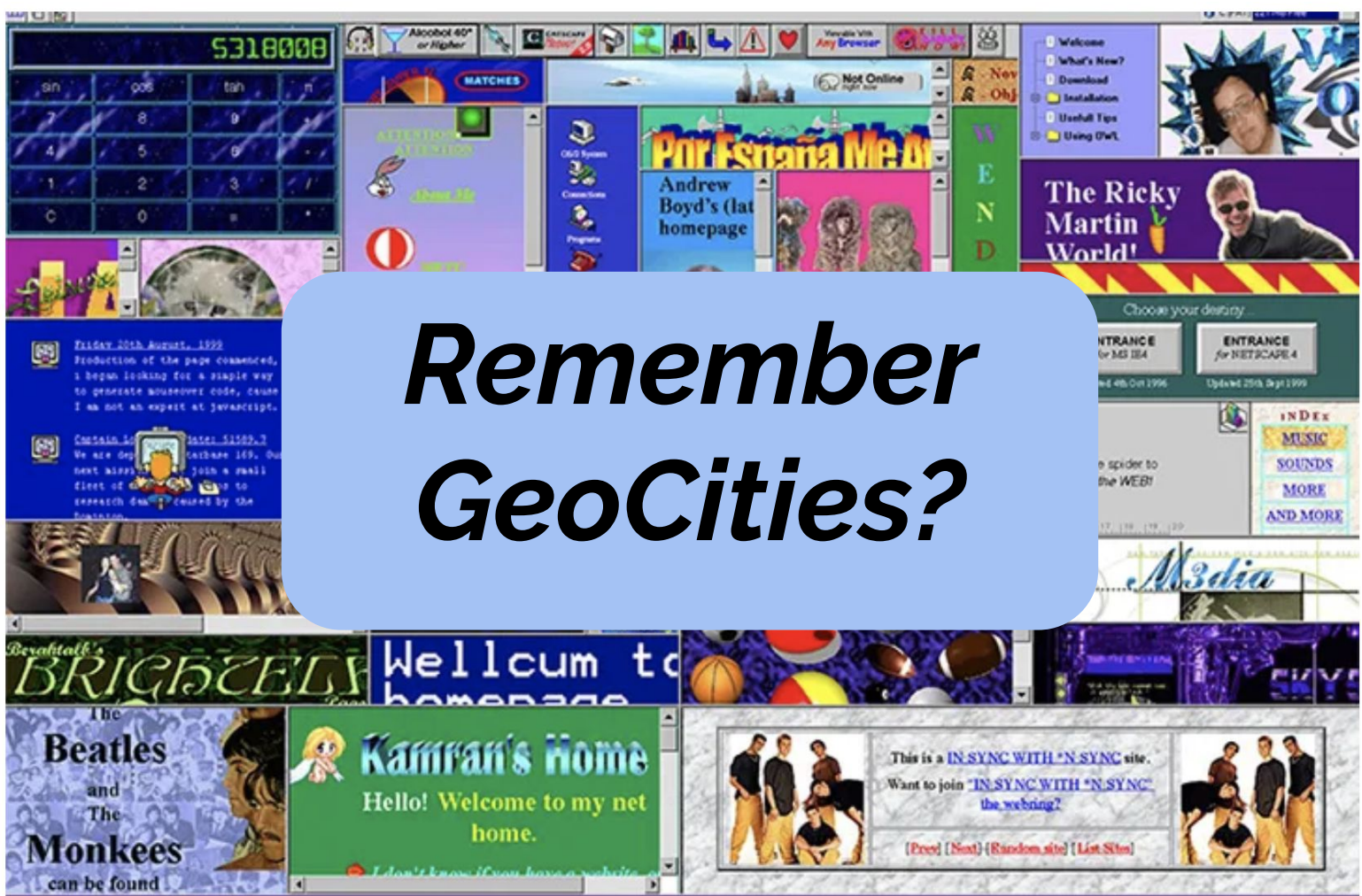# Rethinking the Linux kernel

Thomas Graf
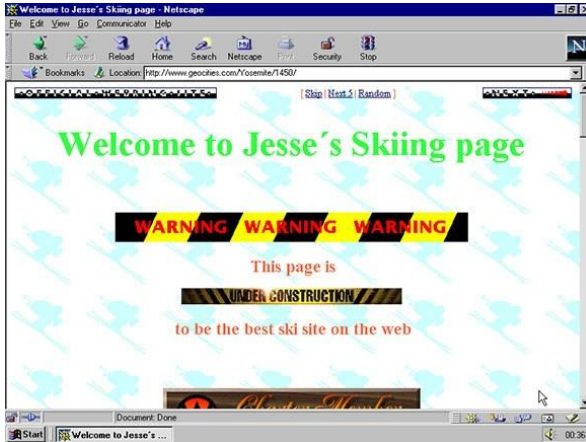*Cilium Project, Co-Founder & CTO, Isovalent*

Remember GeoCities?

