Internet Security

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General information

- Area: BKS – Hauptstudium Vertiefer
- Time
  - Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00
- Room
  - Telefunkenhochhaus 20. Stock
- Language
  - English (questions can be asked in German!)
- Web site
  - http://www.net.t-labs.tu-berlin.de/teaching/ss07/is_ss07/
- Mailing list
  - see Web page
General information (2)

❑ Exam
  - For those that need it 😊
  - Oral or written exam after semester end
    (depends on # of participants)

❑ Prerequisite: some knowledge of
  - How the Internet works
  - How operating systems work
What is this course?

❖ Network security? Not quite!

❖ Focus:
  ❖ Security of networked applications
  ❖ Protection of network infrastructure
Topics

- Secure network protocol design
  - Using cryptography (not a cryptography class!)
  - The role of correct software

- Practical focus
  - This is not a pure academic-style course
  - You’ll see real security holes
  - A lot of (in)security is about doing the unexpected
  - „Think sideways“
How to think about insecurity

- Bad guys don’t follow rules
- Need to understand what sort of attacks are possible to secure a system
- This is not the same as actually launching them!
  - Taking a security class is not an excuse for hacking
  - Hacking is any form of unauthorized access, including exceeding authorized permissions
  - The fact that a file or computer is not properly protected is no excuse for unauthorized access
Reading

- Research papers (see Web)
Network security

Overview
Dichotomy: hosts

- Is (or can be) well-controlled
- There are well-developed authentication and authorization models
- Strong notion
  - Of "privileged" state
  - What programs can use/do
Dichotomy: networks

- None of the above
- Anyone can (and does) connect to the network
- Connectivity can only be controlled in very small, well-regulated environments, and maybe not even then
- Different OS have different – or no – notions of userIDs and privileges

=> notions of privilege is missing
Networking

- Networks interconnect
- Networks always interconnect
- Interconnections happen everywhere 😊 but mainly at the edges
Failures

- Benign failures
  - Most network failures are benign
  - Programs allow for such failures
    - Data corruption
    - Timeouts
    - Dead hosts
    - Routing problems
    - ...

- Rule of thumb:
  - Anything that can happen by accident can happen by malice – only more so!
Principle: trust nothing

- A host can trust nothing that comes over the wire!
- Any desired protections have to be explicitly supplied
- There may be help from a middleware layer that supplies protection
  Yet the middleware has to be based on the same principle!
Attitude question

- Unproductive attitudes
  - „Why would anyone ever do that?“
  - „That attack is too complicated“
  - „No one knows how this system works, so they can’t attack it“

- Better attitudes
  - „Programming Satan’s Computer“ (Ross Anderson)
  - „Assume that serial number 1 of any device is delivered to the enemy“
  - „You hand your packets to the enemy to deliver; you receive all incoming packets from the enemy“
Network security tools

- Cryptography
- Network-based access control (firewalls and more)
- Monitoring
- Paranoid design!
Protocol design

- Leave room for crypto and authentication
- Ensure that sensitive fields are protectable
- Make authentication bilateral
- Figure out the proper authorization
- Defend against
  - Eavesdropping
  - Modification
  - Deletion
  - Replay
  - And combinations thereof
Buggy software

- Most network security holes are due to buggy code
- A buggy network-connected program is an insecure one 😞
- Correct coding counts for a lot!
Course overview

- Introduction
  - Attacks and threats, cryptography overview
  - Authentication (Kerberos, SSL)

- Applications
  - Web, email, ssh

- Lower layer network security
  - IPsec, firewalls, wireless

- Monitoring / information gathering
  - Intrusion detection, network scans

- Availability
  - Worms, denial of service, network infrastructure