Network Security Security aspects of TCP/IP

Radboud University, The Netherlands



Spring 2017

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 - ► Hubs distribute data to everyone (but are largely obsolete)
 - Use ARP cache poisoning on switched 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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- What about the internet and transport layers?

- ▶ Hosts (i.e., computers) are identified by their IP address
- ▶ IP addresses have a *network part* and a *host part*
- ► Hosts with the same network part are "directly reachable"
- Access to hosts with a different network part needs to go through gateway (later in this lecture)

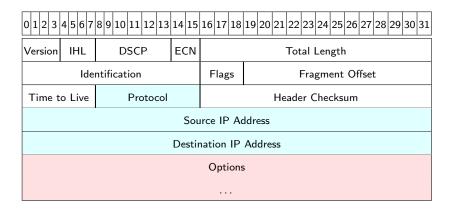
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 - Example: 192.168.42.0/24

The IP header



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- ► From the ssh manpage: "the rlogin/rsh protocol in general, are inherently insecure and should be disabled if security is desired"
- ▶ IP spoofing is today mainly important in a larger attack context

► TCP *ports* identify processes

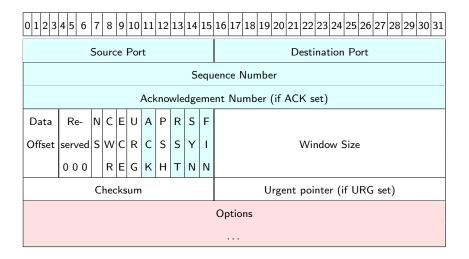
- ► TCP *ports* identify processes
- Before sending data, create TCP connection with three-way handshake:
 - ► Client sends SYN, SEQ=X
 - ▶ Server answers with SYN, ACK, SEQ=Y, ACK=X + 1
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- ► Termination of a connection uses a 4-way handshake:
 - Each side terminates independently (through a FIN)
 - Each side acknowledges the FIN of the other side

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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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- Compute ISN as the client's ISN plus offset of
 - top 5 bits: t mod 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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 - 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 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)

- 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):
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 - 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."

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TCP session hijacking

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- One-directional communication is enough to execute commands (e.g., passwd)
- \blacktriangleright Attacker can also take over existing, legitimate connection between A and B

- Let's put all of this together, assume an off-track attacker
- Attack works as follows:
 - lacktriangle Attacker launches DOS attack against A
 - lacktriangle Attacker sends SYN packet to server B with source IP of A
 - Server sends SYN/ACK to A, but A does not reply (DOS)
 - Attacker sends ACK to B, guessing B's ISN
 - ▶ Now B believes to have an established connection with A
 - Attacker can now send packets through connection (but won't receive any)
- One-directional communication is enough to execute commands (e.g., passwd)
- \blacktriangleright Attacker can also take over existing, legitimate connection between A and B
- ► This became known as the "Mitnick attack"

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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 -ul: All listening UDP ports
 - netstat -al: All listening ports (also UNIX ports)
- ► The --program option also shows which process opened the connection
- ▶ Run as root to see all --program information

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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

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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
```

- 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 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)

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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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 - ▶ 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
- ▶ Investigating those parameters gives information about OS
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- ► Convenient shortcut: nmap -A (-O -sV -sC --traceroute)

Portscans – attack or not?

Port scans: no attack

- You only look for offered services
- ▶ 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
- Blocking port-scans through firewalls can easily break other functionality

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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
```

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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

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▶ But we're not responsible if you do.

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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))
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