

# CIS Apache HTTP Server 2.2 Benchmark

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# Overview

This document, CIS Apache 2.2 Benchmark, provides prescriptive guidance for establishing a secure configuration posture for Apache Web Server versions 2.2 running on Linux. This guide was tested against Apache Web Server 2.2.29 as built from source `httpd-2.2.29.tar.gz` from <http://httpd.apache.org/> on Linux. To obtain the latest version of this guide, please visit <http://benchmarks.cisecurity.org>. If you have questions, comments, or have identified ways to improve this guide, please write us at [feedback@cisecurity.org](mailto:feedback@cisecurity.org).

## Intended Audience

This document is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, and platform deployment personnel who plan to develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate Apache HTTP Server 2.2 running on Linux.

## Consensus Guidance

This benchmark was created using a consensus review process comprised of subject matter experts. Consensus participants provide perspective from a diverse set of backgrounds including consulting, software development, audit and compliance, security research, operations, government, and legal.

Each CIS benchmark undergoes two phases of consensus review. The first phase occurs during initial benchmark development. During this phase, subject matter experts convene to discuss, create, and test working drafts of the benchmark. This discussion occurs until consensus has been reached on benchmark recommendations. The second phase begins after the benchmark has been published. During this phase, all feedback provided by the Internet community is reviewed by the consensus team for incorporation in the benchmark. If you are interested in participating in the consensus process, please visit <https://workbench.cisecurity.org/>.

## Typographical Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

Convention	Meaning
<code>Stylized Monospace font</code>	Used for blocks of code, command, and script examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
Monospace font	Used for inline code, commands, or examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
< <i>italic font in brackets</i> >	Italic texts set in angle brackets denote a variable requiring substitution for a real value.
<i>Italic font</i>	Used to denote the title of a book, article, or other publication.
<b>Note</b>	Additional information or caveats

## Scoring Information

A scoring status indicates whether compliance with the given recommendation impacts the assessed target's benchmark score. The following scoring statuses are used in this benchmark:

### Scored

Failure to comply with "Scored" recommendations will decrease the final benchmark score. Compliance with "Scored" recommendations will increase the final benchmark score.

### Not Scored

Failure to comply with "Not Scored" recommendations will not decrease the final benchmark score. Compliance with "Not Scored" recommendations will not increase the final benchmark score.



## Profile Definitions

The following configuration profiles are defined by this Benchmark:

- **Level 1**

Items in this profile intend to:

- be practical and prudent;
- provide a clear security benefit; and
- not inhibit the utility of the technology beyond acceptable means.

- **Level 2**

This profile extends the "Level 1" profile. Items in this profile exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are intended for environments or use cases where security is paramount
- acts as defense in depth measure
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology.

## Acknowledgements

This benchmark exemplifies the great things a community of users, vendors, and subject matter experts can accomplish through consensus collaboration. The CIS community thanks the entire consensus team with special recognition to the following individuals who contributed greatly to the creation of this guide:

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# Recommendations

## *1 Planning and Installation*

This section contains recommendations for the planning and installation of an Apache HTTP Server.

### *1.1 Ensure the Pre-Installation Planning Checklist Has Been Implemented (Not Scored)*

Review and implement the following items as appropriate:

- Review and implement your organization's security policies as they relate to web security.
- Implement a secure network infrastructure by controlling access to/from your web server using firewalls, routers and switches.
- Harden the underlying operating system of the web server by minimizing listening network services, applying proper patches, and hardening the configurations as recommended in the appropriate Center for Internet Security benchmark for the platform.
- Implement central log monitoring processes.
- Implement a disk space monitoring process and log rotation mechanism.
- Educate developers about developing secure applications. <http://www.owasp.org/>  
<http://www.webappsec.org/>
- Ensure the WHOIS Domain information registered for the web presence does not reveal sensitive personnel information, which may be leveraged for social engineering and other types of attacks.
- Ensure your Domain Name System (DNS) servers have been properly secured to prevent attacks, as recommended in the CIS BIND DNS benchmark.
- Implement intrusion detection technology, a web application firewall, or other similar technology to monitor attacks against the web server.

## 1.2 Ensure the Server Is Not a Multi-Use System (Not Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

A web server should function as only a web server, and if possible should not be mixed with other primary functions such as email, DNS, databases, or middleware. The number of services and daemons executing on the server should be limited to those necessary.

### Rationale:

Default server configurations often expose a wide variety of services. The more services exposed to an attacker, the more potential vectors an attacker has to exploit the server and therefore the higher the risk for the server. Just because a server can perform many services doesn't mean it is wise to do so. Maintaining a server for a single purpose increases the security of your application and system.

### Audit:

Leverage the package or services manager for your OS to list enabled services and compare them with the documented business needs of the server. On Red Hat systems, the following will produce the list of current services enabled:

```
chkconfig --list | grep ':on'
```

### Remediation:

Leverage the package or services manager for your OS to uninstall or disable all unneeded services. On Red Hat systems, the following will disable a given service:

```
chkconfig <servicename> off
```

### CIS Controls:

#### 9.5 Operate Critical Services On Dedicated Hosts (i.e. DNS, Mail, Web, Database)

Operate critical services on separate physical or logical host machines, such as DNS, file, mail, web, and database servers.

## 1.3 Ensure Apache Is Installed From the Appropriate Binaries (Not Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The CIS Apache Benchmark recommends using the Apache binary provided by your vendor for most situations in order to reduce the effort and increase the effectiveness of maintenance and security patches. However, to keep the benchmark as generic and applicable to all Unix/Linux platforms as possible, a default source build has been used for this benchmark.

**Important Note:** There is a major difference between source builds and most vendor packages that is very important to highlight. The default source build of Apache is fairly conservative and minimalist in the modules included, and therefore starts off in a fairly strong security state, while most vendor binaries are typically very well loaded with most of the functionality that one may be looking for. ***Therefore, it is important that you don't assume the default value shown in the benchmark will match default values in your installation.*** You should always test any new installation in your environment before putting it into production. Also, keep in mind you can install and run a new version alongside the old one by using a different Apache prefix and a different IP address or port number in the `Listen` directive.

### Rationale:

The benefits of using vendor supplied binaries include:

- Easy installation; it should work straight out of the box.
- It is customized for your OS environment.
- It has been tested and gone through QA procedures.
- Everything you need is likely to be included, probably including some third-party modules. Many OS vendors ship Apache with `mod_ssl`, `OpenSSL`, `PHP`, `mod_perl` and `mod_security`, for example.
- Your vendor will tell you about security issues, so you have to look for information in fewer places.
- Updates to fix security issues will be easy to apply. The vendor will have already verified the problem, checked the signature on the Apache download, worked out the impact, and so on.
- You may be able to get the updates automatically, reducing the window of risk.

**Remediation:**

Installation depends on the operating system platform. For a source build, consult the Apache 2.2 documentation on compiling and installing <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/install.html>. For Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5, the following `yum` command could be used:

```
# yum install httpd
```

**References:**

1. Apache Compiling and Installation <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/install.html>

**CIS Controls:**

- 2 Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Software  
Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Software

## 2 Apache Modules

It's crucially important to have a minimal and compact Apache installation based on documented business requirements. This section covers specific modules that should be reviewed and disabled if not required for business purposes. However, it's very important that the review and analysis of which modules are required for business purposes not be limited to the modules explicitly listed.

### *2.1 Ensure Only Necessary Authentication and Authorization Modules Are Enabled (Not Scored)*

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1

#### **Description:**

The Apache 2.2 modules for authentication and authorization have been refactored to provide finer granularity and more consistent and logical names, and to simplify configuration. The `authn_*` modules provide authentication, while the `authz_*` modules provide authorization. Apache provides two types of authentication: basic and digest. Enable only the modules that are required.

#### **Rationale:**

Authentication and authorization are the front doors to the protected information in your web site. Most installations only need a small subset of the modules available. By minimizing the enabled modules to those that are actually used, we reduce the number of "doors" and therefore reduce the attack surface of the web site. Likewise, having fewer modules means less software that could have vulnerabilities.

#### **Audit:**

1. Use the `httpd -M` option as root to check which `auth*` modules are loaded.

```
# httpd -M | egrep 'auth._'
```

2. Use the `httpd -M` option as root to check for any LDAP modules which don't follow the same naming convention.

```
# httpd -M | egrep 'ldap'
```

The above commands should generate a `Syntax OK` message to `stderr`, in addition to a list of modules installed to `stdout`. If the `Syntax OK` message is missing, then there was most likely an error in parsing the configuration files.

### **Remediation:**

Consult Apache module documentation for descriptions of each module in order to determine the necessary modules for the specific installation. The unnecessary static compiled modules are disabled through compile time configuration options. The dynamically loaded modules are disabled by commenting out or removing the `LoadModule` directive from the Apache configuration files (typically `httpd.conf`). Some modules may be separate packages and may be removed.

### **Default Value:**

The following are the modules statically loaded for a default source build:

```
authn_file_module (static) authn_default_module (static) authz_host_module  
(static) authz_groupfile_module (static) authz_user_module (static)  
authz_default_module (static) auth_basic_module (static)
```

### **References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/howto/auth.html>
2. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/>
3. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/programs/configure.html>

### **CIS Controls:**

16 Account Monitoring and Control  
Account Monitoring and Control



## 2.2 Ensure the Log Config Module Is Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `log_config` module provides for flexible logging of client requests and for the configuration of the information in each log.

### Rationale:

Logging is critical for monitoring usage and potential abuse of your web server. To configure web server logging using the `log_format` directive, this module is required.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the `log_config` has been loaded:

Use the `httpd -M` option as `root` to check the module is loaded.

```
# httpd -M | grep log_config
```

**Note:** If the module is correctly enabled, the output will include the module name and whether it is loaded statically or as a shared module.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following:

- For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script without including the `--disable-log-config` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure
```

- For dynamically loaded modules, add or modify the `LoadModule` directive so that it is present in the Apache configuration as below and not commented out:

```
LoadModule log_config_module modules/mod_log_config.so
```

### Default Value:

The module is loaded by default.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_log\\_config.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_log_config.html)

**CIS Controls:****6.2 Ensure Audit Log Settings Support Appropriate Log Entry Formatting**

Validate audit log settings for each hardware device and the software installed on it, ensuring that logs include a date, timestamp, source addresses, destination addresses, and various other useful elements of each packet and/or transaction. Systems should record logs in a standardized format such as syslog entries or those outlined by the Common Event Expression initiative. If systems cannot generate logs in a standardized format, log normalization tools can be deployed to convert logs into such a format.

## 2.3 Ensure the WebDAV Modules Are Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `mod_dav` and `mod_dav_fs` modules support WebDAV ('Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning') functionality for Apache. WebDAV is an extension to the HTTP protocol which allows clients to create, move, and delete files and resources on the web server.

### Rationale:

WebDAV is not widely used, and it has serious security concerns because it may allow clients to modify unauthorized files on the web server. Therefore, the WebDav modules `mod_dav` and `mod_dav_fs` should be disabled.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the WebDAV modules are disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | grep ' dav_[[:print:]]+module'
```

**Note:** If the WebDav modules are correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the WebDAV modules:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script without including `mod_dav` and `mod_dav_fs` in the `--enable-modules=configure` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_dav` and `mod_dav_fs` modules from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
##LoadModule dav_module modules/mod_dav.so
##LoadModule dav_fs_module modules/mod_dav_fs.so
```

**Default Value:**

The modules are not enabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_dav.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_dav.html)

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 2.4 Ensure the Status Module Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `mod_status` module provides current server performance statistics.

### Rationale:

While having server performance status information available as a web page may be convenient, it's recommended that this module be disabled. When it is enabled, its handler capability is available in all configuration files, including per-directory files (e.g., `.htaccess`). This may have security-related ramifications.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the `mod_status` module is disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | egrep 'status_module'
```

**Note:** If the modules are correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the `mod_status` module:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script with the `--disable-status` `configure` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure --disable-status
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_status` module from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
##LoadModule status_module modules/mod_status.so
```

### Default Value:

The module is enabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_status.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_status.html)

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 2.5 Ensure the Autoindex Module Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `mod_autoindex` module automatically generates a web page listing the contents of directories on the server, typically used so an `index.html` does not have to be generated.

### Rationale:

Automated directory listings should not be enabled because they will reveal information helpful to an attacker such as naming conventions and directory paths. They may also reveal files that were not intended to be revealed.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the `mod_autoindex` module is disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | grep autoindex_module
```

**Note:** If the module is correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the `mod_autoindex` module:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script with the `-disable-autoindex` `configure` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure -disable-autoindex
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_autoindex` module from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
## LoadModule autoindex_module modules/mod_autoindex.so
```

### Default Value:

The module is enabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_autoindex.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_autoindex.html)

**CIS Controls:**

18 Application Software Security  
Application Software Security



## 2.6 Ensure the Proxy Modules Are Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache proxy modules allow the server to act as a proxy (either forward or reverse proxy) for HTTP and other protocols with additional proxy modules loaded. If the Apache installation is not intended to proxy requests to or from another network, the proxy module should not be loaded.

### Rationale:

Proxy servers can act as an important security control when properly configured. However, a secure proxy server is not within the scope of this benchmark. A web server should be primarily a web server or a proxy server but not both, for the same reasons that other multi-use servers are not recommended. Scanning for web servers that will also proxy requests is a very common attack because proxy servers are useful for anonymizing attacks on other servers, or possibly proxying requests into an otherwise protected network.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the proxy modules are disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | grep proxy_
```

**Note:** If the modules are correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the proxy modules:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script without including the `mod_proxy` and all other proxy modules in the `--enable-modules=configure` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_proxy` module and all other proxy modules from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
##LoadModule proxy_module modules/mod_proxy.so
##LoadModule proxy_balancer_module modules/mod_proxy_balancer.so
##LoadModule proxy_ftp_module modules/mod_proxy_ftp.so
##LoadModule proxy_http_module modules/mod_proxy_http.so
##LoadModule proxy_connect_module modules/mod_proxy_connect.so
##LoadModule proxy_ajp_module modules/mod_proxy_ajp.so
```

**Default Value:**

The proxy modules are disabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_proxy.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_proxy.html)

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 2.7 Ensure the User Directories Module Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `UserDir` directive must be disabled so that user home directories are not accessed via the web site with a tilde (~) preceding the username. The directive also sets the path name of the directory that will be accessed. For example:

- <http://example.com/~ralph/> might access a `public_html` sub-directory of `ralph` user's home directory.
- The directive `UserDir . /` might map `/~root` to the root directory (`/`).

### Rationale:

The user directories should not be globally enabled since that allows anonymous access to anything users may want to share with other users on the network. Also consider that every time a new account is created on the system, there is potentially new content available via the web site.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the user directories module is disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | grep userdir_
```

**Note:** If the module is correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the user directories module:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script with the `--disable-userdir` configure script option.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure --disable-userdir
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_userdir` module from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
##LoadModule userdir_module modules/mod_userdir.so
```

**Default Value:**

The module is enabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_userdir.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_userdir.html)

**CIS Controls:**

18 Application Software Security  
Application Software Security

## 2.8 Ensure the Info Module Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `mod_info` module provides information on the server configuration via access to a `/server-info` URL location.

### Rationale:

Although having server configuration information available as a web page may be convenient, it's recommended that this module be disabled. Once the module is loaded into the server, its handler capability is available in per-directory `.htaccess` files. This can leak sensitive information, such as system paths, usernames/passwords, and database names, from the configuration directives of other Apache modules.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the info module is disabled.

Run the `httpd` server with the `-M` option to list enabled modules:

```
# httpd -M | egrep 'info_module'
```

**Note:** If the module is correctly disabled, the only output when executing the above command should be `Syntax OK`.

### Remediation:

Perform either one of the following to disable the `mod_info` module:

1. For source builds with static modules, run the Apache `./configure` script without including `mod_info` in the `--enable-modules=` `configure` script options.

```
$ cd $DOWNLOAD/httpd-2.2.22
$ ./configure
```

2. For dynamically loaded modules, comment out or remove the `LoadModule` directive for the `mod_info` module from the `httpd.conf` file.

```
##LoadModule info_module modules/mod_info.so
```

**Default Value:**

The module is disabled with a default source build.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_info.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_info.html)

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 3 Privileges, Permissions, and Ownership

Security at the operating system (OS) level is the vital foundation required for a secure web server. This section will focus on OS platform privileges, permissions, and ownership.

### 3.1 Ensure the Apache Web Server Runs As a Non-Root User (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

Although Apache is typically started with root privileges in order to listen on port 80 and 443, it can and should run as another non-root user in order to perform the web services. The Apache User and Group directives are used to designate the user and group to be used.

#### Rationale:

One of the best ways to reduce your exposure to attack when running a web server is to create a unique, unprivileged user and group for the server application. The `nobody` or `daemon` user and group that come default on Unix variants should NOT be used to run the web server because the account is commonly used for other separate daemon services. Instead, an account should be used only by the Apache software so as to not give unnecessary access to other services. Also, the user used for the Apache user should be a unique value between 1 and 499, as these lower values are reserved for the special system accounts not used by regular users, as discussed in the User Accounts section of the CIS Red Hat benchmark. As an even more secure alternative, if the Apache web server can be run on high unprivileged ports, it is not necessary to start Apache as root, and all the Apache processes may be run as the Apache specific user, as described below.

#### Audit:

Ensure the apache account is unique and has been created with a UID between 1-499 with the apache group and configured in the `httpd.conf` file.

1. Ensure the following lines are present in the Apache configuration and not commented out:

```
# grep -i '^User' $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
User apache
# grep -i '^Group' $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
Group apache
```

2. Ensure the apache account is correct:

```
# grep '^UID_MIN' /etc/login.defs
# id apache
```

The 'uid' must be less than the `UID_MIN` value in `/etc/login.defs`, and the group for apache must be similar to the following entries:

```
uid=48 (apache) gid=48 (apache) groups=48 (apache)
```

3. While the web server is running, check the user id for the `httpd` processes. The username should match the configuration file.

```
# ps axu | grep httpd | grep -v '^root'
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following:

1. If the Apache user and group do not already exist, create the account and group as a unique system account:

```
# groupadd -r apache
# useradd apache -r -g apache -d /var/www -s /sbin/nologin
```

2. Configure the Apache user and group in the Apache configuration file `httpd.conf`:

```
User apache
Group apache
```

### Default Value:

The default Apache user and group are configured as 'daemon'.

### CIS Controls:

#### 5.1 Minimize And Sparingly Use Administrative Privileges

Minimize administrative privileges and only use administrative accounts when they are required. Implement focused auditing on the use of administrative privileged functions and monitor for anomalous behavior.



## 3.2 Ensure the Apache User Account Has an Invalid Shell (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The apache account must not be used as a regular login account, so it should be assigned an invalid or `nologin` shell to ensure it cannot be used to log in.

### Rationale:

Service accounts such as the apache account are a risk if they can be used to get a login shell to the system.

### Audit:

Check the apache login shell in the `/etc/passwd` file:

```
# grep apache /etc/passwd
```

The apache account shell must be `/sbin/nologin` or `/dev/null`, similar to the following:  
`/etc/passwd:apache:x:48:48:Apache:/var/www:/sbin/nologin`

### Remediation:

Change the apache account to use the `nologin` shell or an invalid shell such as `/dev/null`:

```
# chsh -s /sbin/nologin apache
```

### Default Value:

The default Apache user account is `daemon` with a shell of `/dev/null` or `/sbin/nologin`.

