System Description and Risk Analysis

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1 System Characterization

1.1 System Overview

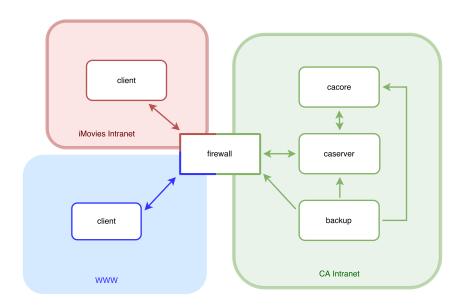


Figure 1: System overview

The mission of the system consist of providing a certificate authority (CA) service through which employees of the fictional company iMovies can request and revoke digital certificates. These certificates will be used for secure e-mail communication between employees. In the following these employees will be referred to as clients and users.

Figure 1 shows an overview of the proposed system. It consist of four subsystems, namely firewall, caserver, cacore and backup and forms the CA Intranet. The term component will be used interchangeably for subsystem. Clients either use the service from inside the company's network or from the Internet. They are interfaced with the system by the firewall which blocks unallowed connections and forwards the request to the caserver. The caserver subsystem provides a web interface for clients and administrators. It performs the authentication and authorization and handles the user requests as well as their sessions. In order to do so, the caserver makes use of the cacore's service. The cacore's task is to control the process of issuing and revoking certificates as well as managing the user data. The backup is responsible for maintaining a copy of all system relevant data including information on users, certificates, keys, logs and configurations. Therefore the backup has access to the other three subsystems.

1.2 System Functionality

In this section we describe the systems functions in terms of system design based on the use cases given in the project assignment. We therefore will not repeat the functional requirements but focus on the implementation and information flows.

1.2.1 Applications

It follows a list containing the

1.3 Security Design

Describe the system's security design, including key and session management and security of data at rest and in transit.

1.4 Components

List all system components and their interfaces, subdivided, for example, into categories such as platforms, applications, data records, etc. For each component, state its relevant properties.

1.5 Backdoors

In the following sections we describe the backdoors we implemented which should give a potential outsider control over the system, such that he can compromise the purpose of the system.

1.5.1 Easy Backdoor

We allowed a known potential vulnerability in some JWT libraries. In JWT the client specifies the algorithm used to sign the token, the library with the vulnerability allow the client to choose the 'none' algorithm. This basically allows the client to create any token with a 'none' signing algorithm where he can omit the signature. Therefore the attacker then can login as any user and perform actions in their name.

1.5.2 Hard Backdoor

The second backdoor finally exposes an open telnet connection with default credentials telnet:telnet which allows the attacker to connect to the CA server as root. To open that channel, the attacker needs to perform two actions: First we implemented port knocking on the firewall, this opens the port TODO. Then we implemented a script listening for a specific ICMP packet on the firewall which will input NAT rules to the firewall, it also sends another packet to the CA server to open the telnet port.

1.6 Additional Material

You may have additional sections according to your needs.

2 Risk Analysis and Security Measures

2.1 Assets

2.1.1 Physical assets

Firewall: The firewall is located in a locked and air conditioned room. There is redundant power supply for its server rack. The states of the firewall are running, compromised and down. Running means everything works as expected, compromised means an unauthorized user has had physical access to the machine and down means the firewall is not running.

Application server: The application server is located in the same server room with redundant power supply, but in a different rack than the firewall. The same states as in the firewall apply here.

Backup server: The backup server is located in the same rack as the application server also equipped with redundant power supply. The same states as in the firewall apply here.

Internal network: The internal network is an Ethernet local area network connecting the above mentioned components. The components are connected using layer 2 switches located in the server room. The states are running, compromised and down. A running state indicates that only authorized devices are connected to the network. A compromised state may indicate that an unauthorized user has added his own device to the network and is sniffing connections or injecting and blocking messages. A down state indicates that the network is shut down.

External network: The external network connects the firewall to the internet by Ethernet cable using a router that is also located in the server room. The same states as in the internal network apply here.

