For Tricia: never dull, never boring, the smartest and bravest person I know

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NOTATION

Symbol	Expression	Meaning
D, <i>K</i>	D(K, Y)	Symmetric decryption of ciphertext Y using secret key K
D, PR_a	$D(PR_a, Y)$	Asymmetric decryption of ciphertext Y using A's private key PR_a
D, PU_a	$D(PU_a, Y)$	Asymmetric decryption of ciphertext Y using A's public key PU_a
E, <i>K</i>	E(K, X)	Symmetric encryption of plaintext X using secret key K
E, PR_a	$E(PR_a, X)$	Asymmetric encryption of plaintext X using A's private key PR_a
E, PU_a	$E(PU_a, X)$	Asymmetric encryption of plaintext X using A's public key PU_a
K		Secret key
PR _a		Private key of user A
PU_a		Public key of user A
MAC, K	MAC(K, X)	Message authentication code of message X using secret key K
GF(p)		The finite field of order p , where p is prime. The field is defined as the set Z_p together with the arithmetic operations modulo p .
$GF(2^n)$		The finite field of order 2^n
Z_n		Set of nonnegative integers less than n
gcd	gcd(i,j)	Greatest common divisor; the largest positive integer that divides both <i>i</i> and <i>j</i> with no remainder on division.
mod	$a \mod m$	Remainder after division of <i>a</i> by <i>m</i>
mod, \equiv	$a \equiv b \pmod{m}$	$a \mod m = b \mod m$
mod, ≢	$a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$	$a \mod m \neq b \mod m$
dlog	$dlog_{a,p}(b)$	Discrete logarithm of the number <i>b</i> for the base $a \pmod{p}$
φ	$\phi(n)$	The number of positive integers less than n and relatively prime to n . This is Euler's totient function.
Σ	$\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i$	$a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n$
П	$\prod_{i=1}^{n} a_i$	$a_1 \times a_2 \times \cdots \times a_n$

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Symbol	Expression	Meaning
	i j	<i>i</i> divides <i>j</i> , which means that there is no remainder when <i>j</i> is divided by <i>i</i>
,	<i>a</i>	Absolute value of <i>a</i>
	$x \parallel y$	x concatenated with y
~	$x \approx y$	x is approximately equal to y
÷	$x \oplus y$	Exclusive-OR of x and y for single-bit variables; Bitwise exclusive-OR of x and y for multiple-bit variables
[,]		The largest integer less than or equal to x
E	$x \in S$	The element x is contained in the set S.
\longleftrightarrow	$A \longleftrightarrow (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$	The integer A corresponds to the sequence of integers (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_k)

PREFACE

What's New in The Eighth Edition xii Objectives xiii Support of ACM/IEEE Computer Science Curricula 2013 xiii Plan of The Text xiv Instructor Support Materials xiv Projects and Other Student Exercises xv The Sage Computer Algebra System xvi Acknowledgments xvii

WHAT'S NEW IN THE EIGHTH EDITION

In the three years since the seventh edition of this book was published, the field has seen continued innovations and improvements. In this new edition, I try to capture these changes while maintaining a broad and comprehensive coverage of the entire field. To begin this process of revision, the seventh edition of this book was extensively reviewed by a number of professors who teach the subject and by professionals working in the field. The result is that, in many places, the narrative has been clarified and tightened, and illustrations have been improved.

Beyond these refinements to improve pedagogy and user-friendliness, there have been substantive changes throughout the book. Roughly the same chapter organization has been retained, but much of the material has been revised and new material has been added. The most noteworthy changes are as follows:

- **Trust and trustworthiness:** Chapter 1 includes a new section describing these two concepts, which are key concepts in computer and network security.
- Stream ciphers: With the growing importance of stream ciphers, the treatment of stream ciphers has been significantly expanded. There is a new section on stream ciphers based on linear feedback shift registers (LFSRs), and several examples of contemporary stream ciphers are provided.
- Lightweight cryptography: The Internet of Things and other small embedded systems require new approaches to cryptography to accommodate the low power requirements, minimum memory, and limited processing power of IoT devices. Two new sections cover this rapidly emerging topic.
- **Post-quantum cryptography:** In anticipation of the potential threat posed by quantum computers, there has been considerable research and development of cryptographic algorithms that are resistant to the threat. Two new sections cover this rapidly emerging topic.

