



#### Motivation



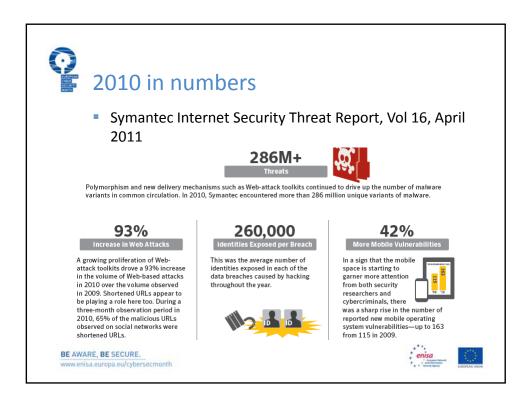
- "We wouldn't have to spend so much time, money, and effort on network security if we didn't have such bad software security"
  - Viega & McGraw, Building Secure Software, Addison Wesley 2002

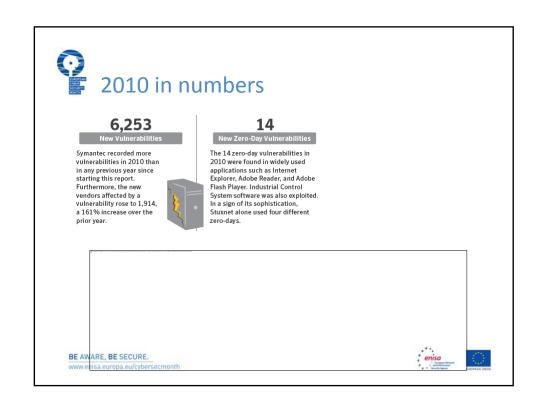


- "the current state of security in commercial software is rather distasteful, marked by embarrassing public reports of vulnerabilities and actual attacks (...) and continual exhortations to customers to perform rudimentary checks and maintenance."
  - Jim Routh, Beautiful Security, O'Reilly, 2010
- "Software buyers are literally crash test dummies for an industry that is remarkably insulated against liability"
  - David Rice, Geekonomics: The Real Cost of Insecure Software, Addison-Wesley, 2007











### The problem is Software: Stuxnet

- Invaded Iranian nuclear enrichment facility; damaged many centrifuges
  - Modified programmable logic controllers (PLCs) –software too!
- Some features:
  - Self-replicates through USB drives exploiting a vulnerability allowing auto-execution
  - Spreads in a LAN through a vulnerability in the Win.Print Spooler
  - Spreads through SMB by exploiting a Windows RPC vulnerability
  - Exploits another 2 unpatched privilege escalation vulnerabilities
  - Contains a Windows and a PLC rootkit

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#### The next Stuxnet?

- CNN, Sept. 2007 "Researchers who launched an experimental cyber attack caused a generator to self-destruct"
  - Financed by the Dep. Homeland Security
- video

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#### The 7 Coolest Hacks Of 2011

- 1. Remotely starting a car via text message.
- 2. Powering down the power plant literally.
- 4. Insulin pumps go rogue.
- 5. 'Warflying': Hacking in midair.
- 6. When laptop batteries turn against you.

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## Only industry's fault?

- "We at Oracle have (...) determined that most developers we hire have not been adequately trained in basic secure coding principles
- In the future, Oracle plans to give hiring preference to students who have received such training and can demonstrate competence in software security principles."
  - Mary Ann Davidson, Oracle's Chief Security Officer







### Problem is in the software

The characteristics of current software:

- Complexity
  - Attacks exploit bugs called vulnerabilities
  - Estimated 5-50 bugs per Klines of code
  - Windows Vista 50M
- Extensibility
  - What software is in your laptop? OS + production sw + patches + 3rd party DLLs + device drivers + plug-ins + ...
- Connectivity
  - Internet (2.2 billion users) + control systems + PDAs + mobile phones + ...

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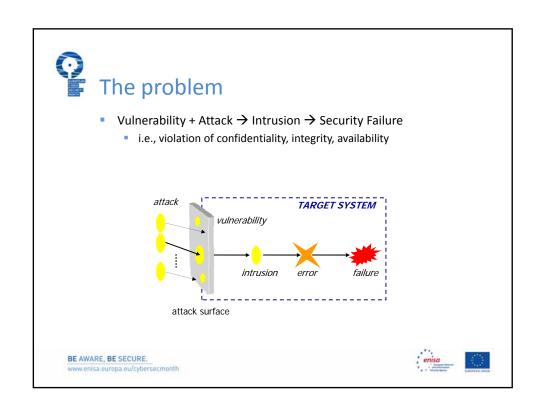


- The problem: Vulnerabilities
- Solution part 1 Prevention
- Solution part 2 Runtime protection
- A taste of research
- Conclusions











### The problem

- From the software point of view, the problem are its defects, i.e., its <u>vulnerabilities</u>
  - Design vulnerability: inserted during the software design (e.g., lack of access control)
  - Coding vulnerability: a bug (e.g., missing end of buffer verification)
  - Operational vulnerability: caused by the environment in which the software is executed or its configuration (e.g., weak password)
- "the team leaders conveniently assumed that security vulnerabilities were not defects and could be deferred for future enhancements or projects" - Jim Routh, op. cit.

