

## Secure Development

**DEF** (*CVE Format and Meaning*) Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) is a list of publicly disclosed cybersecurity vulnerabilities and exposures. Each CVE entry includes:

- **CVE ID:** a unique identifier for the vulnerability.
- **Description:** a brief summary of the vulnerability.
- **References:** links to advisories or reports that provide more details.

**DEF** (*CVSS - Common Vulnerability Scoring System*) The Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) is a standard for assessing the severity of software vulnerabilities. It provides a numerical score based on the following metrics:

- **Base Metrics:** Characteristics of the vulnerability itself.
- **Temporal Metrics:** Characteristics that change over time (e.g., exploit availability).
- **Environmental Metrics:** Characteristics specific to the organization's environment.

The CVSS score helps organizations prioritize and respond to vulnerabilities based on their severity.

**DEF** (*CVSS Base Metrics*) The CVSS Base Metrics include:

- **Attack Vector:** How the vulnerability is exploited (*Local, Adjacent, Network*).
- **Attack Complexity:** The level of expertise required to exploit the vulnerability (*Low, High*).
- **Privileges Required:** The level of privileges an attacker needs to exploit the vulnerability (*None, Low, High*).
- **User Interaction:** Whether user interaction is required to exploit the vulnerability (*None, Required*).
- **Scope:** Whether the vulnerability impacts the vulnerable component only or can affect other components (*Unchanged, Changed*).
- **Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability Impact:** The impact on the security properties of confidentiality, integrity, and availability (*None, Low, High*).

**DEF** (*Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)*) The CWE is a community-developed list of common software security weaknesses. It provides a classification of software vulnerabilities to help developers understand and mitigate risks.

**DEF** (*Security Properties*) Key security properties that must be considered in secure programming include:

1. **Confidentiality:** Data is only available to the people intended to access it.
2. **Integrity:** Data and system resources are only changed in appropriate ways by appropriate people.
3. **Availability:** Systems are ready when needed and perform acceptably.
4. **Authentication:** The identity of users is established (or you're willing to accept anonymous users).
5. **Authorization:** Users are explicitly allowed or denied access to resources.
6. **Nonrepudiation:** Users can't perform an action and later deny performing it.

**DEF** (*STRIDE*) STRIDE is a mnemonic for categories of security threats, along with the corresponding security properties that each threat type attacks:

- **Spoofing:** Attacker pretends to be someone else. (*Attacks Authentication*)
- **Tampering:** Attacker alters data or settings. (*Attacks Integrity*)
- **Repudiation:** User can deny making an attack. (*Attacks Non-repudiation*)
- **Information Disclosure:** Loss of personal information. (*Attacks Confidentiality*)
- **Denial of Service:** Preventing proper site operation. (*Attacks Availability*)

- **Elevation of Privilege:** User gains higher privileges. (*Attacks Authorization*)

**DEF** (*Saltzer's Classic Principles*) Saltzer and Schroeder's principles provide guidelines for secure design:

1. **Economy of Mechanism:** Keep the design simple.
2. **Fail-Safe Defaults:** Default to secure configurations; fail closed with no single point of failure.
3. **Complete Mediation:** Check permissions on every access; ensure that all access requests are verified.
4. **Open Design:** Assume that attackers have access to the source code and specifications; design should not rely on obscurity.
5. **Separation of Privilege:** Require multiple conditions to grant access to sensitive operations; don't permit an operation based on a single condition.
6. **Least Privilege:** Grant only the minimum privileges necessary for users or processes; no more privileges than what is needed.
7. **Least Common Mechanism:** Minimize shared resources; be cautious of mechanisms that are shared among users.
8. **Psychological Acceptability:** Ensure that security measures are user-friendly and do not hinder usability; security should be intuitive for users.

**DEF** (*McGraw's Three Pillars*) McGraw's approach is built on three pillars:

1. **Applied Risk Management:** Identify, rank, and track risks using threat modeling to uncover security risks.
2. **Software Security Touchpoints:** Integrate security-related activities throughout the software development lifecycle.
3. **Knowledge:** Leverage existing knowledge, programming guidelines, and known exploits to enhance security practices.

