Methodology of a Hacker

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Today's Topics

- **Introduction**

- **FBI Cyber Crime Report**

- **Information Warfare Techniques**

  - ☐ Information gathering

  - ☐ Social engineering

  - ☐ Network reconnaissance

  - ☐ Finding and exploiting vulnerabilities

  - ☐ Controlling and maintaining access

- **Top 10 Security Vulnerabilities**

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Introduction

- ## Telemus Solutions, Inc.
  - Government and commercial security
  - Protecting the critical infrastructure
- ## Capabilities
  - Physical and IT vulnerability assessments
  - Security consulting
  - Systems engineering
  - Custom software development
  - Research and development

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FBI Cyber Crime Survey (2005)

Over 5,000 respondents with over 87% experiencing one or more incidents

1. Total financial losses and the reported number of incidents have declined

2. Website attacks and wireless attacks have increased

3. Insider attacks occur about as often as external attacks

4. Defense is focused on the perimeter and antivirus / antispyware solutions

5. Security awareness continues to improve

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Information Warfare Techniques

Information Gathering

- **WHOIS lookup**
  - ☐ Find information about ownership and registration of networks
- **Newsgroup postings**
  - ☐ Learn what problems the system administrator is dealing with
- **Google hacking**
  - ☐ Find unintentionally published information
- **Dumpster diving**
  - ☐ Find account names, passwords, network info
  - ☐ Improperly disposed media

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Example: WHOIS HealthTechNet.org

IPv4 whois information for 204.227.246.38

OrgName: Pillsbury Madison & Sutro, Inc.
NetRange: 204.227.224.0 - 204.227.255.255
CIDR: 204.227.224.0/19
NameServer: SFNS01.PILLSBURYWINTHROP.COM
NameServer: LANS01.PILLSBURYWINTHROP.COM
NameServer: VANS01.PILLSBURYWINTHROP.COM
NameServer: NYNS01.PILLSBURYWINTHROP.COM
smtp.shawpittman.com   208.200.185.221

OrgTechName: Network Engineering Group
OrgTechPhone: 1-415-477-4917
OrgTechEmail: hostmaster@pillsburywinthrop.com

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Social Engineering

- Using gathered information to trick employees into compromising the organization's security
  - Provide accounts/passwords
  - Modify machine settings
  - Provide physical access
- Getting users to introduce a vulnerability to the system
  - Removable media
  - Email attachments
  - Active web content

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Network Reconnaissance

- **Network and service mapping**
  - ☐ Find out what servers are up/down
  - ☐ Identify operating systems
  - ☐ Identify open services and versions
- **Tools**
  - ☐ Port scanners
  - ☐ Network mappers
  - ☐ OS fingerprinters

Wireless Networks

- **Topology**
  - Where is it connected?
- **Access Points**
  - No security
  - Default accounts
  - WEP vulnerabilities
  - Rogue access points
- **Wireless on the laptop**
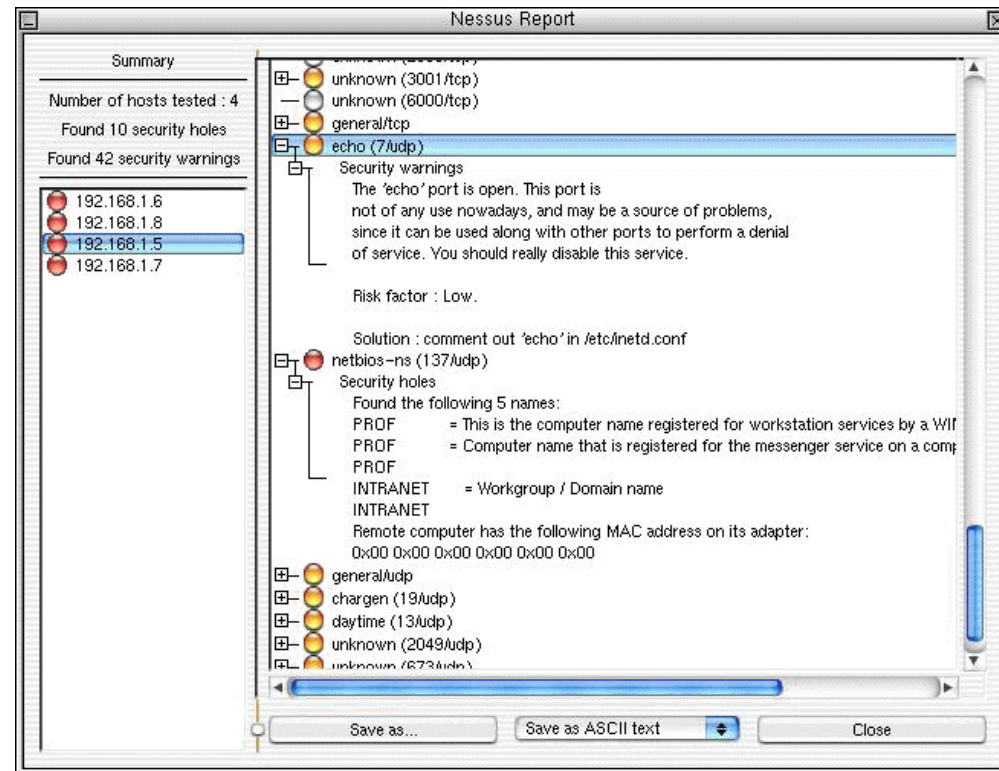 - Associations with other APs
  - Ad-hoc networks

