CSE509: Computer System Security

Intro / Course Overview

Why do we want to study Security?

- □ It is important
- □ There is never a dull day!
- □ It is fun!

Security is Important

- An increasing part of our business, social, and personal life involves internet-connected computer systems
 - Web, email, social networks, entertainment, ...
 - Mobile computing
 - Cyber-physical systems
 - Internet of things
- Protecting the security and privacy of our digital interactions is critical
 - Most of them involve networked systems and applications

There is never a dull day!

- Every day, we hear news of yet another high profile hack, data the , etc.
- New vulnerabilities surface all the time, and we have to find new solutions
- High-stakes game where a ackers and defenders innovate constantly in order to stay ahead of each other

System Security: Never a dull day!



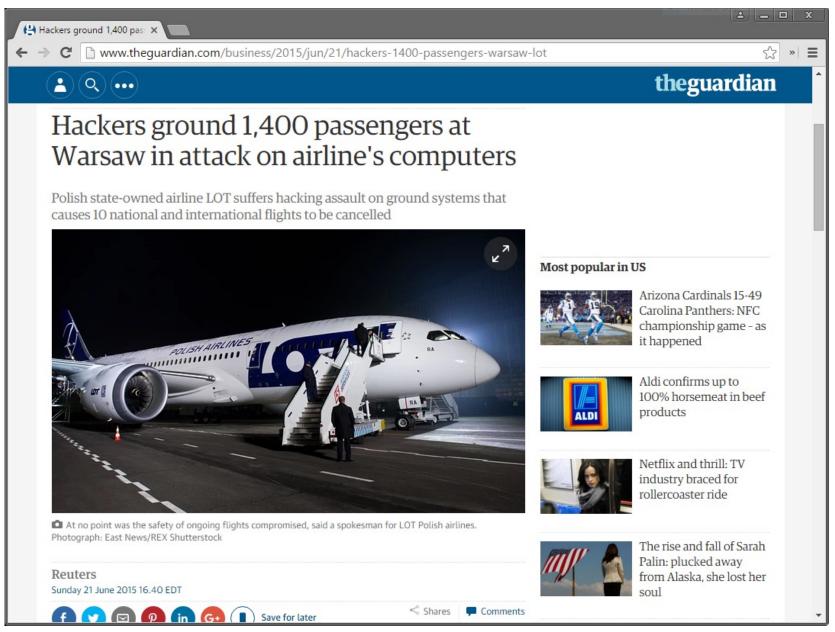
NonPetya ransomware forced Maersk to reinstall 4000 servers, 45000 PCs

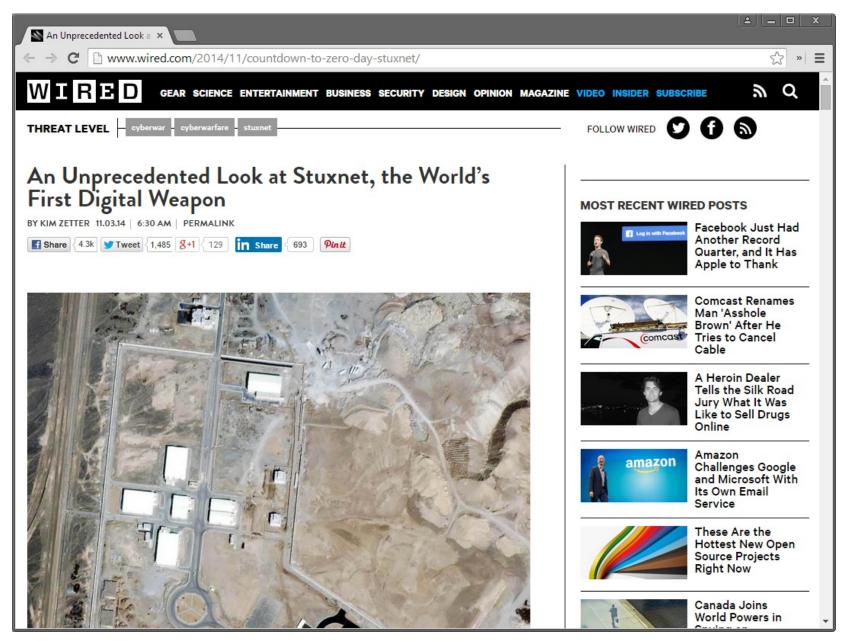
Moller-Maersk puts cost of cyber attack at up to \$300m

