Security Labels for Metacity

James Carter
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?