Network Security

Topic 3: User Authentication

Reading for this Lecture

Wikipedia

- Password
- Password strength
- Salt_(cryptography)
- Password cracking
- Trusted path
- One time password



Important Takeaway Message

Thinking about security is to consider and weigh in different trade-offs

Understanding and proper usages of some basic terminologies are important

Three A's of Information Security

Authentication

vs. Access Control

vs. Audit

4]

Authentication, Authorization, and Audit

Authentication

 It is the process of determining whether somebody is who he/she is claiming to be

Access control

 It is the process of determining whether an action is allowed with respect to some welldefined rules or policies

Audit

 Record everything to identify attackers after the fact

Authentication and Access Control (From Wikipedia)

- Authentication is the act of establishing or confirming something (or someone) as authentic, that is, that *claims made by or about the subject are true*. This might involve *confirming the identity of a person*, tracing the origins of an artifact, ensuring that a product is what its packaging and labeling claims to be, or *assuring that a computer program is a trusted one*
- Access control is a system which enables an authority to control access to areas and resources in a given physical facility or computer-based information system

Why Audit?

- Do not have enough information during decision making time to make a judgment whether an access request is valid
- It is difficult to weigh in all possible conditions of a valid access request
- Specially relevant when legitimacy of access request depends on contextual information







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Our concentration today is user authentication

Scenarios Requiring User Authentication

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- Logging into a local computer
- Logging into a remote computer
- Logging into a network
- Accessing websites



Authentication Token

- Based on something the user know
 Example: Passphrase, password
- Based on something the user possesses
 - Example: Smart card or token
- Based on something the user is
 Example: Biometric

Proposals of Authentication Token

- Cryptography-based
- Others
 - Passwords
 - Biometrics
 - Graphical passwords
 - 2-factor authentication
 - Out of band authentication

Cryptography-based Designs

One-time passwords

- Each password is used only once
- Defend against adversary who can eavesdrop and later impersonate

Challenge-response

 Send a response related to the password and a challenge

Zero-knowledge proof of knowledge

 Prove knowledge of a value without revealing it (*Out of scope*)

One-Time Passwords (OTP)

- Two parties share a list of one-time passwords
- Time synchronized OTP
 - Example: MAC_K(t) where t is the current time
- Using a hash chain (Proposed by Lamport)
 - H(s), H(H(s)), ..., H¹⁰⁰⁰(s)
 - Use these hash values in reverse order



Leslie B. Lamport

The winner of the 2013 Turing Award

- Developer of the document preparation system LaTeX
- 2013 Turing Award for imposing clear, welldefined coherence on the seemingly chaotic behavior of distributed computing systems



February 7, 1941 (age 75) Born New York City, New York



Lamport's One-Time Password

- Setting: A wants to authenticate itself to B
- Initialization:
 - A selects an arbitrary value S, a hash function H(), and integer value t
 - A computes $W_0 = H^t(S)$ and sends W_0 , and H() to B
 - B stores W₀
- Protocol: To authenticate to B at time i where 1 <= i <= t
 - A sends to B: A, i, $w_i = H^{t-i}(S)$
 - B checks: $i = i_A, H(w_i) = w_{i-1}$
 - If both holds, $i_A = i_A + 1$

Challenge-Response Protocols

- **Goal**: one entity authenticates to other entity proving the knowledge of a secret, 'challenge'
- How to design this using the crypto tool we have learned?
- Approach: Use time-variant parameters to prevent replay, interleaving attacks, provide uniqueness and timeliness
 - Example: nonce (used only once), timestamps

Challenge-Response Protocols

- Unilateral authentication (timestamp-based)
 - A to B: $MAC_{K}(t_{A}, B)$
- Unilateral authentication (nonce-based)
 - B to A: r_B
 - A to B: $MAC_{K}(r_{B}, B)$
- Mutual authentication (nonce-based)
 - B to A: r_B
 - A to B: r_A , MAC_K(r_A , r_B , B)
 - B to A: $MAC_{K}(r_{B}, r_{A})$

Public-key Cryptography

Cleverly use Digital Signature to authenticate to a party.