2.1.2 Logical assets

Connectivity: Connections between each components and connection to the ISP. For the system to work properly, all components need to be properly connected. The states are connected and not connected.

2.1.3 Logical software assets

Firewall operating system: The operating system of the firewall is the latest Ubuntu server edition. It is managed by the system administrator who installs all relevant updates and patches within few hours after their

release. The states are running, vulnerable, compromised and down. A vulnerable state indicates that the system is not up-to-date and vulnerable to known exploits. A compromised state means the system was already exploited by an attacker.

- **Firewall service:** The firewall that separates the internal and external network is the latest edition of the Config Server Firewall (csf). The states are the same as for the Firewall operating system.
- **Appserver operating system:** The operating system of the appserver is the same as for the firewall and the same states apply.
- Appserver webserver: The appserver runs a nginx webserver which handles all http and https requests. It is updated by the system adminstrator. Its states are running, compromised and down. A compromised webserver allows an attacker for example to perform a man-in-the-middle attack.
- Appserver application: The application is written in python and uses the Django framework. It manages the database and creates, revokes and provides certificates to the user. Both python and the Django framework are regularly updated by the system administrator. The states are similar to the webserver, but in a compromised state, an attacker might change the behaviour of the application.
- Appserver certificate authority scripts: The functionality as a certificate authority is provided by a set of scripts that rely on the opensel library. The behaviour of the scripts is monitored by the system administrators. The states are similar to the webserver states, but in a compromised state an attacker also has access to certificate related functionality.
- **Appserver database** The database is running MySQL and is updated and monitored for misbehaviour by the system administrator. The states are similar to the webserver, but in a compromised state an attacker has altered the database.
- **Backupserver operating system:** The operating system of the backupserver is the same as for the firewall and the same states apply.
- Backupserver duplicity: Duplicity periodically runs on the backupserver and backs up and encrypts valuable data from both the firewall and the appserver such as configurations, logs, certificates, private keys and the database.

2.1.4 Logical information assets

User database: The database contains user ids, email addresses and hashed passwords. The states are confidential and leaked. A confidential state means that only authorized system administrators and corresponding users have access to these information. In a leaked state, an attacker was able to read the whole or part of the database.

- Certificates: The certificates of each user, the certificate of the webserver and the root certificate. If a certificate is used by someone other than its owner or a certificate is used even though it was revoked, its state is invalid. Otherwise its state is valid. The severity of an invalid certificate depends on which certificate it is and if the usage of such an invalid certificate was detected, since user certificates can easily be revoked.
- **Appserver configuration:** Configuration files of different services such as webserver, database, Django, certificate authority or ssh can give insight into how the system behaves and might help detect misconfigured and thus exploitable services. The states are the same as for the user database.
- **Private keys:** The private keys for certificates or for ssh connections within the system. Similar states to user database, but the private key is either private or leaked.
- **Crl:** The certificate revocation list has to be up-to-date and available to any user. The states are available if any user can get the list and unavailable if this is not the case.
- **Backupserver configuration:** Configuration files for services such as duplicity. The states are the same as for the appserver configuration.
- **Logs:** Logging information about various services. The states are the same as for certificates.
- Login credentials: Login credentials for ssh connections to different machines that may be leaked by a system administrators and login credentials from users that log into the application server. The states are the same as for the private keys, but for ssh login credential the security concern is much higher.
- **JWT:** A JSON web token (JWT) describes an active connection of a user to the webserver. If an attacker manages to compromise the system in a way that he is also part of this connection, the state is compromised. For an active confidential connection the state is confidential and after the connection is closed the state is closed.
- **Archive key:** The key that is used to encrypt all backed up data on the backupserver. The states are similar to the private keys.
- Intermediate & Root key: The intermediate key to sign the webserver certificate and user certificates and the root key which signs the intermediate certificate. The states are similar to private keys.

2.1.5 Persons

User/Employee: The users of the authenticated mail server, which are employees of iMovie. The state of a user is either loyal or unloyal depending on which relation he has to the company.

