Education

Cloud Storage Security with a Focus on CDMI

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Abstract

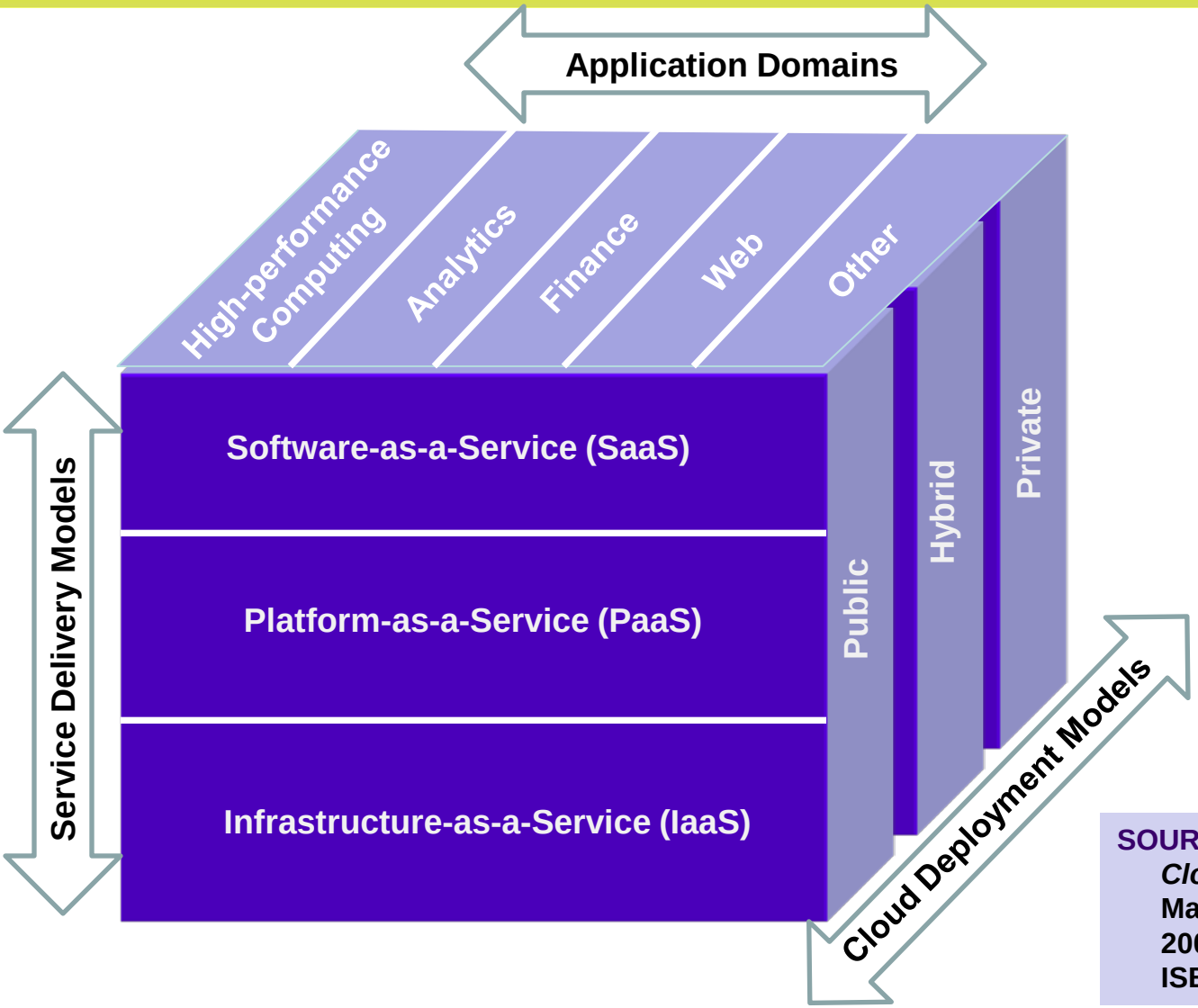
Cloud Storage – Securing CDMI

Cloud storage is emerging as a cloud offering that has appeal to a potentially broad set of organizations. Like other forms of cloud computing, the security must be addressed as part of good governance, managing risks and common sense. The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) guidance on cloud computing security can be used as a starting point for what some believe is a make-or-break element of cloud storage.