Cameron Askin: Cameron's World
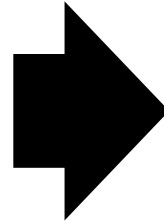
2

What enabled this evolution?

Markup Only (HTML)

```
Network Working Group                          T. Berners-Lee
Request for Comments: 1866                           MIT/W3C
Category: Standards Track                        D. Connolly
                                               November 1995


                Hypertext Markup Language - 2.0

Status of this Memo
```
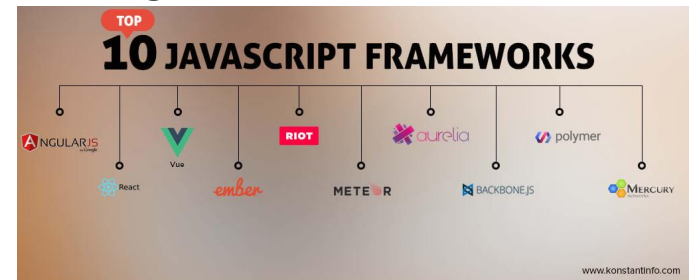
Programmable Platform

Programmability Essentials

Safety

Untrusted code runs in the browser of the user.

→ *Sandboxing*

Continuous Delivery

Allow evolution of logic without requiring to constantly ship new browser versions.
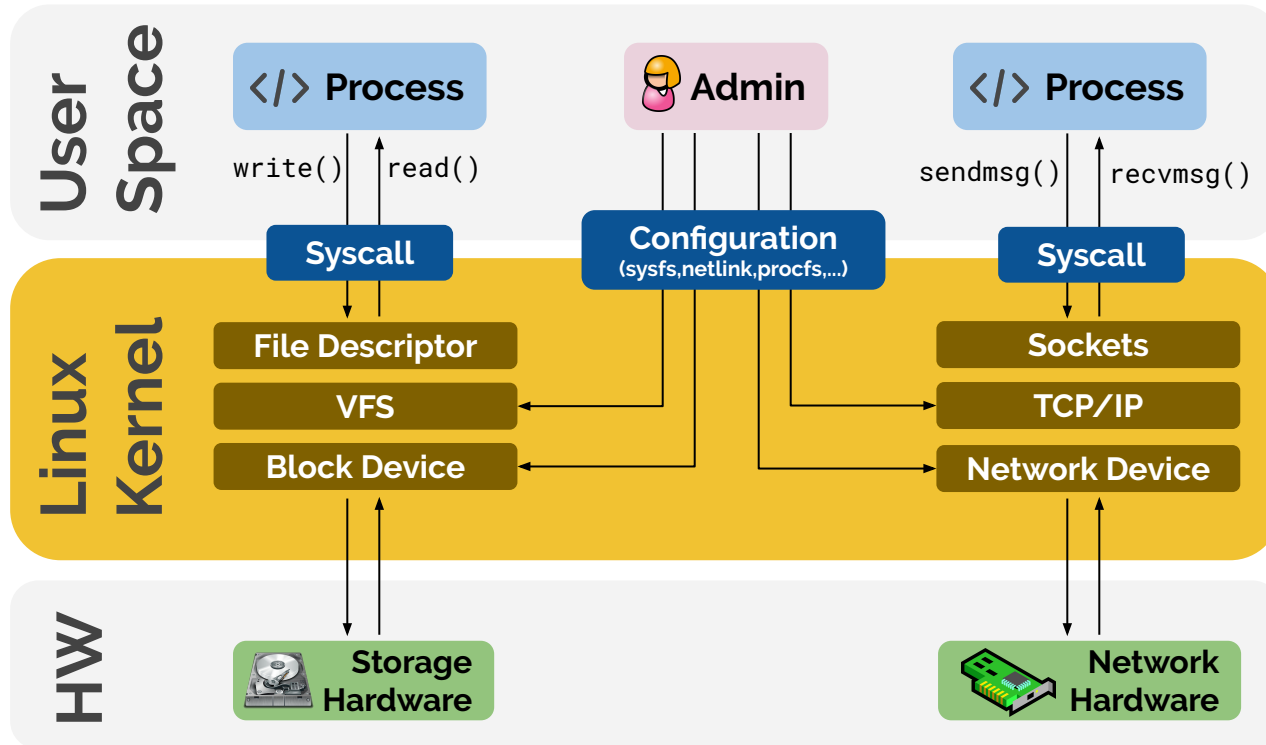
→ *Deploy anytime with seamless upgrades*

Performance

Programmability must be provided with minimal overhead.

→ *Native Execution (JIT compiler)*

Kernel Architecture

User Space

`</>` **Process**

`</>` **Process**

Admin

write()   read()

sendmsg()   recvmsg()

Syscall

Configuration
(sysfs,netlink,procfs,...)