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### Coding vulnerabilities

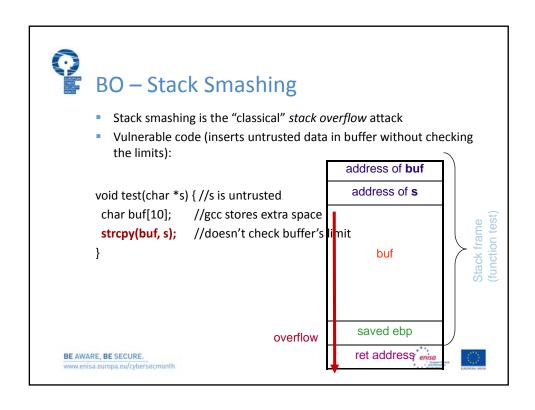
There are many classes; we are going to see the top 3:

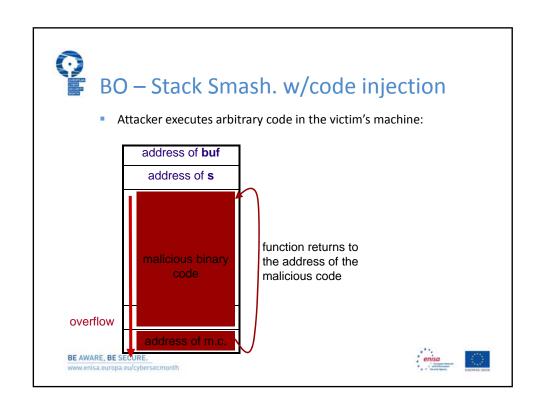
- Buffer overflows traditionally most important (OSs, binary apps)
- SQL injection
- Cross site scripting

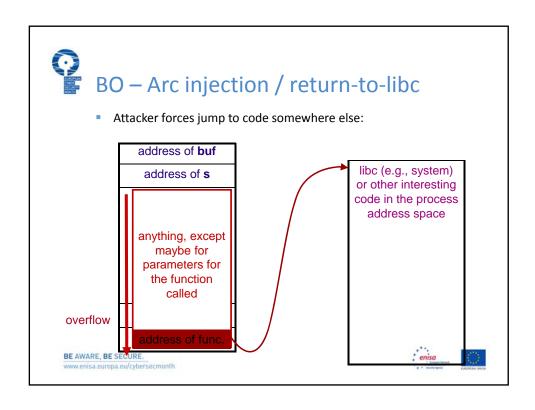


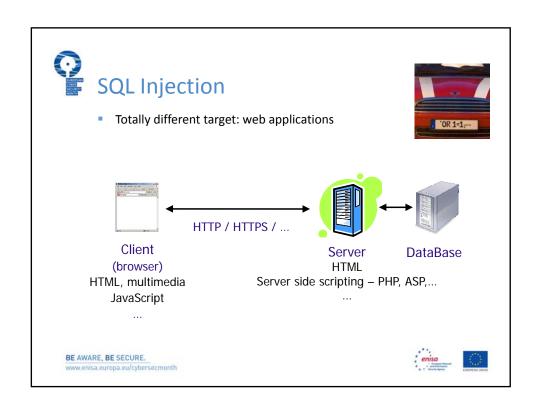














### SQL Injection – basic

- The attack:
  - User provides inputs to the server
  - Inputs are inserted in queries to the DB
  - Client input with SQL metacharacters inserted in SQL queries
- Example vulnerable PHP code in the server:

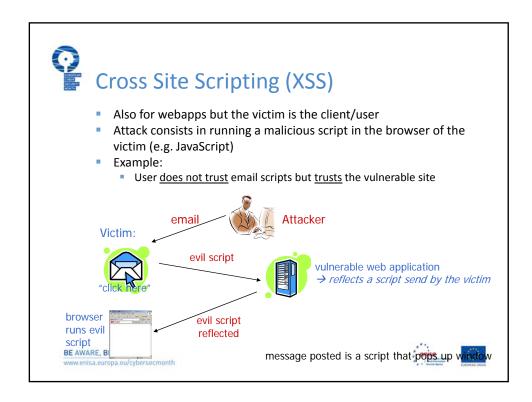
```
$order_id = $HTTP_POST_VARS ['order_id'];
$query = "SELECT * FROM orders WHERE id=" . $order_id;
$result = mysql_query($query);
```

