Security testing

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What does security testing mean?

- = test that system has desired *security objectives*
 - confidentiality
 - integrity
 - authentication
 - authorization
 - availability
 - non-repudiation

Security testing concepts

threat

a potential event with undesired consequences if it materializes into an *attack*

vulnerability: a weakness in the system (design or implementation)

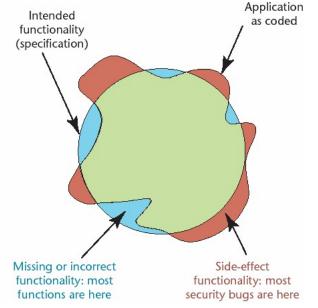
attack: action of an intruder which exploits a vulnerability, threatening an asset as effect

asset: target of an attack

Review: What is an error? [Patton, Software Testing]

- 1. does not do something required by specification
- 2. does something forbidden by specification
- 3. does something not mentioned by specification
- 4. does something not mentioned in specification, but which should be

Where do security vulnerabilities fall in?



H. Thompson, Why Security Testing Is Hard, IEEE S&P, 2003

What is vulnerable?

Localization of security vulnerabilities (NIST, cf. Agarwal/McAfee)

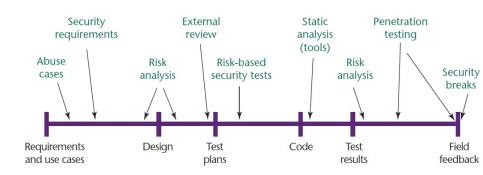
41% application code (server-side)

36% application code (non-server)

15% operating system

92% of vulnerabilities are in application not network

Security in product lifecycle



G. McGraw, Software Security, IEEE S&P, 2004

19 attack (categories) [SecurityInnovation]

http://web.securityinnovation.com/Portals/49125/docs/19AttacksforBreakingApplications.pdf