Metrics for Insights on State of Application Security

Veracode, Inc.

Presented by:
Ashish Larivee, Veracode
Betsy Nichols, PlexLogic

Is there lead paint in your code?
Who we are

Ashish Larivee
Veracode

Ashish Larivee is currently Vice President of Business Development at Veracode and is responsible for driving Veracode’s global partnering strategy. Previously, as Vice President of Product Management, she was responsible for the direction, definition and design of Veracode’s core cloud-based security service and was a key contributor to the initial launch of the service as well as the company. As one of the early members of the team at Veracode, she was instrumental in defining and executing the strategic and technical vision of the company. Prior to Veracode, Ashish was Director of Product Marketing at Novell Inc. for their Identity, Access Management and Web Services business as well as having held several product strategy, marketing and technical positions at SilverStream and BBN. Ashish has her Masters in Computer Science and has been involved in the software industry for the last 18 years both in the U.S and in India.

Elizabeth A. Nichols, Ph.D.
PlexLogic

Betsy Nichols is Co-Founder and CTO of PlexLogic LLC. Over her 30 year career, she has applied mathematics and computer technologies to develop systems for war gaming, economic modeling, reliability growth analysis, system performance optimization, industrial process control, network and systems management, and most recently, security metrics. She has started three companies, the most recent being PlexLogic. Founded in 2008, PlexLogic offers a Metrics On-Demand service called MetricsCenter which offers both a for-profit security metrics service at www.metricscenter.net as well as an open and free public resource for security metrics at www.MetricsCenter.org. She has helped organize several MetriCon and MetriSEC Workshops and has contributed chapters on security metrics to two books: Andrew Jaquith’s book published by Addison-Wesley in 2007 and a new O’Reilly book called “Beautiful Security” for release in April 2009. Betsy graduated with an A.B. from Vassar College and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Duke University.
Outline

1. Basis for insights on software security
2. Dataset and Sample Distribution
3. Overall state of software security
4. Industry segment and supplier type
5. OWASP and SANS standards
6. Top Vulnerabilities in our dataset
7. Visualization aids
8. Technology
Background – Basis for insights

- For over three years, Veracode has been providing automated security analysis of software to large and small enterprises across various industry segments.
- One of the residual effects is the wealth of security metrics derived from the anonymized data across varied industries and types of applications.
- These metrics offer valuable insights on the quality of application security and issues related to the current state-of-practice and maturity of security in software.
- Veracode was founded in 2006 by application security experts from @stake, Guardent, Symantec, and VeriSign.
- Veracode provides automated security assessment capabilities in the cloud. Automated techniques include static binary analysis and dynamic analysis. Manual test data (if performed) is included in the analysis.
The Data Set + Metrics

- **Enterprise**
  - Industry vertical (enumerated)

- **Application**
  - Application Supplier Type
    - (internal, purchased, outsourced, open source)
  - Application Type
    - (Web facing / Non-web)
  - Assurance Level (1 to 5)
  - Language (enumerated)
  - Platform (enumerated)

- **Scan**
  - Scan Number
  - Scan Date
  - Lines of Code

- **Metrics**
  - Flaw Count
  - FlawPercent
  - ApplicationCount
  - First Scan Acceptance Rate
  - Veracode Risk Adjusted Score
  - MeanTimeBetweenScans
  - Days to Remediation
  - Scans to Remediation
  - PCI pass/fail
  - SANS Top25 pass/fail
  - OWASP pass/fail
    - Two flavors: ’04 and ’07
Good News – Statistically significant sample size

- Sample size this large enable us to report findings with a reasonable degree of confidence:
  - Type I Error
    - Probability of stating that something is FALSE when it is in fact TRUE: < .05
  - Type II Error
    - Probability of stating that something is TRUE when it is in fact FALSE: < .20

- Margins of Error for estimates of various metrics:
  - Flaw Count: 10%
  - First Scan Acceptance Rate: 15%
  - Veracode Risk Adjusted Score: 10%
  - Remediation Time: 10%
Majority of software is insecure

Pass: 42%

Fail: 58%

From all (self-selected) set of applications that were submitted to Veracode for assessment
Financial Services and Government fare best
Software not so much

Application Performance by Industry on First Submission
(Adjusted for Business Criticality)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Not Acceptable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Industries</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-related</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software-related</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internal Apps have Best First Scan Acceptance Rate

Supplier Performance on First Submission
(Adjusted for Business Criticality)

- **Outsourced***: 43% Acceptable, 57% Not Acceptable
- **Open Source**: 41% Acceptable, 59% Not Acceptable
- **Internally Developed**: 49% Acceptable, 51% Not Acceptable
- **Commercial**: 29% Acceptable, 71% Not Acceptable
Commercial has longest remediation cycles

while Open Source is shortest
Majority not compliant with OWASP or SANS Top 25

OWASP Top 10 Compliance by Supplier on First Submission

- **Outsourced**: 4% Acceptable, 96% Not Acceptable
- **Open Source**: 53% Acceptable, 47% Not Acceptable
- **Internally Developed**: 12% Acceptable, 88% Not Acceptable
- **Commercial**: 37% Acceptable, 63% Not Acceptable

CWE/SANS Top 25 Compliance by Supplier on First Submission

- **Outsourced**: 6% Acceptable, 94% Not Acceptable
- **Open Source**: 39% Acceptable, 61% Not Acceptable
- **Internally Developed**: 30% Acceptable, 70% Not Acceptable
- **Commercial**: 38% Acceptable, 62% Not Acceptable
All Applications Suffer Least from SANS Top 25 Flaws
Cryptographic Issues Most Common in Applications

Top Vulnerability Categories (Percent of Application Affected)

- Cryptographic Issues: 44%
- Information Leakage: 37%
- Cross-site Scripting (XSS): 33%
- Directory Traversal: 29%
- CRLF Injection: 25%
- Time and State: 23%
- SQL Injection: 20%
- Credentials Management: 18%
- Numeric Errors: 15%
- Error Handling: 15%
- API Abuse: 13%
- Buffer Overflow: 13%
- Encapsulation: 8%
- Buffer Management Errors: 8%
- Insufficient Input Validation: 7%

Figure 11: Top Vulnerability Categories (Percent of Application Affected)
Cross-site Scripting easy to fix but still most prevalent

Flaw Percent = Flaw Count / Total

This yields a very Different List
Visualization using metrics – Fix First Chart

Veracode recommends that developers prioritize remediation efforts in terms of a combination of flaw severity and effort, with high severity/low effort flaws being prioritized to “fix first”.

Click on the red circles to the left to browse your application flaws by their “fix first” status.
C# and WinTel Leads on First Scan Acceptance Rate

Veracode: First Scan Acceptance Rate Vs Industry
Sun Feb 28 12:00:29 2010

- Unknown
- Java
- C/C++
- C#

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- WinTel
- Unknown
- Solaris
- Mobile
- Linux
- Java
More in a detailed report launched today

State of Software Security Report
The Intractable Problem of Insecure Software
March 5, 2010
Thank You

Questions?