8-2 Journal Reflection

There were several topics this course covered when discussing the topic of secure coding. In reflecting on these topics here are some of my thoughts. First we look at adopting a secure coding standard. This will help mitigate a lot of possible vulnerabilities, and can find and remove errors in code that can put a program or system at risk. There are many different coding standards out there, for this calss we were using the SEI CERT coding standards, which are used for C, C++, and Java primarily. (Foster, 2020)

Reflecting on the topic of risk assessment and cost/benefit analysis, this helps to lay out the risks, cost, and benefits of implementing a practice or standard. This is generally something that coding standards have, and lay out the information in a table that provides information to help make a determination on the priority. There are also studies that have been done, with most coming to the conclusion that implementing security early, using good coding standards, and reducing risk whenever possible will far outweigh the cost in the end.

The term “Zero Trust” can seem very negative the first time you hear it, but really it is just the idea that verifications are in place to make sure users are who they say they are, and that the data being fed into the program/system is not malicious. This concept incorporates the Triple A ideas of Authenticate the user and only allow access to information based on Authorizations. (Pratt, 2023)

Finally, thoughts on security policies and recommendations. When thinking about what secure coding really encompasses, and what best practices looks like, trying to implement this into the SDLC without guidance can become very overwhelming, as it really is in every step. Having a security policy and recommendations will give you that guidance in a way that is easier to follow. It will take the DevOps and grow it into DevSecOps.

References

Foster, S. (2020). Security standards: What are secure coding standards? *Perforce Software*. <https://www.perforce.com/blog/qac/secure-coding-standards>

Pratt, M. K. (2023). What is zero trust? A model for more effective security. *CSO Online*. <https://www.csoonline.com/article/3247848/what-is-zero-trust-a-model-for-more-effective-security.html#:~:text=Zero%20Trust%20is%20a%20security,to%20don%E2%80%99t%20trust%20anyone>.