Syscall

Linux Kernel

File Descriptor

Sockets

VFS

TCP/IP

Block Device

Network Device

HW

Storage Hardware

Network Hardware

Kernel Development 101

Option 1
Native Support

- Change kernel source code
- Expose configuration API
- Wait 5 years for your users to upgrade

Cons:

Option 2
Kernel Module

- Write kernel module
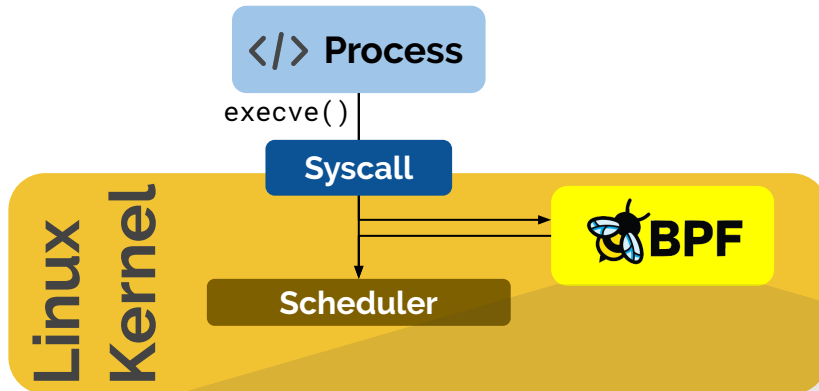- Every kernel release will break it

Cons:

- You likely need to ship a different module for each kernel version
- Might crash your kernel

6

How about we add JavaScript-like capabilities to the Linux Kernel?
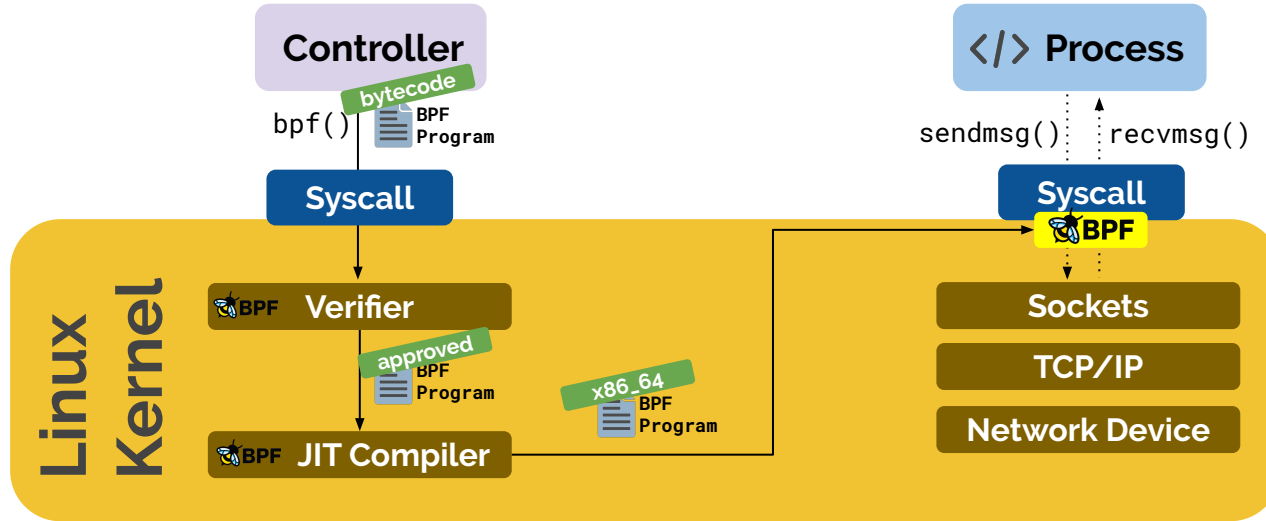
```
int syscall__ret_execve(struct pt_regs *ctx)
{
        struct comm_event event = {
                .pid = bpf_get_current_pid_tgid() >> 32,
                .type = TYPE_RETURN,
        };

        bpf_get_current_comm(&event.comm, sizeof(event.comm));
        comm_events.perf_submit(ctx, &event, sizeof(event));

        return 0;
}
```

