

Apache Security Secrets: Revealed! (Again!)

for ApacheCon 2003, Las Vegas Mark J Cox

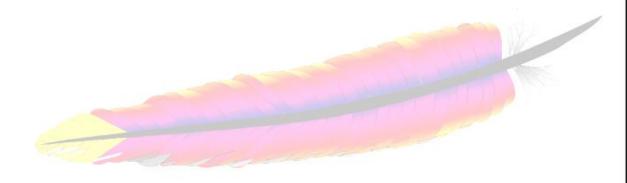


revision 3 www.awe.com/mark/apcon2003



Apache

- Apache web server
 - Powers over half of the Internet web server infrastructure
 - Mature project, over 7 years old
- Apache Software Foundation
 - 1999, umbrella organisation







"a loose confederation of programmers ... working in their spare time over gin and tonics at home" -- The Wall Street Journal



Arbitrary code execution

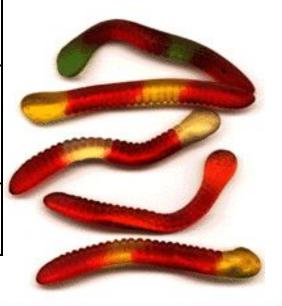
- Nightmare scenario
- It's only happened ONCE to Apache 1.3
 - and then it was limited to some platforms
 - and you didn't get root

C V E	T itle	Description
C A N -	Apache Chunked	Requests to all versions of Apache 1.3 can
2 0 0 2 -	encoding vulnerability	cause various effects ranging from a relatively
0 3 9 2		harm less increase in system resources through
		to denial of service attacks and in some cases
		the ability to be remotely exploited.
C A N -	1	A pache for W in 32 before 1.3.24 and 2.0.34-
	Remote command	beta allows remote attackers to execute
0 0 6 1	execution	arbitrary commands via parameters passed to
		batch file CGI scripts.



Apache Worms

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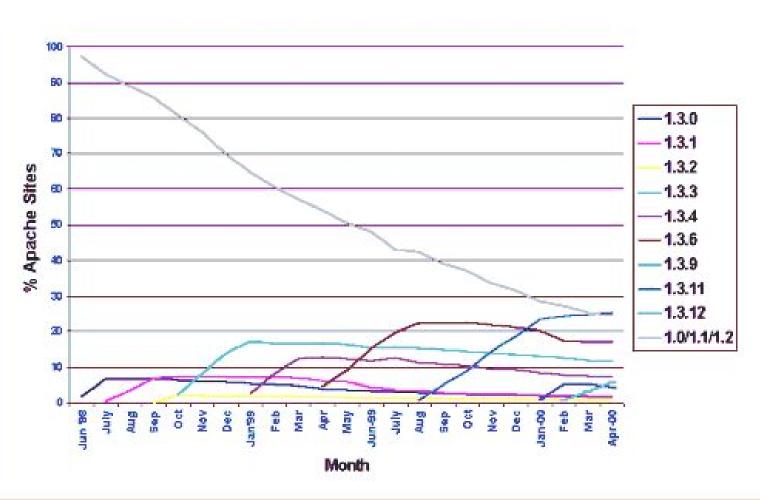
Who was vulnerable?

- People who didn't update their systems
 - Why didn't they upgrade?
 - Abandoned
 - Install and Forget
 - Cry Wolf (too much information)
 - Incorrect or misleading information.
 - They thought they already had
 - Inertia, too hard to upgrade
 - How can we help?
 - Reduce the impact of worms
 - Better quality information
 - consistent naming
 - Easier to upgrade

Everybody thought Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did. And in the end Everybody got mad at Somebody Because... Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



Release take up





Secret: Keep your System up to date





Security Policy

- Why bother?
- Security response policy for Apache
 - Alert Phase
 - Analysis Phase
 - Response Phase
 - Maintenance Phase
- Assumptions
 - Just Apache
 - Not from a vendor





Alert Phase

- Where to get your information
 - How the quality varies
- Keep notes

- Apache mailing lists
- CERT CC
- Bugtraq
- Full Disclosure
- Apache Week
- Apache web site
- Security Sites



Analysing Vulnerabilities

- What is this issue all about?
- How does it affect you?
 - Impact on your organisation
 - Threat assessment
- How was it fixed?
- Requires Detective work
- Requires trusted information sources
 - Chinese Whispers
 - Press FUD

- Vendor mailing lists
- MARC

'Chinese Whispers'

Severity: Medium (Session hijacking/possible compromise)

A vulnerability exists in the SSI error pages of Apache 2.0 that involves incorrect filtering of server signature data. The vulnerability could enable an attacker to hijack web sessions, allowing a range of potential compromises on the targeted host.

