

CS 5523 Lecture 18: Introduction to Computer Security

- Discussion of Laboratory 2
- Discussion of Laboratory 3
- Policy versus methods
- Threats and attacks
- Levels of reliability
- Scenarios: shared key versus trusted server versus public key

Policies versus mechanisms:

- A security policy specifies limits for accessing and sharing resources
- A security mechanism enforces or implements a security policy

General strategy:

Policy should be specified separately from mechanism.

Why? Give an example of policy versus mechanism for the computer labs. Is the access list a policy or a mechanism?

Figure 7.1
Historical context: the evolution of security needs

	1965-75	1975-89	1990-99	Current
<i>Platforms</i>	Multi-user timesharing computers	Distributed systems based on local networks	The Internet, wide-area services	The Internet + mobile devices
<i>Shared resources</i>	Memory, files	Local services (e.g. NFS), local networks	Email, web sites, Internet commerce	Distributed objects, mobile code
<i>Security requirements</i>	User identification and authentication	Protection of services	Strong security for commercial transactions	Access control for individual objects, secure mobile code
<i>Security management environment</i>	Single authority, single authorization database (e.g. /etc/passwd)	Single authority, delegation, replicated authorization databases (e.g. NIS)	Many authorities, no network-wide authorities	Per-activity authorities, groups with shared responsibilities

Threats:

- *Leakage – acquisition of information by an authorized recipient*
- *Tampering – unauthorized alteration of information*
- *Vandalism – interference of proper system information without gain to the perpetrator*

What are the implications for computer systems?

What does it mean to be hacked?

How dangerous are these things?

How pervasive are break-ins? (Look at the Honeynet Project.)

What legislative initiatives are there on the horizon?

Methods of attack:

- *Eavesdropping – obtaining a copy of a message without authorization*
- *Masquerading – sending or receiving messages using someone else's identity*
- *Message tampering – intercepting messages and altering them*
- *Replaying – storing intercepted messages and sending them at a later date*
- *Denial of service – flooding a channel with messages to deny access to others*

How might these attacks be used to cause damage?

Mobile code and security:

- *Download code and run it locally*
- *Two common mobile code systems:*
 - *Java Virtual Machine*
 - *Microsoft Active X*
- *Java Virtual Machine security:*
 - *Environment maintains a security manager that can't be replaced*
 - *Security managers can be set to prevent access to local resources*
 - *Downloaded classes are stored separately from local classes*
 - *Byte code is checked for validity*
 - *Not all that easy to understand*

Information can leak in unexpected ways:

- Mere existence of a connection
- Power used in computation

Levels of reliability:

A sends a message to B

- Authentication of A to B (*B can be sure that A is A*)
- Tamperproof (*B can be sure that the message has not altered*)
- Secret (*A and B can be sure that no one else received the information*)
- Nonrepudiation (*B can hold A legally responsible for the message*)

What levels of reliability do each of the following transactions need?

email, purchase of goods and services, banking transactions, micro-transactions

Designing a secure system:

- Trade-off between cost, inconvenience and threat
- Must assume:
 - Interfaces are exposed
 - Networks are insecure
 - Algorithms and code are available
 - Attackers may have large resources
 - Need to minimize the trusted base

Cryptography

Cryptography – study of processes that encode and decode messages in order to hide their information. Many security mechanisms are based on encryption.

Figure 7.2
Familiar names for the protagonists in security protocols

Alice	First participant
Bob	Second participant
Carol	Participant in three- and four-party protocols
Dave	Participant in four-party protocols
Eve	Eavesdropper
Mallory	Malicious attacker
Sara	A server

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Figure 7.3
Cryptography notations

K_A	Alice's secret key
K_B	Bob's secret key
K_{AB}	Secret key shared between Alice and Bob
K_{Apriv}	Alice's private key (known only to Alice)
K_{Apub}	Alice's public key (published by Alice for all to read)
$\{M\}_K$	Message M encrypted with key K
$[M]_K$	Message M signed with key K

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Scenarios for communication:

- Secret key
- Trusted server
- Public key

Simplified overview of secret key encryption:

Encrypted message:

$$E(K, M) = \{M\}_K$$

Decrypted message:

$$D(K, E(K, M)) = D(K, \{M\}_K) = M$$

It is hard to get M from $\{M\}_K$ without knowing K

Scenario 1.
Secret communication with shared secret key

Alice and Bob share a secret key K_{AB} . Alice wants to send a secret message M to Bob.

