Intrusion Detection

Classes of Intruders – Cyber Criminals

- Individuals or members of an organized crime group with a goal of financial reward
- Their activities may include:
  - Identity theft
  - Theft of financial credentials
  - Corporate espionage
  - Data theft
  - Data ransoming
- Typically they are young, often Eastern European, Russian, or southeast Asian hackers, who do business on the Web
- They meet in underground forums to trade tips and data and coordinate attacks

Classes of Intruders – Activists

- Are either individuals, usually working as insiders, or members of a larger group of outsider attackers, who are motivated by social or political causes
- Also know as hacktivists
    - Skill level is often quite low
- Aim of their attacks is often to promote and publicize their cause typically through:
    - Website defacement
    - Denial of service attacks
    - Theft and distribution of data that results in negative publicity or compromise of their targets

Classes of Intruders – State-Sponsored Organizations

Groups of hackers sponsored by governments to conduct espionage or sabotage activities

Also known as Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) due to the covert nature and persistence over extended periods involved with any attacks in this class

Widespread nature and scope of these activities by a wide range of countries from China to the USA, UK, and their intelligence allies

Classes of Intruders – Others

- Hackers with motivations other than those previously listed
- Include classic hackers or crackers who are motivated by technical challenge or by peer-group esteem and reputation
- Many of those responsible for discovering new categories of buffer overflow vulnerabilities could be regarded as members of this class
- Given the wide availability of attack toolkits, there is a pool of "hobby hackers" using them to explore system and network security

Intruder Skill Levels – Apprentice

- Hackers with minimal technical skill who primarily use existing attack toolkits
- They likely comprise the largest number of attackers, including many criminal and activist attackers
- Given their use of existing known tools, these attackers are the easiest to defend against
- Also known as “script-kiddies” due to their use of existing scripts (tools)

Intruder Skill Levels – Journeyman

- Hackers with sufficient technical skills to modify and extend attack toolkits to use newly discovered, or purchased, vulnerabilities
- They may be able to locate new vulnerabilities to exploit that are similar to some already known
- Hackers with such skills are likely found in all intruder classes
- Adapt tools for use by others

Intruder Skill Levels – Master

- Hackers with high-level technical skills capable of discovering brand new categories of vulnerabilities
- Write new powerful attack toolkits
- Some of the better known classical hackers are of this level
- Some are employed by state-sponsored organizations
- Defending against these attacks is of the highest difficulty

Examples of Intrusion

- Remote root compromise
- Web server defacement
- Guessing/cracking passwords
- Copying databases containing credit card numbers
- Viewing sensitive data without authorization
- Running a packet sniffer
- Distributing pirated software
- Using an unsecured modem to access internal network
- Impersonating an executive to get information
- Using an unattended workstation

Intruder Behavior

Target acquisition and information gathering	**Initial access**	**Privilege escalation**
Information gathering or system exploit	**Maintaining access**	**Covering tracks**

(a) Target Acquisition and Information Gathering

- Explore corporate website for information on corporate structure, personnel, key systems, as well as details of specific web server and OS used.
- Gather information on target network using DNS lookup tools such as dig, host, and others; and query WHOIS database.
- Map network for accessible services using tools such as NMAP.
- Send query email to customer service contact, review response for information on mail client, server, and OS used, and also details of person responding.
- Identify potentially vulnerable services, eg vulnerable web CMS.

(b) Initial Access

- Brute force (guess) a user's web content management system (CMS) password.
- Exploit vulnerability in web CMS plugin to gain system access.
- Send spear-phishing email with link to web browser exploit to key people.

(c) Privilege Escalation

- Scan system for applications with local exploit.
- Exploit any vulnerable application to gain elevated privileges.
- Install sniffers to capture administrator passwords.
- Use captured administrator password to access privileged information.

(d) Information Gathering or System Exploit

- Scan files for desired information.
- Transfer large numbers of documents to external repository.
- Use guessed or captured passwords to access other servers on network.

(e) Maintaining Access

- Install remote administration tool or rootkit with backdoor for later access.
- Use administrator password to later access network.
- Modify or disable anti-virus or IDS programs running on system.

(f) Covering Tracks

- Use rootkit to hide files installed on system.
- Edit logfiles to remove entries generated during the intrusion.

Table 8.1

Examples of Intruder Behavior

(Table can be found on pages 255-256 in the textbook.)

Definitions

- Security Intrusion:

Unauthorized act of bypassing the security mechanisms of a system

- Intrusion Detection:

  A hardware or software function that gathers and analyzes information from various areas within a computer or a network to identify possible security intrusions

Intrusion Detection System (IDS)

- Host-based IDS (HIDS)
  - Monitors the characteristics of a single host for suspicious activity
- Network-based IDS (NIDS)
  - Monitors network traffic and analyzes network, transport, and application protocols to identify suspicious activity
- Distributed or hybrid IDS
  - Combines information from a number of sensors, often both host and network based, in a central analyzer that is able to better identify and respond to intrusion activity

Comprises three logical components:

- **Sensors - collect data**
- **Analyzers - determine if intrusion has occurred**
- **User interface - view output or control system behavior**