This session will overview the CSA "top threats" and describe the security aspects of the new Cloud Data Management Interface (CDMI) specification, which includes protective measures employed in the management and access of data and storage. These measures span transport security, authentication, authorization and access controls, data integrity, sanitization, data retention, protections against malware, data at-rest encryption, and security capability queries.

Cloud Computing Security

Cloud Models



SOURCE:
Cloud Security and Privacy, Mather, Kumaraswamy, Latif, 2009, O'Reilly, ISBN: 978-0-596-80276-9.

What is Cloud Security?

- **Security in the Cloud:** Security (products, solutions, technology) instantiated as an operational capability deployed within Cloud Computing environments (up/down the stack.) Think tactical solutions like virtualized firewalls, IDS/IPS, AV, DLP, DoS/DDoS, IAM, etc.
- **Security for the Cloud:** Security services that are specifically targeted toward securing OTHER Cloud Computing services, delivered by Cloud Computing providers (see next entry). Think cloud-based Anti-spam, DDoS, DLP, WAF, etc.
- **Security by the Cloud**: Security services delivered by Cloud Computing services which are used by providers "for the cloud" which often rely on those features described "in the cloud". Think, basically any service these days that brand themselves as Cloud.

Top Security Concerns with Cloud

- Understanding how Cloud services provide for the following:
  - Preserving confidentiality, integrity and availability
  - Maintaining appropriate levels of identity and access Control
  - Ensuring appropriate audit and compliance capability
- Dealing with loss of control
- Trusting the cloud service providers

Cloud Security (or Insecurity)

- Core Information Assurance issues to address:
  - Confidentiality
  - Integrity
  - Availability
  - Possession
  - Authenticity
  - Utility
  - Privacy
  - Authorized use
  - Non-repudiation
- Data loss and/or leakage measures become even more important
- Data aggregation changes the risk equation
- Legal and compliance forces require additional due diligence
- Forced exits and data disposition have to be carefully thought out
- Incident management become much more complicated

Cloud Security Alliance (CSA)

- CSA is a non-profit organization formed to promote the use of best practices for providing security assurance within Cloud Computing
- The CSA objectives:
  - Promote a common level of understanding between the consumers and providers of cloud computing regarding the necessary security requirements and attestation of assurance.
  - Promote independent research into best practices for cloud computing security.
  - Launch awareness campaigns and educational programs on the appropriate uses of cloud computing and cloud security solutions.
  - Create consensus lists of issues and guidance for cloud security assurance.

CSA Cloud Computing Security Guidance

Governance	Operations
Governance and Enterprise Risk Management	Traditional Security, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
Legal and Electronic Discovery	Data Center Operations
Compliance and Audit	Incident Response, Notification and Remediation
Information Lifecycle Management	Application Security
Portability and Interoperability	Encryption and Key Management
	Identity and Access Management
	Virtualization

NOTE: The governance domains are broad and address strategic and policy issues within a cloud computing environment, while the operational domains focus on more tactical security concerns and implementation within the architecture.

SOURCE: Cloud Security Alliance, *Security Guidance for Critical Areas of Focus in Cloud Computing*, Version 2.1, 2009, http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/guidance.

CSA Top Threats (1)

#1: Abuse and Nefarious Use of Cloud Computing

Impacted Services Models: IaaS & PaaS

Description: The illusion of unlimited compute, network, and storage capacity — often coupled with a 'frictionless' registration process (that preserve anonymity)— has allowed spammers, malicious code authors, and other criminals to conduct their activities with relative impunity.

#2: Insecure Interfaces and APIs

Impacted Services Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS

Description: Software interfaces, exposed for customers to manage and interact with cloud services, interfaces must be designed to protect against both accidental and malicious attempts to circumvent policy.

SOURCE: Cloud Security Alliance, *Top Threats to Cloud Computing*, Version 1.0, 2010, http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/topthreats.

CSA Top Threats (2)

#3: Malicious Insiders

Impacted Services Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS

Description: The well known malicious insider threat is amplified for consumers of cloud services by the convergence of IT services and customers under a single management domain, combined with a general lack of transparency into provider process and procedure as well as little or no visibility into the hiring standards and practices for cloud employees, creating an attractive opportunity for an adversary.

#4: Shared Technology Issues

Impacted Services Models: IaaS

Description: IaaS vendors deliver their services in a scalable way by sharing infrastructure, which was not designed to offer strong isolation properties for a multi-tenant architecture, so appropriate security controls should be employed to ensure that individual customers do not impact the operations of other tenants and that customers do not have access to any other tenant's actual or residual data, network traffic, etc.

