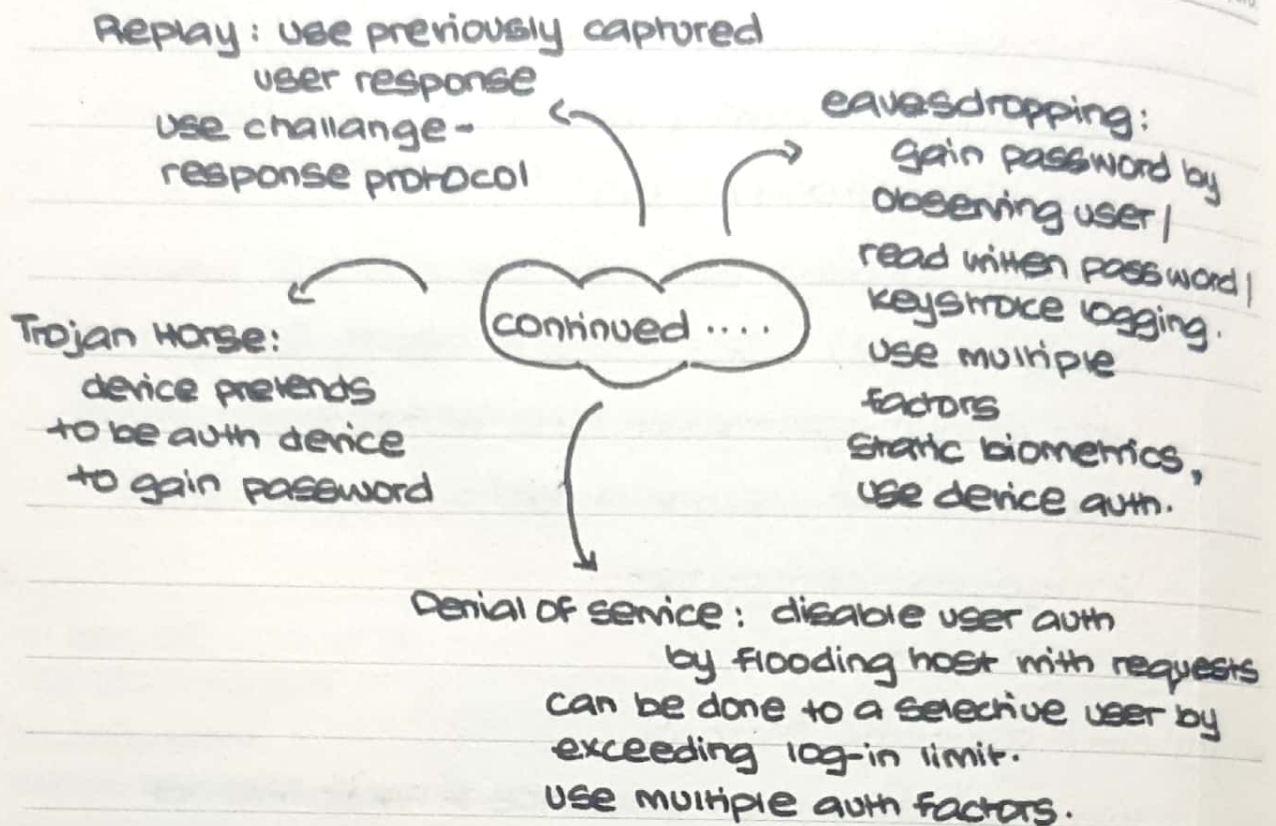


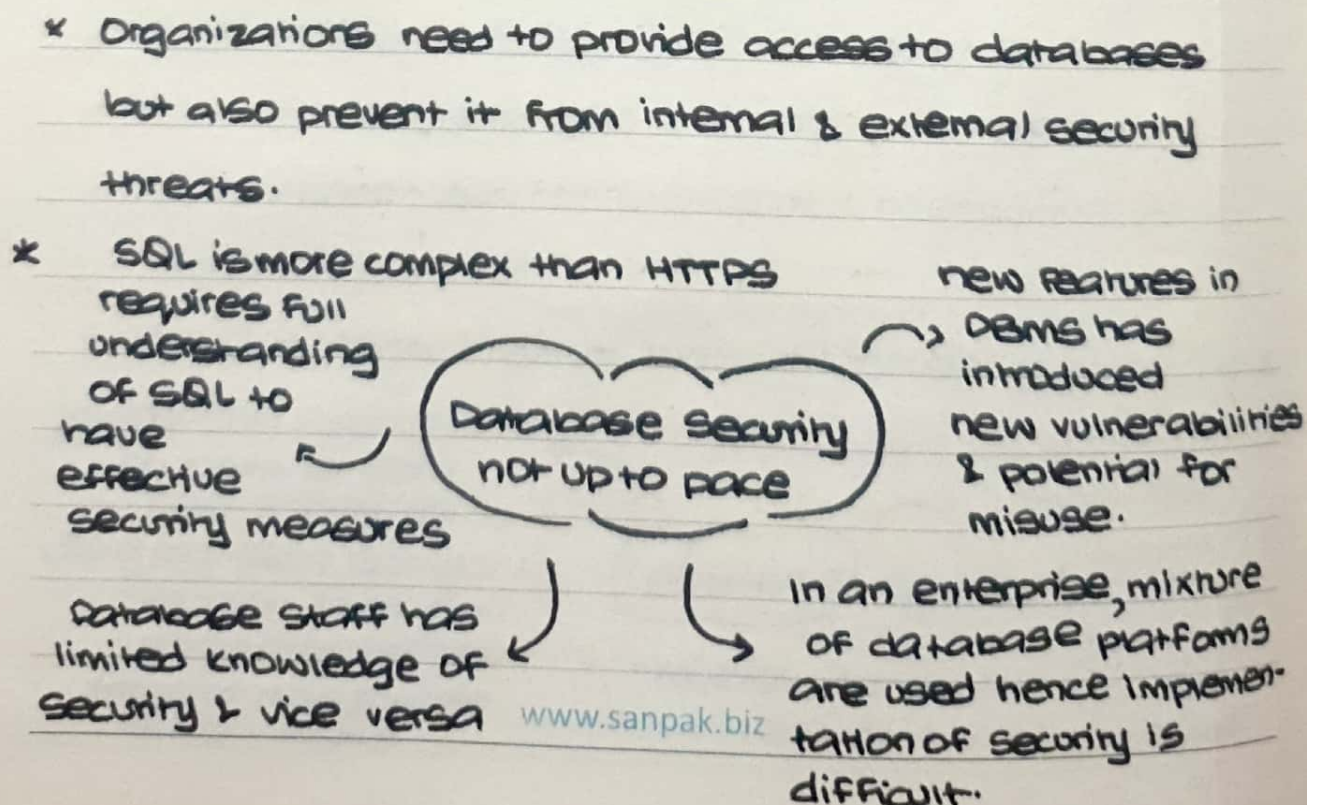
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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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=> Database Security:

5.1: Need for database security



5.2: Database management Systems

- * Database is a structured collection of data to be used by one or more applications.
- * DBMS a suit of program to construct & maintain the database.
- * Query language provides a uniform interface to database for users & applicants.
- * DDL used to define database logical structure & procedural properties.
- * DML provides a powerful set of tools for developers.
- * DBMS uses authorization table to check if user has permission to run query on database.
- * Concurrent access table prevents conflicts when simultaneous conflicting commands are executed.
- * Database's complexity & criticality generates security requirements beyond OS-based security mechanisms.
- * OS only controls read/write access control whereas DBMS provides more operations like select/insert/update/delete. Hence requires separate security mechanism.

5.3: Relational Databases

- * A two dimensional file (rows & columns) is called a flat file.

Date _____ / _____ / _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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- * Rows referred as tuples.
- * Columns referred as attributes.
- * Primary key to uniquely identify each column.
- * Foreign key - primary key of another table, used to create relations.
- * View is a virtual table, formed on the basis of result of a query. Used for security purposes to restrict access so user can only view certain rows/columns.
- ↓ SQL used to define schema / manipulate / query data.

