Unit Outline: KXA262/362 Computer Security

Semester 2, 2006
Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart
Newnham Campus, Launceston

Prerequisites
KXA151 or KXA152

Corequisites
None

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

Unit Coordinator
Jacky Hartnett

Lecturing Staff
Newnham Campus, Launceston: Jacky Hartnett
Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart: Soon-ja Yeom

Scheduled Teaching Sessions
Lectures: 3 hr/wk
Tutorials: 1 hr/wk (from week 2)
The Unit Timetable can be accessed from the Study Resources section of the School website. (http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp).

Unit Website
The unit website is accessed from http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/. You will need to use your university email pop account username and password to log on to the WebCT system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyWebCT area will be displayed. It contains links to the websites that you have permission to access - including the website for this unit.
This unit is Web Dependent: content & communication. This means that you will need to use the Web for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources.
If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the University IT help desk: Entrance Level, Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus;
Entrance Level, Launceston Campus Library, Newnham Campus.
Telephone: 6226 1818 and 1300 304 903.
The 1300 number is a local call from within Tas, with the exception of mobiles.
Email: servicedesk@utas.edu.au
Website: http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html

Provider
School of Computing - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology.
http://www.comp.utas.edu.au

OVERVIEW

Introduction
This advanced computing elective aims to introduce students to the principles behind the techniques and strategies that can be used to keep computer systems at a desired level of security. It is designed to alert anyone who might have responsibility for a computer system to the security issues that they should consider and equip them with an understanding of how to establish the threats that they might face and the ability to evaluate the techniques that they can use to counter these threats.

These techniques include threat and risk analysis, the characteristics of encryption algorithms and how to use these to achieve particular security goals, authentication techniques, operating system and network security, Internet security and associated protocols, concluding with business continuity planning.

Prior Learning
It is assumed that students:
• can use binary and hexadecimal notation plus simple logic functions
• that they are used to using systems that require them to identify and authenticate themselves, prior to being provided with access to resources that match their status in the system
• that they understand simple networking concepts

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Analyse the threats and vulnerabilities in computer systems and evaluate countermeasures
2. Use the principles underlying security countermeasures such as policies, physical security, access control, cryptography, operating system security and network security techniques and justify the application of these
3. Evaluate the various protocols for electronic authentication of identity
4. Explain the process of creating a business continuity plan
5. Work in a team to research and produce a solution to a problem concerning a computer security technique, application or problem

Unit Content

The following timetable provides an indication of the planned lecture topics content.

1. Overview of unit content and introductory concepts
2. Threats, Risk Analysis and Security policies
3. Established Business Techniques
4. Physical Access Control
5. Authentication and Logical Access Control
6. Cryptography and cryptographic algorithms
7. Hash algorithms and SNPMv3
8. Symmetric key algorithms and Kerberos
9. Public key algorithms and digital signatures
10. Security in Operating systems
11. Security standards
12. Network Security
13. Firewalls
14. Intrusion Detection
15. Public Key Ownership and PKI
16. Protocols for securing Internet Transactions
17. Inference Attacks
18. Business Continuity Planning

For more information see the section titled 'Content' on the unit website.

Generic Skills

The university has defined a set of generic graduate attributes expected in its graduates. Your course is designed to enable you to develop generic skills that are valued in, and expected of, graduates. These are skills that you will need to develop over time. Hence you are encouraged to look for opportunities, as you study each unit, to reflect on and improve these skills.

In this unit these skills are specifically targeted:

Knowledge: Students will have the opportunity to apply their technical and information skills and learn co-operatively by working together in the assignment case study.
Communication Skills: Students will further develop their communication skills and ability to write reports by giving presentations in tutorials and submitting a written tender proposal.
Problem-solving skills: Students will be required to conceptualise problems and formulate a range of solutions by working effectively with others to produce a written tender proposal.
Social Responsibility: Students will learn to acknowledge the social and ethical implications of their actions by examining the results of hacking and computer fraud.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Approach to Learning

You are expected to spend about 130 hrs studying in this unit - this includes attendance at scheduled teaching sessions. (For a 13 week semester this is, on average, 10 hr/wk.) This is the amount of study time that the ‘typical’ student will need to reach the level of competence and understanding required to fulfil the unit objectives.

You are expected to:

- attend all scheduled lectures and tutorials, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in lectures and tutorials
- complete the assigned learning tasks
- review what has been learnt
- complete assessment items and submit them on time
- access and be familiar with the information and resources available on the unit website
- seek help from teaching staff if you have any questions or difficulties in studying this unit

You will also be expected to spend time working with members of your assignment group.

You are encouraged to read the university’s Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning. Part A describes the ‘Responsibility of the University to Students’ and part B describes the ‘Responsibilities of Students to the University’. http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/codes.html

Schedule

See the ‘Schedule’ section on the unit website.
Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching Staff

Unit Coordinator:

Jacky Hartnett  
E-Mail: J.Hartnett@utas.edu.au  
Phone: (03) 6324 3392  
Room: V120, Newnham Campus, Launceston

Lecturing Staff

Newnham Campus, Launceston: Jacky Hartnett  
Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart: Soon-ja Yeom

School Help Desk

Contact the School Help Desk if you have any queries or problems with accessing, using, or printing from the computers in the School of Computing labs.

- **Hobart**: the Help Desk is located near the School's reception desk and is open from 10am - 4pm Monday-Friday. The phone number is 6226 2960.
- **Launceston**: the Help Desk is located near the entrance to the computing labs and is open in the morning from 10am - 12pm, and in the afternoon from 2pm - 4:30pm, Monday-Thursday. On Fridays it is open from 10am - 12pm in the morning and 2pm - 4pm in the afternoon. The phone number is 6324 3447.
- **Burnie**: the computer labs at the NWC are maintained by ITS. Please contact the University Help Desk for assistance. The 6 Macs are maintained by the School of Computing. If you have a query or problem that is specific to the School of Computing please phone the School of Computing Help Desk in Launceston.

