SANS PROTECTS SERIES
SANS Protects: Web Applications and Services

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Analyst Program

OVERVIEW

SANS Protects is a series of papers focused on the most prevalent threats to specific, critical components of your environment as well as actions you can take to mitigate those threats and thwart threat actors. In this paper, we look at threats specific to web applications and other internet-facing systems. Over the last several years, organizations have moved more of their infrastructure and services online to assist both their employees and customers. Unfortunately, these systems have become prime targets for adversaries as a way to steal credentials or gain access into an environment.

MEET THE AUTHOR

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Matt Bromiley is a principal incident response consultant at a top digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) firm. In the DFIR firm Matt assists clients with incident response, digital forensics, and litigation support. He also serves as a GIAC Advisory Board member, a subject-matter expert for the SANS Security Awareness, and a technical writer for the SANS Analyst Program. Matt brings his passion for digital forensics to the classroom as a SANS Instructor for FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting and Digital Forensics, and FOR572: Advanced Network Forensics, where he focuses on providing students with implementable tools and concepts.

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In this SANS Protects paper, we examine current, prevalent threats to web applications, how adversaries abuse them, and steps that your organization can take to mitigate against these threats. This paper also includes an actionable checklist of essential mitigation tips and tricks that you can implement to strengthen your security posture.

Some of the threats and weaknesses we investigate include:

- Weaponization of vulnerabilities and mass, automated exploitation by threat actors
- Unpatched vulnerabilities allowing adversaries easy access to an environment
- Seemingly endless zero days that require constant attention
- Adversary deployment of malware, ranging from coin miners to ransomware and everything in between

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