

Network Security

Security aspects of TCP/IP

Radboud University, The Netherlands



Spring 2017

A short recap

- ▶ Within the same subnet, it's fairly easy to sniff traffic
 - ▶ Hubs distribute data to everyone (but are largely obsolete)
 - ▶ Use ARP cache poisoning on switched Ethernet
 - ▶ Wireless LAN behaves a lot like hubbed Ethernet
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- ▶ Additional threat: WiFi Protected Setup (WPS)

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- ▶ *Stop* using TKIP
 - ▶ `iw dev wlp0s1 scan | grep TKIP`

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- ▶ ARP spoofing: attacking logical part of link layer
- ▶ What about the internet and transport layers?

IP networks and addresses

- ▶ Hosts (i.e., computers) are identified by their IP address
- ▶ IP addresses have a *network part* and a *host part*
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 - ▶ Example: 192.168.42.0/24

The IP header

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Version	IHL	DSCP			ECN		Total Length																								
Identification					Flags		Fragment Offset																								
Time to Live		Protocol			Header Checksum																										
Source IP Address																															
Destination IP Address																															
Options																															
...																															

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- ▶ IP spoofing is today mainly important in a larger attack context

TCP handshake

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- ▶ Before sending data, create TCP connection with three-way handshake:
 - ▶ Client sends SYN, $SEQ=X$
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- ▶ Termination of a connection uses a 4-way handshake:
 - ▶ Each side terminates independently (through a FIN)
 - ▶ Each side acknowledges the FIN of the other side

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Source Port																Destination Port															
Sequence Number																															
Acknowledgement Number (if ACK set)																															
Data Offset	Re-served	N	C	E	U	A	P	R	S	F	Window Size																				
	0 0 0	S	W	C	R	C	S	S	Y	I																					
		R	E	G	K	H	T	N	N																						
Checksum																Urgent pointer (if URG set)															
Options																															
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Countermeasures

- ▶ Decrease the SYN-RECEIVED timer
- ▶ Increase the size of the queue
- ▶ Recycle oldest half-open connection
- ▶ Firewalls (later in this course)

Solving the real problem

- ▶ SYN flooding countermeasures don't really solve the problem

*The recipient will be left with multiple half-open connections that are occupying limited resources. Usually, these connection requests have forged source addresses that specify nonexistent or unreachable hosts that cannot be contacted. Thus, there is also no way to trace the connections back. ... There is little you can do in these situations. ... **any finite limit can be exceeded.**"*

—Practical UNIX and Internet Security, Garfinkel and Spafford (1996)

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- ▶ Reconstruct information when ACK from client is received
- ▶ Compute ISN as the client's ISN plus offset of
 - ▶ top 5 bits: $t \bmod 32$, where t is a 32-bit time counter that increases every 64 seconds
 - ▶ next 3 bits: an encoding of a maximal segment size (MSS) selected by the server in response to the client's MSS
 - ▶ bottom 24 bits: a server-selected secret function of the client IP address and port number, the server IP address and port number, and t .

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- ▶ Enable SYN cookies under Linux:
`echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/tcp_syncookies`

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 - ▶ Receiving host will assemble the fragments into a buffer of size 65535
 - ▶ Overlong IP packet will overflow this buffer
- ▶ This bug was present in UNIX, Linux, Windows, Mac, routers, printers ...
- ▶ Trivially easy to exploit with some implementations of ping:
`ping -s 65510 target`

The return of the ping of death

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- ▶ CVE-2016-1409: IPv6 ping of death against Cisco's IOS, IOS XR, IOS XE, and NX-OS software

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 - ▶ Can knock out the "real" receiver with DOS
- ▶ Attack the transport layer as well
- ▶ Can an attacker guess the server's ISN?