### CIS Controls:

#### 16 Account Monitoring and Control

Account Monitoring and Control

### 3.3 Ensure the Apache User Account Is Locked (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The user account under which Apache runs should not have a valid password, but should be locked.

#### Rationale:

As a defense-in-depth measure, the Apache user account should be locked to prevent logins and to prevent a user from `su`-ing to `apache` using the password. In general, there shouldn't be a need for anyone to have to `su` as `apache`, and when there is a need, `sudo` should be used instead, which would not require the `apache` account password.

#### Audit:

Ensure the `apache` account is locked using the following:

```
# passwd -S apache
```

The results should be similar to the following:

```
apache LK 2010-01-28 0 99999 7 -1 (Password locked.)  
  
- or -  
  
apache L 07/02/2012 -1 -1 -1 -1
```

#### Remediation:

Use the `passwd` command to lock the `apache` account:

```
# passwd -l apache
```

#### Notes:

The default user account, `daemon`, is locked by default.

#### CIS Controls:

16 Account Monitoring and Control

Account Monitoring and Control

### 3.4 Ensure Apache Directories and Files Are Owned By Root (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The Apache directories and files should be owned by root. This applies to all of the Apache software directories and files installed.

#### Rationale:

Restricting ownership of the Apache files and directories will reduce the probability of unauthorized modifications.

#### Audit:

Verify that there are no files in the Apache directory that are not owned by `root`:

```
# find $APACHE_PREFIX \! -user root -ls
```

#### Remediation:

Perform the following:

Set ownership on the `$APACHE_PREFIX` directories such as `/usr/local/apache2`:

```
$ chown -R root $APACHE_PREFIX
```

#### Default Value:

Default ownership is a mixture of the user that built the software and `root`.

#### CIS Controls:

##### 5.1 Minimize And Sparingly Use Administrative Privileges

Minimize administrative privileges and only use administrative accounts when they are required. Implement focused auditing on the use of administrative privileged functions and monitor for anomalous behavior.

### 3.5 Ensure the Group Is Set Correctly on Apache Directories and Files (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The Apache directories and files should be set to have a group of root (or a root equivalent group). This applies to all the Apache software directories and files installed. The only expected exception is that the Apache web document root (`$APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs`) is likely to need a designated group to allow web content to be updated (such as `webupdate`) through a change management process.

#### Rationale:

Securing Apache files and directories will reduce the probability of unauthorized modifications.

#### Audit:

Verify that there are no files in the Apache directories (other than `htdocs`) with a group other than root:

```
# find $APACHE_PREFIX -path $APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs -prune -o \! -group root -ls
```

#### Remediation:

Perform the following:

Set the group on the `$APACHE_PREFIX` directories, such as `/usr/local/apache2`:

```
$ chgrp -R root $APACHE_PREFIX
```

#### Default Value:

Default group is a mixture of the user group that built the software and root.

#### CIS Controls:

5 Controlled Use of Administration Privileges

Controlled Use of Administration Privileges

### 3.6 Ensure Other Write Access on Apache Directories and Files Is Restricted (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The permission on the Apache directories should be `rwxr-xr-x` (755) and the file permissions should be similar, except not executable if executable is not appropriate. This applies to all the Apache software directories and files installed, with the possible exception in some cases that a group with write access for the Apache web document root (`$APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs`) may be needed to allow web content to be updated. In addition, the `/bin` directory and executables should be set to not be readable by other.

#### Rationale:

None of the Apache files and directories, including the Web document root, should allow other write access. Other write access is likely to be very useful for unauthorized modification of web content, configuration files, and software.

#### Audit:

Verify that there are no files or directories in the Apache directory with other write access, excluding symbolic links:

```
# find -L $APACHE_PREFIX \! -type l -perm /o=w -ls
```

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to remove other write access on the `$APACHE_PREFIX` directories:

```
# chmod -R o-w $APACHE_PREFIX
```

#### Default Value:

The default permissions are mostly `rwXr-Xr-X`, except for some files which have group or other permissions that are affected by the umask of the user performing the build.

**CIS Controls:****14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists**

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

### 3.7 Ensure the Core Dump Directory Is Secured (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `CoreDumpDirectory` directive can be used to specify a directory which Apache attempts to switch before dumping core for debugging. The default directory is the Apache `ServerRoot` directory. However, on Linux systems, core dumps are disabled by default. Most production environments should leave core dumps disabled. In the event that core dumps are needed, the directory needs to be writable by Apache, and it should meet the security requirements defined below in the audit and remediation sections.

#### Rationale:

Core dumps are snapshots of memory and may contain sensitive information that should not be accessible by other accounts on the system.

#### Audit:

Verify that either the `CoreDumpDirectory` directive is not enabled in any of the Apache configuration files, or the configured directory meets the following requirements:

1. Not within the Apache web document root (`$APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs`)
2. Owned by root and has a group ownership of the Apache group (as defined via the `Group` directive)
3. Has no read-write-search access permission for other users (e.g., `o=rwx`)

#### Remediation:

Either remove the `CoreDumpDirectory` directive from the Apache configuration files, or make the configured directory meet the following requirements:

1. Not within the Apache web document root (`$APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs`)
2. Owned by root and has a group ownership of the Apache group (as defined via the `Group` directive)

```
# chown root:apache /var/log/httpd
```

4. Has no read-write-search access permission for other users

```
# chmod o-rwx /var/log/httpd
```

**Default Value:**

The default core dump directory is the `ServerRoot` directory, which should not be writable.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm\\_common.html#coredumpdirectory](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#coredumpdirectory)

**CIS Controls:****18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts**

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.



### 3.8 Ensure the Lock File Is Secured (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `LockFile` directive sets the path to the lock file used when Apache uses `fcntl(2)` or `flock(2)` system calls to implement a mutex. Most Linux systems will default to using semaphores instead, so the directive may not apply. However, in the event a lock file is used, it is important for the lock file to be in a locally mounted directory that is not writable by other users.

#### Rationale:

If the `LockFile` is placed in a writable directory, other accounts could create a denial of service attack and prevent the server from starting by creating a lock file with the same name.

#### Audit:

Perform these steps to verify the lock file is secured properly:

1. Find the directory in which the `LockFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.
2. Verify that the lock file directory is not a directory within the Apache `DocumentRoot`.
3. Verify that the lock file directory is on a locally mounted hard drive rather than an NFS mounted file system.
4. Verify that the ownership and group of the directory is `root:root` (or the user under which apache initially starts up if not root).
5. Verify that the permissions on the directory are only writable by root (or the startup user if not root).

#### Remediation:

Perform these steps to properly secure the lock file:

1. Find the directory in which the `LockFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.
2. Modify the directory for the `LockFile` so it is not within the Apache `DocumentRoot` and so it is on a locally mounted hard drive rather than an NFS mounted file system.
3. Change the ownership and group of the directory to be `root:root`.

4. Change the permissions on the directory so it is only writable by root, or the user under which apache initially starts up (default is root).

**Default Value:**

The default lock file is `logs/accept.lock`.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm\\_common.html#lockfile](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#lockfile)

**CIS Controls:**

18 Application Software Security

Application Software Security

### 3.9 Ensure the Pid File Is Secured (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `PidFile` directive sets the file path to the process ID (pid) file to which the server records the pid of the server. The pid is useful for sending a signal to the server process or checking on the health of the process.

#### Rationale:

If the `PidFile` is placed in a writable directory, other accounts could create a denial of service attack and prevent the server from starting by creating a pid file with the same name.

#### Audit:

Perform these steps to verify the pid file is secured:

1. Find the directory in which the `PidFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.
2. Verify that the process ID file directory is not a directory within the Apache `DocumentRoot`.
3. Verify that the ownership and group of the directory is `root:root` (or the user under which apache initially starts up if not root).
4. Verify the permissions on the directory are only writable by root (or the startup user if not root).

#### Remediation:

Perform these steps to secure the pid file:

1. Find the directory in which the `PidFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.
2. Modify the directory if it is within the Apache `DocumentRoot`.
3. Change the ownership and group of the directory to be `root:root`.
4. Change the permissions for the directory so it is only writable by root, or the user under which apache initially starts up (default is root).

#### Default Value:

The default process ID file is `logs/httpd.pid`.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm\\_common.html#pidfile](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#pidfile)

**CIS Controls:**

18 Application Software Security

Application Software Security

### 3.10 Ensure the ScoreBoard File Is Secured (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `ScoreBoardFile` directive sets a file path which the server will use for interprocess communication (IPC) among the Apache processes. On most Linux platforms, shared memory will be used instead of a file in the file system, so this directive is not generally needed and does not need to be specified. However, if the directive is specified, Apache will use the configured file for IPC, so it needs to be located in a secure directory.

#### Rationale:

If the `ScoreBoardFile` is placed in a writable directory, other accounts could create a denial of service attack and prevent the server from starting by creating a file with the same name, and users could monitor and disrupt communication between the processes by reading and writing to the file.

#### Audit:

Perform the following steps to verify the ScoreBoard file is secure:

1. Check to see if the `ScoreBoardFile` is specified in any of the Apache configuration files. If it is not present, the configuration is compliant.
2. Find the directory in which the `ScoreBoardFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.
3. Verify that the directory is not within the Apache `DocumentRoot`.
4. Verify that the directory is on a locally mounted hard drive rather than an NFS mounted file system.
5. Verify that the ownership and group of the directory is `root:root` (or the user under which Apache initially starts up if not root).
6. Verify that the directory is only writable by root (or the startup user if not root).

#### Remediation:

Perform the following steps to secure the ScoreBoard file:

1. Check to see if the `ScoreBoardFile` is specified in any of the Apache configuration files. If it is not present, no changes are required.
2. If the directive is present, find the directory in which the `ScoreBoardFile` would be created. The default value is the `ServerRoot/logs` directory.

3. Modify the directory if it is within the Apache `DocumentRoot` or if it is on an NFS mounted file system and not a locally mounted hard drive.
4. Change the directory ownership and group to be `root:root`.
5. Change the directory permissions so it is only writable by root or the user under which apache initially starts up (default is root).

**Default Value:**

The default scoreboard file is `logs/apache_status`.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm\\_common.html#scoreboardfile](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#scoreboardfile)

**CIS Controls:**

18 Application Software Security  
Application Software Security

### 3.11 Ensure Group Write Access for the Apache Directories and Files Is Properly Restricted (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

Group permissions on Apache directories should generally be `r-x`, and file permissions should be similar, except not executable if executable is not appropriate. This applies to all the Apache software directories and files installed, with the possible exception of the web document root `$DOCROOT` defined by Apache `DocumentRoot` and defaulting to `$APACHE_PREFIX/htdocs`. The directories and files in the web document root may have a designated web development group with write access to allow web content to be updated.

#### Rationale:

Restricting write permissions on the Apache files and directories can help mitigate attacks that modify web content to provide unauthorized access or to attack web clients.

#### Audit:

Verify that there are no files or directories in the Apache directory with group write access, excluding symbolic links:

```
# find -L $APACHE_PREFIX \! -type l -perm /g=w -ls
```

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to remove group write access on the `$APACHE_PREFIX` directories:

```
# chmod -R g-w $APACHE_PREFIX
```

#### CIS Controls:

##### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

### 3.12 Ensure Group Write Access for the Document Root Directories and Files Is Properly Restricted (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The Apache Document Root directory `$DOCROOT` may need to be writeable by an authorized group such as development, support, or a production content management tool. However, it is important that the Apache group used to run the server does not have write access to any directories or files in the document root.

#### Rationale:

Preventing Apache from writing to the web document root helps mitigate risk associated with web application vulnerabilities associated with file uploads or command execution. Typically, if an application hosted by Apache needs to write to a directory, it is best practice to have that directory live outside the web root.

#### Audit:

Verify that there are no files or directories in the Apache Document Root directory with Apache group write access:

```
## Define $GRP to be the Apache group configured
# GRP=$(grep '^Group' $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf | cut -d' ' -f2)
# find -L $DOCROOT -group $GRP -perm /g=w -ls
```

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to remove group write access on the `$DOCROOT` directories and files for the Apache group.

```
# find -L $DOCROOT -group $GRP -perm /g=w -print | xargs chmod g-w
```



**CIS Controls:****14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists**

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 4 Apache Access Control

Recommendations in this section pertain to configurable access control mechanisms that are available in Apache HTTP server.

### 4.1 Ensure Access to OS Root Directory Is Denied By Default (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The Apache `Directory` directive allows for directory-specific configuration of access controls and many other features and options. One important usage is to create a default deny policy that does not allow access to OS directories and files, except for those specifically allowed. This is done by denying access to the OS root directory.

#### Rationale:

One aspect of Apache that is occasionally misunderstood is the feature of default access. That is, unless you take steps to change it, if the server can find its way to a file through normal URL mapping rules, it can and will serve it to clients. Having a default deny helps prevent unintended access. The `Order` directive is important as it provides for other `Allow` directives to override the default deny.

#### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root `<Directory>` element.
2. Ensure there is a single `Order` directive with the value of `deny, allow`.
3. Ensure there is a `Deny` directive and it has the value of `from all`.
4. Ensure there are no `Allow` or `Require` directives in the root `<Directory>` element.

The following may be useful in extracting root directory elements from the Apache configuration for auditing.

```
$ perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory *\\//i .. /<\\Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root `<Directory>` element.
2. Have a single `Order` directive and set its value to `deny, allow`.
3. Have a `Deny` directive and set its value to `from all`.
4. Remove all `Allow` directives from the root `<Directory>` element.

```
<Directory />
. . .
Order deny,allow
Deny from all
. . .
</Directory>
```

## Default Value:

The following is the default root directory configuration:

```
<Directory />
. . .
Order deny,allow
Deny from all
</Directory>
```

## References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#directory>
2. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_authz\\_host.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_authz_host.html)

## CIS Controls:

### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 4.2 Ensure Appropriate Access to Web Content Is Allowed (Not Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

In order to serve web content, the Apache `Allow` directive will need to be used to allow for appropriate access to directories, locations, and virtual hosts that contain web content.

### Rationale:

The `Allow` directive may be used within a directory, a location, or other context to allow appropriate access. Access may be allowed to all, or to specific networks, hosts, or users as appropriate.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find all `<Directory>` elements.
2. Ensure there is a single `Order` directive with the value of `Deny, Allow` for each.
3. Ensure the `Allow` and `Deny` directives have values that are appropriate for the purposes of the directory.

The following commands may be useful to extract `<Directory>` and `<Location>` elements and `Allow` directives from the apache configuration files.

```
# perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory */i .. /<\/Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf $APACHE_PREFIX/conf.d/*.conf

# perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Location */i .. /<\/Location/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf $APACHE_PREFIX/conf.d/*.conf

# grep -i -C 6 -i 'Allow[[:space:]]from' $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf.d/*.conf
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find all `<Directory>` and `<Location>` elements. There should be one for the document root and any special purpose directories or locations. There are likely to

be other access control directives in other contexts, such as virtual hosts or special elements like <Proxy>.

2. Add a single Order directive and set the value to deny, allow.
3. Include the appropriate Allow and Deny directives, with values that are appropriate for the purposes of the directory.

The configurations below are just a few possible examples.

```
<Directory "/var/www/html/">
    Order deny,allow
    Deny from all
    Allow from 192.169.
</Directory>
```

```
<Directory "/var/www/html/">
    Order allow,deny
    Allow from all
</Directory>
```

```
<Location /usage>
    Order deny,allow
    Deny from all
    Allow from 127.0.0.1
    Allow from ::1
</Location>
```

### Default Value:

The following is the default web root directory configuration:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs">
    . . .
    Order deny,allow
    Allow from all
</Directory>
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#require>
2. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_authz\\_host.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_authz_host.html)

### CIS Controls:

#### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 4.3 Ensure OverRide Is Disabled for the OS Root Directory (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `OverRide` directive allows for `.htaccess` files to be used to override much of the configuration, including authentication, handling of document types, auto generated indexes, access control, and options. When the server finds an `.htaccess` file (as specified by `AccessFileName`), it needs to know which directives declared in that file can override earlier access information. When this directive is set to `None`, `.htaccess` files are completely ignored. When this directive is set to `All`, any directive which has the `.htaccess` Context is allowed in `.htaccess` files. Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#allowoverride>.

### Rationale:

While the functionality of `htaccess` files is sometimes convenient, usage decentralizes the access controls and increases the risk of configurations being changed or viewed inappropriately by an unintended or rogue `.htaccess` file. Consider also that some of the more common vulnerabilities in web servers and web applications allow the web files to be viewed or to be modified; this is why it is wise to keep the configuration of the web server from being placed in `.htaccess` files.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root element.
2. Ensure there is a single `AllowOverride` directive with the value of `None`.

The following may be useful for extracting root directory elements from the Apache configuration for auditing:

```
$ perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory *\\//i .. /<\\Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root `<Directory>` element.
2. Add a single `AllowOverride` directive if there is none.
3. Set the value for `AllowOverride` to `None`.

```
<Directory />
    . . .
    AllowOverride None
    . . .
</Directory>
```

### Default Value:

The following is the default root directory configuration:

```
<Directory />
    . . .
    AllowOverride None
    . . .
</Directory>
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#allowoverride>

### CIS Controls:

#### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 4.4 Ensure OverRide Is Disabled for All Directories (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `AllowOverride` directive allows for `.htaccess` files to be used to override much of the configuration, including authentication, handling of document types, auto generated indexes, access control, and options. When the server finds an `.htaccess` file (as specified by `AccessFileName`), it needs to know which directives declared in that file can override earlier access information. When this directive is set to `None`, `.htaccess` files are completely ignored. When this directive is set to `All`, any directive which has the `.htaccess` Context is allowed in `.htaccess` files. Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#allowoverride>.

### Rationale:

While the functionality of `htaccess` files is sometimes convenient, usage decentralizes the access controls and increases the risk of configurations being changed or viewed inappropriately by an unintended or rogue `.htaccess` file. Consider also that some of the more common vulnerabilities in web servers and web applications allow the web files to be viewed or to be modified; this is why it is wise to keep the configuration of the web server from being placed in `.htaccess` files.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find any `AllowOverride` directives.
2. Ensure the value for `AllowOverride` is `None`.

```
grep -i AllowOverride $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find `AllowOverride` directives.



2. Set the value for all `AllowOverride` directives to `None`.

```
. . .  
AllowOverride None  
. . .
```

## References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#allowoverride>

## CIS Controls:

### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 5 Features, Content, and Options

Recommendations in this section intend to reduce the effective attack surface of Apache HTTP server.

### 5.1 Ensure Options for the OS Root Directory Are Restricted (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The Apache `Options` directive allows for specific configuration of options, including execution of CGI, following symbolic links, server side includes, and content negotiation.

Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details:

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>.

#### Rationale:

The `Options` directive for the root OS level is used to create a default minimal options policy that allows only the minimal options at the root directory level. Then for specific web sites or portions of the web site, options may be enabled as needed and appropriate. No options should be enabled and the value for the `Options` directive should be `None`.

#### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root `<Directory>` element.
2. Ensure there is a single `Options` directive with the value of `None`.

The following may be useful for extracting root directory elements from the Apache configuration for auditing:

```
perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory */i .. /\<\/Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find a root `<Directory>` element.
2. Add a single `Options` directive if there is none.
3. Set the value for `Options` to `None`.

```
<Directory />
    . . .
    Options None
    . . .
</Directory>
```

## Default Value:

The following is the default root directory configuration:

```
<Directory />
    Options FollowSymLinks
    . . .
</Directory>
```

## References:

1. <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>

## CIS Controls:

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Application Software Security

## 5.2 Ensure Options for the Web Root Directory Are Restricted (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `Options` directive allows for specific configuration of options, including execution of CGI, following symbolic links, server side includes, and content negotiation.

Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>.

### Rationale:

The `Options` directive at the web root or document root level should be restricted to the minimal options required. A setting of `None` is highly recommended; however, at this level, content negotiation may be needed if multiple languages are supported. No other options should be enabled.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find the document root `<Directory>` element.
2. Ensure there is a single `Options` directive with the value of `None` or `Multiviews` (if `Multiviews` are needed).

The following may be useful in extracting root directory elements from the Apache configuration for auditing:

```
perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory */i .. /\</Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find the document root `<Directory>` element.

2. Add or modify any existing `Options` directive to have a value of `None` or `Multiviews`, if multiviews are needed.

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs">
    . . .
    Options None
    . . .
</Directory>
```

### Default Value:

The following is the default document root directory configuration:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs">
    . . .
    Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
    . . .
</Directory>
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>

### CIS Controls:

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Application Software Security

## 5.3 Ensure Options for Other Directories Are Minimized (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `Options` directive allows for specific configuration of options, including execution of CGI, following symbolic links, server side includes, and content negotiation.

Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>.

### Rationale:

The options for other directories and hosts should be restricted to the minimal options required. A setting of `None` is recommended; however, it is recognized that other options may be needed in some cases:

- `Multiviews` is appropriate if content negotiation is required, such as when multiple languages are supported.
- `ExecCGI` is only appropriate for special directories dedicated to executable content, such as a `cgi-bin/` directory. That way you will know what is executed on the server. It is possible to enable CGI script execution based on file extension or permission settings, but this makes script control and management almost impossible as developers may install scripts without your knowledge.
- `FollowSymLinks` & `SymLinksIfOwnerMatch`: The following of symbolic links is not recommended and should be disabled if possible. The usage of symbolic links opens up additional risk for possible attacks that may use inappropriate symbolic links to access content outside of the document root of the web server. Also consider that it could be combined with a vulnerability that allows an attacker or insider to create an inappropriate link. The option `SymLinksIfOwnerMatch` is much safer in that the ownership must match in order for the link to be used, but keep in mind there is additional overhead created by requiring Apache to check the ownership.
- `Includes` & `IncludesNOEXEC`: The `IncludesNOEXEC` option should only be needed when server side includes are required. The full `Includes` option should not be used because it allows execution of arbitrary shell commands. See Apache Mod Include for details [http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_include.html](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_include.html).
- `Indexes` causes automatic generation of indexes if the default index page is missing, so it should be disabled unless required.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find all `<Directory>` elements.
2. Ensure that the `Options` directives do not enable `Includes`.
3. Ensure that all other options are set correctly.

The following may be useful for extracting directory elements from the Apache configuration for auditing:

```
perl -ne 'print if /^ *<Directory */i .. /\</Directory/i'
$APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

or

```
grep -i -A 12 '<Directory[[:space:]]' $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Search the Apache configuration files (`httpd.conf` and any included configuration files) to find all `<Directory>` elements.
2. Add or modify any existing `Options` directive to NOT have a value of `Includes`. Other options may be set if necessary and appropriate as described above.

### Default Value:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/cgi-bin">
    . . .
    Options None
    . . .
</Directory>
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#options>

### CIS Controls:

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Application Software Security

## 5.4 Ensure Default HTML Content Is Removed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Apache installations have default content that is not needed or appropriate for production use. The primary function for the sample content is to provide a default web site, provide user manuals, or demonstrate special features of the web server. All content that is not needed should be removed.

### Rationale:

Historically, sample content and features have been remotely exploited and can provide different levels of access to the server. Usually these routines are not written for production use and consequently little thought was given to security in their development.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify the document root directory and the configuration files do not provide for a default index.html or welcome page.
2. Ensure the Apache User Manual content is not installed by checking the configuration files for manual location directives.
3. Verify the Apache configuration files do not have the Server Status handler configured.
4. Verify that the Server Information handler is not configured.
5. Verify that any other handler configurations such as `perl-status` are not enabled.

### Remediation:

Review all pre-installed content and remove content which is not required. In particular, look for unnecessary content in the document root directory, in a configuration directory such as `conf/extra` directory, or as a Unix/Linux package.



1. Remove the default `index.html` or welcome page, if it is a separate package, or comment out the configuration if it is part of the main Apache `httpd` package, such as it is on Red Hat Linux. Removing a file such as the `welcome.conf` shown below is not recommended as it may get replaced if the package is updated.

```
#
# This configuration file enables the default "Welcome"
# page if there is no default index page present for
# the root URL. To disable the Welcome page, comment
# out all the lines below.
#
##<LocationMatch "^/+$">
##     Options -Indexes
##     ErrorDocument 403 /error/noindex.html
##</LocationMatch>
```

2. Remove the Apache user manual content or comment out configurations referencing the manual.

```
# yum erase httpd-manual
```

3. Remove or comment out any Server Status handler configuration.

```
#
# Allow server status reports generated by mod_status,
# with the URL of http://servername/server-status
# Change the ".example.com" to match your domain to enable.
#
#<Location /server-status>
#     SetHandler server-status
#     Order deny,allow
#     Deny from all
#     Allow from .example.com
#</Location>
```

4. Remove or comment out any Server Information handler configuration.

```
#
# Allow remote server configuration reports, with the URL of
# http://servername/server-info (requires that mod_info.c be loaded).
# Change the ".example.com" to match your domain to enable.
#
#<Location /server-info>
#     SetHandler server-info
#     Order deny,allow
#     Deny from all
#     Allow from .example.com
#</Location>
```

5. Remove or comment out any other handler configurations such as `perl-status`.

```
# This will allow remote server configuration reports, with the URL of
# http://servername/perl-status
# Change the ".example.com" to match your domain to enable.
#
#<Location /perl-status>
#     SetHandler perl-script
#     PerlResponseHandler Apache2::Status
#     Order deny,allow
#     Deny from all
#     Allow from .example.com
#</Location>
```

### Default Value:

The default source build extra content is available in the `/usr/local/apache2/conf/extra/` directory, but the configuration of the extra content is commented out by default. The only default content is a minimal barebones `index.html` in the document root which contains the following:

```
<html>
  <body>
    <h1>It works!</h1>
  </body>
</html>
```

### CIS Controls:

#### 18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.

## 5.5 Ensure the Default CGI Content `printenv` Script Is Removed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Most web servers, including Apache installations, have default CGI content which is not needed or appropriate for production use. The primary function for these sample programs is to demonstrate the capabilities of the web server. One common default CGI content for apache installations is the script `printenv`. This script will print back to the requester all of the CGI environment variables, which include many server configuration details and system paths.

### Rationale:

CGI programs have a long history of security bugs and problems associated with improperly accepting user input. Since these programs are often targets of attackers, we need to make sure there are no unnecessary CGI programs that could potentially be used for malicious purposes. Usually these programs were not written for production use, and consequently little thought was given to security in their development. The `printenv` script in particular will disclose inappropriate information about the web server, including directory paths and detailed version and configuration information.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate `cgi-bin` files and directories enabled in the Apache configuration via the `Script`, `ScriptAlias`, `ScriptAliasMatch`, or `ScriptInterpreterSource` directives.
2. Ensure the `printenv` CGI is not installed in any configured `cgi-bin` directory.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Locate `cgi-bin` files and directories enabled in the Apache configuration via the `Script`, `ScriptAlias`, `ScriptAliasMatch`, or `ScriptInterpreterSource` directives.
2. Remove the `printenv` default CGI in the `cgi-bin` directory if it is installed.

```
# rm $APACHE_PREFIX/cgi-bin/printenv
```

**Notes:**

The default source build does not include the `printenv` script.

**CIS Controls:**

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Application Software Security

## 5.6 Ensure the Default CGI Content test-cgi Script Is Removed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Most web servers, including Apache installations, have default CGI content which is not needed or appropriate for production use. The primary function for these sample programs is to demonstrate the capabilities of the web server. A common default CGI content for Apache installations is the script `test-cgi`. This script will print back to the requester CGI environment variables, which includes many server configuration details.

### Rationale:

CGI programs have a long history of security bugs and problems associated with improperly accepting user input. Since these programs are often targets of attackers, we need to make sure there are no unnecessary CGI programs that could potentially be used for malicious purposes. Usually these programs were not written for production use, and consequently little thought was given to security in their development. The `test-cgi` script in particular will disclose inappropriate information about the web server, including directory paths and detailed version and configuration information.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate `cgi-bin` files and directories enabled in the Apache configuration via `Script`, `ScriptAlias`, `ScriptAliasMatch`, or `ScriptInterpreterSource` directives.
2. Ensure the `test-cgi` script is not installed in any configured `cgi-bin` directory.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Locate `cgi-bin` files and directories enabled in the Apache configuration via `Script`, `ScriptAlias`, `ScriptAliasMatch`, or `ScriptInterpreterSource` directives.
2. Remove the `test-cgi` default CGI in the `cgi-bin` directory if it is installed.

```
# rm $APACHE_PREFIX/cgi-bin/test-cgi
```

**Default Value:**

The default source build does not include the `test-cgi` script.

**CIS Controls:****18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts**

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.

## 5.7 Ensure HTTP Request Methods Are Restricted (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Use the Apache `<LimitExcept>` directive to restrict unnecessary HTTP request methods of the web server so it only accepts and processes the `GET`, `HEAD`, `POST` and `OPTIONS` HTTP request methods.

### Rationale:

The HTTP 1.1 protocol supports several request methods which are rarely used and potentially high risk. For example, methods such as `PUT` and `DELETE` are rarely used and should be disabled in keeping with the security principle of minimizing features and options. Also, since these methods are typically used to modify resources on the web server, they should be explicitly disallowed. For normal web server operation, you will typically need to allow only the `GET`, `HEAD` and `POST` request methods. This will allow for downloading web pages and submitting information to web forms. The `OPTIONS` request method will also be allowed as it is used to request which HTTP request methods are allowed. Unfortunately, the Apache `<LimitExcept>` directive does not deny the `TRACE` request method. The `TRACE` request method is disallowed in another benchmark recommendation with the `TraceEnable` directive.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Search for all `<Directory>` directives on the document root directory.
3. Ensure that group contains a single `Order` directive within the `<Directory>` directive with a value of `deny, allow`.
4. Verify the `<LimitExcept>` directive does not include any HTTP methods other than `GET`, `POST`, and `OPTIONS`. (It may contain fewer methods.)

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.

2. Search for the directive on the document root directory, such as:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs">
    . . .
</Directory>
```

3. Ensure that the access control order within the <Directory> directive is deny, allow.

```
Order allow,deny
```

4. Add a directive as shown below within the group of document root directives.

```
# Limit HTTP methods to standard methods. Note: Does not limit TRACE
<LimitExcept GET POST OPTIONS>
    Deny from all
</LimitExcept>
```

5. Search for other directives in the Apache configuration files in places other than the root directory, and add the same directives to each. It is very important to understand that the directives are based on the OS file system hierarchy as accessed by Apache and not the hierarchy of the locations within web site URLs.

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache2/cgi-bin">
    . . .
    Order allow,deny
    # Limit HTTP methods
    <LimitExcept GET POST OPTIONS>
        Deny from all
    </LimitExcept>
</Directory>
```

### Default Value:

No limits on HTTP methods

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#limitexcept>
2. <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

### CIS Controls:

#### 9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.



## 5.8 Ensure the HTTP TRACE Method Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Use the Apache `TraceEnable` directive to disable the HTTP `TRACE` request method. Refer to the Apache documentation for more details:

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#traceenable>

### Rationale:

The HTTP 1.1 protocol requires support for the `TRACE` request method, which reflects the request back as a response and was intended for diagnostics purposes. The `TRACE` method is not needed and is easily subjected to abuse, so it should be disabled.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Verify there is a single `TraceEnable` directive configured with a value of `off`.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Locate the main Apache configuration file such as `httpd.conf`.
2. Add a `TraceEnable` directive to the server level configuration with a value of `off`.  
Server level configuration is the top level configuration, not nested within any other directives like `<Directory>` or `<Location>`.

```
TraceEnable off
```

### Default Value:

on

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#traceenable>
2. <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 5.9 Ensure Old HTTP Versions Are Disallowed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache modules `mod_rewrite` and `mod_security` can be used to disallow old and invalid HTTP versions. The HTTP version 1.1 RFC is dated June 1999 and has been supported by Apache since version 1.2, so it should no longer be necessary to allow ancient versions of HTTP prior to 1.1. Refer to the Apache documentation on `mod_rewrite` for more details: [http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_rewrite.html](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

### Rationale:

Many malicious automated programs, vulnerability scanners, and fingerprinting tools send requests using old HTTP versions to see how the web server responds. These requests are usually part of the attacker's enumeration process.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Verify there is a rewrite condition within the global server context that disallows requests that do not include the HTTP/1.1 header, as shown below.

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{THE_REQUEST} !HTTP/1\..1$
RewriteRule .* - [F]
```

3. Verify the following directives are included in each section so that the main server settings will be inherited:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteOptions Inherit
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Load the `mod_rewrite` module for Apache by doing either one of the following:

- Build Apache with `mod_rewrite` statically loaded during the build by adding the `--enable-rewrite` option to the `./configure` script.

```
./configure --enable-rewrite
```

- Or, dynamically load the module with the `LoadModule` directive in the `httpd.conf` configuration file.

```
LoadModule rewrite_module modules/mod_rewrite.so
```

2. Add the `RewriteEngine` directive to the configuration within the global server context with the value of `on` so the rewrite engine is enabled.

```
RewriteEngine On
```

3. Locate the main Apache configuration file such as `httpd.conf`, and add the following rewrite condition to match HTTP/1.1 and the rewrite rule to the top server level configuration to disallow other protocol versions.

```
RewriteEngine On  
RewriteCond %{THE_REQUEST} !HTTP/1\..1$  
RewriteRule .* - [F]
```

4. By default, `mod_rewrite` configuration settings from the main server context are not inherited by virtual hosts. Therefore, it is also necessary to add the following directives in each section to inherit the main server settings:

```
RewriteEngine On  
RewriteOptions Inherit
```

## Default Value:

The default value for the `RewriteEngine` is `off`

## References:

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_rewrite.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

## CIS Controls:

### 9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 5.10 Ensure Access to .ht\* Files Is Restricted (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Restrict access to any files beginning with `.ht` using the `FilesMatch` directive.

### Rationale:

The default name for the access file which allows files in web directories to override the Apache configuration is `.htaccess`. The usage of access files should not be allowed, but as a defense in depth a `FilesMatch` directive is recommended to prevent web clients from viewing those files in case they are created.

Also, common names for web password and group files are `.htpasswd` and `.htgroup`. Neither of these files should be placed in the document root, but in the event they are, the `FilesMatch` directive can be used to prevent them from being viewed by web clients.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify that a `FilesMatch` directive similar to the one below is present in the Apache configuration and not commented out.

```
<FilesMatch "^\.ht">  
    Order allow,deny  
    Deny from all  
</FilesMatch>
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the following lines in the Apache configuration at the server configuration level:

```
<FilesMatch "^\.ht">  
    Order allow,deny  
    Deny from all  
</FilesMatch>
```

### Default Value:

`.ht*` files are not accessible

**References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#filesmatch>

**CIS Controls:****18.3 Sanitize Input For In-house Software**

For in-house developed software, ensure that explicit error checking is performed and documented for all input, including for size, data type, and acceptable ranges or formats.

## 5.11 Ensure Access to Inappropriate File Extensions Is Restricted (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

Restrict access to inappropriate file extensions that are not expected to be a legitimate part of web sites using the `FilesMatch` directive.

### Rationale:

There are many files that are often left within the web server document root that could provide an attacker with sensitive information. Most often these files are mistakenly left behind after installation, troubleshooting, or backing up files before editing. Regardless of the reason for their creation, these files can still be served by Apache even when there is no hyperlink pointing to them. The web administrators should use the `FilesMatch` directive to restrict access to only those file extensions that are appropriate for the web server. Rather than create a blacklist of potentially inappropriate file extensions such as `.bak`, `.config`, `.old`, etc., it is recommended instead that a whitelist of the appropriate and expected file extensions for the web server be created, reviewed, and enforced with a `FilesMatch` directive.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify that the `FilesMatch` directive that denies access to all files is present as shown in step 3 of the remediation with the order of `Deny`, `Allow`.
2. Verify that there is another `FilesMatch` directive similar to the one in step 4 of the remediation, with an expression that matches the approved file extensions.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Compile a list of existing file extensions on the web server. The following `find/awk` command may be useful but is likely to need some customization according to the appropriate webroot directories for your web server. Please note that the `find` command skips over any files without a dot (.) in the filename, as these are not expected to be appropriate web content.

```
find */htdocs -type f -name '*..*' | awk -F. '{print $NF }' | sort -u
```

2. Review the list of existing file extensions. Remove those that are inappropriate and add any appropriate file extensions expected to be added to the web server in the near future.
3. Add the `FilesMatch` directive below, which denies access to all files by default.

```
# Block all files by default, unless specifically allowed.
<FilesMatch "^.*$">
    Order Deny,Allow
    Deny from all
</FilesMatch>
```

4. Add another `FilesMatch` directive that allows access to those file extensions specifically allowed from the review process in step 2. An example `FilesMatch` directive is below. The file extensions in the regular expression should match your approved list, and not necessarily the expression below.

```
# Allow files with specifically approved file extensions
# Such as (css, htm; html; js; pdf; txt; xml; xsl; ...),
# images (gif; ico; jpeg; jpg; png; ...), multimedia
<FilesMatch "^.*\.(css|html?|js|pdf|txt|xml|xsl|gif|ico|jpe?g|png)$">
    Order Deny,Allow
    Allow from all
</FilesMatch>
```

### Default Value:

There are no restrictions on file extensions in the default configuration.

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#filesmatch>

### CIS Controls:

#### 18.3 Sanitize Input For In-house Software

For in-house developed software, ensure that explicit error checking is performed and documented for all input, including for size, data type, and acceptable ranges or formats.



## 5.12 Ensure IP Address Based Requests Are Disallowed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The Apache module `mod_rewrite` should disallow access for requests that use an IP address instead of a host name for the URL. Most normal access to the website from browsers and automated software will use a hostname, and will therefore include the hostname in the HTTP HOST header.