eBPF Runtime

Safety & Security
The verifier will reject any unsafe program and provides a sandbox.
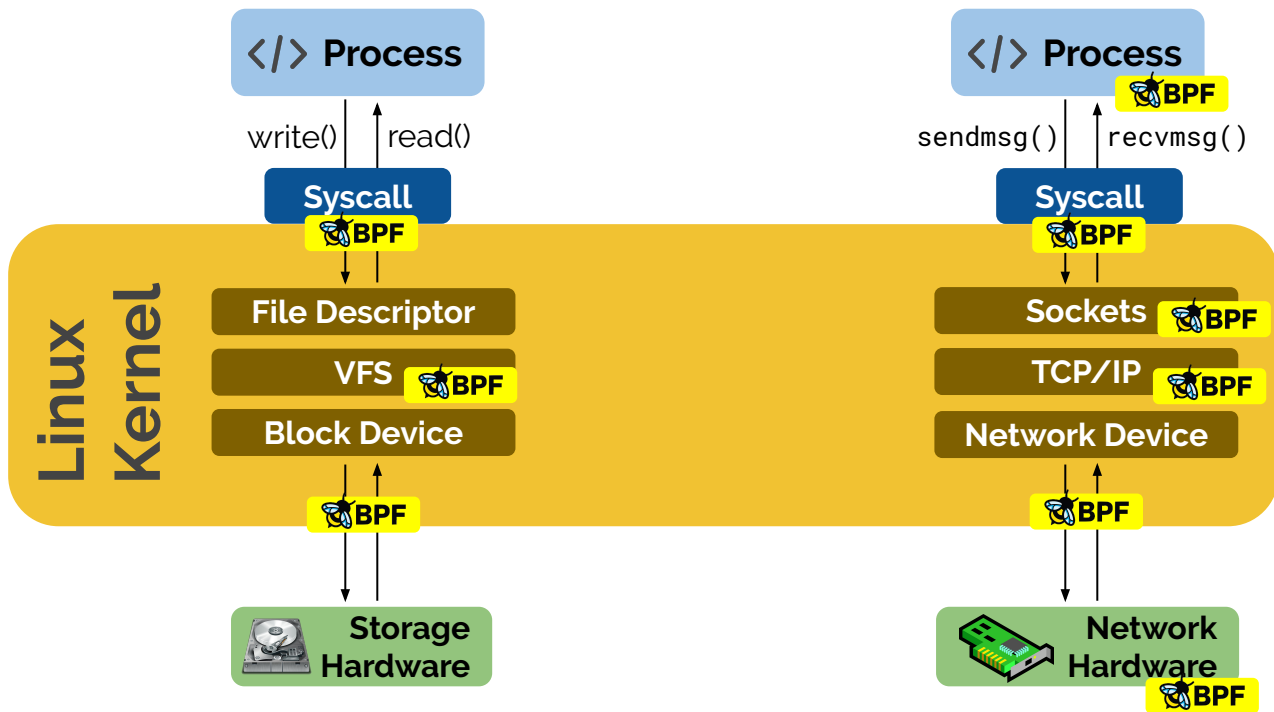
Continuous Delivery
Programs can be exchanged without disrupting workloads.
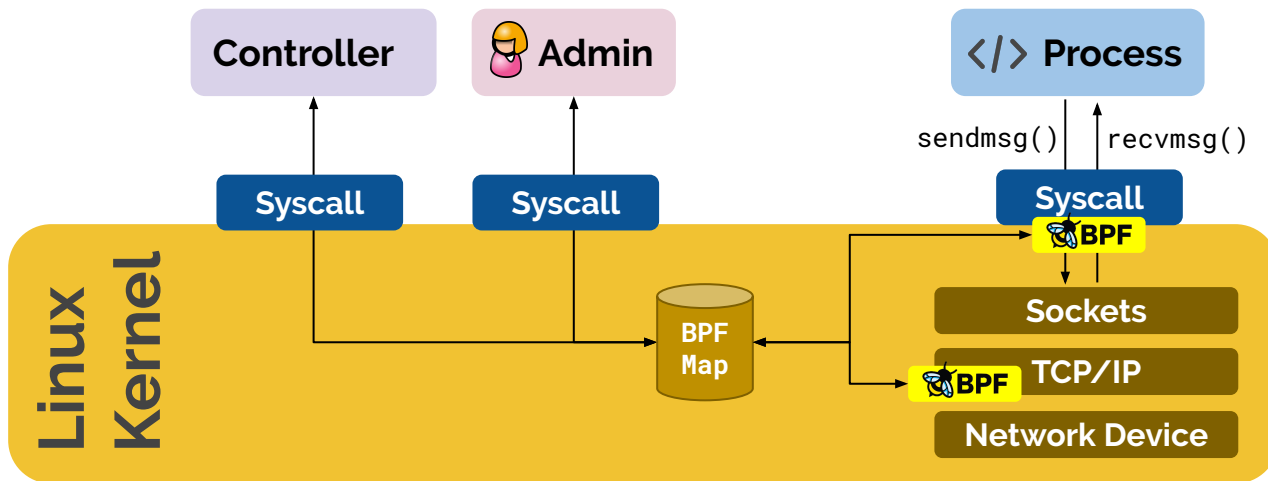
Performance
The JIT compiler ensures native execution performance.

eBPF Hooks

Where can you hook? kernel functions (kprobes), userspace functions (uprobes), system calls, fentry/fexit, tracepoints, network devices (tc/xdp), network routes, TCP congestion algorithms, sockets (data level)

eBPF Maps

Controller

👩 **Admin**

`</>` **Process**

`sendmsg()` `recvmsg()`

Syscall

Syscall

Syscall

🐝 **BPF**

Linux Kernel

BPF Map

Sockets

🐝 **BPF** **TCP/IP**

Network Device

Map Types:
- Hash tables, Arrays
- LRU (Least Recently Used)
- Ring Buffer
- Stack Trace
- LPM (Longest Prefix match)

What are Maps used for?

