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SOFTWARE SECURITY TESTING TECHNIQUES

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Review Article

Survey on Software Security Testing Techniques in Cloud Computing

Abstract

Cloud Security Testing is becoming a Popular Research Topic in Cloud Computing and Software Engineering. As the advance of Cloud Technology and services, more research work must be done to address the open issues and challenges in cloud security testing and More innovative Testing Techniques and solutions, Although there are many published papers discussing cloud Security testing, there is a lack of research papers addressing new issues, challenges, and needs in Software Security Testing. However, there is no clear methodology to follow in order to complete a cloud security testing. Since there is an increasing demand in Software usage there is more in for Software Security Testing. This paper presents an overview of Cloud Computing, Cloud security testing and comprehensive survey of security Testing Techniques and methods. From this we have identified problems in the current security testing techniques. This work has to presents a roadmap for new testers on the cloud with the necessary information to start their test.

Key words: Cloud Computing, Software Testing, Security Testing, Testing Techniques, Vulnerabilities

1. Introduction

Now a days, we have seen that the popularity of cloud computing is fastest growing trend in the field of Information Technology. As the advance of cloud technology and offers services, more companies take the decision to migrate their data to the cloud and use the computing services. Cloud Computing resources such as computing

power, storage, network and software are abstracted and provided as services on the internet in a remotely accessible fashion. Categories of Cloud computing are Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). Also cloud can be deployed as Public, Private, Hybrid or Community. In cloud SaaS model, software applications or products have been marketed as 'on demand' business model. Many surveys have been conducted for independent users on SaaS adoption where the major concern for reluctance is the challenge of security. According to the IDC Cloud Services survey published the following IT cloud computing concerns: Security 87.5%, Availability 83.3%, Performance 82.9%, High Cost 81% and Vendor Lock In 80.2%. Software security problems are becoming even more ruthless and excruciating. Many critical software applications and services need integrated security measures against malicious attacks. The purpose of security testing of these systems include identifying and removing software flaws that may potentially guide to security violations, and validating the effectiveness of security measures. Cloud security Testing is the solution to all these problems. Security testing is a great resource for identifying and rectifying vulnerabilities or flaws in applications so that they are less susceptible to compromise in the event of cyber-attacks. Now a day's online transaction are rapidly increasing, so security testing on web application is one of the most important thing to be carried out while testing web applications.

2. Related work

Software Testing in cloud computing is very recent in the history of information technology, Software security testing this paradigm is even more recent. Some papers addressed testing the cloud in variant ways. However, they provide no information about the methodology to follow in order to complete a cloud testing. They provide only one testing technique on the cloud that is based on cloud graph and its nodes. This technique is advanced and complex; the testers should be already familiar with the cloud testing paradigm in order to conduct this technique. In this paper, we discussed different techniques used in cloud computing and presented a methodology in terms of a roadmap that helps the

tester perform his tasks in the cloud in a simpler, more logical and more efficient way. Also, we made the comparison between software security testing techniques and methods and also identified problems in the literature and investigated the typical scope for security testing techniques assessments with different deployment models of cloud computing. This comprehensive survey will help the Researchers in this field can benefit from the results in selecting their research direction and identifying new research opportunities for future work. We could conclude that testing over the cloud is more beneficial as it offers some useful features such as availability, visibility, automation and infrastructure independency at a reduced cost.

2. Testing in Cloud – Motivation

Testing in cloud will allow the users to mitigate the risks and errors when applications are deployed to the cloud. Besides, the use of cloud computing for testing means less costs and fewer expenditure. Now that testing the offerings of the cloud is compulsory, specific techniques, methods, and tools will need to be applied to this new type of testing. The traditional testing tools were not designed to test this complex and dynamic computing environment. An adaption of old techniques and tools needs to be performed in order to make these methods fit this different type of computing environment. At some point, new tools and methods should be introduced to test some specific offering of the cloud. In this paper, the focus is on security testing methodologies for software as a service (SaaS); testing cloud application on-demand.

4. Overview of Software Security Testing

Security testing is defined as the process of testing specialized towards security, where testing is the process of exercising the system to verify that it satisfies specified requirements and to detect errors. Software testing comprises of validating Software applications with respect to business workflows, multi-tenancy, integrity, reliability, ease of deployment, scalability, availability, accuracy, deployability, ease of use, testability, portability live

updating. All these applications are tested with cloud based resources and among the testing criteria mentioned above the focus will be on three key components they are performance, compatibility and security. Security testing is a great resource for identifying and rectifying vulnerabilities or flaws in applications so that they are less susceptible to compromise in the event of cyber-attacks.