A Mysterious Hacker Group Is On a Supply Chain Hijacking Spree

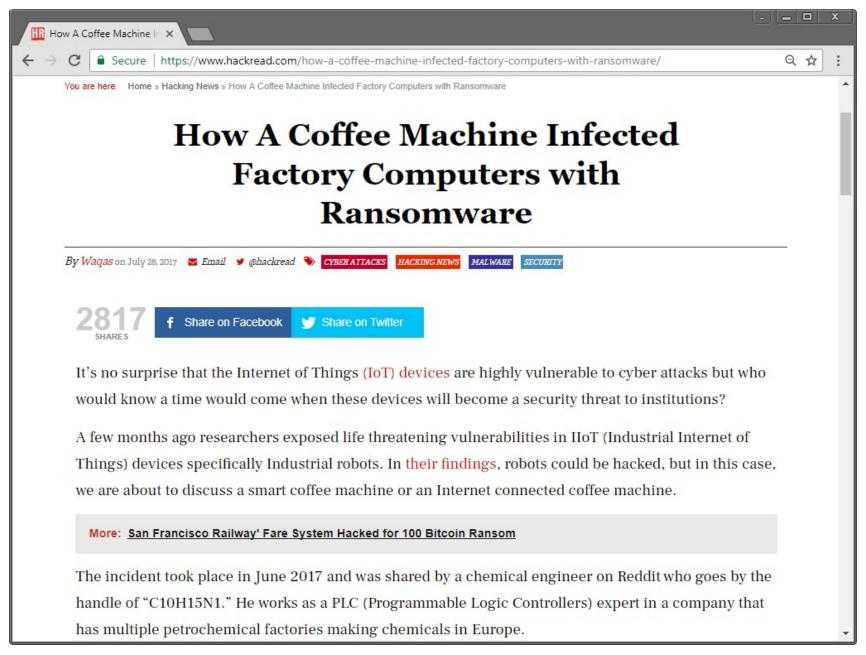


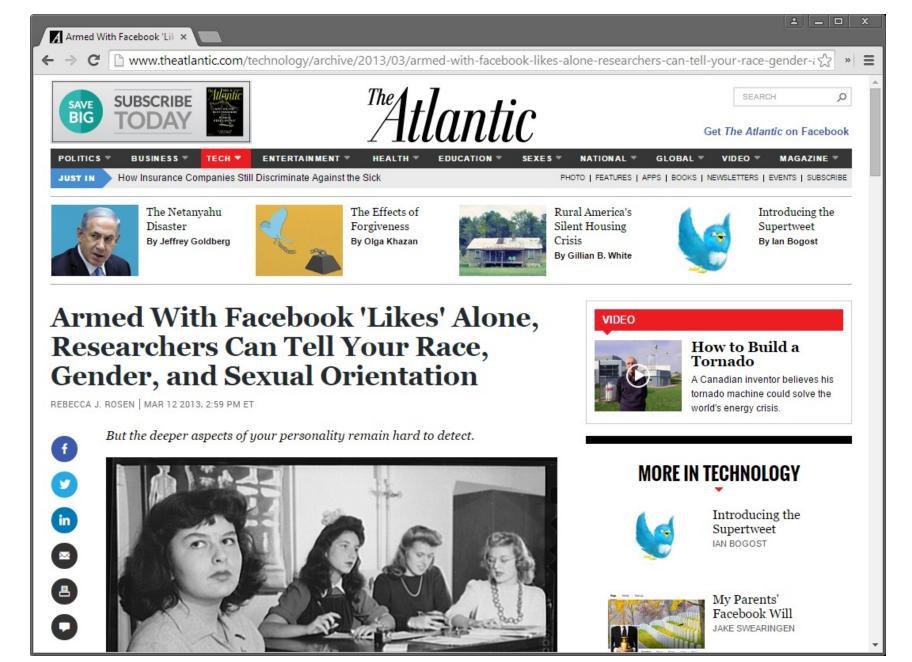
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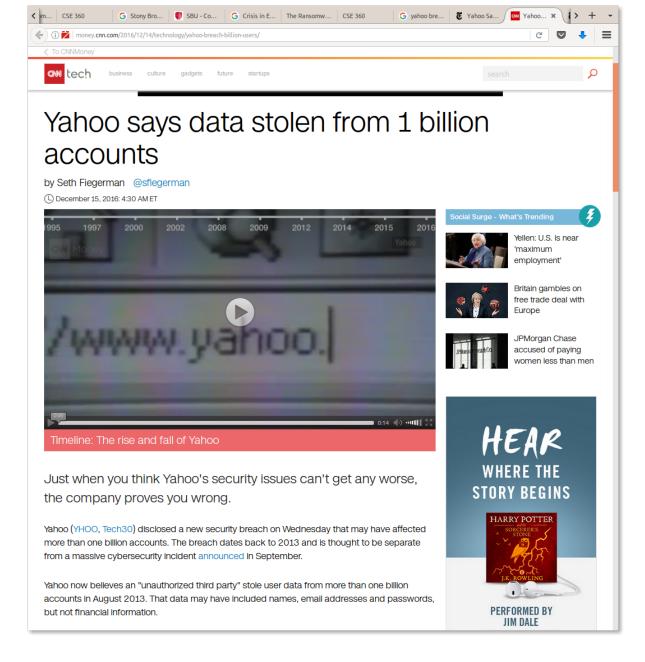
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System Security: It is fun!