Refer to the Apache 2.2 documentation for details:

[http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_rewrite.html](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

### Rationale:

A common malware propagation and automated network scanning technique is to use IP addresses rather than hostnames for web requests, since it's simpler to automate. By denying IP-based web requests, these automated techniques will be denied access to the website. Malicious web scanning techniques continue to evolve, and many are now using hostnames, but denying access to IP-based requests is still a worthwhile defensive measure.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Verify there is a rewrite condition within the global server context that disallows IP-based requests by requiring a HTTP HOST header similar to the example shown below.

```
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} !^www\.example\.com [NC]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !^/error [NC]
RewriteRule ^.(.*) - [L,F]
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Load the `mod_rewrite` module for Apache by doing either one of the following:

- Build Apache with `mod_rewrite` statically loaded during the build by adding the `--enable-rewrite` option to the `./configure` script.

```
/configure --enable-rewrite
```

- Or, dynamically load the module with the `LoadModule` directive in the `httpd.conf` configuration file.

```
LoadModule rewrite_module modules/mod_rewrite.so
```

2. Add the `RewriteEngine` directive to the configuration within the global server context with the value of `on` so the rewrite engine is enabled.

```
RewriteEngine On
```

3. Locate the Apache configuration file such as `httpd.conf` and add the following rewrite condition to match the expected host name of the top server level configuration.

```
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} !^www\.example\.com [NC]  
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !^/error [NC]  
RewriteRule ^.(.*) - [L,F]
```

### Default Value:

```
RewriteEngine off
```

### References:

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_rewrite.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

### CIS Controls:

#### 9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 5.13 Ensure the IP Addresses for Listening for Requests Are Specified (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The Apache `Listen` directive specifies the IP addresses and port numbers the Apache web server will listen on for requests. Rather than be unrestricted to listen on all IP addresses available to the system, the specific IP address or addresses intended should be explicitly specified. Specifically, a `Listen` directive with no IP address specified or with an IP address of all zeroes should not be used.

### Rationale:

Having multiple interfaces on web servers is fairly common, and without explicit `Listen` directives, the web server is likely to be listening on an IP address or interface that was not intended for the web server. Single-homed systems with a single IP address are also required to have an explicit IP address in the `Listen` directive, in case additional interfaces are added to the system at a later date.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that no `Listen` directives are in the Apache configuration file with no IP address specified or with an IP address of all zeroes.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Find any `Listen` directives in the Apache configuration file with no IP address specified or with an IP address of all zeroes similar to the examples below. Keep in mind there may be both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses on the system.

```
Listen 80
Listen 0.0.0.0:80
Listen [::ffff:0.0.0.0]:80
```

2. Modify the `Listen` directives in the Apache configuration file to have explicit IP addresses according to the intended usage. Multiple `Listen` directives may be specified for each IP address and port.

```
Listen 10.1.2.3:80
Listen 192.168.4.5:80
Listen [2001:db8::a00:20ff:fea7:ccea]:80
```

**Default Value:**

```
Listen 80
```

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm\\_common.html#listen](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#listen)

**CIS Controls:****9.1 Limit Open Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Ensure that only ports, protocols, and services with validated business needs are running on each system.

## 5.14 Ensure Browser Framing Is Restricted (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The `Header` directive allows server HTTP response headers to be added, replaced, or merged. Use the directive to add a server HTTP response header to tell browsers to restrict all the web pages from being framed by other web sites.

### Rationale:

Using iframes and regular web frames to embed malicious content along with expected web content has been a favored attack vector for attacking web clients for a long time. This can happen when the attacker lures the victim to a malicious web site, which uses frames to include the expected content from the legitimate site. The attack can also be performed via XSS (either reflected, DOM or stored XSS) to add the malicious content to the legitimate web site. To combat this vector, an HTTP Response header, `X-Frame-Options`, has been introduced that allows a server to specify whether a web page may be loaded in any frame (`DENY`) or only those frames that share the page's origin (`SAMEORIGIN`).

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Ensure a `Header` directive for `X-Frame-Options` is present in the Apache configuration and has the condition `always`, an action of `append`, and a value of `SAMEORIGIN`, as shown below:

```
# grep -i X-Frame-Options $APACHE_PREFIX/conf/httpd.conf
Header always append X-Frame-Options SAMEORIGIN
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Add or modify the `Header` directive for the `X-Frame-Options` header in the Apache configuration to have the condition `always`, an action of `append`, and a value of `SAMEORIGIN`, as shown below.

```
Header always append X-Frame-Options SAMEORIGIN
```

### Default Value:

The `X-Frame-Options` HTTP response header is not generated by default

**References:**

1. [http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_headers.html#header](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_headers.html#header)
2. [https://developer.mozilla.org/en/The X-FRAME-OPTIONS response header](https://developer.mozilla.org/en/The_X-FRAME-OPTIONS_response_header)
3. <http://blogs.msdn.com/b/ie/archive/2009/01/27/ie8-security-part-vii-clickjacking-defenses.aspx>

**CIS Controls:****18 Application Software Security**

Application Software Security

## 6 Operations - Logging, Monitoring and Maintenance

Operational procedures of logging, monitoring and maintenance are vital to protecting your web servers as well as the rest of the infrastructure.

### 6.1 Ensure the Error Log Filename and Severity Level Are Configured Correctly (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `LogLevel` directive is used to configure the severity level for the error logs, while the `ErrorLog` directive configures the error log filename. The log level values are the standard syslog levels of `emerg`, `alert`, `crit`, `error`, `warn`, `notice`, `info` and `debug`. The recommended level is `notice`, so that all errors from the `emerg` level through the `notice` level will be logged.

#### Rationale:

The server error logs are invaluable because they can be used to spot potential problems before they become serious. Most importantly, they can be used to watch for anomalous behavior such as numerous "not found" or "unauthorized" errors that may be an indication an attack is pending or has occurred.

#### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify the `LogLevel` in the Apache server configuration has a value of `notice` or lower. Note that it is also compliant to have a value of `info` or `debug` if there is a need for a more verbose log and the storage and monitoring processes are capable of handling the extra load. The recommended value is `notice`.
2. Verify the `ErrorLog` directive is configured to an appropriate log file or syslog facility.
3. Verify there is a similar `ErrorLog` directive for each virtual host configured if the virtual host will have different people responsible for the web site.

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Add or modify the `LogLevel` in the Apache configuration to have a value of `notice` or lower. Note that it is compliant to have a value of `info` or `debug` if there is a need for a more verbose log and the storage and monitoring processes are capable of handling the extra load. The recommended value is `notice`.

```
LogLevel notice
```

2. Add an `ErrorLog` directive if not already configured. The file path may be relative or absolute, or the logs may be configured to be sent to a syslog server.

```
ErrorLog "logs/error_log"
```

3. Add a similar `ErrorLog` directive for each virtual host configured if the virtual host will have different people responsible for the web site. Each responsible individual or organization needs access to their own web logs.

### Default Value:

The following is the default configuration:

```
LogLevel warn  
ErrorLog "logs/error_log"
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/logs.html>
2. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#loglevel>
3. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#errorlog>

### CIS Controls:

#### 6.2 Ensure Audit Log Settings Support Appropriate Log Entry Formatting

Validate audit log settings for each hardware device and the software installed on it, ensuring that logs include a date, timestamp, source addresses, destination addresses, and various other useful elements of each packet and/or transaction. Systems should record logs in a standardized format such as syslog entries or those outlined by the Common Event Expression initiative. If systems cannot generate logs in a standardized format, log normalization tools can be deployed to convert logs into such a format.



## 6.2 Ensure a Syslog Facility Is Configured for Error Logging (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The `ErrorLog` directive should be configured to send web server error logs to a `syslog` facility so the logs can be processed and monitored along with the system logs.

### Rationale:

It is easy for web server error logs to be overlooked in the log monitoring process, yet application-level attacks have become the most common and are extremely important for detecting attacks early, as well as detecting non-malicious problems such as a broken link or internal errors. By including the Apache error logs with the system logging facility, the application logs are more likely to be included in the established log monitoring process.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify that the `ErrorLog` in the Apache server configuration has a value of `syslog:facility`, where `facility` can be any of the `syslog` facility values such as `local1`.
2. Verify there is a similar `ErrorLog` directive either configured or inherited for each virtual host.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Add an `ErrorLog` directive if not already configured. Any appropriate `syslog` facility may be used in place of `local1`.

```
ErrorLog "syslog:local1"
```

2. Add a similar `ErrorLog` directive for each virtual host if necessary.

### Default Value:

The following is the default configuration:

```
ErrorLog "logs/error_log"
```

**References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/logs.html>
2. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#loglevel>
3. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#errorlog>

**CIS Controls:****6.6 Deploy A SIEM OR Log Analysis Tools For Aggregation And Correlation/Analysis**

Deploy a SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) or log analytic tools for log aggregation and consolidation from multiple machines and for log correlation and analysis. Using the SIEM tool, system administrators and security personnel should devise profiles of common events from given systems so that they can tune detection to focus on unusual activity, avoid false positives, more rapidly identify anomalies, and prevent overwhelming analysts with insignificant alerts.

## 6.3 Ensure the Server Access Log Is Configured Correctly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `LogFormat` directive defines the format and information to be included in the server access log entries. The `CustomLog` directive specifies the log file, syslog facility, or piped logging utility.

### Rationale:

The server access logs are invaluable for a variety of reasons. They can be used to determine what resources are being used most. Most importantly, they can be used to investigate anomalous behavior that may be an indication an attack is pending or has occurred. If the server only logs errors and does not log successful access, it is very difficult to investigate incidents. You may see that the errors stop and wonder if the attacker gave up or if the attack was successful.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify the `LogFormat` directive in the Apache server configuration has the recommended information parameters.
2. Verify the `CustomLog` directive is configured to an appropriate log file, syslog facility, or piped logging utility and uses the combined format.
3. Verify there is a similar `CustomLog` directive for each virtual host configured if the virtual host will have different people responsible for the web site.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Add or modify the `LogFormat` directives in the Apache configuration to use the standard and recommended `combined` format as shown below.

```
LogFormat "%h %l %u %t \"%r\" %>s %b \"%{Referer}i\" \"%{User-agent}i\"" combined
```

2. Add or modify the `CustomLog` directives in the Apache configuration to use the combined format with an appropriate log file, syslog facility, or piped logging utility.

```
CustomLog log/access_log combined
```

3. Add a similar `CustomLog` directive for each virtual host configured if the virtual host will have different people responsible for the web site. Each responsible individual or organization needs access to their own web logs.

The format string tokens provide the following information:

- `%h` = Remote hostname or IP address if `HostnameLookups` is set to `Off`, which is the default.
- `%l` = Remote logname / identity.
- `%u` = Remote user, if the request was authenticated.
- `%t` = Time the request was received,
- `%r` = First line of request.
- `%>s` = Final status.
- `%b` = Size of response in bytes.
- `%{Referer}i` = Variable value for `Referer` header.
- `%{User-agent}i` = Variable value for `User Agent` header.

### Default Value:

The following is the default log configuration:

```
LogFormat "%h %l %u %t \"%r\" %>s %b \"%{Referer}i\" \"%{User-Agent}i\""
combined
LogFormat "%h %l %u %t \"%r\" %>s %b" common
CustomLog "logs/access_log" common
```

### CIS Controls:

#### 6.2 Ensure Audit Log Settings Support Appropriate Log Entry Formatting

Validate audit log settings for each hardware device and the software installed on it, ensuring that logs include a date, timestamp, source addresses, destination addresses, and various other useful elements of each packet and/or transaction. Systems should record logs in a standardized format such as syslog entries or those outlined by the Common Event Expression initiative. If systems cannot generate logs in a standardized format, log normalization tools can be deployed to convert logs into such a format.

## 6.4 Ensure Log Storage and Rotation Is Configured Correctly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

It is important that there is adequate disk space on the partition to hold all the log files, and that log rotation is configured to retain at least three months or 13 weeks of logs if central logging is not used for storage.

### Rationale:

The generation of logs is under a potential attacker's control, so do not hold any Apache log files on the root partition of the OS. This could result in a denial of service against your web server host by filling up the root partition and causing the system to crash. For this reason, it is recommended that the log files should be stored on a dedicated partition. Likewise, consider that attackers sometimes put information into your logs which is intended to attack your log collection or log analysis processing software. So it is important that they are not vulnerable. Investigation of incidents often requires access to several months or more of logs, which is why it is important to keep at least three months' worth available. Two common log rotation utilities are `rotatelogs(8)`, which is bundled with Apache, and `logrotate(8)`, commonly bundled on Linux distributions.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Verify the web log rotation configuration matches the Apache configured log files.
2. Verify the rotation period and number of logs to retain is at least 13 weeks or three months.
3. For each virtual host configured with its own log files, ensure those log files are also included in a similar log rotation.

### Remediation:

To implement the recommended state, do either option a) if using the Linux `logrotate` utility or option b) if using a piped logging utility such as the Apache `rotatelogs`:

#### a) File Logging with Logrotate:

1. Add or modify the web log rotation configuration to match your configured log files in `/etc/logrotate.d/httpd` to be similar to the following.

```

/var/log/httpd/*log {
    missingok
    notifempty
    sharedscripts
    postrotate
        /bin/kill -HUP 'cat /var/run/httpd.pid 2>/dev/null' 2> /dev/null
    || true
    endscript
}

```

2. Modify the rotation period and number of logs to keep so that at least 13 weeks or three months of logs are retained. This may be done as the default value for all logs in `/etc/logrotate.conf` or in the web specific log rotation configuration in `/etc/logrotate.d/httpd` to be similar to the following.

```

# rotate log files weekly
weekly

# keep 1 year of logs
rotate 52

```

3. For each virtual host configured with its own log files, ensure those log files are also included in a similar log rotation.

#### b) Piped Logging:

1. Configure the log rotation interval and log filenames to a suitable interval such as daily.

```

CustomLog "|bin/rotatelogs -l /var/logs/logfile.%Y.%m.%d 86400"
combined

```

2. Ensure the log file naming and any rotation scripts provide for retaining at least three months or 13 weeks of log files.
3. For each virtual host configured with its own log files, ensure those log files are included in a similar log rotation.

#### Default Value:

The following is the default httpd log rotation configuration in `/etc/logrotate.d/httpd`:

```

/var/log/httpd/*log {
    missingok
    notifempty
    sharedscripts
    postrotate
        /bin/kill -HUP cat /var/run/httpd.pid 2>/dev/null 2> /dev/null || true
    endscript
}

```

The default log retention is configured in `/etc/logrotate.conf`:

```
# rotate log files weekly
weekly
# keep 4 weeks worth of backlogs
rotate 4
```

### **CIS Controls:**

#### **6.3 Ensure Audit Logging Systems Are Not Subject To Loss (i.e. rotation/archive)**

Ensure that all systems that store logs have adequate storage space for the logs generated on a regular basis, so that log files will not fill up between log rotation intervals. The logs must be archived and digitally signed on a periodic basis.

## 6.5 Ensure Applicable Patches Are Applied (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Apply Apache patches within one month of availability.

### Rationale:

Obviously knowing about newly discovered vulnerabilities is only part of the solution; there needs to be a process in place where patches are tested and installed. These patches fix diverse problems, including security issues. It is recommended to use the Apache packages and updates provided by your Linux platform vendor rather than building from source whenever possible in order to minimize the disruption and the work of keeping the software up-to-date.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. When Apache was built from source:
  - a. Check the Apache web site for latest versions, date of releases, and any security patches. [http://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities\\_22.html](http://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities_22.html)  
Apache patches are available <http://www.apache.org/dist/httpd/patches>
  - b. If newer versions with security patches more than one month old are not installed, the installation is not sufficiently up-to-date.
2. When using platform packages:
  - a. Check for vendor supplied updates on the vendor web site.
  - b. If newer versions with security patches more than one month old are not installed, the installation is not sufficiently up-to-date.

### Remediation:

Update to the latest Apache release available according to either of the following:

1. When building from source:
  - a. Read release notes and related security patch information.
  - b. Download latest source and any dependent modules such as mod\_security.
  - c. Build new Apache software according to your build process with the same configuration options.



- d. Install and test the new software according to your organization's testing process.
  - e. Move to production according to your organization's deployment process.
- 2. When using platform packages:
  - a. Read release notes and related security patch information.
  - b. Download and install latest available Apache package and any dependent software.
  - c. Test the new software according to your organization's testing process.
  - d. Move to production according to your organization's deployment process.

**Default Value:**

Not applicable

**References:**

- 1. [https://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities\\_22.html](https://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities_22.html)

**CIS Controls:**

- 4 Continuous Vulnerability Assessment and Remediation  
Continuous Vulnerability Assessment and Remediation

## 6.6 Ensure ModSecurity Is Installed and Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

ModSecurity is an open source web application firewall (WAF) for real-time web application monitoring, logging, and access control. It does not include a powerful customizable rule set, which may be used to detect and block common web application attacks. Installation of ModSecurity without a rule set does not provide additional security for the protected web applications. Refer to the benchmark recommendation "*Ensure the OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set Is Installed and Enabled*" for details on a recommended rule set.

**Note:** Like other application security/application firewall systems, ModSecurity requires a significant commitment of staff resources for initial tuning of the rules and handling alerts. In some cases, this may require additional time working with application developers/maintainers to modify applications based on analysis of the results of tuning and monitoring logs. After setup, an ongoing commitment of staff is required for monitoring logs and ongoing tuning, especially after upgrades/patches. Without this commitment to tuning and monitoring, installing ModSecurity may NOT be effective and may provide a false sense of security.

### Rationale:

Installation of the ModSecurity Apache module enables a customizable web application firewall rule set which may be configured to detect and block common attack patterns as well as block outbound data leakage.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the ModSecurity module (security2\_module) has been loaded:

Use the httpd -M option as root to check that the module is loaded.

