

# Re: Of mice and men

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2005-05/msg00253.html>

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- *From:* [mwojcik@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mwojcik@xxxxxxxxxxxxx) (Michael Wojcik)
  - *Date:* 9 May 2005 17:44:57 GMT
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In article <irUee.3045\$w15.2716@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "jce" <defaultuser@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:  
>  
> Someone could download something, install something as a root user and be  
> totally oblivious to the fact that now their machine has a security hole.  
> Or is that impossible? Maybe they've fixed this up now, I don't hack so I  
> don't really know.

Making it impossible for the superuser on a Unix system to create security holes would make that OS no longer Unix. While some Unix variants have reduced superuser privileges in limited ways (eg the "immutable" file permissions bit), creating a "perfectly secure" superuser would result in an OS that didn't even resemble Unix, much less conform to the standard.

Unix isn't perfectly secure. It's not even very secure, compared to, say, Plan 9 or OS/400 (when those are administered correctly). It's often more secure than Windows, because Windows is often used in a completely insecure manner.

And yes, users are often the weakest link. They assign trust where it isn't warranted. They have poor data hygiene. They're susceptible to social engineering. They're careless, forgetful, lazy; they take shortcuts. They're frequently confused or wrong about proper security practices. They're often deliberately malicious.

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"We are facing a dire shortage of clowns," said Erickson, also known as Jingles.

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- *References:*
    - ◆ *Of mice and men*
      - ◇ *From:* Pete Dashwood
    - ◆ *Re: Of mice and men*

Re: Of mice and men

◇ *From:* Donald Tees

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* Pete Dashwood

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* jce

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◇ *From:* Pete Dashwood

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◇ *From:* Donald Tees

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◇ *From:* jce

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* Donald Tees

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* jce

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* Richard

◆ ***Re: Of mice and men***

◇ *From:* jce

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