

# GRAPHENE

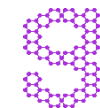
Graphene v1.0: Toward A Reliable,  
Open-Source Library OS for SGX

CHIA-CHE TSAI  
TEXAS A&M /  
GRAPHENE PROJECT

# This Talk Includes:

---

1. WHAT's Graphene, WHY, and HOW
2. Latest updates
3. Our future roadmap



GRAPHENE

# SGX Is Not For “Dummies”

---

## Developing a SGX application is hard

- Setup and configuration
- Porting legacy code
- OS interfaces and libraries
- Security implications
- Debug and performance tuning

**You have to be a:  
system admin  
+ Linux/libc maintainer  
+ security expert  
+ computer architect?**



GRAPHENE

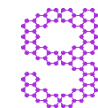


# What IS Graphene?

---

A system that runs unmodified\* Linux apps on platforms like SGX.

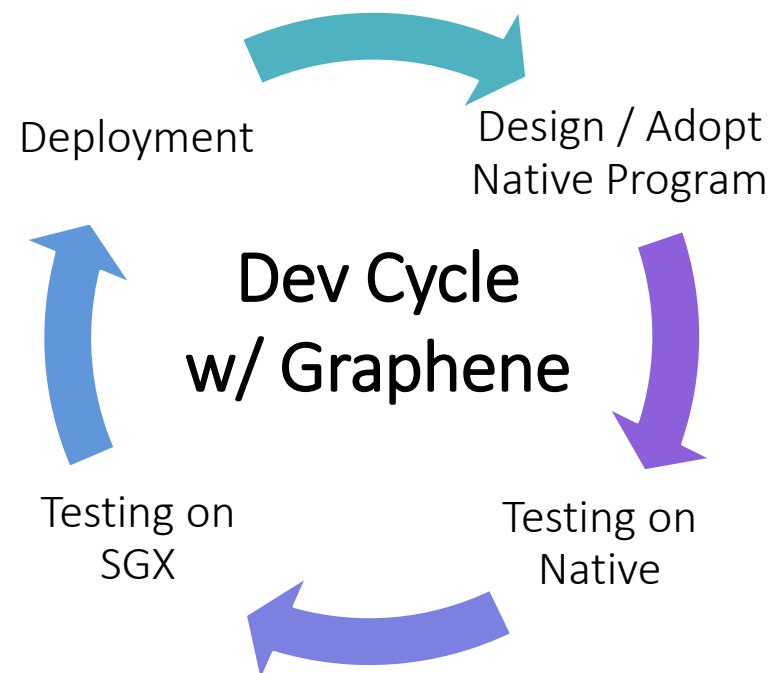
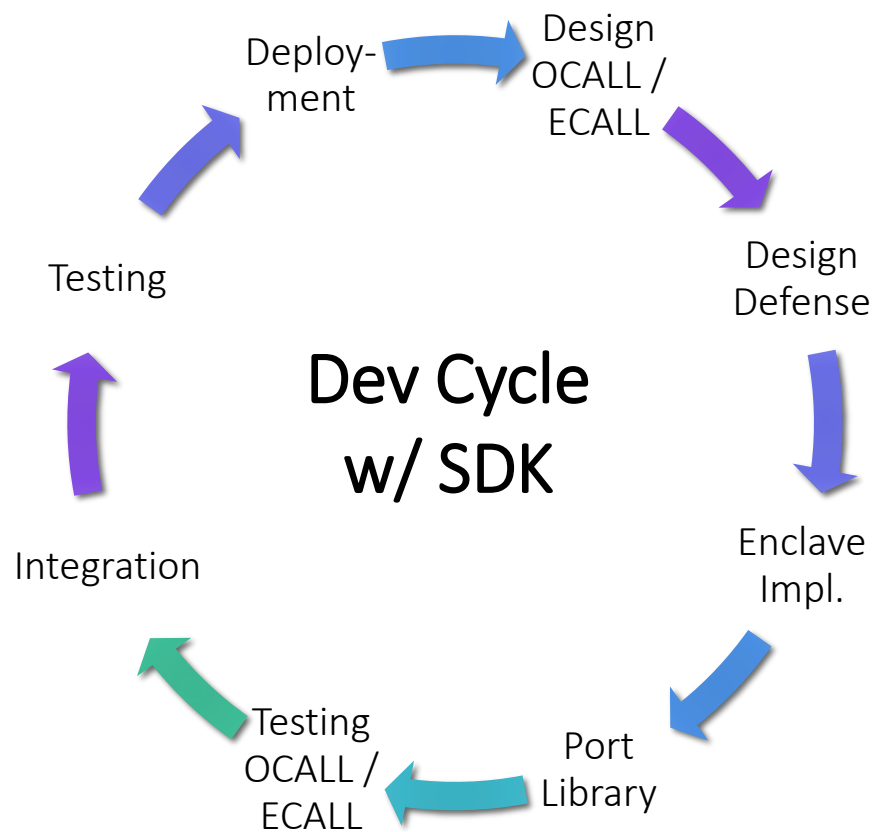
\* Native binaries, no code change, no recompile



