

PIS105 SECURE CODING

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Course Objective: This course aims to provide an understanding of the various security attacks and knowledge to recognize and remove common coding errors that lead to vulnerabilities. It gives an outline of the techniques for developing a secure application.

Introduction: Security, CIA Triad, Viruses, Trojans, and Worms In a Nutshell, Security Concepts- exploit, threat, vulnerability, risk, attack. Malware Terminology: Rootkits, Trapdoors, Botnets, Key loggers, Honey pots. Active and Passive Security Attacks. IP Spoofing, Tear drop, DoS, DDoS, XSS, SQL injection, Smurf, Man in middle, Format String attack. Types of Security Vulnerabilities- buffer overflows, Invalidated input, race conditions, access-control problems, weaknesses in authentication, authorization, or cryptographic practices. Access Control Problems.

Need for secure systems: Proactive Security development process, Secure Software Development Cycle (S-SDLC) , Security issues while writing SRS, Design phase security, Development Phase, Test Phase, Maintenance Phase, Writing Secure Code – Best Practices SD3 (Secure by design, default and deployment), Security principles and Secure Product Development Timeline.

Threat modelling process and its benefits: Identifying the Threats by Using Attack Trees and rating threats using DREAD, Risk Mitigation Techniques and Security Best Practices. Security techniques, authentication, authorization. Defence in Depth and Principle of Least Privilege.

Secure Coding Techniques: Protection against DoS attacks, Application Failure Attacks, CPU Starvation Attacks, Insecure Coding Practices In Java Technology. ARP Spoofing and its countermeasures. Buffer Overrun- Stack overrun, Heap Overrun, Array Indexing Errors, Format String Bugs. Security Issues in C Language: String Handling, Avoiding Integer Overflows and Underflows and Type Conversion Issues- Memory Management Issues, Code Injection Attacks, Canary based countermeasures using StackGuard and Propolice. Socket Security, Avoiding Server Hijacking, Securing RPC, ActiveX and DCOM

Database and Web-specific issues: SQL Injection Techniques and Remedies, Race conditions, Time of Check Versus Time of Use and its protection mechanisms. Validating Input and Interprocess Communication, Securing Signal Handlers and File Operations. XSS scripting attack and its types – Persistent and Non persistent attack XSS Countermeasures and Bypassing the XSS Filters.

Testing Secure Applications: Security code overview, secure software installation. The Role of the Security Tester, Building the Security Test Plan. Testing HTTP-Based Applications, Testing File-Based Applications, Testing Clients with Rogue Servers

Laboratory work: consists of using network monitoring tools, implementing different types of attacks and some protection schemes.

Recommended Books

1. Writing Secure Code, Michael Howard and David LeBlanc, Microsoft Press, 2nd Edition, 2004
2. Buffer Overflow Attacks: Detect, Exploit, Prevent by Jason Deckard , Syngress, 1st Edition, 2005
3. Threat Modeling, Frank Swiderski and Window Snyder, Microsoft Professional, 1st Edition ,2004