



Data Security Threats: Education systems in the crosshairs

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Overview

- What does "threat" mean
- Who is behind all of this
- What do they want with my systems
- How can my systems be exploited
- What can we do to reduce the risk



What Does "Threat" Mean

- Threat has many definitions
- The singular truth is that "threat" requires vulnerability
- Understanding our vulnerabilities and the ways they can be exploited is the best insurance against the threat



Should We Worry?

- Data breaches, hacks, and privacy spills abound
 - Citigroup, VA, Sony, TJX, RSA, UNCC, Clarksville-Montgomery County School System...
- We face a lot of challenges
 - Applications security
 - Configuration management
 - Risk assessment
- It's all about "risk," knowing what your tolerance is
- Checkboxes don't make you secure
- It's easy to get lost between policy and execution



Who Are the "Bad Guys"

Public Enemy #1.... It's "us"

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Who Are the "Bad Guys"

- Internal threats
 - Misconfiguration, complacency, lack of awareness
 - Insiders (curious, careless, or disgruntled employees)
- Criminal Threats
 - Fraudsters, identity thieves
 - Organized cyber-crime
 - Identity black market
- Hacktivist Threats
 - Cyber-activists who attack for political, egotistical, or philosophical reasons
 - Anonymous, LulzSec



It's Getting Easier for Attackers

- Open source and free tools make it easier
- Free hacker training sites *I* forums
- Cyber-theft is commoditized
 - Black market for privacy data
 - Underground economy where tools are built and sold to order
 - 2 million new pieces of malware a year
- We are still developing flawed code
 - SQLi discovered in 1998, still in the OWASP Top 10
 - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
 - Session Management
 - Patching (especially 3rd party software)





Industry Effort vs. Attacker Effort

- Average 1-5 bugs for every 1,000 lines of code
- Even our security software is not immune
- Attack surface is getting bigger... not smaller
- It's not "if" an attack will happen, more like "when"
- Have a plan





What Do They Want?

- Identity information
 - Social Security numbers, addresses, birth dates, etc.
 - PII is used to obtain credit, purchase items, perform criminal activity
 - Thieves value children's identities, because they are "fresh"
 - Some 10% of children may already be victims
- Disruption and damage
 - Denial of Service (DoS and DDoS)
 - Defacement of web sites



The Results...

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Why Me?

- Education systems are increasing in size and complexity, warehousing lots of PII
- Search engines make targets easier to find
 - Robust search engine functionality can help attackers pinpoint vulnerable systems
 - Good guys use Google too
- Mobile Users / Mobile Workforce
 - Administrators and users take their work on the go
 - Use untrusted networks
 - Lost / stolen devices or media

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How Do They Do It?

- Internet-facing Applications
 - OS remote vulnerabilities are on the decrease, attackers are focusing on your applications
 - Developers still lagging in implementing secure coding practices
- Client-side Attacks
 - Phishing, click-jacking, browser exploits, plug-ins
 - Malware (spyware, adware, trojans, rootkits)
 - Mobile users (wireless, hostile networks)
- Physical threats
 - Shoulder surfing, dumpster diving, evil hardware
 - Lost or stolen hardware



How Can We Stop Them

- Nothing is 100% secure
- Create a Culture of Awareness
 - Awareness training programs
 - Leadership needs to be on board, leading the charge
- Know your systems and their vulnerabilities
 - Identify the "Crown Jewels" and protect them first
 - Ongoing assessment of security posture and risk
- View your own systems like you mean to do harm
- Standardize (technology, data, procedures)
 - Adopt common methodologies
 - Band together with partners & share threat data



How Can We Stop Them

- Mitigate the threat
 - People are the key, awareness is a powerful weapon
 - Make what you already have work better
 - Leverage technology, but don't rely on it
- Monitor & manage your data
 - Use tools to make monitoring easier
 - Collect logs that make sense
- Be ready to respond
 - Have a response plan
 - Identify the response team in advance and set aside the resources needed
 - Periodically test response capability with simulated events



PTAC Resources

- Currently Available
 - Data Security Checklist
 - Data Governance Checklist
 - <u>Cloud Computing FAQs</u>
 - Authentication Best Practices
 - Data Breach Response Checklist



PTAC Assistance – Site Visits

- PTAC can come to your location and provide review and advisory services
 - Review your system's plans, policy, and architecture
 - Provide data privacy and security guidance and advice
 - Provide technical security analysis to improve and fine-tune your system's security posture, implement best practices, and provide that all-important "third party perspective"
 - Create and deliver customized data privacy and security awareness training



PTAC Assistance – Rapid Response

- PTAC is ready to help in responding to privacy and security incidents
 - Provide real-world guidance and advice on response activities
 - Lend advice and help supplement technical staff in conducting investigation activities
 - Help organizational decisionmakers determine a strategy for recovery



Security Resources

- NIST National Vulnerability Database http://nvd.nist.gov/
- NIST Computer Security Resource Center <u>http://csrc.nist.gov/</u>
- DHS United States Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT) https://www.us-cert.gov/
- NIST SP800-40: Creating a Patch and Vulnerability Management Program http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-40-Ver2/SP800-40v2.pdf
- NIST SP800-61: Computer Security Incident Handling Guide http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-61r2.pdf
- National Security Agency (NSA) Central Security Service: Security Configuration Guides -<u>https://www.nsa.gov/ia/mitigation_guidance/security_configuration_guides/</u>



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