

Microkernel Construction

Exercise 6: Capability Delegation and Revocation

Nils Asmussen

2026-06-18

Roadmap




- Proper UTCB layout
- Delegation during IPC
- More sophisticated application scenario
- Revoke system call

- Hands-on
 - Capability delegation
 - Capability revocation
 - Using `sys_revoke` in userspace


Get the Code




```
$ git clone https://github.com/Nils-TUD/MKC  
$ git checkout exercise6
```

 Shell

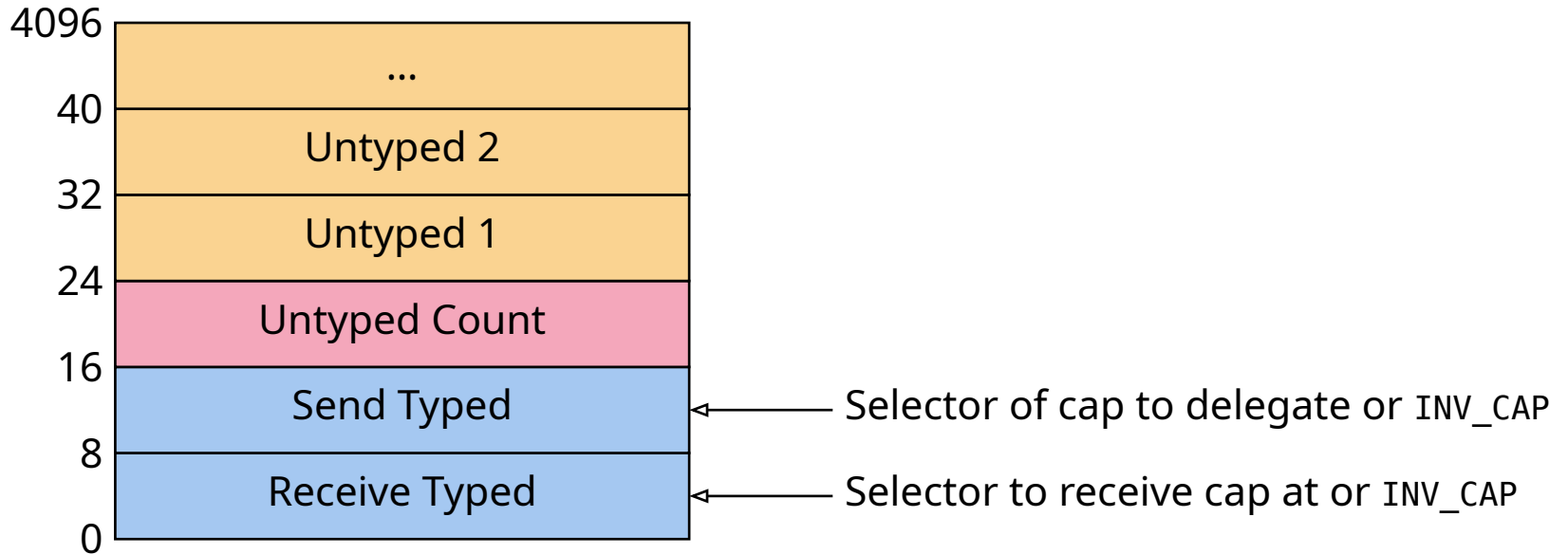
```
# build it  
$ make
```

 Shell

```
# run it  
$ make run
```

 Shell

UTCB Layout



During IPC ...

```
1 current->utcb->save(caller->utcb);
2 if (current->utcb->send_typed() != INV_CAP)
3     delegate<false>();
```

