

Security

At least three different categories:

- *Data integrity*: Backup etc., taken care by normal OS functions
- *Protection against user errors*: done by separating users and processes
- *Protection against malicious users*: more complicated, involves trade-offs between ease of use and level of protection

Major problem: *Identification of users*

Most common scheme: Passwords

+ : Easy to use and understand

- : All too often too easily guessable

- : Exposure problem

- : Where to store passwords

Other problems arise from vicious programs.

Most famous example so far : *Internet Worm* (1988)

Very clever use of weaknesses in OS design/program bugs

79

Protection mechanisms

Access to shared resources must be controlled

Two aims:

- Protection against users' mistakes
- Increase in reliability

Principles:

- separate policy (*what*) from mechanism (*how*)
Important for flexibility
- Users should have as much privilege as necessary to get job done

Standard way: each user separate domain of protection

Need *trusted* way of making system privileges available

Disadvantage: primary target for breakins (*setuid*-programs in UNIX)

80

Access matrix

abstract view of protections

have row for each domain and column for object

Entry indicates access right

Example:

	F_1	F_2	F_3	Printer
D_1	read		write	
D_2				print

Have capabilities like read, write, copy, owner, control

Unsuitable for implementation because matrix far too large

81

Implementation Issues

- Access lists for objects (store columns)
- Capability lists for domains (store rows)

Capabilities allow great flexibility

Example: Hydra

- Auxiliary rights: each process can pass access to procedure to other processes
⇒ dynamic change of access rights
- Rights amplifications: procedure can act on specified type on behalf of any process which is allowed to execute it
Rights *cannot* be passed on
⇒ flexible and more secure mechanism for granting higher privileges temporarily

82

coarser than access lists

for each file, have three categories of possible users

- owner
- group (pre-defined set of users)
- all others

owner can grant permission to

- read
- write
- execute program/find files in directory

Aim: authentication in insecure networks

One possible solutions:

- Central authentication server (Kerberos):

Have following protocol:

- Client → Auth Server: Credentials, please?
- Auth Server → Client: ((Client Id, Session Key)_S, Session Key)_C
- Client decrypts message and keeps Session Key
- Client → Server: (Client Id, Session Key)_S
- Server decrypts message and obtains Client Id and Session Key

Authentication Server must be trusted

Protocol vulnerable to replay attacks