```
# httpd -M | grep security2_module
```

**Note:** If the module is correctly enabled, the output will include the module name and whether it is loaded statically or as a shared module.

## Remediation:

Perform the following to enable the module:

1. Install the `ModSecurity` module if it is not already installed in `modules/mod_security2.so`. It may be installed via OS package installation (such as `apt-get` or `yum`) or built from the source files. See <https://www.modsecurity.org/download.html> for details.
2. Add or modify the `LoadModule` directive if not already present in the Apache configuration as shown below. Typically, the `LoadModule` directive is placed in the file named `mod_security.conf`, which is included in the Apache configuration:

```
LoadModule security2_module modules/mod_security2.so
```

## Default Value:

The `ModSecurity` module is not loaded by default

## References:

1. <https://www.modsecurity.org/>

## CIS Controls:

### 18.2 Deploy And Configure Web Application Firewalls

Protect web applications by deploying web application firewalls (WAFs) that inspect all traffic flowing to the web application for common web application attacks, including but not limited to cross-site scripting, SQL injection, command injection, and directory traversal attacks. For applications that are not web-based, specific application firewalls should be deployed if such tools are available for the given application type. If the traffic is encrypted, the device should either sit behind the encryption or be capable of decrypting the traffic prior to analysis. If neither option is appropriate, a host-based web application firewall should be deployed.

## *6.7 Ensure the OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set Is Installed and Enabled (Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 2

### **Description:**

The OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set (CRS) is a set of open source web application defensive rules for the ModSecurity web application firewall (WAF). The OWASP ModSecurity CRS provides baseline protections in the following attack/threat categories:

- HTTP Protection - detecting violations of the HTTP protocol and a locally defined usage policy.
- Real-time Blacklist Lookups - utilizes 3rd Party IP Reputation
- HTTP Denial of Service Protections - defense against HTTP Flooding and Slow HTTP DoS Attacks.
- Common Web Attacks Protection - detecting common web application security attack.
- Automation Detection - Detecting bots, crawlers, scanners and other surface malicious activity.
- Integration with AV Scanning for File Uploads - detects malicious files uploaded through the web application.
- Tracking Sensitive Data - Tracks Credit Card usage and blocks leakages.
- Trojan Protection - Detecting access to Trojans horses.
- Identification of Application Defects - alerts on application misconfigurations.
- Error Detection and Hiding - Disguising error messages sent by the server.

**Note:** Like other application security/application firewall systems, Mod\_Security requires a significant commitment of staff resources for initial tuning of the rules and handling alerts. In some cases, this may require additional time working with application developers/maintainers to modify applications based on analysis of the results of tuning and monitoring logs. After setup, an ongoing commitment of staff is required for monitoring logs and ongoing tuning, especially after upgrades/patches. Without this commitment to tuning and monitoring, installing Mod\_Security may NOT be effective and may provide a false sense of security.

### **Rationale:**

Installing, configuring, and enabling the OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set (CRS) provides additional baseline security defense and a good starting point to customize the monitoring and blocking of common web application attacks.

## Audit:

### *OWASP ModSecurity CRS version 2.2.9*

Perform the following to audit the configuration:

In the 2.2.9 release, the OWASP ModSecurity CRS contains 15 `base_rule` configuration files, each with rule sets. The CRS also contains 14 optional rule sets, and 17 experimental rule sets. Since it is expected that customization and testing will be necessary to implement the CRS, it is not expected that any site will implement all CRS configuration files / rule sets. Therefore, for the purpose of auditing, the OWASP ModSecurity CRS will be considered implemented if 200 or more of the security rules (`SecRule`) are active in the CRS configuration files. The default 2.2.9 installation contains 227 security rules. Perform the following to determine if 2.2.9 OWASP ModSecurity CRS is enabled:

- Set `RULE_DIR` environment variable to the directory where the active rules are included from the modsecurity configuration file. An example is shown below.

```
RULE_DIR=$APACHE_PREFIX/modsecurity.d/activated_rules/
```

- Use the following command to count the security rules in all of the active CRS configuration files.

```
find $APACHE_PREFIX/modsecurity.d/activated_rules/ -name  
'modsecurity_crs_*.conf' | xargs grep '^SecRule ' | wc -l
```

- If the number of active files is 200 or greater, then OWASP ModSecurity CRS is considered active and the audit passed.

### *OWASP ModSecurity CRS version 3.0*

Perform the following to audit the configuration:

In the 3.0 release, the OWASP ModSecurity CRS contains 29 rule configuration files, each with rule sets. It is expected that customization and testing will be necessary to implement the CRS; it is not expected that any site will implement all CRS configuration files / rule sets. Therefore, for the purpose of auditing, the OWASP ModSecurity CRS v3.0 will be considered implemented if 325 or more of the security rules (`SecRule`) are active in the CRS configuration files. The default OWASP ModSecurity CRS 3.0 installation contains 462 security rules. In addition to the rules, there are three additional values that have to be set. The Inbound and the Outbound Anomaly Threshold and the Paranoia Mode. The Anomaly Threshold values set a limit so that traffic is not blocked until the threshold is exceeded. Any traffic that triggers enough active rules so that the additive value of each rule exceeds the threshold value will be block. The suitable paranoia level has to be defined according to the security level of the service in question. The default value of 1 should be applicable for

any online service. The Paranoia Level 2 should be chosen for online services with a need for further hardening, (such as online services with a wide attack surface or online services with known security issues and concerns). Paranoia Level 3 and Level 4 cater services with even higher security requirements but have to be considered experimental.

Perform the following to determine if OWASP ModSecurity CRS 3.0 is enabled, and is configured to meet or exceed the expected values:

- Set `RULE_DIR` environment variable to the directory where the active rules are included from the modsecurity configuration file. An example is shown below.

```
RULE_DIR=$APACHE_PREFIX/modsecurity.d/owasp-modsecurity-crs-3.0.0/
```

- Use the following command to count the security rules in all of the active CRS configuration files.

```
find $RULE_DIR -name '*.conf' | xargs grep '^SecRule ' | wc -l
```

- If the number of active rules is 325 or greater then OWASP ModSecurity CRS 3.0 is considered active.
- The Inbound Anomaly Threshold must be less than or equal to 5 and can be checked with the following command.

```
find $RULE_DIR -name '*.conf' | xargs egrep -v '^s*#' | grep 'setvar:tx.inbound_anomaly_score_threshold'
```

- The Outbound Anomaly Threshold must be less than or equal to 4 and may be audited with the following command.

```
find $RULE_DIR -name '*.conf' | xargs egrep -v '^s*#' | grep 'setvar:tx.outbound_anomaly_score_threshold'
```

- The Paranoia Level must be greater than or equal to 1 and may be audited with the following command.

```
find $RULE_DIR -name '*.conf' | xargs egrep -v '^s*#' | grep 'setvar:tx.paranoia_level'
```

## Remediation:

Install, configure and test the OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set:

1. Download the OWASP ModSecurity CRS from the project page [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP\\_ModSecurity\\_Core\\_Rule\\_Set\\_Project](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_ModSecurity_Core_Rule_Set_Project).
2. Unbundle the archive and follow the instructions in the `INSTALL` file.

3. The `modsecurity_crs_10_setup.conf` file is required, and rules in the `base_rules` directory are intended as a baseline useful for most applications.
4. Test the application for correct functionality after installing the CRS. Check web server error logs and the `modsec_audit.log` file for blocked requests due to false positives.
5. It is also recommended to test the application response to malicious traffic such as an automated web application scanner to ensure the rules are active. The web server error log and `modsec_audit.log` files should show logs of the attacks and the server's response codes.

**Default Value:**

The OWASP ModSecurity CRS is not installed by default.

**References:**

1. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP\\_ModSecurity\\_Core\\_Rule\\_Set\\_Project](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_ModSecurity_Core_Rule_Set_Project)
2. <https://www.modsecurity.org/>

**CIS Controls:****18.2 Deploy And Configure Web Application Firewalls**

Protect web applications by deploying web application firewalls (WAFs) that inspect all traffic flowing to the web application for common web application attacks, including but not limited to cross-site scripting, SQL injection, command injection, and directory traversal attacks. For applications that are not web-based, specific application firewalls should be deployed if such tools are available for the given application type. If the traffic is encrypted, the device should either sit behind the encryption or be capable of decrypting the traffic prior to analysis. If neither option is appropriate, a host-based web application firewall should be deployed.

## 7 SSL/TLS

Recommendations in this section pertain to the configuration of SSL/TLS-related aspects of Apache HTTP server.

### *7.1 Ensure mod\_ssl and/or mod\_nss Is Installed (Scored)*

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1

#### **Description:**

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) was developed by Netscape and turned into an open standard renamed Transport Layer Security (TLS). TLS is important for protecting communication and can provide authentication of the server and even the client. However, contrary to vendor claims, implementing TLS does NOT make your web server more secure. TLS is used to encrypt traffic and does provide confidentiality for private information and user credentials, but just because you have encrypted the data in transit does not mean that the data provided by the client is secure while it is on the server. Also, TLS inadvertently conceals attacks contained within the traffic it protects.

The `mod_ssl` module is the standard, most used module that implements TLS for Apache. A newer module found on Red Hat systems can be a complement or replacement for `mod_ssl`, and provides the same functionality plus additional security services. The `mod_nss` is an Apache module implementation of the Network Security Services (NSS) software from Mozilla, which implements a wide range of cryptographic functions in addition to TLS.

#### **Rationale:**

It is best to plan for TLS implementation from the beginning of any new web server because most web servers have some need for TLS due to:

- Non-public information submitted that should be protected as it's transmitted to the web server
- Non-public information that is downloaded from the web server
- Users authenticating to some portion of the web server
- Authenticating the web server to ensure users they have reached the real web server and have not been phished or redirected to a bogus site



## Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Ensure the `mod_ssl` and/or `mod_nss` is loaded in the Apache configuration:

```
# httpd -M | egrep 'ssl_module|nss_module'
```

Results should show "Syntax OK" along with either or both of the modules.

## Remediation:

Perform either of the following to implement the recommended state:

1. For Apache installations built from source, use the option `--with-ssl=` to specify the openssl path, and the `--enable-ssl` configure option to add the SSL modules to the build. The `--with-included-apr` configure option may be necessary if there are conflicts with the platform version. See the Apache documentation on building from source <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/install.html> for details.

```
# ./configure --with-included-apr --with-ssl=$OPENSSL_DIR --enable-ssl
```

2. For installations using OS packages, it is typically just a matter of ensuring the `mod_ssl` package is installed. The `mod_nss` package might also be installed. The following yum command is suitable for Red Hat Linux.

```
# yum install mod_ssl
```

## Default Value:

SSL/TLS is not enabled by default.

## References:

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html)
2. [https://directory.fedoraproject.org/wiki/Mod\\_nss](https://directory.fedoraproject.org/wiki/Mod_nss)

## CIS Controls:

### 14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.2 Ensure a Valid Trusted Certificate Is Installed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The default SSL certificate is self-signed and is not trusted. Install a valid certificate signed by a commonly trusted certificate authority. To be valid, the certificate must not be expired, and must have a common name that matches the hostname of the web server, such as `www.example.com`.

### Rationale:

A digital certificate on your server automatically communicates your site's authenticity to visitors' web browsers. If a trusted authority signs your certificate, it confirms for visitors they are actually communicating with you, and not with a fraudulent site stealing credit card numbers or personal information.

### Audit:

Perform either or both of the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. OpenSSL can be used to validate a certificate as a valid trusted certificate, using a trusted bundle of CA certificates. It is important that the CA bundle of certificates be an already validated and trusted file in order for the test to be valid.

```
$ openssl verify -CAfile /etc/pki/tls/certs/ca-bundle.crt -purpose  
sslserver /etc/pki/tls/certs/example.com.crt  
/etc/pki/tls/certs/example.com.crt: OK
```

A specific error message and code will be reported in addition to the OK if the certificate is not valid, For example:

```
error 10 at 0 depth lookup:certificate has expired  
OK
```

2. Testing can also be done by connecting to a running web server. This may be done with your favorite browser, a command line web client, or `openssl s_client`. Of course, it is important here as well to be sure of the integrity of the trusted certificate authorities used by the web client. Visit the OWASP testing SSL web page for additional suggestions: [http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing\\_for\\_SSL-TLS\\_%28OWASP-CM-001%29](http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_SSL-TLS_%28OWASP-CM-001%29)

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Decide on the hostname to be used for the certificate. It is important to remember that the browser will compare the hostname in the URL to the common name in the certificate, so it is important that all https: URLs match the correct hostname. Specifically, the hostname `www.example.com` is not the same as `example.com` nor the same as `ssl.example.com`.
2. Generate a private key using openssl. Although certificate key lengths of 1024 have been common in the past, a key length of 2048 is now recommended for strong authentication. The key must be kept confidential and will be encrypted with a passphrase by default. Follow the steps below and respond to the prompts for a passphrase. See the Apache or OpenSSL documentation for details:
  - [http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/ssl/ssl\\_faq.html#realcert](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/ssl/ssl_faq.html#realcert)
  - <http://www.openssl.org/docs/HOWTO/certificates.txt>

```
# cd /etc/pki/tls/certs
# umask 077
# openssl genrsa -aes128 2048 > example.com.key
Generating RSA private key, 2048 bit long modulus
...+++
.....+++
e is 65537 (0x10001)
Enter pass phrase:
Verifying - Enter pass phrase:
```

3. Generate the certificate signing request (CSR) to be signed by a certificate authority. It is important that the common name exactly matches the web hostname.

```
# openssl req -utf8 -new -key example.com.key -out www.example.com.csr

Enter pass phrase for example.com.key:
You are about to be asked to enter information that will be
incorporated
into your certificate request.
What you are about to enter is what is called a Distinguished Name or
a DN.
There are quite a few fields but you can leave some blank
For some fields there will be a default value,
If you enter '.', the field will be left blank.
-----
Country Name (2 letter code) [GB]:US
State or Province Name (full name) [Berkshire]:New York
Locality Name (eg, city) [Newbury]:Lima
Organization Name (eg, company) [My Company Ltd]:Durkee Consulting
Organizational Unit Name (eg, section) []:
Common Name (eg, your name or your server's hostname)
[]:www.example.com
Email Address []:ralph@example.com
```

```
Please enter the following 'extra' attributes
to be sent with your certificate request
A challenge password []:
An optional company name []:

# mv www.example.com.key /etc/pki/tls/private/
```

4. Send the CSR to a certificate signing authority to be signed, and follow their instructions for submission and validation. The CSR and the final signed certificate are just encoded text and need to have their integrity protected, but not their confidentiality. This certificate will be given out for every SSL connection made.
5. The resulting signed certificate may be named `www.example.com.crt` and placed in `/etc/pki/tls/certs/` as readable by all (mode 0444). Please note that the certificate authority does not need the private key (`example.com.key`) and this file must be carefully protected. With a decrypted copy of the private key, it would be possible to decrypt all conversations with the server.
6. Do not forget the passphrase used to encrypt the private key. It will be required every time the server is started in https mode. If it is necessary to avoid requiring an administrator having to type the passphrase every time the `httpd` service is started, the private key may be stored in clear text. Storing the private key in clear text increases the convenience while increasing the risk of disclosure of the key, but may be appropriate for the sake of being able to restart if the risks are well managed. Be sure that the key file is only readable by root. To decrypt the private key and store it in a clear text file, the following `openssl` command may be used. You can tell by the private key headers whether it is encrypted or clear text.

```
# cd /etc/pki/tls/private/
# umask 077
# openssl rsa -in example.com.key -out example.com.key.clear
```

7. Locate the Apache configuration file for `mod_ssl` and add or modify the `SSLCertificateFile` and `SSLCertificateKeyFile` directives to have the correct path for the private key and signed certificate files. If a clear text key is referenced, a passphrase will not be required. You can use the CA's certificate that signed your certificate instead of the CA bundle to speed up the initial SSL connection, as fewer certificates will need to be transmitted.

```
SSLCertificateFile /etc/pki/tls/certs/example.com.crt
SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/pki/tls/private/example.com.key

# Default CA file, can be replaced with your CA's certificate.
SSLCACertificateFile /etc/pki/tls/certs/ca-bundle.crt
```

8. Lastly, start or restart the `httpd` service and verify correct functioning with your favorite browser.

**References:**

1. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing\\_for\\_SSL-TLS\\_%28OWASP-CM-001%29](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_SSL-TLS_%28OWASP-CM-001%29)
2. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/ssl/ssl\\_faq.html#realcert](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/ssl/ssl_faq.html#realcert)
3. <https://www.openssl.org/docs/HOWTO/certificates.txt>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.3 Ensure the Server's Private Key Is Protected (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

It is critical to protect the server's private key. The private key is encrypted by default as a means of protecting it, but having it encrypted means that the passphrase is required each time the server is started up. Now it is necessary to protect the passphrase as well. The passphrase may be typed in when it is manually started up or provided by an automated program. See [http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslpassphrasedialog](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslpassphrasedialog) for details. To summarize, the options are:

1. Use `SSLPassPhraseDialog builtin`, which requires a passphrase to be manually entered.
2. Use `SSLPassPhraseDialog |/path/to/program` to provide the passphrase.
3. Use `SSLPassPhraseDialog exec:/path/to/program` to provide the passphrase.
4. Store the private key in clear text so a passphrase is not required.

Any of the above options 1-4 are acceptable as long as the key and passphrase are protected properly. Option 1 has the additional security benefit of not storing the passphrase but is not generally acceptable for most production web servers, since it requires the web server to be manually started. Options 2 and 3 can provide additional security if the programs providing them are secure. Option 4 is the simplest, is widely used, and is acceptable as long as the private key is appropriately protected.

### Rationale:

If the private key were to be disclosed, it could be used to decrypt all of the SSL communications with the web server as well as to impersonate the web server.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. For each certificate file referenced in the Apache configuration files with the `SSLCertificateFile` directive, examine the file for a private key, clearly identified by the string `PRIVATE KEY---`.
2. For each file referenced in the Apache configuration files with the `SSLCertificateKeyFile` directive, verify the ownership is `root:root` and the permission `0400`.

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. All private keys must be stored separately from the public certificates. Find all `SSLCertificateFile` directives in the Apache configuration files. For any `SSLCertificateFile` directives that do not have a corresponding separate `SSLCertificateKeyFile` directive, move the key to a separate file from the certificate, and add the `SSLCertificateKeyFile` directive for the key file.
2. For each `SSLCertificateKeyFile` directive, change the ownership and permissions on the server private key to be owned by `root:root` with permission `0400`.

**Default Value:**

Not applicable

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html)

**CIS Controls:**

- 14 Controlled Access Based on the Need to Know  
Controlled Access Based on the Need to Know

## 7.4 Ensure Weak SSL Protocols Are Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The Apache `SSLProtocol` directive specifies the SSL and TLS protocols allowed. Both the SSLv2 and the SSLv3 protocols should be disabled in this directive because they are outdated and vulnerable to information disclosure. Only TLS protocols should be enabled.

### Rationale:

The SSLv2 and SSLv3 protocols are flawed and shouldn't be used, as they are subject to man-in-the-middle attacks and other cryptographic attacks. The TLSv1 protocols should be used instead, and the newer TLS protocols are preferred.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify the `SSLProtocol` directive is present in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL enabled. For each directive, verify that either:

- a minus `-SSLv2` and a minus `-SSLv3` are included
- an explicit list of only TLS protocols without any plus (+) or minus (-) symbols is present

Alternately, the SSL protocols supported can be easily tested by connecting to a running web server with `openssl s_client` such as shown in [http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing\\_for\\_SSL-TLS\\_%28OWASP-CM-001%29](http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_SSL-TLS_%28OWASP-CM-001%29).

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLProtocol` directive. Add the directive if not present or change the value to match one of the following values. The first setting, `TLSv1.1 TLSv1.2`, is preferred when it is acceptable to also disable the TLSv1.0 protocol. See the level 2 recommendation "Ensure the TLS v1.0 Protocol Is Disabled" for details.