When new connections are created, an initial sequence number (ISN) generator is employed which selects a new 32 bit ISN. The generator is bound to a (possibly fictitious) 32 bit clock whose low order bit is incremented roughly every 4 microseconds. Thus, the ISN cycles approximately every 4.55 hours. Since we assume that segments will stay in the network no more than the Maximum Segment Lifetime (MSL) and that the MSL is less than 4.55 hours we can reasonably assume that ISN's will be unique.”

—RFC 793 (September 1981)

TCP SHOULD generate its Initial Sequence Numbers with the expression: $ISN = M + F(localip, localport, remoteip, remoteport, secretkey)$ where M is the 4 microsecond timer, and $F()$ is a pseudorandom function (PRF) of the connection-id. $F()$ MUST NOT be computable from the outside, or an attacker could still guess at sequence numbers from the ISN used for some other connection. The PRF could be implemented as a cryptographic hash of the concatenation of the connection-id and some secret data; MD5 [RFC1321] would be a good choice for the hash function.”

—RFC 6528 (February 2012)

... in the Linux kernel (4.11)

```
u32 secure_tcp_sequence_number(__be32 saddr, __be32 daddr,
                               __be16 sport, __be16 dport, u32 *tsoff)
{
    u64 hash;
    net_secret_init();
    hash = siphash_3u32((__force u32)saddr, (__force u32)daddr,
                       (__force u32)sport << 16 | (__force u32)dport,
                       &net_secret);
    *tsoff = secure_tcp_ts_off(saddr, daddr);
    return seq_scale(hash);
}
```

ISN guessing

- ▶ Can we do more with IP spoofing than DOS?
- ▶ An man-in-the-middle attacker does not really need IP spoofing
- ▶ Problem without MitM (*off-path attack*):
 - ▶ TCP handshake SYN/ACK packet won't arrive at attacker
 - ▶ Attacker needs to generate valid ACK to establish connection
 - ▶ Valid ACK means: correct ACK number (server's ISN plus 1)
- ▶ Can an attacker guess the server's ISN?
- ▶ Probably not easily (anymore)
- ▶ Keep in mind: No exact guess needed, attacker can try many sequence numbers!

Good sequence numbers are not a replacement for cryptographic authentication, such as that provided by IPsec [RFC4301] or the TCP Authentication Option (TCP-AO) [RFC5925]. At best, they're a palliative measure.” —RFC 6528 (February 2012)

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- ▶ Details: http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~zhiyunq/pub/sec16_TCP_pure_offpath.pdf

Ports and Services

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- ▶ “Speaking” to the service on the other side needs knowledge about the higher-level protocol
- ▶ Some services announce what they are through a “banner”
- ▶ *Internet Assigned Numbers Authority* (IANA) defines list of known ports and services
- ▶ Same port for UDP and TCP (but service is not necessarily listening on both)
- ▶ List in file `/etc/services`
- ▶ It is of course not mandatory to use these ports, but it’s what clients assume

Common services and their ports

TCP/UDP port	Service
21	File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
22	Secure Shell (SSH)
25	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)
53	Domain Name Server
80	Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
110	Post Office Protocol (POP3)
143	Interim Mail Access Protocol (IMAP)
443	HTTP over SSL/TLS (HTTPS)
465	SMTP over SSL/TLS (SMTPS)
993	IMAP over SSL/TLS (IMAPS)
995	POP3 over SSL/TLS (POP3S)

netstat

- ▶ Very important to know and understand: local listening programs/ports
- ▶ Various examples:
 - ▶ `netstat -t1`: All listening TCP ports
 - ▶ `netstat -u1`: All listening UDP ports
 - ▶ `netstat -a1`: All listening ports (also UNIX ports)
- ▶ The `--program` option also shows which process opened the connection
- ▶ Run as root to see all `--program` information

telnet, netcat, and openssl

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netcat www.google.com 80
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- ▶ netcat and telnet don't work with SSL connections
- ▶ Use OpenSSL's `s_client` instead, e.g.:

```
openssl s_client -connect encrypted.google.com:443
```