CSA Top Threats (3)

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#5: Data Loss or Leakage

Impacted Services Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS

Description: The threat of data compromise (unauthorized access or corruption/destruction) increases in the cloud, due to the number of and interactions between risks and challenges, which are either unique to cloud, or more dangerous because of the architectural or operational characteristics of the cloud environment.

#6: Account or Service Hijacking

Impacted Services Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS

Description: Although account or service hijacking is not new, cloud solutions add a new threat because a successful attacker (e.g., gains access to your credentials) can eavesdrop on your activities and transactions, manipulate data, return falsified information, and redirect your clients to illegitimate sites as well as use your account or service instances as a new base for the attacker, possibly leverage the power of your reputation to launch subsequent attacks.

CSA Top Threats (4)

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#7: Unknown Risk Profile

Impacted Services Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS

Description: The features and functionality of a cloud service may be well advertised, but there may be few details (e.g., versions of software, code updates, security practices, vulnerability profiles, intrusion attempts, and security design) to help estimate your organization's security posture as well as little or no information on the cloud service provider's compliance of the internal security procedures, configuration hardening, patching, auditing, and logging. Often such questions are not clearly answered or are overlooked, leaving customers with an unknown risk profile that may include serious threats.

CSA Top Threats – Examples

- **#1:** Abuse and Nefarious Use of Cloud Computing
  - IaaS offerings have hosted the Zeus botnet and InfoStealer trojan horses.
- **#2:** Insecure Interfaces and APIs
  - Anonymous access, clear text authentication, limited monitoring and logging capabilities
- **#4:** Shared Technology Issues
  - Joanna Rutkowska's Red and Blue Pill exploits
- **#5:** Data Loss or Leakage
  - Insufficient AAA controls & disposal challenges
- **#7:** Unknown Risk Profile
  - IRS asked Amazon EC2 to perform a C&A; Amazon refused.

Possible Security Benefits

- Centralized data
- Segmented data and applications
- Better logging/accountability
- Standardized images for asset deployment
- Better resilience to attack & streamlined incident response
- More streamlined audit and compliance
- Better visibility to process
- Faster deployment of applications, services, etc.

Overview of CDMI

Check out SNIA Tutorial:

