Database Security
Week- 10

Databases

- Structured collection of data stored for use by one or more applications
- Contains the relationships between data items and groups of data items
- Can sometimes contain sensitive data that needs to be secured

Query language

- Provides a uniform interface to the database for users and applications

Database management system (DBMS)

- Suite of programs for constructing and maintaining the database
- Offers ad hoc query facilities to multiple users and applications

Relational Databases

- Table of data consisting of rows and columns
  - Each column holds a particular type of data
  - Each row contains a specific value for each column
  - Ideally has one column where all values are unique, forming an identifier/key for that row
- Enables the creation of multiple tables linked together by a unique identifier that is present in all tables
- Use a relational query language to access the database
  - Allows the user to request data that fit a given set of criteria

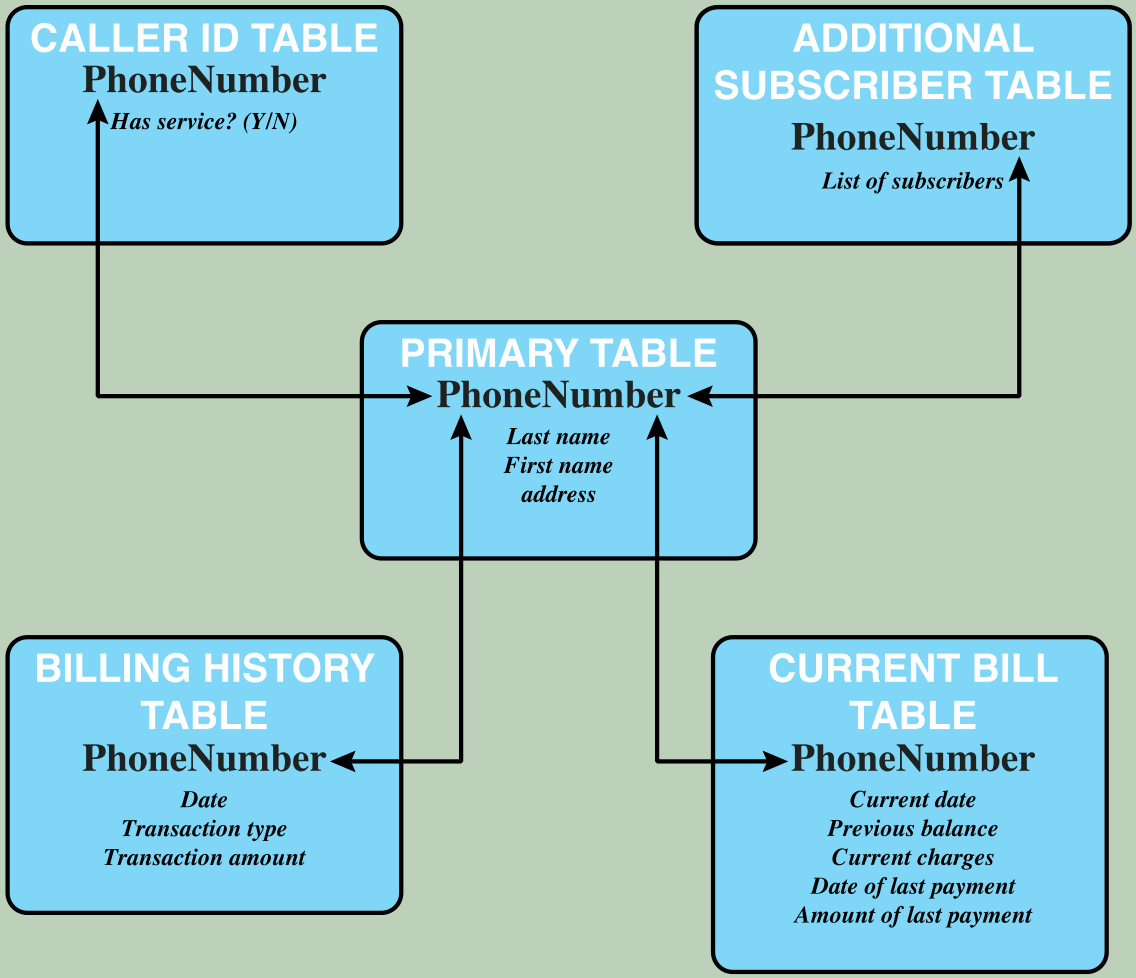


Figure 5.2 Example Relational Database Model. A relational database uses multiple tables related to one another by a designated key; in this case the key is the PhoneNumber field.

Relational Database Elements

- Relation
  - Table/file
- Tuple
  - Row/record
- Attribute
  - Column/field

Primary key

- Uniquely identifies a row
- Consists of one or more column names

Foreign key

- Links one table to attributes in another

View/virtual table

- Result of a query that returns selected rows and columns from one or more tables
- Views are often used for security purposes

Table 5.1
Basic Terminology for Relational Databases

Formal Name	Common Name	Also Known As
Relation	Table	File
Tuple	Row	Record
Attribute	Column	Field