- Program state
- Program configuration
- Share data between programs
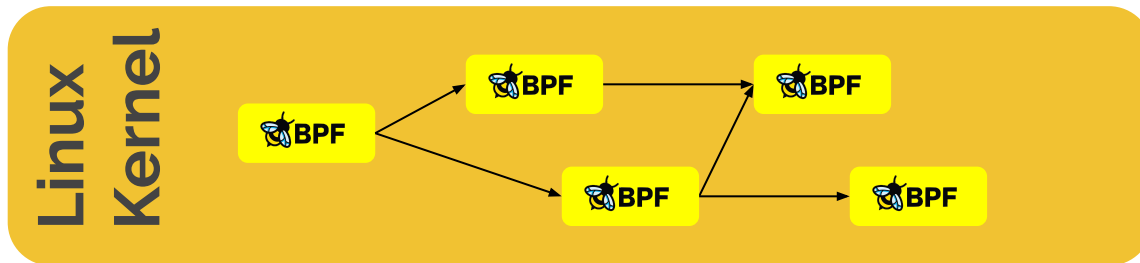- Share state, metrics, and statistics with user space

12

eBPF Helpers

〈/〉 Process

sendmsg()   recvmsg()

Syscall
🐝**BPF**

Linux Kernel

```
[...]
num = bpf_get_prandom_u32();
[...]
```

Sockets

🐝**BPF** **TCP/IP**

Network Device

What helpers exist?
- Random numbers
- Get current time
- Map access
- Get process/cgroup context
- Manipulate network packets and forwarding

- Access socket data
- Perform tail call
- Access process stack
- Access syscall arguments
- ...

eBPF Tail and Function Calls

Linux Kernel

What are Tail Calls used for?

- Chain programs together
- Split programs into independent logical components
- Make BPF programs composable

What are Functions Calls used for?

- Reuse functionality inside of a program
- Reduce program size (avoid inlining)

eBPF *Community*

287 contributors:
(Jan 2016 to Jan 2020)

- 466 Daniel Borkmann (Cilium; maintainer)
- 290 Andrii Nakryiko (Facebook)
- 279 Alexei Starovoitov (Facebook; maintainer)
- 217 Jakub Kicinski (Facebook)
- 173 Yonghong Song (Facebook)
- 168 Martin KaFai Lau (Facebook)
- 159 Stanislav Fomichev (Google)
- 148 Quentin Monnet (Cilium)
- 148 John Fastabend (Cilium)
- 118 Jesper Dangaard Brouer (Red Hat)
- […]

eBPF Projects

Katran
High-performance L4 Loadbalancer

facebookincubator/katran

Cilium
Networking, security and load-balancing for k8s

cilium/cilium

bcc, bpftrace
Performance troubleshooting & profiling

iovisor/bcc

Android & Security
kernel runtime security instrumentation (KRSI), Android BPF loader, eBPF traffic monitor

Traffic Optimization
DDoS mitigation, QoS, traffic optimization, load balancer

cloudflare/bpftools

Falco
Container runtime security, behavior analysis

falcosecurity/falco

Tracing & Profiling with eBPF

Python
BPF Program

BCC

Process

sendmsg() recvmsg()