GRAPHENE

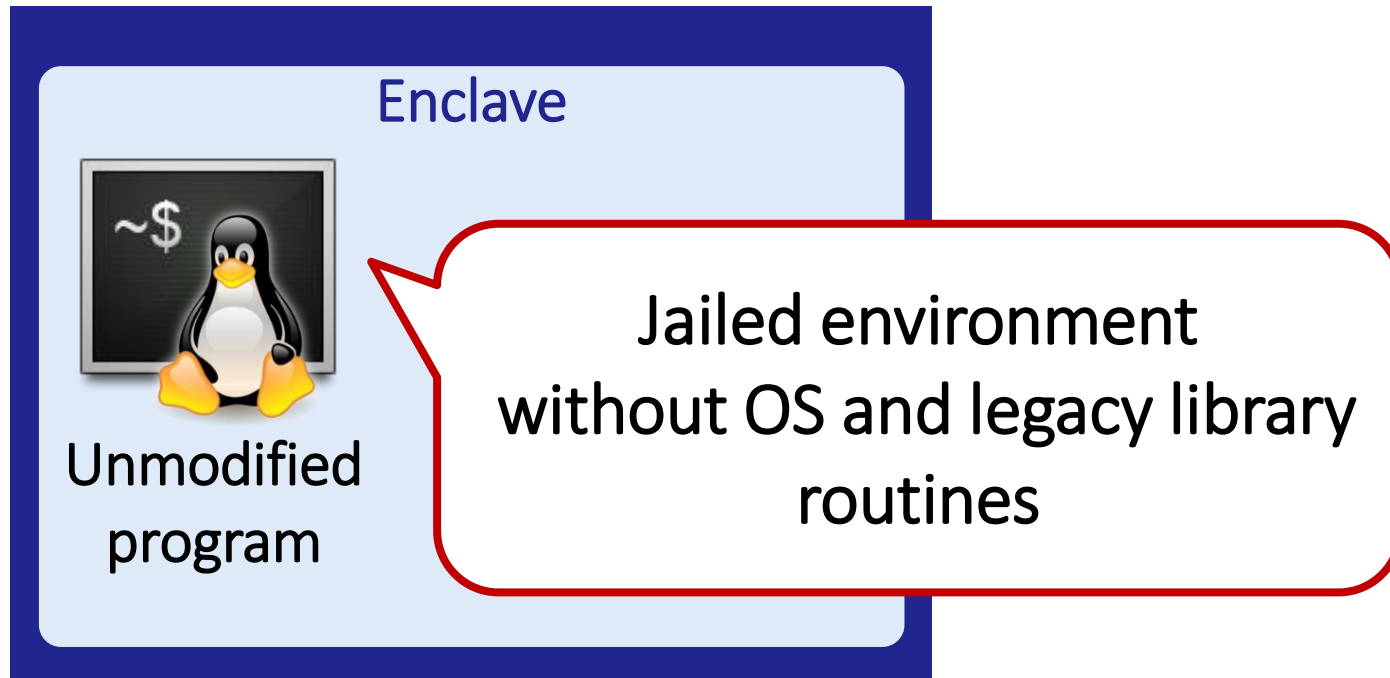
# Can We Improve the Dev Cycles?

---



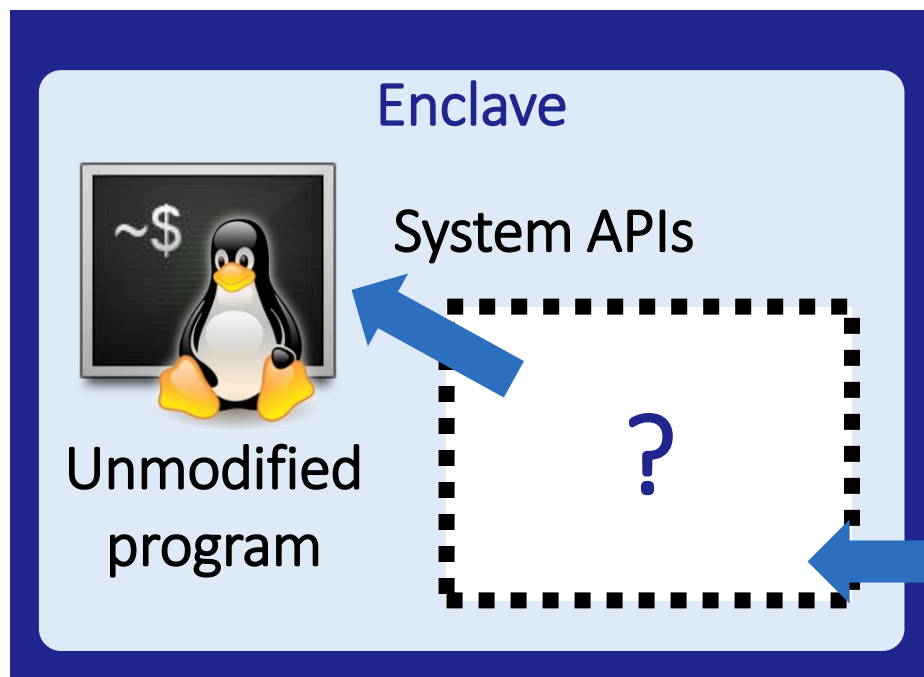
# The LibOS Approach

---



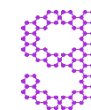
# The LibOS Approach

---



Broadly speaking,  
lots of SGX frameworks qualify  
for this definition  
(Haven, SCONE, SGX-LKL, ...)