- Good input: 123
  - SELECT \* FROM orders WHERE id=123
- Attack input: 1 OR 1=1
  - SELECT \* FROM orders WHERE id=1 OR 1=1

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### Other vulnerabilities

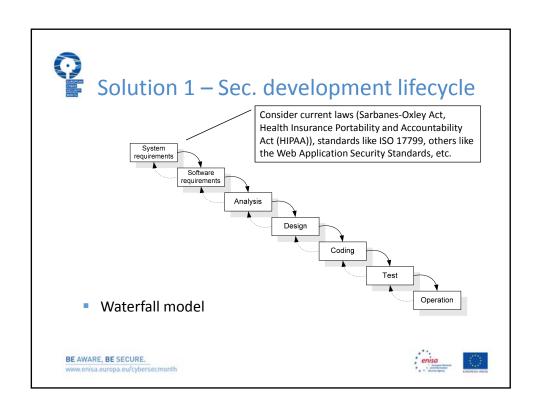
- Race conditions
- Input validation command injection, format string vulnerabilities
- Web session management, direct reference to objects, cross site request forgery, ...
- Configuration, authentication
- Malicious host software piracy and tampering, fraud in online applications
- Besides many variants of those we just saw...

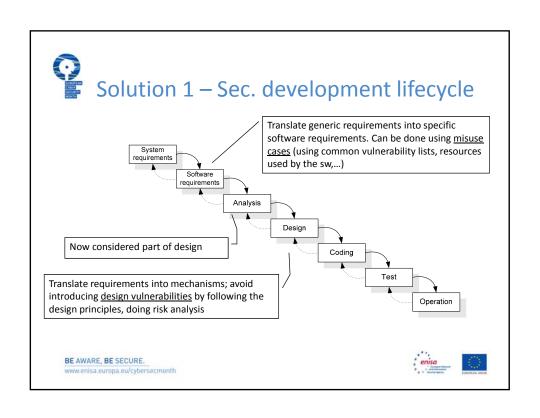


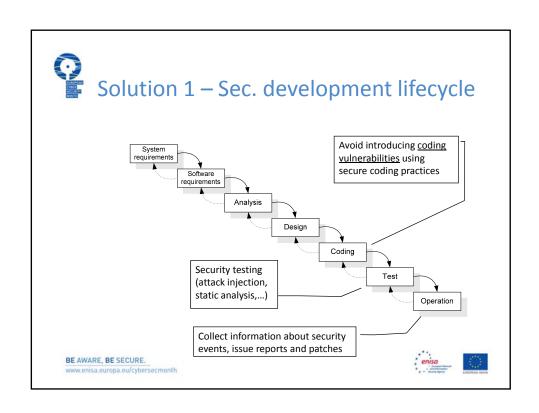


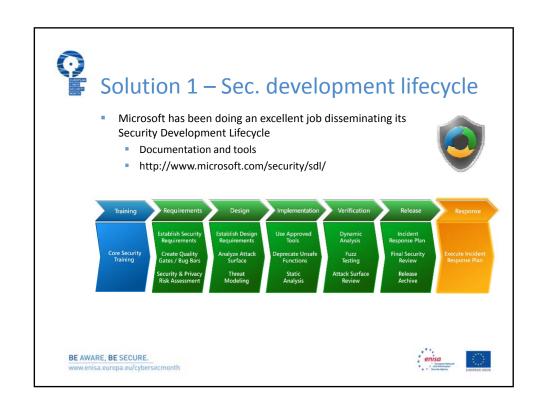














### Solution 2 – Risk analysis

- For software security, the idea is mainly to find and rank design vulnerabilities
- Several approaches, one is Threat Modeling; steps:
  - Information gathering: from developers, documentation, code profiling
  - Application decomposition, in attack targets (data flow diagrams, UML)
  - Identify vulnerabilities: by analyzing each component and interaction using a vulnerability taxonomy (e.g., STRIDE)
  - Rank vulnerabilities: to prioritize which to correct first (e.g., with DREAD)



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STRIDE taxonomy

- √Spoofing identity
- ✓ Tampering with data
- ✓ Repudiation
- ✓Information disclosure
- ✓ Denial of service
- ✓ Elevation of privilege

DREAD

- ✓ Damage potential
- ✓ Reproducibility
- ✓ Exploitability
- ✓ Affected users
- ✓ Discoverability







#### Solution 3 – Secure coding

- Buffer overflows
  - Simply check if there is enough space in the destination buffer
- SQL injection
  - Sanitize the inputs (it's easier to say than do)
- Cross Site Scripting
  - Sanitize the inputs, encode the outputs (but it's also easier...)
- but errare humanum est, code can be huge...







