

The Race to Build a Secure Operating System

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In response to the continuous compromise of networks, multiple countries have begun developing secure platforms and operating systems. Computer companies, university researchers, defense R&D contractors and militaries around the world recognize the criticality of networks and embedded processors within their equipment. They also recognize how vulnerable they are and that's why so much attention is being given to building in security at every level of the system including the operating system.

As discussed here, China's Trusted Computing Platform (TCP) program has been underway for some time now and can be traced back to the early 2000s. The Chinese TCP includes multiple layers of built-in security, as well as trusted computing components at the chip operating system level and the machine operating system level.

European Union

Early in 2009 a Dutch university was awarded a grant for \$3.3 million from the European Research Council to fund 5 more years of work on a Unix derivative version operating system called Minix. This research effort is designed to be more resilient and secure than either Linux or Windows. The most impressive feature in Minix is said to be its self healing feature.

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