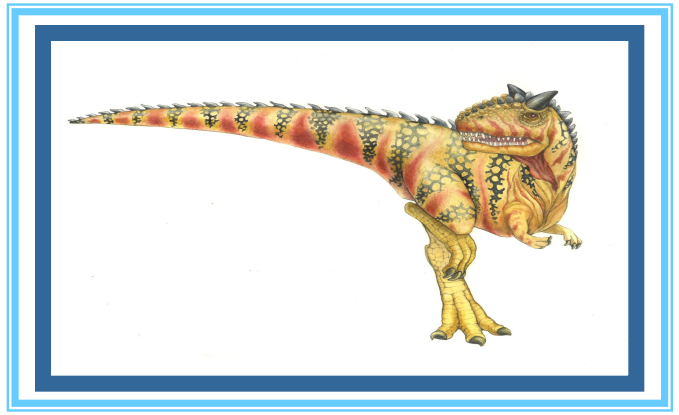
O.S. Security



The Security Problem

- System **secure** if resources used and accessed as intended under all circumstances
- **Intruders** (**crackers**) attempt to breach security
- **Threat** is potential security violation
- **Attack** is attempt to breach security
- Attack can be accidental or malicious
- Easier to protect against accidental than malicious misuse

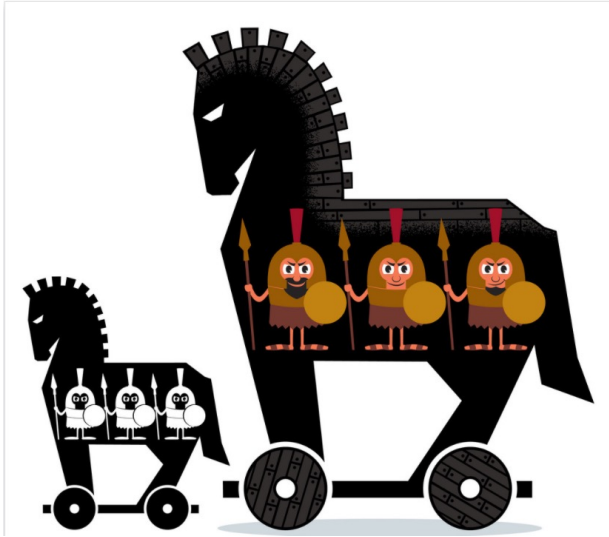
Security Measure Levels

- Impossible to have absolute security, but make cost to perpetrator sufficiently high to deter most intruders
- Security must occur at four levels to be effective:
  - **Physical**
    - Data centers, servers, connected terminals
  - **Application**
    - Benign or malicious apps can cause security problems
  - **Operating System**
    - Protection mechanisms, debugging
  - **Network**
    - Intercepted communications, interruption, DOS
- Security is as weak as the weakest link in the chain
- Humans a risk too via **phishing** and **social-engineering** attacks
- But can too much security be a problem?

Kevin Mitnick : most notorious hacker

Program Threats

- Many variations, many names
- **Trojan Horse**
  - Code segment that misuses its environment
  - Exploits mechanisms for allowing programs written by users to be executed by other users
  - **Spyware**, **pop-up browser windows**, **covert channels**
  - Up to 80% of spam delivered by spyware-infected systems



Program Threats

Trap Door

- Specific user identifier or password that circumvents normal security procedures

Salami Attack

Small attacks add up to one major attack that can go undetected due to the nature of this type of cyber crime.

Program Threats (Cont.)

- **Malware -** Software designed to exploit, disable, or damage computer
- **Trojan Horse** – Program that acts in a clandestine manner
  - **Spyware** – Program frequently installed with legitimate software to display adds, capture user data
  - **Ransomware** – locks up data via encryption, demanding payment to unlock it
- Others include trap doors, logic bombs

Program Threats (Cont.)