- System security brings together all of the fun CS topics we have learned through other courses
 - o Architecture
 - Operating Systems
 - Networks
 - Compilers and Programming Languages
 - Algorithms
 - o AI
- System security helps us make connections between these topics, helping us to understand them and remember them better.

What is security

Wikipedia:

Security is the degree of resistance to, or protection from, harm. It applies to any vulnerable and valuable asset, such as a person, dwelling, community, nation, or organization.

What is computer security?

- Everyone has their own definition
 - o No single one is perfect
- Computer security deals with protecting data, programs, and systems against intelligent adversaries.
- Safety vs Security
 - What's the difference between the two?
 - o Do they interact?

CIA

- Security is about CIA
 - Confidentiality: Keeping data and resources hidden or protected from unauthorized disclosure
 - Integrity: Data and Programs are modified in specified and authorized ways. Data integrity and origin integrity.
 - Availability: Systems and networks are available for use by legitimate users

Why is it hard?

- Security often not a primary consideration
 - o Performance and usability take precedence
- Feature-rich systems may be poorly understood
- Implementations are buggy
 - Buffer overflows have been the "vulnerability of the decade" for multiple decades!
 - o Cross-site scripting and other Web attacks
- Networks are more open and accessible than ever
- Increased exposure, easier to cover tracks
- Many attacks are not even technical in nature
- Phishing, social engineering, etc.

Why is it hard?

- □ It is hard to get security right because:
 - Security is hard to test for
 - Testing correctness versus security
 - It requires a deep understanding of all technologies involved in the design and implementation of a system
 - Really hard in large real systems
 - o Users are typically the weakest link
 - o Asymmetry between attack and defense



Course Focus

- Introduction to a wide range of topics in computer system and software security
 - vulnerabilities, exploit and mitigation techniques
 - o malware trends and defenses against untrusted code
 - o binary analysis, reverse engineering and forensics
 - software vulnerability scanning techniques and tools
- Cultivate the "security mindset"
 - Understand the modus operandi of attackers: find vulnerabilities, subvert protections, bypass defenses,...
- Hands-on assignments in exploit development and mitigation

Ethics and Legal Considerations

- Play Fair
- Cannot teach defense without offense, but:

Breaking into systems is illegal! Unauthorized data access is illegal!

- Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)
 - http://www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime/docs/ccmanual.pdf
- Practice on your own systems or controlled environment
- Scanning/penetration testing/etc. of third-party systems may be allowed only after getting permission by their owner

Code of Conduct

- The work that you present as your own should be your own
- Cite the resources that you used (other people's code, documents, etc.)
- Don't allow your code/paper summaries to be copied
- Don't copy other people's code or paper summaries
- Anything short of the above, will be grounds for immediate "F" grade and further disciplinary action

Credits

 Some slide contents in this lecture and future ones are courtesy of R. Sekar, Nick Nikiforakis and Michalis Polychronakis

Questions