- Matthew Murphy, Bugtraq



Apache is susceptible to a cross site scripting vulnerability in the default 404 page of any web server hosted on a domain that allows wildcard DNS lookups. We thank Matthew Murphy for notification of this issue.

-- Official Apache Announcement





Apache HTTPD servers versions 2.0.42 and prior, and 1.3.26 and prior, with wildcard DNS enabled and UseCanonicalName disabled, are vulnerable to a cross-site scripting attack via the error page. Only versions 2.0 to 2.0.33 have UseCanonicalName disabled by default. All other versions had UseCanonicalName enabled by default and are not vulnerable unless this option is disabled.



EXPLOIT : local

A vulnerability exists in the SSI error pages of Apache 2.0 that involves incorrect filtering of server signature data. The vulnerability could enable an attacker to hijack web sessions, allowing a range of potential compromises on the targeted host.

- Gentoo Security Advisory

Two cross-site scripting vulnerabilities are present in the error pages for the default "404 Not Found" error, and for the error response when a plain HTTP request is received on an SSL port. Both of these issues are only exploitable if the "UseCanonicalName" setting has been changed to "Off", and wildcard DNS is in use, and would allow remote attackers to execute scripts as other Web page visitors, for instance, to steal cookies.

- Red Hat Security Advisory



CAN-2002-0840 This is a cross-site scripting vulnerability involving the default error 404 pages. It can occur on all Oracle database platforms.

- Oracle Security Advisory





Apache is updated to version 1.3.27 to address a number of issues.

- Apple Security Advisor





Cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability in the default error page of Apache 2.0 before 2.0.43, and 1.3.x up to 1.3.26, when UseCanonicalName is "Off" and support for wildcard DNS is present, allows remote attackers to execute script as other web page visitors via the Host: header.

-- Apache Week





Vulnerabilities that are being exploited because of a failure to upgrade Apache itself include the 404 page cross-site scripting bug, which manages wildcard DNS lookups; ...

Risk level - serious

-- ZDNet UK





Apache fixes scripting flaw

By John Leyden

Posted: 04/10/2002 at 11:26 GMT

Apache is vulnerable to a number of cross-site scripting attacks.

According to a posting to BugTraq this week, the popular Web server platform is vulnerable due to "SSI error pages of the Web server not being properly sanitised of malicious HTML code".

Because of this, attacker-constructed HTML pages or script code may be executed on a web client visiting the malicious link placed on sites run using Apache. Cookie-based authentication credentials might be stolen using the attack or, worse, a number of arbitrary actions might be taken on a victim's machine.

A proof-of-concept exploit has been posted to BugTraq.

Previous versions of Apache on a wide variety of platform are potentially vulnerable, as explained in greater detail here.

Admins are advised to update their Web server software to either Apache versions 1.3.27 or 2.0.43, which are both resilient to the attack. These versions incorporate a fix, as explained in more depth on Apache's Web site, by security researcher Matthew Murphy, who reported the flaw. ®



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U2 Apache Web Server

U2.1 Description

Web administrators too often conclude that since Microsoft's Internet Information Server (IIS) is exceptionally prone to compromise (see W1. Internet Information Server), the open-source Apache web server is completely secure. While the comparison with IIS may be true, and although Apache has a well-deserved reputation for security, it has not proved invulnerable under scrutiny.

There have been weaknesses found in Apache. Even the apache org website was defaced in early 2000. Exploits of core Apache or its modules in the recent past have been few, but they have been well-documented and quickly utilized in attacks. Among the most recent:

- Apache/mod ssl Worm (CERT Advisory CA-2002-27)

http://www.sans.org/top20/#U2

For more Apache security information, see http://www.sans.org/Gold/apache.php and http://www.infosecuritymag.com/articles/april01/features1_web_server_sec.shtml.



Address (http://www.sans.org/Gold/apache.php

Bottom line: Can Apache be hacked? Absolutely. In fact, even apache.org. itself was defaced in early 2000. (see http://packetstormsecurity.nl/papers/general/cruciphux). But Apache. isn't as easily hacked as IIS, because it can't be taken down by the kiddie scripts that plague so many unpatched IIS servers.(A)

Solution: The Center for Internet Security's Apache Bechmark CIS Benchmarks enumerate security configuration settings and actions that <u>"harden" vour systems. They are unique, not because the settings and </u>



With security advisories such as this that have the potential to boost business for the security companies making the warning, it's often best to seek out several sources of information about the seriousness of the threat.