Syscall

Syscall

BPF

Linux Kernel

BPF Verifier

BPF JIT Compiler
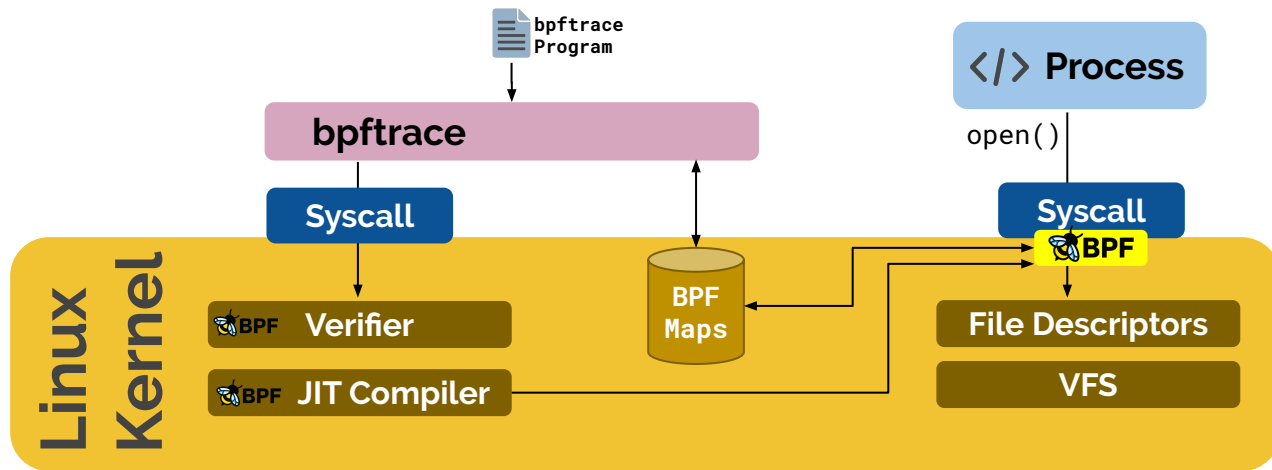
BPF Maps

Sockets

TCP/IP

BCC:
github.com/iovisor/bcc

```
# tcptop
Tracing... Output every 1 secs. Hit Ctrl-C to end
<screen clears>
19:46:24 loadavg: 1.86 2.67 2.91 3/362 16681

PID    COMM       LADDR               RADDR                     RX_KB  TX_KB
16648  16648      100.66.3.172:22     100.127.69.165:6684           1      0
16647  sshd       100.66.3.172:22     100.127.69.165:6684           0   2149
14374  sshd       100.66.3.172:22     100.127.69.165:25219          0      0
14458  sshd       100.66.3.172:22     100.127.69.165:7165           0      0
```

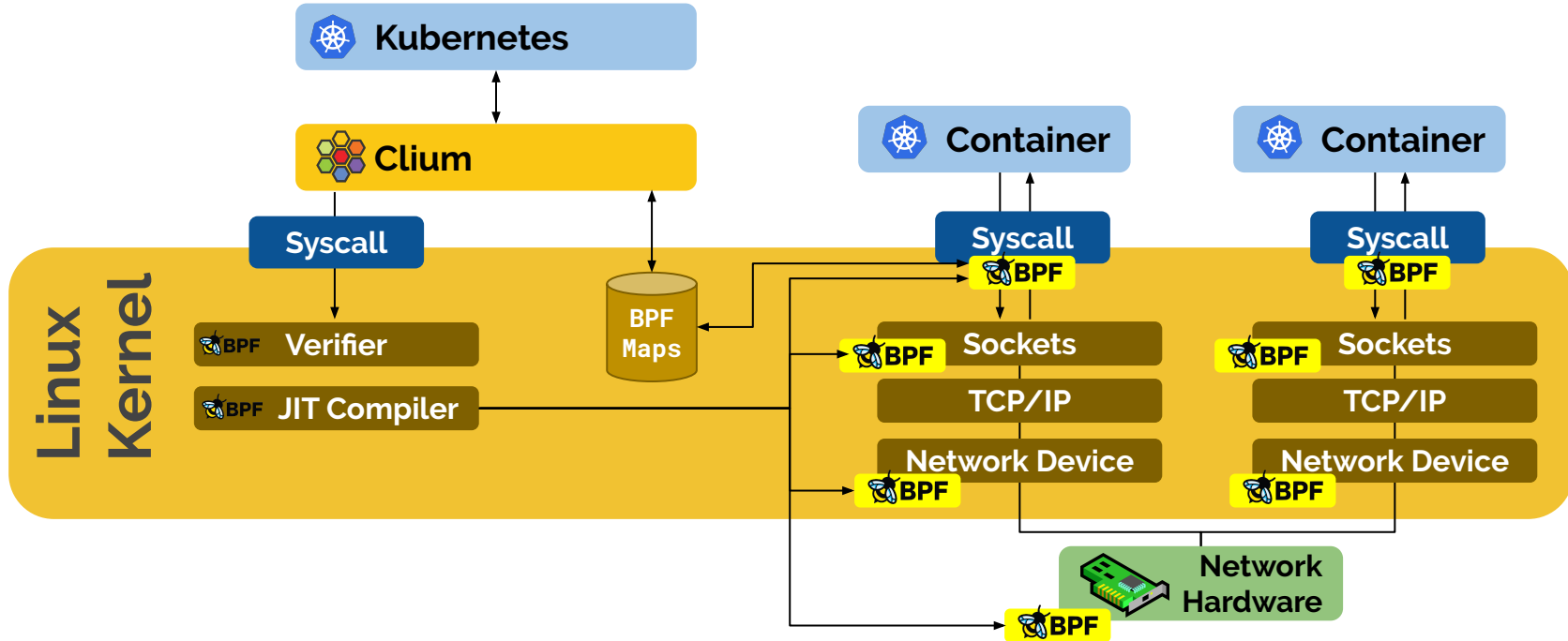# *bpftrace - DTrace for Linux*

bpftrace:
github.com/iovisor/bpftrace

```
# bpftrace -e 'kprobe:do_sys_open { printf("%s: %s\n", comm, str(arg1)) }'
Attaching 1 probe...
git: .git/objects/da
git: .git/objects/pack
git: /etc/localtime
systemd-journal: /var/log/journal/72d0774c88dc4943ae3d34ac356125dd
DNS Res~ver #15: /etc/hosts
^C
```