Vulnerability Discovery

- **Identify issues**
  - ☐ Match service information to known vulnerabilities
  - ☐ Scan specific machines for vulnerabilities
- **Tools**
  - ☐ OS vulnerability scanners
  - ☐ Web vulnerability scanners

Compromising the Target

- **Exploit a vulnerability to gain access to the machine**
- **Tools**
  - ☐ Exploit frameworks
  - ☐ Shellcode builders
  - ☐ Automated attack tools
  - ☐ Remote password crackers

| EXPLOITS | PAYLOADS | SESSIONS |

Windows XP/2003/Vista Metafile Escape() SetAbortProc Code Execution (win32_exec)

HTTPHOST	Optional	HOST	0.0.0.0	The local HTTP listener host
HTTPPORT	Required	PORT	8080	The local HTTP listener port
CMD	Required	DATA	calc.exe	The command string to execute
EXITFUNC	Required	DATA	thread	Exit technique: "process", "thread", "seh"

Preferred Encoder:
Default Encoder

Nop Generator:
Default Generator

-Check- -Exploit-

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Controlling the Host

- Privilege escalation
- Backdoors
  - Allow the attacker to easily return
- Trojan horses
  - Disguise malicious programs
- Rootkits
  - Subvert the operating system itself
- Erasing tracks

Example: Titan Rain

- Foreign attacks against a broad sector of USG and defense contractors in 2004/2005
  - Most targets were unaware of compromise
- Highly sophisticated attacks against perimeter defenses
  - Exhibited well-planned attack methodology
  - Customized tools and exploits
- Goals were data gathering and continued access
  - Organizations are still struggling to recover

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Gathering Data

- Documents of all kinds from compromised machines
- Documents from file servers
- Network traffic
- Keyboard loggers
- Email messages
- Recovering deleted data

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Example: Department of Veterans Affairs

- Employee had millions of records with personal information on his computer and external drive
- Computer and drive were stolen in a burglary
- Incident cost huge amount of time, money, and bad publicity
- Equipment was eventually recovered

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Expanding Control

- **Leverage new resources to target other machines**
  - ☐ Open shares
  - ☐ Unprotected hosts
  - ☐ Routers and firewalls
  - ☐ Network sniffing
  - ☐ Intranets
  - ☐ Control systems
  - ☐ Affiliated networks

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Conclusions

Top 10 Security Vulnerabilities

1. Unpatched vulnerabilities in services
2. Weak authentication and passwords
3. Out-of-date antivirus/antispyware software
4. Unnecessary administrative privileges
5. Poorly configured access controls and file sharing
6. Inadequate wireless security
7. Mis-configured routers and firewalls
8. Lack of policy and education
9. Zero-day exploits
10. Flawed recovery procedures

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Summary

- Seemingly unimportant data can be leveraged by an attacker

- Perimeter security is critical, but not sufficient

- Effective security is a combination of technical solutions and good policies

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Thank You

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