The Cloud Data Management Interface (CDMI) - The Cloud Storage Standard

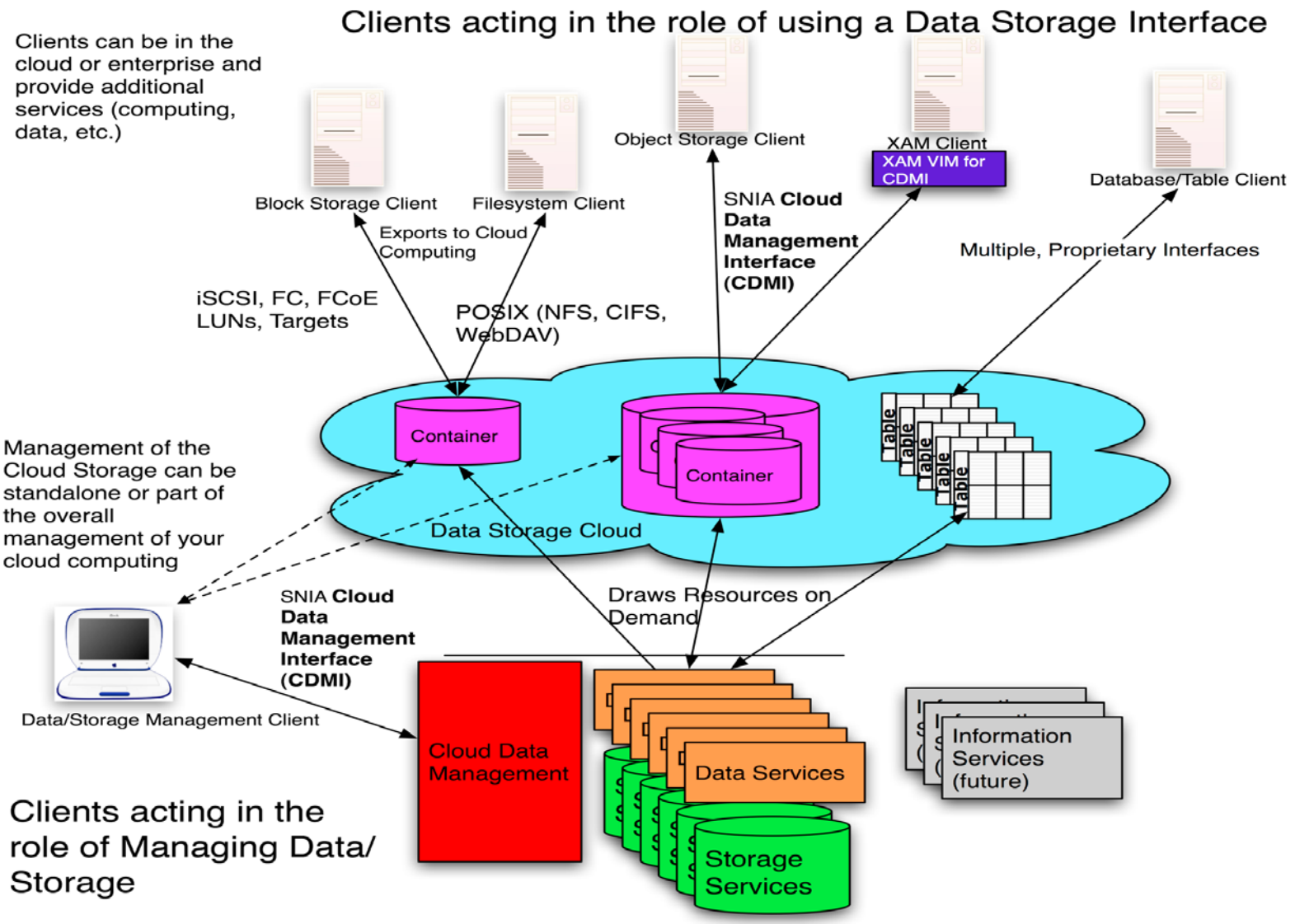
Cloud Data Management Interface

- Applicable to three types of Cloud Storage:
  - Cloud Storage for Cloud Computing
    - Whitepaper at snia.org/cloud – the management interface for the lifecycle of storage in a compute cloud
  - Public Storage Cloud
    - Both a Data Path for the Cloud and a Management Path for the Cloud Data
  - Private Cloud Storage
    - As well as hybrid clouds
    - An API for Storage Vendors selling into Cloud based solutions
- Semantics
  - Simple Containers and Data Objects with tagged Metadata
  - Data System Metadata expresses the data requirements
- Protocol
  - RESTful HTTP as "core" interface style
  - JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)– format of the representations are extensible

CDMI Data Objects

- Stored data can be accessed using native protocols:
  - HTTP, CIFS, NFS, iSCSI, SQL, etc.
- Stored data can also be accessed using CDMI as a Data Path in a standardized manner. This facilitates:
  - Cloud-to-cloud migration
  - Cloud federation
  - Cloud backup
  - Cloud virus scanning
  - Cloud search
  - And more.
- Desired cloud storage characteristics can be associated with stored data:
  - Replication, Compression, Placement, Retention, QoS, etc.

The Complete CDMI Picture



CDMI Security

Check out SNIA Tutorial:

Cloud Storage Security

CDMI Security Summary

- Security refers to the protective measures employed in managing and accessing data and storage.
- Security measures:
  - Include transport security, user and entity authentication, authorization and access controls, data integrity, data and media sanitization, data retention, protections against malware, data at rest encryption, and security capability queries.
  - Take the form of mandatory, optional, and vendor extensions
- The transport security and security capability queries are mandatory for all implementation; all other security mechanisms are optional to implement.
- Client use of security is always optional, but encouraged.

CDMI Security Objectives

- Provide a mechanism that assures that the communications between a CDMI client and server cannot be read or modified by a third party
- Provide a mechanism that allows CDMI clients and servers to provide an assurance of their identity
- Provide a mechanism that allows control of the actions a CDMI client is permitted to perform on a CDMI server
- Provide a mechanism for records to be generated for actions performed by a CDMI client on a CDMI server
- Provide mechanisms to protect data at rest
- Provide a mechanism to eliminate data in a controlled manner
- Provide mechanisms to discover the security capabilities of a particular implementation

Transport Security

- HTTP is the mandatory transport mechanism for CDMI
- HTTP over TLS (HTTPS), on TCP port 443, is the mechanism used to secure the communications between CDMI entities
  - TLS 1.1 must be implemented by CDMI entities and TLS 1.2 is strongly encouraged
  - Mandatory cipher suites include: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA, TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256, and TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA
  - The DER encoded X.509, Base64 encoded X.509, and PKCS#12 certificate formats must be supported.
  - Certificate Revocation Lists must be supported in the DER encoded X.509 and Base64 encoded X.509 formats.

