

# Securing MySQL Servers



**Who am I?**

**:)**



**Why would you need to  
secure your mysql  
installations?**



# Why?

- Passwords stored in plain text
- E-Mail addresses
- Physical addresses
- Phone numbers
- Transaction information
- Sessions
- etc.



Passwords ought to be  
hashed in the DB...

But this is not always  
the case :(



Hashing had to be  
implemented with  
bcrypt...

But they were  
implemented with MD5  
without salt or all with  
the same salt.



**Sensitive data should be  
symmetrically encrypted**

**Problems:**

- emails ending with @tmp.com
- phones starting with +4911
- addr. starting with Pattern



# Not so obvious locations for sensitive data:

- logs
- temporary data
- actual data directories (LOAD DATA)
- `SELECT ... INTO OUTFILE`



Now let's focus on the  
securing part of this talk :)



# Sensitive data in logs

- **binary.log - log\_bin (bool)**
  - **log\_bin\_basename**
- **relay.log - relay\_log (bool)**
  - **relay\_log\_basename**
- **general.log - general\_log (bool)**
  - **general\_log\_file**
- **error.log - log\_error (bool)**
  - **log\_error\_verbosity (3)**
  - **log\_statements\_unsafe\_for\_binlog**



# Sensitive data in logs

- `slow.log - slow_query_log (bool)`
- `slow_query_log_file`
- `log_slow_admin_statements`
- `log_slow_slave_statements`
- `long_query_time`



# Sensitive data in temporary folders:

- **tmpdir**
  - **temporary tables**
  - **any temp data**
- **innodb\_tmpdir**
  - **temp sort files**
- **slave\_load\_tmpdir**
  - **replication**
  - **LOAD DATA**



Sensitive data in the data directories – LOAD DATA/XML

**local\_infile**

One can use the LOAD DATA/XML statement to actually read your binary data files into tables...

**secure\_file\_priv**

**The FILE privilege...**



# Sensitive data in the data directories

```
SELECT ... INTO OUTFILE
```

Create new files:

```
init_file, local_infile  
and my.cnf
```

```
secure_file_priv && FILE
```



# Chrooting the MySQL daemon

```
chroot=/var/lib/mysql
```



# Chrooting will:

- restrict FS access to the chroot dir
- prevent read/write to system files
- require SSL certs in the chroot dir
- restrict, where the temporary files can be created
- restrict the pid and log file locations



# Firewalling the MySQL

➤ DO NOT PUT MySQL on unrestricted public interfaces

```
# iptables -N mysql
# iptables -A mysql -j ACCEPT -s IP_1
# iptables -A mysql -j ACCEPT -s NET_1
# iptables -A mysql -j DROP
# iptables -A INPUT -j mysql -p tcp --dport 3306
```



# Firewalling the MySQL

- Only disallow specific user (`app_user`)

```
# iptables -A OUTPUT -j DROP -p tcp --dport 3306 -m  
owner ! --uid-owner app_user
```



# Firewalling the MySQL

➤ or more than one user, but not everyone:

```
# iptables -N mysql_out
```

```
# iptables -A mysql_out -j ACCEPT -m owner --uid-owner  
app_user1
```

```
# iptables -A mysql_out -j ACCEPT -m owner --uid-owner  
app_user2
```

```
# iptables -A mysql_out -j DROP
```

```
# iptables -I OUTPUT -j mysql_out -p tcp --dport 3306
```



# Firewalling the MySQL

➤ or you want only one specific user, to be restricted from MySQL

```
# iptables -A OUTPUT -j DROP -p tcp --dport 3306 -m  
owner --uid-owner dev_user1
```



# Access to the MySQL socket



# The effects of:

```
# chmod 600 /var/lib/mysql/mysql.sock
```

- Only root & mysql have access to it
- restrict all users
- use sudo for devs

```
dev_user1 ALL=(mysql) PASSWORD:/usr/bin/mysql
```