Untrusted  
Host OS

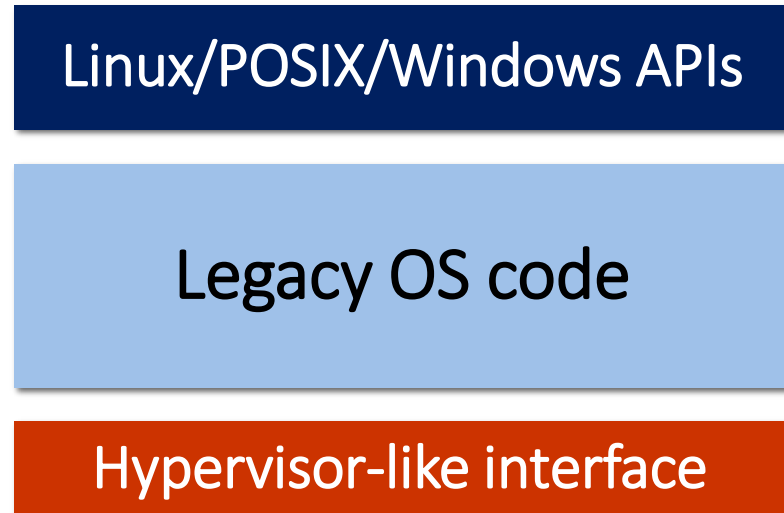


GRAPHENE

# How Are “LibOSes” Generally Built?

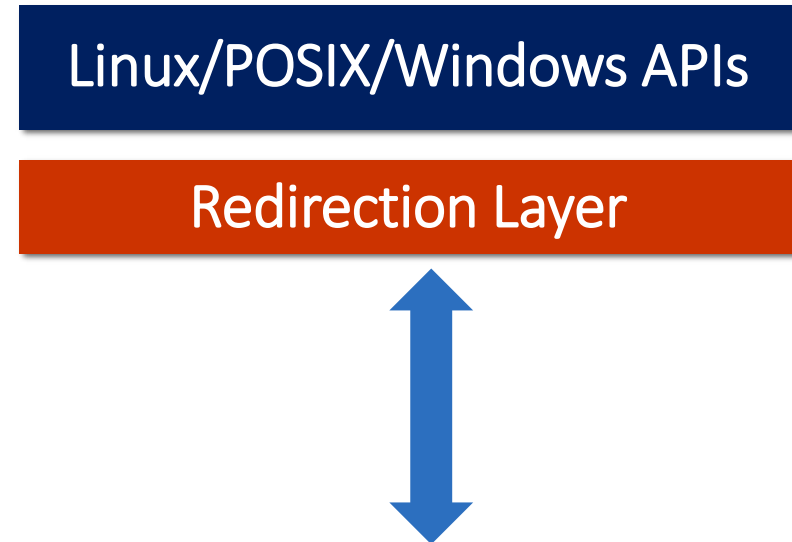
---

## Haven / SGX-LKL



Untrusted Host OS

## SCONE



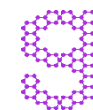
Untrusted Host OS



# How is Graphene Different?

---

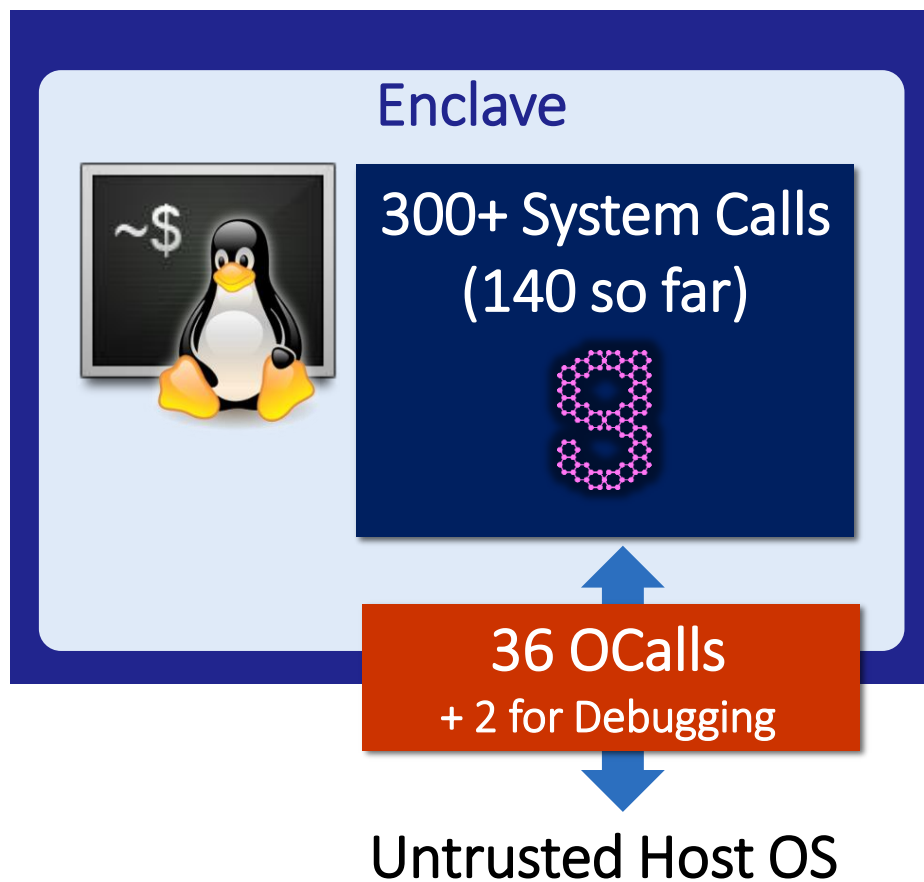
1. Host interface defined with portability and security in mind
2. Rich functionality for Linux apps



