Malicious Software
COMP 435
Fall 2017
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(86 responses) The exam was ...
- Totally unfair: 9
- Basically fair: 56
- About what I expected: 49
- Not at all what I expected: 21

(86 responses) I feel like I did ____ on the exam
- Poorly: 18
- OK: 51
- Well: 19

(62 responses) So far I ...
- Feel neutral about the class: 15
- Don’t like the class: 2
- Like the class: 46
From the comments

- Exam: base 2 to base 10 conversion ??
- Lectures: like the concepts, want more exercises
- Laptops: evenly split
- Topics: want to cover current events

Quick Review

Reference Monitor

- Complete mediation
- Tamperproof
- Verifiable

Malware: malicious software
### Attacker’s Means and Motivation
- Fame
- Financial Gain
- Espionage

### Malware Classification
- Targeted vs general
- Needs host code vs stand alone
- Self replicating vs not
- Propagation vs payload

### Targeted Malware: Advanced Persistent Threat
- Targeted
- Long-lived
- Well funded
- Stealthy

### Virus
- Payload
- Infection mechanism
- Trigger
Worm

- Replicates across a network
- Payload

Trojan Horse

- Hides inside useful code
- Opens a backdoor

Worm Propagation

Countermeasures
Countermeasures

- Effective
- Usable
- Feasible

User Vigilance

- Use known vendors
- Test in isolation
- Open only safe attachments
- Install only safe SW
- Know the potential harm of websites
- Maintain backups

User's Burden

"Apply all patches promptly except when doing so would cause more harm than good…"

Anti-virus Software

Compare executables against a database of known viruses
Anti-virus SW

- Easy to deploy
- Catches 45% of malware

Anti-virus SW

- High overhead
- Reactive, not proactive
- Risk of false positives
- Inflexible

Risk of False Positives

- Cost of false positives
- Base rate fallacy

Pattern Matching is Inflexible

```
add eax, ebx  ; eax = eax + ebx
mov ebx, 0    ; ebx = 0
```

Vs

```
add eax, ebx  ; eax = eax + ebx
xor ebx, ebx  ; ebx = 0
```
Anti-virus Software

Generating the database of malware signatures

Virus Analysis

- Honeypots
- Disassembly
- Contained analysis

Writing Secure Code: Modularity

- Single-purpose
- Small, simple, testable
- Independent
- Well defined interfaces

Writing Secure Code: Testing

- Unit testing
- Function testing
- Regression testing
- Black-box testing
- Clear-box testing
“Testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence”

--E.W. Dijkstra