

Database Security

Information Security



Course Outline

Course Name: Information Security

Credit Hours: 3(3-0)

Prerequisites: Data Communication and Computer Networks

Course Outline:

Basic notions of confidentiality, integrity, availability; authentication models; protection models; security kernels; Encryption, Hashing and Digital Signatures; audit; intrusion detection and response; database security, hostbased and network-based security issues operational security issues; physical security issues; personnel security; policy formation and enforcement; access controls; information flow; legal and social issues; identification and authentication in local and distributed systems; classification and trust modeling; risk assessment

Reference Materials:

1. *Computer Security: Art and Science*, Matthew Bishop
2. *Cryptography and Network Security* by William Stalling 6th Edition, 2012
3. *Principles of Information Security* 3rd E by Michael E. Whitman and Herbert J. Mattord

Database Security

- Database security refers to the **protection of databases** and the ***information stored*** within them from **unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, or destruction**.
- As databases are ***critical repositories*** of **sensitive** and **valuable data**, ensuring their security is essential for maintaining the ***confidentiality, integrity, and availability*** of information.

Database Security cont...

- Database security encompasses a range of *measures*, *controls*, and *practices* that are implemented to safeguard databases from various *threats* and *vulnerabilities*.
- These measures are designed to prevent *unauthorized access*, *detect* and *respond* to *security incidents*, and *enforce data privacy* and *regulatory compliance*.
- Let's explore some key aspects of database security in more detail:

Database Security cont...

- **Access Control**: Access control is *fundamental* to database security.
- It involves the implementation of **authentication** and **authorization** mechanisms to ensure that *only authorized individuals* or *applications* can ***access the database*** and ***perform specific actions***.
- Access control includes user management, role-based access control (RBAC), and the principle of *least privilege*, where users are ***granted only the necessary privileges*** to perform their tasks.

Database Security cont...

- **Encryption**: Encryption is a *crucial technique* for protecting data at *rest* and in *transit*.
- It involves the use of *cryptographic algorithms* to transform sensitive data into an *unreadable format* that can only be *decrypted* with the appropriate encryption key.
- Encryption can be applied at the database level, column level, or file level, providing an *additional layer of protection* against unauthorized access.

Database Security cont...

- **Data Masking and Redaction:** Data *masking* and *redaction* techniques are used to hide or obfuscate sensitive data within the database, while still allowing it to be *used for* testing, development, or reporting purposes.
- **Masking** replaces sensitive data with *realistic* but *non-sensitive values*, while **redaction** *removes* or *replaces* sensitive data based on *predefined rules*, ensuring that only authorized users can view the original values.

Database Security cont...

- **Auditing and Monitoring:** Database auditing involves tracking and recording database activities, such as user logins, queries, modifications, and system events.
- Auditing enables the detection of suspicious or unauthorized activities and provides an audit trail for forensic investigations and compliance purposes.
- Real-time monitoring tools can analyze database logs and generate alerts for potential security incidents or policy violations.

Database Security cont...

- **Data Backup and Recovery**: Regular backups are crucial for database security.
- They ensure the availability and recoverability of data in the event of data loss, system failures, or security breaches.
- Backup strategies should include offsite storage, versioning, and periodic testing of restore processes to ensure the integrity of the backup data.

Database Security cont...

- **Vulnerability Management**: Regular vulnerability assessments and patch management are essential for addressing security weaknesses in the database software and underlying infrastructure.
- Vulnerability scanning tools can identify known vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, or weaknesses that could be exploited by attackers.
- Prompt patching and updates help mitigate these vulnerabilities and protect against known threats.

Database Security cont...

- **Data Privacy and Compliance:** Database security must comply with relevant data privacy regulations, industry standards, and organizational policies.
- This includes implementing measures to protect personally identifiable information (PII), sensitive financial data, or other regulated data.
- Compliance requirements may involve data encryption, access controls, audit trails, and privacy impact assessments.

Database Security cont...

- **Security Awareness and Training:** Human factors play a significant role in database security.
- Employees and database administrators should receive ongoing security awareness training to understand security risks, best practices, and the importance of protecting sensitive data.
- Training should cover topics such as password hygiene, social engineering awareness, and secure coding practices.

Database Security cont...

- Database security is a multifaceted discipline that requires a comprehensive approach to protect databases and the information they contain.
- It involves implementing strong access controls, encrypting sensitive data, monitoring for unauthorized activities, conducting vulnerability assessments, ensuring data privacy, and fostering a security-conscious culture.
- By employing robust database security measures, organizations can safeguard their data assets, maintain compliance, and mitigate the risks associated with data breaches or unauthorized access.