- **CA Administrator:** The CA administrators can query the certificate authority for additional information about its state but cannot modify, revoke or create any certificates (except for his own). The states are the same as for user/employee.
- **System Administrator/Insider:** The system administrators manages the system. The states are the same as for user/employee.
- **Private key holder:** The CA administrator holds the private key of the root certificate. The states are the same as for user/employee.

2.1.6 Intangible assets

User confidence: The trust a user has in the system. This is influenced by security breaches, usability of the webserver and other factors. The user either has confidence in the system or not, which means there are two states, confident and not confident.

2.2 Threat Sources

- Nature: Environmental factors can hinder the execution of the system. There could be water leaks that would cause damage to servers and where data can be lost.
- **User:** The employees of iMovie can intentionally misbehave and manipulate the system or unknowingly help an attacker compromise the system.
- **System administrator/Insider:** A system administrator is a more impactful threat source to the system than a user, since a compromised system administrator leads to much bigger security concerns than a compromised user.
- Script kiddies: Script kiddies most likely do not have iMovie as their primary target, but might still try for example to infect the servers with malware to use them in a botnet. They do not have the skills to infiltrate a well protected system and so the usual security measurements and regular updates should be enough to sufficiently protect against them.
- Skilled hacker: A skilled hacker is a big threat source and the usual security measurements most likely do not give enough protection against such an attacker. He might try to infiltrate the CA server and extract private keys to be able to imitate the webserver itself, issue arbitrary certificates or use the keys to perform man-in-the-middle attacks between employees and extract valuable information. He is most likely to be hired by a competitor or a criminal.
- Malware: There is always the possibility of either directed or undirected malware infection if users with infected systems interact with the system.

Organized crime: Criminals that try to extract information from the system to blackmail people or steal valuable login credentials that are used across multiple systems.

Competitors: Competitors that want to undermine the reputation of iMovie, gain knowledge about company secrets or simply cause them damage.

2.3 Risks Definitions

The risk and the likelyhood are both defined qualitatively with the values: **Low**, **Medium** and **High**. The definition of each value is taken from "Applied Information Security - A Hands-on Approach" [?].

	Likelihood				
Likelihood	Description				
High	The threat source is highly motivated and sufficiently capable of exploiting a given vulnerability in order to change the assets state. The controls to prevent the vulnerability from being exploited are ineffective.				
Medium	The threat source is motivated and capable of exploiting a given vulnerability in order to change the assets state, but controls are in place that may impede a successful exploit of the vulner- ability.				
Low	The threat source lacks motivation or capabilities to exploit a given vulnerability in order to change the assets state. Another possibility that results in a low likelihood is the case where controls are in place that prevent (or at least significantly impede) the vulnerability from being exercised.				

	Impact				
Impact	Description				
High	The event (1) may result in a highly costly loss of major tangible				
	assets or resources; (2) may significantly violate, harm, or impede				
	an organizations mission, reputation, or interest; or (3) may result				
	in human death or serious injury.				
Medium	The event (1) may result in a costly loss of tangible assets or				
	resources; (2) may violate, harm, or impede an organizations mis-				
	sion, reputation, or interest, or (3) may result in human injury.				
Low	The event (1) may result in a loss of some tangible assets or re-				
	sources or (2) may noticeably affect an organizations mission, rep-				
	utation, or interest.				

Risk Level						
Likelihood	Impact					
	Low	Medium	High			
High	Low	Medium	High			
Medium	Low	Medium	Medium			
Low	Low	Low	Low			

2.4 Risk Evaluation

In the following section we will give a risk evaluation for all possible threats and their impact on each of our assets described above.

2.4.1 Evaluation physical asset: Hardware

We can evaluate the risk for our servers and the firewall jointly as the same physical threats apply to them.

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
1	Nature: Component failure	Standard configuration, configuration backups, spare machines / compo- nents	Medium	Medium	Medium
2	Insider: Accidental or intentional destruction of components	Restrictive room access policies, spare machines / components	Low	Medium	Low
3	Nature: Flooding, fire etc.	Place fire alarm and sprin- kler in server room, server room is located in a build- ing on elevated level	Low	High	Low
4	Competitors / Organized crime: Get physical access to server room	Location of server room not public, restrictive ac- cess policy	Low	High	Low

2.4.2 Evaluation physical asset: Internal network

The networking assets include the network cables and the switches/routers used in the server room.

