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Obligatory exercise 01
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Trusted Path – Solaris 10

Trusted Path is a mechanism that provides confidence that the user is communicating with what the user intended to communicate with. In Operating systems, a trusted path or trusted channel means that the user is communicating directly with the os. In Microsoft windows the trusted path channel is when you press «ctrl», «alt», «delete». Windows will then block all third party programs and invoke system login prompt. In that way you can avoid a potential login spoof.

In this task i will look in to trusted path implementasjon in oracles Solaris. The metologi i will use to write this task will be reading the documentation from Oracle on their web-sites, As i can't test the operating system my self.

Solaris trusted extensions is a optionally-enabled layer of secure labeling technology that allows data security policies to be separated from data ownership. Trusted extensions meets the requirements of the common criteria labeled security protection profile (LSPP) and the role-Based Access Protection profile (RBAC). All the zones in solaris are centrally administered for a special, protected golbal zone which manages the trusted computing base (TCB), also known as the trusted path. All labeling policy and account management is done in the trusted path menu.

When clicking the mouse button «3» in the workspace area, the trusted path menu will be displayed. In the trusted path menu, users can assume one or more roles. After the user is authenticated, the window system creates a new administrative workspace

for that role and starts another session.

Also in the trusted path menu you can manage devices. Devices is well known to represent a security threat because they can be used to import and export data from the system. In solaris 10, removable media devices are administered through the trusted path menu.

Short said, the trusted path menu contains items that affect security. Other actions taken from the menu is change password, query window label and add workspace.

Sources :

1. Solaris trusted extensions, architectural overview: Glenn Faden April 2006

<http://www.3c2controller.net/project/truetrue/solaris10/security/tx/TrustedExtensionsArch.pdf>

2. Oracle Solaris 10 8/11 Information Library. Website:

http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E23823_01/html/819-0868/ugelem-42.html

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