

*We have to **watch and listen to everything that people are doing** so that we can catch terrorists, drug dealers, pedophiles, and organized criminals. Some of this data is sent unencrypted through the Internet, or sent encrypted to a company that passes the data along to us, but we learn much more when we have **comprehensive direct access to hundreds of millions of disks and screens and microphones and cameras.***

This talk explains how we've successfully manipulated the world's software ecosystem to ensure our continuing access to this wealth of data. This talk will not cover our efforts against encryption, and will not cover our hardware back doors.

Making sure
software stays insecure

Daniel J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &
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Distract managers

Identify activities that
can't produce security
but that can never
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Example: virus scanner

Divert attention, focus
resources, etc. into
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Distract managers, sysadmin

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Example: virus scanners.

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Example: automat
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Known hole in Product 2014.06?

Update now to Product 2014.07!

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Reality: Product 2014.07 also has security holes that attackers are exploiting.

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immediately report any
data or security breaches
to your supervisor and/or
law enforcement.”

Finally, you will have
secure computers for work and
personal use.”

Distract programmers

Example: automatic low-latency
software “security” updates.

Marketing: “security” is defined
by *public security holes*.

Known hole in Product 2014.06?
Update now to Product 2014.07!

To help the marketing,
publicize actual attacks that
exploit public security holes.

Reality: Product 2014.07
also has security holes
that attackers are exploiting.

Distract

Example:
When releasing updates,
showing that updates
create a security hole
the amount of time

“You can’t have it
both ways.”

“How many updates
are you releasing?”

“Do you have updates
to use 100% of the
time just to be
secure?”

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⇒ More attack papers!

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Hide/dismiss/mismeasure
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Prioritize compatibility,
“standards”, speed, etc. e.g.:
“**An HTTP server in the kernel
is critical for performance.**”

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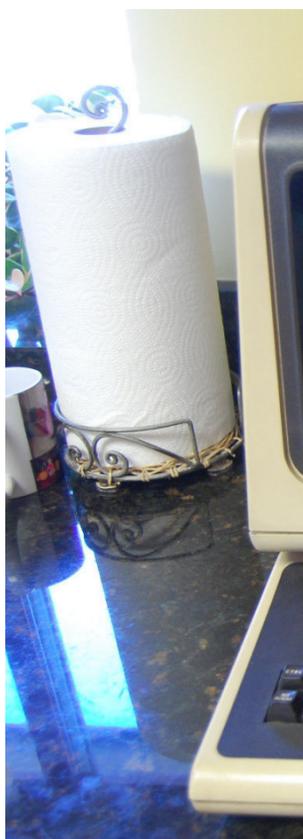
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The trusted comp

1987: My first UN
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Picture credit:
terminals.classiccomputers.com/wiki/index.php/DE

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The trusted computing base

1987: My first UNIX experience
Low-cost terminals access multi-user Ultrix computer.



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I log in to the Ultrix
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Frank logs in,
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Eve and Frank cannot
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OS kernel allocate

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Eve	Eve's files
Frank	Frank's fi

OS kernel allocate

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OS kernel allocates RAM:

	kernel memory
Dan	my processes
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CPU hardware enforces
memory protection

a user process cannot
read or write files
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Kernel enforces various

When a process creates
process or a file, kernel

Process is allowed to
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Bugs anywhere in kernel can override these rules.

Memory protection doesn't apply; language (C) doesn't compensate.

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Security metric #1: TCB size

Eve can't write Dan's files
unless there's a TCB bug.

Eve's actions: irrelevant.

Other software: irrelevant.

Millions of lines of code
that we *don't* have to check

Do we need an audit log? No

Keep computers separate? No

Limit software Eve can run?

Assume the hardware works.

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File sharing

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So far have described complete user isolation.

But users want to share many of their files. Consider the Web,

I want to be able to mark a file I own as readable to just me, or also readable to my friends, or to Eve+Frank; or to a bigger group; or to the general public.

The code we have to check is the **trusted computing base**.

Security metric #1: TCB size.

Eve can't write Dan's files unless there's a TCB bug.

Eve's actions: irrelevant.

Other software: irrelevant.

Millions of lines of code that we *don't* have to check.

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The OS kernel tracks
source for each file, process.

When my copying process
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When process creates file,
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Web browser

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