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
5	Nature: Component failure	Commodity switch/router, spare cables	Low	Medium	Low
6	Insider: Accidental or intentional destruction of components	Restrictive room access policies, spare cables, backup switch	Low	Medium	Low
7	Insider: Network misconfiguration	Standard configuration, clear documentation	Medium	Medium	Medium
8	Nature: Flooding, fire etc.	Place fire alarm and sprin- kler in server room, server room is located in a build- ing on elevated level	Low	Medium	Low
9	Competitors / Organized crime: Get physical access to server room	Location of server room not public, restrictive ac- cess policy	Low	Medium	Low

2.4.3 Evaluation physical asset: External network

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
10	Nature: ISP failure	Redundant connection to	Low	Medium	Low
		ISP			

2.4.4 Evaluation logical asset: Firewall software

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	1	Risk
11	System administrator: Misconfigure firewall, purposely include backdoor	System administrators check for misbehaviour of other system administrators	Low	High	Low
12	Skilled hacker: Bypass firewall	Use restrictive access rules, regularly update system, keep access logs	Medium	Medium	Medium
13	Espionage / Organized crime: Bypass firewall, use zero day exploits	As above	Medium	Medium	Medium

2.4.5 Evaluation logical asset: CA server software

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
14	System Administrator: Install bad software (e.g. sniffer), do not correctly update/configure system	Use skilled employees for the task, review system by second party	Low	High	Low
15	Script kiddies: DDoS	Limit incoming connections from same IP in firewall	Medium	Medium	Medium
16	Skilled hacker / Organized Crime: Get system access	Stop all unused services, close all unnecessary ports	Low	High	Low
17	Malware: Use server for sending spam or distribute itself on webpages	Same as above	High	Medium	Medium

2.4.6 Evaluation logical asset: CA server application

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
18	System Administrator: Cre-	Log all certificate creation	Low	High	Low
	ate certificate for some user	procedures			
19	Script kiddies / Skilled hacker	Validate and sanitize all in-	Low	High	Low
	/ Organized Crime: XSS	put			
20	Script kiddies / Skilled hacker	Only use HTTPS for com-	Low	High	Low
	/ Organized Crime: Eaves-	munication			
	drop on communication				

$\textbf{2.4.7} \quad \textit{Evaluation logical asset: CA server database}$

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	$_{\rm L}$	I	Risk
21	Script kiddies /	Sanitize all inputs	Medium	High	Medium
	Skilled hacker / Or-				
	ganized Crime: SQL				
	injection				

2.4.8 Evaluation logical asset: Backup server software

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
22	System administra-	Monitor backup service	Low	Medium	Low
	tor: Turn off backup,				
	misconfigure backup				
	(encryption)				
23	Skilled hacker: Get access	Restrict access, turn off un-	Low	High	Low
	to system	used services, log activities			

2.4.9 Evaluation information asset: User data

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
24	User: Lose their username and password	Allow them to login using a certificate	Low	Low	Low
25	System Administrator: Intentionally or accidentally modify user data	Don't allow data access to administrators	Low	Medium	Low
26	Script kiddies / Skilled hacker: Steal data	Always use encrypted com- munication, store data en- crypted on backup, restrict access on user data	Medium	Medium	Medium

2.4.10 Evaluation information asset: Certificates

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
27	User: Lose the certifi-	Ability to revoke certifi-	Medium	Low	Low
	cate	cates			
28	System Administra- tor: Modify data linked to certificate	Restrict data access	Low	Medium	Low
29	Skilled hacker: Issue bogus certificate	Don't allow user registra- tion, log certificate cre- ations	Low	High	Low

2.4.11 Evaluation information asset: Private keys

N	lo.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
30	0	System Administrator: Leak	Only root is allowed to ac-	Low	High	Low
		to external party	cess private keys			
3	1	Script kiddies / Skilled	Private keys are only ac-	Low	High	Low
		hacker: Steal private keys	cessible for root users, keys			
			are encrypted in transfer			

2.4.12 Evaluation information asset: CRL

1	No.	Threat			Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
- 6	32	$\stackrel{\circ}{\operatorname{script}}$	Administra kiddies / Insert fake or ries	$\stackrel{'}{\mathrm{skilled}}$	Restrict write access to crl file to root	Low	High	Low

2.4.13 Evaluation information asset: Server configuration

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	\mathbf{L}	I	Risk
33	System Adminis-	Place configuration in	Low	Medium	Low
	trator: Leak con-	standard place (secured by			
	figuration	access policies)			
34	Script kiddies /	As above, additionally	Low	High	Low
	Skilled hacker: Al-	backup config incremen-			
	ter configuration	tally (spot alterations)			
	(e.g. weaken pre-				
	ferred security al-				
	gorithms)				
35	Malware: Delete	Backup configuration (in-	Medium	High	Medium
	or alter configura-	cremental), access logs, re-			
	tion randomly	strictive access policies			
36	Competitors / Es-	Hide internal configura-	Low	Medium	Low
	pionage: Access	tions of the system from			
	configuration and	the outside			
	use for own sys-				
	tem				

2.4.14 Evaluation information asset: Logs

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	$_{\rm L}$	I	Risk
37	System Administrator: Accidentally or intentionally delete logs	Policy to not delete logs be- fore they are backed up	Low	Medium	Low
38	Script kiddies / Skilled hacker: Insert or delete messages from the logs	Restrict access to logs to application and root	Medium	Medium	Medium
39	Malware: Insert random logs	Restrict access to logs to application and root	Low	Medium	Low

2.4.15 Evaluation information asset: Login credentials

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
40	System Administrator: For-	Backup offline, allow login	Low	Low	Low
	get login credentials	with ssh key			
41	Script kiddies / Skilled	Restrict amount of connec-	Low	High	Low
	hacker: Brute force password	tions from same IP, enforce			
	guessing	strong passwords			

2.4.16 Evaluation information asset: JWT

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
42	User: Lose JWT	Saved in browser session	Low	Low	Low
43	Script kiddies: Steal JWT	Short lifetime of token	Low	High	Low
	from a not closed browser				
	window				
44	Skilled hacker: Steal JWT	Only store JWT in	Low	High	Low
	(e.g. by malicious browser	local session, short life-			
	plugin)	time of token, enforce			
		PW/certificate login			
		afterwards			

2.4.17 Evaluation information asset: Archive key

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
45	System Administrator: Lose	Store at different locations	Low	High	Low
	key (stored offline)	(e.g. in several safes)			

2.4.18 Evaluation information asset: Root key

No.	Threat		Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
46	System Administrator: Lo	ose	Store at different locations	Low	High	Low
	key (stored offline)		(e.g. in several safes)			

2.4.19 Evaluation person asset: User/Employee

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
47	Competitor / Skilled hacker: Steal private key to be able to read email communication	Instruct users how to safely store confidential informa- tion, regularly renew cer- tificate, use passphrases or keys to encrypt private key on harddisk	Medium	Medium	Medium
48	Competitor / organized crime: Blackmail or bribe users to hand over their private key	Have users sign non- disclosure agreements, prosecute them legally	Medium	Low	Low

2.4.20 Evaluation person asset: CA administrator / Insider

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	$_{\rm L}$	I	Risk
49	Competitor: Leak system	Use standard implementa-	Low	Low	Low
	implementation	tions if possible			
50	Skilled hacker: Steal private key to have access to CA information	Encrypt private key on harddisk, sign agreement to follow the company guidelines to keep key se- cret	Low	Low	Low
51	Competitor / organized crime: Blackmail or bribe CA administrators to hand over their private key	Have CA administrators sign non-disclosure agree- ments, prosecute them legally	Medium	Low	Low