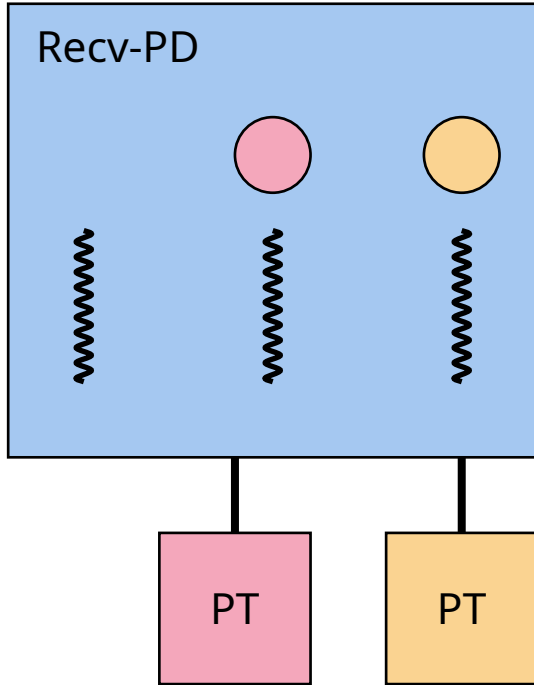
cpp

Ec::delegate

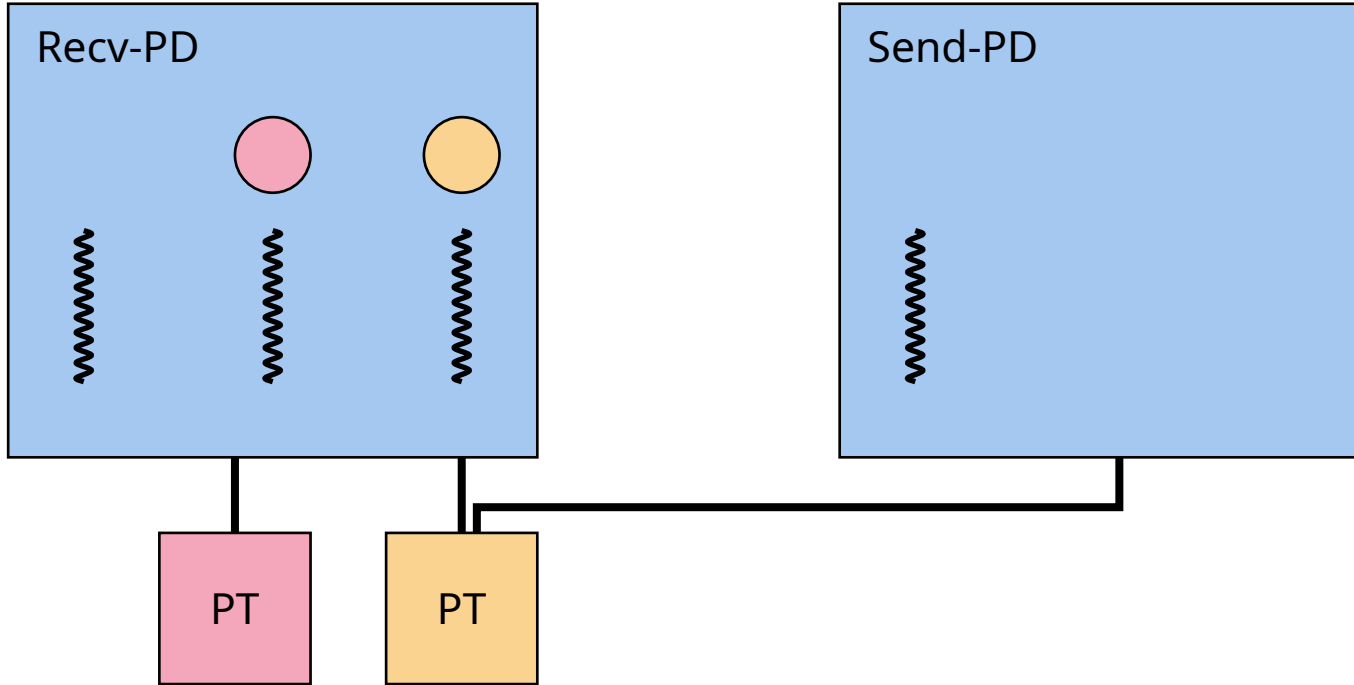
```
1 template <bool C> void Ec::delegate() {
2     Ec *ec = current->caller;
3     Ec *src = C ? ec : current;
4     Ec *dst = C ? current : ec;
5     dst->pd->del_cap(src->pd, src->utcb->send_typed(), dst->utcb->recv_typed());
6 }
```

