Network Security Fundamentals

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BUSINESS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES
Agenda

- Overview of the problem
- Various Vulnerabilities
  - Workstations
  - LANs and Switches
  - Routers and Firewalls
  - Wide Area Networks (WANs)
- The Big Picture

Security Requirements

- Security is a process of balancing risks and benefits
- Some potential security threats
  - Workstations
  - LANs and Switches
  - Routers and Firewalls
  - Wide Area Networks (WANs)
  - Physical security
- Make a decision based on a realistic evaluation; not emotion
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Network Architecture
Workstation Security

Experienced Threats to Information Security

LAN Security

Traditional (old) Ethernet

- Advantage
  - Shared, “broadcast” medium provides easy access
- Disadvantage
  - Shared, “broadcast” medium is a significant security risk
Switched Ethernet

- **Switched**
  - Multiple paths through the switch
  - Dedicated full-speed media

- **Scalable**
  - Multiple speeds to match application
  - Speed Conversion

- Inherently more secure

Packet sniffing...

- Can packets be sniffed?
  - Yes, if you
    - Have physical access
    - Tap the line
    - Decode Ethernet, plus IP, plus IP encoding
    - Can do this realtime
    - And you could use encryption (more later)

- Is switched Ethernet a security risk?
  - Is it worth the trouble?
  - No worse than traditional telephony
  - Depends on physical access
Wireless LAN Security

Wireless Ethernet

- Acts like traditional Ethernet without the wire
  - Shared, "broadcast" medium provides easy access but is a security risk
- Multiple Security enhancements available
  - Security needs to be implemented carefully and fully
**Security and IP**

- Ethernet Switch
- Router
- Wireless Ethernet Access Point

**IP Address Spoofing**

- IP address is set by the user
  - Can be spoofed
  - Need for authentication
- But this problem is mostly solved
  - Network Address Translation (NAT)
  - Additional mechanisms for advanced functions (like Session Initiated Protocol – SIP)
Firewalls

- Applications to limit and control connectivity within network environments
- Provide both external access limitations and internal resource protection
WAN Security

Common WAN Services

- Private line, frame relay and ATM
- Private IP VPNs
- Internet Backbone VPNs
  - IPSec
  - SSL
Private Line, Frame Relay and ATM Security

- Private lines provide dedicated bandwidth per circuit
  - TDM technology
- Frame relay and ATM PVC / SVC addresses are set by network operations
  - SVC user controls connection, not address
- At some point, you must trust the service provider(s)
  - Common issue for all nets
  - Encryption is available, but not usually required

Private IP VPNs

- IP-based networks that are not based on the public Internet
  - “Closed User Group” for each enterprise
- Often based on Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)
  - LSPs (Virtual Circuits) automatically configured based on IP address
    - “Self-configuring” frame relay
- Sometimes deployed as “Virtual Routers”
- Security issues similar to ATM and frame relay
Internet Backbone VPNs

- Uses IP as the “UNI” to the network
- Any-to-Any connectivity
- No inherent security

Multiple ISPs connected at “Peering Points”
IPSec VPNs

- Internet transport layer

[Tunnels] through the Internet
What is IPSec?

- Encapsulation method that encrypts IP packets between two points inside another IP message
- Authenticates and secures VPNs over public IP services

What is SSL?

- Similar to IPSec
  - Similar encryption algorithms
- Browser based
  - Authenticates between browser and server
Choosing a WAN Architecture

- All methods “work”
- All methods can be secure
- One size doesn’t fit all
- Corporate “religion” is a major decision-making factor

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This is Your Network

Who’s guarding the door?
Thank you!

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