Lecture#13

Security of O.S

Goals of Protection

- In one protection model, computer consists of a collection of objects, hardware or software
- Each object has a unique name and can be accessed through a well-defined set of operations
- Protection problem - ensure that each object is accessed correctly and only by those processes that are allowed to do so

Security Violation Categories

- **Breach of confidentiality**
  - Unauthorized reading of data
- **Breach of integrity**
  - Unauthorized modification of data
- **Breach of availability**
  - Unauthorized destruction of data
- **Theft of service**
  - Unauthorized use of resources
- **Denial of service (DOS)**
  - Prevention of legitimate use

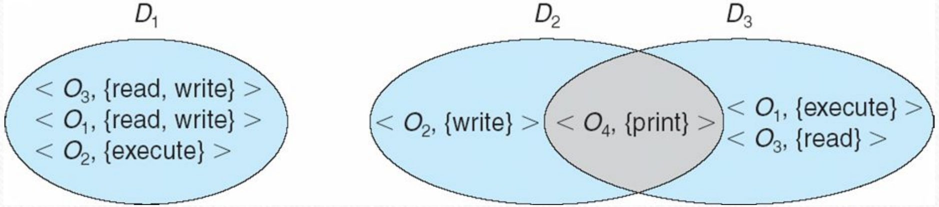
Principles of Protection

- Guiding principle – **principle of least privilege**
  - Programs, users and systems should be given just enough **privileges** to perform their tasks
  - Limits damage if entity has a bug, gets abused
  - Can be static (during life of system, during life of process)
  - Or dynamic (changed by process as needed) – **domain switching**, **privilege escalation**
  - "Need to know" a similar concept regarding access to data

Domain Structure

- Access-right = <*object-name*, *rights-set*>
  where *rights-set* is a subset of all valid operations
  that can be performed on the object

- Domain = set of access-rights

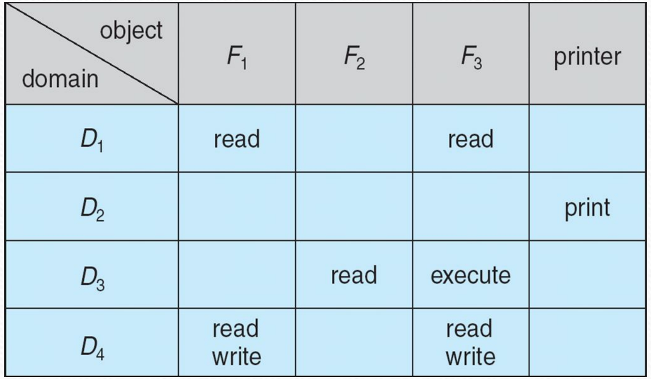


Domain Implementation (UNIX)

- Domain = user-id
- Domain switch accomplished via file system
  - Each file has associated with it a domain bit (setuid bit)
  - When file is executed and setuid = on, then user-id is set to owner of the file being executed
  - When execution completes user-id is reset
- Domain switch accomplished via passwords
  - `su` command temporarily switches to another user's domain when other domain's password provided
- Domain switching via commands
  - `sudo` command prefix executes specified command in another domain (if original domain has privilege or password given)

Access Matrix

- View protection as a matrix (**access matrix**)
- Rows represent domains
- Columns represent objects
- **`Access(i, j)`** is the set of operations that a process executing in Domain$_i$ can invoke on Object$_j$



object domain	F_1	F_2	F_3	printer
D_1	read		read	
D_2				print
D_3		read	execute	
D_4	read write		read write	

Use of Access Matrix

- If a process in Domain D_i tries to do "op" on object O_j, then "op" must be in the access matrix
- User who creates object can define access column for that object
- Can be expanded to dynamic protection
  - Operations to add, delete access rights
  - Special access rights:
    - *owner of* O_i
    - *copy op from* O_i *to* O_j *(denoted by "*")*
    - *control* – D_i *can modify* D_j *access rights*
    - *transfer* – *switch from domain* D_i *to* D_j
  - *Copy* and *Owner* applicable to an object
  - *Control* applicable to domain object