- Cloud security: The discussion of cloud security has been expanded, and an entire chapter is devoted to this topic in the new edition.
- IoT network security: Similarly, IoT networks have resulted in new requirements for network security protocols, which are covered.

OBJECTIVES

It is the purpose of this book to provide a practical survey of both the principles and practice of cryptography and network security. In the first part of the book, the basic issues to be addressed by a network security capability are explored by providing a tutorial and survey of cryptography and network security technology. The latter part of the book deals with the practice of network security: practical applications that have been implemented and are in use to provide network security.

The subject, and therefore this book, draws on a variety of disciplines. In particular, it is impossible to appreciate the significance of some of the techniques discussed in this book without a basic understanding of number theory and some results from probability theory. Nevertheless, an attempt has been made to make the book self-contained. The book not only presents the basic mathematical results that are needed but provides the reader with an intuitive understanding of those results. Such background material is introduced as needed. This approach helps to motivate the material that is introduced, and the author considers this preferable to simply presenting all of the mathematical material in a lump at the beginning of the book.

SUPPORT OF ACM/IEEE COMPUTER SCIENCE CURRICULA 2013

The book is intended for both academic and professional audiences. As a textbook, it is intended as a one-semester undergraduate course in cryptography and network security for computer science, computer engineering, and electrical engineering majors. This edition supports the recommendations of the ACM/IEEE Computer Science Curricula 2013 (CS2013). CS2013 adds Information Assurance and Security (IAS) to the curriculum recommendation as one of the Knowledge Areas in the Computer Science Body of Knowledge. The document states that IAS is now part of the curriculum recommendation because of the critical role of IAS in computer science education. CS2013 divides all course work into three categories: Core-Tier 1 (all topics should be included in the curriculum), Core-Tier-2 (all or almost all topics should be included), and elective (desirable to provide breadth and depth). In the IAS area, CS2013 recommends topics in Fundamental Concepts and Network Security in Tier 1 and Tier 2, and Cryptography topics as elective. This text covers virtually all of the topics listed by CS2013 in these three categories.

The book also serves as a basic reference volume and is suitable for self-study.

PLAN OF THE TEXT

The book is divided into six parts.

- Background
- Symmetric Ciphers
- Asymmetric Ciphers
- Cryptographic Data Integrity Algorithms
- Mutual Trust
- Network and Internet Security

The book includes a number of pedagogic features, including the use of the computer algebra system Sage and numerous figures and tables to clarify the discussions. Most chapters include a list of key words, review questions, suggestions for further reading, and recommended Web sites. Most chapters also include homework problems. The book also includes an extensive glossary, a list of frequently used acronyms, and a bibliography. In addition, a test bank is available to instructors.

INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT MATERIALS

The major goal of this text is to make it as effective a teaching tool for this exciting and fastmoving subject as possible. This goal is reflected both in the structure of the book and in the supporting material. The text is accompanied by the following supplementary material that will aid the instructor:

- **Solutions manual:** Solutions to all end-of-chapter Review Questions and Problems.
- Projects manual: Suggested project assignments for all of the project categories listed below.
- **PowerPoint slides:** A set of slides covering all chapters, suitable for use in lecturing.
- **PDF files:** Reproductions of all figures and tables from the book.
- **Test bank:** A chapter-by-chapter set of questions with a separate file of answers.
- **Supplemental homework problems and solutions:** To aid the student in understanding the material, a separate set of homework problems with solutions are available.

All of these support materials are available at the **Instructor Resource Center** (**IRC**) for this textbook, which can be reached through the publisher's Web site www.pearson.com/stallings or by clicking on the link labeled *Pearson Resources for Instructors* at this book's Companion Web site at WilliamStallings.com/Cryptography. To gain access to the IRC, please contact your local Pearson sales representative via www. pearson.com/us/contact-us/find-your-rep.html.