**DEF** (*McGraw's Seven Touchpoints*) McGraw identified 7 touchpoints that could be integrated in the traditional software development lifecycle (SDLC)

1. **Abuse Cases:** Identify potential misuse scenarios.
  - **Artifacts:** Use case documents, threat models.
  - **Problems:** Failure to consider all misuse scenarios can lead to unaddressed vulnerabilities.
  - **Bad Example:** Ignoring input validation in a web application leading to SQL injection.
2. **Security Requirements:** Define security needs early in the process.
  - **Artifacts:** Security requirement specifications, risk assessment reports.
  - **Problems:** Vague or incomplete security requirements can result in inadequate protection.
  - **Bad Example:** A requirement stating "the application should be secure" without specifics on encryption or access controls.
3. **Architectural Risk Analysis:** Assess risks in design and architecture.
  - **Artifacts:** Architecture diagrams, risk analysis documents, design specifications.
  - **Problems:** Failing to identify security flaws in the architecture can lead to critical vulnerabilities.
  - **Bad Example:** Designing a system without considering the security of third-party components.
4. **Risk-Based Security Testing:** Focus on testing based on risk analysis.
  - **Artifacts:** Test plans, test cases, risk assessment matrices.
  - **Problems:** Inadequate testing of high-risk areas may leave critical vulnerabilities untested.
  - **Bad Example:** Conducting extensive tests on low-risk features while neglecting authentication mechanisms.
5. **Code Review:**
  - **Artifacts:** Source code, code review checklists, static analysis reports.

- Problems: Insufficient or poorly structured code reviews can miss significant vulnerabilities.
  - Bad Example: Relying solely on automated tools without manual review, leading to overlooked security issues.
6. **Penetration Testing:** Test the system for vulnerabilities in a real-world context.
- Artifacts: Penetration testing reports, vulnerability assessment tools, exploitation scripts.
  - Problems: Conducting penetration tests without understanding the system can result in incomplete assessments.
  - Bad Example: External testers not familiar with the application's architecture, leading to ineffective testing.
7. **Security Operations:** Manage security during the deployment phase.
- Artifacts: Security operation procedures, incident response plans, monitoring logs.
  - Problems: Lack of continuous monitoring can lead to undetected security incidents.
  - Bad Example: Deploying an application without proper logging and monitoring, making incident response difficult.

**THM** (*Dijkstra's Observation on Testing*) Dijkstra's famous remark states:

"Testing shows the presence, not the absence of bugs."

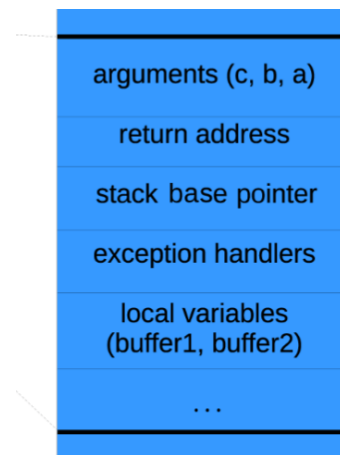
This highlights the importance of comprehensive testing strategies and the understanding that passing tests do not guarantee that no bugs exist in the software.

**DEF** (*Building Security In Maturity Model (BSIMM)*) It is a blueprint/software security framework for following good practices of software development. It is data-driven and so the practices are collated by examining the strategies that companies are utilising to produce secure software. The framework is composed of four domains: Governance, Intelligence, SSDL Touchpoints, and Deployment, with each domain containing three practices (for a total of 12 practices).

- Governance: Establishing security policies and practices.
  - Strategy and metrics
  - Compliance and policy.
  - Training.
- Intelligence: Gathering security metrics and threat intelligence.
  - Attack models.
  - Security features.
  - Standards and requirements.
- Development: Integrating security into the development process.
  - Code review.
  - Security testing.
  - Architecture analysis.
- Deployment: Ensuring secure deployment and operations.
  - Environment hardening.
  - Software environment.
  - Incident management.

## Programming Errors

**DEF** (*Stack Layout*)



The above diagram shows the layout of the stack in memory. The stack grows downwards, with the stack pointer pointing to the top of the stack. The stack frame contains the return address, arguments, local variables, and saved registers. The frame pointer points to the base of the current stack frame (current function).

**DEF** (*Buffer Overflow*) Buffer overflows arise when a region of memory exceeds its allocated size, resulting in the overwriting of adjacent memory that may be used elsewhere in the program. This can lead to unexpected behavior in the program's execution. A buffer overflow exploits the stack layout to typically overwrite the return address of a function to perform arbitrary code execution (shellcode or return-to-libc). This attacks the integrity of the program and can lead to privilege escalation. It's also possible to attack the availability of the program by causing a denial of service - by crashing the program.