```
SSLProtocol TLSv1.1 TLSv1.2
```

```
SSLProtocol TLSv1
```



**Default Value:**

SSLProtocol all -SSLv2

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslprotocol](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslprotocol)
2. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing for SSL-TLS %28OWASP-CM-001%29](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_SSL-TLS_%28OWASP-CM-001%29)
3. <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA14-290A>
4. <https://www.openssl.org/~bodo/ssl-poodle.pdf>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.5 Ensure Weak SSL/TLS Ciphers Are Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Disable weak SSL ciphers using the `SSLCipherSuite` and `SSLHonorCipherOrder` directives. The `SSLCipherSuite` directive specifies which ciphers are allowed in the negotiation with the client. The `SSLHonorCipherOrder` directive causes the server's preferred ciphers to be used instead of the clients' specified preferences.

### Rationale:

The SSL/TLS protocols support a large number of encryption ciphers, including many weak ciphers that are subject to man-in-the middle attacks and information disclosure. Some implementations even support the NULL cipher, which allows a TLS connection without any encryption! Therefore, it is critical to ensure the configuration only allows strong ciphers greater than or equal to 128 bit to be negotiated with the client. Stronger 256-bit ciphers should be allowed and preferred. In addition, enabling `SSLHonorCipherOrder` further protects the client from man-in-the-middle downgrade attacks by ensuring the server's preferred ciphers will be used rather than the clients' preferences.

In addition, the RC4 stream ciphers should be disabled, even though they are widely used and have been recommended in previous Apache benchmarks as a means of mitigating attacks based on CBC cipher vulnerabilities. The RC4 ciphers have known cryptographic weaknesses and are no longer recommended. The IETF has published the RFC 7465 standard[4] that would disallow RC4 negotiation for all TLS versions. While the document is somewhat new (Feb 2015), it is expected the RC4 cipher suites will begin to disappear from options in TLS deployments. In the meantime, it is important to ensure that RC4-based cipher suites are disabled in the configuration.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: The SSL protocols and ciphers supported can be easily tested by connecting to a running web server with an up-to-date version of the `ssllscan` tool. The tool is available on Kali Linux <https://www.kali.org/> or via github <https://github.com/rbsec/ssllscan>. The tool will color highlight the following weak ciphers:

- Red Background NULL cipher (no encryption)

- Red Broken cipher (<= 40 bit), broken protocol (SSLv2 or SSLv3), or broken certificate signing algorithm (MD5)
- Yellow Weak cipher (<= 56 bit or RC4) or weak certificate signing algorithm (SHA-1)
- Purple Anonymous cipher (ADH or AECDH)

Alternatively, the Qualys SSL Labs has a website that may be used for testing external servers <https://www.ssllabs.com/>.

Alternatively Verify the `SSLCipherSuite` directive disables weak ciphers in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL/TLS enabled.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Add or modify the following line in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL enabled:

```
SSLHonorCipherOrder On
SSLCipherSuite ALL:!EXP:!NULL:!LOW:!SSLv2:!MD5:!RC4:!aNULL
```

It is **not** recommended to add `!SSLv3` to the directive even if the SSLv3 protocol is not in use. Doing so disables ALL of the ciphers that may be used with SSLv3, which includes the same ciphers used with the TLS protocols. The `!aNULL` will disable both the ADH and AECDH ciphers, so the `!ADH` is not required.

### Default Value:

The following are the default values: `SSLCipherSuite` default depends on OpenSSL version.  
`SSLHonorCipherOrder Off`

### References:

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslcipher suite](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslcipher suite)
2. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslhonor cipher order](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslhonor cipher order)
3. <https://github.com/rbsec/ssls can>
4. <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7465>
5. <https://community.qualys.com/blogs/securitylabs/2013/03/19/rc4-in-tls-is-broken-now-what>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.6 Ensure Insecure SSL Renegotiation Is Not Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

A man-in-the-middle renegotiation attack was discovered in SSLv3 and TLSv1 in Nov 2009 [CVE-2009-3555](http://www.phonefactor.com/sslgap/ssl-tls-authentication-patches). <http://www.phonefactor.com/sslgap/ssl-tls-authentication-patches> A fix was approved as an Internet Standard as RFC 574, Feb 2010. The workaround which removes the renegotiation is available from OpenSSL as of version 0.9.8l and newer versions. For details: [http://www.openssl.org/news/secadv\\_20091111.txt](http://www.openssl.org/news/secadv_20091111.txt) The `SSLInsecureRenegotiation` directive was added in Apache 2.2.15 for web servers linked with OpenSSL version 0.9.8m or later, to allow the insecure renegotiation to provide backward compatibility to clients with the older unpatched SSL implementations. While providing backward compatibility, enabling the `SSLInsecureRenegotiation` directive also leaves the server vulnerable to man-in-the-middle renegotiation attack CVE-2009-3555. Therefore, the `SSLInsecureRenegotiation` directive should not be enabled.

### Rationale:

The seriousness and ramification of this attack warrants that servers and clients be upgraded to support the improved SSL/TLS protocols. Therefore, the recommendation is to not enable the insecure renegotiation.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLInsecureRenegotiation` directive and verify that the directive is either not present or has a value of `off`.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLInsecureRenegotiation` directive. If the directive is present, modify the value to be `off`. If the directive is not present, no action is required.

```
SSLInsecureRenegotiation off
```

### Default Value:

```
SSLInsecureRenegotiation off
```

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslinsecurerenegotiation](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslinsecurerenegotiation)
2. <https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CAN-2009-3555>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.7 Ensure SSL Compression is Not Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `SSLCompression` directive controls whether SSL compression is used by Apache when serving content over HTTPS. It is recommended that the `SSLCompression` directive be set to `off`.

### Rationale:

If SSL compression is enabled, HTTPS communication between the client and the server may be at increased risk to the CRIME attack. The CRIME attack increases a malicious actor's ability to derive the value of a session cookie, which commonly contains an authenticator. If the authenticator in a session cookie is derived, it can be used to impersonate the account associated with the authenticator.

### Audit:

For Apache 2.2.26 and later, perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLCompression` directive.
2. Verify that the directive either does not exist or exists and is set to `off`.

For Apache 2.2.24 and 2.2.25, perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLCompression` directive.
2. Verify that the directive exists and is set to `off`. (The default value is `on`.)

Apache versions prior to 2.2.24 do not support disabling SSL compression and are not compliant.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Verify the Apache version is 2.2.24 or later, with the command `httpd -v`.
2. Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLCompression` directive.
3. Add or update the directive to have a value of `off`.

**Default Value:**

The `SSLCompression` directive was available in `httpd` 2.2.24 and later, if using OpenSSL 0.9.8 or later; virtual host scope is available if using OpenSSL 1.0.0 or later. The default used to be `ON` in versions 2.2.24 to 2.2.25 and is `OFF` for 2.2.26 and later.

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslcompression](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslcompression)
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CRIME\\_\(security\\_exploit\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CRIME_(security_exploit))

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.



## 7.8 Ensure Medium Strength SSL/TLS Ciphers Are Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The SSLCipherSuite directive specifies which ciphers are allowed in the negotiation with the client. Disable the medium strength ciphers such as Triple DES (3DES) and IDEA by adding `!3DES` and `!IDEA` in the SSLCipherSuite directive.

### Rationale:

Although Triple DES was a trusted standard in the past, several vulnerabilities for it have been published over the years and it is no longer considered secure. A somewhat recent attack against 3DES in CBC mode, nicknamed the SWEET32 attack, was published in 2016 as CVE-2016-2183. The IDEA cipher in CBC mode is also vulnerable to the SWEET32 attack.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

- The SSL protocols and ciphers supported can be easily tested by connecting to a running web server with an up-to-date version of the sslscan tool. The tool is available on Kali Linux <https://www.kali.org/> or via github <https://github.com/rbsec/sslscan> Use the command below to detect 3DES and IDEA ciphers. No output means the ciphers are not allowed.

```
$ sslscan --no-colour www.lugor.org | egrep 'IDEA|DES'
Accepted TLSv1.2 112 bits ECDHE-RSA-DES-CBC3-SHA Curve P-256
DHE 256
Accepted TLSv1.2 112 bits EDH-RSA-DES-CBC3-SHA DHE 2048
bits
Accepted TLSv1.2 112 bits DES-CBC3-SHA
Accepted TLSv1.1 112 bits ECDHE-RSA-DES-CBC3-SHA Curve P-256
DHE 256
Accepted TLSv1.1 112 bits EDH-RSA-DES-CBC3-SHA DHE 2048
bits
Accepted TLSv1.1 112 bits DES-CBC3-SHA
```

- Alternatively, the Qualys SSL Labs has a website that may be used for testing external servers <https://www.ssllabs.com/>.
- Alternatively, verify the SSLCipherSuite directive includes `!3DES` and `!IDEA` to disable the ciphers in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL/TLS enabled.

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Add or modify the following line in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL/TLS enabled:

```
SSLCipherSuite ALL:!EXP:!NULL:!LOW:!SSLv2:!MD5:!RC4:!aNULL:!3DES:!IDEA
```

## Default Value:

The SSLCipherSuite default depends on the OpenSSL version.

## References:

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslcipher suite](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslcipher suite)
2. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_ssl.html#sslhonor cipher order](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_ssl.html#sslhonor cipher order)
3. <https://sweet32.info/>
4. <https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-2183>
5. <https://github.com/rbsec/ssls can>

## CIS Controls:

### 14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.9 Ensure the TLS v1.0 Protocol Is Disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The TLSv1.0 protocol should be disabled via the `SSLProtocol` directive, if possible, because it is vulnerable to information disclosure.

### Rationale:

The TLSv1.0 protocol is vulnerable to the BEAST attack when used in CBC mode (October 2011). Unfortunately, TLSv1.0 uses CBC modes for all of the block mode ciphers, which only leaves the RC4 streaming cipher. The RC4 cipher is also weak and is not recommended. Therefore, it is recommended that the TLSv1.0 protocol be disabled if all TLS clients support the newer TLS protocols. All major up-to-date browsers support TLSv1.1 and TLSv1.2. Ensuring that all user's browsers are configured to allow TLSv1.1 and TLSv1.2 is necessary before disabling TLSv1.0 on the Apache web server; therefore, this recommendation is a level 2 rather than a level 1. Disabling TLSv1.0 on internal-only websites is more easily accomplished when access is limited to clients with browsers controlled by the organization's policies and procedures to allow and prefer TLSv1.1 and higher.

The NIST SP 800-52r1 guidelines for TLS configuration state that servers that support government-only applications shall not support TLSv1.0 or any of the SSL protocols, while servers that support citizen or business-facing applications may be configured to support TLS version 1.0 in order to enable interaction with citizens and businesses.

Some organizations may find it helpful to implement a phased transitional plan where TLSv1.0 is not disabled, but the web server will detect browsers which do not have TLSv1.1 or newer enabled and redirect them to a web site that explains how to enable the newer TLS protocols. The redirect can be implemented using `mod_rewrite`, which can detect the protocol used and rewrite the URL to the helpful website.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLProtocol` directive and ensure it has the value of `TLSv1.1 TLSv1.2`.

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Search the Apache configuration files for the `SSLProtocol` directive; add the directive if not present or change the value to `TLSv1.1 TLSv1.2`.

**Default Value:**

```
SSLProtocol all -SSLv2
```

**References:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport\\_Layer\\_Security#Web\\_browsers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_Layer_Security#Web_browsers)- Browser support and defaults for SSL/TLS protocols
2. <https://community.qualys.com/blogs/securitylabs/2013/09/10/is-beast-still-a-threat>
3. <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-52r1.pdf>
4. <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/gp/microsoft-internet-explorer>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 7.10 Ensure HTTP Strict Transport Security Is Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) is an optional web server security policy mechanism specified by an HTTP Server header. The HSTS header allows a server declaration that only HTTPS communication should be used rather than clear text HTTP communication.

### Rationale:

Usage of HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) helps protect HSTS-compliant browsers and other agents from HTTP downgrade attacks. Downgrade attacks include a variety of man-in-the-middle attacks which leave the web communication vulnerable to disclosure and modification by forcing the usage of HTTP rather than HTTPS communication. The `sslstrip` attack tool by Moxie Marlinspike released in 2009 is one such attack, which works when a server allows both HTTP and HTTPS communication. However, a man-in-the-middle HTTP-to-HTTPS proxy would be effective in cases where the server required HTTPS but did not publish an HSTS policy to the browser. This attack would also be effective on browsers which were not compliant with HSTS. All current up-to-date browsers support HSTS.

The HSTS header specifies a length of time in seconds that the browser/user agent should access the server only using HTTPS. The header may also specify if all subdomains should also be included in the same policy. Once a compliant browser receives the HSTS header, it will not allow access to the server via HTTP. Therefore, it is important you ensure there is no portion of the web site or web application that requires HTTP prior to enabling the HSTS protocol.

If all subdomains are to be included via the *includeSubDomains* option, carefully consider all various hostnames, web applications, and third-party services used to include any DNS CNAME values that may be impacted. An overly broad *includeSubDomains* policy will disable access to HTTP websites for all websites with the same domain name. Also consider that the access will be disabled for the number of seconds given in the max-age value, so in the event a mistake is made, a large value, such as a year, could create significant support issues. An optional flag of preload may be added if the website name is to be submitted to be preloaded in Chrome, Firefox and Safari browsers. See <https://hstspreload.appspot.com/> for details.

## Audit:

Perform either of the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented.

At the Apache server level configuration and for every virtual host that is SSL enabled, verify there is a `Header` directive present that sets the `Strict-Transport-Security` header with a `max-age` value of at least 480 seconds or more (8 minutes or more). For example:

```
Header always set Strict-Transport-Security "max-age=600"
```

As an alternative, the configuration may be validated by connecting to the HTTPS server and verifying the presence of the header, such as the `openssl s_client` command shown below:

```
openssl s_client -connect www.example.com:443
GET / HTTP/1.1.
Host:www.example.com

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2014 18:28:29 GMT
Server: Apache
X-Frame-Options: NONE
Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=600
Last-Modified: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 14:47:16 GMT
ETag: "152-41694d7a92500"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 438
Connection: close
Content-Type: text/html
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Add a `Header` directive as shown below in the Apache server level configuration and every virtual host that is SSL enabled. The `includeSubDomains` and `preload` flags may be included in the header, but are not required.

```
Header always set Strict-Transport-Security "max-age=600";
includeSubDomains; preload
- or -
Header always set Strict-Transport-Security "max-age=600"
```

## Default Value:

The Strict Transport Security header is not present by default.

**References:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP\\_Strict\\_Transport\\_Security](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_Strict_Transport_Security)
2. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/HTTP\\_Strict\\_Transport\\_Security](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/HTTP_Strict_Transport_Security)
3. <https://moxie.org/software/sslstrip/>
4. [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Security/HTTP\\_strict\\_transport\\_security](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Security/HTTP_strict_transport_security)
5. <https://hstspreload.appspot.com/>

**CIS Controls:****14.2 Encrypt All Sensitive Information Over Less-trusted Networks**

All communication of sensitive information over less-trusted networks should be encrypted. Whenever information flows over a network with a lower trust level, the information should be encrypted.

## 8 Information Leakage

Recommendations in this section are intended to limit the disclosure of potentially sensitive information.

### 8.1 Ensure ServerTokens Provides Minimal Information (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

Configure the Apache `ServerTokens` directive to provide minimal information by setting the value to `Prod` or `ProductOnly`. The only version information given in the server HTTP response header will be `Apache` rather than details on modules and versions installed.

#### Rationale:

Information is power, and identifying web server details greatly increases the efficiency of any attack, as security vulnerabilities are extremely dependent upon specific software versions and configurations. Excessive probing and requests may cause too much "noise" being generated and may tip off an administrator. If an attacker can accurately target exploits, the chances of successful compromise prior to detection increase dramatically. Script kiddies are constantly scanning the Internet and documenting the version information openly provided by web servers. The purpose of this scanning is to accumulate a database of software installed on those hosts, which can then be used when new vulnerabilities are released.

#### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify the `ServerTokens` directive is present in the Apache configuration and has a value of `Prod` or `ProductOnly`.

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `ServerTokens` directive as shown below to have the value of `Prod` or `ProductOnly`:

```
ServerTokens Prod
```



**Default Value:**

The default value is `Full`, which provides the most detailed information.

```
ServerTokens Full
```

**References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#servertokens>

**CIS Controls:****18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts**

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.

## 8.2 Ensure ServerSignature Is Not Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

Disable the server signatures, which is the generation of a signature line as a trailing footer at the bottom of server-generated documents such as error pages.

### Rationale:

Server signatures are helpful when the server is acting as a proxy because they help the user distinguish errors from the proxy rather than the destination server. However, in this context there is no need for the additional information.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify the `ServerSignature` directive is either NOT present in the Apache configuration or is present and has a value of `Off`.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `ServerSignature` directive as shown below to have the value of `Off`:

```
ServerSignature Off
```

### Default Value:

`Off`

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#serversignature>

### CIS Controls:

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Application Software Security

## 8.3 Ensure ETag Response Header Fields Do Not Include Inodes (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The FileETag directive configures the file attributes that are used to create the ETag (entity tag) response header field when the document is based on a static file. The ETag value is used in cache management to save network bandwidth. The value returned may be based on combinations of the file inode, the modification time, and the file size.

### Rationale:

When the FileETag is configured to include the file inode number, a remote attacker may be able to discern the inode number from returned values. The inode is considered sensitive information, as it could be useful in assisting in other attacks.

### Audit:

Perform the following step to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. For the server configurations, verify that the `FileETag` directive is present, and the configured value does not contain any of the values `all`, `inode`, or `+inode`.
2. For all virtual host and directory configurations, verify that either
  - The `FileETag` directive is not present, or
  - The configured `FileETag` value does not contain any of the values `all`, `inode`, or `+inode`.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

Add or modify the `FileETag` directive in the server and each virtual host configuration to have the value `None` or `MTime Size`.

### Default Value:

`INode MTime Size`

### References:

1. <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#FileETag>
2. <https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2003-1418>

**CIS Controls:****18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts**

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.

## 8.4 Ensure All Default Apache Content Is Removed (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

In previous recommendations, we have removed default content such as the Apache manuals and default CGI programs. However, if you want to further restrict information leakage about the web server, it is important that default content such as icons are not left on the web server.

### Rationale:

To identify the type of web servers and versions software installed, it is common for attackers to scan for icons or special content specific to the server type and version. A simple request like [http://example.com/icons/apache\\_pb2.png](http://example.com/icons/apache_pb2.png) may tell the attacker that the server is Apache 2.2. Many icons are used primarily for auto indexing, which is recommended to be disabled.

### Audit:

Perform the following step to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify there is no alias or directory access to the apache icons directory in any of the Apache configuration files.

### Remediation:

Perform either of the following to implement the recommended state:

1. The default source build places the auto-index and icon configurations in the `extra/httpd-autoindex.conf` file, so it can be disabled by leaving the include line commented out in the main `httpd.conf` file, as shown below.

```
# Fancy directory listings
#Include conf/extra/httpd-autoindex.conf
```

2. Alternatively, the `icon alias` directive and the directory access control configuration can be commented out as shown:

```
# We include the /icons/ alias for FancyIndexed directory listings. If
# you do not use FancyIndexing, you may comment this out.
#
#Alias /icons/ "/var/www/icons/"

#<Directory "/var/www/icons">
#     Options Indexes MultiViews FollowSymLinks
#     AllowOverride None
#     Order allow,deny
#     Allow from all
#</Directory>
```

**Default Value:**

The default source build does not enable access to the Apache icons.

**CIS Controls:****18.9 Sanitize Deployed Software Of Development Artifacts**

For in-house developed applications, ensure that development artifacts (sample data and scripts; unused libraries, components, debug code; or tools) are not included in the deployed software, or accessible in the production environment.

## 9 Denial of Service Mitigations

Denial of Service (DoS) attacks intend to degrade a server's ability to process and respond to service requests. Typically, DoS attacks attempt to exhaust the server's network-, CPU-, disk-, and/or memory- related resources. Configuration states in this section may increase a server's resiliency to DoS attacks.

### 9.1 Ensure the Timeout Is Set Properly (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

#### Description:

The `Timeout` directive controls the maximum time in seconds that Apache HTTP server will wait for an Input/Output call to complete. It is recommended that the `Timeout` directive be set to 10 or less.

