



# Database Assessment

**Vulnerability Assessment Course**

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# Agenda



- **Introduction**
- **Configuration Guidance**
- **Operating System Configuration**
- **Database Installation**
- **Default Database Configurations**
- **Identification and Authentication**
- **Auditing and Monitoring**
- **Overview of Oracle Testing**
- **Overview of SQL Server Testing**



# Introduction

- **Database Security focuses on the use of database management systems to protect systems and data from unauthorized:**
  - Access
  - Creates
  - Reads
  - Updates
  - Deletes



# Relational Database Management Systems



## ■ Sublanguages

- Data Definition Language (DDL) defines structure
- Data Control Language (DCL) defines security/access controls
- Data Manipulation Language (DML) for data query/updates

## ■ Interface drivers – code libraries for prepare statements, execute statements, and fetch results

- SQL\*Net/Net8
- Open Database Connectivity (ODBC)
- Java Database Connectivity (JDBC)

## ■ SQL Engine interprets/executes DDL, DCL, and DML

## ■ Other Engines

- Transaction – statements either succeed or fail as a group
- Relational – integrity constraints
- Storage – data modification, commit/rollback, and backup/recovery



# Breadth of Technology

## ■ Examples of Databases

- Oracle
- Microsoft SQL
- MySQL
- DB2
- Informix
- TeraData
- Sybase

ORACLE®



Microsoft  
SQL Server



Informix

SYBASE

## ■ Examples of Database Applications

- Oracle Financials
- SAP
- SAS

TERADATA

ORACLE®  
e-businesssuite

SAS

SAP



# Considerations

- **Majority of tests performed on live production systems**
  - Limit to non-destructive testing
  - Penetration testing vs. Vulnerability Assessment/Compliance
- **Database similarities allow for similar tests**
  - Different products use different commands/procedures
  - Features are similar yet different between products
- **Must be very familiar with the product and add-ons to**
  - Eliminate false positives
  - Be taken seriously by administrators
  - Know most important product add-ons
  - Where is the database within the system architecture
  - Understand the database purpose

# Security Configuration Guidance



- **DISA Guidance – Secure Technical Implementation Guides (STIGS) and Checklists**
- **NSA Security Configuration Guidance**
- **NIST Security Configuration Checklists**
- **Center for Internet Security (CIS) Benchmarks**
- **Vendor Database Security Guidance**

# What is a STIG?



- **What is a Database STIG?**
  - Guidance on technical security policy, requirements, and implementation details
  - Covers major vendors' database product
  - Provides classification guidance for weaknesses found
- **What it is not?**
  - Step by step implementation guide
  - Guidance to be taken literally
  - Always consistent and up to date
  - Always applicable to commercial or non-DoD environments



# What Else Is It Not?

## Hackers

- highly-skilled, but few in numbers, break mostly into "challenging" systems, to punish/trade weaknesses

➤ Hackers look for new security weaknesses



## Script Kiddies

- low-skilled, but numerous, use other people's tools to break into systems
- goal is to "OWN" as many machines as possible

➤ Script Kiddies look for systems vulnerable to known exploits



## Social Engineers

- very good technical as well as social skills
- attacks are primarily directed against humans ('wetware')

➤ Social Engineers look for clues on which they can base their attacks.



## (Disgruntled) Employees

- use insider knowledge to gain system access
- motivated by curiosity or anger
- Disgruntled employees will try to damage the IT infrastructure

➤ Employees usually look for HR information (e.g. salary) or want to enrich themselves





# Common Pitfalls

- **Guidance can be out-of-date**
  - Covers only the “core” product
  - What about add-on options?
  - Some add-on options are not so optional
  - Infrastructure and system architecture in which the DB operates not taken into account
- **Familiarity with a variety of vendor add-on products or 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools used to**
  - Manage the database
  - Monitor the database
  - Backup the database
  - Perform ETL operations on the database
  - Authentication constraints imposed by tools
  - Permissions required to run tools
  - Constraints imposed by application using DB

# Operating System Configuration



- **Permissions on the OS directories and on the binary files**
  - Why bother to break into the database if you can just take the database files
- **Permissions of critical configuration files**
- **Permissions of installation, log, trace, and files**



# Database Installation

- **Root of many problems**
  - “All or nothing” option when installing some products
- **Removal of options difficult if not impossible**
  - If at all possible, vendor technical services needed in some cases
- **Demonstration code in the database and on the binary install base**
- **Java Virtual Machines (JVM) and Java Runtime Environments (JRE) inside the database and in the binary install base**
- **Fully functioning, unsecured J2EE containers**
- **DBMS version maintenance**
- **Updated patch and fix installation**

# When Your Database Looks Like The Web



Methods for HttpSoap11 - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by MITRE