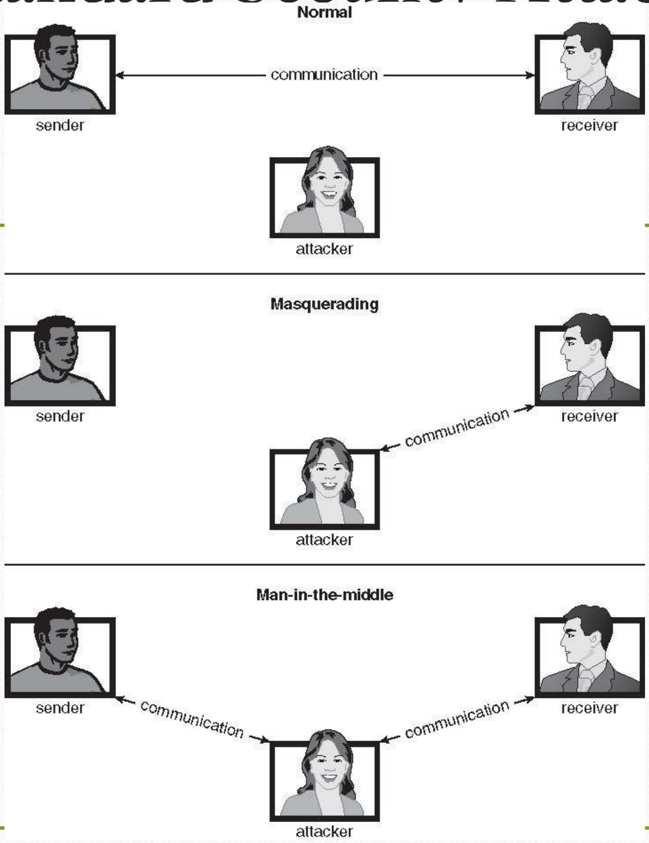
The Security Problem

- System **secure** if resources used and accessed as intended under all circumstances
    - Unachievable
- **Intruders** (**crackers**) attempt to breach security
- **Threat** is potential security violation
- **Attack** is attempt to breach security
- Attack can be accidental or malicious
- Easier to protect against accidental than malicious misuse

Security Violation Methods

- **Masquerading** (breach **authentication**)
    - Pretending to be an authorized user to escalate privileges
- **Replay attack**
    - As is or with **message modification**
- **Man-in-the-middle attack**
    - Intruder sits in data flow, masquerading as sender to receiver and vice versa
- **Session hijacking**
    - Intercept an already-established session to bypass authentication

Standard Security Attacks



Security Measure Levels

- Impossible to have absolute security, but make cost to perpetrator sufficiently high to deter most intruders
- Security must occur at four levels to be effective:
  - **Physical**
    - Data centers, servers, connected terminals
  - **Human**
    - Avoid **social engineering**, **phishing**, **dumpster diving**
  - **Operating System**
    - Protection mechanisms, debugging
  - **Network**
    - Intercepted communications, interruption, DOS
- Security is as weak as the weakest link in the chain
- But can too much security be a problem?

Program Threats

- Many variations, many names
- **Trojan Horse**
  - Code segment that misuses its environment
  - Exploits mechanisms for allowing programs written by users to be executed by other users
  - **Spyware**, **pop-up browser windows**, **covert channels**
  - Up to 80% of spam delivered by spyware-infected systems
- **Trap Door**
  - Specific user identifier or password that circumvents normal security procedures
  - Could be included in a compiler
  - How to detect them?

Program Threats (Cont.)

- **Viruses**
  - Code fragment embedded in legitimate program
  - Self-replicating, designed to infect other computers
  - Very specific to CPU architecture, operating system, applications
  - Usually borne via email or as a macro
  - Visual Basic Macro to reformat hard drive

```
Sub AutoOpen()
Dim oFS
  Set oFS = CreateObject(’’Scripting.FileSystemObject’’)
  vs = Shell(’’c:command.com /k format c:’’,vbHide)
End Sub
```

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **Worms** – use **spawn** mechanism; standalone program
- Internet worm
  - Exploited UNIX networking features (remote access) and bugs in *finger* and *sendmail* programs
  - Exploited trust-relationship mechanism used by *rsh* to access friendly systems without use of password
  - **Grappling hook** program uploaded main worm program
    - 99 lines of C code
  - Hooked system then uploaded main code, tried to attack connected systems
  - Also tried to break into other users accounts on local system via password guessing
  - If target system already infected, abort, except for every 7th time