# The socket protection:

Your app needs access to the socket, so:

```
# groupadd web_app
```

```
# usermod -a -G web_app mysql
```

```
# usermod -a -G web_app app_user
```

```
# chmod 660 /var/lib/mysql/mysql.sock
```

```
# chgrp web_app /var/lib/mysql/mysql.sock
```



# MySQL authentication

- never leave a user without a password
- try not use the % in the host part of an account
- hostnames instead of IPs for user authentication and set skip\_name\_resolve
- do not set old\_passwords=0
  - (pre mysql 4.1, hashing func. was producing 16bytes hash string)



# MySQL authentication

`secure_auth` is used to control if `old_passwords=1` (pre 4.1 hashing) can be used by clients

After 5.6.5, `secure_auth` is enabled by default



# MySQL authentication

```
mysql> SELECT PASSWORD('mypass');
```

```
+-----+  
| PASSWORD('mypass') |  
+-----+  
| 6f8c114b58f2ce9e   |  
+-----+
```

- try to avoid the `mysql_native_password` plugin(which produces 41bytes hash string)

```
mysql> SELECT PASSWORD('mypass');
```

```
+-----+  
| PASSWORD('mypass') |  
+-----+  
| *6C8989366EAF75BB670AD8EA7A7FC1176A95CEF4 |  
+-----+
```



# MySQL authentication

## The mysql-unsha1 attack

$$y = \text{SHA1}(\text{password})$$

On every connection the server sends a salt(s) and the client computes a session token(x)

$$x = y \text{ XOR } \text{SHA1}(s + \text{SHA1}(y))$$

the server will verify it with:

$$\text{SHA1}(x \text{ XOR } \text{SHA1}(s + \text{SHA1}(y))) = \text{SHA1}(y)$$



# MySQL authentication

Now if you can sniff the salt(x) and have access to the SHA1(password), you don't need the password :)



# MySQL authentication

Finally, the security of the hashed passwords...

On 12th of Jun this year, Percona published [this blog post](#)

- 8 chars cracked for 2h and less than 20\$
- 8 chars for 2.8y if you use sha256 auth plugins



# MySQL authentication

You may also want to consider moving your authentication out of MySQL.

For example on external LDAP server or using PAM.



# Account security

- **SUPER**

- **REPLICATION**

  - **CLIENT**

  - **SLAVE** – can dump all of your data

- **FILE** – can read and write on the  
**FS**



Now let's go over some  
options, that I consider  
related to security



➤ `chroot` (we already covered that one)  
`old_passwords` & `secure_auth` (we already covered these)  
`local_inifile` & `init_file`  
`plugin-dir`  
`skip-grant-tables`  
`skip_networking`  
`skip_show_database`  
**`secure_file_priv`**  
`safe-user-create`  
**`allow-suspicious-udfs`**  
**`automatic_sp_privileges`**  
`tmpdir = save_load_tmpdir`  
`default_tmp_storage_engine`  
`internal_tmp_disk_storage_engine`



# MySQL SQL Security

## ➤ SQL SECURITY

### ➤ DEFINER vs. INVOKER

```
CREATE DEFINER = 'admin'@'localhost' PROCEDURE p1()
```

```
SQL SECURITY DEFINER
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    UPDATE t1 SET counter = counter + 1;
```

```
END;
```

➤ Triggers and events are always executed with definer's context



**Data encryption at rest**



In 2016, both **MariaDB**  
and **Percona** published  
information on how to  
encrypt your DB.  
This comes built-in in  
**MySQL 5.7**.



**Disk encryption in MySQL  
is supported ONLY by  
InnoDB and XtraDB  
storage engines**



# Other limitations

- Galera gcache is not encrypted
- .frm files are not encrypted
- mysqlbinlogs can no longer read the files
- Percona XtraBackup can't backup encrypted data
- Audit plugin can't create encrypted output
- general and slow logs, can't be encrypted
- error.log is not encrypted



However I prefer using  
ecryptfs or LUKS, so I  
can keep all the data  
and logs encrypted, not  
only the data inside the  
MySQL DataBases



# Questions