**DEF** (*Out-by-one/Arithmetic Errors*) Can lead to buffer overflows, memory corruption, and other security vulnerabilities.

**DEF** (*Faulty/Missing Error Condition Checking*) Not checking for error conditions can lead to unexpected behavior and security vulnerabilities.

**DEF** (*Format String Vulnerabilities*) Can lead to memory corruption, arbitrary code execution, and other security vulnerabilities. In C and C++, the `printf` function is vulnerable to format string attacks if the format string is user-controlled.

## Platform and Operating System Level Attacks

**DEF** (*Assembly Programs and Shell-Code Attacks*) Assembly programs can be used to create shellcode which is injected into vulnerable applications through buffer overflows. Could spawn a shell (arbitrary code execution), reverse shell (remote code execution), or other malicious activities.

**DEF** (*OS Command Injection/Environment Variables*) It's important to be careful with programs that use environment variables to execute commands. In particular `PATH` and `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` can be manipulated to execute arbitrary code.

**DEF** (*Unix File Permission Codes*) Unix file permissions are represented by a 10 character string. The first character is the file type, the next three are the owner's permissions, the next three are the group's permissions, and the last three are the world's permissions (everyone else). The permissions can be:

- **r** - read (4)
- **w** - write (2)
- **x** - execute (1)

Common file types are:

- **-** - regular file
- **d** - directory
- **l** - symbolic link

**DEF** (*Permission Attacks*) Exploring the file system and looking for files with weak permissions can be a good way to find vulnerabilities.

**DEF** (*Stack Canary / StackGuard*) A form of **Tamper Detection** that can be used to detect buffer overflows. StackGuard canaries prevent buffer overflow attacks by inserting random values near the return pointer and checking their integrity before returning. While effective against return pointer overwriting, they don't protect against modifying local variables or preventing Denial of Service attacks that intentionally trigger canary detection. Also not effective against return-to-libc (ret2libc) or return-oriented programming (ROP) attacks.

**DEF** (*Control-Flow Integrity (CFI)*) A more powerful defense mechanism that ensures the code execution follows a pre-defined control graph. This *could* prevent return-to-libc and ROP attacks.

**DEF** (*Seperation Mechanisms*)

- **Hardware Memory Protection**
  - **Memory Fences:** These separate memory accesses between OS and user code, providing one-way protection
  - **Base and Bounds Registers:** Enforce separation between programs by controlling access to specific memory ranges, thus preventing unauthorized memory access
  - **Tagged Architecture:** Assign tags to memory locations that dictate access rights (read, write, execute), although not widely used in modern systems
- **Paging splits programs/data into pieces.**
  - **Data Execution Prevention (DEP) / Write XOR Execute (W^X):** Prevents code from executing in data regions (making injected shellcode non-executable)
- **Process Isolation (EXTRA)**
  - **Virtual Memory:** Each process operates in its own virtual address space, preventing unauthorized access to other processes
  - **Containerisation:** Isolates processes in containers, preventing unauthorized access to other processes. Reduces the attack surface area and worst-case it will only compromise the container

**DEF** (*Diversification*) Make many versions of same program; thwarting attacks that rely on knowing the exact layout of the program in memory. **Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)** is a common technique that randomizes the memory layout of a program. Could still be susceptible to a brute-force attack of guessing the memory layout.

## SQL Injection

**DEF** (*Injection*) Succinctly defined as part of CWE-74: Improper Neutralization of Special Elements in Output Used by a Downstream Component, i.e.

ALWAYS CHECK YOUR INPUTS

**DEF** (*Metadata*) Metadata accompanies the main data and represents additional information about it, such as how to display textual strings or where a string ends. In the context of SQL injection, metadata can influence how queries are constructed and processed.

**DEF** (*In-band Representation*) In-band representation embeds metadata into the data stream itself, such as using special characters within SQL queries. This can lead to injection vulnerabilities if user input is not properly sanitized.

**DEF** (*Out-of-band Representation*) Out-of-band representation separates metadata from data, making it less susceptible to injection attacks. For example, using prepared statements allows the SQL engine to distinguish between data and commands.

