2.2 Configure Client Services

A number of insecure services exist. While disabling the servers prevents a local attack against these services, it is advised to remove their clients unless they are required.

Note: This should not be considered a comprehensive list of insecure service clients. You may wish to consider additions to those listed here for your environment.

2.2.1 Ensure NIS Client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

The Network Information Service (NIS), formerly known as Yellow Pages, is a client-server directory service protocol used to distribute system configuration files. The NIS client was used to bind a machine to an NIS server and receive the distributed configuration files.

Rationale:

The NIS service is inherently an insecure system that has been vulnerable to DOS attacks, buffer overflows and has poor authentication for querying NIS maps. NIS generally has been replaced by such protocols as Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). It is recommended that the service be removed.

Impact:

Many insecure service clients are used as troubleshooting tools and in testing environments. Uninstalling them can inhibit capability to test and troubleshoot. If they are required it is advisable to remove the clients after use to prevent accidental or intentional misuse.

Audit:

Verify `nis` is not installed. Use the following command to provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -s nis &>/dev/null && echo "nis is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Uninstall `nis`:

```
# apt purge nis
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7, CM-11

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	2.6 Address unapproved software Ensure that unauthorized software is either removed or the inventory is updated in a timely manner	●	●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0008	M1042

2.2.2 Ensure rsh client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

The `rsh-client` package contains the client commands for the rsh services.

Rationale:

These legacy clients contain numerous security exposures and have been replaced with the more secure SSH package. Even if the server is removed, it is best to ensure the clients are also removed to prevent users from inadvertently attempting to use these commands and therefore exposing their credentials. Note that removing the `rsh-client` package removes the clients for `rsh` , `rcp` and `rlogin` .

Impact:

Many insecure service clients are used as troubleshooting tools and in testing environments. Uninstalling them can inhibit capability to test and troubleshoot. If they are required it is advisable to remove the clients after use to prevent accidental or intentional misuse.

Audit:

Verify `rsh-client` is not installed. Use the following command to provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -s rsh-client &>/dev/null && echo "rsh-client is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Uninstall `rsh`:

```
# apt purge rsh-client
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	9.2 Ensure Only Approved Ports, Protocols and Services Are Running Ensure that only network ports, protocols, and services listening on a system with validated business needs, are running on each system.		●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1040, T1040.000, T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0008	M1041, M1042

2.2.3 Ensure talk client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

The `talk` software makes it possible for users to send and receive messages across systems through a terminal session. The `talk` client, which allows initialization of talk sessions, is installed by default.

Rationale:

The software presents a security risk as it uses unencrypted protocols for communication.

Impact:

Many insecure service clients are used as troubleshooting tools and in testing environments. Uninstalling them can inhibit capability to test and troubleshoot. If they are required it is advisable to remove the clients after use to prevent accidental or intentional misuse.

Audit:

Verify `talk` is not installed. The following command may provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -s talk &>/dev/null && echo "talk is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Uninstall `talk`:

```
# apt purge talk
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	9.2 Ensure Only Approved Ports, Protocols and Services Are Running Ensure that only network ports, protocols, and services listening on a system with validated business needs, are running on each system.		●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0006, TA0008	M1041, M1042

2.2.4 Ensure telnet client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

The `inetutils-telnet` package contains the `telnet` client, which allows users to start connections to other systems via the telnet protocol.

Rationale:

The `telnet` protocol is insecure and unencrypted. The use of an unencrypted transmission medium could allow an unauthorized user to steal credentials. The `ssh` package provides an encrypted session and stronger security and is included in most Linux distributions.

Impact:

Many insecure service clients are used as troubleshooting tools and in testing environments. Uninstalling them can inhibit capability to test and troubleshoot. If they are required it is advisable to remove the clients after use to prevent accidental or intentional misuse.

Audit:

Verify `inetutils-telnet` & `telnet` are not installed. Use the following command to provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -l | grep -E 'telnet|inetutils-telnet' &>/dev/null && echo
"telnet is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Run the following commands to uninstall `telnet` & `inetutils-telnet`:

```
# apt purge telnet
# apt purge inetutils-telnet
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7, CM-11

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	9.2 Ensure Only Approved Ports, Protocols and Services Are Running Ensure that only network ports, protocols, and services listening on a system with validated business needs, are running on each system.		●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1040, T1040.000, T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0006, TA0008	M1041, M1042

2.2.5 Ensure ldap client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

The Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) was introduced as a replacement for NIS/YP. It is a service that provides a method for looking up information from a central database.

Rationale:

If the system will not need to act as an LDAP client, it is recommended that the software be removed to reduce the potential attack surface.

Impact:

Removing the LDAP client will prevent or inhibit using LDAP for authentication in your environment.

Audit:

Verify that `ldap-utils` is not installed. Use the following command to provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -s ldap-utils &>/dev/null && echo "ldap-utils is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Uninstall `ldap-utils`:

```
# apt purge ldap-utils
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	9.2 Ensure Only Approved Ports, Protocols and Services Are Running Ensure that only network ports, protocols, and services listening on a system with validated business needs, are running on each system.		●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0008	M1042

2.2.6 Ensure ftp client is not installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

`tnftp` an enhanced FTP client, is the user interface to the Internet standard File Transfer Protocol. The program allows a user to transfer files to and from a remote network site.

Rationale:

Unless there is a need to run the system using Internet standard File Transfer Protocol (for example, to allow anonymous downloads), it is recommended that the package be removed to reduce the potential attack surface.

Audit:

Verify `tnftp` & `ftp` is not installed. Use the following command to provide the needed information:

```
# dpkg-query -l | grep -E 'ftp|tnftp' &>/dev/null && echo "ftp is installed"
```

Nothing should be returned.

Remediation:

Run the following commands to uninstall `tnftp` & `ftp`:

```
# apt purge ftp
# apt purge tnftp
```

References:

1. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5: CM-7, CM-11

CIS Controls:

Controls Version	Control	IG 1	IG 2	IG 3
v8	4.8 Uninstall or Disable Unnecessary Services on Enterprise Assets and Software Uninstall or disable unnecessary services on enterprise assets and software, such as an unused file sharing service, web application module, or service function.		●	●
v7	9.2 Ensure Only Approved Ports, Protocols and Services Are Running Ensure that only network ports, protocols, and services listening on a system with validated business needs, are running on each system.		●	●

MITRE ATT&CK Mappings:

Techniques / Sub-techniques	Tactics	Mitigations
T1203, T1203.000, T1543, T1543.002	TA0008	M1042