(This will be covered later)

Passwords

- Oldest and most common form of authentication token due to its ease of deployment
- 1961 Compatible Time-Sharing System at MIT was most likely the first deployment of passwords
- Password was deployed in traditional computer systems like MULTICS and Unix in the 1970



Variations of Passwords

Passcode

password

 Personal Identification Number (PIN)

Attractive Properties of Password

- Easily deployable
 - No need for additional hardware
- Customizable
 - Choose your own password
- Convenient to replace
- Ease of use

22

Problems with Passwords

- For security, it is desirable for passwords to be unpredictable
- However, it is difficult to remember highly random things
- Recent survey showed, an individual on average has 106 online accounts
- It is desired for individuals to not have the same password for all accounts

Problems with Passwords

There is an inherent tension between security and usability of

I changed all my passwords to "incorrect".

So whenever I forget, it will tell me "Your password is incorrect." WeirdNutDaily.com

Usability Metrics

- Sentiment
 - Creation difficulty, recall difficulty
- Time
 - Password creation and recall
- Memorability
 - Recall attempts, password writedown

Human Memory

- Human Memory is semantic
- Human memory is associative
- Human memory is lossy

Human memory is Semantic

Memorize: nbccbsabc

- Memorize: tkqizrlwp
- 3 Chunks vs. 9 Chunks!
- Usability Goal: Minimize Number of Chunks

Source: The magical number seven, plus or minus two [Miller, 56]

Human memory is Associative



Cues

- Cue: context when a memory is stored
- Surrounding Environment
 - Sounds
 - Visual Surroundings
 - Web Site
 -
- As time passes we forget some of this context...



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Human memory is Lossy Rehearse or Forget! How much work? Quantify Usability

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Rehearsal Assumption

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29

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Usability Question

- Important Question: Are human inherently bad at remembering random information?
- Answer: Not really, with proper training
- Paper: Towards reliable storage of 56-bit secrets in human memory (USENIX-2014)

56.4 bit secret learning after 36 logins



Towards reliable storage of 56-bit secrets in human memory, Usenix Security 2014.

Example of Weak Passwords (Wikipedia)

- Default passwords (as supplied by the system vendor and meant to be changed at installation time): password, default, admin, guest, etc.
- Dictionary words: chameleon, RedSox, sandbags, bunnyhop!, IntenseCrabtree, etc.
- Words with numbers appended: password1, deer2000, john1234, etc.,
- Words with simple obfuscation: p@ssw0rd, I33th4x0r, g0ldf1sh, etc.
- **Doubled words**: *crabcrab*, *stopstop*, *treetree*, *passpass*, etc., can be easily tested automatically.

Example of Weak Passwords (Wikipedia)

- Common sequences from a keyboard row: *qwerty*, 12345, *asdfgh*, *fred*, etc.
- Numeric sequences based on well known numbers such as 911, 314159, or 27182, etc.,
- IDs: jsmith123, 1/1/1970, 555–1234, etc.,
- Personal Info: license plate number, SSN, telephone number, student ID, address, birthday, relative's or pet's names, etc.,
 - Can easily be tested automatically after a simple investigation of person's details.

Password Composition Policy

Passwords for University IT Resources must comply with the following standards:

- Passwords must contain at least 1 letter.
- Passwords must contain at least 1 number or punctuation mark.
- Passwords must be between 8 and 16 characters long.
- Passwords must contain more than 4 unique characters.
- Passwords must not contain easily guessed words (e.g. Purdue, itap, boiler).
- Passwords must not contain your name or parts of your name (e.g., Bill, Julie, Bob, or Susan).
- New passwords must be different than the previous password (re-use of the same password will not be allowed for one (1) year).

