

CS527 Software Security

Secure Software Lifecycle



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Software liveliness

- Software is not a one-shot effort
- Software development, production, and maintenance are cost/labor intensive
- Software life-time can outlive hardware



Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Configuration
- Subsystems
- Mandatory Access Control (MAC)
- Filesystem encryption
- Trusted Platform Module
- Userspace Hardening:
- Kernel Hardening
- See <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Security/Features>

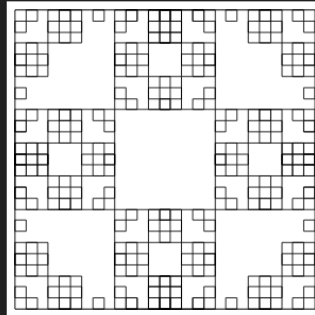
Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Configuration:
 - No Open Ports;
 - Password hashing;
 - SYN cookies;
 - Automatic security updates;
 - Kernel Livepatches



Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Subsystems:
 - Filesystem Capabilities;
 - Configurable Firewall;
 - Cloud PRNG seed;
 - PR_SET_SECCOMP



Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Mandatory Access Control (MAC):
 - AppArmor;
 - SELinux;
 - SMACK



Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Filesystem encryption:
 - Encrypted LVM;
 - eCryptfs



Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Trusted Platform Module

Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Userspace Hardening (1/2):
 - Stack Protector;
 - Heap Protector;
 - Pointer Obfuscation;
 - Address Space Layout Randomisation (ASLR):
 - Stack ASLR;
 - Libs/mmap ASLR;
 - Exec ASLR;
 - brk ASLR;
 - VDSO ASLR

Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Userspace Hardening (2/2):
 - Built as PIE;
 - Built with Fortify Source;
 - Built with RELRO;
 - Built with BIND_NOW;
 - Non-Executable Memory;
 - /proc/\$pid/maps protection;
 - Symlink restrictions;
 - Hardlink restrictions;
 - ptrace scope

Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Kernel Hardening (1/2):
 - 0-address protection;
 - /dev/mem protection;
 - /dev/kmem disabled;
 - Block module loading;
 - Read-only data sections;
 - Stack protector;
 - Module RO/NX;
 - Kernel Address Display Restriction;
 - Kernel Address Space Layout Randomisation

Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Kernel Hardening (2/2):
 - Blacklist Rare Protocols;
 - Syscall Filtering;
 - dmesg restrictions;
 - Block kexec;
 - UEFI Secure Boot (amd64)

Secure SE versus SE

What is the difference between software engineering and secure software engineering?

If we have secure SE, why not also {reliable | robust | resilient | reproducible | trusted | verifiable | ...} SE?



Secure SE versus SE

Software engineering (SE) is concerned with developing and maintaining software systems that behave reliably and efficiently, are affordable to develop and maintain, and satisfy all the requirements that customers have defined for them. It is important because of the impact of large, expensive software systems and the role of software in safety-critical applications. It integrates significant mathematics, computer science and practices whose origins are in engineering.

See http://computingcareers.acm.org/?page_id=12

Why do we need secure SE?

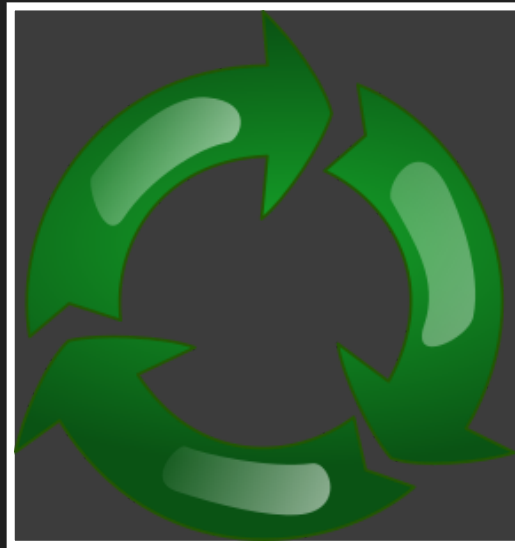
- Prevent loss/corruption of data
- Prevent unauthorized access to data
- Prevent unauthorized computation
- Prevent escalation of privileges
- Prevent downtime of resources

Note, this is not a SE class. We will not focus on waterfall, incremental, extreme, spiral, agile, or continuous integration/continuous delivery.