5.4: SQL injection attacks

- * SQL injection attack is one of the most prevalent & dangerous attack.
- * Is designed to exploit nature of web application pages. When dynamic data is send / retrieved from database server through API calls. Malicious SQL commands can be send.
- * SQL injection can be used to extract bulk of data, populate data base with numerous records, execute arbitrary OS commands, launch DOS or delete data.
- * SQLi can take place when input not correctly filtered for string literal escape characters / not strongly typed.

Date _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN



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- * Typical approach is to identify vulnerability & send malicious SQL query, hide it underneath traffic to be executed on database server. This will return desired results.
- * SQLi works by prematurely terminating a string & appending a new command, and use `--` to make it seem like a comment.
- * Second-order injection: Occur due to incomplete prevention mechanisms for SQLi can rely on data already present to trigger an attack.

User input: Suitably crafted user input send through GET/POST requests.

Cookies: can alter cookies, so when SQL query build upon cookies structure & function are modified.

SQLi Attack avenues & types

Physical user input: use external inputs like RFID tags / barcodes to pass to DBMS to perform SQLi

Server variables: is collection of variables that contain HTTP headers, network protocols & environment variables. Used for logging usage statistics & browsing trends. If logged to database without sanitization. can cause SQLi vulnerability. Hide attack in headers.

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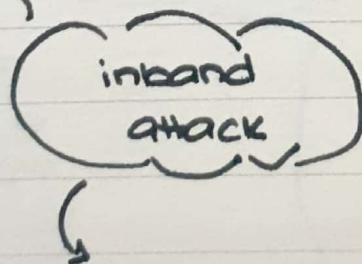
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* There are 3 main categories of attack types:

- inband :- uses same communication channel for SQLi & retrieve results to be displayed on same webpage.
- inferential :- no transfer of data. Attack sends particular requests to observe behaviour of database server & reconstruct information.
- out of bound :- data retrieved using different channels. Used when limitations on data retrieval byt. outbound connectivity of database server is relaxed.

* end-of-line-comment:
add -- after injecting
code into a
particular
field to
nullify it

tautology: inject
code in one/more
conditional
statement so they
always
return true



Piggybacked queries: add more query instead
of the intended query. Relies on server
configuration allowing different queries in a
single string of code.

Date _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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Blind SQL injection: allows to infer data present even though system gives no such info. Ask server true/false questions.

Inferential attack

illegal / logically incorrect queries:
- matter type & structure of backend database.
- Default error page of an application is too descriptive

* A single countermeasure is insufficient. Integrated set of techniques are used.

* Countermeasures have 3 categories. Defensive coding, detection & run-time prevention.

* Parametrized query
Insertion:
more accurately specify SQL query structure. Pass parameters separately instead of unsanitized user input