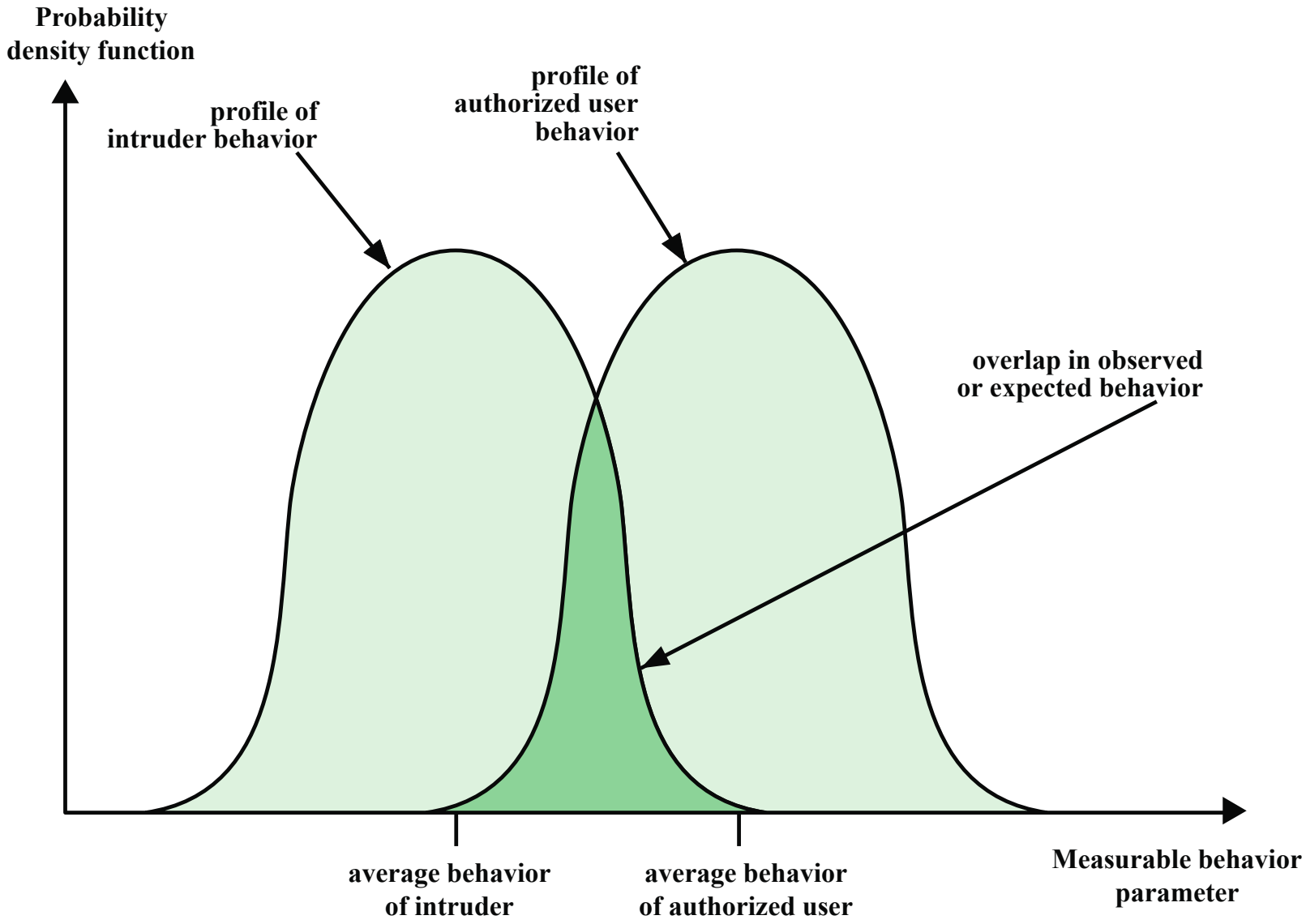

Figure 8.1 Profiles of Behavior of Intruders and Authorized Users

IDS Requirements

Run continually	Be fault tolerant	Resist subversion
Impose a minimal overhead on system	Configured according to system security policies	Adapt to changes in systems and users
Scale to monitor large numbers of systems	Provide graceful degradation of service	Allow dynamic reconfiguration

Analysis Approaches

Anomaly detection

- Involves the collection of data relating to the behavior of legitimate users over a period of time
- Current observed behavior is analyzed to determine whether this behavior is that of a legitimate user or that of an intruder

Signature/Heuristic detection

- Uses a set of known malicious data patterns or attack rules that are compared with current behavior
- Also known as misuse detection
- Can only identify known attacks for which it has patterns or rules

Anomaly Detection

A variety of classification approaches are used:

Statistical	Knowledge based	Machine-learning
• Analysis of the observed behavior using univariate, multivariate, or time-series models of observed metrics	• Approaches use an expert system that classifies observed behavior according to a set of rules that model legitimate behavior	• Approaches automatically determine a suitable classification model from the training data using data mining techniques

Signature or Heuristic Detection

Signature approaches

Match a large collection of known patterns of malicious data against data stored on a system or in transit over a network

The signatures need to be large enough to minimize the false alarm rate, while still detecting a sufficiently large fraction of malicious data

Widely used in anti-virus products, network traffic scanning proxies, and in NIDS

Rule-based heuristic identification

Involves the use of rules for identifying known penetrations or penetrations that would exploit known weaknesses

Rules can also be defined that identify suspicious behavior, even when the behavior is within the bounds of established patterns of usage

Typically rules used are specific

SNORT is an example of a rule-based NIDS