University Services and Support

The University has staff available to assist you, such as the:

- Learning Development Advisor
- Student Counselor
- Careers Advisor
- Disability Officer

For more information and contact details see the Services and Support section on the University 'Current Students' web page. [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

Resources

Unit Website

The unit website contains unit information and resources. You are strongly recommended to look at and use the resources that it are contained on the web site. This is because much of it supports your assignment work or is designed to help you with your examination preparation. General feedback on assignments and other questions raised by the class will also be provided on this site.

Prescribed Text


This is out of print in Australia and available for purchase as a photocopy from UniPrint or from the bookshop as an import from the USA.

Readings

A reading list, together with comments on the useful sections, can be found on the unit website.

Software

The software that you will need to access the unit website and to study this unit, including general purpose software such as word processors, is provided on the computers in the School's computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.

You will be required to use the freeware version of the email secuirty package, GPG. Instructions on how to use this software that is installed for use in the labs can be obtained from the School Help Desk. However, in order that your GPG key ring can be stored between sessions of use, you will first need an account on either lawson or alacritas.  
Should you wish to install GPG on your own computer then this software is available on the 2006 School CD.
Computing Facilities

The School has PC labs (Windows XP), Mac labs (Mac OS-X 10.4), and Networking labs at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses. It also maintains 6 Macs (Mac OS-X 10.4) at the NW Centre. Unix accounts can be accessed from all Macs and PCs.

If you have not used these facilities before please contact the School Help Desk to organise your account details. If you would like to access the facilities at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses after hours please contact the School Help Desk.

Please contact the School Help Desk if you have difficulty accessing or using these facilities.

Use of Facilities

Use of computing facilities provided by the School is subject to the School’s Ethics Guidelines - http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/ethics.jsp. Copies of the guidelines are also available in all School labs. The School's facilities may only be used for study-related purposes, and may not be used for personal gain. The playing of games is strictly prohibited in all labs at all times. Before being granted access to the School’s facilities, you will be required to sign a declaration that you have read and understand these guidelines, and that you will abide by them. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate the guidelines.

Occupational Health and Safety

The university is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. For more information see http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Items

Item 1
Title: Assignment 1 - Cuckoo’s Egg Analysis
Type: In-Semester - individual assignment
Weighting: 10%
Due: 3pm Monday August 14th

This assignment requires you to read the book 'The Cuckoo's Egg'. There may be an opportunity for approved students to undertake an alternative assessment task to replace reading the book.

Item 2
Title: Assignment 2 - Tender Proposal for a Case Study
Type: In-Semester - group project
Weighting: 20%
Due: 3pm Monday 9th October

This is a large piece of work: a group of 5 will produce around 40 pages of report. Students are advised to work steadily throughout semester on this assignment and not to leave it to the last week or so.

To encourage this approach, there are 6 tutorials devoted to the work required for this assignment during semester.

This assignment may be undertaken as an individual assignment, with permission.

Item 3
Title: Formal Examination
Type: Formal Examination
Weighting: 70%
Due: University Examination Period

Students are allowed to take two A4 sides of handwritten notes into the exam. These notes are handed in with the exam paper.

See the 'Assessment' section in unit website for more detailed information about assessment items.

In-Semester Assessment

Unless specifically stated in the specification of the assessment item provided on the unit website, it is required that:
work submitted by a student is the work of that student alone OR
where the assessment item is to be completed by a group of students, the work submitted
by the group of students is the work of that group of students alone.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or
inventions and representing them as your own, for example:

- using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source;
- using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation; or
- copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments,
please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by
penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious
of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be
imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see

The University reserves the right to submit assignments to plagiarism detection software, and
might then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism
checking.

Referencing

The university document on plagiarism contains information about referencing the work or ideas
of others. (See http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/) The preferred text referencing systems for
the School is the Harvard system (also referred to as the author-date system).

Submissions

The details of the submission method (paper, electronic or other) for each assignment will be
supplied in a separate assignment specification sheet. All in-semester assignment submissions
(including electronic submissions) are to include an Assignment Cover Sheet which includes a
statement confirming that the submission is your own work. If this undertaking is not signed, the
assignment will not be marked. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available from the School Help

Extensions

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in

Formal Examination

The formal examination is conducted by the University Registrar. The 'Current Students' section
on the university website contains information about the conduct of, and timetable for, formal
examinations.

The School requires that a student enrolled in this unit must attend at least two thirds of the
tutorials. Attendance records will be kept by the School, and a student not attending the
minimum number of tutorials will be excluded from the examination unless specifically permitted
to take the examination by the Head of the School.

Final Grade

Overall assessment will be based on the student's performance throughout the semester as well
as in a formal examination. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

1. at least 45% of the total mark for in-semester assessment items
2. at least 45% of the mark for the formal examination
3. at least 50% of the overall mark

In order to comply with the benchmarks set by the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology
both in-semester and examination marks may be scaled either up or down. The benchmarks can
be found as part of the Faculty Assessment Guidelines at:

Passing grades will be awarded based on the AVCC guidelines:

- PP at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD at least 80% of the overall mark
The maximum mark awarded to a student who fails the unit will be 44.

For more information, including other grades such as Supplementary and Terminating grades, see the School of Computing's guidelines for assessment - available at: