Overview   Help

Video Lectures

The course syllabus presents an overview of the course. A video overview is presented in the following lectures.

The first two present an overview of cybersecurity generally, and software security in particular. The last is an overview of the course content, and a description of the learner's expected background.

- Introducing computer security (6:17)
- What is software security? (7:48)
- Tour of the course and expected Background (11:37)

Qualifying Quiz

To test whether you have sufficient background to take the course, we recommend students take the qualifying quiz. Students who score less than 70% on the quiz may have difficulty with the technical concepts assumed by the presentations.

Programming in C

Much of the quiz is about C programming; most of the code in the course will be presented in C. For the first two weeks, this is critical: the low-level errors and defenses against them are germane to C and low-level programming. Students comfortable in other languages may be able to learn the necessary C concepts on their own. One book I recommend is K.A. Reek's Pointers on C. I have not looked at it in detail, but some students recommend the free book, Learning C the Hard Way.

Note about Projects

During the course you will do three projects. To do them, you will need to install the Virtual Box virtual machine management software (which is free) on your own computer. Projects will be in VM images running Ubuntu Linux; you will install these images and run them to do the projects. Detailed instructions for doing so will be available when the projects are posted.

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