Examples follow the traditional SE approach, leaving it up to you to generalize to your favorite SE approach.

Secure SE lifecycle

- Requirements/Specification
- Design
- Implementation
- Testing
- Updates and patching



Requirements/Specification

- Regular SE requirement specification plus
- Security specification
- Asset identification
- Assess environment
- Use cases and abuse cases

Design

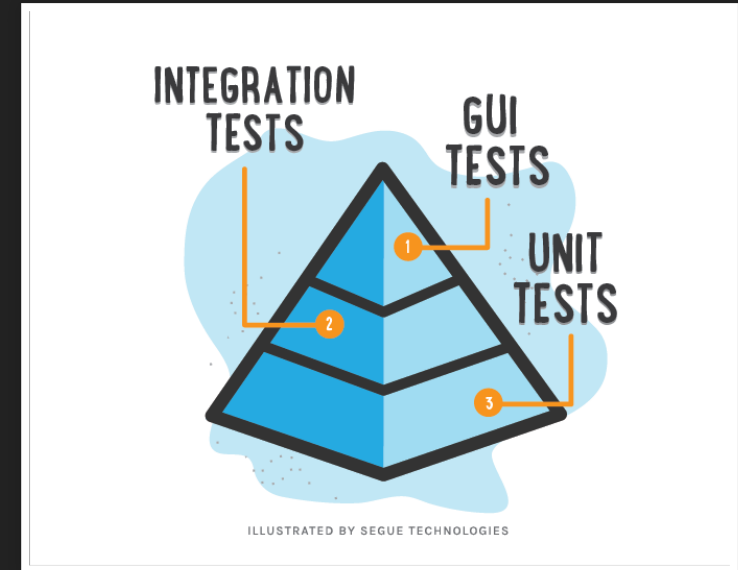
- Regular SE design plus
- Threat modeling
- Security design
- Execution environment and actors
- Design review
- Design documentation (prose)

Implementation

- Regular SE implementation plus
- Source code repository/version control
- Coding standards (assertions, documentation)
- Source code review process

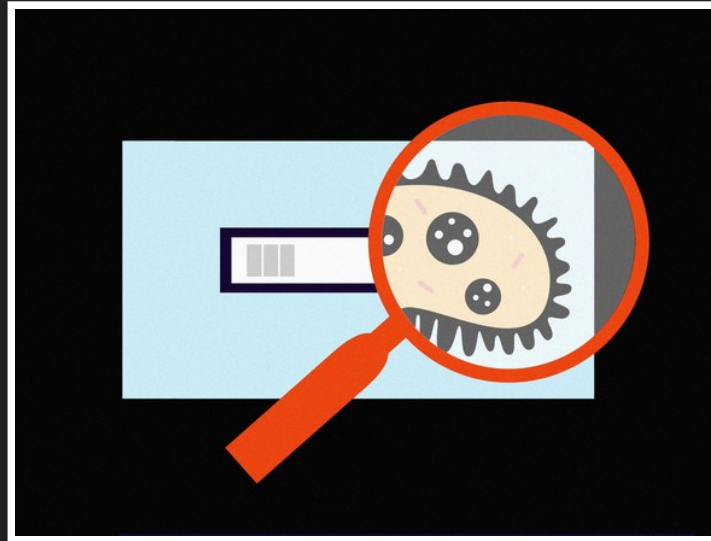
Testing

- Regular SE testing plus
- Security test plans
- Automatic testing
 - Fuzzing
 - Symbolic execution
 - Formal verification
- Red team testing
- Continuous integration testing (Jenkins, Travis, etc)



Updates and patching

- Dedicated security response team
- Continuous process: new features, security issues
- Regression testing
- Secure update deployment



Summary

- Software lives and evolves
- Security must be first class citizen
 - Secure Requirements/specification
 - Security-aware Design (Threats?)
 - Secure Implementation (Reviews?)
 - Testing (Read team, fuzzing, unit)
 - Updates and patching
- Example: Ubuntu security features