Password Generated: P@ssw0rd1

Password Strength

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- One possible approach of deterring users from creating weak passwords is to notify them whenever they have created a weak password
- Just this information is sometimes good enough to make the user create a stronger password

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	It would take 241 days for a desktop PC to crack your password	Ithentication
	Account username My Username	: User Au
r	Account password Confirm password	Topic 3
	Weak Password	
word: ength:	Weak	〔35〕

Password Strength

- The average number of guesses the attacker must make to find the correct password
 - Determined by how unpredictable the password is, including how long the password is, what set of symbols it is drawn from, and how it is created.
- The ease with which an attacker can check the validity of a guessed password
 - Determined by how the password is stored, how the checking is done, and any limitation on trying passwords
Password Entropy

- The entropy bits of a password (also known as **guess entropy**), i.e., the information entropy of a password, measured in bits, is
 - The base-2 logarithm of the number of guesses needed to find the password with certainty
 - A password with, say, 42 bits of strength calculated in this way would be as strong as a string of 42 bits chosen randomly
 - Adding one bit of entropy to a password doubles the number of guesses required

38

Password Entropy Estimation

- People are bad at achieving sufficient entropy to produce satisfactory passwords
- NIST suggests the following scheme to estimate the entropy of human-generated passwords:
 - The entropy of the 1st character is 4 bits;
 - The entropy of the next 7 characters are 2 bits per character;
 - The 9th through the 20th character has 1.5 bits of entropy per character;
 - Characters 21 and above have 1 bit of entropy per character.
- This would imply that an 8 character humanselected password has about 18 bits of entropy.

Towards a Better Estimation of Password Entropy

- NIST suggestion fails to consider usage of different category of characters: Lower-case letters, digits, upper-case letters, special symbols
- Orders also matter: "Password123!" should have different entropy from "ao3swPd!2s1r"
- State of art: Variable-order markov chains to model probability of different strings as passwords: "A Study of Probabilistic Password Models" by Ma, Yang, Luo, Li in IEEE S&P 2014.
- Fundamental challenge: there are different attack strategies out there, which try passwords with different ordering

Mechanisms to Avoid Weak Passwords

- Allow long passphrases, forbid short passwords
- Randomly generate passwords when appropriate
- Give user suggestions/guidelines in choosing passwords
 - Example: Think of a sentence and select letters from it, "It's 12 noon and I am hungry" => "I'S12&IAH"
 - Using both letter, numbers, and special characters
- Check the quality of user-selected passwords
 - Run dictionary attack tools and other sanity checks
 - Evaluate strength of a password and explain the weaknesses
- Active research area

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Password Entropy and Usability

- Forcing users to only use randomly generated password is bad
- The "Weakest Link" security principle applies:
 - Often times, guessing passwords is not the weakest link
 - One can use various ways to reduce adversary's abilities to test password guesses

• Forgotten password:

- The recovering method either has low security, or costs lots of money
- It creates a weaker link.



Relevant Security Principle

Psychological acceptability:

- It is essential that the human interface be designed for ease of use, so that users routinely and automatically apply the protection mechanisms correctly. Also, to the extent that the user's mental image of his protection goals matches the mechanisms he must use, mistakes will be minimized. If he must translate his image of his protection needs into a radically different specification language, he will make errors.
- Taken from Saltzer & Schroeder: "The Protection of Information in Computer Systems", which identifies 8 security principles, including the "open design" principle

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43

Threats to Passwords

- Eavesdropping (insecure channel between client and server)
- Login spoofing (human errors), shoulder surfing, keyloggers
- Offline dictionary attacks
- Social engineering (human errors)
 - Pretexting: creating and using an invented scenario (the pretext) to persuade a target to release information or perform an action and is usually done over the telephone
- Online guessing (weak passwords)

Offline Dictionary Attacks

 With the frequent data breaches offline dictionary attacks have become a real worry for system designers and security experts

Company	Victims
Adobe	2.9 million
Evernote	50 million
Twitter	250,000
Living Social	50 million



Password Storage (UNIX)

- The file /etc/passwd stores H(password) together with each user's login name, user id, home directory, login shell, etc.
 - H is essentially an one-way hash function
 - Roger Needham and Mike Guy in the 1960s proposed storing password hashes
 - The file /etc/passwd must be world readable
- Brute force attacks possible
 - How to most effectively brute-force when trying to obtain password of any account on a system with many accounts?