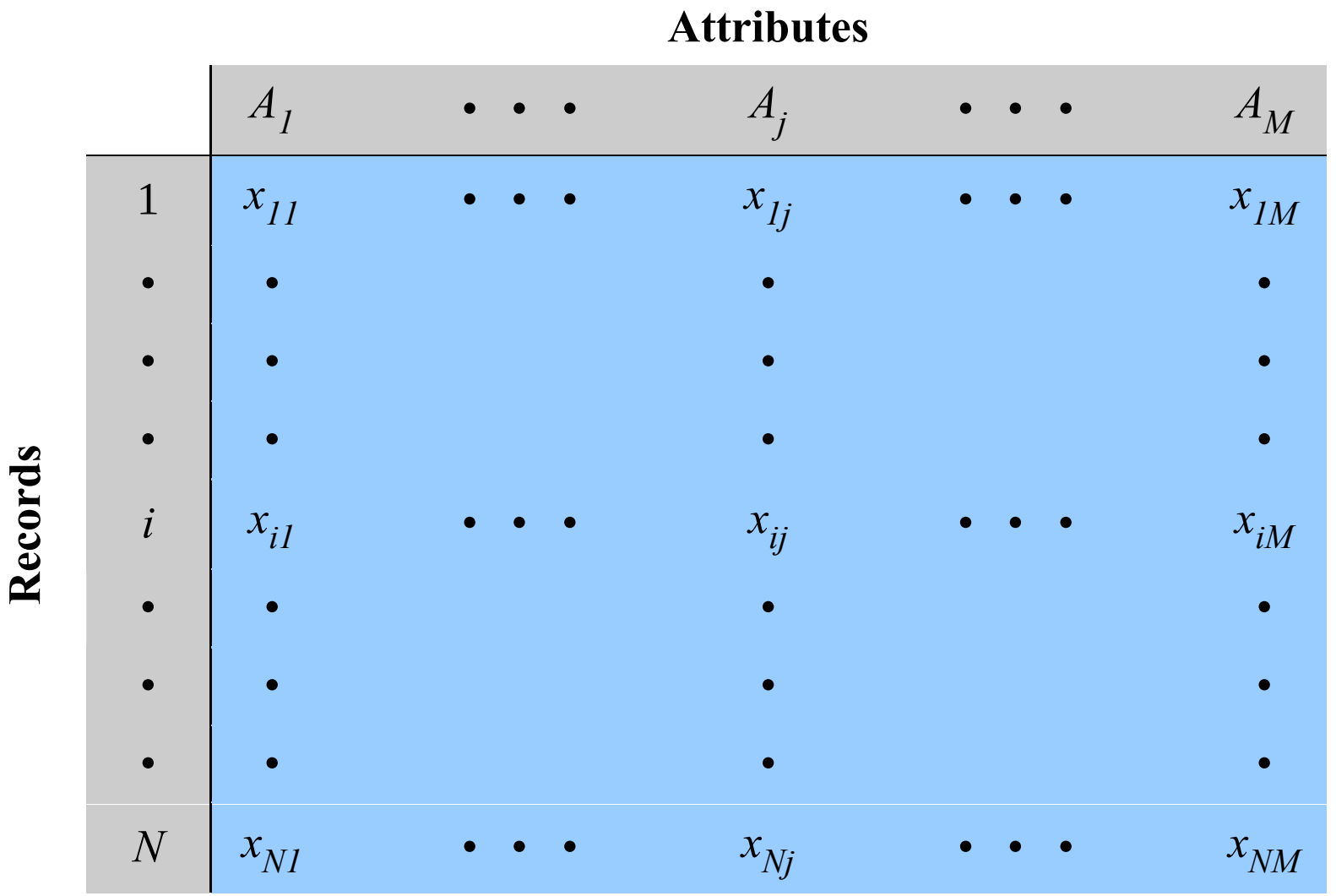


Figure 5.3 Abstract Model of a Relational Database

Department Table

Did	Dname	Dacctno
4	human resources	528221
8	education	202035
9	accounts	709257
13	public relations	755827
15	services	223945

primary key

Employee Table

Ename	Did	Salarycode	Eid	Ephone
Robin	15	23	2345	6127092485
Neil	13	12	5088	6127092246
Jasmine	4	26	7712	6127099348
Cody	15	22	9664	6127093148
Holly	8	23	3054	6127092729
Robin	8	24	2976	6127091945
Smith	9	21	4490	6127099380

foreign key

primary key

(a) Two tables in a relational database

Dname	Ename	Eid	Ephone
human resources	Jasmine	7712	6127099348
education	Holly	3054	6127092729
education	Robin	2976	6127091945
accounts	Smith	4490	6127099380
public relations	Neil	5088	6127092246
services	Robin	2345	6127092485
services	Cody	9664	6127093148

