

# Security

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# The Security Problem

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  - How do we provide **controlled access** to programs and data **stored in a computer system**?

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  - How do we provide **controlled access** to programs and data **stored in a computer system**?
- ▶ **Security** requires both **protection system** and the consideration of the **external environment** within which the system operates.

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- ▶ **Threat** is potential **security violation**.
- ▶ **Attack** is attempt to **breach security**: **accidental** or **malicious**.
- ▶ Easier to protect against **accidental** than malicious misuse

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- ▶ **Theft of service**: unauthorized **use** of resources
- ▶ **Denial of Service (DoS)**: prevention of **legitimate use**

- ▶ **Masquerading** (breach authentication): pretending to be an **authorized user** to **escalate privileges**

# Security Violation Methods

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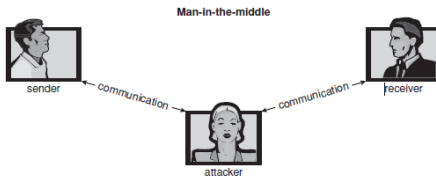
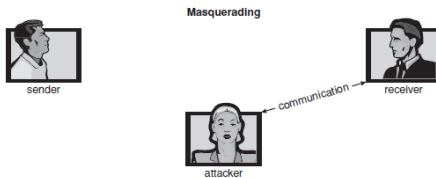
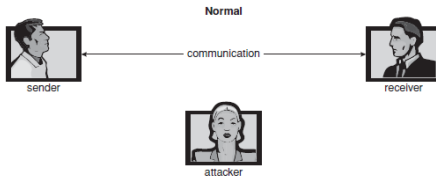
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- ▶ **Session hijacking**: intercept an **already-established** session to **bypass authentication**

# Standard Security Attacks



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  - **OS**: protection mechanisms, debugging
  - **Network**: intercepted communications, interruption, DOS



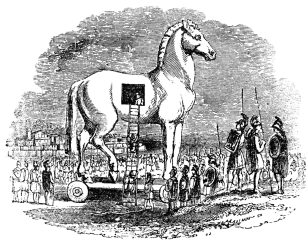
# Program Threats

- ▶ Many variations, many names
  - Trojan horse
  - Trap door
  - Logic bomb
  - Stack and buffer flow
  - Viruses

# Trojan Horse

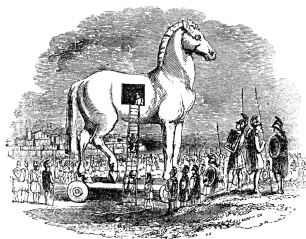
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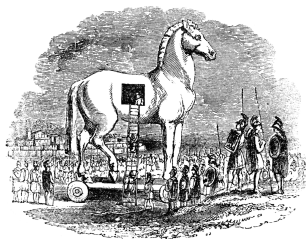
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- ▶ Example:
  - A **text-editor** program has a code to **search the file** to be edited for certain keywords.
  - If any are found, the **entire file** may be copied to a special area accessible to the creator of the text editor.



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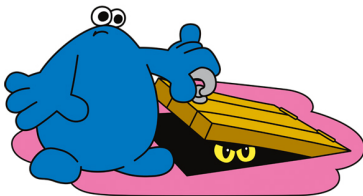
# Trojan Horse (2/2)

- ▶ Variation of Trojan horse:
- ▶ Emulating a login program
- ▶ **Spyware**: accompanies a program that the user has installed.
  - Download ads to display on the user's system
  - Create pop-up browser windows when certain sites are visited
  - Capture information from the user's system and return it to a central site: covert channel
  - Violation of the principle of least privilege.

# Trap Door

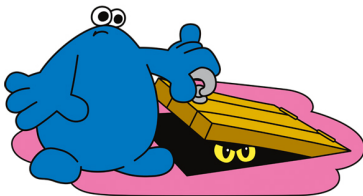
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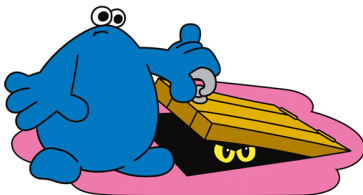
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- ▶ A **hole** in the software that **only designer** of a program is capable of using.
- ▶ Could be included in a **compiler**.
- ▶ Difficult to detect: we have to **analyze all the source code** for all components of a system.



