

SOFTWARE SECURITY ASSURANCE SUMMIT

December 1, 2010 | Westin Tysons Corner | Falls Church, VA



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Understanding Software Security

In Support of Federal Compliance

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Is this Software Security?

- FISMA
- NIST 800-53
- NIST 800-53A
- NIST 800-37
- NIST 800-64
- NIST 800-115
- DISA STIG Application Security
- DoDI 8510.01 (DIACAP)
- HSPD-7
- HPSD-12
- ICD 503
- Appendix III to OMB Circular No. A-130



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Software Security Assurance

- ***Software*** – the code that we develop, buy, or get for free
- ***Security*** – being free of dangers, threats, or vulnerabilities
- ***Assurance*** – positive declaration of justified confidence



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Cost of fixing vulnerabilities

Code Fixes After Release = 30X Fixes During Design

Cost Is Highest After Application Deployed

30X+

15X

10X

5X

2X

REQUIREMENTS/
ARCHITECTURE

CODING

INTEGRATION/COMPONENT
TESTING

SYSTEM ACCEPTANCE
TESTING

PRODUCTION

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT LIFECYCLE 

Source: NIST



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Foundation for an SSA Program



Governance



Construction



Verification



Deployment



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Critical SSA Practices



Governance



Strategy & Metrics



Policy & Compliance



Education & Guidance



Construction



Security Requirements



Threat Assessment



Secure Architecture



Verification



Design Review



Code Review



Security Testing



Deployment



Vulnerability Management



Environment Hardening



Operational Enablement



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Forging an SSA Program

- **Given:**
 - Federal regulations are splintered when it comes to software security
 - A complete SSA Program should account for all 12 key security practices
- **Therefore:**
 - Formulate a set of controls (detective and preventative) for your organization
 - Map these controls back to regulations (where they exist) for compliance auditing
 - Implement the controls in your organization
 - Assess and monitor the controls continuously (and tune them as needed)

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SSA Quick Wins & Challenges



Governance



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Education & Guidance



EG 1

- Educate ALL programmers
- Leverage HR for on-ramping of employees
- Budget time to bring legacy employees up to speed
- Develop project-specific guidance, e.g., How-Tos
- **OWASP Top Ten 2010**
- **OWASP Development Guide**



Construction



Threat Assessment



TA 1



TA 3

- Create at least one threat modeling diagram, e.g., data flow diagram
- Construct abuse cases
- Identify risk from third-party frameworks, e.g., consult the **Fortify Open Review Project**
 - <https://opensource.fortify.com>
- **OWASP Application Threat Modeling**



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Secure Architecture



SA 1



SA 3

- Identify Security Design Patterns for the project
- Build list of recommended software frameworks
- Don't create secure components from scratch
- **OWASP Secure Coding Practices – Quick Reference Guide**
- **The CSSLP Prep Guide**



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Security Requirements



SR 1



SR 3

- Identify how common security tasks will be accomplished
- Integrate into the IDE and automate
- Identify and mitigate common weaknesses in chosen programming languages
- Specify requirements for protecting data at rest and in transit
- OWASP Enterprise Security API (ESAPI) Project
- OWASP Legal Project



Verification



Code Review



CR 1

- Provide specific remediation advice !
- Use automation to inform manual review
- Delegate different tasks to different roles
- **OWASP Code Review Guide**



Verification



Security Testing



ST 1

- Provide specific remediation advice !
- Perform security testing in QA
- Correlate black box and white box results
- Use automation to inform manual testing
- **OWASP Testing Guide**
- **OWASP Application Security Verification Standard**



Deployment



Environment Hardening



EH 1

- Follow secure configuration guidelines, e.g., CIS, DISA, NIST, OWASP for Web Server, Web Application Server, and Database Server
- Automate hardening process using recommended tools
- Establish secure baseline and document deviations
- **OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set**



Deployment



Vulnerability Management



VM 1

- Establish process for scanning and reporting on Web architecture
- Establish process for Web-architecture security incidents
- Establish process for inventory and tracking of applications



OWASP

The Open Web Application Security Project

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- OWASP Top Ten 2010
- OWASP Development Guide
- OWASP Secure Coding Practices Checklist
- OWASP Application Threat Modeling
- OWASP Legal Project
- OWASP Enterprise Security API (ESAPI) Project
- OWASP Application Security Verification Standard
- OWASP Code Review Guide
- OWASP Testing Guide
- OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set
- Many more ... <http://www.owasp.org>



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Challenges

- Money is silo'ed at the program or project level
- Agency-wide activity versus program or project-specific activity
- Every program buys a different tool to do the same job
- The Agency doesn't approach the vendor as a unified entity to get the best licensing terms
- You have tools but few resources trained and dedicated
- Accountability when something goes wrong
- Incentives do not exist; no punishment for bad behavior; no reward for good behavior
- Should the contract organization or the government bear the cost?



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Q&A