(b) A view derived from the database

Figure 5.4 Relational Database Example

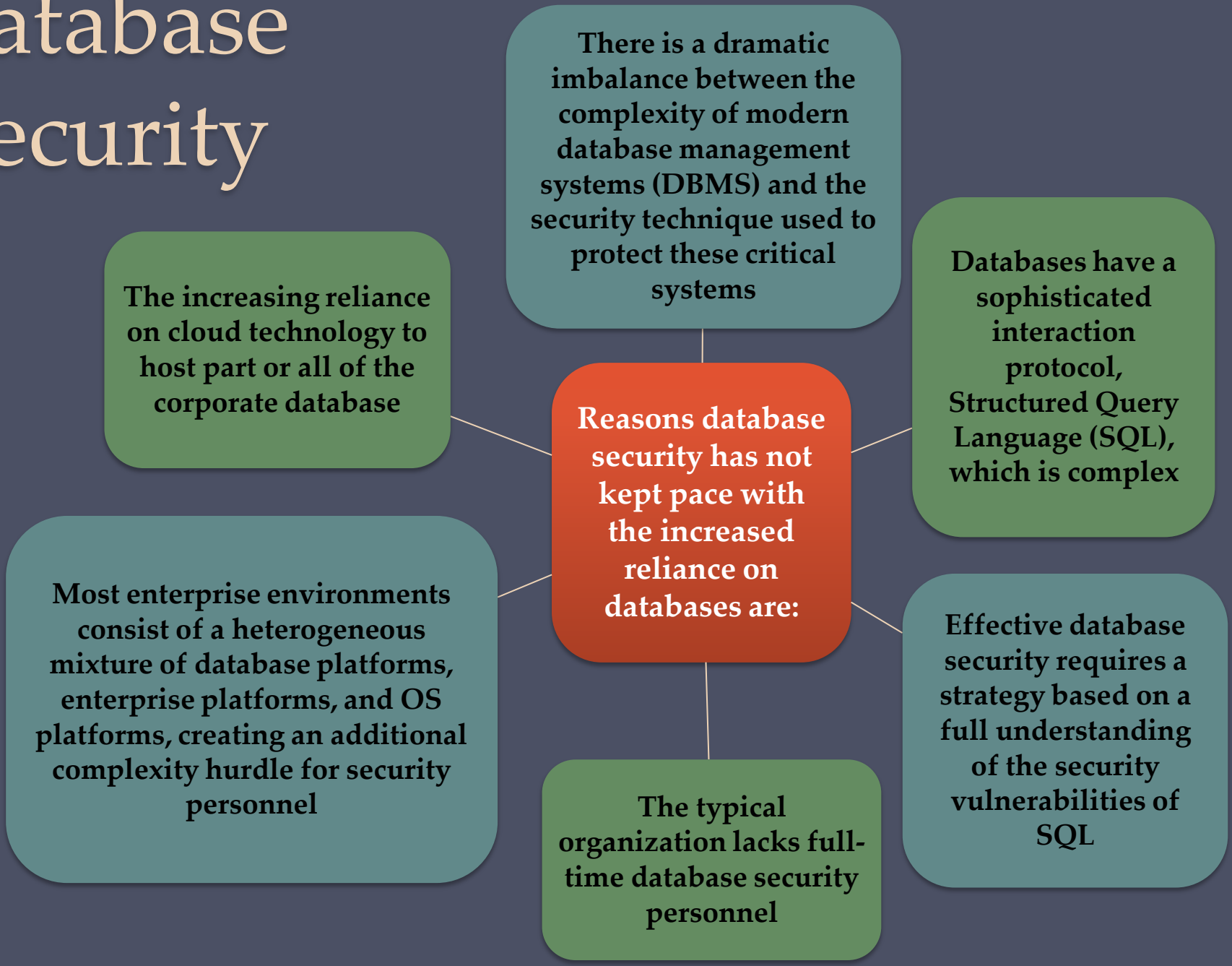
Structured Query Language (SQL)

- Standardized language to define schema, manipulate, and query data in a relational database
- Several similar versions of ANSI/ISO standard
- All follow the same basic syntax and semantics

SQL statements can be used to:

- Create tables
- Insert and delete data in tables
- Create views
- Retrieve data with query statements

Database Security



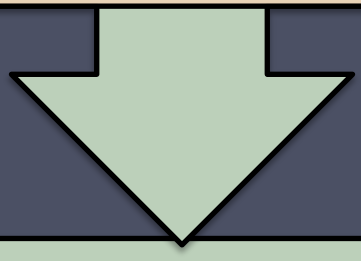
SQL Injection Attacks (SQLi)

- One of the most prevalent and dangerous network-based security threats
- Designed to exploit the nature of Web application pages
- Sends malicious SQL commands to the database server
- Most common attack goal is bulk extraction of data
- Depending on the environment SQL injection can also be exploited to:
  - Modify or delete data
  - Execute arbitrary operating system commands
  - Launch denial-of-service (DoS) attacks

Injection Technique

The SQLi attack typically works by prematurely terminating a text string and appending a new command

Because the inserted command may have additional strings appended to it before it is executed the attacker terminates the injected string with a comment mark "- -"



Subsequent text is ignored at execution time

SQLi Attack Avenues

User input

- Attackers inject SQL commands by providing suitable crafted user input

Server variables

- Attackers can forge the values that are placed in HTTP and network headers and exploit this vulnerability by placing data directly into the headers

Second-order injection

- A malicious user could rely on data already present in the system or database to trigger an SQL injection attack, so when the attack occurs, the input that modifies the query to cause an attack does not come from the user, but from within the system itself

Cookies

- An attacker could alter cookies such that when the application server builds an SQL query based on the cookie's content, the structure and function of the query is modified

Physical user input

- Applying user input that constructs an attack outside the realm of web requests

Inband Attacks

- Uses the same communication channel for injecting SQL code and retrieving results
- The retrieved data are presented directly in application Web page
- Include:

Tautology

This form of attack injects code in one or more conditional statements so that they always evaluate to true

End-of-line comment

After injecting code into a particular field, legitimate code that follows are nullified through usage of end of line comments

Piggybacked queries

The attacker adds additional queries beyond the intended query, piggy-backing the attack on top of a legitimate request