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### Solution 4 – Static code analysis

- Vulnerabilities are in the source code so a solution is... to look for them
  - But it's like finding a needle in the haystack
- Code analyzers do it automatically
  - "read" the (source) code and check if certain rules are satisfied (e.g., is memory free'd twice?)
- Commercial tools are available
  - HP-Fortify, Coverity, Ounce Labs, Veracode
  - Many open, free,...



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#### Solution 4 – Static code analysis

- Code analyzers work essentially in two phases
  - Generate an Abstract Syntax Tree AST (like a compiler)
  - Search for vulnerabilities in the AST; several ways:
- Syntactic analysis check if "dangerous" functions are called (e.g., gets almost always vulnerable)
- Taint checking follow the data flow and check if input reaches dangerous functions (e.g., strcpy)
- Control-flow analysis follow the control flow paths and do several checks (e.g., if there are double frees)

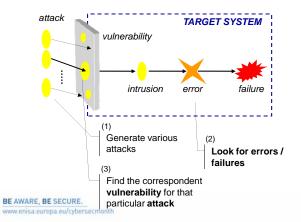






### Solution 5 – Attack injection/fuzzing

Look for vulnerabilities without delving into the complexity of the software, i.e., looking at it as a black box







#### Solution 5 – Attack injection/fuzzing

- Fuzzers
  - Late 80s/early 90s Miller/Fredrikse/So were studding the integrity of Unix command line utilities
  - During a thunderstorm one was attempting to use the utilities over a dial-up connection but the utilities were crashing
  - Data was being modified in the line due to noise
  - Thus they developed an utility called <u>fuzz</u> to generate <u>random</u> input and test the robustness of software
- Currently used to find vulnerabilities in software
  - Very successfully...







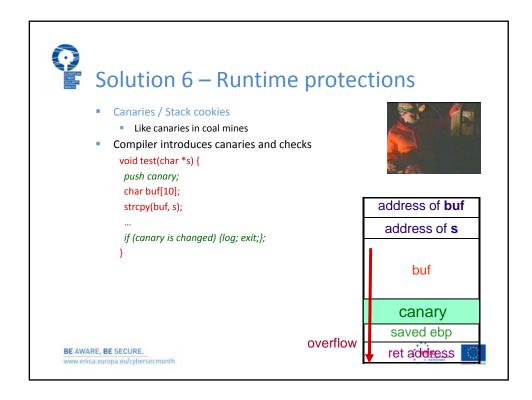
### Solution 5 – Attack injection/fuzzing

- Recursive fuzzing
  - Iterating though all possible combinations of characters from an alphabet
  - Ex.: URL followed by 8 hexadecimal digits; try all possible combinations of the 8 digits
- Replacive fuzzing
  - Iterating though a set of predefined values, called <u>fuzz vectors</u>
  - Ex.: look for XSS vulnerabilities by providing the following inputs:
    - >"><script>alert("XSS")</script>&
    - ";!--"<XSS>=&{()}
- Attack injection (AJECT project)
  - Pick a state for the target and an input to inject; put the target in that state; inject; monitor; repeat











### Solution 6 – Runtime protections

- Address space layout randomization
- The idea is to randomize the addresses where code and data are mapped in runtime
  - The memory layout tends to be the same for every execution
  - Does not prevent exploitation but usually makes it unreliable what address shall be written over the return address?

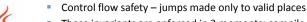


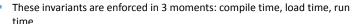




### Solution 7 – Language security

- Java's (later .NET) challenge: running mobile (not trusted) code in a machine
- Solution/part 1: run code in a sandbox
  - Sandbox imposes a security policy to the code: it can only access the resources permitted by the sandbox
  - Sandbox administrator defines the policy
  - Policy depends on the code's origin (URL) and/or signature
- Solution/part 2: secure the language conventions
  - Type safety data always manipulated following its type
  - Memory safety memory accesses restricted to object's memory space















#### Solution 8 – Trusted computing

- Trusted Computing Group an industry consortium defining open specifications for "trusted computing"
- Main achievement is the Trusted Platform Module (TPM) a chip now found on the mainboard of many PCs
- Two basic functions:
  - Storage of cryptographic keys for keeping them secure
  - Storage of integrity measurements to help detect software modifications















### Solution 8 – Trusted computing

What's inside?