PROJECTS AND OTHER STUDENT EXERCISES

For many instructors, an important component of a cryptography or network security course is a project or set of projects by which the student gets hands-on experience to reinforce concepts from the text. This book provides an unparalleled degree of support, including a project's component in the course. The IRC not only includes guidance on how to assign and structure the projects, but also includes a set of project assignments that covers a broad range of topics from the text:

- **Sage projects:** Described in the next section.
- **Hacking project:** Exercise designed to illuminate the key issues in intrusion detection and prevention.
- Block cipher projects: A lab that explores the operation of the AES encryption algorithm by tracing its execution, computing one round by hand, and then exploring the various block cipher modes of use. The lab also covers DES. In both cases, an online Java applet is used (or can be downloaded) to execute AES or DES.
- **Lab exercises:** A series of projects that involve programming and experimenting with concepts from the book.
- **Research projects:** A series of research assignments that instruct the student to research a particular topic on the Internet and write a report.
- Programming projects: A series of programming projects that cover a broad range of topics and that can be implemented in any suitable language on any platform.
- Practical security assessments: A set of exercises to examine current infrastructure and practices of an existing organization.
- **Firewall projects:** A portable network firewall visualization simulator, together with exercises for teaching the fundamentals of firewalls.
- **Case studies:** A set of real-world case studies, including learning objectives, case description, and a series of case discussion questions.
- Writing assignments: A set of suggested writing assignments, organized by chapter.
- **Reading/report assignments:** A list of papers in the literature—one for each chapter—that can be assigned for the student to read and then write a short report.
- **Discussion topics:** These topics can be used in a classroom, chat room, or message board environment to explore certain areas in greater depth and to foster student collaboration.

This diverse set of projects and other student exercises enables the instructor to use the book as one component in a rich and varied learning experience and to tailor a course plan to meet the specific needs of the instructor and students.

THE SAGE COMPUTER ALGEBRA SYSTEM

One of the most important features of this book is the use of Sage for cryptographic examples and homework assignments. Sage is an open-source, multiplatform, freeware package that implements a very powerful, flexible, and easily learned mathematics and computer algebra system. Unlike competing systems (such as Mathematica, Maple, and MATLAB), there are no licensing agreements or fees involved. Thus, Sage can be made available on computers and networks at school, and students can individually download the software to their own personal computers for use at home. Another advantage of using Sage is that students learn a powerful, flexible tool that can be used for virtually any mathematical application, not just cryptography.

The use of Sage can make a significant difference to the teaching of the mathematics of cryptographic algorithms. Two documents available at the IRC support student use of Sage. The first document provides a large number of examples of the use of Sage covering many cryptographic concepts. The second document provides exercises in each of these topic areas to enable the student to gain hands-on experience with cryptographic algorithms. This appendix is available to instructors at the IRC for this book. It also includes a section on how to download and get started with Sage, a section on programming with Sage, and exercises that can be assigned to students in the following categories:

- Chapter 2—Introduction to Number Theory: Euclidean and extended Euclidean algorithms, polynomial arithmetic, GF(2⁴), Euler's Totient function, Miller Rabin, factoring, modular exponentiation, discrete logarithm, and Chinese remainder theorem.
- **Chapter 3–Classical Encryption Techniques:** Affine ciphers and the Hill cipher.
- Chapter 4—Block Ciphers and the Data Encryption Standard: Exercises based on SDES.
- Chapter 6—Advanced Encryption Standard: Exercises based on SAES.
- Chapter 8—Random Bit Generation and Stream Ciphers: Blum Blum Shub, linear congruential generator, and ANSI X9.17 PRNG.
- **Chapter 9—Public-Key Cryptography and RSA:** RSA encrypt/decrypt and signing.
- **Chapter 10–Other Public-Key Cryptosystems:** Diffie-Hellman, elliptic curve.
- **Chapter 11–Cryptographic Hash Functions:** Number-theoretic hash function.
- Chapter 13—Digital Signatures: DSA.