Inferential Attack

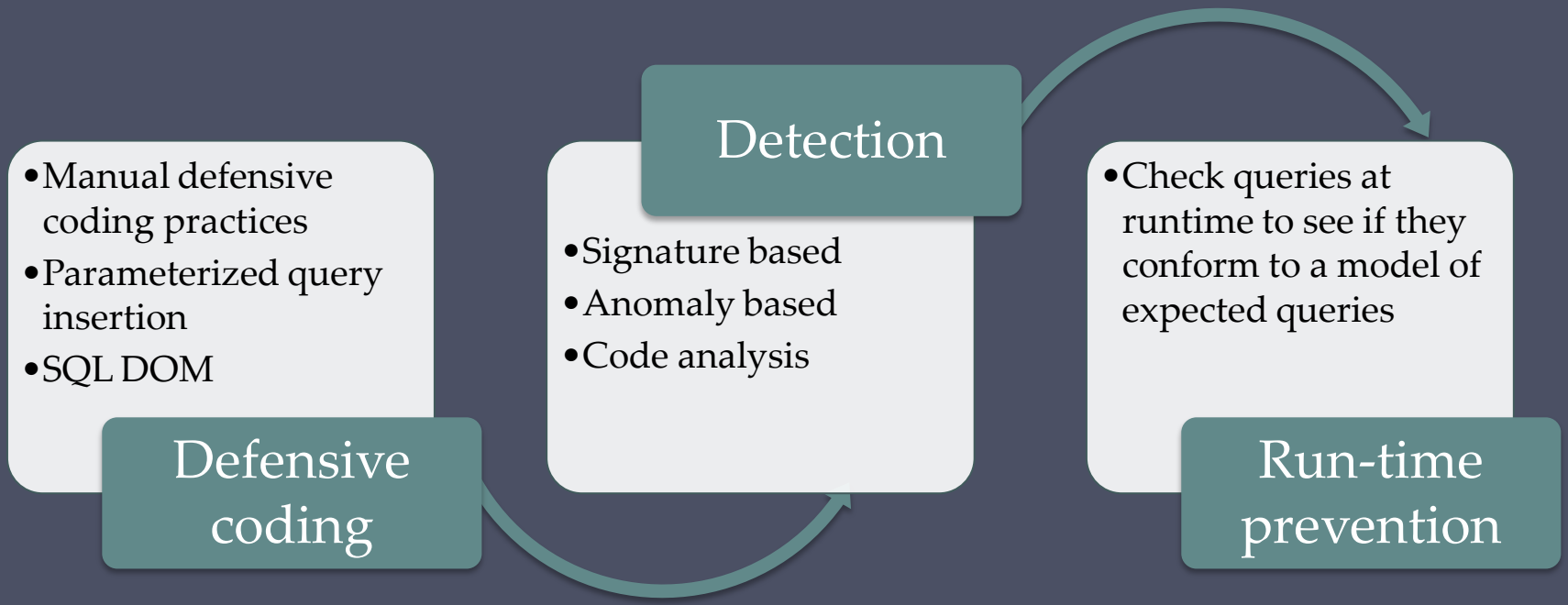
- There is no actual transfer of data, but the attacker is able to reconstruct the information by sending particular requests and observing the resulting behavior of the Website/database server
- Include:
  - Illegal/logically incorrect queries
    - This attack lets an attacker gather important information about the type and structure of the backend database of a Web application
    - The attack is considered a preliminary, information-gathering step for other attacks
  - Blind SQL injection
    - Allows attackers to infer the data present in a database system even when the system is sufficiently secure to not display any erroneous information back to the attacker

Out-of-Band Attack

- Data are retrieved using a different channel
- This can be used when there are limitations on information retrieval, but outbound connectivity from the database server is lax

SQLi Countermeasures

- Three types:



Database Access Control

Database access control system determines:

If the user has access to the entire database or just portions of it

What access rights the user has (create, insert, delete, update, read, write)

Can support a range of administrative policies

Centralized administration

- Small number of privileged users may grant and revoke access rights

Ownership-based administration

- The creator of a table may grant and revoke access rights to the table

Decentralized administration

- The owner of the table may grant and revoke authorization rights to other users, allowing them to grant and revoke access rights to the table

SQL Access Controls

- Two commands for managing access rights:
  - Grant
    - Used to grant one or more access rights or can be used to assign a user to a role
  - Revoke
    - Revokes the access rights
- Typical access rights are:
  - Select
  - Insert
  - Update
  - Delete
  - References