System-wide Security Capabilities

- Capabilities defined for the cloud storage system (found in the capabilities objects for domains, data objects, containers, and queues):
  - **cdmi_domains** – If present and "true", the cloud storage/computing system supports domains.
  - **cdmi_queues** – If present and "true", the cloud storage/computing system supports queue objects.
  - **cdmi_security_audit** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports audit logging.
  - **cdmi_security_data_integrity** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports data integrity/authenticity.
  - **cdmi_security_encryption** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports data at rest encryption.
  - **cdmi_security_https_transport** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports HTTPS communications.
  - **cdmi_security_immutability** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports data immutability/retentions.
  - **cdmi_security_sanitization** – If present and "true", the cloud storage system supports data/media sanitization.

Domains (Administrative Ownership)

- A CDMI implementation may optionally include a hierarchy (parent-child) of administrative ownership of stored data within a CDMI storage system
- Each domain corresponds to logical groupings of objects that are to be managed together
- Domain measurement information about objects that are associated with each domain flow up to parent domains, facilitating billing and management operations
- The Domain membership capability provides information about and allows the specification of end users and groups of users that are allowed to access the domain via CDMI and other access protocols
- Domains provide a single unified place to map identities and credentials to principals used by ACLs within the context of a domain

Access Controls

- A CDMI implementation may optionally implement access control lists (ACLs)
- CDMI specifies three types of privileged users: “administrator”, “backup_operator”, and “cross_domain”
- ACLs are lists of permissions-granting or permissions-denying entries called *access control entries* (ACEs).
  - An ALLOW ACE grants some form of access to a *principal*. Principals are either users or groups, and are represented by *identifiers*.
  - A DENY ACE denies access of some kind to a principal.
- ACEs are composed of five fields: “type”, “who”, “flags”, “access_mask”, and “timestamp”
- When evaluating whether access to a particular object *O* by a principal *P* shall be granted, the server traverses the object's logical ACL (its ACL after processing inheritance from ancestor containers) in list order

CDMI Logging

- Logging is divided into three functional areas:
  - CDMI object functions
  - Security events
  - Data management events
- CDMI clients can access log data by creating a logging queue that defines the scope of log messages to be received
- Queues are a special class of container (i.e., FIFO); logging queues are persistent
- Access controls can be applied to queues

Cryptographic Support

- A CDMI implementation may optionally implement cryptographic capabilities
- Data Integrity
  - A CDMI client can determine the hashing options available by checking the ***cdmi_value_hash*** data systems metadata
  - A CDMI client can request a particular hashing option, using the ***cdmi_value_hash*** data systems metadata
  - A CDMI client can determine the actual hashing option used by the CDMI implementation by checking the ***cdmi_value_hash_billed***
  - A CDMI client can determine the actual hash value by checking the ***cdmi_hash*** metadata
- Data At Rest Encryption
  - A CDMI client can determine the encryption options available by checking the ***cdmi_encryption*** data systems metadata
  - A CDMI client can request a particular encryption option, using the ***cdmi_encryption*** data systems metadata
  - A CDMI client can determine the actual hashing option used by the CDMI implementation by checking the ***cdmi_encryption_billed***

Immutability

- A CDMI implementation may optionally implement retention management disciplines
  - Retention – uses retention time criteria to determine the time period deletions are prohibited; only one per object and extensions of the object metadata are allowed
  - Hold – enforces read-only data object access and prohibition of object deletion; multiple holds are allowed
  - Deletion – manual and/or automatic
- Enforcements associated with value changes to the retention duration are not a CDMI responsibility
- Releases from holds are performed out-of-band or by vendor extension

CDMI Security Guidance

Exploiting the Mandatory and Optional Features

- Always check the security capabilities of your cloud service provider's CDMI implementation
  - Ensure it has adequate protective measures
  - Make a "risk" based decision to use a particular implementation
- Use TLS (preferably TLS 1.2) to
  - Authenticate CDMI entities (certificates for servers; HTTP authentication for clients)
  - Encrypt sensitive information communicated between CDMI entities.