GRAPHENE

# Graphene: A Tailored LibOS

---

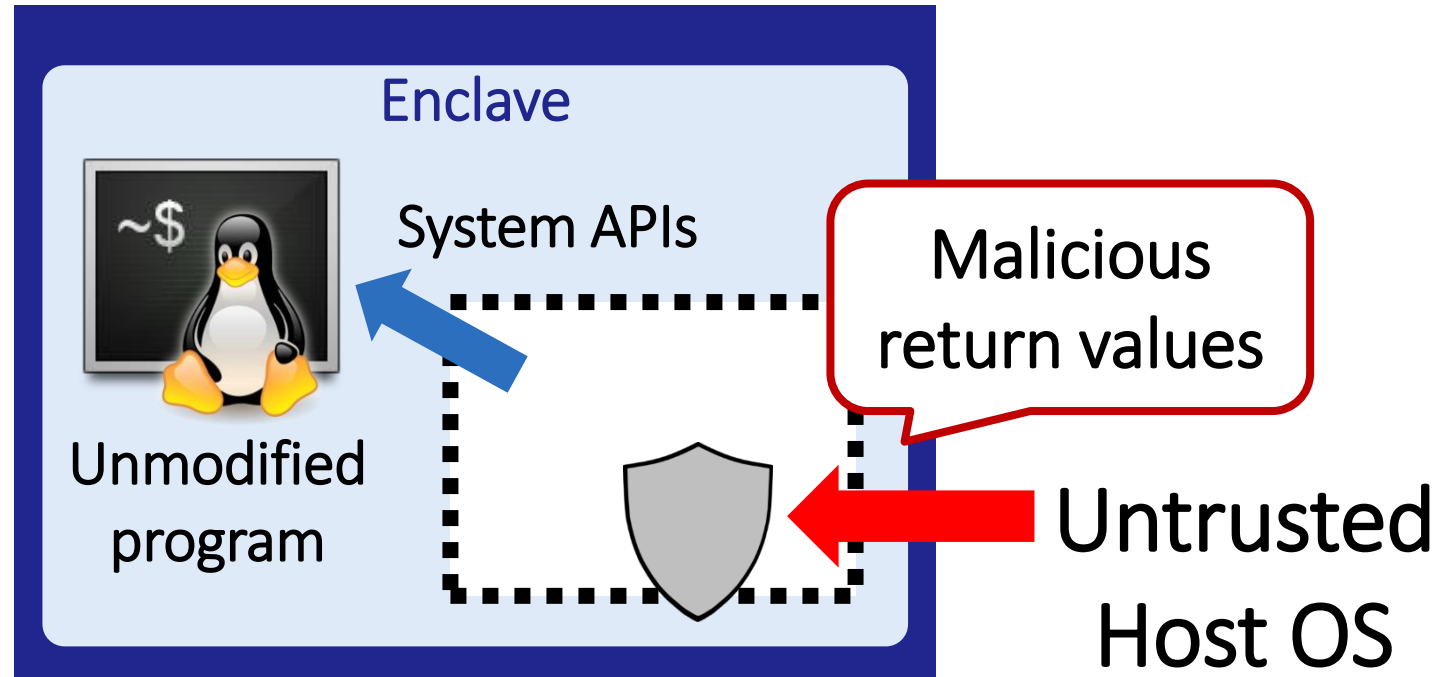


Step 1.  
Define a host interface

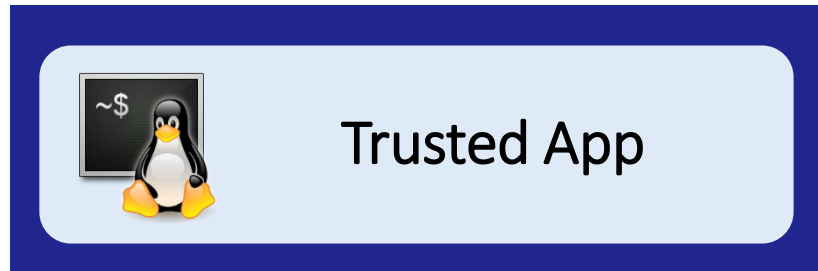
Step 2.  
Reimplement Linux APIs from scratch

# Why Host Interface Matters?

---



# Iago Attacks [ASPLOS 2013]



By SGX / Inktag / Overshadow /  
Nexus / Virtual Ghost / ...

getpid()

gettimeofday()



App uses malicious results for  
sensitive operations:

Example:

Seed the RNG with (PID|TIME)

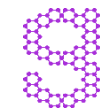


GRAPHENE

# In A Nutshell

---

lago attacks are semantics vulnerabilities  
caused by mistrusting legacy APIs



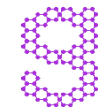
GRAPHENE

# More Examples

---

## lago attacks are pervasive and often hard to mitigate

- File system metadata
- System time
- IPC (signals, message queues, shared memory)
- Scheduling
- System info (/proc, /sys, getrusage)
- Exception handling