-- MSNBC 16 Sep 2002

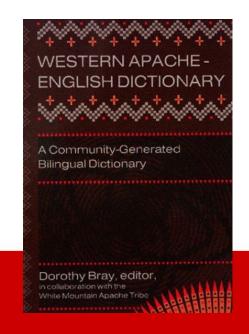
Secret: Security companies have their own agendas





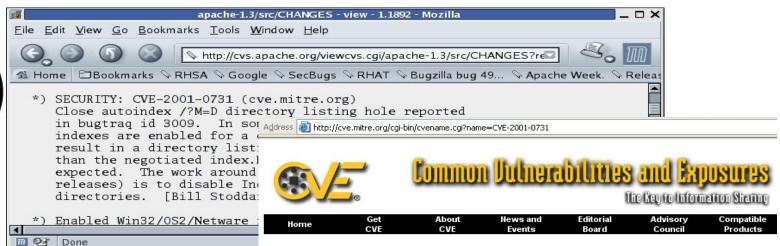
Apache and CVE

- Lots of vendors ship Apache
- Lots of vendors report on Apache issues
 - As do the press
 - As do weekly journals
- Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures
 - Dictionary of issues from Mitre
 - Cross-reference with vulnerability databases
 - Standardisation and Normalisation
- www.apacheweek.com/security

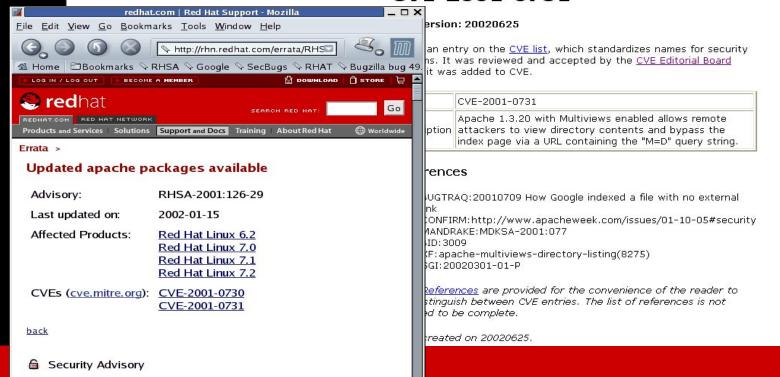




Ⅲ 🖭 Done



CVE-2001-0731





Analysing an Apache issue

- What you need to document
 - Vulnerability name and identifiers
 - Short name, CVE, CERT
 - Versions affected
 - Configuration required
 - Default? Special configuration?
 - Impact and severity
 - Severity is often hard to catagorise
 - Work-arounds
 - Patches



Getting to know you

- What are you running?
 - manually
 - Nmap
- Are you vulnerable?
 - Exploits
 - Nessus
- Dependencies

```
flooble% /usr/sbin/httpd -v
Server version: Apache/1.3.22 (Unix)
Server built: Jun 19 2002 12:27:54
```

```
flooble% telnet localhost 80
Trying 127.0.0.1...
Connected to localhost.
Escape character is '^]'.
HEAD / HTTP/1.0

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Fri, 04 Oct 2002 12:54:06 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.22 (Unix)
```



Secret: Go to the source





Response Phase

- What are you going to do about it
 - What is the impact?
 - What policies affect it
 - Upgrade to the latest version?
 - Apache Software Foundation recommended
 - or Phased approach?
 - or Patch?
 - or do nothing?
- But make sure your source isn't a trojan