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Nikhil Bhargava (IIT Delhi) developed the set of online homework problems and solutions. Dan Shumow of Microsoft and the University of Washington developed all of the Sage examples and assignments. Professor Sreekanth Malladi of Dakota State University developed the hacking exercises. Lawrie Brown of the Australian Defence Force Academy provided the AES/DES block cipher projects and the security assessment assignments.

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Finally, I thank the many people responsible for the publication of this book, all of whom did their usual excellent job. This includes the staff at Pearson, particularly my editor Tracy Johnson and production manager Carole Snyder. Thanks also to the marketing and sales staffs at Pearson, without whose efforts this book would not be in front of you.

BOOKS BY WILLIAM STALLINGS*

COMPUTER SECURITY, FOURTH EDITION (with Lawrie Brown)

A comprehensive treatment of computer security technology, including algorithms, protocols, and applications. Covers cryptography, authentication, access control, database security, cloud security, intrusion detection and prevention, malicious software, denial of service, firewalls, software security, physical security, human factors, auditing, legal and ethical aspects, and trusted systems. **Received the 2008 TAA award for the best Computer Science and Engineering Textbook of the year.**

EFFECTIVE CYBERSECURITY: A Guide to Using Best Practices and Standards

This book provides a practical guide to applying the vast body of Best Practices and Standards documents related to the implementation of cybersecurity. The objective of this book is to organize, consolidate, and explain all of this material to enable the reader to make effective use of it. The book covers the planning, managing, designing, implementing, and assessing cybersecurity functions and services in IT systems.

Information Privacy Engineering And Privacy By Design

This book provides a practical guide to designing and implementing information privacy in IT systems. The book introduces information privacy concepts and discusses privacy requirements, threats, and vulnerabilities. The book discusses in detail the implementation of privacy controls, privacy management, and privacy monitoring and auditing. Finally, the book discusses legal and regulatory requirements, especially the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the body of U.S. privacy laws and regulations.

Cryptography And Network Security, Eighth Edition

A tutorial and survey on network security technology. Each of the basic building blocks of network security, including conventional and public-key cryptography, authentication, and digital signatures, is covered. Provides a thorough mathematical background for such algorithms as AES and RSA. The book also covers the recent development of lightweight cryptography and post-quantum cryptography. The book covers important network security tools and applications, including S/MIME, IP Security, Kerberos, SSL/TLS, network access control, and Wi-Fi security. **The second edition of this book received the TAA award for the best Computer Science and Engineering Textbook of 1999.**

Network Security Essentials, Seventh Edition

A tutorial and survey on network security technology. The book covers important network security tools and applications, including S/MIME, IP Security, Kerberos, SSL/TLS, network access control, and Wi-Fi security. In addition, methods for countering hackers and viruses are explored.

^{*}These books are available at a discount at http://williamstallings.com/DiscountBookPurchase/

Operating Systems, Ninth Edition

A state-of-the art survey of operating system principles. Covers fundamental technology as well as contemporary design issues, such as threads, SMPs, multicore, real-time systems, multiprocessor scheduling, embedded OSs, distributed systems, clusters, security, and objectoriented design. The third, fourth, and sixth editions received the TAA award for the best Computer Science and Engineering Textbook of the year.

Computer Organization And Architecture, Eleventh Edition

A unified view of this broad field. Covers fundamentals such as CPU, control unit, microprogramming, instruction set, I/O, and memory. Also covers advanced topics such as multicore, superscalar, and parallel organization. **This book is five-time winner of the TAA award for the best Computer Science and Engineering Textbook of the year.**

Data And Computer Communications, Tenth Edition

A comprehensive survey that has become the standard in the field, covering (1) data communications, including transmission, media, signal encoding, link control, and multiplexing; (2) communication networks, including circuit- and packet-switched, frame relay, ATM, and LANs; (3) the TCP/IP protocol suite, including IPv6, TCP, MIME, and HTTP, as well as a detailed treatment of network security. **Received the 2007 Text and Academic Authors Association (TAA) award for the best Computer Science and Engineering Textbook of the year.**

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS (with Cory Beard)

A comprehensive, state-of-the art survey. Covers fundamental wireless communications topics, including antennas and propagation, signal encoding techniques, spread spectrum, and error correction techniques. Examines satellite, cellular, wireless local loop networks and wireless LANs, including Bluetooth and 802.11. Covers wireless mobile networks and applications.

FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN NETWORKING: SDN, NFV, QoE, IoT, and Cloud

An in-depth up-to-date survey and tutorial on Software Defined Networking, Network Functions Virtualization, Quality of Experience, Internet of Things, and Cloud Computing and Networking. Examines standards, technologies, and deployment issues. Also treats security and career topics.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. William Stallings has authored 18 textbooks, and, counting revised editions, over 70 books on computer security, computer networking, and computer architecture. His writings have appeared in numerous ACM and IEEE publications, including the *Proceedings of the IEEE* and *ACM Computing Reviews*. He has received the award 13 times for the best Computer Science textbook of the year from the Text and Academic Authors Association.

In over 30 years in the field, he has been a technical contributor, technical manager, and an executive with several high-technology firms. He has designed and implemented both TCP/IP-based and OSI-based protocol suites on a variety of computers and operating systems, ranging from microcomputers to mainframes. Currently he is an independent consultant whose clients have included computer and networking manufacturers and customers, software development firms, and leading-edge government research institutions.

He created and maintains the **Computer Science Student Resource Site** at http://www.computersciencestudent.com/. This site provides documents and links on a variety of subjects of general interest to computer science students and professionals. He is a member of the editorial board of *Cryptologia*, a scholarly journal devoted to all aspects of cryptology.

Dr. Stallings holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Computer Science and a B.S. from Notre Dame in electrical engineering.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND

CHAPTER

INFORMATION AND NETWORK SECURITY CONCEPTS

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the key security requirements of confidentiality, integrity, and availability.
- Discuss the types of security threats and attacks that must be dealt with and give examples of the types of threats and attacks that apply to different categories of computer and network assets.
- Provide an overview of keyless, single-key, and two-key cryptographic algorithms.
- Provide an overview of the main areas of network security.
- Describe a trust model for information security.
- List and briefly describe key organizations involved in cryptography standards.

This book focuses on two broad areas: cryptography and network security. This overview chapter first looks at some of the fundamental principles of security, encompassing both information security and network security. These include the concepts of security attacks, security services, and security mechanisms. Next, the chapter introduces the two areas of cryptography and network security. Finally, the concepts of trust and trustworthiness are examined.

1.1 CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION SECURITY, AND NETWORK SECURITY

It would be useful to start this chapter with a definition of the terms cybersecurity, information security, and network security. A reasonably comprehensive definition of cybersecurity is:

Cybersecurity is the protection of information that is stored, transmitted, and processed in a networked system of computers, other digital devices, and network devices and transmission lines, including the Internet. Protection encompasses confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity, and accountability. Methods of protection include organizational policies and procedures, as well as technical means such as encryption and secure communications protocols.

As subsets of cybersecurity, we can define the following:

- **Information security:** This term refers to preservation of confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. In addition, other properties, such as authenticity, accountability, nonrepudiation, and reliability can also be involved.
- **Network security:** This term refers to protection of networks and their service from unauthorized modification, destruction, or disclosure, and provision of assurance that the network performs its critical functions correctly and there are no harmful side effects.

Cybersecurity encompasses information security, with respect to electronic information, and network security. Information security also is concerned with physical (e.g., paper-based) information. However, in practice, the terms cybersecurity and information security are often used interchangeably.

Security Objectives

The cybersecurity definition introduces three key objectives that are at the heart of information and network security:

- **Confidentiality:** This term covers two related concepts:
 - Data¹ confidentiality: Assures that private or confidential information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized individuals.

