OPERATING SYSTEMS

I/O Management, System Protection and Security

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System Security - System and Network Threats

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Slides Credits for all PPTs of this course

- The slides/diagrams in this course are an **adaptation**, **combination**, and **enhancement** of material from the following resources and persons:

1. Slides of Operating System Concepts, Abraham Silberschatz, Peter Baer Galvin, Greg Gagne - 9th edition 2013 and some slides from 10th edition 2018

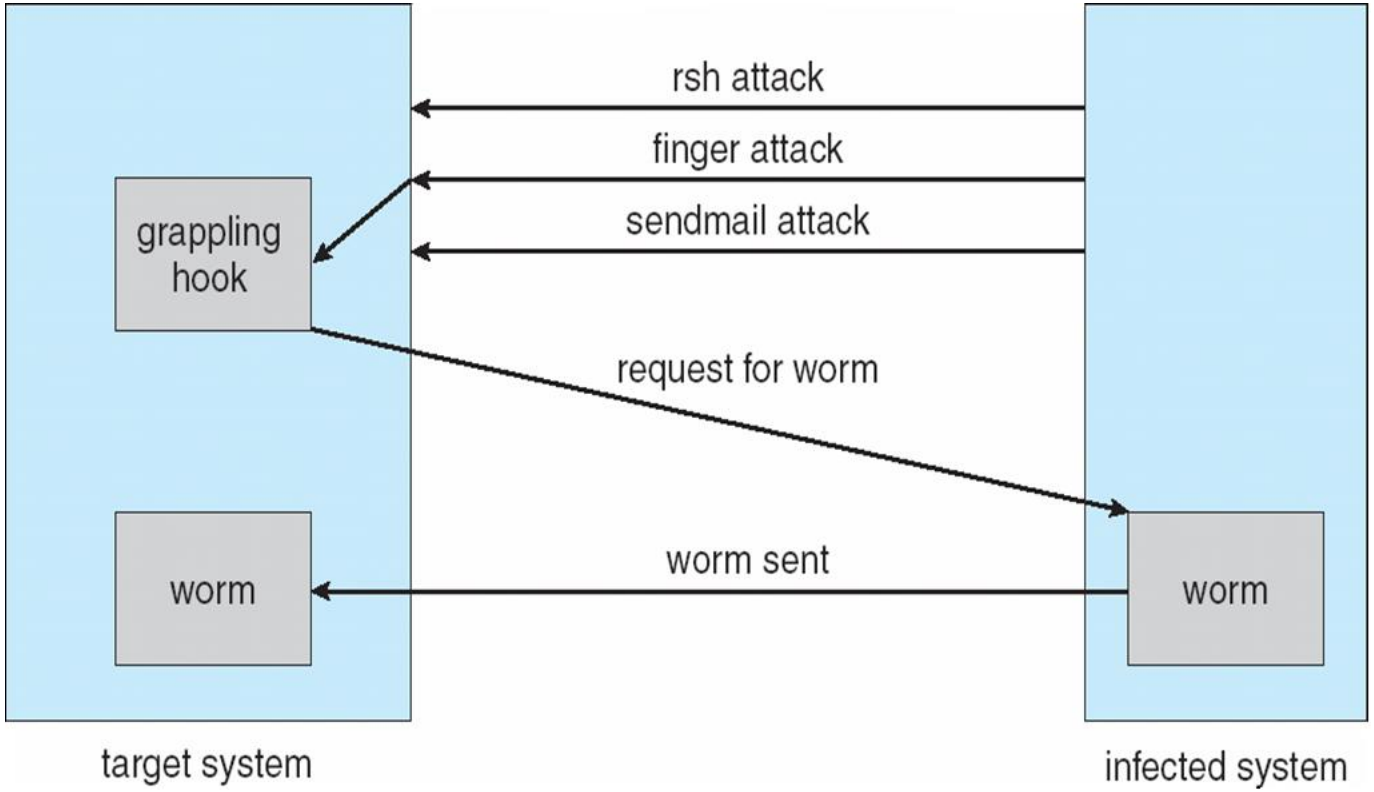
System and Network Threats

- Some systems "open" (i.e more services are enabled and more functions are allowed) rather than **secure by default**
  - Reduce **attack surface**
  - But harder to use, more knowledge needed to administer
- Network threats harder to detect, prevent
  - Protection systems weaker
  - More difficult to have a shared secret on which to base access
  - No physical limits once system attached to internet
    - Or on network with system attached to internet
  - Even determining location of connecting system difficult
    - IP address is only knowledge

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **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
  - **Grappling hook** (aka bootstrap or vector) program uploaded main worm program
    - 99 lines of C code
  - Hooked system then uploaded main code, tried to attack connected systems
  - Also tried to break into other users accounts on local system via password guessing
  - If target system already infected, abort, except for every 7^{th} time

The Morris Internet Worm



Sobig.F Worm

- Disguised as a photo uploaded to newsgroups via account created with stolen credit card
- Targeted Windows systems
- Had own SMTP engine to mail itself as attachment to everyone in infect system's address book
- Disguised with innocuous subject lines, looking like it came from someone known
- Attachment was executable program that created **WINPPR23.EXE** in default Windows system directory and modified the Windows Registry

```
[HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run]
   "TrayX" = %windir%\winppr32.exe /sinc
[HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run]
   "TrayX" = %windir%\winppr32.exe /sinc
```

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
  - Frequently launched from **zombie systems**
    - To decrease trace-ability

System and Network Threats (Cont.)

- **Denial of Service**
  - Overload the targeted computer preventing it from doing any useful work
  - **Distributed denial-of-service** (**DDOS**) come from multiple sites at once
  - Consider the start of the IP-connection handshake (SYN)
    - How many started-connections can the OS handle?
  - Consider traffic to a web site
    - How can you tell the difference between being a target and being really popular?
  - Accidental – CS students writing bad fork() code
  - Purposeful – extortion, punishment

THANK YOU

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