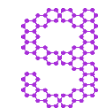




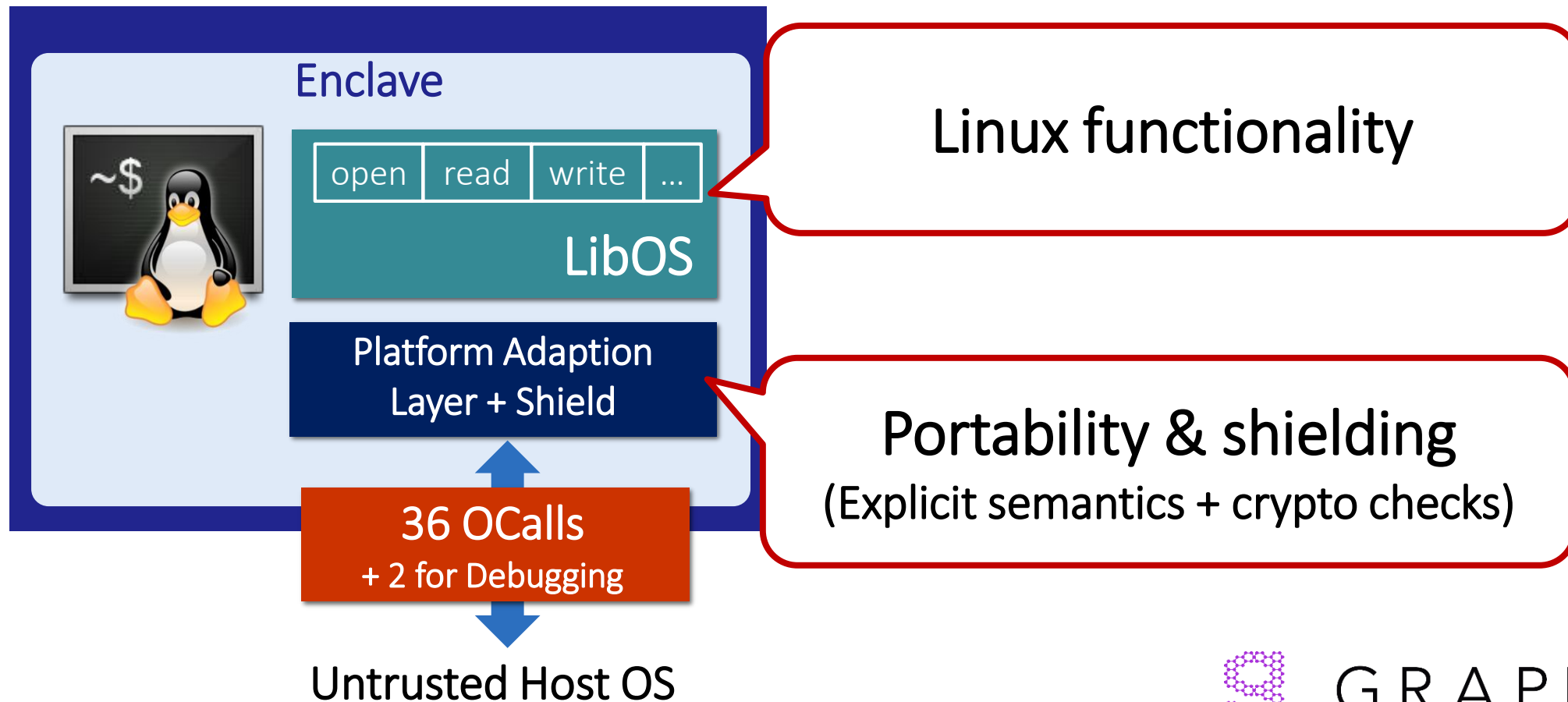
# Myths About Iago Attacks

---

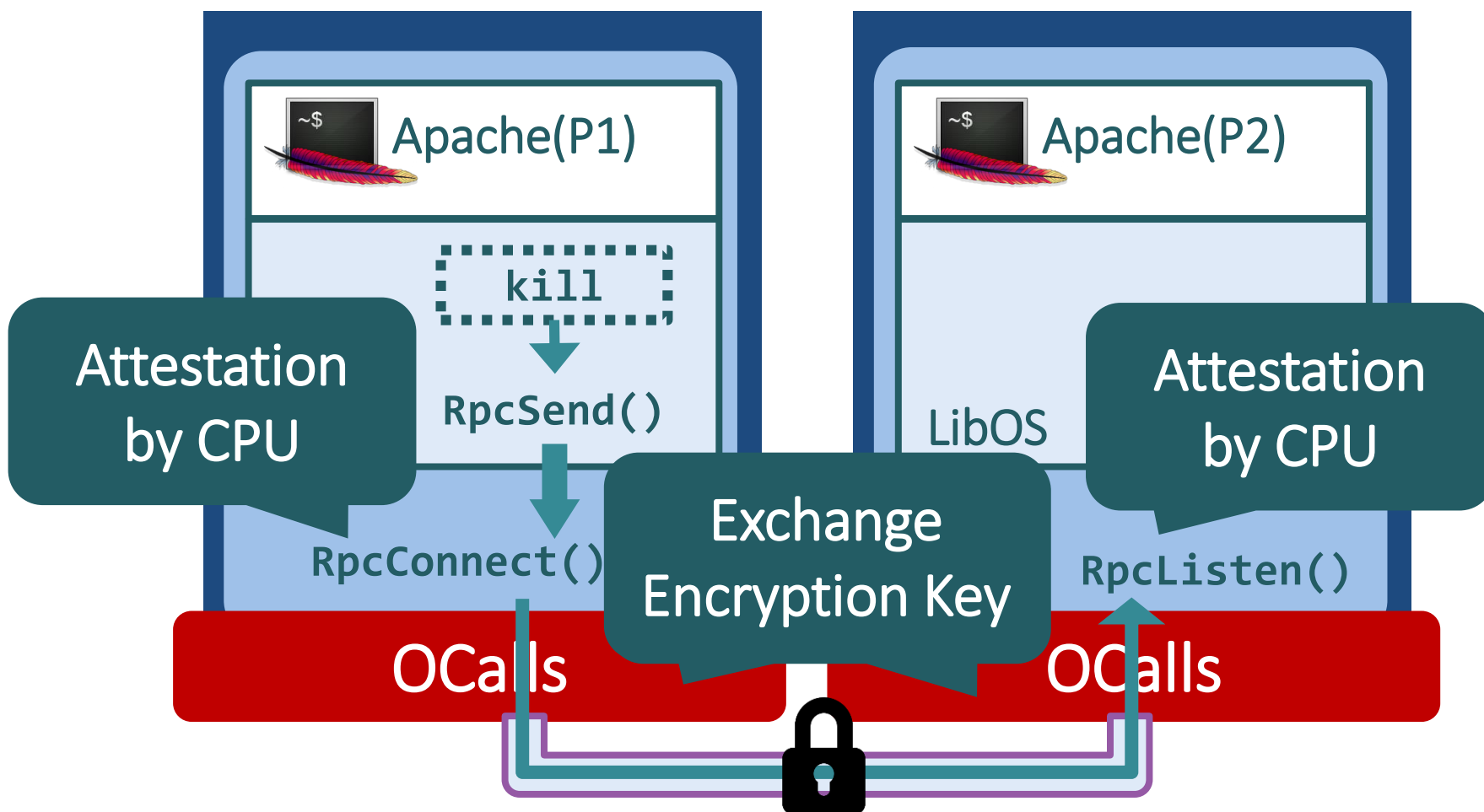
1. Only system calls can suffer Iago attacks - wrong
2. Just leave to app developers - wrong
3. Orthogonal to system/runtime design - wrong



# Decouple Shielding & Linux APIs

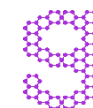