cpp

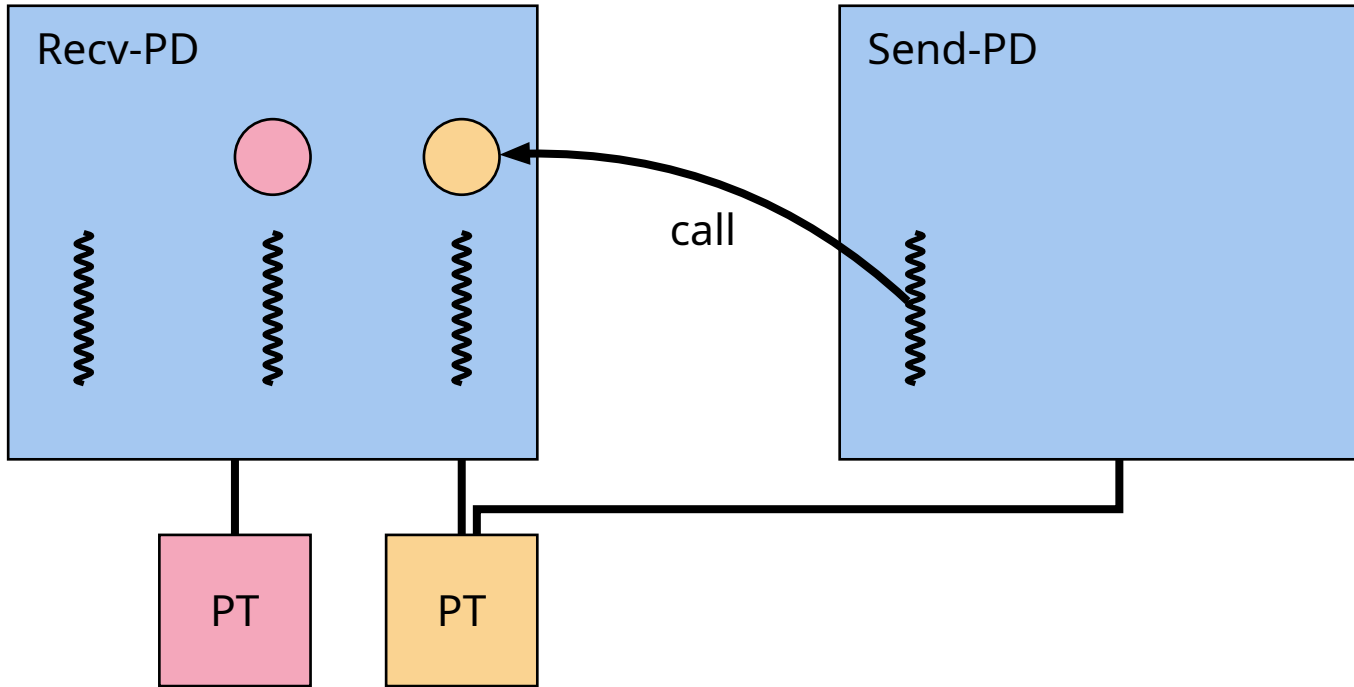
Userspace Scenario



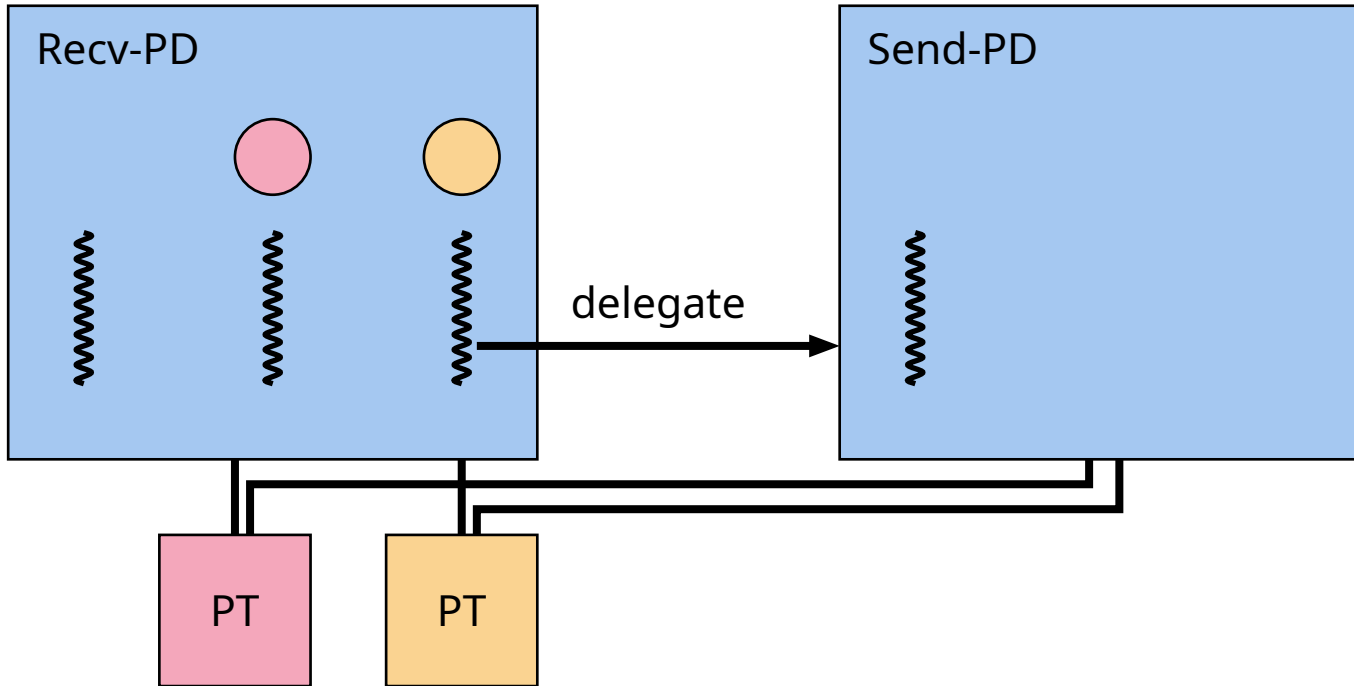
Userspace Scenario



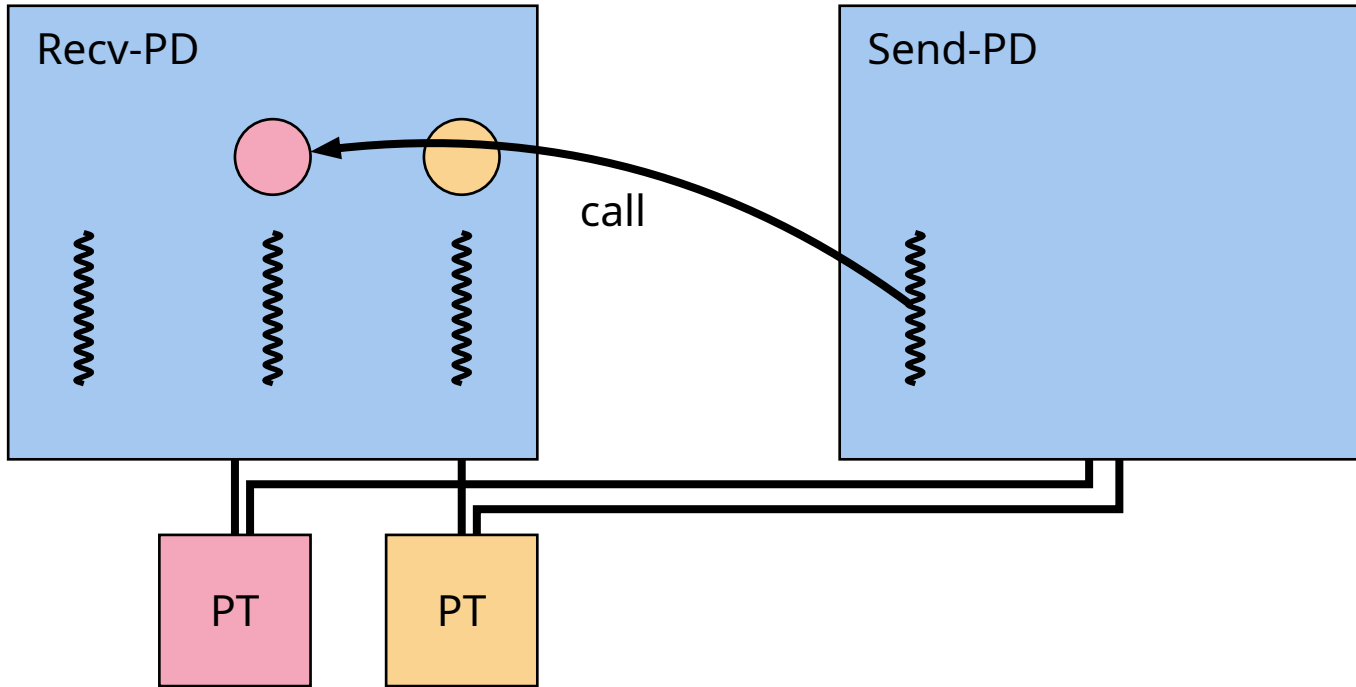
Userspace Scenario



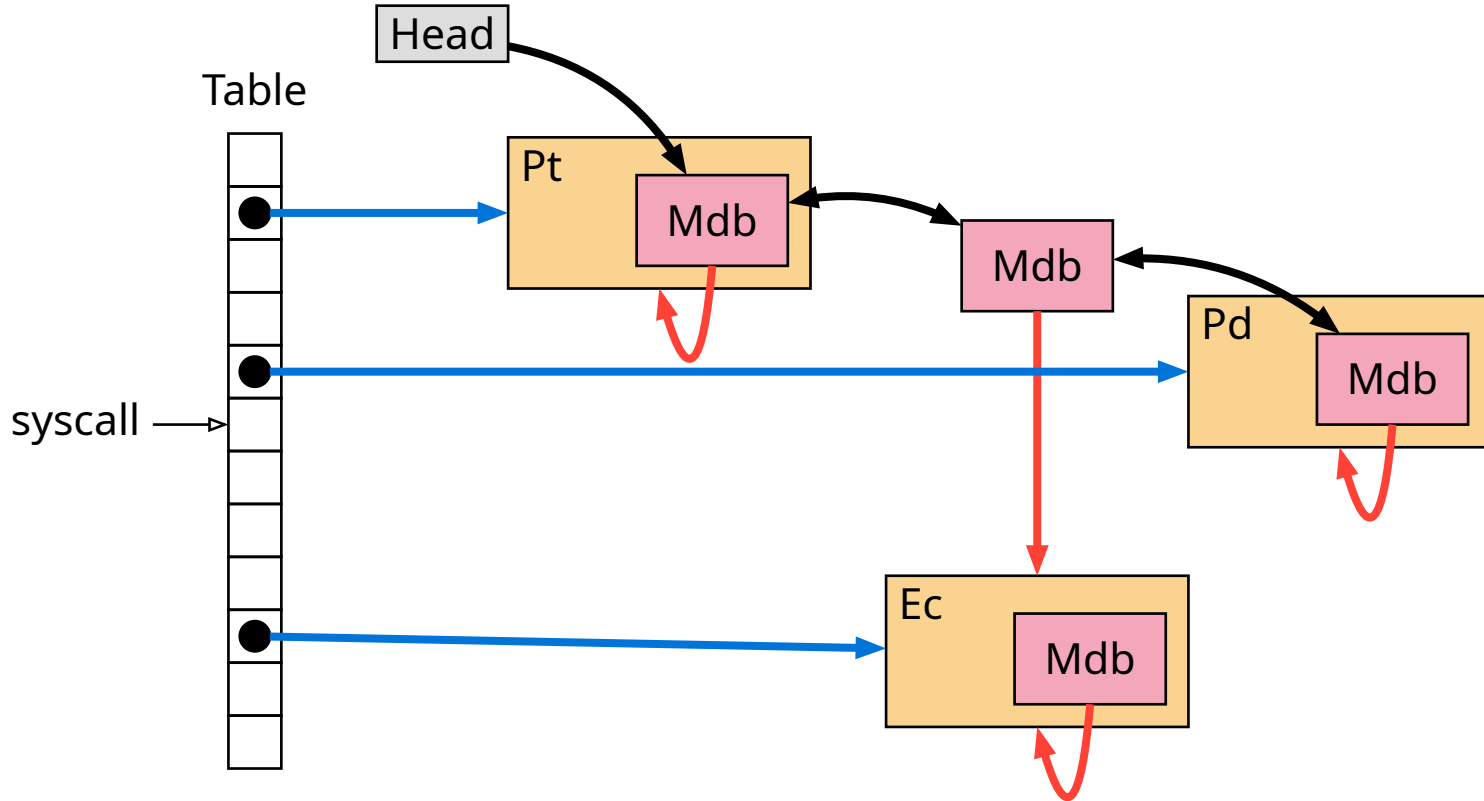
Userspace Scenario



Userspace Scenario



Capability Space





Task 1: Implement `Pd::del_cap`

- Find `Mdb` node
- Check if destination selector is unused
- Create new `Mdb` node
- Insert new node, update old node
- Remember delegation
 - Look at `Mdb::add_del`
- Check if userspace scenario works



Task 2: Implement `Pd::revoke_rec`

- Look at `Pd::revoke`
- Add recursive part in `Pd::revoke_rec`
- Remove from table and list
 - Look at `Space::table_remove`
 - And `Space::list_remove`
- Revoke children
 - Look at `Mdb::add_del`
- Use `sys_revoke` to test your implementation