Hacking SQL Server

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Session Agenda

- SQL Server Security Overview
- Understanding Authentication Modes
- Getting SA access
- Protecting SQL Information
- Auditing SQL Instances
- Encrypting Information on the SQL Server
SQL Server Service Security Overview

- Startup accounts used to start and run SQL Server can be domain user accounts, local user accounts, managed service accounts, virtual accounts, or built-in system accounts - default is virtual account
- Virtual account is a local managed account
- Auto managed
- Can access network with credentials of computer account
  - Registers SPN
Local System Security

- Local Windows Administrator has always access to SQL Server via several ways
  - Up to 2008r2 local system account has SA rights
  - 2012+ SQL server writer has SA rights
SQL Authentication

- 2 Modes for authentication
  - Windows
  - SQL and Windows
- Authentication mode configured via SSMS or via registry
  - Changing auth mode requires service restart
DEMO
SQL Authentication
SQL Server Single User Mode

- There are several parameters which can be used to start the SQL Server
  - Startup parameters -f and -m (single user and minimal configuration)
  - With any of these parameters local windows admins are sysadmins for SQL
- No logon triggers apply with this configuration
DEMO
SQL Startup Parameters
SQL Audit

**Basic Audit on all SKUs**
- Server Audit Specs only
- DB Audit Specs for Enterprise
- Multiple Audits and multiple targets
- Persist state
- Audit Resilience

**Improved Resilience**
- Automatically recover from most file or network errors
- Added “ON_FAILURE = FAIL_OPERATION”
- Added “MAX_FILES” option

**Record Filtering**
- Tightly constrain info written to Audit log
- Audit record generated but not written
- Leverages Xevent filtering
Audit FAQ

- What is the performance impact?
- Can I protect the Audit log from the DBA?
- What happens if Audit fails to write?
- What do I do if the server fails to start because of SQL Server Audit?
Review the security info

- You can do your own “audit” of logins, roles, password changes etc
  - Regular role checks, alerts for role changes
  - Regular PWD aging checks
  - Logins with weak pwd
Protecting your data inside SQL

- Can you protect data stored on SQL server from unauthorized access?
- Transparent Data Encryption can protect data from nonSQL users
  - Encryption is done on SQLIO level, all data and log files are encrypted, including the backup
Row Level Security

- Fine-grained access control over specific rows in a database table
- Help prevent unauthorized access when multiple users share the same tables, or to implement connection filtering in multitenant applications
- Administer via SQL Server Management Studio or SQL Server Data Tools
- Enforcement logic inside the database and schema bound to the table.
Benefits of row-level security

**Fine-grained access control**
Keeping multi-tenant databases secure by limiting access by other users who share the same tables.

**Application transparency**
RLS works transparently at query time, no app changes needed.
Compatible with RLS in other leading products.

**Centralized security logic**
Enforcement logic resides inside database and is schema-bound to the table it protects providing greater security. Reduced application maintenance and complexity.
DEMO

Row level security
Dynamic Data Masking

Regulatory Compliance
A strong demand for cloud applications to meet privacy standards recommended by regulating authorities.

Sensitive Data Protection
Protects against unauthorized access to sensitive data in the application or using direct access to the database.
Minimal Impact on Existing Apps

- No need to modify existing application queries
- Complimentary to other data protection features

```
ALTER TABLE [Employee] ALTER COLUMN [SocialSecurityNumber] 
ADD MASKED WITH (FUNCTION = 'SSN()')

ALTER TABLE [Employee] ALTER COLUMN [Email] 
ADD MASKED WITH (FUNCTION = 'EMAIL()')

ALTER TABLE [Employee] ALTER COLUMN [Salary] 
ADD MASKED WITH (FUNCTION = 'RANDOM(1,20000)')

GRANT UNMASK to admin1
```
DEMO
Dynamic Data Masking
Always Encrypted

Prevents Data Disclosure
End-to-end encryption of individual columns in a table with keys that are never given to the database system.

Supports Computation on Encrypted Data
In v1, support for equality operations incl. join, group by and distinct operators. Support for additional computations post v1.

Application Transparency
Minimal application changes via server and client library enhancements.

Allows customers to store sensitive data outside of their trust boundary.
Data remains protected from high-privileged, yet unauthorized users incl. rouge admins & hackers.
Encryption Types

- Two types of encryption available
  - Randomized encryption uses a method that encrypts data in a less predictable manner
  - Deterministic encryption uses a method which always generates the same encrypted value for any given plain text value

Randomized encryption
Encrypt('123-45-6789') = 0x17cfd50a
Repeat: Encrypt('123-45-6789') = 0x9b1fcf32
Allows for transparent retrieval of encrypted data but **NO operations**
More secure

Deterministic encryption
Encrypt('123-45-6789') = 0x85a55d3f
Repeat: Encrypt('123-45-6789') = 0x85a55d3f
Allows for transparent retrieval of encrypted data AND equality comparison
  
E.g. in WHERE clauses and joins, distinct, group by
How It Works

Client - Trusted

```csharp
using (SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(
    "SELECT Name FROM Customers WHERE SSN = @SSN",
    conn))
{
    SqlDataReader reader = cmd.ExecuteReader();
}
```

Enhanced ADO.NET

Plaintext CEK

Cache

SQL Server/SQL DB - Untrusted

**exec sp_describe_parameter_encryption**

```sql
@params = N'@SSN VARCHAR(11)'
, @sql = N'SELECT * FROM Customers WHERE SSN = @SSN'
```

**EXEC sp_execute_sql**

```sql
N'SELECT * FROM Customers WHERE SSN = @SSN' , @params = N'@SSN VARCHAR(11)', @SSN=0x7ff654ae6d
```

Encryption metadata

Result set (plaintext)

Name
Jim Gray

Result set (ciphertext)

Name
0x19ca706fbd9

Encryption metadata
DEMO

Always Encrypted
Summary

- Without strong encryptions of your data local OS admin has a way inside to your SQL server
- Keep your local admins at minimum
- Keep your sysadmins at minimum
- Protect your backups
- Keep your instance patched with latest updates
Session End

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