Software Security

COMP 435 Fall 2017 Prof. Cynthia Sturton Race Condition

Concurrent access of a resource is not serializable

Race Condition

filename = "tmpname";

fd = open(filename, O_CREATE|O_RDWR);

// Write to the file



Time of Check to Time of Use (TOCTTOU)

```
if(access(fname,W_OK) == 0) {
```

fd = open(fname,O_WRONLY);

Time of Check to Time of Use (TOCTOU)

if(access(fname,W_OK) == 0){

<pre>fd = open(fname,O_WRONLY);</pre>	<pre>unlink(fname); symlink("\etc\passwd", fname);</pre>
}	

Writing Secure Code

- Bounds Checking
- Input validation & sanitization
- Use safe utilities
- Least privilege
- Sandboxing

Bounds Checking

- Manual code review
- Static analysis
- Dynamic analysis

Input Validation & Sanitization

• Use a template

(919) 555-1234

Input Validation & Sanitization

• Use a template

(919) 555-1234

• Templates prescribe good behavior

Templates are Difficult

(919) 555-1234

1-919-555-1234

+1 919 555 1234

919 555 1234

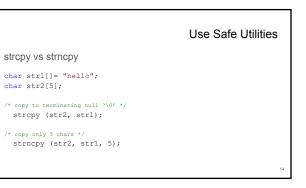
919.555.1234

Input Validation & Sanitization

The length of buffer writes should be dictated by buffer size, not by user-provided input

Input Validation & Sanitization

Never trust user-supplied input



Use Safe Utilities

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- strcpy vs strncpy
- strcmp vs strncmp
- sprintf vs snprintf

Least Privilege

Subject should have access to fewest number of objects necessary to do its work

Least Privilege

- Code should have only the permissions needed
- Limits the damage done by compromise

Sandboxing

Contain sections of code within a specified address range

Programming Language

The choice of language plays a role as well

- Memory Safety
- Type Safety

Security and Software Engineering

Security best practice \supseteq Software engineering best practice

In-class Exercise	
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