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **Port scanning**
  - Automated attempt to connect to a range of ports on one or a range of IP addresses
  - Detection of answering service protocol
  - Detection of OS and version running on system
  - `nmap` scans all ports in a given IP range for a response
  - `nessus` has a database of protocols and bugs (and exploits) to apply against a system
  - Frequently launched from **zombie systems**
    - To decrease trace-ability

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **Denial of Service**
  - Overload the targeted computer preventing it from doing any useful work
  - **Distributed denial-of-service** (**DDOS**) come from multiple sites at once
  - Consider the start of the IP-connection handshake (SYN)
    - How many started-connections can the OS handle?
  - Consider traffic to a web site
    - How can you tell the difference between being a target and being really popular?
  - Accidental – CS students writing bad `fork()` code
  - Purposeful – extortion, punishment

Cryptography as a Security Tool

- Broadest security tool available
  - Internal to a given computer, source and destination of messages can be known and protected
    - OS creates, manages, protects process IDs, communication ports
  - Source and destination of messages on network cannot be trusted without cryptography
    - Local network – IP address?
      - Consider unauthorized host added
    - WAN / Internet – how to establish authenticity
      - Not via IP address

Cryptography

- Means to constrain potential senders (*sources*) and / or receivers (*destinations*) of *messages*
  - Based on secrets (**keys**)
  - Enables
    - Confirmation of source
    - Receipt only by certain destination
    - Trust relationship between sender and receiver

Encryption

- Constrains the set of possible receivers of a message
- **Encryption** algorithm consists of
  - Set K of keys
  - Set M of Messages
  - Set C of ciphertexts (encrypted messages)
  - A function $E : K \rightarrow (M \rightarrow C)$. That is, for each $k \in K$, E_k is a function for generating ciphertexts from messages
    - Both E and E_k for any k should be efficiently computable functions
  - A function $D : K \rightarrow (C \rightarrow M)$. That is, for each $k \in K$, D_k is a function for generating messages from ciphertexts
    - Both D and D_k for any k should be efficiently computable functions

Symmetric Encryption

- Same key used to encrypt and decrypt
  - Therefore *k* must be kept secret
- DES was most commonly used symmetric block-encryption algorithm (created by US Govt)
  - Encrypts a block of data at a time
  - Keys too short so now considered insecure
- Triple-DES considered more secure
  - Algorithm used 3 times using 2 or 3 keys
  - For example
- 2001 NIST adopted new $c = E_{k3}(D_{k2}(E_{k1}(m)))$ ced Encryption Standard (**AES**)
  - Keys of 128, 192, or 256 bits, works on 128 bit blocks
- RC4 is most common symmetric stream cipher, but known to have vulnerabilities
  - Encrypts/decrypts a stream of bytes (i.e., wireless transmission)
  - Key is a input to pseudo-random-bit generator
    - Generates an infinite **keystream**

Asymmetric Encryption

- **Public-key encryption** based on each user having two keys:
  - **public key** – published key used to encrypt data
  - **private key** – key known only to individual user used to decrypt data
- Must be an encryption scheme that can be made public without making it easy to figure out the decryption scheme
  - Most common is **RSA** block cipher
  - Efficient algorithm for testing whether or not a number is prime
  - No efficient algorithm is know for finding the prime factors of a number

Asymmetric Encryption (Cont.)

- Formally, it is computationally infeasible to derive $k_{d,N}$ from $k_{e,N}$, and so k_e need not be kept secret and can be widely disseminated
  - k_e is the **public key**
  - k_d is the **private key**
  - N is the product of two large, randomly chosen prime numbers p and q (for example, p and q are 512 bits each)
  - Encryption algorithm is $E_{ke,N}(m) = m^{ke} \bmod N$, where k_e satisfies $k_e k_d \bmod (p-1)(q-1) = 1$
  - The decryption algorithm is then $D_{kd,N}(c) = c^{kd} \bmod N$

Firewalling to Protect Systems and Networks

- A network **firewall** is placed between trusted and untrusted hosts
  - The firewall limits network access between these two **security domains**
- Can be tunneled or spoofed
  - Tunneling allows disallowed protocol to travel within allowed protocol (i.e., telnet inside of HTTP)
  - Firewall rules typically based on host name or IP address which can be spoofed
- **Personal firewall** is software layer on given host
  - Can monitor / limit traffic to and from the host
- **Application proxy firewall** understands application protocol and can control them (i.e., SMTP)
- **System-call firewall** monitors all important system calls and apply rules to them (i.e., this program can execute that system call)

END OF LECTURE!