1. Alice uses K_{AB} and an agreed encryption function $E(K_{AB}, M)$ to encrypt and send message M to Bob
2. Bob reads the encrypted messages using the corresponding decryption function $D(K_{AB}, M)$

How can Bob and Alice safely get the shared key K_{AB} ?

How can Bob know that M wasn't a replay?

Scenario 2.

Authenticated communication with a server

Alice wants to access Bob's files on a local file server. Sara is a trusted authentication server that holds passwords and current secret keys.

1. Alice sends a message to Sara asking for a ticket to access Bob
 2. Sara sends Alice a response encrypted with K_A that is a ticket encrypted with K_B and a new secret key K_{AB} for communication:
 $\{\{ticket\}_{K_B}, K_{AB}\}_{K_A}$
 3. Alice decrypts response with K_A
 4. Alice sends ticket, her ID and request R to Bob: $\{ticket\}_{K_B}, Alice, R$
 5. Bob decrypts ticket using K_B (the ticket was $\{K_{AB}, Alice\}_{K_B}$)
- This is the simplified scenario for Kerberos. K_{AB} is the session key.

Simplified overview of public key encryption:

Keys come in pairs K_1 and K_2 . Keep one public and one private. If you encrypt with K_1 , you can decrypt with K_2 and vice versa:

$$D(K_2, E(K_1, M)) = M$$

and

$$D(K_1, E(K_2, M)) = M$$

There must be efficient techniques for producing the pairs of keys, but it must be nearly impossible to compute one key, given the other.

Scenario 3.

Authenticated communication with public keys

Bob has generated a public/private key pair. There is a trusted authority that gives out key certificates

1. Alice accesses a key distribution center to obtain a public key certificate with Bob's public key. Alice extracts Bob's public key K_{Bpub}
 2. Alice creates a new secret key K_{AB} and encrypts $\{K_{AB}, \text{known string}\}$ with K_{Bpub}
 3. Alice sends $\{\{\text{unique keyname}\}, \{K_{AB}, \text{known string}\}_{K_{Bpub}}\}$ to Bob.
 4. Bob decrypts $\{K_{AB}, \text{known string}\}_{K_{Bpub}}$ using K_{Bpriv}
 5. Bob and Alice now communicate with K_{AB}
- This is the scenario for the widely used hybrid cryptographic protocol.

Scenario 4. Digital signatures with a secure digest function

Alice wants to sign document M so that any recipient can verify it came from Alice. This assumes that Alice has a private-public key pair. A digest is like a checksum.

1. Alice computes a fixed-length digest $Digest(M)$.
2. Alice encrypts $Digest(M)$ with her private key certificate with Bob's public key and makes $\{M, \{Digest(M)\}_{K_{Apriv}}\}$ available.
3. Bob reads $\{M, \{Digest(M)\}_{K_{Apriv}}\}$, extracts M and computes $Digest(M)$.
4. Bob applies K_{Apub} to $\{Digest(M)\}_{K_{Apriv}}$ to obtain $Digest(M)$ and compares the value with his computed value.

Figure 7.4
Alice's bank account certificate

1. Certificate type	Account number
2. Name	Alice
3. Account	6262626
4. Certifying authority	Bob's Bank
5. Signature	$\{Digest(field\ 2 + field\ 3)\}_{K_{Bpriv}}$

Figure 7.5
Public-key certificate for Bob's Bank

1. Certificate type	Public key
2. Name	Bob's Bank
3. Public key:	K_{Bpub}
4. Certifying authority:	Fred – The Bankers Federation
5. Signature	$\{Digest(field\ 2 + field\ 3)\}_{K_{Fred}}$

For next time:

- Read CDK Chapter 7
- Read about the Honey Net Project
www.honeynet.org