# Multi-Process Applications



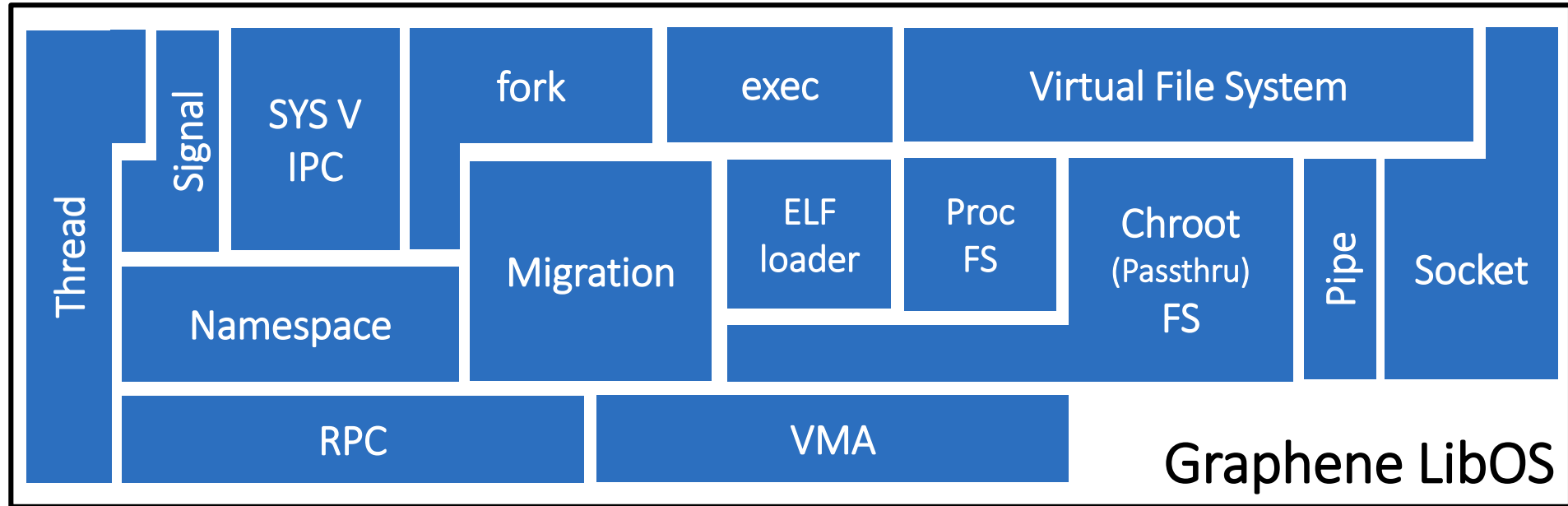
Distributed OS  
coordination

Supported:  
fork/exec  
signals  
message queue  
Semaphore



GRAPHENE

# More LibOS Features



**140** / 318 system calls  
Implemented (core features)

**63** KLOC  
Source code

**1.4** MB  
Library size



GRAPHENE

# Tested Applications

---



... and more.