Trojan source

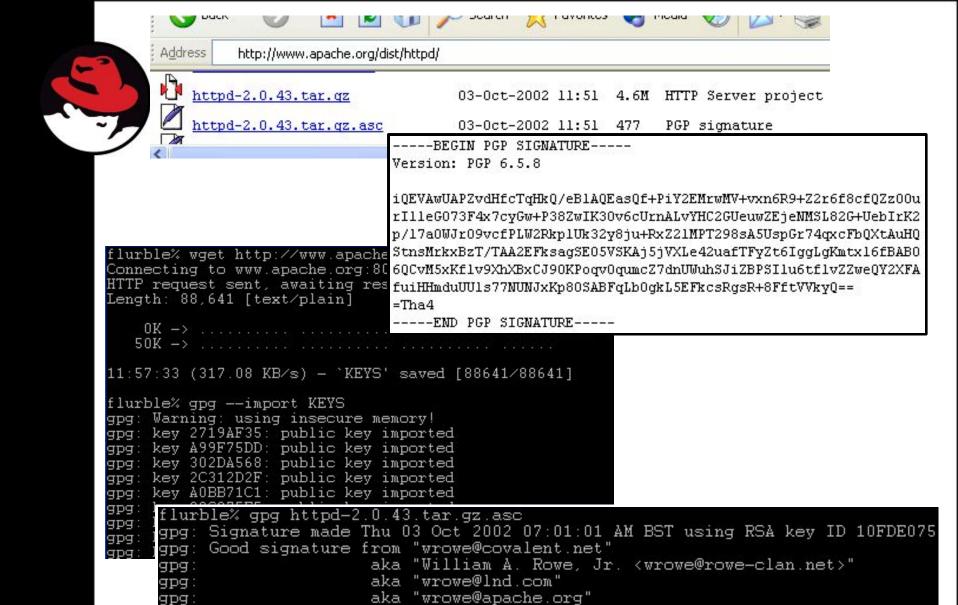
- It's happened to OpenSSH and Sendmail
 - But not to Apache
 - Yet

Address a http://www.openssh.com/txt/trojan.adv

OpenSSH Security Advisory (adv.trojan)

Systems affected:

OpenSSH version 3.2.2pl, 3.4pl and 3.4 have been trojaned on the OpenBSD ftp server and potentially propagated via the normal mirroring process to other ftp servers. The code was inserted some time between the 30th and 31th of July. We replaced the trojaned files with their originals at 7AM MDT, August 1st.





Finishing the Policy

- Security response policy for Apache
 - Alert Phase
 - Analysis Phase
 - Response Phase
 - Maintenance Phase
- Steps for recovering from compromise
 - Don't believe the press
 - LKM rootkits
 - CERT CC
 - Hope you kept a backup



Secret: Create a Security Policy





Secret: assume you are going to get hacked





Secret: Keep Backups





Vendor versions

- Benefits
 - Works out of the box
 - Customised for the OS
 - Tested, QA'd
 - Modules galore (The kitchen sink)
 - One source of security information
 - Automatic updates
 - Install and forget
 - Accountability

- Trust
 - Trust the vendors analysis
 - Trust the vendor to produce timely critical fixes
- Risks
 - Mix and match
 - Forced to upgrade
 - What did they fix





Secret: Trust your vendor (if you don't then change vendor!)





Backporting

- Confuses everyone
- It's no longer Apache!
- So why do it?
 - Customers demand it
 - Too many new features
 - Certification
 - Quicker and painless upgrades
 - Automatic upgrades

- Problems
 - Version number doesn't change
 - Confuses tools
 - Confuses Nessus
 - Confuses users
 - Vendors have their own package versioning
 - inconsistent





Open source myths?

II v ili ii

- "Many eyes"
 - How many of you have audited Apache?
 - OpenSSL vulnerabilities "easily spotted"
 - There are other benefits
 - No need for FUD
- Apache's history
 - Just Apache
 - Normalising to CVE



Apache 1.3.0 to 1.3.29

Type of issue	Severity	Number of vulnerabilities
Denial of Service	H igh	6
Show a directory listing	L o w	4
Read files on the system	H igh	3
Remote arbitrary code execution	H igh	2
Cross Site Scripting	M edium	2
Local privilege escalation	M edium	2
Remote Root Exploit	H igh	0

Type of issue	Severity	Who and When
Run Arbitrary Commands	H igh	0 racle, SCO, 2002
Show the source to CGI scripts	M edium	SuSE Linux, 2000
Show files in Inseldoc		Debian Linux, 1999 SuSE Linux, 2000
Read and write any file in docroot	H igh	SuSE Linux 2000
Read .htaccess files	M edium	C o b a l t , 2 0 0 0
Run arbitrary commands remotely	H igh	IB M , 2000
See files in /perl	L 0 W	Mandrake, 2000



Secret: Apache is already pretty secure





Denial of Service

- Only interesting if it is easy to do
- Directives to help stop regular DOS
 - RLimit* LimitRequest*

C V E	Title	Description
	Denial of service attack	A client submitting a carefully constructed URL could cause a
1 1 1 1 3 4 1	01 W i132 116 0 82	General Protection Fault in a child process, bringing up a message
		For Thick Tould have to be cleared by the operator to resume.
	Denial of service on	The rotatelogs support program on T in 3.2 and 0.5.12 month quit
2 0 0 3 - 0 5 4 2	W in 3.2 and 0.8.2	logging and exit if it received special control characters such as Unil &.
1 0 1 0	Denial of service attack	There have been a number of important security fixes to Apache on Windows. The most important is that there is much better
		protection against people trying to access special DOS device names (such as 'nul').
C A N ·	Multiple header Denial	Aproblem exists when a client sends a large number of headers
1999-1199	of Service valuerability	with the same header name. A packe uses up memory faster than
		the amount of memory required to simply store the received data itself.
1 0 1 0	Denial of service attacks	A packe 1.3.2 has better protection against denial of service attacks.



