NAME

prof_attr − profile description database

SYNOPSIS

/etc/security/prof_attr

DESCRIPTION

/etc/security/prof_attr is a local source for execution profile names, descriptions, and other attributes of execution profiles. The **prof_attr** file can be used with other profile sources, including the **prof_attr** NIS map and NIS+ table. Programs use the **getprofattr**(3) routines to gain access to this information.

The search order for multiple **prof_attr** sources is specified in the **/etc/nsswitch.conf** file, as described in the **nsswitch.conf**(4) man page.

An execution profile is a mechanism used to bundle together the commands and authorizations needed to peform a specific function. Each entry in the **prof_attr** database consists of one line of text containing five fields separated by colons (:). Line continuations using the backslash (\) character are permitted. The format of each entry is:

```
profname:res1:res2:desc:attr
```

profname The name of the profile. Profile names are case-sensitive.

res1 Reserved for future use.

res2 Reserved for future use.

desc A long description. This field should explain the purpose of the profile, including what type of user would be interested in using it. The long description should be suitable for displaying in the help text of an application.

attr An optional list of semicolon (;) separated key-value pairs that describe the security attributes to apply to the object upon execution. Zero or more keys may be specified. There are two valid keys, **help** and **auths**.

help identifies a help file in HTML. Help files can be read by a web browser using the URL: *file:/usr/lib/help/profiles/locale/C/index.html*.

auths specifies a comma-separated list of authorization names chosen from those names defined in the **auth_attr**(4) database. Authorization names may be specified using the asterisk (*) character as a wildcard.

EXAMPLE

The following entry allows the user to execute all commands.

All:::Use this profile to give a :help=All.html

With the following **nsswitch.conf** entry, the local **prof_attr** file is consulted before the NIS+ table.

prof_attr: files nisplus

FILES

/etc/nsswitch.conf

/etc/security/prof_attr

CAVEATS

When deciding which authorization source to use (see **DESCRIPTION),** keep in mind that NIS+ provides stronger authentication than NIS.

The root user is usually defined in local databases because root needs to be able to log in and do system maintenance in single-user mode and at other times when the network name service databases are not available. So that the profile definitions for root can be located at such times, root's profiles should be defined in the local **prof_attr** file, and the order shown in the example **nsswitch.conf**(4) file entry under **EXAMPLE** is highly recommended.

Because the list of legal keys is likely to expand, any code that parses this database must be written to ignore unknown key-value pairs without error. When any new keywords are created, the names should be prefixed with a unique string, such as the company's stock symbol, to avoid potential naming conflicts.

Each application has its own requirements for whether the **help** value must be a relative pathname ending with a filename or the name of a file. The only known requirement is for the name of a file.

The following characters are used in describing the database format and must be escaped with a backslash if used as data: colon (:), semicolon (;), equals (=), and backslash (\).

SEE ALSO

auths(1), **profiles**(1), **getprofattr**(3), **getauthattr**(3), **getprofattr**(3), **getuserattr**(3), **auth_attr**(4), **exec_attr**(4), **user_attr**(4)