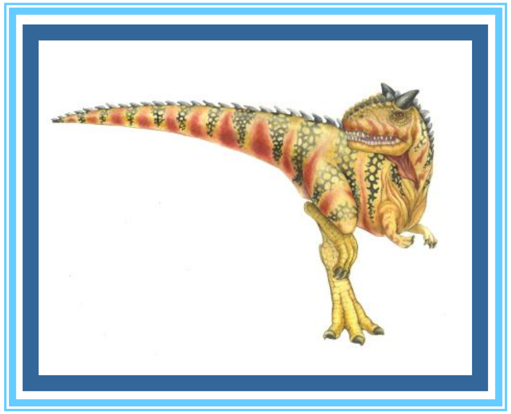
Chapter 09: Protection& Security



Chapter 09: Protection&Security

- Goals of Protection
- Principles of Protection
- Domain of Protection
- Access Matrix
- The Security Problem
- Program Threats

Objectives

- Discuss the goals and principles of protection in a modern computer system
- Explain how protection domains combined with an access matrix are used to specify the resources a process may access
- To discuss security threats and attacks

Goals of Protection

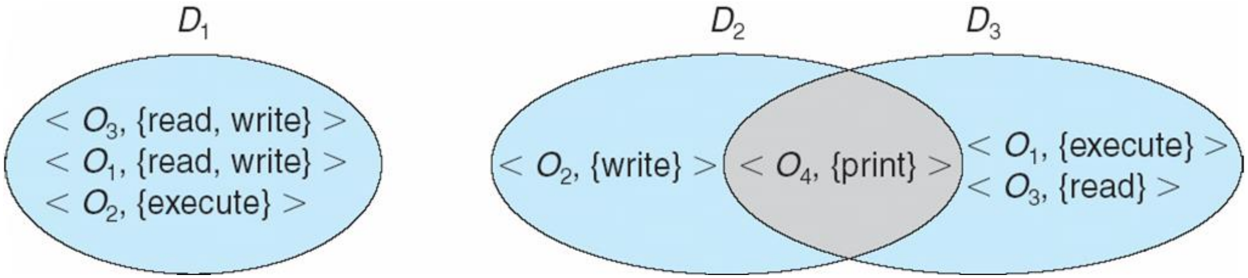
- In one protection model, computer consists of a collection of objects, hardware or software
- Each object has a unique name and can be accessed through a well-defined set of operations
- Protection problem - ensure that each object is accessed correctly and only by those processes that are allowed to do so

Principles of Protection

- Guiding principle – **principle of least privilege**
  - Programs, users and systems should be given just enough **privileges** to perform their tasks
  - Limits damage if entity has a bug, gets abused
  - Can be static (during life of system, during life of process)
  - Or dynamic (changed by process as needed) – **domain switching**, **privilege escalation**
  - “Need to know” a similar concept regarding access to data

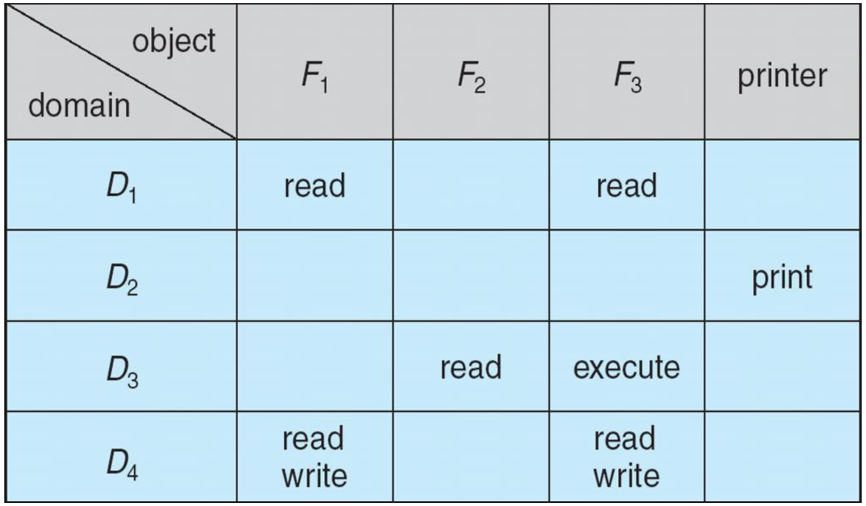
Domain Structure

- Domain can be user, process, procedure
- Access-right = <*object-name*, *rights-set*> where *rights-set* is a subset of all valid operations that can be performed on the object
- Domain = set of access-rights



Access Matrix

- View protection as a matrix (**access matrix**)
- Rows represent domains
- Columns represent objects
- **`Access(i, j)`** is the set of operations that a process executing in Domain$_i$ can invoke on Object$_j$



object domain	F_1	F_2	F_3	printer
D_1	read		read	
D_2				print
D_3		read	execute	
D_4	read write		read write	

Use of Access Matrix

- If a process in Domain D_i tries to do “op” on object O_j, then “op” must be in the access matrix
- User who creates object can define access column for that object
- Can be expanded to dynamic protection
  - Operations to add, delete access rights
  - Special access rights:
    - *owner of* O_i
    - *copy op from* O_i *to* O_j *(denoted by “*”)*
    - *control –* D_i *can modify* D_j *access rights*
    - *transfer – switch from domain* D_i *to* D_j
  - *Copy* and *Owner* applicable to an object
  - *Control* applicable to domain object