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- ▶ Hard to detect: because under normal operations, there would be no security hole.





# Stack and Buffer Flow

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  - E.g., The programmer neglected to code **bounds checking on an input field**.
  - The attacker sends **more data** than the program was expecting.
  - The attacker can write a program to do the next page steps.

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- ① **Overflow an input field**, for example, a **web-page form expects a user name**, until it writes into the **stack**.
- ② **Overwrite** the current **return address** on the stack with the address of the **exploit code** loaded in step 3.
- ③ Write a simple **set of code** for the next space in the stack that includes the commands that the **attacker wishes to execute**, for instance, spawn a shell.

## Stack and Buffer Overflow (3/6)

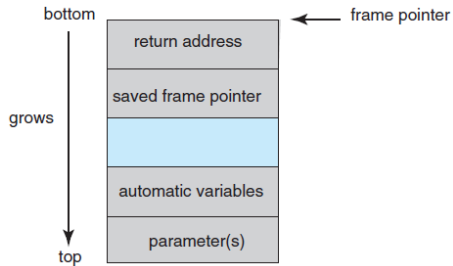
```
#include <stdio.h>
#define BUFFER_SIZE 256

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];

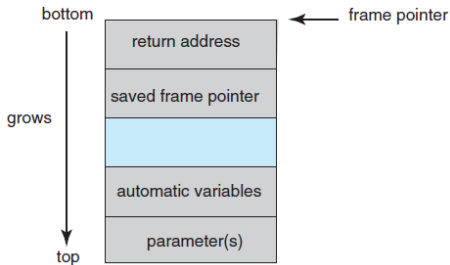
    if (argc < 2)
        return -1;
    else {
        strcpy(buffer,argv[1]);
        return 0;
    }
}
```

- ▶ Lack of bounds checking
- ▶ If the command line input is longer than `BUFFER_SIZE`?

# Stack and Buffer Overflow (4/6)

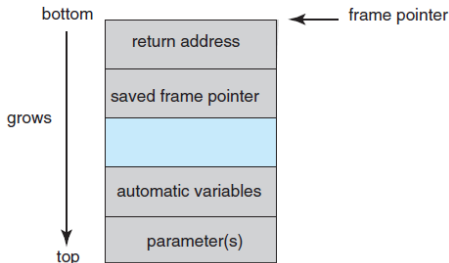


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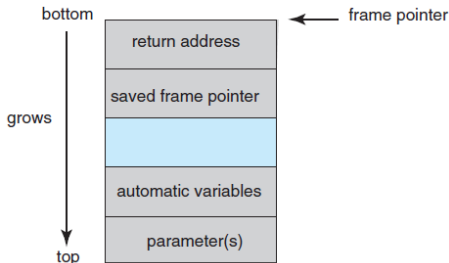
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- ▶ **Frame pointer:** the address of the beginning of the stack frame.
  - Can vary during the function call.
- ▶ **Return address:** where to return control once the function exits.

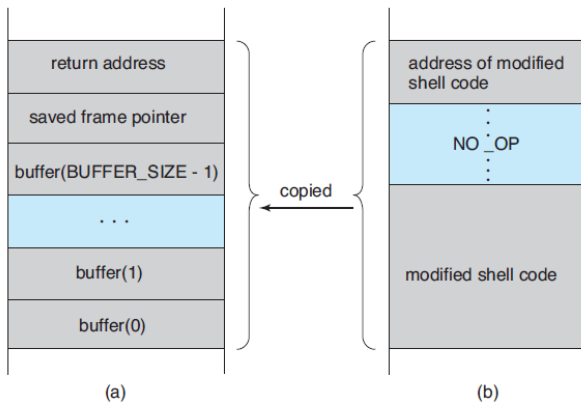
# Stack and Buffer Overflow (5/6)

