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Chapter 1 Overview

Answers to Questions

1.1 Computer security refers to protection afforded to an automated information system in order to attain the applicable objectives of preserving the integrity, availability and confidentiality of information system resources (includes hardware, software, firmware, information/data, and telecommunications).

1.2 **Passive threats** have to do with eavesdropping on, or monitoring, transmissions. Electronic mail, file transfers, and client/server exchanges are examples of transmissions that can be monitored. A**ctive threats** include the modification of transmitted data and attempts to gain unauthorized access to computer systems.

1.3 **Passive attacks**: release of message contents and traffic analysis. **Active attacks**: masquerade, replay, modification of messages, and denial of service.

1.4 **Authentication:** The assurance that the communicating entity is the one that it claims to be.
Access control: The prevention of unauthorized use of a resource (i.e., this service controls who can have access to a resource, under what conditions access can occur, and what those accessing the resource are allowed to do).
Data confidentiality: The protection of data from unauthorized disclosure.
Data integrity: The assurance that data received are exactly as sent by an authorized entity (i.e., contain no modification, insertion, deletion, or replay).
Nonrepudiation: Provides protection against denial by one of the entities involved in a communication of having participated in all or part of the communication.
Availability service: The property of a system or a system resource being accessible and usable upon demand by an authorized system entity, according to performance specifications for the system (i.e., a system is available if it provides services according to the system design whenever users request them).

1.5 An attack surface consists of the reachable and exploitable vulnerabilities in a system. An attack tree is a branching, hierarchical data structure that represents a set of potential techniques for exploiting security vulnerabilities.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

1.1 The system must keep personal identification numbers confidential, both in the host system and during transmission for a transaction. It must protect the integrity of account records and of individual transactions. Availability of the host system is important to the economic well being of the bank, but not to its fiduciary responsibility. The availability of individual teller machines is of less concern.

1.2 The system does not have high requirements for integrity on individual transactions, as lasting damage will not be incurred by occasionally losing a call or billing record. The integrity of control programs and configuration records, however, is critical. Without these, the switching function would be defeated and the most important attribute of all - availability - would be compromised. A telephone switching system must also preserve the confidentiality of individual calls, preventing one caller from overhearing another.

1.3 **a.** The system will have to assure confidentiality if it is being used to publish corporate proprietary material.
b. The system will have to assure integrity if it is being used to laws or regulations.
c. The system will have to assure availability if it is being used to publish a daily paper.

1.4 **a.** An organization managing public information on its web server determines that there is no potential impact from a loss of confidentiality (i.e., confidentiality requirements are not applicable), a moderate potential impact from a loss of integrity, and a moderate potential impact from a loss of availability.
b. A law enforcement organization managing extremely sensitive investigative information determines that the potential impact from a loss of confidentiality is high, the potential impact from a loss of integrity is moderate, and the potential impact from a loss of availability is moderate.
c. A financial organization managing routine administrative information (not privacy-related information) determines that the potential impact from a loss of confidentiality is low, the potential impact from a loss of integrity is low, and the potential impact from a loss of availability is low.

d. The management within the contracting organization determines that: (i) for the sensitive contract information, the potential impact from a loss of confidentiality is moderate, the potential impact from a loss of integrity is moderate, and the potential impact from a loss of availability is low; and (ii) for the routine administrative information (non-privacy-related information), the potential impact from a loss of confidentiality is low, the potential impact from a loss of integrity is low, and the potential impact from a loss of availability is low.

e. The management at the power plant determines that: (i) for the sensor data being acquired by the SCADA system, there is no potential impact from a loss of confidentiality, a high potential impact from a loss of integrity, and a high potential impact from a loss of availability; and (ii) for the administrative information being processed by the system, there is a low potential impact from a loss of confidentiality, a low potential impact from a loss of integrity, and a low potential impact from a loss of availability. Examples from FIPS 199.