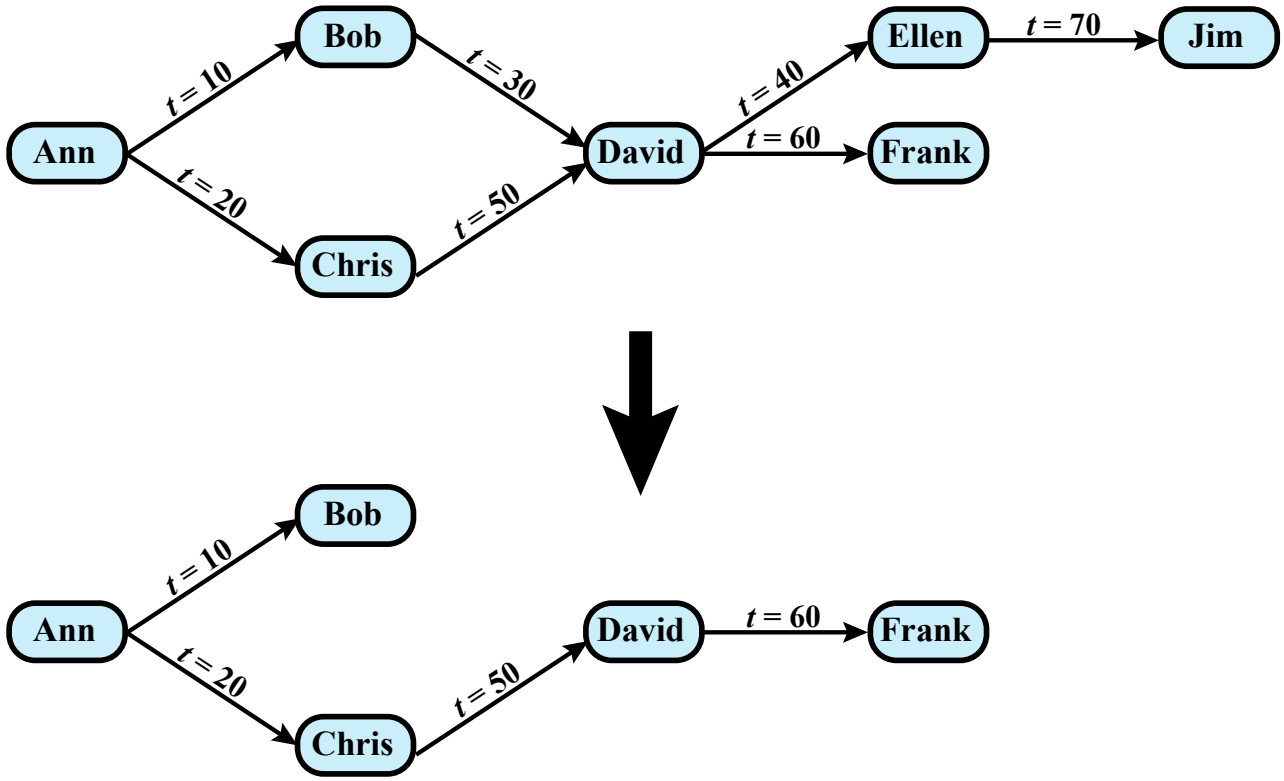


Figure 5.6 Bob Revokes Privilege from David

Database Encryption

- The database is typically the most valuable information resource for any organization
  - Protected by multiple layers of security
    - Firewalls, authentication, general access control systems, DB access control systems, database encryption
    - Encryption becomes the last line of defense in database security
  - Can be applied to the entire database, at the record level, the attribute level, or level of the individual field
- Disadvantages to encryption:
  - Key management
    - Authorized users must have access to the decryption key for the data for which they have access
  - Inflexibility
    - When part or all of the database is encrypted it becomes more difficult to perform record searching

