

Security Lab

Lab 1: Current Events

Systems Security Management



Document Sections

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Lab Purpose

One of the most important tasks a systems administrator (SA) can do is keep up with current events. Technology and Security news, specifically, are a vital component in an SA's arsenal. Knowing when patches are available, when a new vulnerability is discovered, new products are announced, or even when systems are being actively exploited can only help the SA with maintaining his or her systems effectively.

The purpose of this lab is to provide an opportunity to learn from current events affecting technology and security. This lab has two (2) parts:

1. Research Current Events
2. Present the Current Event to the Class

Research Current Events

There are a number of technology websites specializing in both technology and security news. Some are well respected sites, such as published magazines CIO or Network World, while others are blogs and other less-professional websites. Any combination of these sources is good for researching the topics and events occurring throughout the IT industry.

Present the Current Event to the Class

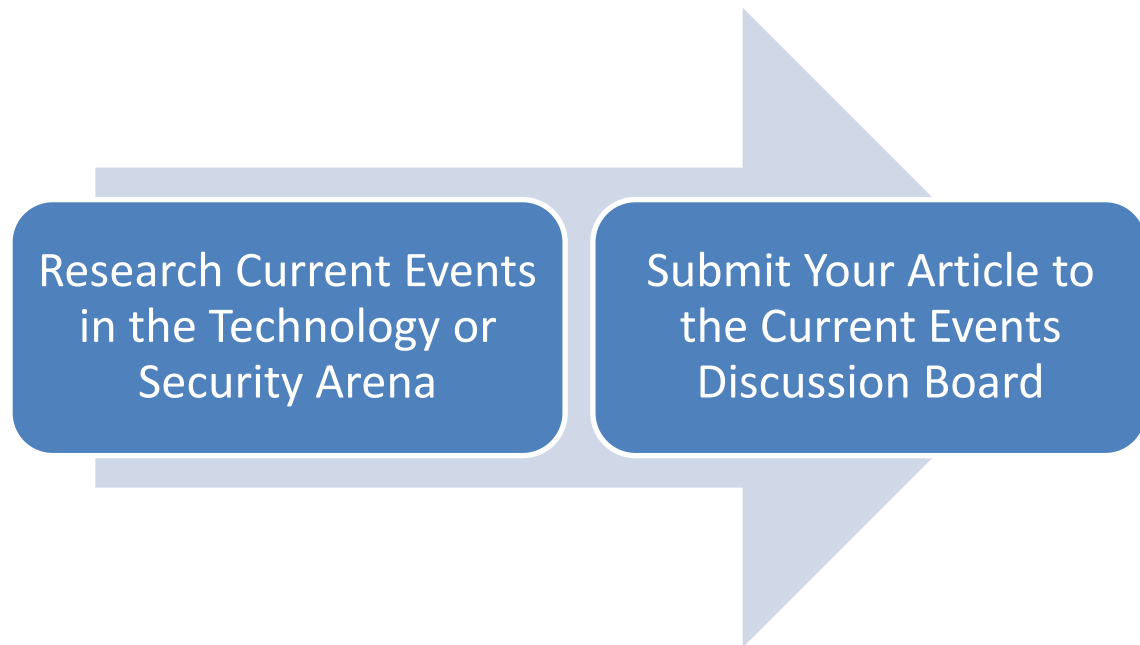
Relaying information to your peers can be vital to your success with any company, and any time you can share information with other systems administrators is a good thing. For example, the University of Arizona has several e-mail discussion groups setup for the purpose of sharing information amongst UA Network Managers. Some people may dislike the e-mail spam generated by these types of discussion groups and instead subscribe to RSS feeds or discussion forums hosted on the Internet. Any of these are good ways to share information with your peers; however, in this class you will share current event information with your peers via discussion forum.

Lab Goal

Upon completion of this lab, you should have:

- Found one or more technology and/or security news websites you can read regularly for up-to-date information.
- Increase your understanding of current issues affecting systems administrators and the IT industry.
- Practice in presenting concise information to your peers.

Lab Instructions



1. Research Current Events in the Technology or Security Arena

- 1) Look for current event articles (within the past 15-20 days) relating to topics taught in this course (review the syllabus for topics).
- 2) Look for news articles that are from professional websites. This can include blogs from professional sites; however, this does not include personal blogs from random sites.

2. Submit Your Article to the Lab #1: Current Events Discussion Board

- 1) Open a web browser to:
 - a. <https://d2l.arizona.edu>
- 2) Log-in with your UA NetID.
- 3) Navigate to this course (Systems Security Management).
- 4) Navigate to the **Discussion** section of the site.
- 5) Navigate to the **Lab #1: Current Events** forum.

- 6) Please review the Lab #1: Current Events discussion board to ensure your chosen article has not been previously posted by another student.
- 7) Create a new thread with the subject of your post having the same name as your chosen article title.
- 8) In the body of the post, please provide the following information:
 - a. Article Title
 - b. Author
 - c. Date Published
 - d. Site Name (where published)
 - e. Direct Link to the Article
 - f. Topic Discussed
 - g. Brief description of the article (1-2 paragraphs max.)
 - h. Explain how this article relates to system administration or how the event would affect a systems administrator

Lab Deliverables

At this point you should have the following:

- A current events article pertaining to a systems security management topic presented in this course.

Submit the following via the Blackboard Discussions – Lab #1: Current Events forum for the lab:

- Your article posted as instructed above.

Lab Rubric

Lab #1 will be graded as follows:

Sections	Additional Information
Following Instructions (50%)	Did you locate an article relating to the material in this course? Did you post all of the required information? Did you avoid duplicating any articles?
Discuss the Article (50%)	Did you describe the article? Did you discuss how the information contained in the article will affect a SysAdmin?

Lab Resources

- UA D2L Course Learning System – <https://d2l.arizona.edu>
- Potential sites for research (can be others not listed here)
 - CIO Magazine – <http://www.cio.com>
 - Computer World – <http://www.computerworld.com>
 - Network World – <http://www.networkworld.com>
 - CNET Technology News – <http://news.cnet.com>
 - MIT Technology Review – <http://www.technologyreview.com>
 - Popular Mechanics – <http://www.popularmechanics.com>

- There are many, many more sites you can choose from. Google is your friend!

Extra Credit

- For five (5) additional extra credit points, complete this lab a second time during the course.