Password Salts

- More modern UNIX systems divide /etc/password into two files: /etc/password; and /etc/shadow (readable only by root)
- Store [r, H(password,r)] rather than H(password) in /etc/shadow
 - r is randomly chosen for each password
 - r is public, similar to IV in CBC & CTR modes
- Benefits
 - Dictionary attacks much more difficult
 - Single account attack cost remains the same
 - Same password would have different hashes

47

Dictionary and Guessing Attacks

- Protect stored passwords with cryptography and access control
 - "Defense in Depth" principle is applicable:
 - Use multiple independent methods of defense, so that even if one layer fails, security is still not compromised
 - Example: Consider password dataset compromises
- Disable accounts with multiple failed attempts
- Require extra authentication mechanism

New Age of Offline Attacks

December 06, 2012 GPU Monster Shreds Password Hashes

Tiffany Trader

Today's notion of safe passwords may soon be a thing of the past. T hardware, cloud software, and free password cracking programs, it's hack these digital keys.



Security researcher Jeremi Gosney has taken this craft to a new leve

Security Ledger.

Passwords^12 Conference held this week in Oslo, Norway, Gosney's custom-built GPU cluster tore through 348 billion password hashes per second. His story was covered in the

New Age of Offline Attacks

- Attackers are building ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuits) for password cracking
- They are very efficient in calculating hash values, e.g., **355 million SHA2 hashes/s**
- Relies on Graphical Processing Units (GPUs)
- http://hashcat.net/oclhashcat/

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50

Defenses against Offline Attacks

- Intentionally make the hash functions slow, e.g., bcrypt, scrypt
- Some on-going work on cost asymmetric hash function designs (CASH)
 - Easy to verify a hash
 - Difficult to carry out a dictionary/brute-force attack

Attack Strategy

Dumb Attacker	Smart Attacker
AAAAA	password
AAAAAB	iloveyou
AAAAAC	monkey
AAAAD	12345678
AAAAAE	password1

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52

Login Spoofing

Login Spoofing Attacks:

- write a program showing a login window on screen and record the passwords
- put su in current directory
- Defense: Trusted Path
 - Mechanism that provides confidence that the user is communicating with the real intended server
 - Attackers can't intercept or modify whatever information is being communicated.
 - Defends attacks such as fake login programs
 - **Example**: Ctrl+Alt+Del for log in on Windows
 - Causes a non-maskable interrupt that can only be intercepted by the operating system, guaranteeing that the login window cannot be spoofed



53

Spoofing Attack on the Web

- Phishing attacks
 - Attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames and passwords details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in electronic communication.
- Website forgery
 - Set up fake websites that look like e-commerce sites and trick users into visiting the sites and entering sensitive info

Defenses

- Browser filtering of known phishing sites
- Cryptographic authentication of servers
- User-configured authentication of servers
 - To ensure that the site is the one the human user has in mind
 - E.g., site key, pre-selected picture/phrases

KeyLogging

- Threats from insecure client side
- Keystroke logging is the action of logging the keys typed on a keyboard, typically in a covert manner so that the person using the keyboard is unaware that their actions are being monitored.
- Software-based: key-stroke events, grab web forms, analyze HTTP packets
- Hardware-based: Connectors, wireless sniffers, acoustic based
- Defenses: Anti-spyware, network monitors, on-screen soft keyboard, automatic form filler, etc.
- In general difficult to deal with once on the system

Recent Study by Us

How different people create the same passwords?