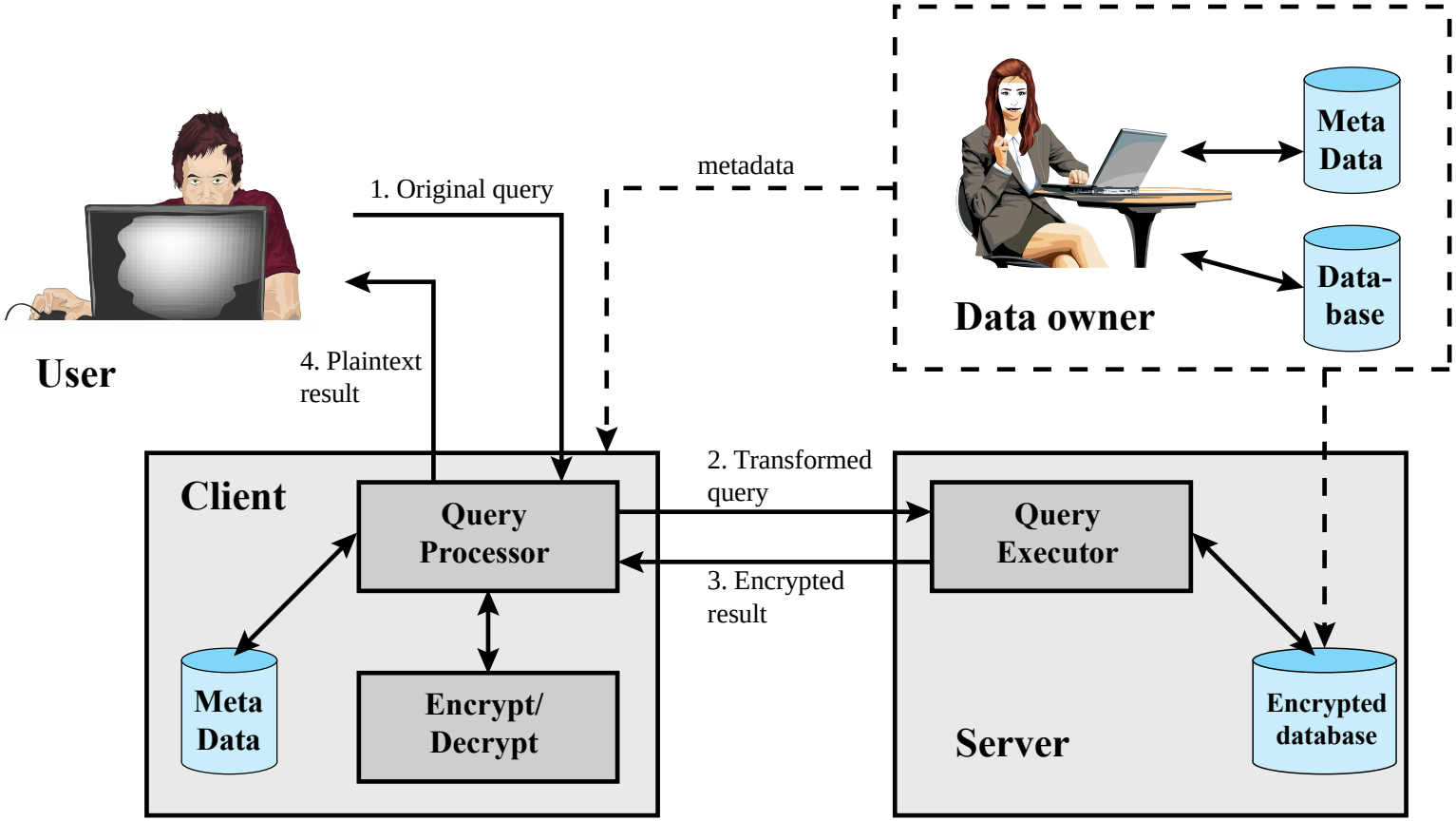


Figure 5.9 A Database Encryption Scheme

Important Syntax

COMMENTS: --

Example: SELECT * FROM `table` --selects everything

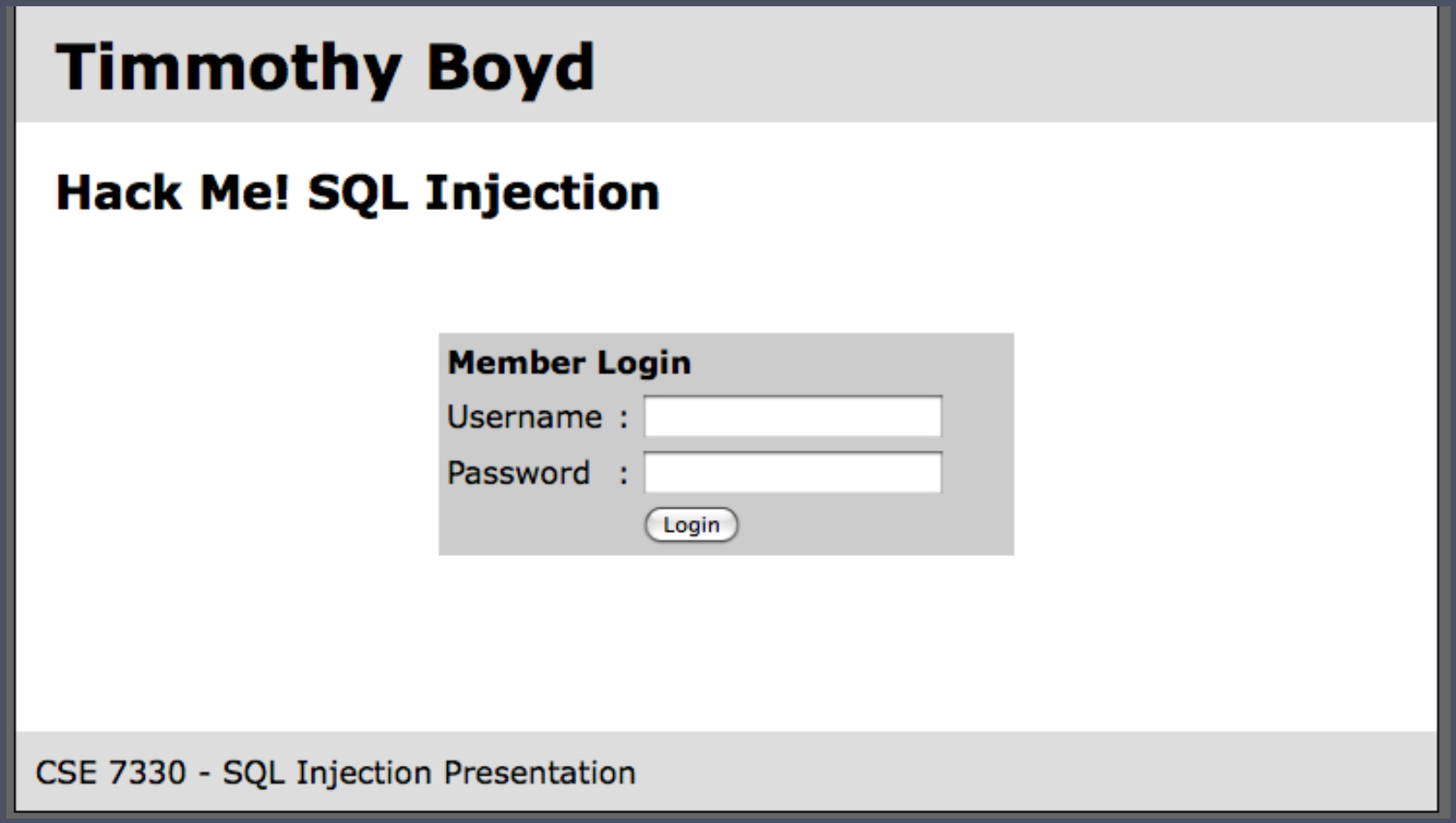
LOGIC: 'a'='a'

Example: SELECT * FROM `table` WHERE 'a'='a'

