Review of assignment 1 by Erik Solberg

Reviewed by Per Christian Kofstad

Eriks assignment is technical, an in-depth on the system architecture. For other students that do not have an engineer degree when it comes to bits, registers and processing modes, it is hard to follow his argument. Therefore it is hard to follow up if his arguments are right or wrong. This should therefore not be an argument for pulling the mark up or down, since this was not specified in the assignment.

However the assignment was to discuss wherever an operating system by choosing, did have a trusted path technology and mechanisms built in. In order to discussion this argument there must be a definition to which the discussion argues against. I cannot see that Erik has included this definition. Also from my own opinion, the term "trusted path" is to do with user interactions between users and the system. As an example definition I have included the definition by NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) below. It is my opinion that Erik does not sufficiently discuss the term trusted path against a referenced definition or focuses on the user interaction on the operating system. Therefore I cannot give Erik a pass on this assignment.

Mark: Fail

Trusted path: *A mechanism by which a user (through an input device) can communicate directly with the security functions of the information system with the necessary confidence to support the system security policy. This mechanism can only be activated by the user or the security functions of the information system and cannot be imitated by untrusted software.*

Source: http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-18-Rev1/sp800-18-Rev1-final.pdf

For more definition examples:
http://www.islinc.com/cyber_security_evaluations/NIST_Control.php?control=SC-11
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trusted_path