Defensive coding

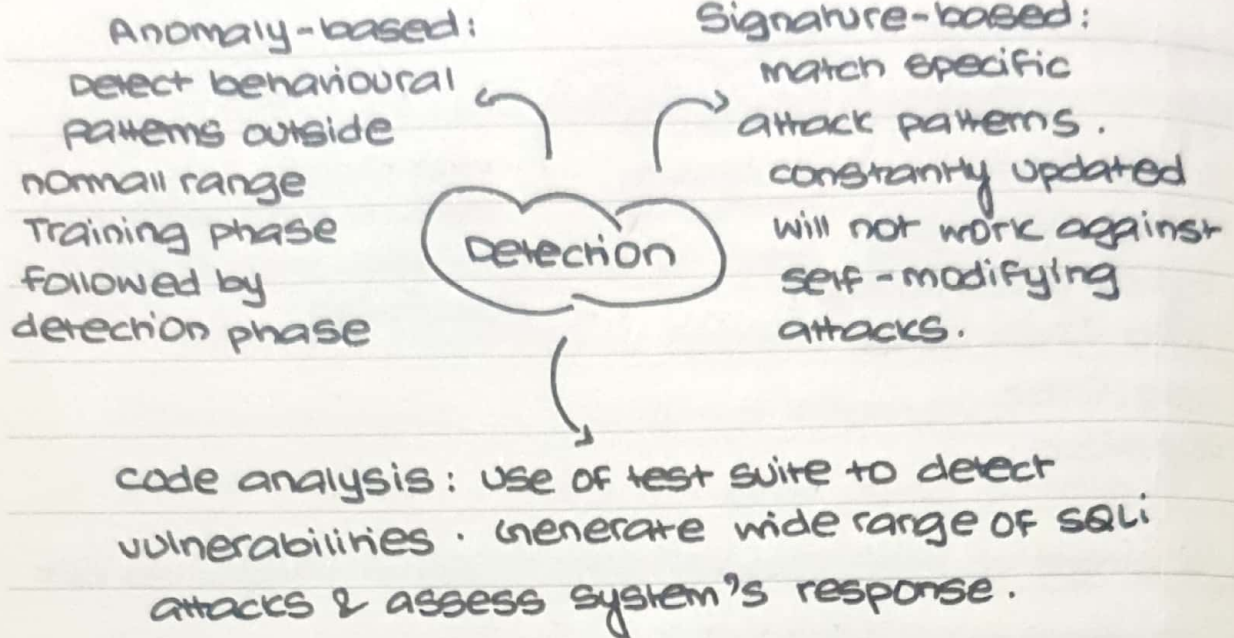
Manual defensive coding practices:
- insufficient input validation is exploited by SQLi
- use pattern matching & input type checking.

SQL DOM: uses a type checking API to process systematically regulated query

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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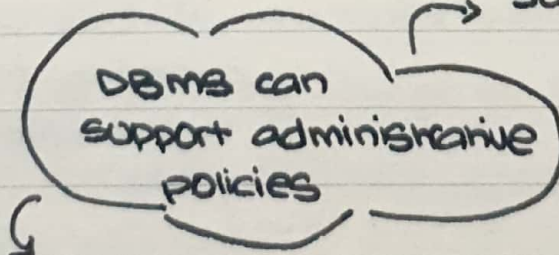
* **Run-time prevention:** techniques to check queries conform to model of expected queries at run time.

5.5: Database Access Control

* DBMS operates on the assumption computer has authenticated each user.

* **Ownership-based administration:**
owner may grant / revoke rights.

Centralized administration:
some privileged users may grant / revoke rights.