MULTI STATEMENTS: S1; S2

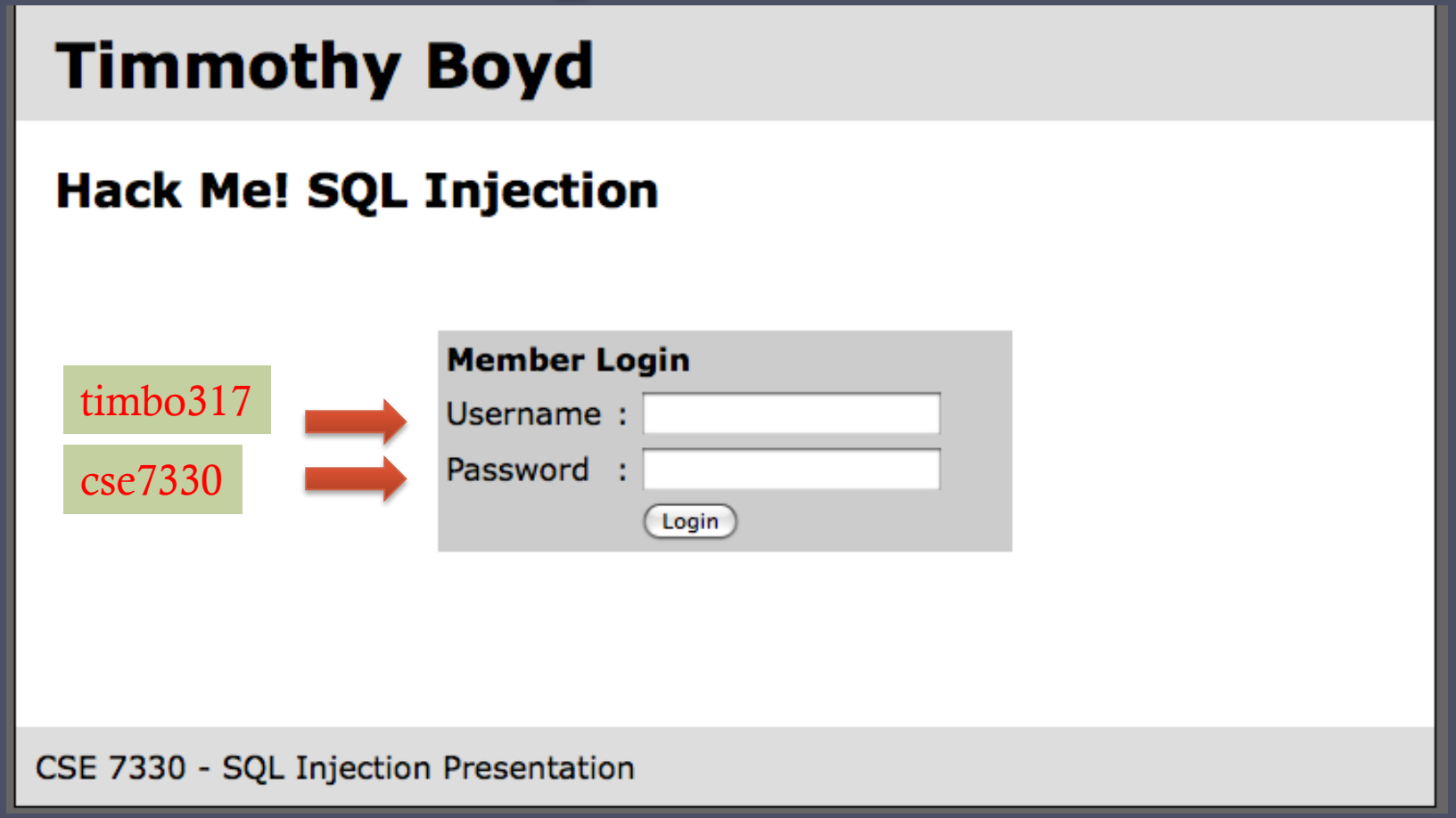
Example: SELECT * FROM `table`; DROP TABLE `table`;

Example Website



```php
<?


function connect_to_db(){...}
function display_form(){...}
function grant_access(){...}
function deny_access(){...}


connect_to_db();

if (!isset($_POST['submit'])) {
    display_form();
}
else{
    // Get Form Data
    $user = stripslashes($_POST["username"]);
    $pass = stripslashes($_POST["password"]);

    // Run Query
    $query = "SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`='$user' AND `pass`='$pass'";
    echo $query . "<br><br>";
    $SQL = mysql_query($query);

    // If user / pass combo found, grant access
    if(mysql_num_rows($SQL) > 0)
    grant_access();

    // Otherwise deny access
    else
    deny_access();
}

?>
```

Example Website



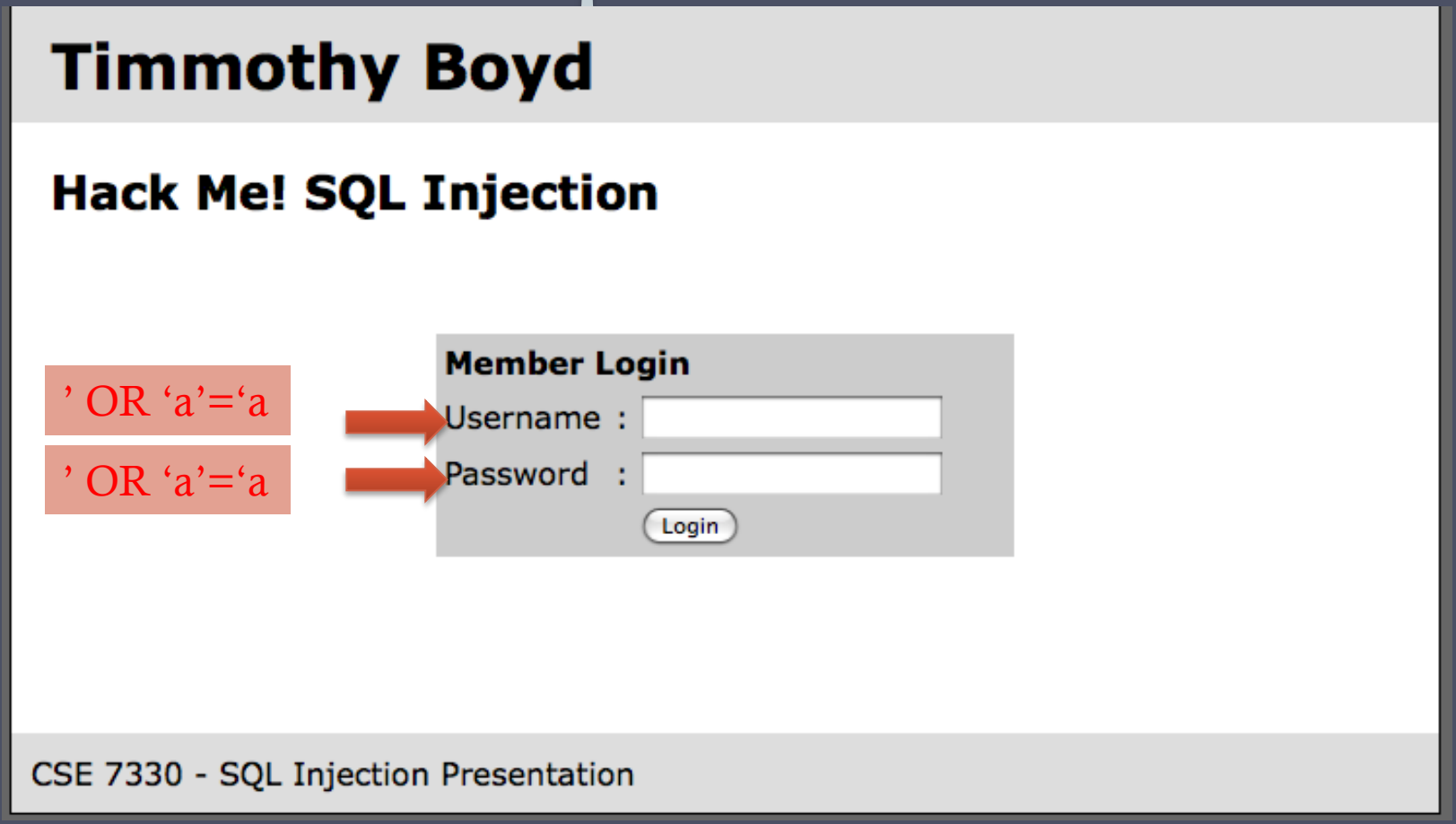
SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`='timbo317' AND `pass`='cse7330'

