Introduction to Security Static and Dynamic Analysis

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Learning Objectives

- By the end of this week, you will be able to:
 - Use static analysis software to identify vulnerabilities in a software
 - Understand the difference between static and dynamic analysis



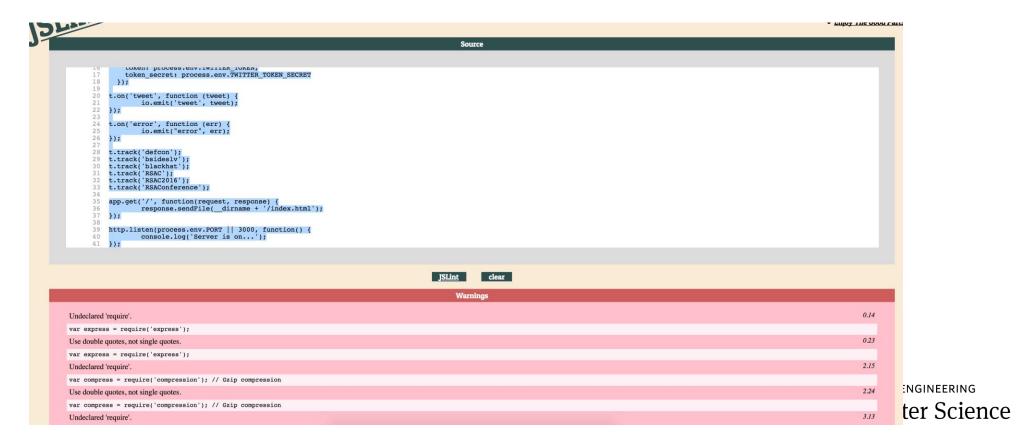
Static Analysis

- Also known as static code analysis
- No execution of program
- Rule based
- Full code coverage
- Will catch bugs in source code such as using insecure or unsafe functions
- Binary static analysis: black box, no code
- Code: white box, given source code
- Examples: grep, lint, Coverity (commercial), Fortify (commercial), Veracode (commercial)
- Reference: https://www.veracode.com/products/static-analysis-sast/static-code-analysis

Computer Science

Tool: JSLint (Lint for JavaScript)

http://www.jslint.com/



A Glance at Static Analysis Techniques

1. Data flow analysis

- Collect runtime info about data while in a static state
- Basic block (the code), control flow, control path

2. Control graph

- Node => block
- Edges => jumps / paths

3. Taint Analysis (also Deterministic Finite Automaton)

- Identify variables that have been tainted
- Used vulnerable functions known as sink

4. Lexical analysis

code => tokens (e.g., /* gets */)



Strengths and Weaknesses of Static Analysis

• Strengths:

Find vulnerabilities with high confidence

Weaknesses:

- Many false positives or false negatives can be generated
- Can't find configuration issues
- Can you prove findings are actual vulnerabilities?



Dynamic Analysis

- System execution; run-time
- Trial and error
- Detect dependencies
- Deal with real runtime variables
- Based on automated tests, user interactions
- No guarantee of full coverage of source
- Example: valgrind for memory debugging, memory leak detection, and profiling. http://valgrind.org/

