Lecture 27 - Wrapup

December 14, 2005

URL: http://www.cse.psu.edu/~tjaeger/cse543-f06/
Final

• Tuesday, December 19, 2:30pm-4:20pm in 101 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building.
  – Be late at your own peril (I may lock the door at 2:30)
  – You will have the full time to take the test, but no more
  – Open book, open note

• Coverage:
  – Anything we talked about in class …
  – Or appeared in the readings
  – Focus on things topics since mid-term

• Types of questions
  – Constructive (here is scenario, design X and explain it)
  – Philosophical (why does Z argue that …)
  – Explanatory (what is the key tradeoff between A and B …)

• To pass: 50%+ (B-); Need good score for an A/A-
Final Project -- Due 12/21 5pm

• Should be a normal conference-style paper (limit 10 pages)-- should be written as such. (*Presentation Matters*)
  – 5 page, double spacing, etc. are signs that it is not a serious submission, and will be *seriously* penalized.
  – Citations, etc. should be made as necessary throughout the paper -- not just in related work. (must make sense)
  – Bad, unreadable or ugly presentation (e.g., Excel graphs) will not help you (hint: use gnuplot).

• The structure should be appropriate for the topic, and cover all the areas we have discussed all semester.
  – If you are not already 50-75% done with the paper, you are in real peril.

• Please submit the code that you wrote as well
  – I want to know what is necessary
The state of security …

• … issues are in public consciousness
  – Press coverage is increasing …
  – Losses mounting … (billions and billions)
  – Affect increasing …… (ATMs, commerce)

• What are we doing?

“… sound and fury signifying nothing …”

- W. Shakespeare

(well, its not quite that bad)
The problems …

• What is the root cause?
  – Security is not a key goal …
  – … and it never has been …

… so, we need to figure out how to change the way we do engineering (and science) …
… to make computers secure.

• Far too much misunderstanding about basic security and the use of technology

• This is also true physical security
The current solutions …

• Make better software
  – “we mean it” - B. Gates (2002)
  – “Linux is bad too …” - B. Gates (2005)

• CERT/SANS-based problem/event tracking
  – Experts tracking vulnerabilities
  – Patch system completely broken

• Destructive research
  – Back-pressure on product developers
  – Arms-race with bad guys

• Problem: reactive, rather than proactive
The real solutions …

• Fix the economic incentive equation …
  – Eventually, MS/Sun/Apple/*** will be in enough pain that they change the way they make software

• Education
  – Things will get better when people understand when how to use technology

• Fix engineering practices
  – Design for security

• Apply technology
  – What we have been talking about
The bottom line

• The Web/Internet and new technologies are being limited by their ability to address security and privacy concerns …

• … it is incumbent in us as scientists to meet these challenges.
  – Evangelize importance of security …
  – Provide sound technologies …
  – Define better practices …
Thank You!!!

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