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    execvp(``\bin\sh'', ``\bin \sh'', NULL);
    return 0;
}
```

- The cracker could **replace the return address** with the **address of the code segment** containing the **attacking program**.

## Stack and Buffer Overflow (6/6)





# Viruses

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- ▶ Very **specific** to CPU architecture, OS, applications.
- ▶ Usually borne via **email or as a macro**.
- ▶ **UNIX and other multiuser OSs** generally are **not susceptible to viruses**.
  - The executable programs are protected from writing by the OS.
  - Even if a virus infects such a program, its powers usually are limited because other aspects of the system are protected.

# Viruses Categories (1/4)

## ► File virus

- Infects a system by **appending itself to a file**.
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## ► Boot virus

- Infects the **boot sector** of the system, executing every time the system is booted and before the OS is loaded.
- They are known as **memory viruses**, because they do **not appear in the file system**.



## Viruses Categories (2/4)

### ► Macro virus

- Most viruses are in a **low-level languages**, e.g., assembly or C.
- Macro viruses are in a **high-level language**, e.g., Visual Basic.
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### ► Polymorphic virus

- It **changes** each time it is installed to **avoid detection** by anti-virus software.

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## ► Tunneling virus

- It bypasses detection by an anti-virus scanner by installing itself in the **interrupt-handler chain**.

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## ► Armored virus

- It is coded to make it hard for anti-virus researchers to **unravel and understand**.



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- ▶ They include:
  - Worms
  - Port scanning
  - Denial of Service (DoS)

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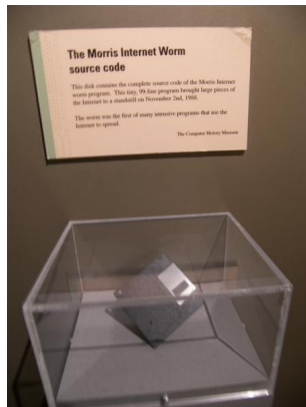
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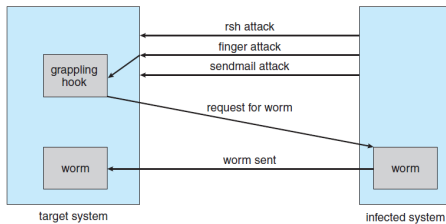
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- ▶ **Unlike a computer virus**, it does **not need to attach itself** to an existing program.
- ▶ The **Morris worm** (the **Internet worm**) is the **first computer worms** distributed via the Internet: 1988





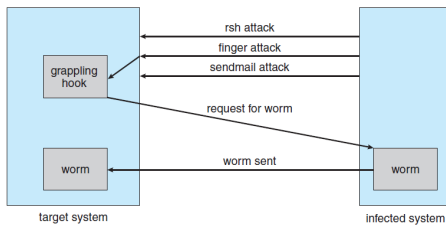
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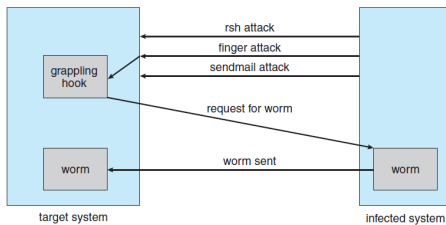
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- ▶ The **grappling hook** program **uploaded main worm program**.



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- ▶ nmap scans all ports in a given IP range for a response
- ▶ nessus has a database of protocols and bugs (and exploits) to apply against a system.



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- ▶ Consider **traffic to a web site**.
- ▶ CS students writing bad **fork()** code.

# Cryptography

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- ▶ Similarly, a **sender** can **encode its message** so that only a computer with a **certain key** can decode the message.

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- ▶ A function  $D : K \rightarrow (C \rightarrow M)$ 
  - For each  $k \in K$ ,  $D_k$  is a function for generating messages from ciphertexts.

## Encryption (2/2)

- ▶ An encryption algorithm **must provide** this **essential property**:
  - Given a ciphertext  $c \in C$ , a computer can compute  $m$  such that  $E_k(m) = c$  only if it possesses  $k$ .

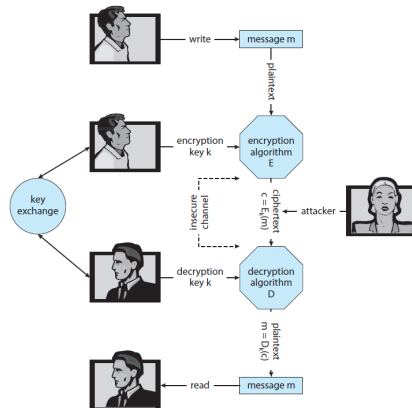


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- ▶ Thus, a computer holding  $k$  can **decrypt ciphertexts** to the **plain-texts**.

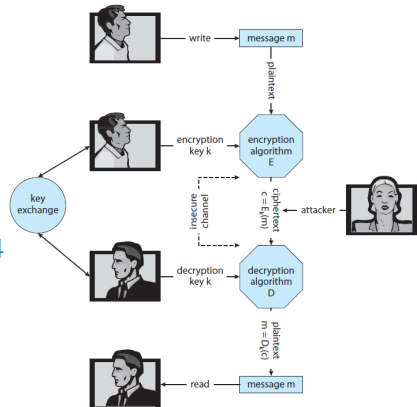
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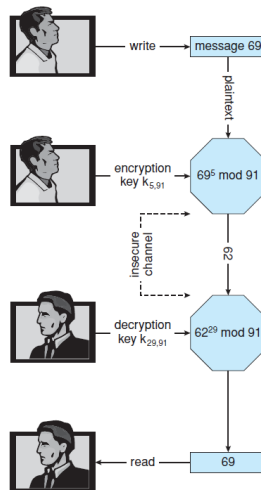
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- ▶ E.g., DES, Triple-DES, AES, RC4



# Asymmetric Encryption

- ▶ Each user having **two keys**:
  - **Public key**: published key used to **encrypt** data.
  - **Private key**: key known only to individual user used to **decrypt** data.
- ▶ Most common is **RSA** block cipher.



# Authentication (1/2)

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  - A function  $V : K \rightarrow (M \times A \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\})$ : for each  $k \in K$ ,  $V_k$  is a function for verifying authenticators on messages.

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- ▶ Thus, computer holding  $k$  can generate authenticators on messages so that any other computer possessing  $k$  can verify them.
- ▶ Practically, if  $V_k(m, a) = \text{true}$  then we know  $m$  has not been modified and that send of message has  $k$ .

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- ▶ E.g., MD5 (128-bit hash), and SHA-1 (160-bit hash)

## Authentication - Hash Function (2/2)

- ▶ Not useful as authenticators.
  - For example  $H(m)$  can be sent with a message.
  - But if  $H$  is known someone could modify  $m$  to  $m'$  and recompute  $H(m')$  and modification not detected
  - So must authenticate  $H(m)$ : MAC and digital signature

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- ▶ Note that  $k$  is needed to compute both  $S_k$  and  $V_k$ , so anyone able to compute one can compute the other end digital signature.



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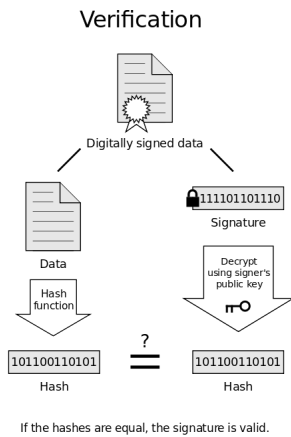
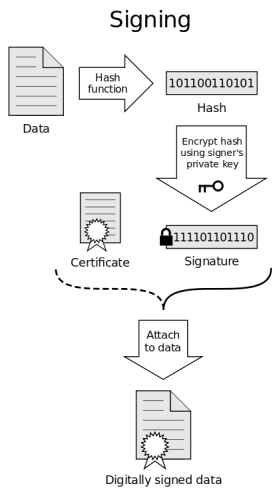
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  - What we need is a **proof of who owns a public key?** **digital certificate**

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- ▶ Certificate authority are **trusted party** - **their public keys** included with web **browser distributions**.

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- ▶ Insertion of cryptography at one layer of the ISO network model (the transport layer).

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  - An attribute of the user (fingerprint, retina pattern, or signature)

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- ▶ One-time passwords
  - Use a function based on a seed to compute a password, both user and computer.

# Implementing Security Defenses

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- ▶ **Vulnerability assessment** compares **real state** of a system/network to the **security policy**.
- ▶ **Intrusion detection systems** to detect **attempted or successful intrusions**.
  - **Signature-based detection** spots **known bad patterns**.
  - **Anomaly detection** spots **differences from normal behavior**.

# Implementing Security Defenses (2/2)

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- ▶ Auditing, accounting, and logging of all or specific system or network activities.

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- ▶ User authentication: password

# Questions?