Login Database Table

user	pass
timbo317	cse7330

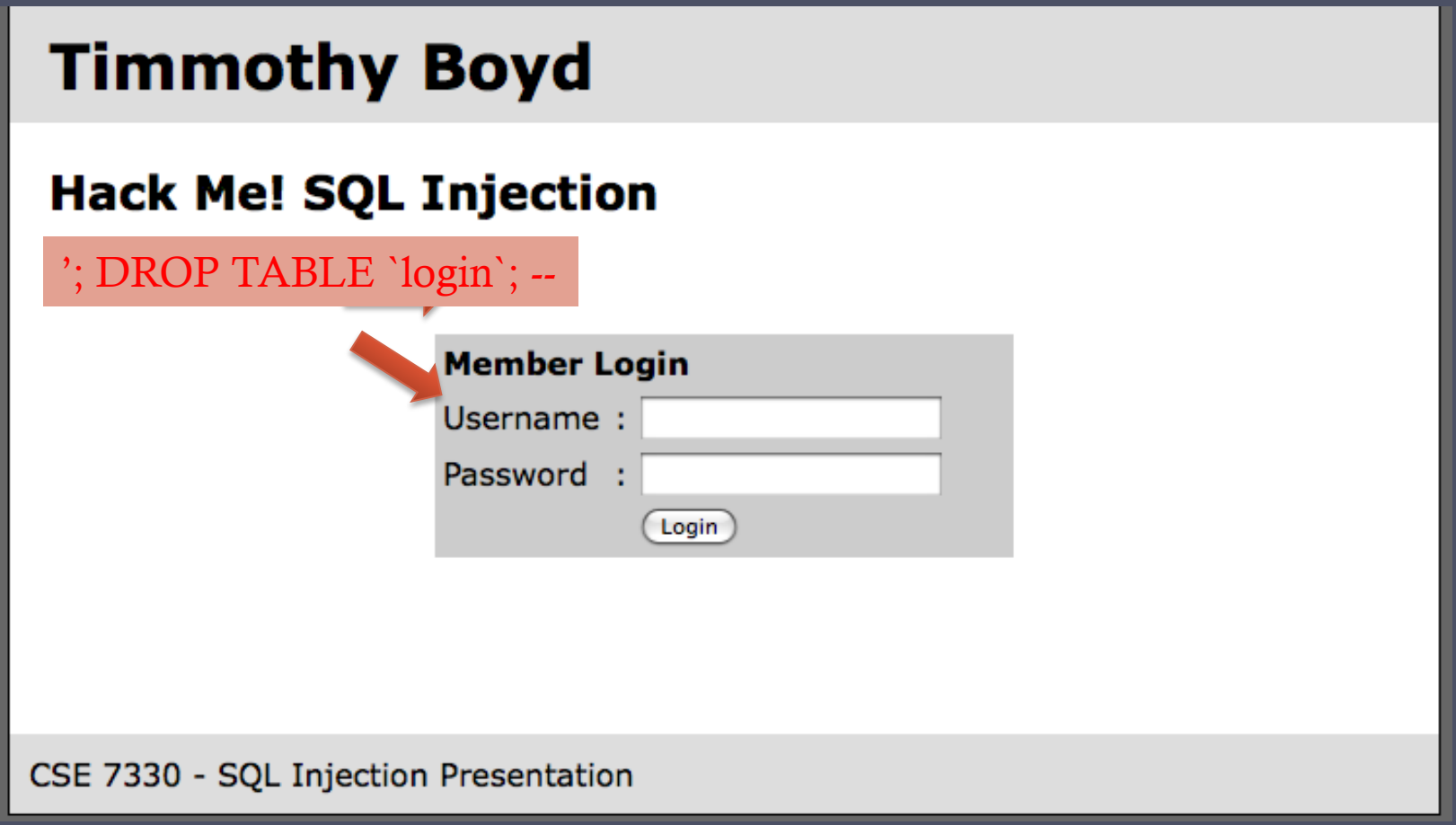
What Could Go Wrong??

Example Hack



SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`='' OR 'a'='a' AND `pass`='' OR 'a'='a'

It Gets Worse!



SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`='; DROP TABLE `login`; --' AND `pass`=''

All Queries are Possible

SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`=''; INSERT INTO `login` ('user','pass') VALUES ('haxor','whatever');--' AND `pass`=''

SELECT * FROM `login` WHERE `user`=''; UPDATE `login` SET `pass`='pass123' WHERE `user`='timbo317';--' AND `pass`=''

Prevention

- Logic to allow only numbers / letters in username and password.
- How should you enforce the constraint?
  SERVER SIDE.
- 'ESCAPE' bad characters.
  ' becomes \'
- READ ONLY database access.
- Remember this is NOT just for login areas!
  NOT just for websites!!