See examples on:



<https://github.com/oscarlab/graphene>



GRAPHENE

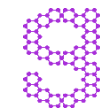
# Graphene Project Updates

---

## 1. Open-source workgroup

## 2. Stable release plan (mid-August)

- Reliability & Security improvements
- New features

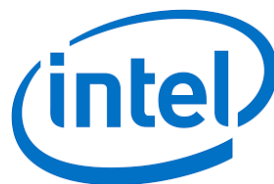
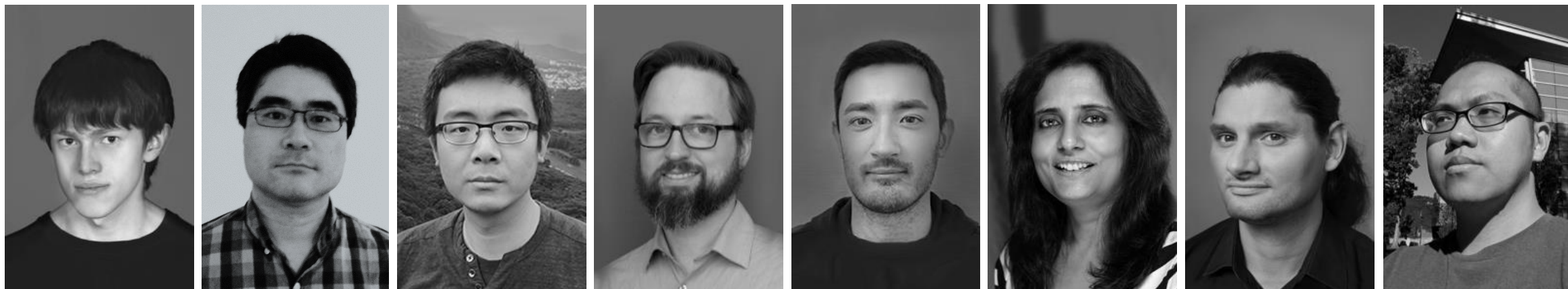


GRAPHENE



# Graphene Workgroup

---

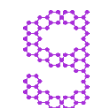


INVISIBLE  
THINGS  
LAB



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY.

<https://grapheneproject.io/>



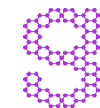
GRAPHENE

# Stable Release (Mid-August)

---

## Reliability improvements:

- 324 pull requests since Nov 2018
- Rewritten: memory mgmt., signal handling, IPC, and file system
- Data races and deadlock issues
- Better OCall interface and enclave initialization
- Documentation & UX improvements



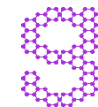
GRAPHENE

# Stable Release (Mid-August)

---

## Vulnerability fixes:

- Received multiple reports from KU Leuven and U. Birmingham
  - Untrusted argv/envp
  - Untrusted memory allocation
  - Untrusted argument copy for OCalls
  - TOCTOU for untrusted copy
  - Incorrect pointer validation
- **All fixed within 5 days**



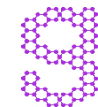
GRAPHENE

# Stable Release (Mid-August)

---

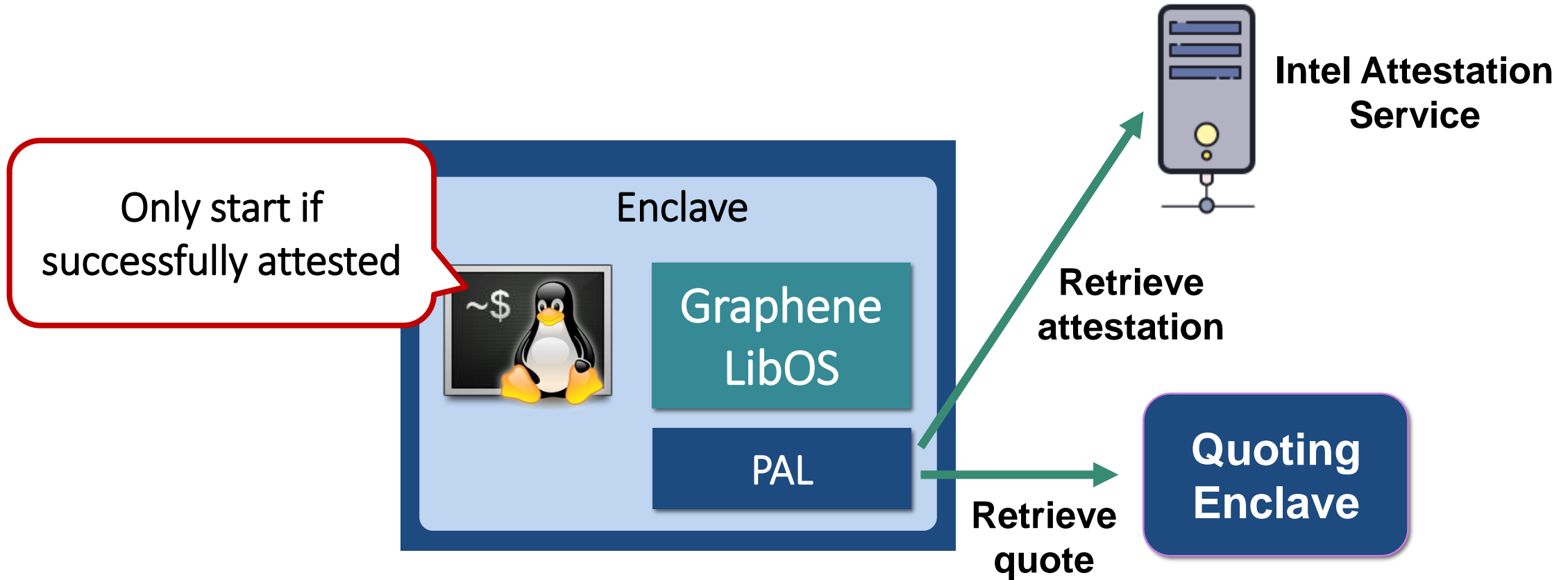
## New features:

