Intro to Computer Security

Friday, January 17, 2025 5:43 PM

In terms of a secured computer

We can see only what we should be able to see

We can't modify what we should not be able to modify

We can verify that what we are seeing is from the entity we expect

We can access the things that should be available

We are protected: Hackers, failures, negligence, misuse

Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability - CIA Triad

Confidentiality

Only those authorized to view the data can actually view it

Integrity

Data is not modified from an unauthorized source so we can ensure it

Availability

Systems and services are available and resilient against attacks, failures and compromise

Applying Security to data involves

Data at rest

Stored on filesystem, records in DB, physical folders

Data in motion

Data communicated through the web, data sent via network, radio data via wiFi, bluetooth, etc

Threats

Something that can cause harm to our software

Vulnerabilities

Where a system or computer is vulnerable to harm

Risks

The possibility of a threat happening

Well known vulnerability in popular library increases risk

Managing Risk

Identify Assets, Identify threats, Asses vulnerabilities, assess risks, and then mitigate them

Defense in Depth

When implementing computer security, we want layers so this means we don't rely on a single defense

Possible layers

External Network: VPN, DMZ, logging, pen testing, etc

Network Perimeter: Firewalls, proxies, logging, pen testing, etc

Internal Network - IDS, IPS, logging, pen testing

Host - Auth, hardening, IDS, IPS, ...

Application - Patching, pen testing, auditing, ... Data - Encryption, backups, authorization, ...

Key takeaways

CIA is our compass

Protect both data at rest and in transit
Identify all threats, vulnerabilities, risks

Some business may have to give way to risks, properly document them

Have a plan for the unexpected

Layers of defense

LINUX and CLI commands

Pwd - lists present working directory

Ls [path] - list files in a current directory or in a given path. If we pass -I, this gives us more info on

the files. -a lists hidden files

Cat <file> - show contents of file

Set - will list variables set, -o will list options set

Cd - will change directory

.profile is a file that runs when we first login and we can put anything there

Understanding Paths

- . refers to current directory
- .. refers to one directory up
- ~ refers to home directory of current user
- / refers to root directory
- * Wildcard, can be mixed in pathnames or filenames

If a file has . Infront of it, it is a hidden file

If we had a file called test.c, we can list out the contents in the following ways

Cat test.c
Cat ../krupp/test.c
Cat ~/test.c
Cat /home/krupp/test.c

Other common commands

Grep <search> [filename] - used to search contents within file or from output Less [filename] - used to scroll through file Man command - pulls up manual for particular command

Piping Output to Input Process

Piping - take the output of one command and send it as the input to another command.

Ex: ps -ef | grep 212 <- Will look for a specific PID

Cat test.c | grep // | grep -v "Brian" <- Pulls up any comments in c source that do not have brian

in it

Redirecting Input/Output

Ps -ef > process_log - Takes the process listing and saves it in a file called process_log S -ef >> process_log - takes the process listing an appends it to the file called process_log

Sending a Process to the background

Ps -ef &

We can redirect the output to a file as well: ps -ef > out &

If there is an error, we can also redirect that error
Ps -ef > out 2>&1 & 2-STDERR, is being appended to STDOUT(1)

To list processes in the background, type jobs

Looking at files

We can look at the bottom or top of a file using tail and head respectively Tail -f logfile monitors new inputs on a file

File Permissions

To list file permissions, type Is -I

3 main permissions in Unix/Linux: read, write, execute (r,w,x).

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root operator 43 Sep 2 15:26 out
drwxr-xr-x 2 root operator 128 Sep 2 15:16 somedir
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root operator 5305 Sep 2 15:01 test
```

The first field is what type of file we are working with. The two most common types are - for normal file, and d for directory.

The next 3 letters are the permissions for the owner, so for file test, root has read, write, and execute permissions. Execute meaning they can run that file as code. Group has just read and execute permissions, so they cannot modify the file, and everyone else has the same permissions as the group for this case.

If you want to set permissions you use the chmod command, here are two ways of doing it. One is absolute where you specify the exact permissions you want set by specifying the number for each permission area, User, Group, Everyone else. Each number corresponds to the appropriate bit, rwx, and are computed as a binary number. Read – 4, Write – 2, Execute – 1. So if I want rwx for the owner and no permissions for everyone else, I would do the following on a file:

The command chmod 760 is for rwx for owner, read and write to group, and nothing for everyon else

```
7 - 4(read) + 2(write) + 1(execute)
6 - 4 (read) + 2 (write)
0 - nothng
```

We can also use chmod to change permissions relative to what a file currently has set

```
chmod u+x test Adds execute permission for the user

chmod +x test Adds execute permission for everyone

chmod g+rw Adds read/write for group

chmod o-x Removes execute for other (everyone that is not the owner or the group
```

Moving files around

We can move files around, rename them, and create directories with them

```
mv <file> <dest> Moves a file to a directory or renames it

rm <file> Removes a file

mkdir <dirname> Makes a directory

rmdir <dirname> Removes a directory

rm -fr directory_name Removes a directory and everything in it (be careful!)

cp <source file> <destination> Copies a file or directory

As an example using wildcards, if you wanted to remove all programs that end with .c in a file, you would do the following: rm *.c

exit
```

Important Environment variables

PATH - Where we look for a particular command PS1 - What you see in the shell

To set an environment variable PS1 = "readytorun:"

To print out environment variable Echo \$PS1

Other Useful commands

Uname - list information on OS you are on,
P addr - List information about the network interface and P
Host <name> - Retrieves IP for a given name
Hostname <name> - Sets the hostname or get the hostname of your OS
Cat /etc/os-release - Shows information about the current OS
Locate <name> - Pass in the name of a file to help locate ti.