Chapter 1

Introduction

Objectives

- To define three security goals
- To define security attacks that threaten security goals
- To define security services and how they are related to the three security goals
- To define security mechanisms to provide security services
- To introduce two techniques, cryptography and steganography, to implement security mechanisms.

1-1 SECURITY GOALS

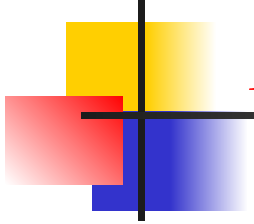
This section defines three security goals.

Topics discussed in this section:

1.1.1 Confidentiality
1.1.2 Integrity
1.1.3 Availability

1.1 Continued

Figure 1.1 *Taxonomy of security goals*



1.1.1 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is probably the most common aspect of information security. We need to protect our confidential information. An organization needs to guard against those malicious actions that endanger the confidentiality of its information.

1.1.2 Integrity

Information needs to be changed constantly. Integrity means that changes need to be done only by authorized entities and through authorized mechanisms.

1.1.3 Availability

The information created and stored by an organization needs to be available to authorized entities. Information needs to be constantly changed, which means it must be accessible to authorized entities.

1-2 ATTACKS

The three goals of security—confidentiality, integrity, and availability—can be threatened by security attacks.

Topics discussed in this section:

1.2.1 Attacks Threatening Confidentiality
1.2.2 Attacks Threatening Integrity
1.2.3 Attacks Threatening Availability
1.2.4 Passive versus Active Attacks

Figure 1.2 *Taxonomy of attacks with relation to security goals*

1.2.1 Attacks Threatening Confidentiality

Snooping *refers to unauthorized access to or interception of data.*

Traffic analysis *refers to obtaining some other type of information by monitoring online traffic.*

1.2.2 Attacks Threatening Integrity

Modification *means that the attacker intercepts the message and changes it.*

Masquerading *or* ***spoofing*** *happens when the attacker impersonates somebody else.*

Replaying *means the attacker obtains a copy of a message sent by a user and later tries to replay it.*

Repudiation *means that sender of the message might later deny that she has sent the message; the receiver of the message might later deny that he has received the message.*

1.2.3 Attacks Threatening Availability

Denial of service ***(DoS) is a very common attack. It may slow down or totally interrupt the service of a system.***

1.2.4 Passive Versus Active Attacks

Table 1.1 *Categorization of passive and active attacks*

1-3 SERVICES AND MECHANISMS

ITU-T provides some security services and some mechanisms to implement those services. Security services and mechanisms are closely related because a mechanism or combination of mechanisms are used to provide a service..

Topics discussed in this section:

1.3.1 Security Services

Figure 1.3 *Security services*

1.3.2 Security Mechanism

Figure 1.4 *Security mechanisms*

1.3.3 Relation between Services and Mechanisms

Table 1.2 *Relation between security services and mechanisms*

1-4 TECHNIQUES

Mechanisms discussed in the previous sections are only theoretical recipes to implement security. The actual implementation of security goals needs some techniques. Two techniques are prevalent today: cryptography and steganography.

Topics discussed in this section:

1.4.1 Cryptography

1.4.2 Steganography

1.4.1 Cryptography

Cryptography, a word with Greek origins, means "secret writing." However, we use the term to refer to the science and art of transforming messages to make them secure and immune to attacks.

1.4.2 Steganography

The word steganography, with origin in Greek, means "covered writing," in contrast with cryptography, which means "secret writing."

Example: covering data with text

Example: using dictionary

Example: covering data under color image

1-5 THE REST OF THE BOOK

The rest of this book is divided into four parts.

Part One: Symmetric-Key Enciphermen

Part Two: Asymmetric-Key Encipherment

Part Three: Integrity, Authentication, and Key Management

Part Four: Network Security