#### Rationale:

One common technique for DoS is to initiate many connections to the server. By decreasing the timeout for old connections, the server can free resources more quickly and be more responsive. By making the server more efficient, it will be more resilient to DoS conditions.

**Important Notice:** There is a slow form of DoS attack not adequately mitigated by these control, such as the Slow Loris DoS attack of June 2009 <http://hackers.org/slowloris/>. Upgrading to Apache 2.4 is recommended.

#### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `Timeout` directive is specified in the Apache configuration files to have a value of 10 seconds or less.

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: Add or modify the `Timeout` directive in the Apache configuration files to have a value of 10 seconds or less.

```
Timeout 10
```

**Default Value:**

Timeout 300

**References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#timeout>

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## 9.2 Ensure KeepAlive Is Enabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `KeepAlive` directive controls whether Apache will reuse the same TCP connection per client to process subsequent HTTP requests from that client. It is recommended that the `KeepAlive` directive be set to `On`.

### Rationale:

Allowing per-client reuse of TCP sockets reduces the amount of system and network resources required to serve requests. This efficiency gain may improve a server's resiliency to DoS attacks.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `KeepAlive` directive in the Apache configuration either has a value of `On` or is not present. If the directive is not present, the default value is `On`.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `KeepAlive` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of `On`.

```
KeepAlive On
```

### Default Value:

```
KeepAlive On
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#keepalive>

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## 9.3 Ensure MaxKeepAliveRequests Is Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `MaxKeepAliveRequests` directive limits the number of requests allowed per connection when `KeepAlive` is on. If it is set to 0, unlimited requests will be allowed. It is recommended that the `MaxKeepAliveRequests` directive be set to 100 or greater.

### Rationale:

Limiting the number of requests per connection may improve a server's resiliency to DoS attacks.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify that the `MaxKeepAliveRequests` directive in the Apache configuration either has a value of 100 or more or is not present. If the directive is not present, the default value is 100.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `MaxKeepAliveRequests` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 100 or more.

```
MaxKeepAliveRequests 100
```

### Default Value:

```
MaxKeepAliveRequests 100
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#maxkeepaliverequests>

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## 9.4 Ensure the KeepAliveTimeout Is Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `KeepAliveTimeout` directive specifies the number of seconds Apache will wait for a subsequent request before closing a connection that is being kept alive.

### Rationale:

Reducing the number of seconds that Apache HTTP server will keep unused resources allocated will increase the availability of resources to serve other requests. This efficiency gain may improve a server's resiliency to DoS attacks.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `KeepAliveTimeout` directive in the Apache configuration either has a value of 15 or less or is not present. If the directive is not present, the default value is 15 seconds.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: Add or modify the `KeepAliveTimeout` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 15 or less.

```
KeepAliveTimeout 15
```

### Default Value:

```
KeepAliveTimeout 15
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#keepalivetimeout>

### CIS Controls:

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Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services

## 9.5 Ensure Timeout Limits for Request Headers Are Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `RequestReadTimeout` directive allows configuration of timeout limits for client requests. The header portion of the directive provides for an initial timeout value, a maximum timeout, and a minimum rate. The minimum rate specifies that after the initial timeout, the server will wait an additional second for each N bytes received. The recommended setting is to have a maximum timeout of 40 seconds or less. Keep in mind that for SSL/TLS virtual hosts, the time for the TLS handshake must fit within the timeout.

### Rationale:

Setting a request header timeout is vital for mitigating DoS attacks based on slow requests. The slow request attacks are particularly lethal and relative easy to perform, because they require very little bandwidth and can easily be done through anonymous proxies. These attacks started in June 2009 with the Slow Loris DoS attack, which used a slow `GET` request, as published by Robert Hansen (RSnake) on his blog <http://ha.ckers.org/slowloris/>. Later in November 2010 at the OWASP App Sec DC conference, Wong Onn Chee demonstrated a slow `POST` request attack which was even more effective. For details, see: <https://www.owasp.org/index.php/H...t...t...p...p...O...S...t>

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Locate any `RequestReadTimeout` directives and verify that they have a maximum header request timeout of 40 seconds or less.
3. If the configuration does not contain any `RequestReadTimeout` directives and the `mod_reqtimeout` module is being loaded, then the default value of 40 seconds is compliant with the benchmark recommendation.

```
RequestReadTimeout header=XXX-40,MinRate=XXX body=XXXXXXXXXX
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Load the `mod_reqtimeout` module in the Apache configuration with the following.

```
LoadModule reqtimeout_module modules/mod_reqtimeout.so
```

2. Add a `RequestReadTimeout` directive similar to the one below with the maximum request header timeout value of 40 seconds or less.

```
RequestReadTimeout header=20-40,MinRate=500 body=20,MinRate=500
```

## Default Value:

```
header=20-40,MinRate=500
```

## References:

1. <http://ha.ckers.org/slowloris/>
2. <https://www.owasp.org/index.php/H...t....t....p.....p....O....S....t>
3. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_reqtimeout.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_reqtimeout.html)

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## 9.6 Ensure Timeout Limits for the Request Body Are Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1

### Description:

The `RequestReadTimeout` directive allows setting timeout values for the body portion of a request. The directive provides for an initial timeout value, a maximum timeout, and a minimum rate. The minimum rate specifies that after the initial timeout, the server will wait an additional second for each N bytes received. The recommended setting is to have a maximum timeout of 20 seconds or less.

### Rationale:

It is not sufficient to timeout only on the header portion of the request, as the server will still be vulnerable to attacks like the OWASP Slow POST attack, which provide the body of the request very slowly. Therefore, the body portion of the request must have a timeout as well. A timeout of 20 seconds or less is recommended.

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Locate the Apache configuration files and included configuration files.
2. Locate any `RequestReadTimeout` directives and verify the configuration has a maximum body request timeout of 20 seconds or less.
3. If the configuration does not contain any `RequestReadTimeout` directives and the `mod_reqtimeout` module is being loaded, then the default value of 20 seconds is compliant with the benchmark recommendation.

```
RequestReadTimeout header= XXXXXX body=20,MinRate=XXXXXXXXXX
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Load the `mod_reqtimeout` module in the Apache configuration with the following.

```
LoadModule reqtimeout_module modules/mod_reqtimeout.so
```

2. Add a `RequestReadTimeout` directive similar to the one below with the maximum request body timeout value of 20 seconds or less.

```
RequestReadTimeout header=20-40,MinRate=500 body=20,MinRate=500
```

**Default Value:**

`body=20,MinRate=500`

**References:**

1. [https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod\\_reqtimeout.html](https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mod_reqtimeout.html)

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## 10 Request Limits

Recommendations in this section reduce the maximum allowed size of request parameters. Doing so increases the likelihood of negatively impacting application and/or site functionality. It is highly recommended that the configuration states described in this section be tested on test servers prior to deploying them to production servers.

### 10.1 Ensure the Maximum Request Line Length Is Set Properly (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

#### Description:

The `LimitRequestLine` directive sets the maximum number of bytes that Apache will read for each line of an HTTP request. It is recommended that the `LimitRequestLine` be set to 512 or less.

#### Rationale:

Limiting request line size may reduce the exposure of a buffer-related vulnerability potentially present in a code base hosted by Apache HTTP server.

#### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `LimitRequestLine` directive is in the Apache configuration and has a value of 512 or less.

#### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: Add or modify the `LimitRequestLine` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 512 or less.

```
LimitRequestLine 512
```

#### Default Value:

```
LimitRequestline 8190
```



**References:**

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#limitrequestline>

**CIS Controls:****9 Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services

## 10.2 Ensure the Maximum Request Headers Per Request Is Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The `LimitRequestFields` directive sets the maximum limit on the number of HTTP request headers allowed per request. It is recommended that the `LimitRequestFields` directive be set to 100 or less.

### Rationale:

Limiting the number of headers per request may reduce the exposure of a buffer-related vulnerability potentially present in a code base hosted by Apache HTTP server.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `LimitRequestFields` directive is in the Apache configuration and has a value of 100 or less.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: Add or modify the `LimitRequestFields` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 100 or less. If the directive is not present, the default depends on a compile time configuration, but defaults to a value of 100.

```
LimitRequestFields 100
```

### Default Value:

```
LimitRequestFields 100
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#limitrequestfields>

**CIS Controls:****9 Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services**

Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services

## 10.3 Enusre the Maximum Request Header Field Size Is Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The `LimitRequestFieldSize` directive sets the maximum size of an HTTP request header field. It is recommended that the `LimitRequestFieldSize` directive be set to 1024 or less.

### Rationale:

Limiting header field size may reduce the exposure of a buffer-related vulnerability potentially present in a code base hosted by Apache HTTP server.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Verify that the `LimitRequestFieldSize` directive is in the Apache configuration and has a value of 1024 or less.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `LimitRequestFieldSize` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 1024 or less.

### Default Value:

`LimitRequestFieldSize 8190`

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#limitrequestfieldsize>

### CIS Controls:

9 Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services  
Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services

## 10.4 Ensure the Maximum Request Body Size Is Set Properly (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

The `LimitRequestBody` directive sets the maximum size of an HTTP request body. It is recommended that the `LimitRequestBody` directive be set to 102400 or less.

### Rationale:

Limiting request body size may reduce the exposure of a buffer-related vulnerability potentially present in a code base hosted by Apache HTTP server.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Verify that the `LimitRequestBody` directive in the Apache configuration has a value of 102400 (100K) or less.

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:  
Add or modify the `LimitRequestBody` directive in the Apache configuration to have a value of 102400 (100K) or less. Please read the Apache documentation so it is understood this directive will limit the size of file uploads to the web server.

```
LimitRequestBody 102400
```

### Default Value:

```
LimitRequestBody 0 (unlimited)
```

### References:

1. <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/core.html#limitrequestbody>

### CIS Controls:

- 9 Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services  
Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services

## ***11 Enable SELinux to Restrict Apache Processes***

Recommendations in this section provide mandatory access controls (MAC) using the SELinux kernel module in targeted mode. SELinux provides additional enforced security which will prevent access to resources, files, and directories by the httpd processes, even in cases where an application or server vulnerability might allow inappropriate access. The SELinux controls are advanced security controls that require significant effort to ensure they do not negatively impact the application and/or site functionality. It is highly recommended that the configuration states described in this section be tested thoroughly on test servers prior to deploying them to production servers.

SELinux and AppArmor provide similar controls, and it is not recommended to use both SELinux and AppArmor on the same system. Depending on which Linux distribution is in use, either AppArmor or SELinux is likely to be already installed or readily available as packages. AppArmor differs from SELinux in that it binds the controls to programs rather than users and uses pathnames rather than labeled type enforcement.

### ***11.1 Ensure SELinux Is Enabled in Enforcing Mode (Scored)***

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 2

#### **Description:**

SELinux (Security-Enhanced Linux) is a Linux kernel security module that provides mandatory access control security policies with type enforcement that are checked after the traditional discretionary access controls. It was created by the US National Security Agency and can enforce rules on files and processes in a Linux system, and restrict actions, based on defined policies.

#### **Rationale:**

Web applications and services continue to be one of the leading attack vectors for criminals to gain access to information and servers. The threat is high because web servers are often externally accessible and typically have the greatest share of server-side vulnerabilities. The SELinux mandatory access controls provide a much stronger security model which can be used to implement a deny-by-default model only allowing what is explicitly permitted.

#### **Audit:**

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Use the `sestatus` command to check that SELinux is enabled and that both the current mode and the configured mode are set to `enforcing`.

```
$ sestatus | grep -i mode
Current mode: enforcing
Mode from config file: enforcing
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

If SELinux is not enabled in the configuration file, edit the file `/etc/selinux/config` and set the value of `SELINUX` as `enforcing`. Reboot the system for the new configuration to be effective.

```
SELINUX=enforcing
```

If the current mode is not `enforcing` and an immediate reboot is not possible, the current mode can be set to `enforcing` with the command shown below.

```
# setenforce 1
```

### Default Value:

SELinux is not enabled by default.

### References:

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security-Enhanced\\_Linux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security-Enhanced_Linux)

### CIS Controls:

#### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 11.2 Ensure Apache Processes Run in the `httpd_t` Confined Context (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

SELinux includes customizable targeted policies that may be used to confine the Apache `httpd` server to enforce least privileges so the `httpd` server has only the minimal access to specified directories, files, and network ports. Access is controlled by process types (domains) defined for the `httpd` process. There are over a hundred individual `httpd` related types defined in a default Apache SELinux policy, which includes many of the common Apache add-ons and applications such as `php`, `nagios`, and `smokeping`. The default SELinux policies work well for a default Apache installation, but implementation of SELinux targeted policies on a complex or highly customized web server requires a rather significant development and testing effort which comprehends both the workings of SELinux and the detailed operations and requirements of the web application.

All directories and files to be accessed by the web server process must have security labels with appropriate types. The following types are a sample of the most commonly used:

- `http_port_t` - Network ports allowed for listening
- `httpd_sys_content_t` - Read access to directories and files with web content
- `httpd_log_t` - Directories and files to be used for writable log data
- `httpd_sys_script_exec_t` - Directories and files for executable content.

### Rationale:

With the proper implementation of SELinux, vulnerabilities in the web application may be prevented from being exploited due to the additional restrictions. For example, a vulnerability that allows an attacker to read to inappropriate system files may be prevented from execution by SELinux because the inappropriate files are not labeled as `httpd_sys_content_t`. Likewise, writing to an unexpected directory or execution of unexpected content can be prevented by similar mandatory security labels enforced by SELinux.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Check that all of the Apache `httpd` processes are confined to the `httpd_t` SELinux context.



The type (the third colon separated field) for each process should be `httpd_t`. Note that on some platforms, such as Ubuntu, the Apache executable is named `apache2` instead of `httpd`.

```
$ ps -eZ | grep httpd
unconfined_u:system_r:httpd_t:s0 1366 ? 00:00:00 httpd
unconfined_u:system_r:httpd_t:s0 1368 ? 00:00:00 httpd
. . .
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

If the running `httpd` processes are not confined to the `httpd_t` SELinux context, check the context for the `httpd` binary and the `apachectl` binary, and set the `httpd` binary to have a context of `httpd_exec_t` and the `apachectl` executable to have a context of `initrc_exec_t`, as shown below. Also note that on some platforms, such as Ubuntu, the Apache executable is named `apache2` instead of `httpd`.

```
# ls -alZ /usr/sbin/httpd /usr/sbin/httpd.* /usr/sbin/apachectl
-rwxr-xr-x. root root system_u:object_r:initrc_exec_t:s0 /usr/sbin/apachectl
-rwxr-xr-x. root root system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0 /usr/sbin/httpd
-rwxr-xr-x. root root system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0
/usr/sbin/httpd.worker
-rwxr-xr-x. root root system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0
/usr/sbin/httpd.event
```

If the executable files are not labeled correctly, they may be relabeled with the `chcon` command, as shown; however, the file system labeling is based on the SELinux file context policies, and the file systems will on some occasions be relabeled according to the policy.

```
# chcon -t initrc_exec_t /usr/sbin/apachectl
# chcon -t httpd_exec_t /usr/sbin/httpd /usr/sbin/httpd.*
```

Since the file system may be relabeled based on SELinux policy, it's best to check the SELinux policy with the `semanage fcontext -l` option. If the policy is not present, add the pattern to the policy using the `-a` option. The `restorecon` command shown below will restore the file context label according to the current policy, and is required if a pattern was added.

```
# ### Check the Policy
# semanage fcontext -l | fgrep 'apachectl'
/usr/sbin/apachectl regular file system_u:object_r:initrc_exec_t:s0
# semanage fcontext -l | fgrep '/usr/sbin/httpd'
/usr/sbin/httpd regular file system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0
/usr/sbin/httpd.worker regular file system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0
/usr/sbin/httpd.event regular file system_u:object_r:httpd_exec_t:s0
# ### Add to the policy, if not present
# semanage fcontext -f -- -a -t httpd_exec_t '/usr/sbin/httpd'
# semanage fcontext -f -- -a -t httpd_exec_t '/usr/sbin/httpd.worker'
# semanage fcontext -f -- -a -t httpd_exec_t '/usr/sbin/httpd.event'
# semanage fcontext -f -- -a -t initrc_exec_t /usr/sbin/apachectl

# ### Restore the file labeling accord to the SELinux policy
# restorecon -v /usr/sbin/httpd /usr/sbin/httpd.* /usr/sbin/apachectl
```

## Default Value:

SELinux is not enabled by default.

## References:

1. <https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-US/Red Hat Enterprise Linux/6/html/Security-Enhanced Linux/chap-Security-Enhanced Linux-Targeted Policy.html>

## CIS Controls:

### 14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 11.3 Ensure the `httpd_t` Type Is Not in Permissive Mode (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

In addition to setting the entire SELinux configuration in permissive mode, it is possible to set individual process types (domains) such as `httpd_t` into permissive mode as well. Permissive mode will not prevent any access or actions; instead, any actions that would have been denied are simply logged.

### Rationale:

Usage of permissive mode is helpful for testing and ensuring that SELinux will not prevent access that is necessary for the proper function of a web application. However, all access is allowed in permissive mode by SELinux.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented: Check that the `httpd_t` process type (domain) is not in permissive mode with the `semodule` command. There should be no output if the type is not set to permissive.

```
# semodule -l | grep permissive_httpd_t
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state: If the `httpd_t` type is in permissive mode, the customized permissive mode should be deleted with the following `semanage` command.

```
# semanage permissive -d httpd_t
```

### Default Value:

The `httpd_t` type is not in permissive mode by default.

### References:

1. [https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-US/Red\\_Hat\\_Enterprise\\_Linux/6/html/Security-Enhanced\\_Linux/sect-Security-Enhanced\\_Linux-Fixing\\_Problems-Permissive\\_Domains.html](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-US/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux/6/html/Security-Enhanced_Linux/sect-Security-Enhanced_Linux-Fixing_Problems-Permissive_Domains.html)

**CIS Controls:****14.4 Protect Information With Access Control Lists**

All information stored on systems shall be protected with file system, network share, claims, application, or database specific access control lists. These controls will enforce the principle that only authorized individuals should have access to the information based on their need to access the information as a part of their responsibilities.

## 11.4 Ensure Only the Necessary SELinux Booleans Are Enabled (Not Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

SELinux booleans allow or disallow behavior specific to the Apache web server. Common examples include whether CGI execution is allowed, or if the httpd server is allowed to communicate with the current terminal (`tty`). Communication with the terminal may be necessary for entering a passphrase during startup to decrypt a private key.

### Rationale:

Enabling only the necessary httpd related booleans provides a defense in depth approach that will deny actions that are not in use or expected.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Review the SELinux httpd booleans that are enabled to ensure only the necessary booleans are enabled for the current and the configured state. Due to the variety and complexity of web server usages and organizational needs, a preset recommendation of enabled booleans is not practical. Run either of the two commands below to show only the enabled httpd related booleans. The `getsebool` command is installed with the core SELinux, while the `semanage` command is an optional package, but the `semanage` output includes descriptive text.

```
# getsebool -a | grep httpd_ | grep '> on'
httpd_builtin_scripting --> on
httpd_dbus_avahi --> on
httpd_tty_comm --> on
httpd_unified --> on
```

Alternative using the `semanage` command.

