Internship day-2

Report

16-01-2026

OS Security Checklists

An OS security checklist is a structured list of security controls and configuration checks used to ensure an operating system is securely configured, hardened, and ready for production or lab use. These checklists are widely used by system administrators, security engineers, and auditors.

1. **User Accounts & Authentication**

   Disable direct root login
   Enforce strong password policies
   Remove unused or default user accounts
   Use sudo for administrative access
   Lock inactive accounts

2. **Patch & Update Management**

   Apply OS and kernel updates regularly
   Enable automatic security updates
   Remove outdated or unsupported packages

3. **Service & Process Management**

   Disable unused services and daemons
   Remove legacy services (FTP, Telnet)
   Minimize startup services

4. **Network Security & Firewall**

Enable host-based firewall (UFW / iptables)
Allow only required ports and IPs
Disable IP forwarding if not needed

5. **File System & Permissions**

Apply least privilege on files and directories
Secure sensitive system files
Set proper ownership and permissions

6. **Logging, Monitoring & Auditing**

Enable system and authentication logs
Monitor sudo usage
Use auditing tools (auditd)

7. **Kernel & System Protections**

Enable ASLR
Enforce SELinux or AppArmor
Disable unnecessary kernel modules

8. **Secure Boot & Disk Protection**

Enable Secure Boot (if supported)
Encrypt disks or partitions
Protect bootloader configuration

9. **Backup & Recovery**

Regular system backups
Tested restore procedures
Snapshot systems before changes

10. Application & Third-Party Software

Install software from trusted sources only
Remove unnecessary packages
Restrict application privileges

11. Physical Security (Often Overlooked)

Restrict physical access to systems
Disable unused USB ports (servers)
Secure BIOS/UEFI with password

12. Compliance & Baseline Validation

Follow CIS Benchmarks
Align with ISO 27001 / NIST guidelines
Document configurations and changes