Networking, load-balancing and security for Kubernetes

cilium

Container Networking

- Highly efficient and flexible networking
- Routing, Overlay, Cloud-provider native
- IPv4, IPv6, NAT46
- Multi cluster routing

Service Load balancing:

- Highly scalable L3-L4 load balancing
- Kubernetes services (replaces kube-proxy)
- Multi-cluster
- Service affinity (prefer zones)

Container Security

- Identity-based network security
- API-aware security (HTTP, gRPC, Kafka, Cassandra, memcached, ..)
- DNS-aware policies
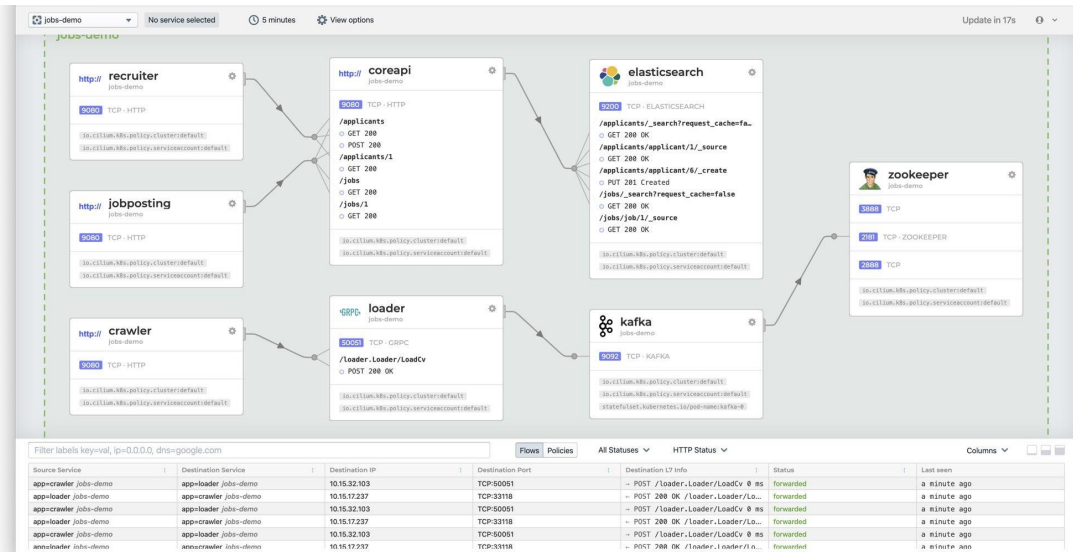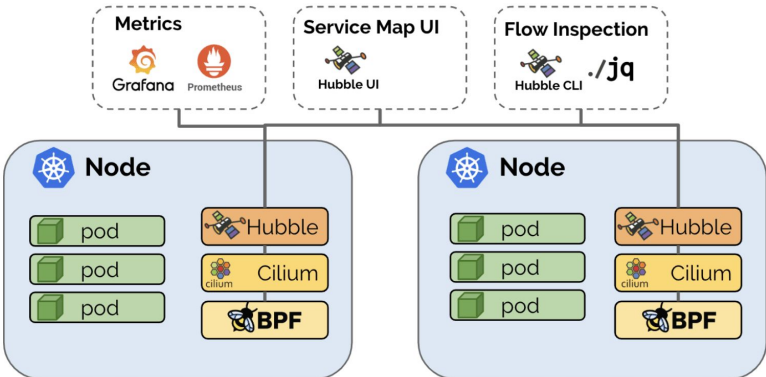- Encryption
- SSL data visibility via kTLS

Visibility

- Service topology map & live visualization
- Advanced network metrics & alerting

Servicemesh:

