



# Security Labels for Metacity

James Carter

[jwcart2@tycho.nsa.gov](mailto:jwcart2@tycho.nsa.gov)

National Security Agency

National Information Assurance Research Laboratory  
(NIARL)



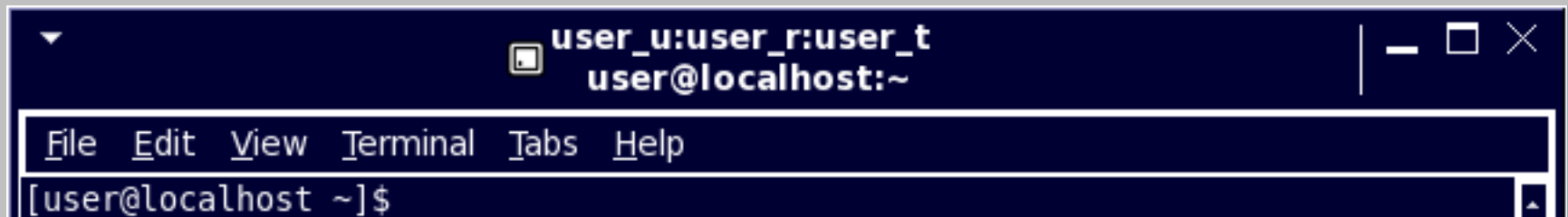
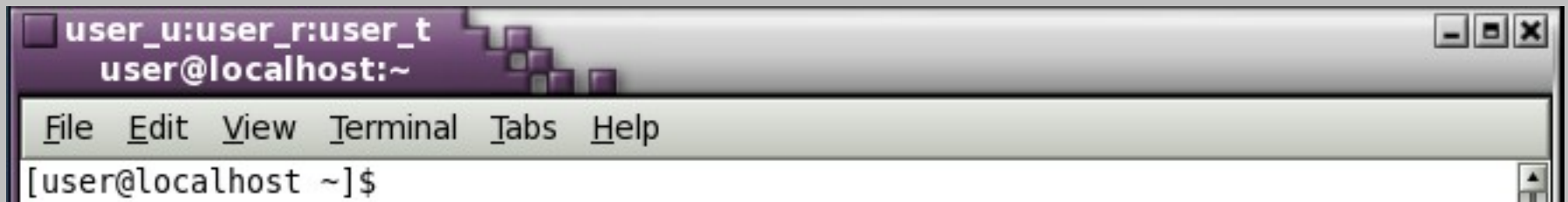
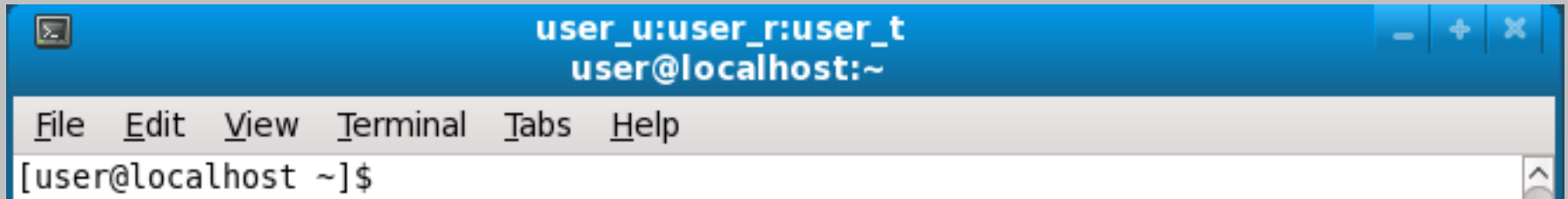
# Overview



- Metacity
  - Window Manager for GNOME
- Purpose
  - Display the security label of the process owning a window.
- Current
  - Displays the security label in the titlebar in the same text box as the title.
  - Configurable using a GConf setting



# Screenshots





# Results

- Advantages
  - Putting the security label with the title is fairly non-intrusive
  - Works well with themes
- Disadvantage
  - To display a color coding with the security label would probably mean changing the color of the whole titlebar.
  - It requires that the title be saved even after the text box is created.



# Future

- Create a separate security label bar separate of the titlebar.
  - Harder to do, but once done will allow more flexibility.
- Support color coding
  - Need to modify mcstransd
- Support newrole-like functionality?
- Support displaying the data's security label, if different?