

Class Project, Assignment Four

Live CD Distributions Survey

This week, your assignment is to create a concise web page that compares and contrasts several (two or three) current LiveCD distributions in a security context. Your assignment should include criteria used to compare and contrast the different distributions. Sample criteria may include a distribution's:

- Focus or purpose
- Function
- Customization potential
- Intended audience
- Included software utilities and programs
- Update frequency and date of last update
- Windows manager
- Available support (documentation, forums, training, similar ...)
- License type i.e GNU GPL, BSD, ...

Note: this type of comparison lends itself very well to a tabular presentation.

In addition to comparing attributes of the separate LiveCD distributions, your assignment should answer the question "Why would a security professional be interested in these distributions?" That is, the essay should explain why, in a security context, your chosen distributions can be valuable.

In terms of audience, the essay should be easy for a business person to read and understand. While the tone may be informal, the assignment must employ correct grammar and spelling. Within the essay, you should communicate in a reasoned and professional manner.

Your assignment should be brief and attributed. That is, the assignment should provide a well thought out rationale with appropriate supporting references. A significant portion of the references should be online sources. While your perspective has value, references are necessary to illustrate how well grounded your perspective is within the security discipline.

Sites you may consider referencing include:

Live CD List	http://www.frozentech.com/content/livecd.php
DistroWatch	http://unokitty.freehostia.com/ <i>linked from my portal</i>
Knoppix	http://www.knoppix.org/
Slax	http://www.slax.org/
Knoppix.Net	http://www.knoppix.net/

Table 1 Reference Web Sites

After you place your assignment online, you should link the assignment to our discussion group as well.

I have received questions concerning which Live CDs to survey. In general, I hesitate to limit your selection. However, you should not choose an inactive distribution. Here, inactive means that it hasn't been updated in the last 12 to 18 months. For your consideration, I have listed several Live CD distributions in Table Two.

Selected Live CDs	URL
Back Track	www.remote-exploit.org/backtrack.html
Knoppix	http://knopper.net/knoppix/index-en.html
Slax	http://www.slax.org/
Securix-NSM	http://www.securixlive.com/securix-nsm/index.php
Nubuntu	http://www.nubuntu.org/
Puppy Linux	http://puppylinux.org/main/index.php?file=Overview%20and%20Getting%20Started.htm

Table 2 Selected Live CDs

Outside Reading Assignment Four

Wireless Infidelity

Download and read "Wireless Infidelity I: War Driving" from the Communications of the ACM archive. (Volume 47, Issue 9, September 2004). Answer the following questions:

What is War Driving?

What is Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP)?

When did WEP become part of the 802.3 Standard?

When was it depreciated?

What is the lesson to be learned from War Driving?

Place a copy of your answers online and make sure that there is a link from our Google Group to your assignment.

[1] <http://merlot.usc.edu/cs530-s07/papers/Berghel04b.pdf>

Journal Assignment Four

For your journal (blog), first locate a current online news article concerning an enterprise exploit that has a wireless attribute. The article should involve sufficient technical detail to discern the role of wireless technology in the exploit.

After you have selected the article, post a brief statement to you blog concerning why you have selected that particular article.

Notes

Be sure that your essay links to the selected article.

Be sure that your text does not summarize the article.