

## Security

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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

54

## Protection mechanisms

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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)

55

## Access matrix

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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

56

## Implementation Issues

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- 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

57

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

Two possible solutions:

- Central authentication server (Kerberos):

Have following protocol:

- Client → Auth Server: Credentials, please?
- Auth Server → Client: ((Client Id, Session Key)<sub>S</sub>, Session Key)<sub>C</sub>
- Client decrypts message and keeps Session Key
- Client → Server: (Client Id, Session Key)<sub>S</sub>
- Server decrypts message and obtains Client Id and Session Key

Authentication Server must be trusted

Protocol vulnerable to replay attacks

- Newer Alternative: PGP (Pretty Good Privacy)

Relies on so-called Public Key Cryptography:

Have two different keys, *public key*  $K_p$  and *secret key*  $K_s$

clear text encrypted via  $K_p$  can be decrypted only via  $K_s$  and vice versa

Assume every host in network has public and secret key

Now communication can take place by sending message from  $A$  to  $B$  as  $(m_{A_s})_{B_p}$ . Only  $B$  can decode the message, and it can verify that it came from  $A$ .

Certification of keys still necessary.