

Software Security (Day 3) & Introduction to Cryptography

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Updates Oct. 10th

- Coffee/tea signup sheet posted (optional)
 - First is tomorrow @2 pm. Meet in CSE Atrium
- Security reviews & Current events
 - Instructions on Catalyst; one each due 11/4 and 12/2
- **Reading:** over the next few days, Crypto chapters (Ch. 12--15, ~50 pages) in Daswani et al.
 - Chapter 12 by Wednesday

Today

- Principles for Software Design
- Introduction to Cryptography

Fuzz Testing

- ◆ Generate “random” inputs to program
 - Sometimes conforming to input structures (file formats, etc)
- ◆ See if program crashes
 - If crashes, found a bug
 - Bug may be exploitable
- ◆ Surprisingly effective
- ◆ Now standard part of development lifecycle

Genetic Diversity

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◆ Problems with Monoculture

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- ◆ Steps toward diversity
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- ◆ Example in Tor:
 - users get lists of relays from “directory authorities”
 - require signatures from 4/7 authorities to accept
 - variety of OS'es, crypto libs, etc.
 - Works: only 3 servers compromised by Debian SSL bug

Principles

- ◆ Open design? Open source?
- ◆ Maybe...
- ◆ Linux Kernel Backdoor Attempt: <http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/?p=472>
- ◆ PGP Corporation: <http://www.pgp.com/developers/sourcecode/index.html>

Principles

- ◆ Check inputs

Principles

- ◆ Least privilege

Principles

- ◆ Check all return values

Principles

- ◆ Securely clear memory (passwords, keys, etc)

Principles

- ◆ Failsafe defaults

Principles

◆ Defense in Depth

◆ Also

- Prevent
- Detect
- Deter

Schneier on Security

A blog covering security and security technology.

« [Pork-Filled Counter-Islamic Bomb Device](#) | [Main](#) | [Security Vulnerabilities of Smart Electricity Meters](#) »

July 28, 2010

DNSSEC Root Key Split Among Seven People

The DNSSEC root key has been [divided](#) among seven people:

Part of ICANN's security scheme is the Domain Name System Security, a security protocol that ensures Web sites are registered and "signed" (this is the security measure built into the Web that ensures when you go to a URL you arrive at a real site and not an identical pirate site). Most major servers are a part of DNSSEC, as it's known, and during a major international attack, the system might sever connections between important servers to contain the damage.

A minimum of five of the seven keyholders -- one each from Britain, the U.S., Burkina Faso, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, China, and the Czech Republic -- would have to converge at a U.S. base with their keys to restart the system and connect everything once again.

That's a [secret sharing](#) scheme they're using, most likely [Shamir's Secret Sharing](#). We know the names of [some of them](#).

Paul Kane -- who lives in the Bradford-on-Avon area -- has been chosen to look after one of seven keys, which will 'restart the world wide web' in the event of a catastrophic event.

Dan Kaminsky is [another](#).

I don't know how they picked those countries.

Principles

- ◆ Reduce size of TCB
- ◆ Simplicity
- ◆ Modularity

Vulnerability Analysis and Disclosure

- ◆ What do you do if you've found a security problem in a real system?
- ◆ Say
 - A commercial website?
 - UW grade database?
 - iPhone?
 - Boeing 787?