¹We can define information as communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, data, or opinions in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual; and data as information with a specific representation that can be produced, processed, or stored by a computer. Security literature typically does not make much of a distinction, nor does this book.

- Privacy: Assures that individuals control or influence what information related to them may be collected and stored and by whom and to whom that information may be disclosed.
- **Integrity:** This term covers two related concepts:
 - Data integrity: Assures that data (both stored and in transmitted packets) and programs are changed only in a specified and authorized manner. This concept also encompasses data authenticity, which means that a digital object is indeed what it claims to be or what it is claimed to be, and nonrepudiation, which is assurance that the sender of information is provided with proof of delivery and the recipient is provided with proof of the sender's identity, so neither can later deny having processed the information.
 - **System integrity:** Assures that a system performs its intended function in an unimpaired manner, free from deliberate or inadvertent unauthorized manipulation of the system.
- Availability: Assures that systems work promptly and service is not denied to authorized users.

These three concepts form what is often referred to as the **CIA triad**. The three concepts embody the fundamental security objectives for both data and for information and computing services. For example, the NIST standard FIPS 199 (*Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems*) lists confidentiality, integrity, and availability as the three security objectives for information and for information systems. FIPS 199 provides a useful characterization of these three objectives in terms of requirements and the definition of a loss of security in each category:

- Confidentiality: Preserving authorized restrictions on information access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information. A loss of confidentiality is the unauthorized disclosure of information.
- Integrity: Guarding against improper information modification or destruction, including ensuring information nonrepudiation and authenticity. A loss of integrity is the unauthorized modification or destruction of information.
- Availability: Ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information. A loss of availability is the disruption of access to or use of information or an information system.

Although the use of the CIA triad to define security objectives is well established, some in the security field feel that additional concepts are needed to present a complete picture (Figure 1.1). Two of the most commonly mentioned are as follows:

• Authenticity: The property of being genuine and being able to be verified and trusted; confidence in the validity of a transmission, a message, or message originator. This means verifying that users are who they say they are and that each input arriving at the system came from a trusted source.



Figure 1.1 Essential Information and Network Security Objectives

Accountability: The security goal that generates the requirement for actions of an entity to be traced uniquely to that entity. This supports nonrepudiation, deterrence, fault isolation, intrusion detection and prevention, and after-action recovery and legal action. Because truly secure systems are not yet an achievable goal, we must be able to trace a security breach to a responsible party. Systems must keep records of their activities to permit later forensic analysis to trace security breaches or to aid in transaction disputes.

The Challenges of Information Security

Information and network security are both fascinating and complex. Some of the reasons follow:

- 1. Security is not as simple as it might first appear to the novice. The requirements seem to be straightforward; indeed, most of the major requirements for security services can be given self-explanatory, one-word labels: confidentiality, authentication, nonrepudiation, and integrity. But the mechanisms used to meet those requirements can be quite complex, and understanding them may involve rather subtle reasoning.
- 2. In developing a particular security mechanism or algorithm, one must always consider potential attacks on those security features. In many cases, successful attacks are designed by looking at the problem in a completely different way, therefore exploiting an unexpected weakness in the mechanism.
- **3.** Because of point 2, the procedures used to provide particular services are often counterintuitive. Typically, a security mechanism is complex, and it is not obvious from the statement of a particular requirement that such elaborate measures are needed. It is only when the various aspects of the threat are considered that elaborate security mechanisms make sense.
- 4. Having designed various security mechanisms, it is necessary to decide where to use them. This is true both in terms of physical placement (e.g., at what points

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in a network are certain security mechanisms needed) and in a logical sense [e.g., at what layer or layers of an architecture such as TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) should mechanisms be placed].

