INFS 766
Internet Security Protocols

Lecture 9
Kerberos

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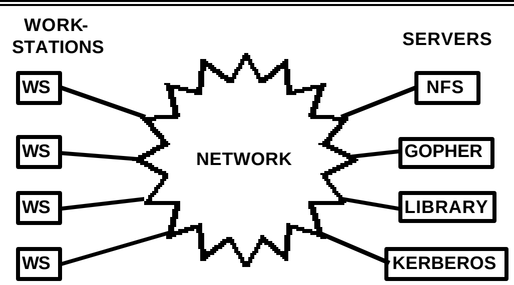
SYSTEM MODEL



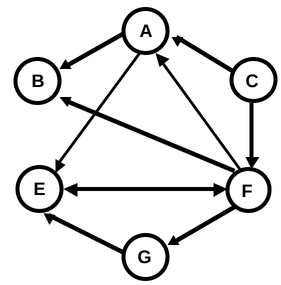
PHYSICAL SECURITY

- **CLIENT WORKSTATIONS**
  - **None, so cannot be trusted**
- **SERVERS**
  - **Moderately secure rooms, with moderately diligent system administration**
- **KERBEROS**
  - **Highly secure room, with extremely diligent system administration**

KERBEROS OBJECTIVES

- **provide authentication between any pair of entities**
- **primarily used to authenticate user-at-workstation to server**
- **in general, can be used to authenticate two or more secure hosts to each other on an insecure network**
- **servers can build authorization and access control services on top of Kerberos**

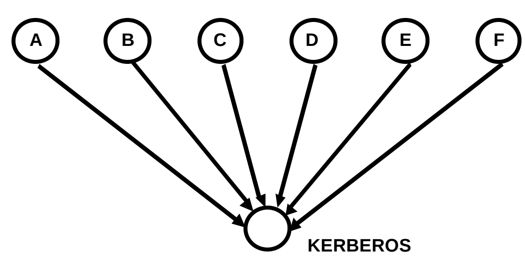
TRUST: BILATERAL RHOSTS MODEL



A → B

A trusts B
A will allow users logged onto B to log onto A without a password

TRUST: CONSOLIDATED KERBEROS MODEL



TRUST:
CONSOLIDATED KERBEROS MODEL

- **breaking into one host provides a cracker no advantage in breaking into other hosts**
- **authentication systems can be viewed as trust propagation systems**
  - **the Kerberos model is a centralized star model**
  - **the rhosts model is a tangled web model**

WHAT KERBEROS DOES NOT DO

- **makes no sense on an isolated system**
- **does not mean that host security can be allowed to slip**
- **does not protect against Trojan horses**
- **does not protect against viruses/worms**

KERBEROS DESIGN GOALS

- **IMPECCABILITY**
  - **no cleartext passwords on the network**
  - **no client passwords on servers (server must store secret server key)**
  - **minimum exposure of client key on workstation (smartcard solution would eliminate this need)**
- **CONTAINMENT**
  - **compromise affects only one client (or server)**
  - **limited authentication lifetime (8 hours, 24 hours, more)**
- **TRANSPARENCY**
  - **password required only at login**
  - **minimum modification to existing applications**

KERBEROS DESIGN DECISIONS

- **Uses timestamps to avoid replay. Requires time synchronized within a small window (5 minutes)**
- **Uses DES-based symmetric key cryptography**
- **stateless**

KERBEROS VERSIONS

- **We describe Kerberos version 4 as the base version**
- **Kerberos version 5 fixes many shortcomings of version 4, and is described here by explaining major differences with respect to version 4**

NOTATION

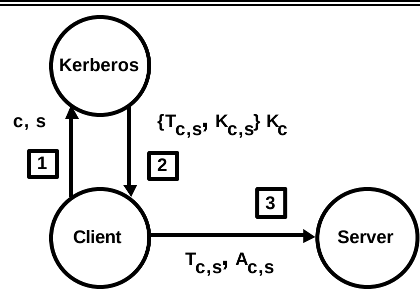
c	**client principal**
s	**server principal**
K_x	**secret key of "x" (known to x and Kerberos)**
$K_{c,s}$	**session key for "c" and "s" (generated by Kerberos and distributed to c and s)**
$\{P\}K_q$	**P encrypted with K_q**
$T_{c,s}$	**ticket for "c" to use "s"(given by Kerberos to c and verified by s)**
$A_{c,s}$	**authenticator for "c" to use "s" (generated by c and verified by s)**

TICKETS AND AUTHENTICATORS

- $T_{c,s}$ = {s, c, addr, $time_o$, life, $K_{c,s}$}K_s
- $A_{c,s}$ = {c, addr, $time_a$}$K_{c,s}$

- addr is the IP address, adds little removed in version 5

SESSION KEY DISTRIBUTION



USER AUTHENTICATION

- for user to server authentication, client key is the user's password (converted to a DES key via a publicly known algorithm)