Port scanning – nmap

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- ▶ A simple `nmap` `arya` will scan 1000 ports on `arya`
- ▶ Default scan method for non-privileged user: `connect()` scan:
 - ▶ Use the OS's `connect()` system call to connect to a remote port
 - ▶ `connect()` succeeds: port is open
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 - ▶ Immediately close connection after successful `connect()`
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- ▶ “Filtered” means that a firewall blocks access (more later in this lecture)
- ▶ Scan all ports (including high ports) through
`nmap -p 1-65535 arya`

SYN, Null, FIN and Xmas scans

- ▶ `connect()` scans appear in the servers' log files
- ▶ Sometimes a more “stealthy” scan is desired
- ▶ Only need a “distinguisher” between open and closed ports

SYN, Null, FIN and Xmas scans

SYN scan

- ▶ Send SYN packet
- ▶ Receiving SYN/ACK: port is open
- ▶ Receiving RST: port is closed
- ▶ Send an RST when receiving SYN/ACK to “hang up”
- ▶ Connection is never completed (service does not log it)
- ▶ Default in nmap with root privileges (or use -sS)

SYN, Null, FIN and Xmas scans

Null, FIN, and Xmas scans

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 - ▶ “If the port state is CLOSED ... An incoming segment not containing a RST causes a RST to be sent in response.”

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- ▶ Any packet without SYN,ACK, or RST can serve as distinguisher
- ▶ Null scan: no flags set (-sN)
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- ▶ Problem: Not all operating systems behave according to RFC 793
- ▶ For example, Windows will always send RST (making all ports look closed)

Idle scans

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- ▶ Idle scan proceeds as follows:
 - ▶ Probe the zombie's IPID and record it, let's say IPID= X
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- ▶ Idle scan with nmap: `nmap -sI zombie`

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- ▶ UDP scans in `nmap`: `nmap -sU`

OS fingerprinting

- ▶ Important information about target host/network: OS
- ▶ TCP/IP leaves details of various parameters to the implementation
- ▶ Different operating systems use different parameters
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- ▶ Convenient shortcut: `nmap -A (-O -sV -sC --traceroute)`

Portscans – attack or not?

Port scans: no attack

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- ▶ If you don't want a service to be found, don't offer that service
- ▶ Port scans are important tools for administrators to verify security policies
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Port scans – (part of) an attack

- ▶ Why would I want to reveal more about my system than I have to?
- ▶ Port scans are a typical first step of an attack
- ▶ “If I want you to know about an open service, I'll tell you”
- ▶ `nmap` manpage gives a few hints...:

```
peter@tyrion: $ man nmap | grep -o attack | wc -l  
18
```

NSA/GCHQ Project Hacienda

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- ▶ For more details, see <http://www.heise.de/ct/artikel/NSA-GCHQ-The-HACIENDA-Program-for-Internet-Colonization-2292681.html>

Efficient port scanning

- ▶ By the way, if you're going to scan the entire internet...

Efficient port scanning

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- ▶ But we're not responsible if you do.

Portknocking

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- ▶ Port scanners won't see port 22 as open
- ▶ Can still use SSH from anywhere (if you know the knocking sequence)

More portknocking

- ▶ Various ways to implement port knocking:
 - ▶ Kernel space vs. user space
 - ▶ TCP vs. UDP
 - ▶ Inspecting every packet with libpcap vs. lightweight methods (e.g., logfiles)
 - ▶ Multi-packet vs. single-packet (Single Packet Authorization (SPA))
 - ▶ Protection against replay attacks
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- ▶ Nice summary of the reason for port knocking: *“Because you are running network services with security vulnerabilities in them. Again, you are running network services with security vulnerabilities in them. If you’re running a server, this is almost universally true. Most software is complex. It changes rapidly, and innovation tends to make it more complex. It is going to be, forever, hopelessly, insecure.”*
—Moxie Marlinspike

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- ▶ For more details, see <https://gnunet.org/kirsch2014knock>