

Class Project Assignment Five

This week, you will select a particular Live CD distribution such as nBuntu, Slax, or Puppy Linux, that contains the tools necessary to deal with a particular security issue. To support your selection, you should create a brief essay that explains why you chose that particular LiveCD distribution. Better essays will begin by defining the security issue (problem) that you intend to address.

The essay should also reference the technical control, security practice, or security principle this Live CD facilitates. Likely, you will find NIST SP800-30 or NIST SP800-14 to be a handy reference.

Your essay should reference relevant attributes such as a distribution's intended audience and the specific software utilities and tools that enable that particular distribution to impact an enterprise's security posture. Other important attributes include is the last time that the distribution was updated. Where appropriate, essay references should also include case studies.

In terms of audience, the essay should be easy for a business person to read and understand. While the tone may be informal, the essay must employ correct grammar and spelling. Within the essay, you should communicate in a reasoned and professional manner. While you may, on occasion, write longer, please limit your essay to one or two text (11pt.) pages.

Your answer should be brief and attributed. That is, the essay 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. Originality and quality of the references are among the evaluation components.

Among the sites, you may consider referencing are:

The Live CD List	http://www.frozentech.com/content/livecd.php
DistroWatch linked from my portal:	Unokitty.freehostia.com
Live CD News	http://www.livecdnews.com/
Knoppix.Net	http://www.knoppix.net/

Journal Assignment Five

For this week's journal (blog) article, you will need to locate a current online news article that concerns data remanence. This article may deal with data remanence threats, vulnerabilities, or controls.

The residual representation of data that has been 'erased,' data remanence may facilitate the inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information. Specifically, improper media disposal combined with data remanence can be a serious vulnerability.

In your journal, create a brief (one to three paragraph) essay that explains why you selected that article and why the article is important.

Note

Your essay should link to the selected article. Please come to class next week prepared to discuss your article.

Increased Security through Open Source

This week, your assignment is to read:

Hoepman, J. and Jacobs, B. **Increased Security through Open Source**, Communications of the ACM, v.50, n.1, Jan 2007.

Based upon you reading, choose one of the following:

1. Create a table that compares and contrasts security aspects of Open Source Software with commercial software.
2. Write a brief, one, to three page, essay that expands upon a major security related theme from the reading.
3. Create a short slide show that presents the significant points from the article.

Prior to the start of next class, please post an electronic version online.

Note One

This article is in the Association of Computing Machinery's Digital Database. You can download the electronic version from the UH Online Library.

Note Two

Eleven versions of the article are available on Google Scholar.