Exploiting the Mandatory and Optional Features (cont.)

- Use Domains to provide a place for authentication mappings to external authentication providers
- Audit logging within the context of CDMI
  - Establish logging queues and restrict access
  - Capture messages for all security and data management events
  - Make sure the CDMI client retrieves the messages on a regular basis

Exploiting the Mandatory and Optional Features (cont.)

- Align the automatic deletion capability with the organization's data retention policy
- Prior to using Holds, understand the process and mechanism for lifting the Holds
- For cryptographic functionality, it is always important to verify that the implementation has complied with the requested algorithm; something other than what was requested may be used

Addressing CSA Top Threats with CDMI

#1: Abuse and Nefarious Use of Cloud Computing

- Monitor public blacklists for one's own networks and URIs.

#2: Insecure Interfaces and APIs

- Implement and use TLS for encrypted communications
- Implement and use authentication (with CDMI Domains)
- Implement and use access control lists (CDMI Access Control)
- Implement and use security logging (CDMI Logging Queues)
- Only use exported protocols with appropriate security mechanisms.

#3: Malicious Insiders

- All elements defined for #2.
- Encrypt data before storing in the CDMI implementation.

Addressing CSA Top Threats with CDMI (cont.)

#4: Shared Technology Issues

- Enforce service level agreements for patching and vulnerability remediation.
- Conduct vulnerability scanning and configuration audits.

#5: Data Loss or Leakage

- All elements defined for #3
- Contractually demand providers sanitize persistent media before releasing it for reuse.
- Contractually specify provider backup and retention strategies.

#6: Account or Service Hijacking

- All elements defined for #2.
- Leverage strong two-factor authentication techniques where possible.

#7: Unknown Risk Profile

- Implement and use TLS v1.2 when possible.
- Due diligence on the providers' infrastructure and approach.

Final Thoughts

Final Thoughts

- Security and legal issues will persist as challenges for organizations that choose to use cloud computing, but there are promising signs that some of these issues will be addressed.
- It is, however, extremely important to understand the risks and to enter the cloud with your eyes wide open (i.e., select a cloud service provider that offers an appropriate set of contractual terms and conditions as well as demonstrable risk mitigations).

Q&A / Feedback

- Please send any questions or comments on this presentation to SNIA: trackcloudtechnologies@snia.org

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SNIA Cloud Storage TWG

For More Information

Cloud Security Resources

- SNIA Cloud Storage Initiative, http://www.snia.org/cloud
- Cloud Security Alliance (CSA), *Security Guidance for Critical Areas of Focus in Cloud Computing*, *Top Threats to Cloud Computing*, http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org
- European Network and information Security Agency (ENISA), *Cloud Computing – Benefits, risks and recommendations for information security*, http://www.enisa.europa.eu/
- Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA), *Cloud Computing: Business Benefits With Security, Governance and Assurance Perspectives*, http://www.isaca.org
- *Cloud Security and Privacy*, Mather, Kumaraswamy, Latif, 2009, O'Reilly Publishing, ISBN: 978-0-596-80276-9

Relevant Standards Activities

- *Open Grid Forum (OGF)* is developing on an Open Cloud computing Interface (OCCI)
- *Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA)* is developing the Cloud Data Management Interface (CDMI) specification
- *Cloud Computing Interoperability Forum (CCIF)* is developing Unified Cloud Interfaces and APIs
- *Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF)* has established the "Open Cloud Standards Incubator" to develop a set of informational specifications for Cloud resource management
- *Open Cloud Consortium (OCC)* is researching the creation of inter-Cloud interfaces with the aim of developing compatibility standards
- *Cloud Security Alliance (CSA)* to promote the use of best practices for providing security assurance within Cloud computing
- *Object Management Group (OMG)* to establish a uniform vocabulary for Cloud Computing, as well as to synchronize standards development
- ISO/IEC JTC 1 Subcommittee 38 (SC38) on Distributed Application Platforms and Services (DAPS) has a focus on Web services, SOA, and cloud computing

SNIA Security Organizations

- SNIA Security Technical Work Group (TWG)
  - Focus: Requirements, architectures, interfaces, practices, technology, educational materials, and terminology for storage networking.
  - http://www.snia.org/tech_activities/workgroups/security/
- Storage Security Industry Forum (SSIF)
  - Focus: Educational materials, customer needs, whitepapers, and best practices for storage security.
  - http://www.snia.org/ssif