The Security Problem

- System **secure** if resources used and accessed as intended under all circumstances
  - Unachievable
- **Intruders** (**crackers**) attempt to breach security
- **Threat** is potential security violation
- **Attack** is attempt to breach security
- Attack can be accidental or malicious
- Easier to protect against accidental than malicious misuse

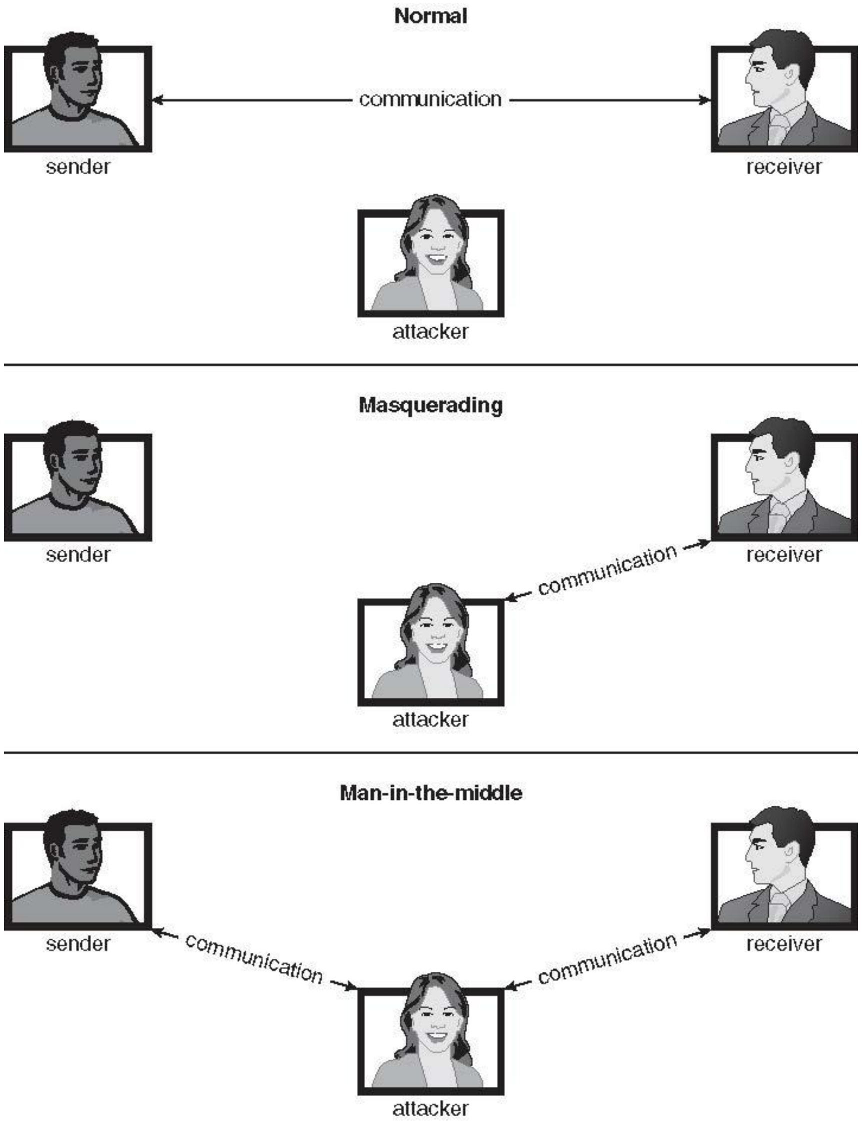
Security Violation Categories

- **Breach of confidentiality**
  - Unauthorized reading of data
- **Breach of integrity (نزاهة)**
  - Unauthorized modification of data
- **Breach of availability**
  - Unauthorized destruction of data
- **Theft of service**
  - Unauthorized use of resources
- **Denial of service (DOS)**
  - Prevention of legitimate use

Security Violation Methods

- **Masquerading** (breach **authentication**)
  - Pretending to be an authorized user to escalate privileges
- **Replay attack**
  - As is or with **message modification**
- **Man-in-the-middle attack**
  - Intruder sits in data flow, masquerading as sender to receiver and vice versa
- **Session hijacking**
  - Intercept an already-established session to bypass authentication

Standard Security Attacks



Security Measure Levels

- Impossible to have absolute security, but make cost to perpetrator sufficiently high to deter most intruders
- Security must occur at four levels to be effective:
  - **Physical**
    - Data centers, servers, connected terminals
  - **Human**
    - Avoid **social engineering**, **phishing**, **dumpster diving**
  - **Operating System**
    - Protection mechanisms, debugging
  - **Network**
    - Intercepted communications, interruption, DOS
- Security is as weak as the weakest link in the chain
- But can too much security be a problem?

Program Threats

- Many variations, many names
- **Trojan Horse**
  - Code segment that misuses its environment
  - Exploits mechanisms for allowing programs written by users to be executed by other users
  - **Spyware**, **pop-up browser windows**, **covert channels**
  - Up to 80% of spam delivered by spyware-infected systems
- **Trap Door**
  - Specific user identifier or password that circumvents normal security procedures
  - Could be included in a compiler
  - How to detect them?

Program Threats (Cont.)

- **Logic Bomb**
  - Program that initiates a security incident under certain circumstances
- **Stack** and **Buffer Overflow**
  - Exploits a bug in a program (overflow either the stack or memory buffers)
  - Failure to check bounds on inputs, arguments
  - Write past arguments on the stack into the return address on stack
  - When routine returns from call, returns to hacked address
    - Pointed to code loaded onto stack that executes malicious code
  - Unauthorized user or privilege escalation