```
# semanage boolean -l | grep httpd_ | grep -v '(off , off)'
httpd_enable_cgi (on , on) Allow httpd cgi support
httpd_dbus_avahi (on , on) Allow Apache to communicate with avahi service
via dbus
httpd_unified (on , on) Unify HTTPD handling of all content files.
httpd_builtin_scripting (on , on) Allow httpd to use built in scripting
(usually php)
httpd_tty_comm (on , on) Unify HTTPD to communicate with the terminal...
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

To disable the SELinux httpd booleans that are determined to be unnecessary, use the `setsebool` command as shown below with the `-P` option to make the change persistent.

```
# setsebool -P httpd_enable_cgi off
# getsebool httpd_enable_cgi
httpd_enable_cgi --> off
```

## Default Value:

SELinux is not enabled by default.

## References:

1. <https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-US/Red Hat Enterprise Linux/6/html/Security-Enhanced Linux/sect-Security-Enhanced Linux-Working with SELinux-Booleans.html>

## CIS Controls:

- 18 Application Software Security  
Application Software Security

## ***12 Enable AppArmor to Restrict Apache Processes***

Recommendations in this section provide mandatory access controls (MAC) using the AppArmor kernel module. AppArmor provides additional enforced security which will prevent access to resources, files, and directories by the apache2 processes even in cases where an application or server vulnerability might allow inappropriate access. The AppArmor controls are advanced security controls that require significant effort to ensure they do not negatively impact the application and/or site functionality. It is highly recommended that the configuration states described in this section be tested thoroughly on test servers prior to deploying them to production servers.

AppArmor and SELinux provide similar controls, and it is not recommended to use both SELinux and AppArmor on the same system. Depending on which Linux distribution is in use, either AppArmor or SELinux is likely to be already installed or readily available as packages. AppArmor differs from SELinux in that it binds the controls to programs rather than users and uses pathnames rather than labeled type enforcement.

### ***12.1 Ensure the AppArmor Framework Is Enabled (Scored)***

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 2

#### **Description:**

AppArmor is a Linux kernel security module that provides named-based mandatory access control with security policies. AppArmor can enforce rules on programs for file access and network connections and restrict actions based on defined policies.

#### **Rationale:**

Web applications and web services continue to be one of the leading attack vectors for criminals to gain access to information and servers. The threat is high because web servers are often externally accessible and typically have the greatest share of server-side vulnerabilities. The AppArmor mandatory access controls provide a much stronger security model which can be used to implement a deny-by-default model only allowing what is explicitly permitted.

#### **Audit:**

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:  
Use the aa-status command with the `--enabled` option to check that AppArmor is enabled.

If AppArmor is enabled, the command will return a zero (0) exit code for success. The `&& echo Enabled` is added to the command below to provide positive feedback. If no text is echoed, AppArmor is not enabled.

```
# aa-status --enabled && echo Enabled
Enabled
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. If the `aa-status` command is not found, the AppArmor package is not installed and needs to be installed using the appropriate Linux distribution package management. For example:

```
# apt-get install apparmor
# apt-get install libapache2-mod-apparmor
```

2. To enable the AppArmor framework, run the `init.d` script as shown below.

```
# /etc/init.d/apparmor start
```

### Default Value:

AppArmor is enabled by default.

### References:

1. <https://help.ubuntu.com/community/AppArmor>

### CIS Controls:

#### 2.2 Deploy Application Whitelisting

Deploy application whitelisting technology that allows systems to run software only if it is included on the whitelist and prevents execution of all other software on the system. The whitelist may be very extensive (as is available from commercial whitelist vendors), so that users are not inconvenienced when using common software. Or, for some special-purpose systems (which require only a small number of programs to achieve their needed business functionality), the whitelist may be quite narrow.



## 12.2 Ensure the Apache AppArmor Profile Is Configured Properly (Not Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

AppArmor includes customizable profiles that may be used to confine the Apache web server to enforce least privileges so the server has only the minimal access to specified directories, files, and network ports. Access is controlled by a profile defined for the `apache2` process. The default AppArmor profile is typically a very permissive profile that allows read-write access to all system files. Therefore, it's important that the default profile be customized to enforce least privileges. The AppArmor utilities such as `aa-autodep`, `aa-complain`, and `aa-logprof` can be used to generate an initial profile based on actual usage. However, thorough testing, review, and customization will be necessary to ensure the Apache profile restrictions allow the necessary functionality while implementing least privilege.

### Rationale:

With the proper implementation of an AppArmor profile, vulnerabilities in the web application may be prevented from being exploited due to the additional restrictions. For example, a vulnerability that allows an attacker to read an inappropriate system files may be prevented from execution by AppArmor because the inappropriate files are not allowed by the profile. Likewise, writing to an unexpected directory or executing unexpected content can be prevented by similar mandatory security controls enforced by AppArmor.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

1. Find the Apache AppArmor profile typically found in `/etc/apparmor.d/usr.sbin.apache2` along with any files included by the profile such as `/etc/apparmor.d/apache2.d/*` and files in the `/etc/apparmor.d/abstractions/` directory.
2. Review the capabilities and permissions granted to ensure that the profile implements least privileges for the web application. Wild-card paths such as `/**` which grant access to all files and directories starting with the root level directory should not be present in the profile. Instead, read-only access to specific necessary system files such as `/etc/group` and to web content files such as `/var/www/html/**`

should be given. Refer to the `apparmor.d` man page for additional details. Shown below are some possible example capabilities and path permissions.

```
capability dac_override,  
capability dac_read_search,  
capability net_bind_service,  
capability setgid,  
capability setuid,  
capability kill,  
capability sys_tty_config,  
...  
  
/usr/sbin/apache2 mr,  
/etc/gai.conf r,  
/etc/group r,  
/etc/apache2/** r,  
/var/www/html/** r,  
/run/apache2/** rw,  
/run/lock/apache2/** rw,  
/var/log/apache2/** rw,  
/etc/mime.types r,
```

## Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Stop the Apache server.

```
# service apache2 stop
```

2. Create a mostly empty apache2 profile based on program dependencies.

```
# aa-autodep apache2  
Writing updated profile for /usr/sbin/apache2.
```

3. Set the apache2 profile in complain mode so access violations will be allowed and will be logged.

```
# aa-complain apache2  
Setting /usr/sbin/apache2 to complain mode.
```

4. Start the apache2 service.

```
# service apache2 start
```

5. Thoroughly test the web application, attempting to exercise all intended functionality so AppArmor will generate the necessary logs of all resources accessed. The logs are sent via the system syslog utility and are typically found in

either the `/var/log/syslog` or `/var/log/messages` files. Also stop and restart the web server as part of the testing process.

6. Use `aa-logprof` to update the profile based on logs generated during the testing. The tool will prompt for suggested modifications to the profile, based on the logs. The logs may also be reviewed manually in order to update the profile.

```
# aa-logprof
```

7. Review and edit the profile, removing any inappropriate content and adding appropriate access rules. Directories with multiple files accessed with the same permission can be simplified with the usage of wild-cards when appropriate. Reload the updated profile using the `apparmor_parser` command.

```
# apparmor_parser -r /etc/apparmor.d/usr.sbin.apache2
```

8. Test the new updated profile again, checking for any new apparmor denied logs generated. Update and reload the profile as necessary. Repeat the application tests until no new apparmor deny logs are created, except for access which should be prohibited.

```
# tail -f /var/log/syslog
```

9. Set the apache2 profile to enforce mode, reload apparmor, and test the web site functionality again.

```
# aa-enforce /usr/sbin/apache2  
# /etc/init.d/apparmor reload
```

### Default Value:

The default Apache profile is very permissive.

### References:

1. <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/AppArmor>

### CIS Controls:

#### 2 Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Software

Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Software

## 12.3 Ensure the Apache AppArmor Profile Is in Enforce Mode (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 2

### Description:

AppArmor profiles may be in one of three modes: disabled, complain, or enforce. In the complain mode, any violations of the access controls are logged but the restrictions are not enforced. Also, once a profile mode has been changed, it is recommended to restart the Apache server, otherwise the currently running process may not be confined by the policy.

### Rationale:

The complain mode is useful for testing and debugging a profile but is not appropriate for production. Only the confined process running in enforce mode will prevent attacks that violate the configured access controls.

### Audit:

Perform the following steps to determine if the recommended state is implemented:

Use the `aa-unconfined` command to check that the `apache2` policy is enforced, and that the currently running `apache2` processes are confined. The output should include both `confined by` and `(enforce)`

```
# aa-unconfined --paranoid | grep apache2
1899 /usr/sbin/apache2 confined by '/usr/sbin/apache2 (enforce) '
1902 /usr/sbin/apache2 confined by '/usr/sbin/apache2 (enforce) '
1903 /usr/sbin/apache2 confined by '/usr/sbin/apache2 (enforce) '
. . .
```

Note that non-compliant results may include `not confined` or `(complain)`, such as the following:

```
3304 /usr/sbin/apache2 not confined
2502 /usr/sbin/apache2 confined by '/usr/sbin/apache2 (complain) '
4004 /usr/sbin/apache2 confined by
'/usr/sbin/apache2//HANDLING_UNTRUSTED_INPUT (complain) '
```

### Remediation:

Perform the following to implement the recommended state:

1. Set the profile state to enforce mode.

```
# aa-enforce apache2
Setting /usr/sbin/apache2 to enforce mode.
```

2. Stop the Apache server and confirm that it is not running. In some cases, the AppArmor controls may prevent the web server from stopping properly, and it may be necessary to stop the process manually or even reboot the server.

```
# service apache2 stop
* Stopping web server apache2
# service apache2 status
* apache2 is not running
```

3. Restart the Apache service.

```
# service apache2 start
* Starting web server apache2
```

**Default Value:**

enforce

**CIS Controls:****2.2 Deploy Application Whitelisting**

Deploy application whitelisting technology that allows systems to run software only if it is included on the whitelist and prevents execution of all other software on the system. The whitelist may be very extensive (as is available from commercial whitelist vendors), so that users are not inconvenienced when using common software. Or, for some special-purpose systems (which require only a small number of programs to achieve their needed business functionality), the whitelist may be quite narrow.

# Appendix: Summary Table

Control		Set Correctly	
		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	<b>Planning and Installation</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Ensure the Pre-Installation Planning Checklist Has Been Implemented</b>		
1.2	Ensure the Server Is Not a Multi-Use System (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Ensure Apache Is Installed From the Appropriate Binaries (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apache Modules</b>		
2.1	Ensure Only Necessary Authentication and Authorization Modules Are Enabled (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Ensure the Log Config Module Is Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Ensure the WebDAV Modules Are Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Ensure the Status Module Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Ensure the Autoindex Module Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6	Ensure the Proxy Modules Are Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.7	Ensure the User Directories Module Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.8	Ensure the Info Module Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	<b>Privileges, Permissions, and Ownership</b>		
3.1	Ensure the Apache Web Server Runs As a Non-Root User (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Ensure the Apache User Account Has an Invalid Shell (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Ensure the Apache User Account Is Locked (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Ensure Apache Directories and Files Are Owned By Root (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Ensure the Group Is Set Correctly on Apache Directories and Files (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Ensure Other Write Access on Apache Directories and Files Is Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7	Ensure the Core Dump Directory Is Secured (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.8	Ensure the Lock File Is Secured (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.9	Ensure the Pid File Is Secured (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.10	Ensure the ScoreBoard File Is Secured (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.11	Ensure Group Write Access for the Apache Directories and Files Is Properly Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.12	Ensure Group Write Access for the Document Root Directories and Files Is Properly Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>4</b>	<b>Apache Access Control</b>		
4.1	Ensure Access to OS Root Directory Is Denied By Default (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Ensure Appropriate Access to Web Content Is Allowed (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Ensure OverRide Is Disabled for the OS Root Directory (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Ensure OverRide Is Disabled for All Directories (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5</b>	<b>Features, Content, and Options</b>		
5.1	Ensure Options for the OS Root Directory Are Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Ensure Options for the Web Root Directory Are Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Ensure Options for Other Directories Are Minimized (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.4	Ensure Default HTML Content Is Removed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.5	Ensure the Default CGI Content printenv Script Is Removed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.6	Ensure the Default CGI Content test-cgi Script Is Removed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.7	Ensure HTTP Request Methods Are Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.8	Ensure the HTTP TRACE Method Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.9	Ensure Old HTTP Versions Are Disallowed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.10	Ensure Access to .ht* Files Is Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.11	Ensure Access to Inappropriate File Extensions Is Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.12	Ensure IP Address Based Requests Are Disallowed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.13	Ensure the IP Addresses for Listening for Requests Are Specified (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.14	Ensure Browser Framing Is Restricted (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6</b>	<b>Operations - Logging, Monitoring and Maintenance</b>		
6.1	Ensure the Error Log Filename and Severity Level Are Configured Correctly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.2	Ensure a Syslog Facility Is Configured for Error Logging (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.3	Ensure the Server Access Log Is Configured Correctly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4	Ensure Log Storage and Rotation Is Configured Correctly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.5	Ensure Applicable Patches Are Applied (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.6	Ensure ModSecurity Is Installed and Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.7	Ensure the OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set Is Installed and Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>7</b>	<b>SSL/TLS</b>		
7.1	Ensure mod_ssl and/or mod_nss Is Installed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2	Ensure a Valid Trusted Certificate Is Installed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3	Ensure the Server's Private Key Is Protected (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4	Ensure Weak SSL Protocols Are Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.5	Ensure Weak SSL/TLS Ciphers Are Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.6	Ensure Insecure SSL Renegotiation Is Not Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.7	Ensure SSL Compression is Not Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.8	Ensure Medium Strength SSL/TLS Ciphers Are Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.9	Ensure the TLS v1.0 Protocol Is Disabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.10	Ensure HTTP Strict Transport Security Is Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8</b>	<b>Information Leakage</b>		
8.1	Ensure ServerTokens Provides Minimal Information (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.2	Ensure ServerSignature Is Not Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.3	Ensure ETag Response Header Fields Do Not Include Inodes (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.4	Ensure All Default Apache Content Is Removed (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9</b>	<b>Denial of Service Mitigations</b>		
9.1	Ensure the Timeout Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.2	Ensure KeepAlive Is Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.3	Ensure MaxKeepAliveRequests Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.4	Ensure the KeepAliveTimeout Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.5	Ensure Timeout Limits for Request Headers Are Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.6	Ensure Timeout Limits for the Request Body Are Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10</b>	<b>Request Limits</b>		
10.1	Ensure the Maximum Request Line Length Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.2	Ensure the Maximum Request Headers Per Request Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.3	Ensure the Maximum Request Header Field Size Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.4	Ensure the Maximum Request Body Size Is Set Properly (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11</b>	<b>Enable SELinux to Restrict Apache Processes</b>		
11.1	Ensure SELinux Is Enabled in Enforcing Mode (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.2	Ensure Apache Processes Run in the httpd_t Confined Context (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.3	Ensure the httpd_t Type Is Not in Permissive Mode (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.4	Ensure Only the Necessary SELinux Booleans Are Enabled (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>12</b>	<b>Enable AppArmor to Restrict Apache Processes</b>		
12.1	Ensure the AppArmor Framework Is Enabled (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.2	Ensure the Apache AppArmor Profile Is Configured Properly (Not Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.3	Ensure the Apache AppArmor Profile Is in Enforce Mode (Scored)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Appendix: Change History

Date	Version	Changes for this version
Sep 28, 2012	3.2.0	Move items 1.9.2 and 1.9.1 in to section 1.5 - Ticket #68
Sep 28, 2012	3.2.0	1.6.6 Removed Red Hat references - Ticket #57
Sep 28, 2012	3.2.0	1.9.1 DoS Mitigation - Broke into section distinct recommendations per directive - Ticket #58
Sep 28, 2012	3.2.0	1.9.2 Buffer Overflow Mitigations - Broke into section with distinct recommendations per directive - Ticket #60
Sep 28, 2012	3.2.0	1.2.1 Set to not scored
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #102: Added recommendation for syslog facility
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #101: Split Apache directory and file ownership
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #100: Split "Enable HTTP Strict Transport Security" in two
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #92: Removed socket exception from find command
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #90: HTTP Strict Transport Security Header
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #89: Recommend disabling SSL compression
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #88: Disallow RC4 cipher suites

Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #103: Added two recommendations for Request Header and Body
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #72: Fix missing quotation mark
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #82: Error in item 1.4.2
Jan 28, 2015	3.3.0	Ticket #85: POODLE and BEAST mitigation
Apr 23, 2015	3.3.1	Informational update to 1.7.8 Disable the TLS v1.0 Protocol
Apr 23, 2015	3.3.1	Informational update to 1.7.9 Enable HTTP Strict Transport Security
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	Ticket #113: Typo in 1.7.8, "TLS1.2" should be "TLSv1.2"
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.2.6 Disable Proxy Modules – For the proxy AJP module the path was corrected.
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.3.1 Run the Apache Web Server as a non-root user - Use MIN_UID instead of 500 and fixed the wording.
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.3.3 Lock the Apache User Account Proposed - Added alternate output for locked apache account.
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.6.3 Configure the Access log - add the explanation of %h variables etc.
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.6.6 Install and Enable ModSecurity – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.6.7 Install and Enable OWASP ModSecurity Core Rule Set – New Recommendation

Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.7.9 Enable OCSP Stapling – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.9.5 Set Timeout Limits for Request Header - Fixed the format
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.9.6 Set Timeout Limits for the Request Body- Fixed the format
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.11.1 Enable SELinux in Enforcing Mode – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.11.2 Run Apache Processes in the httpd_t Confined Context – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.11.3 Ensure the httpd_t Type is Not in Permissive Mode – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.12.1 Enable the AppArmor Framework – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.12.2 Customize the Apache AppArmor Profile – New Recommendation
Jun 30, 2016	3.4.0	1.12.3 Ensure Apache AppArmor Profile is in Enforce Mode – New Recommendation
Jul 8, 2016	3.4.0	1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.5.7, 1.5.10: Updated the discussion, audit and remediation of access controls to allow the deprecated Order/Deny/Allow or usage of Require directive.
Jul 8, 2016	3.4.0	1.4.3 Restrict OverRide for the OS Root Directory - Added the Default Value
Jul 8, 2016	3.4.0	1.4.4 Restrict OverRide for All Directories - Removed the

		superfluous Default Value
Sep 14, 2016	3.4.0	Ticket #114: Move all children of “Recommendations” to the top level and remove “Recommendations” section.
Sep 14, 2016	3.4.0	7.10 Enable HSTS – Updated to reflect this is supported by all current browsers
May 11, 2017	3.4.1	Mapped recommendations to CIS Controls
Aug 25, 2017	3.5.0	Ticket #5384: 4.1 Deny Access to OS Root Directory (Apache Access Control)
Oct 6, 2017	3.5.0	Ticket #5452: 7.5 Restrict Weak SSL Ciphers - Do not disable SSLv3 ciphers
Nov 21, 2017	3.5.0	Ticket #5453: Disable 3DES ciphers
Feb 14, 2018	3.5.0	Ticket #6038: Recommend SSL Scan for Audit Procedure.
Feb 14, 2018	3.5.0	Ticket #6036: Update RC4 cipher rational to reflect RFC 7465
Feb 21, 2018	3.5.0	Ticket #6007: Disable anonymous (No Authentication) cipher suites