Component classes	Subcomponents
Functional units	Random number generator Hash unit HMAC calculator RSA key generator RSA encryption/decryption/signing
Non-volatile memory	Endorsement key Storage root key Owner authorization secret key
Volatile memory	RSA key pairs Platform configuration registers Key handles Authorization session handles

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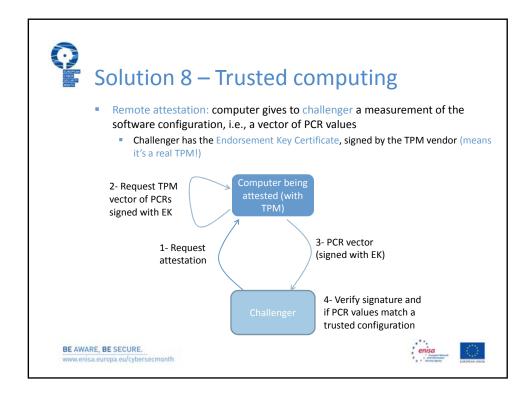


### Solution 8 – Trusted computing

- TPM has at least 16 Platform Configuration Registers (PCR)
- A PCR stores (typically) a measurement of a software block, i.e., its cryptographic hash
  - During system boot, the i<sup>th</sup> module to run stores the hash of the (i+1)<sup>th</sup> module in
  - Example: BIOS stores hash(boot loader) in PCR<sub>0</sub>; boot loader stores hash(hypervisor) in PCR<sub>1</sub>
  - A vector of PCR values gives a trusted measurement of the software configuration
- Can't the 1<sup>st</sup> module provide a false hash of the 2<sup>nd</sup>?
  - We assume we can trust the 1<sup>st</sup> module, thus called the Static Root of Trust for Measurement (SRTM)
- Can't a PCR be overwritten at any time?
  - No, there is no write operation, only extend
  - $PCR_i \leftarrow H(PCR_i \mid \mid h)$  (the 1<sup>st</sup> time,  $PCR_i=0$ )









#### Solution 8 – Trusted computing

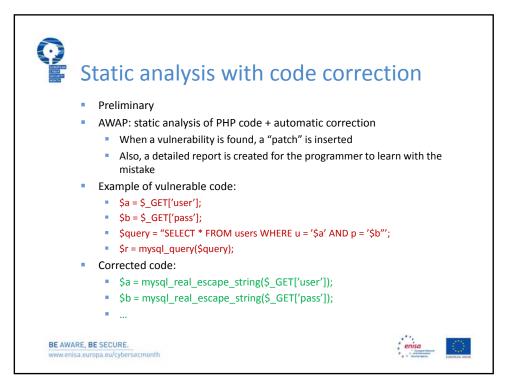
- Other usages for the TPM:
- Store cryptographic keys
  - Inside the TPM or outside of it but encrypted by it
- Bind release of cryptographic key to a certain software configuration
  - Used in Microsoft's BitLocker Drive Encryption (but optional and typically disabled)
- Assign unique id to a blob of data
  - Using a TPM counter and its signature

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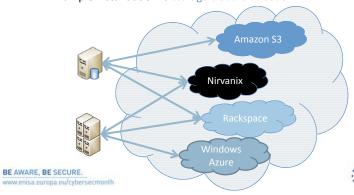






### Intrusion tolerance with replication

- Basic idea
  - Accept the inevitability of vulnerabilities and successful attacks
  - Replicate in several and guarantee that it works as long as no more than f are suffer intrusions
- Example instantiation: a storage cloud-of-clouds









#### Intrusion tolerance with replication

- Benefits:
  - Can tolerate data corruption, e.g., due to malicious insiders, successful attacks, accidental faults (e.g., due to bugs)
  - Can tolerate datacenter and cloud outages
  - No vendor lock-in
  - Confidentiality (data is encrypted)
- Costs
  - \$ cost doubles
  - Reads become faster
  - Writes become slower
  - (experiments with 437000+ reads/writes between Sep. 10th and Oct. 7th 2010, clients scattered through the world, from Brazil to Japan)

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# Conclusions

- Software security is important + interesting + difficult
  - New vulnerabilities every day
  - New types of vulnerabilities every year
  - New solutions every...
- Requires
  - Knowing current vulnerabilities
  - Know the new ones that appear (especially new types)
  - Know the solutions and use them
  - Run tools, run tools, run tools
- Much research going on
- THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS" is not acceptable







# Thank you. Questions?

To probe further:



 Miguel Pupo Correia http://homepages.gsd.inesc-id.pt/~mpc/ http://www.seguranca-informatica.net/



