THE SECURITY STANDARD™

Securing the Enterprise from a Dangerous Cyberworld

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The Encryption Conundrum

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From dictionary.com:
co*nun*drum/Noun

1. A confusing and difficult problem or question.

2. A question asked for amusement, typically one with a pun in its answer; a riddle.
The Question:

Is encryption ALWAYS required and is it ALWAYS practical to encrypt all private data?
The Answer:
Let’s Encrypt All Our Data!

We are security practitioners and professionals. We are smart?
We know that the bad guys can’t see our data if we encrypt it.

It’s that simple...isn’t it?
The basic questions...

• Who are we protecting the data from?
• What data are we protecting?
• When does the data require protection?
• Where is the protection required?
• Why does the data require protection?
• How are we going to do this?
Who?

• Network engineers and sysadmins should not be looking at private or confidential data.

• No unauthorized individual should be looking either.
What?

- What data has to be encrypted?
- City of New York data classified at a particular level must be encrypted in transit and at rest.
When?

- Encrypt data at rest
  - On disk
  - On backup media

- Encrypt data in transit over the wire
  - LAN
  - WAN
  - And SAN—that too is a network!
So the data has left the wire...

And now it is on some host

- First it is in memory, which is very hard to encrypt and process at the same time
- Although encryption is a great idea for non-volatile storage on mobile devices, there are key management issues
- And now you need to store the data on some permanent storage device such as disk
Where?

- Database columns (TDE)
- Fileshares and filesystems (efs, Bitlocker)
- Tapes (especially tapes that are exported outside of the datacenter!)
Data Theft Notification

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: What is the North Bronx Healthcare Network?

A: The North Bronx Healthcare Network is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, commonly called “HHC.” The Network consists of Jacobi Medical Center, North Central Bronx Hospital and two affiliated community healthcare centers: the Health Center at Tremont and the Health Center at Gun Hill. If you were a patient, or a Network workforce member, at any of these facilities between 1991 and early December 2010, you may be affected by this incident.

Q: What was this incident?

A: On December 23, 2010, computer backup tapes for two North Bronx computer systems were stolen from the truck of our vendor, GRM Information Management Services while being taken to a secure storage location. The GRM truck was parked on the street in Manhattan at the time of the theft while the driver was making a pickup from another GRM customer. Our tapes contained patient protected health information.

Please be assured that only a person with specialized knowledge and access to the right software and computer hardware would be able to view the information on the stolen tapes. However, in the interest of the safety and protection of our patients’ personal and health information, and to secure them from harm, we have arranged for each affected party, at his or her option, to receive identity protection services from Defend, the Identity Protection Network.

The North Bronx Healthcare Network regrets any inconvenience that this incident may cause you. Although we do not have any proof that your private information was accessed by any unauthorized persons, we are required by law to notify all individuals...
How?
Encryption: The path to secure commerce and data security

Secure Socket Layer (SSL)

– First 40 bit, later 56 bit, now 128 bit
– Protects data traveling “across the wire” from prying eyes
– Ensures secure online financial and e-commerce transactions by overcoming credential or credit card interception
Without SSL there would be no...

- eBay
- Amazon
- Online Banking
- Online Securities Trading
Can we encrypt it to keep it secure?

Let’s start with a local disk...

– It makes complete sense to use some type of disk or file system encryption package.

– Someone can walk about with the disk and your data, so an encrypted file system is great protection if you hold the key.
iSCSI me please...

- iSCSI offers an over-the-wire solution for encryption
- iSCSI can be tunneled through IPSEC
- iSCSI also offers other security advantages such as CHAP (describe)
Encrypted File Systems

- Not seen much in production use
- The encryption occurs on the host rather than on the SAN
- Microsoft EFS
- Linux Encryptfs
This seems difficult -- Is that why they’re called “Hard Disks”?  

• The not-for-profit Trusted Computing Group wants to make disk encryption easier.  
• Self-encrypting drive solutions based on TCG specifications enable integrated encryption and access control within the protected hardware of the drive.  
• Self-encrypting drives may provide the best solution for full disk encryption, protecting data when the machines or drives are lost or stolen.  
• TCG’s open standards provide multivendor interoperability.
Benefits of Self Encrypting Drives

- Better performance – hardware optimized
- Stronger security – always on
- Easier to use – completely transparent to users and software
- Lower TCO – no key management infrastructure required.
How is your mobile device encryption?

- iPhone/iPad?
- Android?
- Blackberry?
- Laptop?
- Netbook?

- Any mobile device that stores the encryption key onboard is not going to be so secure
- Any mobile device requiring a user to input an encryption key is not going to be seen as user friendly
Russian Company Cracks iOS 4 Hardware Encryption

Having cracked Apple iPhone backups last year, Russian security company EcomSoft appears to have found a reliable way to beat the layered encryption system used to secure data held on the smartphone itself.

Dr. John L. Dunn
Wed, May 25, 2011
Leaves a comment

IDG News Service — Having cracked Apple iPhone backups last year, Russian security company EcomSoft appears to have found a reliable way to beat the layered encryption system used to secure data held on the smartphone itself.

Since the advent of iOS 4 in June 2010, Apple (AAPL) has been able to secure data on compatible devices using a hardware encryption system called Data Protection, which stores a user's passcode key on an internal chip using 256-bit AES (AES) encryption. Adding to this, each file stored on an iOS device is secured with an individual key computed from the device's Unique ID (UID).

Apple products containing this security design include all devices from 2009 onwards, including the iPhone 3G (which can be upgraded to iOS 4), iPhone 4, iPad, iPad 2 and recent iPod Touch models.

EcomSoft has not explained how it hacked the hardware-stored key system in detail for commercial reasons, but the first point of attack appears to have been the user system passcode itself as all other keys are only vulnerable to attack once the device is in an unlocked state.
Android passwords are stored in plain text
Google says everyone is doing it

Android passwords are stored in plain text on the phone's hard drive, if you know where to look.

An Android user noticed that a password for email accounts is stored in the SQL database which in turn stores it on the phone's file system in plain text. He suggested that this was bad and Google should be encrypting or at least transforming the password.

Android Support's Andy Steadler wrote that the problem was caused by the fact that Android does not support POP3, IMAP, SMTP, and Exchange ActiveSync. All of these require that the software present the password to the server on every connection.

Android has to retain the password for as long as users need to use the account. Newer protocols don't have this problem. They allow the client to use the password one time to generate a token, save the token, and discard the password, he said.

But he pointed out that obscuring your password or encrypting it with a key stored elsewhere will not make password or data more secure. It will just be somewhat else.

Stedler implied that other email clients had the same problem. Some pretended they were more secure because they were using obscuring or encryption. However it did not mean that the password was more secure.

If a user can boot up the device and it will begin receiving email on your configured accounts, then the passwords are not truly secure, he said. All the client has done is either obfuscate, or encrypt them with another key stored somewhere else.
Solutions

• Encrypt where practical
  – SSL, sure
  – IPSEC where it works, sure
  – Databases, maybe but what about audit based solutions

• Find other solutions where not so practical
  – Database security gateways
  – Self encrypting drives

• Understand the limitations of user friendly mobile devices
  – Onboard keys make for easy targets

• Virtualize data on mobile devices to keep it secure in the datacenter
Discussion
Thank You!

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