

PROJECT MAC

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Computer Systems Research Division

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THE COMPUTER SYSTEM SECURITY PROJECT

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Our project to engineer a security kernel for Multics seems to have acquired the nickname "Certification Project". It would be less confusing if we used some other nickname, as certification emphasizes the one aspect of computer security assurance on which we are not working. In fact, the word "certification" probably ought to be one of the more infrequently used terms in CSR theses, RFCs, TRs, and papers, as we probably have little to say about issuing certificates of acceptability. We are working on making possible the verification of security properties that is prerequisite to the certification of acceptability for a particular application.

A suggestion is that the object that we are engineering be called the "Multics Information Sharing Kernel" (MISK?), and that the activity have the nickname "Kernel Design Project".

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