- Support for GLIBC 2.23 / 2.27 and Ubuntu 18.04
- Static binary support for Golang support
- Simple remote attestation
- EXPERIMENTAL:  
Docker integration (Graphene Secure Container)
- EXPERIMENTAL:  
File system & network shield (RA-TLS) plugins

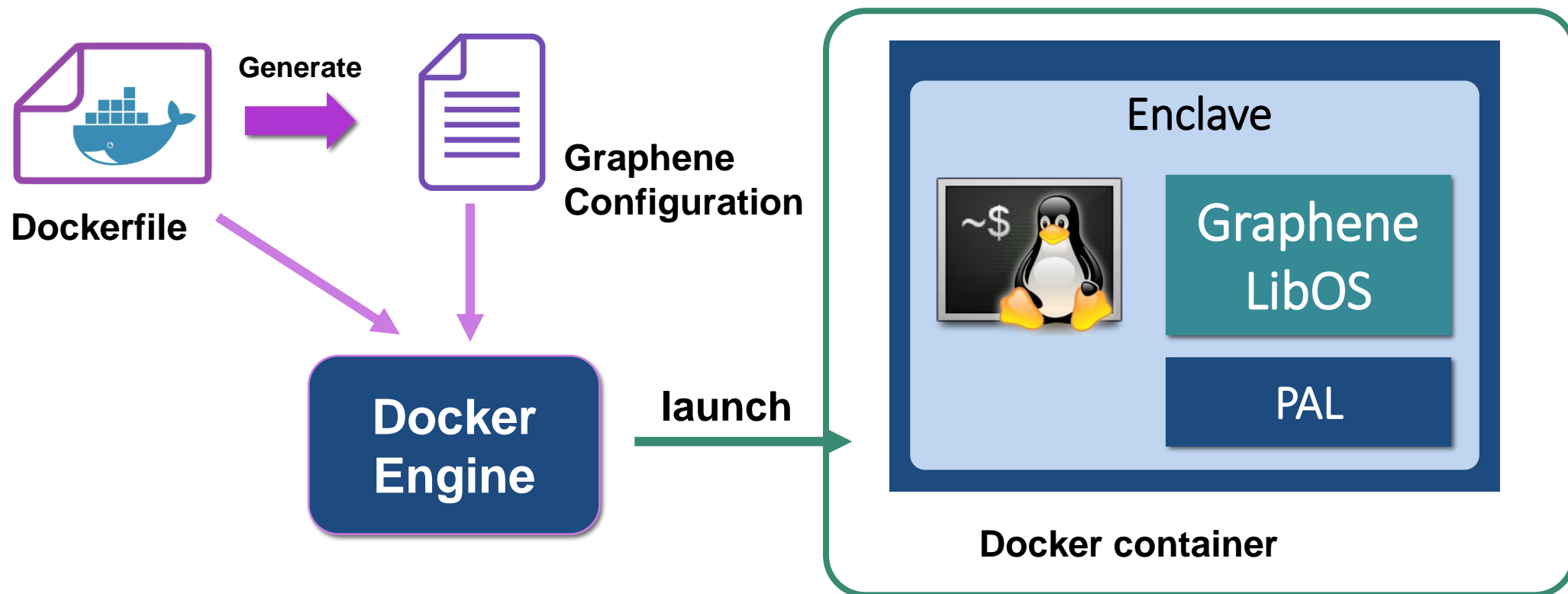


GRAPHENE

# Remote Attestation



# Docker Integration (EXPERIMENTAL)



GRAPHENE



# Future Roadmap

---

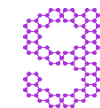
Periodic stable releases

File system shield and network shield (RA-TLS)

SGX2 (EDMM) support

Exitless enclave interface (optimization)

Support for upstream Linux driver



GRAPHENE

# Conclusion

---

## Why you should consider Graphene:

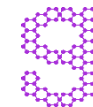
- Open-sourced (LGPL), good for customization and exploration
- Actively maintained by workgroup & community
- Tailored for small host interface and rich Linux functionality



<https://grapheneproject.io>



[support@graphene-project.io](mailto:support@graphene-project.io)



GRAPHENE