

# Software Security

COMP 435  
Fall 2017  
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## 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
```

## Race Condition

```
filename = "tmpname";  
  
symlink("\\etc\\passwd", "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 (TOCTTOU)

```
if (access (fname, W_OK) == 0) {  
  
    unlink (fname);  
    symlink ("\\etc\\passwd", fname);  
    fd = open (fname, O_WRONLY);  
  
}
```

## Writing Secure Code

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

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## Bounds Checking

- Manual code review
- Static analysis
- Dynamic analysis

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## Input Validation & Sanitization

- Use a template  
(919) 555-1234

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## Input Validation & Sanitization

- Use a template  
(919) 555-1234
- Templates prescribe good behavior

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## Templates are Difficult

(919) 555-1234  
1-919-555-1234  
+1 919 555 1234  
919 555 1234  
919.555.1234

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## Input Validation & Sanitization

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

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## Input Validation & Sanitization

Never trust user-supplied input

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## Use Safe Utilities

### strcpy vs strncpy

```
char str1[] = "hello";
char str2[5];

/* copy to terminating null '\0' */
strcpy (str2, str1);

/* copy only 5 chars */
strncpy (str2, str1, 5);
```

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## Use Safe Utilities

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

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## Least Privilege

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

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### Least Privilege

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

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### Sandboxing

Contain sections of code within a specified address range

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### Programming Language

The choice of language plays a role as well

- Memory Safety
- Type Safety

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### Security and Software Engineering

Security best practice  $\supseteq$  Software engineering best practice

## In-class Exercise