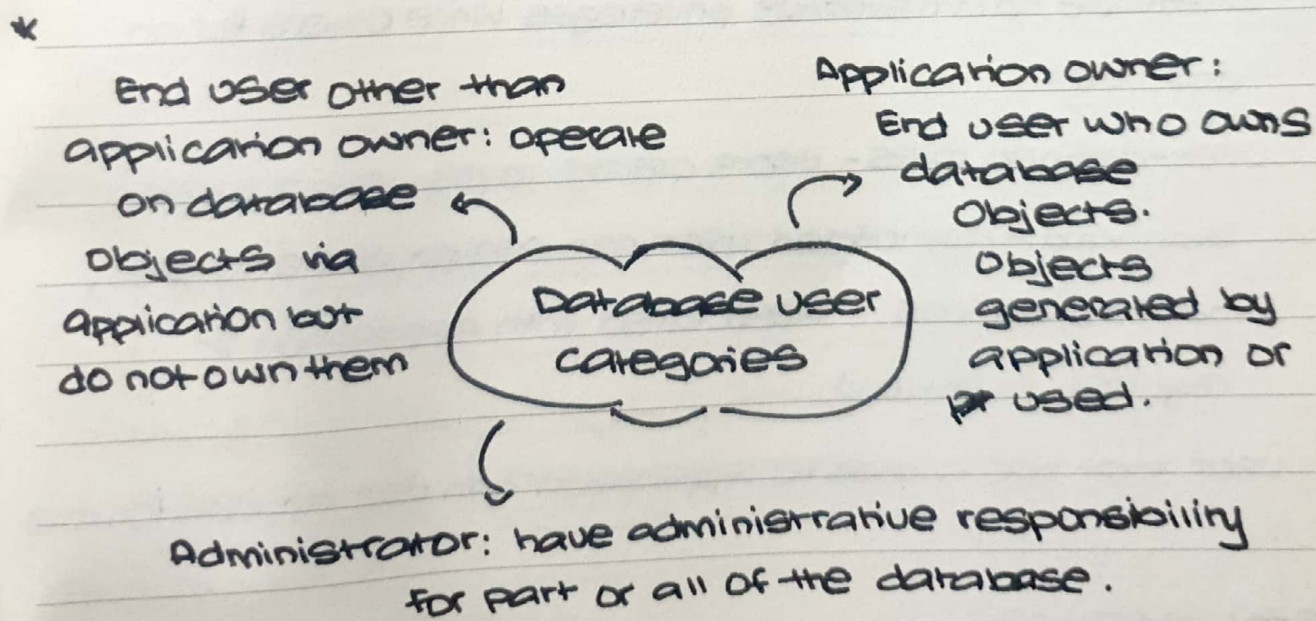


Decentralized administration: owner can grant / revoke access rights to table & authorization rights to user.

Date _____ / _____ / _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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- * Access rights can be entire table / databases / Selected rows / columns.
- * SQL provides two commands GRANT / REVOKE. can be use to give access rights / assign a role to an user.
- * Ranges of access rights include: Select, Insert, Update, Delete, Reference - define foreign keys in another table.
- * If an user revokes the access rights all cascaded access rights granted are also revoked.
- * Database systems support dozens of applications unlike a file system. Hence we use RBAC.



- * Administrators can assign users administrative based roles.

Date _____ / _____ / _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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- * RBAC needs to provide:
 - Create & delete roles.
 - Define permissions for a role.
 - Assign & cancel assignment of users to roles.
- * Administrator cannot add/delete/modify fixed roles. They can only add/remove users as members to fixed roles.
- * Fixed server roles - defined at server level are independent of any user. Have different permissions and intend to distribute administrative responsibilities.
- * Fixed database roles - at the level of individual database. Some roles designed to help DBA to distribute administrative privileges while others for an end user.
- * User-defined roles - users create roles. Are 2 types
Standard:- authorized user can assign users to roles,
and Applications:- associated with application & requires password.
- * User that has access to application can use application role.

5.6: Inference

- * Performing authorized queries & deducing unauthorized information from legitimate responses.

Date _____ / _____ / _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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- * Inference problem happens when set of individual items is more sensitive / can be used to infer sensitive data.
- * Metadata is correlation / dependencies between data items.
- * Information transfer path of unauthorized data is called inference channel.

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Inference detection at query time:
Eliminate inference channel violation.
If inference channel detected query denied / altered.

Approaches dealing with inference

Inference detection during database trigger design:
Alter database structure / change access control regime.
~~Re~~ Split data into multiple tables / fine-grained access control of roles.
Unnecessary access control limits availability.

5.7: Database encryption

- * Encryption is last line of defense in database security.

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Inflexibility:
Difficult to perform record searching on encrypted database

Disadvantages

Key management:
Authorized users should have decryption key.
Providing secure keys is complex.

Date _____ / _____ / _____

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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- * Encryption can be applied at record level, attribute level (column) / individual field.
- * DBMS requires skilled personnel to maintain, update, protect from disaster & secure database.
- * To user encrypted database: (Not flexible method).
 - user sends SQL query with specific value of primary key.
 - client query processor encrypts query's primary key.
 - server processes query & returns appropriate record.
 - Query process decrypts response & displays.
- * To provide more flexibility each row is encrypted as a block. → metadata.
- * Mapping function is stored at clients & data owner's.
- * Each data is divided in a range and each range is assigned an attribute.
- * Indexing scheme prevents attacker from understanding data because meta data is not stored on server.
- * Different chunks of database should be encrypted with different keys so user only access those which they have keys to decrypt. (RBAC).