Address: <http://sternschnuppe:8888/javacalout/javacalout?HelloServiceEJBHttpSoap11stub.html>

### Method Summary

<a href="#">HttpSoap11_getProperties ()</a>	Synchronous invocation of operation: <code>getProperties</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_getProperty ()</a>	Synchronous invocation of operation: <code>getProperty</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_propertyNames ()</a>	Synchronous invocation of operation: <code>propertyNames</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_sayHello ()</a>	Synchronous invocation of operation: <code>sayHello</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_getPropertiesAsync ()</a>	Asynchronous invocation of Operation: <code>getProperties</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_getPropertyAsync ()</a>	Asynchronous invocation of Operation: <code>getProperty</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_propertyNamesAsync ()</a>	Asynchronous invocation of Operation: <code>propertyNames</code>
<a href="#">HttpSoap11_sayHelloAsync ()</a>	Asynchronous invocation of Operation: <code>sayHello</code>

### HttpSoap11\_getProperties

```
string[] HttpSoap11_getProperties (string[] arrayOfString_1);
```

### HttpSoap11\_getProperty

```
string HttpSoap11_getProperty (string String_1);
```

### HttpSoap11\_propertyNames

```
string[] HttpSoap11_propertyNames ();
```

### HttpSoap11\_sayHello

```
string HttpSoap11_sayHello (string String_1);
```

Local intranet



## Default Oracle LISTENER Configuration 10g

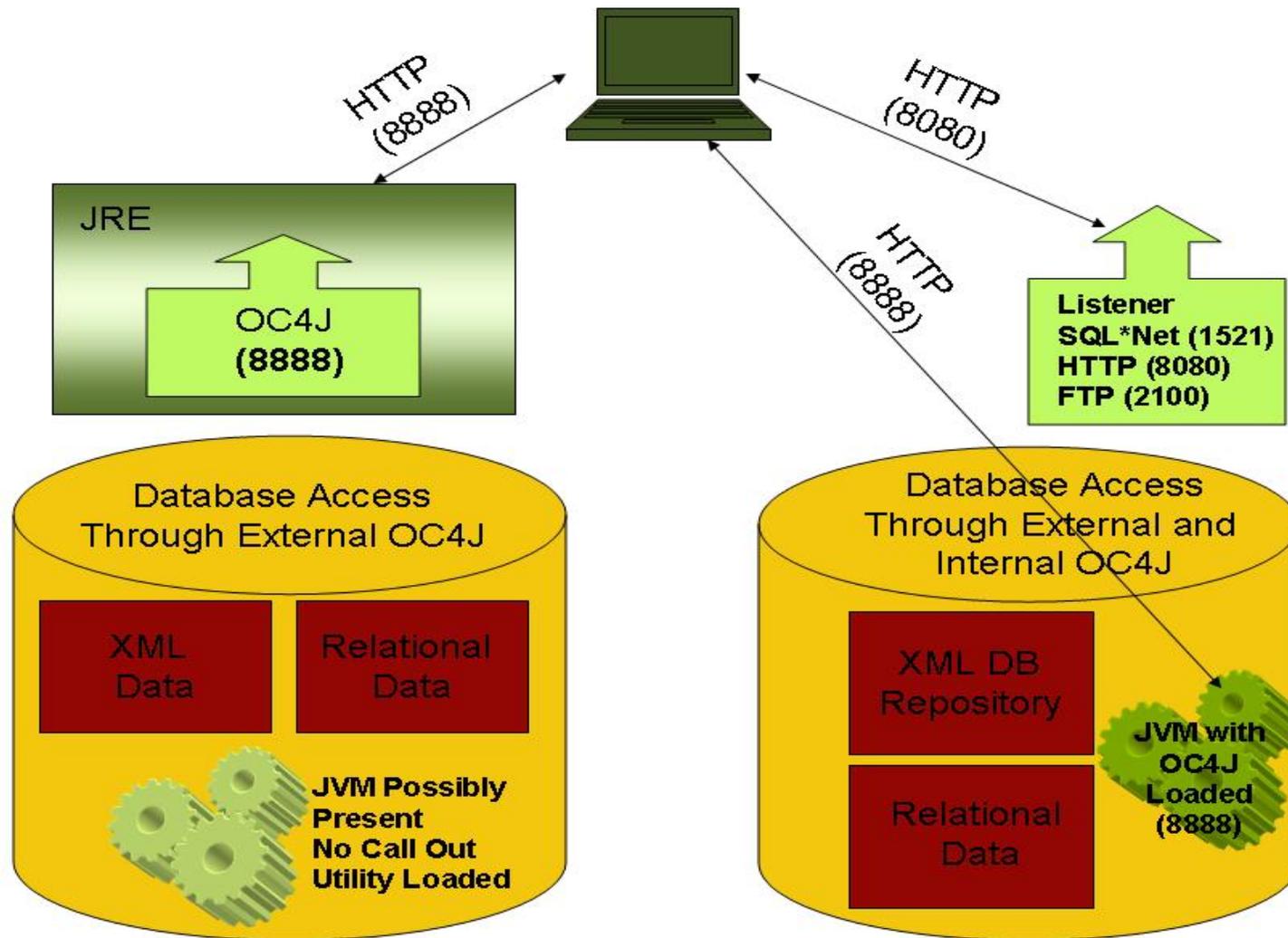
```
Telnet
$ lsnrctl status

LSNRCTL for Solaris: Version 10.2.0.1.0 - Production on 01-MAR-2007 11:45:56
Copyright (c) 1991, 2005, Oracle. All rights reserved.

Connecting to (DESCRIPTION=(ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=IPC)(KEY=EXTPROC)))
STATUS of the LISTENER
-----
Alias                     LISTENER
Version                   TNSLSNR for Solaris: Version 10.2.0.1.0 - Production
Start Date                01-MAR-2007 11:05:35
Uptime                    0 days 0 hr. 40 min. 21 sec
Trace Level               off
Security                  ON: Local OS Authentication
SNMP                      OFF
Listener Parameter File   /export/oracle/10g/network/admin/listener.ora
Listener Log File         /export/oracle/10g/network/log/listener.log
Listening Endpoints Summary...
  (DESCRIPTION=(ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=ipc)(KEY=EXTPROC)))
  (DESCRIPTION=(ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=tcp)(HOST=stephen-hayward) (PORT=1522)))
  (DESCRIPTION=(ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=tcp)(HOST=stephen-hayward) (PORT=8080))(Presentation=HTTP)(Session=RAW))
  (DESCRIPTION=(ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=tcp)(HOST=stephen-hayward) (PORT=2100))(Presentation=FTP)(Session=RAW))
Services Summary...
Service "PLSExtProc" has 1 instance(s).
  Instance "PLSExtProc", status UNKNOWN, has 1 handler(s) for this service...
Service "U880" has 1 instance(s).
  Instance "U880", status READY, has 1 handler(s) for this service...
Service "U880XDB" has 1 instance(s).
  Instance "U880", status READY, has 1 handler(s) for this service...
Service "U880_XPT" has 1 instance(s).
  Instance "U880", status READY, has 1 handler(s) for this service...
The command completed successfully
$
```



