

# CS412 Software Security

## Secure Software Lifecycle



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- 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: safe defaults
- Subsystems: enable flexibility
- Mandatory Access Control (MAC): compartmentalization
- Filesystem encryption: secure data at rest
- Trusted Platform Module: tamper proofing
- Userspace Hardening: mitigations
- Kernel Hardening: mitigations
- See <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Security/Features>

## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

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



Figure 2:

## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Subsystems: *flexibility*
  - Filesystem Capabilities;
  - Configurable Firewall;
  - Cloud PRNG seed;
  - PR\_SET\_SECCOMP

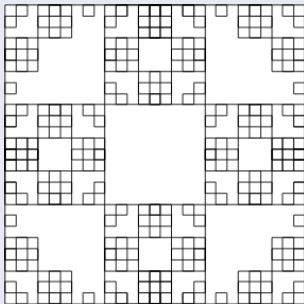


Figure 3:

## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

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



Figure 4:

## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Filesystem encryption: *secure data at rest*
  - Encrypted LVM;
  - eCryptfs



Figure 5:



## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Trusted Platform Module: *tamper proof*

## Example: Ubuntu security evolution

- Userspace Hardening (1/2): *mitigations*
  - 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): *mitigations*
  - 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): *mitigations*
  - 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): *mitigations*
  - 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?



Figure 6:

## 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](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 on the slides follow a traditional SE approach, generalization to other SE approaches is left to the reader.



# Secure SE lifecycle

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



Figure 7:

## 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

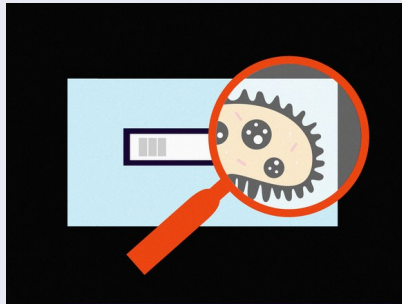


Figure 8: Source:

<https://www.wired.com/story/petya-plague-automatic-software-updates/>

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