- **Viruses**
  - Code fragment embedded in legitimate program
  - Self-replicating, designed to infect other computers
  - Very specific to CPU architecture, operating system, applications
  - Usually borne via email or as a macro

The Threat Continues

- Attacks still common, still occurring
- Attacks moved over time from science experiments to tools of organized crime
  - Targeting specific companies
  - Creating botnets to use as tool for spam and DDOS delivery
  - **Keystroke logger** to grab passwords, credit card numbers
- Why is Windows the target for most attacks?
  - Most common
  - Everyone is an administrator
    - Licensing required?

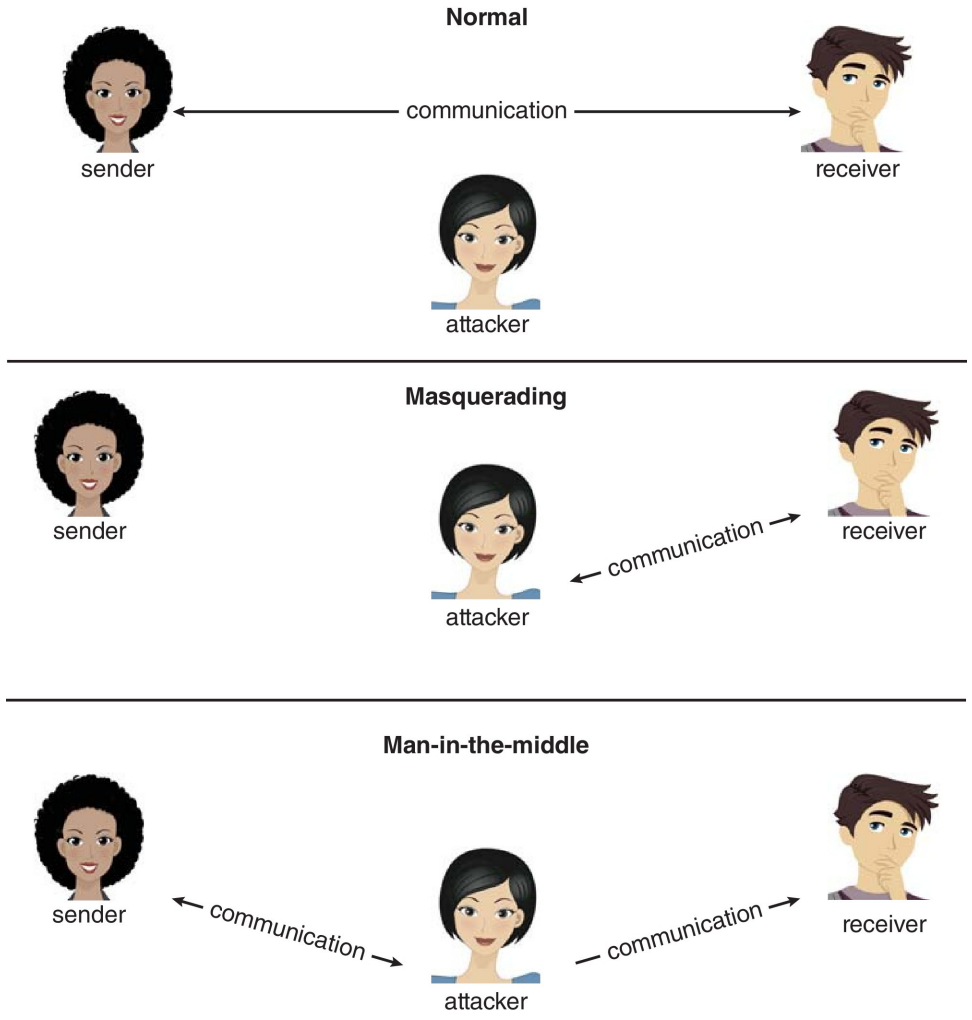
System and Network Threats

- **Worms** – use **spawn** mechanism; standalone program
- Internet worm
  - Exploited UNIX networking features (remote access) and bugs in *finger* and *sendmail* programs
  - Exploited trust-relationship mechanism used by *rsh* to access friendly systems without use of password