# Default Oracle 11g Database Access





# More Exploits, No Checklists

- **Previous examples showed default installation issues**
  - Database is no longer accessible with SQL\*Net only
  - JRE installed as an external component to the database
  - Internal JVM is another potential vulnerability
- **Next example demonstrates**
  - Behavior of invoker vs. definer rights
  - PUBLIC assignment of privileges
  - Exploit using both to elevate user privileges from next to none to DBA
- **What you should take away from these examples**
  - Some guidance does not always address vulnerabilities
  - Gap needs to be addressed by manual testing and ad-hoc probing
  - There are no checklists for this!

# Escalation of privileges



```
Telnet tarantella
SQL> conn system
Enter password:
Connected.
SQL> select * from dba_role_privs where grantee = 'TEST';
GRANTEE          GRANTED_ROLE      ADM DEF
-----
TEST             DBA                NO YES

SQL> conn test
Enter password:
Connected.

SQL> select username from dba_users;
USERNAME
-----
SYS
SYSTEM
DBSNMP
AUDSYS
SCOTT
HR
EMWORK
ROSLI
TEST
GLOBALUSER
LBACSYS
USERNAME
-----
OUTLN
UMSYS
ORDSYS
ORDPLUGINS
MDSYS
CTXSYS
XDB
ANONYMOUS
WKSYS
WKPROXY
ODM
USERNAME
-----
ODM_MTR
OLAPSYS
RRMAN
OE
PM
SH
QS_ADM
QS
QS_US
QS_ES
QS_OS
USERNAME
-----
QS_CBADM
QS_CB
QS_CS
36 rows selected.
SQL> _
```

- Unpatched Oracle 9i
- Create user (TEST)
- Minimal privilege (CREATE SESSION and PUBLIC privileges)
- TEST user executes CTXSYS package with rogue command
- TEST user has DBA privileges



## DBA Role

- **DBA role is very powerful and access to it should be restricted**
- **Verify that any database account granted the DBA role is explicitly authorized**
- **Individual DBA accounts should be created for each DBA**
- **DBA accounts used only for DBA functions**



# Identification and Authentication

## ■ OS-based authentication mode

- Different databases, different modes
  - MS SQL Server – Windows or server authentication
  - Oracle – OS authentication or remote authentication

