

# Session 8

## Database, Cloud and IoT Security



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**Database Security**

# Database Security

- Sensitive information concentrated in organisational database
  - Should be accessed by customer, partner, employee, etc.*
- Database security has not kept pace with increased reliance
  - Imbalance between DBMS complexity and security techniques
  - SQL is a sophisticated interaction protocol
  - Lack of full-time database security personnel in companies
  - Heterogeneous mixture of databases platforms in companies

# DBMS

- Database is a **structured collection** of data stored

*Data are used by one or more applications*

- **Database Management System (DBMS)** is a suite of programs
  - Construct and maintain the database
  - Offer ad hoc query facilities to multiple users/applications
- Efficient access to **large volumes of data**
  - Vital to the operation of many organisations
  - Security requirements beyond capabilities of OS-based security
  - Should be able to control access to records in file

# SQL Injection Attack

- Most **frequent and dangerous** network-based security threats
  - Many attacks covered by the literature are SQLi*
- Designed to exploit the **nature of web application** pages
  - Dynamic pages ask for information (location, credit card, etc.)
  - Dynamic content transferred to and from back-end databases
  - SQLi tries to send malicious SQL command to database server
- Several **kinds of attacks** can be done through SQLi
  - Dump, modify/delete data, launch DoS attack, etc.*

# Injection Technique

- **Prematurely terminate** text string to append a new command

*Add comment mark -- to ignore subsequent text*

```
"SELECT * FROM Orders WHERE ShipCity = '" + shipcity + "'"
```

↓

```
shipcity = "Redmond'; DROP TABLE Orders--'"
```

↓

```
"SELECT * FROM Orders WHERE ShipCity = 'Redmond'; DROP  
TABLE Orders--'"
```

# SQLi Attack Avenue

- Various final targets of **SQLi attacks**

*Directly attacking data in the database or outside it*

- **Five main avenues** of SQLi attack can be identified
  - Provide suitable crafted user input sent to the web application
  - Corrupting server variables (used for HTTP header, etc.)
  - Second-order injection based on already existing information
  - Altering cookies sent from the client to the server
  - Physical user input generating dangerous barcode, RFID, etc.



# SQLi Attack Type

- Various ways of retrieving the **result of the attack**

*Result retrieved directly or indirectly by the attacker*

- **Three main types** of SQLi attacks can be identified
  - **Inband**: same communication channel than injection
  - **Inferential**: reconstruct information by observing results
  - **Out-of-band**: different channel to retrieve results

# SQLi Attack Countermeasure

- A **single countermeasure** is insufficient

*Necessary to use an integrated set of techniques*

- **Three main types** of countermeasures to deploy
  - **Defensive coding**: parametrised query insertion, SQL DOM
  - **Detection**: detect SQLi vulnerabilities in code/ongoing attack
  - **Run-time prevention**: check queries at runtime

# Database Access Control

- DBMS typically provide an **access control** capability

*Assuming the computer system has authenticated each user*

- DBMS typically support three range of **administrative policies**
  - **Centralised**: small number of privileged users for the DBMS
  - **Ownership-based**: table owner (creator) for the table
  - **Decentralised**: owner for other users (DAC)

```
GRANT SELECT ON ANY TABLE TO martin
```

```
REVOKE SELECT ON ANY TABLE FROM julian
```

# Database Encryption

- Database protected by **multiple layers** of security
  - Firewall, authentication, access control, DB access control, etc.*
- Additional measure required in case of **sensitive data**
  - Database encryption is warranted and often implemented...
  - ...and used as the last line of defence
- **Two disadvantages** to database encryption
  - Authorised users must have access to decryption key
  - It becomes more difficult to perform record searching

A photograph of a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with some appearing as thin wisps and others as larger, more dense patches. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**Cloud Security**

# Cloud Security

- Substantial loss of control with **cloud computing** for enterprise

*Over resources, services and applications*

- Several main **cloud-specific threats** have been identified
  - Attackers are abusing cloud computing to lead attacks
  - Exposed interface/API may be insecure (weak authentication)
  - Risk for client data loss or leakage
  - Credentials can be stolen for account/service hijacking
  - ...