4.1. Objective of Software Security Testing

The objectives of Software Security Testing are threefold:

To verify that the software's dependable operation continues even under hostile conditions, such as receipt of attack-patterned input, and intentional (attack-induced) failures in environment components;

To verify the software's trustworthiness, in terms of its consistently safe behaviour and state changes, and its lack of exploitable flaws and weaknesses; and

To verify the software's survivability, by verifying that its anomaly, error, and exception handling can recognize and safely handle all anticipated security-relevant exceptions and failures, errors, and anomalies; this means minimizing the extent and damage impact that may result from intentional (attack-induced) failures in the software itself, and preventing the emergence of new vulnerabilities, unsafe state changes etc.

4.2. Six Attributes of Security Testing

Authentication: is a security measure designed to establish the validity of a transmission, message, or originator, or a means of verifying an individual's authorization to receive specific categories of information, Authorization: provides access privileges granted to a user, program, or process, Confidentiality is the assurance that information is not disclosed to unauthorized individuals, processes, or devices, Availability guarantees timely, reliable access to data and information services for authorized users, Integrity: is provided when data is unchanged from its source and has not been accidentally or maliciously modified, altered, or destroyed, Non-repudiation: is the assurance that none of the partners taking part in

a transaction can later deny of having participated.

4.3. Key Terms Used in Security Testing

Denial of Service (DoS) attacks on SaaS: In a multitenant environment, the DoS testing have become even more critical as a DoS attack on one tenant (which may utilize 100% CPU or other resources) may cause other tenants to cease working, SQL Injection: This is code injection technique through the web application. It causing undesired SQL queries to be run on your database, Packet Sniffing: is a Listening to traffic sent on a network. Many internet protocols (http, aim, email) are unsecure, Password Cracking: In security testing of a web application Password cracking programs can be used to identify weak passwords. Hidden Form Parameters: None of the SaaS application developers should include hidden form fields. Cookie Values: Security Testing should ensure that data in the cookies is encrypted with strong encryption algorithm and limited sensitive IAM information is being sent out as cookies. Vulnerability scanning is the best technique to perform this testing. **XSS (Cross Site Scripting)**: It is a type of injection which is typically found in web applications. SaaS are susceptible because they share application access and data among various tenants. Vulnerability scanning and risk based testing can be used to verify whether SaaS offering is susceptible to XSS. Vulnerability: The Vulnerability is a weakness in a system under test which may cause the malicious attaches by unauthorized users.

4.4. Classification of Security Testing

Security testing can be classified as security Testing techniques and Security Testing methods. There are many security testing techniques which exist and can be used to assess the security level of systems and software, are grouped into the following three categories:

1. Review Techniques. These e techniques are used to evaluate systems and software in order to discover vulnerabilities. These techniques are generally performed manually.

2. Target Identification and Analysis Techniques. These testing techniques are used to identify services, and risky vulnerabilities.

3. Target Vulnerability Validation Techniques. These testing techniques identifies the presence of vulnerabilities depending on the specific technique being used.

5. Testing Techniques

The cloud testing methodology is the set of techniques, tools and processes to be followed while undergoing tests for cloud services. Some of these methods and techniques will be an adaptation of conventional techniques, and others were specially developed to fit the testing needs of cloud services. While dealing with cloud computing application testing, it is necessary to take into consideration the background. We have reviewed many articles on security testing techniques and brief here. Basically in software engineering the:

Code reviews; Vulnerability scanning; Fuzz testing; Risk analysis; Source code fault injection; Penetration testing.

5.1. Code Review

Source code review also known as static analysis is the process of manually checking source code for security weaknesses. Many serious security vulnerabilities cannot be detected with any other form of analysis or testing. Most security experts agree that there is no substitute for actually looking at code for detecting subtle vulnerabilities. With the source code, a tester can accurately determine what is happening (or is supposed to be happening) and remove the guess work of black box testing. Source code analysis can also be extremely efficient to find implementation issues such as sections of the code where input validation was not performed or where fail open control procedures may be present. Operational procedures need to be reviewed as well, since the source code being deployed might not be the same as the one being analyzed.

5.2. Source Code Fault Injection

Source code fault injection is a testing technique originated by the software safety community. It is used to induce stress in the software, create interoperability problems among components, simulate faults in the execution environment, and thereby reveal safety-threatening faults that are not made apparent by traditional testing techniques. Security fault injection extends standard fault injection by adding error injection, thus enabling testers to analyze the security of the behaviours and state changes that result in the software when it is exposed to various perturbations of its environment data. These data perturbations are intended to simulate the types of faults that would result during unintentional user errors as well as intentional attacks on the software via its environment, as well as attacks on the environment itself.