- **5.** Security mechanisms typically involve more than a particular algorithm or protocol. They also require that participants be in possession of some secret information (e.g., an encryption key), which raises questions about the creation, distribution, and protection of that secret information. There also may be a reliance on communications protocols whose behavior may complicate the task of developing the security mechanism. For example, if the proper functioning of the security mechanism requires setting time limits on the transit time of a message from sender to receiver, then any protocol or network that introduces variable, unpredictable delays may render such time limits meaningless.
- 6. Information and network security are essentially a battle of wits between a perpetrator who tries to find holes and the designer or administrator who tries to close them. The great advantage that the attacker has is that he or she need only find a single weakness, while the designer must find and eliminate all weaknesses to achieve perfect security.
- **7.** There is a natural tendency on the part of users and system managers to perceive little benefit from security investment until a security failure occurs.
- **8.** Security requires regular, even constant, monitoring, and this is difficult in today's short-term, overloaded environment.
- **9.** Security is still too often an afterthought to be incorporated into a system after the design is complete rather than being an integral part of the design process.
- **10.** Many users and even security administrators view strong security as an impediment to efficient and user-friendly operation of an information system or use of information.

The difficulties just enumerated will be encountered in numerous ways as we examine the various security threats and mechanisms throughout this book.

1.2 THE OSI SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

To assess effectively the security needs of an organization and to evaluate and choose various security products and policies, the manager responsible for security needs some systematic way of defining the requirements for security and characterizing the approaches to satisfying those requirements. This is difficult enough in a centralized data processing environment; with the use of local and wide area networks, the problems are compounded.

ITU-T Recommendation X.800, Security Architecture for OSI, defines such a systematic approach. The open systems interconnection (OSI) security architecture is useful to managers as a way of organizing the task of providing security. Furthermore, because this architecture was developed as an international standard, computer and communications vendors have developed security features for their products and services that relate to this structured definition of services and mechanisms.

For our purposes, the OSI security architecture provides a useful, if abstract, overview of many of the concepts that this book deals with. The OSI security architecture focuses on security attacks, mechanisms, and services. These can be defined briefly as:

- Security attack: Any action that compromises the security of information owned by an organization.
- Security mechanism: A process (or a device incorporating such a process) that is designed to detect, prevent, or recover from a security attack.
- Security service: A processing or communication service that enhances the security of the data processing systems and the information transfers of an organization. The services are intended to counter security attacks, and they make use of one or more security mechanisms to provide the service.

In the literature, the terms *threat* and *attack* are commonly used, with the following meanings:

- Threat: Any circumstance or event with the potential to adversely impact organizational operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), organizational assets, individuals, other organizations, or the Nation through an information system via unauthorized access, destruction, disclosure, modification of information, and/or denial of service.
- Attack: Any kind of malicious activity that attempts to collect, disrupt, deny, degrade, or destroy information system resources or the information itself.

The following three sections provide an overview of the concepts of attacks, services, and mechanisms. The key concepts that are covered are summarized in Figure 1.2.

1.3 SECURITY ATTACKS

A useful means of classifying security attacks, used both in X.800, is in terms of *passive attacks* and *active attacks* (Figure 1.2a). A passive attack attempts to learn or make use of information from the system but does not affect system resources. An active attack attempts to alter system resources or affect their operation.

Passive Attacks

Passive attacks are in the nature of **eavesdropping** on, or monitoring of, transmissions. The goal of the attacker is to obtain information that is being transmitted. Two types of passive attacks are the release of message contents and traffic analysis.

The release of message contents is easily understood. A telephone conversation, an electronic mail message, and a transferred file may contain sensitive or confidential information. We would like to prevent an opponent from learning the contents of these transmissions.

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A second type of passive attack, traffic analysis, is subtler. Suppose that we had a way of masking the contents of messages or other information traffic so that opponents, even if they captured the message, could not extract the information from the message. The common technique for masking contents is encryption. If we had encryption protection in place, an opponent might still be able to observe the pattern of these messages. The opponent could determine the location and identity of communicating hosts and could observe the frequency and length of messages being exchanged. This information might be useful in guessing the nature of the communication that was taking place.

Passive attacks are very difficult to detect because they do not involve any alteration of the data. Typically, the message traffic is sent and received in an apparently normal fashion and neither the sender nor receiver is aware that a third party