TRUST IN WORKSTATION

- untrusted client workstation has K_c
- is expected to delete it after decrypting message in step 2
- compromised workstation can compromise one user
- compromise does not propagate to other users

AUTHENTICATION FAILURES

- Ticket decryption by server yields garbage
- Ticket timed out
- Wrong source IP address
- Replay attempt

KERBEROS IMPERSONATION

- active intruder on the network can cause denial of service by impersonation of Kerberos IP address
- network monitoring at multiple points can help detect such an attack by observing IP impersonation

KERBEROS RELIABILITY

- availability enhanced by keeping slave Kerberos servers with replicas of the Kerberos database
- slave databases are read only
- simple propagation of updates from master to slaves

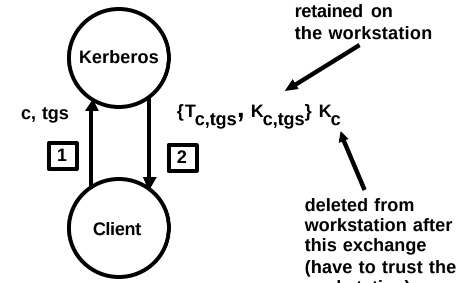
USE OF THE SESSION KEY

- Kerberos establishes a session key $K_{c,s}$
- session key can be used by the applications for
  - client to server authentication (no additional step required in the protocol)
  - mutual authentication (requires fourth message from server to client $\{f(A_{c,s})\}K_{c,s}$, where f is some publicly known function)
  - message confidentiality using $K_{c,s}$
  - message integrity using $K_{c,s}$

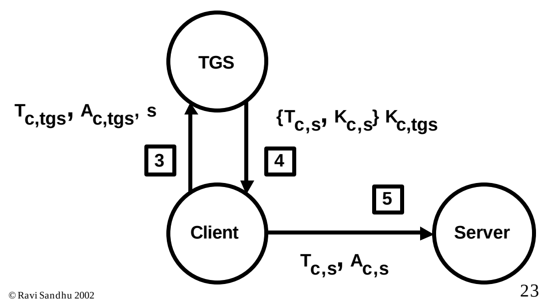
TICKET-GRANTING SERVICE

- Problem: Transparency
  - user should provide password once upon initial login, and should not be asked for it on every service request
  - workstation should not store the password, except for the brief initial login
- Solution: Ticket-Granting Service (TGS)
  - store session key on workstation in lieu of password
  - TGS runs on same host as Kerberos (needs access to K_c and K_s keys)

TICKET-GRANTING SERVICE



TICKET-GRANTING SERVICE



TICKET LIFETIME

- Life time is minimum of:
  - requested life time
  - max lifetime for requesting principal
  - max lifetime for requesting service
  - max lifetime of ticket granting ticket
- Max lifetime is 21.5 hours

NAMING

- Users and servers have same name format:
  - name.instance@realm
- Example:
  - sandhu@isse.gmu.edu
  - sandhu.root@isse.gmu.edu
  - rcmd.ipc4@isse.gmu.edu
  - rcmd.csis@isse.gmu.edu
- Mapping of Kerberos authentication names to local system names is left up to service provider

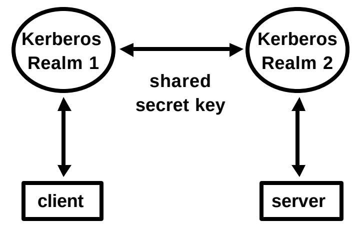
KERBEROS V5 ENHANCEMENTS

- Naming
  - Kerberos V5 supports V4 names, but also provides for other naming structures such as X.500 and DCE
- Timestamps
  - V4 timestamps are Unix timestamps (seconds since 1/1/1970). V5 timestamps are in OSI ASN.1 format.
- Ticket lifetime
  - V4 tickets valid from time of issue to expiry time, and limited to 21.5 hours.
  - V5 tickets have start and end timestamps. Maximum lifetime can be set by realm.

KERBEROS V5 ENHANCEMENTS

- Kerberos V5 tickets are renewable, so service can be maintained beyond maximum ticket lifetime.
- Ticket can be renewed until min of:
  - requested end time
  - start time + requesting principal's max renewable lifetime
  - start time + requested server's max renewable lifetime
  - start time + max renewable lifetime of realm

KERBEROS INTER-REALM AUTHENTICATION



KERBEROS INTER-REALM AUTHENTICATION

- Kerberos V4 limits inter-realm interaction to realms which have established a shared secret key
- Kerberos V5 allows longer paths
- For scalability one may need public-key technology for inter-realm interaction

KERBEROS DICTIONARY ATTACK

- First two messages reveal known-plaintext for dictionary attack
- first message can be sent by anyone
- Kerberos v5 has pre-authentication option to prevent this attack