Course Introduction

CMSC 426 - Computer Security

Course Policy

- Textbook: Stallings & Brown, Computer Security: Principles and Practice, 4th Edition.
- You will be graded on...
 - Homework problems (problems assigned to individuals; write-ups on Piazza)
 - Labs (4 group labs)
 - Exams (midterm and final)

Course Materials

- Course website: syllabus, schedule, assignments.
 - www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/undergraduate/426/spring18
- Piazza: discussion groups, homework.
- Blackboard: grades, materials that I do not want to be visible on the Internet. I will link the website from Blackboard.

Course Outline

- Security Concepts (I-2 lectures)
- Buffer Overflow & SW Security (3 lectures)
- Malicious SW & Intrusion Detection (5 lectures)
- Cryptography (5 lectures)
- Authentication & Access Control (4 lectures)
- Network Security (5 lectures)
- Economics & Ethics (2 lectures)

A Brief History of Security Technologies

Culmstock Beacon



- Confidentiality?
- Availability?

Wax Seal



• Confidentiality?

Integrity?

• Who or what does a user have to trust?



Trust in the End-point

- Encryption sufficient.
- Keys, codebooks, plaintext in protected enclaves.
- Controlled communications in and out of enclave.



Encryption Machines

• SIGSALY - World War II secure voice.





• M-209 - World War II and Korean War tactical encryptor.

209 - World War II and

Computer Networks

• Communications no longer so easy to control.





• Malicious software exploits security holes.

Network Security

• Authentication & Access Control



- Firewalls
- VPNs
- Intrusion Detection & Prevention



How secure can we be?

Trusting Trust

- Ken Thompson, Reflections on Trusting Trust, 1983.
- Consider a modified C compiler that:
- I. When the login program is compiled from source, the compiler introduces a back door.
- 2. If the C compiler is re-compiled from source, the ability to do (1) and (2) is introduced into the executable output.
- The only way to find this is to reverse-engineer the hooked compiler.

Other Problems

- Complexity of networks and network security
- Cryptanalytic advances e.g. quantum computing, mathematical breakthroughs
- Other attacks e.g. side channels

TEMPEST Demo

