
CS 5430

Introduction to Security

Prof. Clarkson
Spring 2017

[illegible]

November 2, 1988



June 1, 2012



INTERESTING

HARD

Today

FUN

IMPORTANT

Defining security

A computer system is *secure* when it

- does what it should
- and nothing more.

A security *policy* stipulates what should and should not be done.

Policies typically formulated in terms of three *aspects* of security...

CIA

Confidentiality

Integrity

Availability

Aspects of security

- **Confidentiality:** protection of assets from unauthorized disclosure
- **Integrity:** protection of assets from unauthorized modification
- **Availability:** protection of assets from loss of use

[Common Criteria, ISO/IEC 15408]

Confidentiality

Protection of assets from unauthorized disclosure

Assets: information, resources, ... (*more to come*)

Disclosure: to a person, a program, a system, ...

Principal

A *principal* is an entity who can take actions

- person
- program
- system
- ...

Not to be confused with *principle*—a fundamental truth or basis (*more to come*)

Confidentiality

Protection of assets from unauthorized disclosure
i.e., which principals are allowed to learn what

Secrecy is a synonym for confidentiality

Privacy

Privacy is confidentiality of information about individuals (people, organizations, etc.)

- Often construed as legal right
- *Privacy* is not a synonym for confidentiality or for secrecy



Confidentiality policies

Examples:

- Keep contents of a file from being read (*access control*: more later)
- Keep information secret (*information flow*: more later)
 - value of variable secret
 - behavior of system
 - information about individual

Integrity

Protection of assets from unauthorized modification

i.e., what changes are allowed to system and its environment, including inputs and outputs

Integrity policies

Examples:

- Output is correct according to (mathematical) specification
- No exceptions thrown
- Only certain principals may write to a file (access control)
- Data are not corrupted or tainted by downloaded programs (information flow)

Availability

Protection of assets from loss of use
i.e., what has to happen when/where

Denial of service (DoS) attacks compromise
availability

Availability policies

Examples:

- Operating system must accept inputs periodically
- Program must produce output by specified time
- Requests must be processed fairly (order, priority, etc.)

Aspects of security

- **Confidentiality:** protection of assets from unauthorized disclosure
- **Integrity:** protection of assets from unauthorized modification
- **Availability:** protection of assets from loss of use

This course focuses on C and I, not A

EXERCISE: SECURITY POLICIES

Ex 1

- **Attack:** John copies Mary's homework
- What is a **policy** this attack would violate?
- Which **aspect** of security does that policy address?

Advice (for now) on policies

- Make them specific
- Make them about one aspect
- Make them about assets and principals

(L4 will return to these ideas in great depth)

Ex 2

- **Attack:** Paul causes Linda's system to freeze
- **Policy?**
- **Aspect?**

Ex 3

- **Attack:** Carol changes the amount of Angelo's check from \$100 to \$1000
- **Policy?**
- **Aspect?**

More exercises

(see notes for today)

LOGISTICS

Course website

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs5430/2017sp/>

- [Full syllabus](#) (required reading)
- Various reading materials: slides, notes, links to online readings, pointers to text book chapters
 - Optional? Yes. But...
 - the more of these you read, the more you will get out of the course
 - assignments are often inspired by this material
 - Lectures are the ground truth for material we cover

Course staff



Instructor: Michael Clarkson

- PhD 2010 **Cornell University**
- Research areas: security and programming languages
- I go by “Prof. Clarkson” in this course

Course staff



TAs:

- **CS 5430:** Elisavet "Eliza" Kozyri
- **CS 5431:** Eleanor Birrell
 - both ABD PhD students working on security

Consultants: Paul Chesnais, Matthew Li, Justin Lu, Gur-Eyal Sela

- undergrads who took this class before and did well

Office hours

- My office hours will be posted on Piazza next week
- Rest of staff's hours are in a Google calendar on course website

Practicum

- The practicum, CS 5431, is an additional 2-credit programming project and discussion based course
 - It's a lot more work
 - It's a lot of fun
- If you want to know more about it, **come on Friday** to the first practicum meeting
 - But the room won't hold all of you, so please come only if you're seriously considering taking it

Class meetings

- **5430:** MW 10:10-11:25, Phillips 203
 - no 5430 lectures on Fridays :)
 - sorry, I won't approve the overlap with CS 5152
- **5431:** F 10:10-11:25, Hollister 314

Communication

- **Preferred means:** talk to us in person during office hours or (me) after class
- Piazza is available
- If you must send email to me, send to cs5430-profs-L@list.cornell.edu, not directly to my Cornell address
 - Best used for conveying information that needs no response
 - Assume that responses will take about 5 days
 - I.e., always faster to talk to me in person

Piazza

- Once upon a time, there were office hours...
- Fall 2016: CS 3110
 - 305 students
 - 2,719 Piazza posts
 - a lot of junk
 - a lot of disappointment
 - 1,082 contributions made by me
 - **this is not sustainable**
- Alternatives:
 - I could shut off Piazza and return to only office hours
 - I could leave Piazza on with no instructor involvement
 - We can all try to make Piazza useful and viable again...

Piazza

- Full [policy and rationale](#) on course website
(required reading)
- Summary:
 1. Piazza is a giant office hour we're all attending
 2. You must all commit to asking only smart questions [[guide to smart questions](#)]
 3. Replies on Piazza are *pro bono*

Piazza and anonymity

- Anonymous posts disabled this semester
 - A consequence of "giant office hour"
 - I believe we need social accountability for asking smart questions
- This is indeed a tradeoff! I welcome your discussion throughout semester
- Intent is not to be needlessly restrictive but to make Piazza useful and viable

Upcoming events

- [Wed-Thu pm] Drop by my office (Gates 461) in the afternoon if you need something immediately
- [Fri] First practicum meeting; please try to hold questions about 5431 until then
- [next Wed] First assignment out; regular office hours start

"There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity." – Douglas MacArthur