5.3. Fuzz Testing

Fuzz testing inputs random invalid data (usually produced by modifying valid input) to the software under test via its environment or via another software component. The term fuzzing is derived from the fuzz utility which is a random character generator for testing applications by injecting random data at their interfaces. In this narrow sense, fuzzing means injecting noise at program interfaces. Fuzz testing is implemented by a program or script that submits a combination of inputs to the software to reveal how that software responds. The idea is to look for interesting program behavior that results from noise injection and may indicate the presence of vulnerability or other software fault.

5.4. Vulnerability Scanning

Automated vulnerability scanning is supported for application level software, as well as for Web servers, database management systems, and some operating systems. Application vulnerability scanners can be useful for software security testing. These tools scan the executing application software for input and output of

known patterns that are associated with known vulnerabilities. These vulnerability patterns, or “signatures”, are comparable to the signatures searched for by virus scanners, or the “dangerous coding constructs” searched for by automated source code scanner, making the vulnerability scanner, in essence, an automated pattern-matching tool.

5.5. Risk analysis

To review security requirements and to identify security risks, risk analysis is carried out during the design phase of development. Threat modeling is a methodical process that is used to identify threats and vulnerabilities in software. It helps system designers to analyze and think about the security threats that their system might face. Therefore, threat modeling is carried out as risk assessment for software development. In fact, it enables the designer to develop mitigation strategies for potential vulnerabilities and helps them focus their limited resources and attention on the parts of the system most at risk.

5.6. Penetration Testing

Penetration testing, also known as ethical hacking, is a common technique for testing network security. While penetration testing has proven to be effective in network security, the technique does not naturally translate to applications. Penetration testing is, for the purposes of this guide, the “art” of testing a running application in its “live” execution environment to find security vulnerabilities. Penetration testing observes whether the system resists attacks successfully, and how it behaves when it cannot resist an attack.

6. Review of Current Software Security Testing Scenario

Software security testing is an important method of ensuring software security. Therefore, security testing research has become very important and practical, which is still in its infancy. There are works cited in literatures on software security testing. Researchers and practitioners are advocating for traditional software security testing which plays more attention to security functions based on

software requirement. Unfortunately, traditional security testing cannot ensure software security effectively. Most of the testers are unfamiliar with application security testing, and generally executing penetration test at the end of the development life cycle. Vulnerabilities found latter requires a lot of rework for mitigation. Every approach has its own advantage.

But unfortunately, the contributions made in the direction lacks with the realistic problems and are not very efficiently implemented in real world. Some of the pertinent issues involved with most of the approaches are as follows:

- They do not help to test for the issues that commonly appear in software and are not easily fixed by using a more programmer friendly platform;
- Most of the techniques fail to continue under the adverse conditions often encountered in security testing;
- Generally, the approaches available are not very robust and do not work well with incomplete information about the target of testing.
- Most of the technique do not provide guidelines to their users throughout the testing task;
- The result obtained on implementing approaches are not very useful under real world conditions;
- Most of the approach do not provide useful abstractions;
- The current state-of-art fails to address the issue raised above and solutions to all the above research challenges. There is an urgent need to narrow the gap and create common ground for the integration of security issues into the development process.

A recent survey has revealed that the least secure software generally carries six times higher business risk than the most secure software product. The survey highlighted the fact that security quality of software product can vary drastically depending on its design and implementation. Since decades, vulnerable software is invaded and modified making it cause damage to the healthy software. These damages are replicated across networks to cause dangers to the entire society. The main motive behind survey is that the techniques and methods that are discussed in past reflect

their suitability for the present need and are considered to be useful to fulfill the needs of the future perceptivity. We have gone through the research from 2004-2014.

Conclusion and future work

Cloud software security testing is becoming a popular research fields in the future. Now a day's software testing techniques are being adapted for the cloud computing. As the advance of cloud technology and testing as services, more research work must be

done to address the open issues and challenges in cloud security testing. Although there are many published papers discussing cloud Security testing, there is a lack of research papers addressing new issues, challenges, and needs in Software Security Testing. However, there is no clear methodology to follow in order to complete a cloud security testing. We have made a comprehensive survey of security Testing Techniques and methods. From this we have identified problems in the current security testing techniques. Researchers in this field can benefit from the results in selecting their research direction and identifying new research opportunities for future work.

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