

Chapter 1: Introduction

“Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely,
“and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”

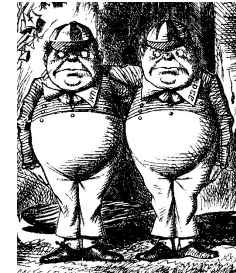
□ Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

The Cast of Characters

- Alice and Bob are the good guys



- Trudy is the bad "guy" →



- Trudy is our generic "intruder"

Alice's Online Bank

- ❑ Alice opens Alice's Online Bank (AOB)
- ❑ What are Alice's security concerns?
- ❑ If Bob is a customer of AOB, what are his security concerns?
- ❑ How are Alice's and Bob's concerns similar? How are they different?
- ❑ How does Trudy view the situation?

CIA

- ❑ CIA == Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability
- ❑ AOB must prevent Trudy from learning Bob's account balance
- ❑ **Confidentiality:** prevent unauthorized *reading* of information
 - Cryptography used for confidentiality

CIA

- ❑ Trudy must not be able to change Bob's account balance
- ❑ Bob must not be able to improperly change his own account balance
- ❑ **Integrity**: detect unauthorized *writing* of information
 - Cryptography used for integrity

CIA

- ❑ AOB's information must be available whenever it's needed
- ❑ Alice must be able to make transaction
 - If not, she'll take her business elsewhere
- ❑ **Availability**: Data is available in a *timely manner* when needed
- ❑ Availability a relatively new security issue
 - Denial of service (DoS) attacks

Beyond CIA: Crypto

- ❑ How does Bob's computer know that "Bob" is really Bob and not Trudy?
- ❑ Bob's password must be verified
 - This requires some clever **cryptology**
- ❑ What are security concerns of pwds?
- ❑ Are there alternatives to passwords?

Beyond CIA: Protocols

- ❑ When Bob logs into AOB, how does AOB know that “Bob” is really Bob?
- ❑ As before, Bob’s password is verified
- ❑ Unlike the previous case, **network** security issues arise
- ❑ How do we secure network transactions?
 - **Protocols** are critically important
 - Crypto plays a major role in security protocols

Beyond CIA: Access Control

- Once Bob is *authenticated* by AOB, then AOB must restrict actions of Bob
 - Bob can't view Charlie's account info
 - Bob can't install new software, and so on...
- Enforcing such restrictions: *authorization*
- **Access control** includes both authentication and authorization

Beyond CIA: Software

- Cryptography, protocols, and access control are all implemented in **software**
 - Software is foundation on which security rests
- What are security issues of software?
 - Real-world software is complex and buggy
 - Software flaws lead to security flaws
 - How does Trudy attack software?
 - How to reduce flaws in software development?
 - And what about malware?

Your Textbook

- The text consists of four major parts
 - Cryptography
 - Access control
 - Protocols
 - Software
- We'll focus on technical issues
- But, people cause lots of problems...

The People Problem

- ❑ People often break security
 - Both intentionally and unintentionally
 - Here, we consider an unintentional case
- ❑ For example, suppose you want to buy something online
 - Say, *Information Security: Principles and Practice*, 3rd edition from amazon.com

The People Problem

- To buy from amazon.com...
 - Your browser uses the SSL protocol
 - SSL relies on cryptography
 - Many access control issues arise
 - All security mechanisms are in software
- Suppose all of this security stuff works perfectly
 - Then you would be safe, right?

The People Problem

- ❑ What could go wrong?
- ❑ Trudy tries man-in-the-middle attack
 - SSL is secure, so attack does *not* “work”
 - But, Web browser warns of problem
 - What do you, the user, do?
- ❑ If user ignores warning, attack works!
 - None of the security mechanisms failed
 - But user *unintentionally* broke security

Cryptography

- "Secret codes"
- The book covers
 - Classic cryptography
 - Symmetric ciphers
 - Public key cryptography
 - Hash functions++
 - Advanced cryptanalysis

Access Control

- Authentication
 - Passwords
 - Biometrics
 - Other methods of authentication
- Authorization
 - Access Control Lists and Capabilities
 - Multilevel security (MLS), security modeling, covert channel, inference control
 - Firewalls, intrusion detection (IDS)

Protocols

- “Simple” authentication protocols
 - Focus on basics of security protocols
 - Lots of applied cryptography in protocols
- Real-world security protocols
 - SSH, SSL, IPSec, Kerberos
 - Wireless: WEP, GSM

Software

- Security-critical flaws in software
 - Buffer overflow
 - Race conditions, etc.
- Malware
 - Examples of viruses and worms
 - Prevention and detection
 - Future of malware?

Software

- ❑ Software reverse engineering (SRE)
 - How hackers "dissect" software
- ❑ Digital rights management (DRM)
 - Shows difficulty of security in software
 - Also raises OS security issues
- ❑ Software and testing
 - Open source, closed source, other topics

Software

- Operating systems
 - Basic OS security issues
 - "Trusted OS" requirements
 - NGSCB: Microsoft's trusted OS for the PC
- Software is a **BIG** security topic
 - Lots of material to cover
 - Lots of security problems to consider
 - But not nearly enough time...

Think Like Trudy

- ❑ In the past, no respectable sources talked about “hacking” in detail
 - After all, such info might help Trudy
- ❑ Recently, this has changed
 - Lots of info on network hacking, malware, how to hack software, and more
 - Classes taught on virus writing, SRE, ...

Think Like Trudy

- ❑ Good guys must think like bad guys!
- ❑ A police detective...
 - ...must study and understand criminals
- ❑ In information security
 - We want to understand Trudy's methods
 - We might think about Trudy's motives
 - We'll often pretend to be Trudy

Think Like Trudy

- ❑ Is it a good idea to discuss security problems and attacks?
- ❑ Bruce Schneier, referring to *Security Engineering*, by Ross Anderson:
 - "It's about time somebody wrote a book to teach the good guys what the bad guys already know."

Think Like Trudy

- ❑ We must try to think like Trudy
- ❑ We must study Trudy's methods
- ❑ We can admire Trudy's cleverness
- ❑ Often, we can't help but laugh at Alice's and/or Bob's stupidity
- ❑ But, we **cannot** act like Trudy
 - Except in this class ...
 - ... and even then, there are limits

In This Course...

- ❑ Think like the bad guy
- ❑ Always look for weaknesses
 - Find the *weak link* before Trudy does
- ❑ It's OK to break the rules
 - What rules?
- ❑ Think like Trudy
- ❑ But don't do anything illegal!