# Cloud Data Protection

- Many ways to **compromise data** with cloud computing

*Deletion/alteration of records, unlinking record, encoding key loss*

- Two models for **database environments** for cloud computing

- **Multi-instance** model

*Unique DBMS running on VM instance for each cloud subscriber*

- **Multi-tenant** model

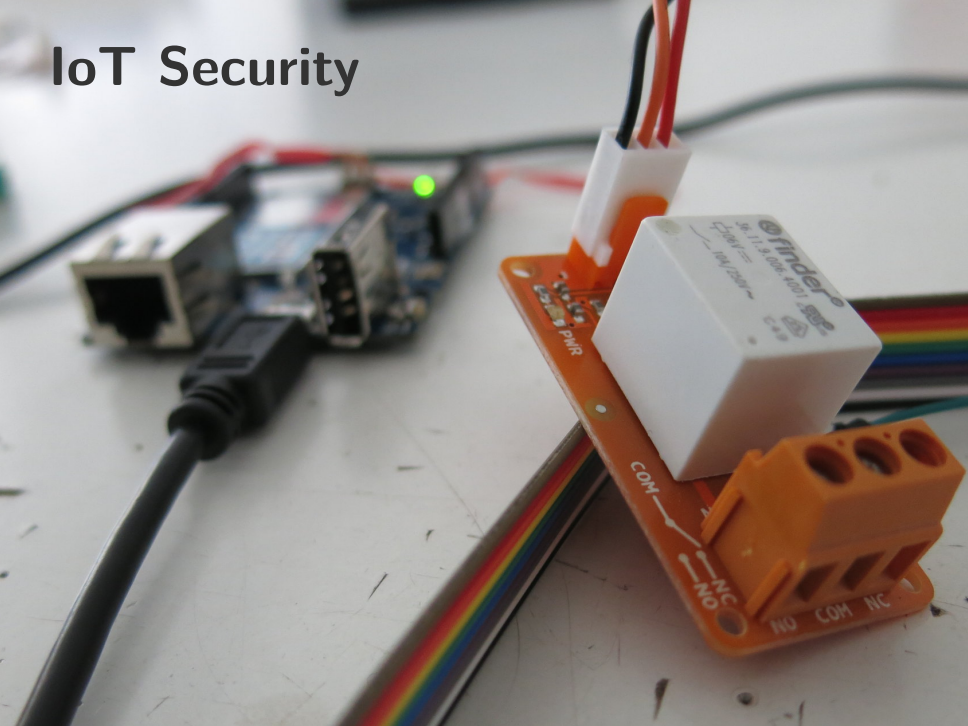
*Predefined environment for the cloud subscriber with tagging*

# Cloud Security as a Service

- **Security as a Service (SECaaS)** package of security services  
*Offload security responsibility from enterprise to service provider*
- Several **security services** can be offered by SECaaS  
*Authentication, anti-virus/malware/..., intrusion detection, etc.*
- **Three main categories** related to cloud-based infrastructure
  - Identity and Access Management (IAM)
  - Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
  - Web security



# IoT Security



# IoT Security

- **IoT security** thought about as for any computer system

*Taking into account the potential limited computational resources*

- **Four main elements** specific to IoT applications
  - Device authentication to confirm true and unique identity
  - Secure connection to protect data in motion
  - Secure code execution to protect data in use
  - Secure storage to protect data at rest

# Layer Architecture

- IoT applications have three different **operational layers**

*Each of which with different functionalities and threats*

- **Three main layers** common to IoT systems can be identified

- **Perception layer** collects the data

*Protect the device from damaging or malicious input data*

- **Application layer** is the most diverse layer

*Data access permission, protection and recovery, etc.*

- **Network layer** transmits the data

*Same problems as TCP/IP (DoS, integrity damage, MitM, etc.)*

# Threat Vector

- Several ways for attacker to **penetrate into an IoT device**

*Attack surface can be very large and weak in IoT applications*

- **Three main attack** categories specific to IoT systems
  - **Communication attack** over network or in IoT environment  
*DoS, DDoS, spoofing, MitM, network injection, etc.*
  - **Physical attack** through wired/wireless medium, or directly  
*Reverse engineering, jamming, tampering, etc.*
  - **Application/Software attack** issues on code  
*SQLi, XSS, misconfiguration, etc.*

# Trust in IoT

- **Trust in IoT** can be divided into four different levels

*IoT user, application, network and physical layers*

- Sacrifice for value is a **big problem** with IoT

*IoT device working for desired purpose and affordable is enough*

- Three different **security classes** must be considered

- **Privacy**: data about you can be collected by companies
- **Availability**: must be available and powered to complete task
- **Reliability**: transmitted and received data must be correct

# Compliance in IoT

- **Compliance** is vital to security and security operations

*Help companies organising security operations*

- Three different **security classes** must be considered
  - **Policy control**: typically regarding users
  - **Governmental oversight**: allowing them access to data
  - **Non-gov. oversight**: alliance, security professionals, etc.

# References

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# Credits

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