**DEF** (*Input Validation*) Input validation can be achieved through blacklisting and whitelisting:

- **Blacklisting:** Keeping a list of forbidden characters or patterns and rejecting inputs that contain them.
- **Whitelisting:** Keeping a list of allowed characters or patterns and rejecting inputs that do not match.

**DEF** (*SQL Injection*) SQL Injection (CWE-89) is a command injection (CWE-77) that allows attackers to execute arbitrary SQL queries through user input. This can lead to unauthorized access to the database, data leakage, and data corruption.

**DEF** (*Common SQL Injection Techniques*) SQL injection techniques can be classified into several categories:

- **\*\*Tautologies\*\*:** Injecting code that always evaluates to true.
- **\*\*Illegal/Incorrect Queries\*\*:** Causing run-time errors to learn information from error messages.
- **\*\*Union Queries\*\*:** Combining results from multiple queries to extract additional data.
- **\*\*Piggy-Backed Queries\*\*:** Executing multiple queries in a single request.
- **\*\*Inference Pairs\*\*:** Using differences in responses to infer information.
- **\*\*Stored Procedures\*\*:** Exploiting vulnerabilities in stored procedures to execute arbitrary SQL commands.

**DEF** (*Prevention and Detection*) To prevent SQL injection vulnerabilities, developers can:

- Use prepared statements and parameterized queries.
- Implement rigorous input validation and sanitization.
- Employ web application firewalls (WAFs) to filter malicious requests.
- Regularly test and audit code for vulnerabilities.

## Web Application Attacks and Defenses

**DEF** (*OWASP - Open Web Application Security Project*) The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving web application security.

**DEF** (*HTTP and Attacks*) HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) is the foundational protocol for data communication on the web. It is stateless, meaning each request from a client to server is treated as an independent transaction. This statelessness can lead to vulnerabilities if not managed properly.

Common attacks on HTTP include:

- **\*\*Session Stealing\*\*:** Attackers can hijack a user's session by obtaining their session ID, often through Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) or Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF).
- **\*\*Authentication Errors\*\*:** Flaws in authentication mechanisms can allow unauthorized users to gain access to sensitive information or functionalities.
- **\*\*URL Format Attacks\*\*:** Manipulating URLs to exploit vulnerabilities in how web applications process parameters.

**DEF** (*Session Stealing*) Session stealing occurs when an attacker obtains a user's session ID, allowing them to impersonate the user. This can happen through various means, such as:

- **\*\*Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)\*\*:** Injecting malicious scripts into web pages to steal session cookies.
- **\*\*Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)\*\*:** Forcing users to perform actions without their consent.

**DEF** (*URL Format Attacks*) URL format attacks exploit flaws in how web applications process URLs. Common vulnerabilities include:

- **\*\*Open Redirects\*\*:** Allowing attackers to redirect users to malicious sites.

**DEF** (*Object References*) Exploiting XML External Entities (XXE) vulnerabilities allows attackers to read local files, perform remote requests, and execute arbitrary code. To prevent XXE attacks, use more restrictive and specific formats for exchanging data, take care with deserialization, configure DTD and XML processors to validate

documents, enable security checks, and prevent external entity processing.

**DEF** (*Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)*) Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks allow attackers to inject malicious scripts into web pages viewed by other users. There are two main types:

- **\*\*Stored XSS\*\***: The malicious script is stored on the server and delivered to users when they access the affected page.
- **\*\*Reflected XSS\*\***: The script is reflected off a web server, typically via a URL or form submission.

To mitigate XSS attacks, developers should implement output encoding, input validation, and Content Security Policies (CSP).

**DEF** (*Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)*) Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) is an attack that tricks a user into executing unwanted actions on a different site where they are authenticated. This can lead to unauthorized transactions or actions. To prevent CSRF attacks:

- Use anti-CSRF tokens in forms.
- Implement SameSite cookie attributes.
- Validate the Referer header to ensure requests come from trusted sources.
- A “double submit cookie” approach can also be used where a cookie value is sent in both a cookie and a request parameter and if they don’t match, the request is rejected.

## Other Application Attacks

**EX** (*xz-utils*) The xz-utils vulnerability exploited IFUNCs in the library, allowing runtime function implementation selection. Attacker Jia Tan crafted a bash script using M4 macros that manipulated test files and modified the Makefile, creating a binary backdoor. The backdoor’s IFUNC resolver altered the Global Offset Table, redirecting the ‘RSA\_public\_decrypt()’ function to malicious code. When services like SSHD used the library, this enabled arbitrary code execution, demonstrating the risks of dynamic function resolution in shared libraries.

