

Policies vs. Mechanisms

- Many scientists (e.g., Hansen) have argued for a separation of policy vs. mechanism
- A security policy indicates *what* a secure system accomplishes
- A security mechanism indicates *how* these goals are accomplished
- E.g.,
 - Policy: in a file system, only authorized individuals allowed to access files (i.e., CIA properties)
 - Mechanism: Encryption, capabilities, etc.