## ■ Default or blank passwords

- Oracle accounts...too many!!!
  - 483 unique default accounts
  - 46 accounts have multiple default passwords, depending on version
  - 597 total default password possibilities

## ■ Oracle LISTENER security

- Local OS authentication is used for listener security in Oracle 10g and higher version
- Prior to 10g, password did not follow best practices
  - Age, strength, history, and lockout

# Oracle Connection Security



## ■ listener.ora file

- Program = extproc

```
# listener.ora Network Configuration File: C:\oracle\product\10.1.0\db_1\NETWORK\ADMIN\listener.ora
# Generated by Oracle configuration tools.

SID_LIST_LISTENER =
  (SID_LIST =
    (SID_DESC =
      (SID_NAME = PLSExtProc)
      (ORACLE_HOME = C:\oracle\product\10.1.0\db_1)
      (PROGRAM = extproc)
    )
  )
LISTENER =
  (DESCRIPTION_LIST =
    (DESCRIPTION =
      (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = IPC) (KEY = EXTPROC))
    )
    (DESCRIPTION =
      (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = TCP) (HOST = IOWACSVRSTLDB) (PORT = 1521))
    )
  )
)
```

## ■ sqlnet.ora file

- TCP.VALIDNODE\_CHECKING = yes
- TCP.INVITED\_NODES = list of accepted TCP/IP addresses
- TCP.EXCLUDED\_NODES = list of unallowed TCP/IP addresses

```
# sqlnet.ora Network Configuration File: C:\oracle\product\10.1.0\db_1\NETWORK\ADMIN\sqlnet.ora
# Generated by Oracle configuration tools.

SQLNET.AUTHENTICATION_SERVICES= (NTS)

NAMES.DIRECTORY_PATH= (TNSNAMES, EZCONNECT)
```

# Database Links and Remote Connections



- Available for almost all databases
- Are they required for this database to operate?
- Ensure that the database object containing the link and password information is not accessible



# Data Confidentiality

## ■ Data in transit

- Per default, database connections are not encrypted
- Some vendors' encryption capabilities are add-on purchases and expensive
- Consider encrypting JDBC connections

## ■ Data at rest

- Encryption of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data in the database
- Encryption of database data means
  - Examine any custom code used to encrypt data
  - Examine the encryption algorithms used and the implementation details
  - Some use Vormetric or Decru...issues with key management
- Newer versions of Oracle and SQL Server offer data encryption



# Data Integrity

- Assurance that data is consistent throughout various data operations
- Most guidance does not cover this aspect
- Application and business process dependent
- Highest levels of data integrity are in databases with rigid business process frameworks like Oracle Financials and SAP
- Both Oracle and SQL Server allow developers to wrap custom code
  - SQL Server – Encrypted Stored Procedures
  - Oracle – Database Source Code Object Encryption/Encoding

# Auditing and Monitoring – A Sore Subject



- **Auditing and Monitoring is resource intensive**
  - Human resources
  - Computing resources
- **Different audit settings for different databases**
  - Audit the privileged and database users
  - Various level of audit settings
  - Location of audit data
    - Choice of OS, DB, extended, XML (Oracle)
    - Set audit destination (SQL Server)
  - Permissions on audit data files
- **Most guidance is excessive – balance it with resources**
- **Frequently no auditing is performed at all**
- **Fine-grained auditing installed 90%, but only used 10% of time**



# Backup and Recovery

- **Main focus is on backup procedures**
  - Poor OS permissions
  - “Cold” backup files – entire database at a point in time
  - “Hot” backup or archive log files – incremental data changes written to the redo logs
- **Backup can also mean a quick export file, which may have World OS permissions**
- **Backup procedure usually involves**
  - Oracle Recovery Manager (RMAN)
  - SQL Server Management Studio
  - Third-party backup tool



# Overview of Oracle Testing

- Built-in users installed with excess privileges
- Default passwords and roles assigned to users
- Demo and sample schemas; well known passwords
- All or most users assigned to default tablespaces
- Users have SYSTEM tablespace assigned
- Every DBA uses SYSTEM or SYS account to manage database
- Database was not patched after installation
- Specific parameters left at default setting
- Default profiles used
- No or inadequate password management
- LISTENER has default port, name, and no security settings
- Audit not enabled



# Overview of SQL Server Testing

- Big differences between SQL Server 2000, 2005, and 2008
- Built-in user account name left unchanged
- Guest User account enabled in database
- SA account password left null
- SYSADMIN fixed server role assigned to BUILTIN/ Administrators
- Fixed server and database roles used instead of custom roles
- Xp\_cmdshell not removed
- Demo databases installed on the server
- DBMS object permissions granted to PUBLIC role
- SQL Server vs. Windows authentication
- Audit not enabled; audit flags not set

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# Questions