**EX** (*Heartbleed*) Heartbleed is a serious vulnerability in the OpenSSL cryptographic software library, discovered in 2014.

- **\*\*Failure of Protocol Design\*\***: The flaw allowed attackers to exploit the heartbeat extension of the TLS/DTLS protocols.
- **\*\*Session Prolongation\*\***: Attackers could prolong sessions without detection, leading to potential data leakage.
- **\*\*Untrusted Clients\*\***: Clients are inherently untrusted, and the vulnerability allowed them to read sensitive memory from the server.
- **\*\*Data Leakage Attack\*\***: This resulted in the exposure of private keys, usernames, passwords, and other sensitive data.

**EX** (*Shellshock*) Shellshock is a vulnerability in the Unix Bash shell that was discovered in 2014, allowing attackers to execute arbitrary commands via environment variables.

- **\*\*Bash Attack\*\***: The vulnerability exploited the way Bash handles function definitions, enabling command injection.
- **\*\*Common in Embedded Systems\*\***: Shellshock is particularly dangerous because shell interpreters are widely used in embedded systems and IoT devices.
- **\*\*Influence of Environment Variables\*\***: Attackers could manipulate environment variables to execute commands on vulnerable systems.
- **\*\*Arbitrary Command Execution\*\***: This led to widespread exploitation, allowing attackers to gain unauthorized access and control over affected systems.

**EX** (*Spectre and Meltdown*) Spectre and Meltdown are vulnerabilities discovered in modern CPUs, affecting nearly all processors manufactured since the late 1990s.

- **\*\*Rediscovered Vulnerabilities\*\***: These vulnerabilities exploit speculative execution, a performance optimization technique used in CPUs.
- **\*\*CPU Speculation\*\***: Attackers could trick the CPU into executing instructions that should not have been run, allowing them to access sensitive data.
- **\*\*Impact on Web Browsers\*\***: Web browsers with Just-In-Time (JIT) compilation were particularly affected, as they could inadvertently expose data from other processes.
- **\*\*Isolation Circumvention\*\***: Isolation is a primary defense mechanism that was circumvented, leading to potential data breaches across different applications running on the same hardware.

**EX** (*Mirai*) Mirai is a malware strain that targets Internet of Things (IoT) devices, discovered in 2016, and is known for launching large-scale DDoS attacks.

- **\*\*IoT Device Vulnerabilities\*\***: The malware exploits weak security credentials (default usernames and passwords) in IoT devices.
- **\*\*DDoS Botnet Army\*\***: Mirai created a botnet army by infecting thousands of IoT devices, which were then used to launch Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks.
- **\*\*Cyberattack on Dyn\*\***: The most notable attack was on Dyn, a DNS provider, which disrupted major websites and services, showcasing the vulnerabilities of IoT devices and the potential for large-scale cyberattacks.

## Advanced Secure Programming

### Software Protection

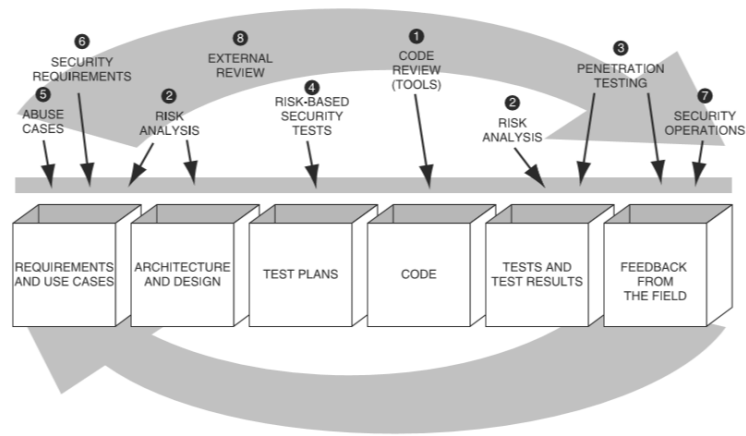


Figure 1: McGraw's Secure Software Development Lifecycle (SSDLC) emphasizes integrating security at various stages of software development.