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **Port scanning**
  - Automated attempt to connect to a range of ports on one or a range of IP addresses
  - Detection of answering service protocol
  - Detection of OS and version running on system
  - `nmap` scans all ports in a given IP range for a response
  - `nessus` has a database of protocols and bugs (and exploits) to apply against a system

Standard Security Attacks



User Authentication

- Crucial to identify user correctly, as protection systems depend on user ID
- User identity most often established through **passwords**, can be considered a special case of either keys or capabilities
- Passwords must be kept secret
  - Frequent change of passwords
  - History to avoid repeats
  - Use of “non-guessable” passwords
  - Log all invalid access attempts (but not the passwords themselves)
  - Unauthorized transfer
- Passwords may also either be encrypted or allowed to be used only once
  - Does encrypting passwords solve the exposure problem?
    - Might solve **sniffing**
    - Consider **shoulder surfing**
    - Consider Trojan horse keystroke logger
    - How are passwords stored at authenticating site?

Passwords

- Encrypt to avoid having to keep secret
  - But keep secret anyway (i.e. Unix uses superuser-only readably file `/etc/shadow`)
  - Use algorithm easy to compute but difficult to invert
  - Only encrypted password stored, never decrypted
  - Add “salt” to avoid the same password being encrypted to the same value
- One-time passwords
  - Use a function based on a seed to compute a password, both user and computer
  - Hardware device / calculator / key fob to generate the password
    - Changes very frequently
- Biometrics
  - Some physical attribute (fingerprint, hand scan)

Security Defenses Summarized

- By applying appropriate layers of defense, we can keep systems safe from all but the most persistent attackers. In summary, these layers may include the following:
  - Educate users about safe computing—don't attach devices of unknown origin to the computer, don't share passwords, use strong passwords, avoid falling for social engineering appeals, realize that an e-mail is not necessarily a private communication, and so on
  - Educate users about how to prevent phishing attacks—don't click on email attachments or links from unknown (or even known) senders; authenticate (for example, via a phone call) that a request is legitimate
  - Use secure communication when possible
  - Physically protect computer hardware
  - Configure the operating system to minimize the attack surface; disable all unused services
  - Configure system daemons, privileges applications, and services to be as secure as possible

Security Defenses Summarized (cont.)

- Use modern hardware and software, as they are likely to have up-to-date security features
- Keep systems and applications up to date and patched
- Only run applications from trusted sources (such as those that are code signed)
- Enable logging and auditing; review the logs periodically, or automate alerts
- Install and use antivirus software on systems susceptible to viruses, and keep the software up to date
- Use strong passwords and passphrases, and don't record them where they could be found
- Use intrusion detection, firewalling, and other network-based protection systems as appropriate
- For important facilities, use periodic vulnerability assessments and other testing methods to test security and response to incidents

Security Defenses Summarized (cont.)

- Encrypt mass-storage devices, and consider encrypting important individual files as well
- Have a security policy for important systems and facilities, and keep it up to date

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS' CODE OF ETHICS

System Administrator Code of Ethics

- I will access **private information** on computer systems only when it is **necessary** in the course of my technical duties.

- I will maintain and protect the **confidentiality** of any information to which I may have access, regardless of the method by which I came into knowledge of it.

- I will strive to ensure the **necessary integrity, reliability, and availability** of the systems for which I am responsible.

https://www.usenix.org/system-administrators-code-ethics

กรณีศึกษา

เพื่อนสนิทมาขอร้องคุณที่เป็น system admin ให้เปิดอ่านอีมลของแฟนเขาในระบบที่คุณดูแล เพราะสงสัยว่า แฟนเขาจะติดต่อกับผู้อื่นหรือนอกใจ

จงใช้ System Admin Code of Ethics ช่วยในการตัดสินใจของคุณ