## Operating Systems

22. Authentication

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## Authentication: PAP

Password Authentication Protocol


- Unencrypted, reusable passwords
- Insecure on an open network
- Also, password file must be protected from open access
- But administrators can still see everyone's passwords


## PAP: Reusable passwords

Problem: Open access to the password file
What if the password file isn't sufficiently protected and an intruder gets hold of it? All passwords are now compromised!
Even if a trusted admin sees your password, this might also be your password on other systems.

## Solution:

Store a hash of the password in a file

- Given a file, you don't get the passwords
- Have to resort to a dictionary or brute-force attack
- Example, passwords hashed with SHA-512 hashes (SHA-2)

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## What is a dictionary attack?

November 2013 - Adobe security breach

- 152 million Adobe customer records ... with encrypted passwords
- Adobe encrypted passwords with a symmetric key algorithm
- ... and used the same key for every password!



## What is a dictionary attack?

- Suppose you got access to a list of hashed passwords
- Brute-force, exhaustive search: try every combination
- Letters (A-Z, a-z), numbers (0-9), symbols (!@\#\$\%...)
- Assume 30 symbols +52 letters +10 digits $=92$ characters
- Test all passwords up to length 8
- Combinations $=92^{8}+92^{7}+92^{6}+92^{5}+92^{4}+92^{3}+92^{2}+92^{1}=5.189 \times 10^{15}$
- If we test 1 billion passwords per second: $\approx 60$ days
- But some passwords are more likely than others
- 1,991,938 Adobe customers used a password = " 123456 "
- 345,834 users used a password = "password"
- Dictionary attack
- Test lists of common passwords, dictionary words, names
- Add common substitutions, prefixes, and suffixes


## What is salt?

- How to speed up a dictionary attack
- Create a table of precomputed hashes
- Now we just search a table

Example: SHA-512 hash of "password" =
sQnzu7wkTrgkQZF+0G1 hi5Al3Qmzvv0bXgc5THBqi7mAsdd4XII27ASbRt 9fEyavWi6m0QP9B8IThf+rDKy8hg==

- Salt = random string (typically up to 16 characters)
- Concatenated with the password
- Stored with the password file (it's not secret)
- Even if you know the salt, you cannot use precomputed hashes to search for a password (because the salt is prefixed)

Example: SHA-512 hash of "am\$7b22QLpassword", salt = "am\$7b22QL" ntlxjDMnueMWig4dtWoMbaguucW6xV6chJ+7yNrGvdoyFFRVb/LLqS01/pXS 8xZ+ur7zPO2yn88xcliUPQj7xg==

- You will not have a precomputed hash of "am\$7b22QLpassword"!




## SecurID (SASL) authentication: server side

- Look up user's PIN and seed associated with the token
- Get the time of day
- Server stores relative accuracy of clock in that SecurID card
- historic pattern of drift
- adds or subtracts offset to determine what the clock chip on the SecurID card believes is its current time
- Passcode is a cryptographic hash of seed, PIN, and time
- server computes f(seed, PIN, time)
- Server compares results with data sent by client
SecurlD
- An intruder (sniffing the network) does not have the information to
generate the password for future logins
- Needs the seed number (in the card), the algorithm (in the card), and the
PIN (from the user)
- An intruder who steals your card cannot log in
- Needs a PIN (the benefit of 2-factor authentication)
- An intruder who sees your PIN cannot log in
- Needs the card (the benefit of 2-factor authentication)

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Man-in-the-Middle Attacks

- Attacker acts as application server
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Man-in-the-Middle Attacks
- Attacker acts as application server
Apord systems are vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks




## Guarding against man-in-the-middle

- Use a covert communication channel
- The intruder won't have the key
- Can't see the contents of any messages
- But you can't send the key over that channe!!
- Use signed messages
- Both parties can reject unauthenticated messages
- The intruder cannot modify the messages
- Signatures will fail (need to encrypt the hash)



## Public key authentication

Bob:

1. Look up Alice's public key
2. Decrypt the message from Alice using Alice's public key
3. If the result is $S$, then Bob is convinced he's talking with Alice

For mutual authentication, Alice has to present Bob with a nonce that Bob will encrypt with his private key and return

## Public key authentication

- Public key authentication relies on binding identity to a public key
- How do you know it really is Alice's public key?
- One option:
get keys from a trusted source
- Problem: requires always going to the source
- cannot pass keys around
- Another option: sign the public key
- Contents cannot be modified without detection
- digital certificate




## X. 509 certificates

When you get a certificate

- Verify its signature:
- hash contents of certificate data
- Decrypt CA's signature with CA's public key

Obtain CA's public key (certificate) from trusted source

- Certification authorities are organized in a hierarchy
- A CA certificate may be signed by a CA above it
- Certificate chaining

Certificates prevent someone from using a phony public key to masquerade as another person


The End $\square$