2.4.21 Evaluation person asset: System administrator

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	L	I	Risk
52	Skilled hacker: Steal private key to have full access to the sys- tem	Encrypt private key on harddisk, unmodifiable log files to detect intrusion into & modification of the sys- tem	Low	High	Low
53	Competitor / organized crime: Blackmail or bribe system administrators to hand over their private key	Have system administrators sign non-disclosure agreements, prosecute them legally	Medium	High	Medium

2.4.22 Evaluation person asset: Private key holder

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	$_{\rm L}$	I	Risk
54	Skilled hacker: Steal private key to be able to imitate the CA and sign any certificate	Only store the private key encrypted on an isolated machine. Once the key is stolen, there is no pos- sible countermeasure since most security guarantees are based on the secrecy of this key	Low	High	Low
55	Competitor / organized crime: Blackmail or bribe the private key holder to hand over their private key	Have the private key holder sign non-disclosure agreements, prosecute them legally	Medium	High	Medium

2.4.23 Evaluation intangible asset: User confidence

No.	Threat	Countermeasure(s)	\mathbf{L}	I	Risk
 56	Competitor: Hires skilled	Insure against the risk of	Low	Low	Low
	hacker to breach the security	leaked customer data and			
	of the system to leak customer	the resulting damage			
	data, which reduces the confi-				
	dence of the user in the system				

2.4.24 Detailed Description of Selected Countermeasures

System design The system is designed to be as simple as possible while still retaining the necessary functionality, which means we used as few different applications as possible, because every application adds a potential vulnerability to the system. Any unnecessary port is closed and every application is executed with the smallest sufficient set of permissions.

Instruct users The biggest security concern is the behaviour of the users of the system. We have to train users to be sensitive to security concerns. An attacker can try to gain information about the system or access to the system through social engineering, extract keys from private unprotected machines, install malware on these machines that will infect the system or extract unencrypted mail correspondence from them.

Logging All relevant log files are periodically incrementally backed up. They should only be readable (and not writable) by the system administrator. If this is the case, an attack can be detected even if the attacker attains the same access rights to the system as the administrator.

Standard configurations Whenever possible we use standard configurations for our services. The first reason is that one is less likely to misconfigure a service (because of misunderstanding the exact functionality) by using the standard configuration. The second reason is that even if one perfectly understands the service, it is still possible to e.g. have a typo in a config file and introduce a vulnerability.

Redundancy Whenever there is a hardware component that is critical for the functionality and security of the system there has to be a replacement available at all time or the component has to be redundant itself. Since every configuration file and all applications are backed up, a replacement machine can quickly be installed.

2.4.25 Risk Acceptance

We list all risks that are classified as **Medium** or **High** and describe further countermeasures that could be implemented against them.

No. of threat	Proposed additional countermeasure including expected impact
1	Replicated hardware to ensure redundancy in any case or sign a service-
	level-agreement with a third party to provide a backup system, which
	can quickly be deployed.
7	Have the system administrators regularly review each others changes
	to the system.
12	Insure against the risk of a security breach and the resulting damage.
13	Same as above.
15	Install additional hardware and use a load balancer to be able to handle
	a bigger amount of requests.
17	Pay an external entity (Security operations center) to monitor the sys-
	tem for patterns that would indicate a malware infection. To protect
	against malware, it is important to install security updates as soon as
	possible.
21	Log all SQL requests and do a pattern matching on these logs that
	detects unusual requests (e.g. or ""=").
26	Insure against the risk of leaked user data and the damage that might
	arise for the company & the user.
35	The same countermeasures as for risk 17 apply here. A modification of
	the server configuration further impacts the security of the system by
	possibly introducing new vulnerabilities.
38	An attack that modifies the logs is especially problematic because it
	becomes almost impossible to detect the attack. An undetected attack
	is much more problematic, because the vulnerability causing it cannot
	be removed.
47	Allow users to only use company certified machines for work which are
-	generally better secured than personal machines.
53	Insure against the risk of a system administrator losing his private key
	and the resulting damage to the company.
55	Same as above. Additionally the company needs to instruct all users to
	stop using the (most likely compromised) system immediately, delete
	the now invalid certificates and create new certificates.