31.5%

Alternative Proposals

Honeywords: Making Password **Cracking Detectable**



Password Managers

• A software that generates random

What is the problem with having a password manager manage your passwords?

> RoboForm remembers passwords

so you don't have to!

Password Managers

One master password protecting all your passwords.

Naturally Rehearsing Password

Public Cue

Private

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Naturally Rehearsing Password



Naturally Rehearsing Password



Using the Password



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Human Computable Password

Restricted

- Simple operations (addition, lookup)
- Operations performed in memory (limited space)



Image to Digit Mapping



Initialization: User Memorizes Random Mapping

Example: n=30 images

Mnemonics

= 4

Instruction: Remember that the eagle has a gold beak. There are four letters in "gold" and "beak".

Mnemonics

||= 7

Instruction: Trace the eagles body from the bottom of the eagle's beak down to the bottom of the picture. It looks like the number 7.



Challenge Response 5/25/2019 **Topic 3: User Authentication** 0 5 **Response:** 6 mod 10 $= 9+3 \mod 10 = 2$ 8 68 4

Biometrics

• Your fingerprint is your ID!

• Your fingerprint is pretty unique

• Your fingerprint is convenient to carry.

Biometrics

- Your fingerprint is your ID!
 - Your fingerprint is a lot more valuable to other people than it used to be
- Your fingerprint is pretty unique
 - You have limited number of biometrics, so if Google and Microsoft use the same biometric, they can authenticate as you to each other
- Your fingerprint is convenient to carry
 - Unfortunately, biometric readers are a lot less convenient to deploy. They generally require special hardware

<u>Finally, iPhone's Fingerprint Scanner 'TouchID' hacked first by</u> <u>German Hackers</u>

🛗 Sunday, September 22, 2013 🛛 🛔 Pierluigi Paganini



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJvgiMX1pv4

Two Factor Authentication

- Somebody steals your password, you can steal be safe
- Requiring two factor authentication all the time is not very usable



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Additional Materials

- TED talk by Bruce Schneier on trade-off: <u>http://www.ted.com/talks/bruce_schneier#t-625467</u>
- TED talk by Lorrie Faith Cranor on passwords: <u>http://www.ted.com/talks/lorrie_faith_cranor_what_s_wrong_with_your_pa_w0rd#t-764198</u>
- Famous XKCD comic on password strength: <u>https://xkcd.com/936/</u>
- News article explaining password cracking strategy: <u>http://arstechnica.com/security/2013/05/how-crackers-make-minced-meat-out-of-your-passwords/2/</u>
- Hashcat password cracking website: <u>http://hashcat.net/oclhashcat/</u>

Interesting Papers

- Towards Reliable Storage of 56-bit Secrets in Human Memory: <u>https://www.usenix.org/system/files/conference/usenixsecurity14/sec14-paper-bonneau.pdf</u>
- GOTCHA Password Hackers!: <u>http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~jblocki/papers/aisec2013-fullversion.pdf</u>
- Naturally-Rehearsing Passwords: <u>http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~jblocki/crypto2013.pdf</u>
- The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two: <u>http://www.psych.utoronto.ca/users/peterson/psy430s2001/Miller%20GA%20Magical%20Seven%20Psych%20Review%201955.pdf</u>
- A Study of Probabilistic Password Models : <u>http://www.ieee-</u> security.org/TC/SP2014/papers/AStudyofProbabilisticPasswordModels.pdf
- The Quest to Replace Passwords: A Framework for Comparative Evaluation of Web Authentication Schemes: <u>http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~fms27/papers/2012-</u> <u>BonneauHerOorSta-password--oakland.pdf</u>
- Passwords and the Evolution of Imperfect Authentication: <u>http://research.microsoft.com/pubs/250408/passwordsAndImperfectAuth.pdf</u>

74

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75