- Minimize overhead when injecting servicemesh sidecar proxies
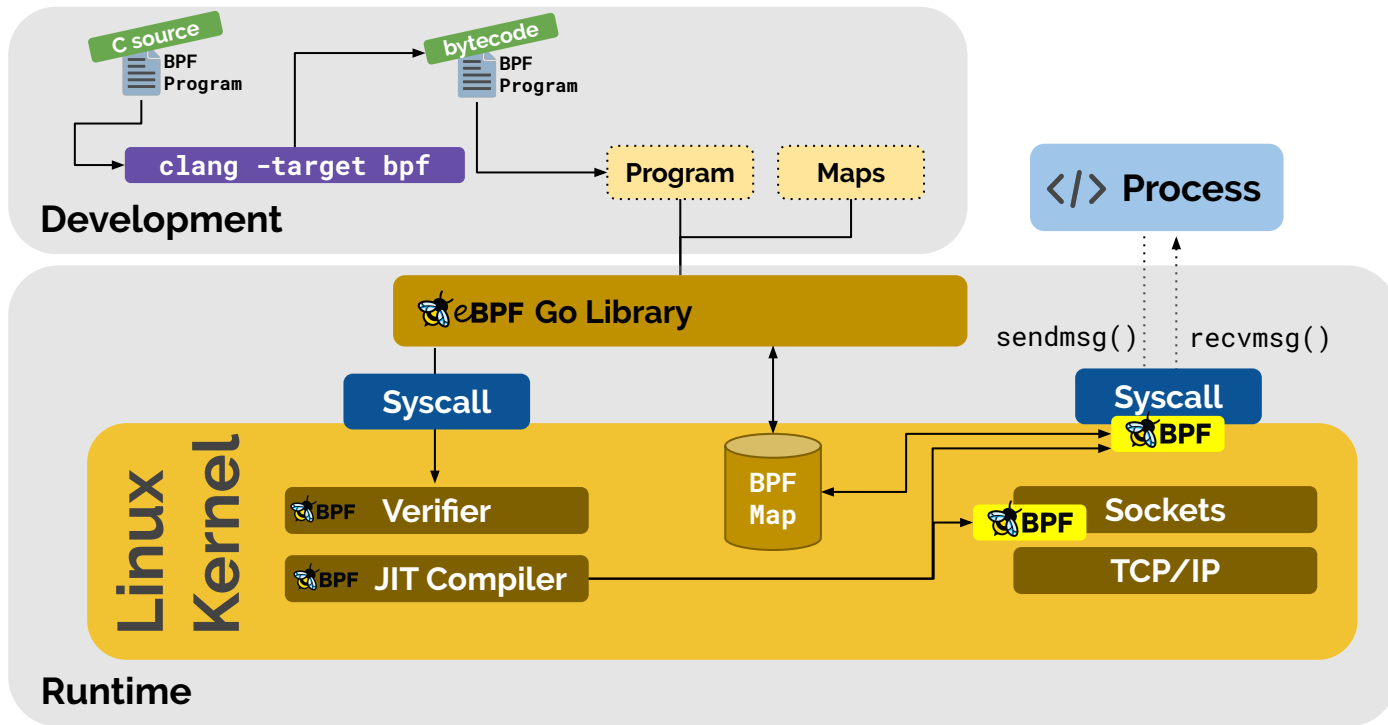- Istio integration

Hubble: eBPF Visibility for Kubernetes


```
# hubble observe --since=1m -t l7 -j \
    | jq 'select(.l7.dns.rcode==3) | .destination.namespace + "/" + .destination.pod_name' \
    | sort | uniq -c | sort -r
  42 "starwars/jar-jar-binks-6f5847c97c-qmggv"
```

Go Development Toolchain

Go Library: https://github.com/cilium/ebpf

Outlook: Future of 🐝eBPF

🐝**eBPF** **is turning the Linux kernel into a microkernel.**

- An increasing amount of new kernel functionality is implemented with eBPF.
- 100% modular and composable.
- New additions can evolve at a rapid pace. Much quicker than normal kernel development.

Example: The linux kernel is not aware of containers and microservices (it only knows about namespaces). 🔷Cilium is making the Linux kernel container and ⎈Kubernetes aware.

🐝**eBPF** **could enable the Linux kernel hotpatching we always dreamed about.**

Problem:
- Linux kernel vulnerability requires to patch kernel.
- Rebooting 20'000 servers takes a very long time without risking extensive downtime.

Thank You

eBPF Maintainers
Daniel Borkmann, Alexei Starovoitov
Cilium Team
André Martins, Jarno Rajahalme, Joe Stringer, John Fastabend, Maciej Kwiek, Martynas Pumputis, Paul Chaignon, Quentin Monnet, Ray Bejjani, Tobias Klauser
Facebook Team
Andrii Nakryiko, Andrey Ignatov, Jakub Kicinski, Martin KaFai Lau, Roman Gushchin, Song Liu, Yonghong Song
Google Team
Chenbo Feng, KP Singh, Lorenzo Colitti, Maciej Żenczykowski, Stanislav Fomichev,
BCC & bpftrace
Alastair Robertson, Brendan Gregg, Brenden Blanco
Kernel Team
Björn Töpel, David S. Miller, Edward Cree, Jesper Brouer, Toke Høiland-Jørgensen

- **BPF Getting Started Guide**
  BPF and XDP Reference Guide
- **Cilium**
  github.com/cilium/cilium
- **Twitter**
  @ciliumproject
- **Contact the speaker**
  @tgraf__