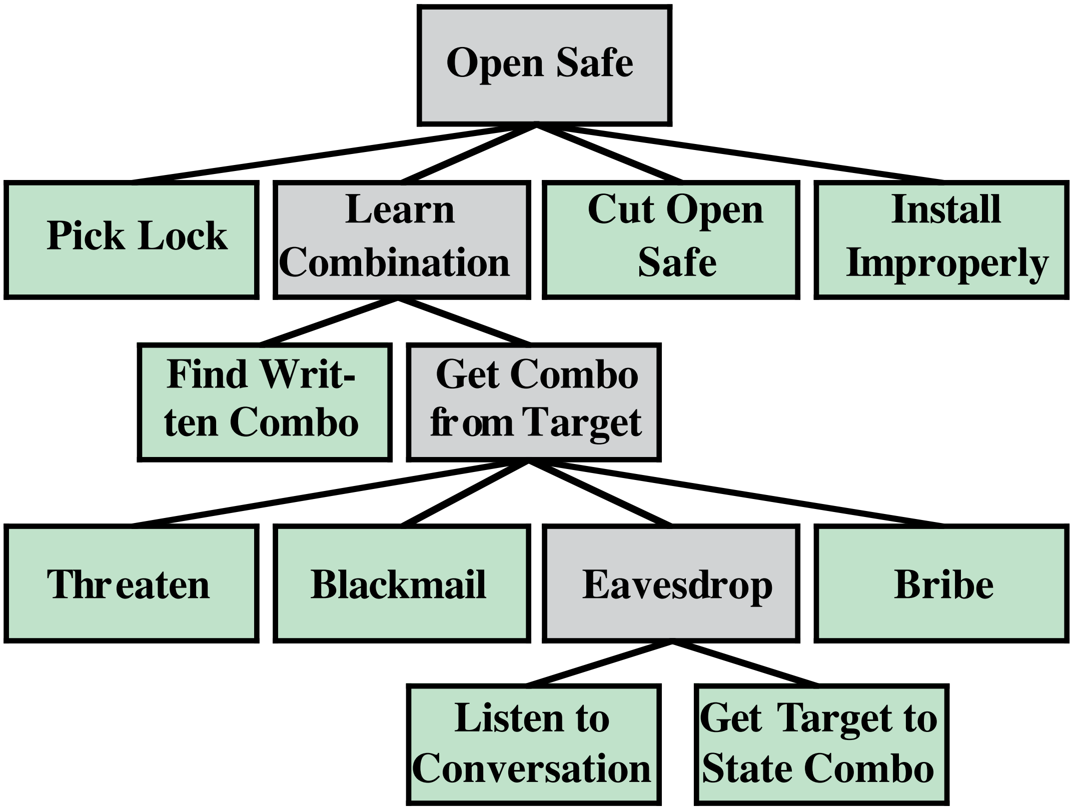
1.5 a. At first glance, this code looks fine, but what happens if IsAccessAllowed fails? For example, what happens if the system runs out of memory, or object handles, when this function is called? The user can execute the privileged task because the function might return an error such as ERROR NOT ENOUGH MEMORY.

b.

```
DWORD dwRet = IsAccessAllowed(...);
if (dwRet == NO_ERROR) {
    // Secure check OK.
    // Perform task.
} else {
    // Security check failed.
    // Inform user that access is denied.
}
```

In this case, if the call to IsAccessAllowed fails for any reason, the user is denied access to the privileged operation.

1.6



1.7 We present the tree in text form; call the company X:

```
Survivability Compromise: Disclosure of X proprietary secrets
OR  1. Physically scavenge discarded items from X
        OR     1. Inspect dumpster content on-site
               2. Inspect refuse after removal from site
    2. Monitor emanations from X machines
        AND    1. Survey physical perimeter to determine optimal monitoring position
               2. Acquire necessary monitoring equipment
               3. Setup monitoring site
               4. Monitor emanations from site
    3. Recruit help of trusted X insider
        OR     1. Plant spy as trusted insider
               2. Use existing trusted insider
    4. Physically access X networks or machines
        OR     1. Get physical, on-site access to Intranet
               2. Get physical access to external machines
    5. Attack X intranet using its connections with Internet
        OR     1. Monitor communications over Internet for leakage
               2. Get trusted process to send sensitive information to attacker over Internet
               3. Gain privileged access to Web server
    6. Attack X intranet using its connections with public telephone network (PTN)
        OR     1. Monitor communications over PTN for leakage of sensitive information
               2. Gain privileged access to machines on intranet connected via Internet
```