Get docroot directory listings

- Should be a minor impact
 - As long as you don't do something silly
- Disable mod_autoindex unless you need it

C V E	T itle	Description
C A N ·	Requests can cause directory	A vulnerability was found in the Win32 port of Apache
2001-	listing to be displayed	1.3.20. A client submitting a very long URI could cause a
0 7 2 9		directory listing to be returned
C A N ·	Multiviews can cause a	When Multiviews are used to negotiate the directory
2001-	directory listing to be displayed	index. In some configurations, requesting a URI with a
0 7 3 1		QUERY STRING of M = D could return a directory listing
C A N ·	Requests can cause directory	The defaultinstallation can lead mod negotiation and
2001-	listing to be displayed	mod dir ormod autoindex to display a directory
0 9 2 5		listing if a very long path was created artificially by using
		many slashes.
CVE-	Requests can cause directory	A user to view the listing of a directory instead of the default
2 0 0 0 -	listing to be displayed on NT	HTML page by sending a carefully constructed request.
0 5 0 5		



Local privilege escalation

- One unique issue due to a bug
 - Local Apache uid can do things as root
 - Cause a DOS, Kill arbitrary processes
 - You can get Apache uid from CGI, Perl etc
- One issue allowing apache uid "escalation"

C V E	T itle	Description
		The permissions of the shared memory used for the
2 0 0 2 -	perm issions lead to	scoreboard allows an attacker who can execute under
0 8 3 9	local privilege	the Apache UID to send a signal to any process as root
	escalation	or cause a local denial of service attack.
C A N ·	Local configuration	By using a regular expression with more than 9
2 0 0 3 -	regular expression	captures a buffer overflow can occur in mod_alias or
0 5 4 2	overflow	mod_rewrite. To exploit this an attacker would need to
		be able to create a carefully crafted configuration file
		(.htaccess or httpd.conf)



Serve arbitrary files

- It's actually hard to do
 - Much easier through a bad CGI or PHP script
- CHROOT jail solution

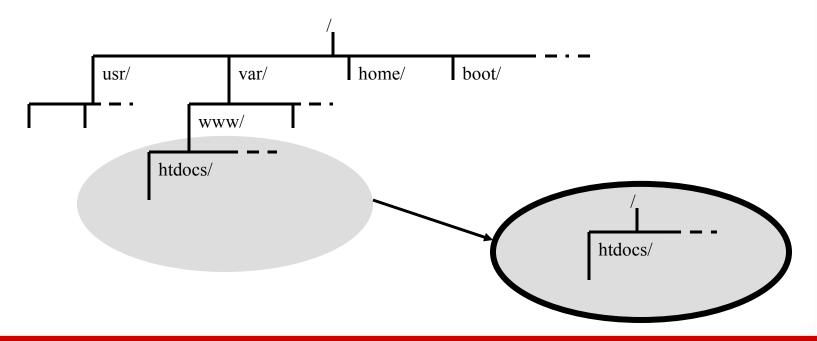
C V E	T itle	Description
C A N ·	Rewriterules that include	The Rewrite module, mod rewrite, can allow access
2 0 0 0 -	references allow access to any file	to any file on the web server. The vulnerability occurs
0 9 1 3		only with certain specific cases of using regular
		expression references in RewriteRule directives
C A N ·	Mass virtual hosting can display	A security problem for users of the mass virtual hosting
2000-	C G I source	module, mod whost alias, causes the source to a
1 2 0 4		CGI to be sent if the cgi-bin directory is under the
		docum entroot. However, it is not normal to have your
		cgi-bin directory under a docum ent root.
C A N ·	Mass virtual hosting security issue	A security problem can occur for sites using mass name-
2 0 0 0 -		based virtual hosting (using the new
1 2 0 6		mod_vhost_alias module) or with special
		modrewrite tules.



Mitigate remote exploits

Use a CHROOT jail

"This is the best approach we can currently take against such a monolothic piece of software with such bad behaviours. It is just too big to audit, so for simple usage, we are constraining it to within that jail." -- Theo de Raadt, OpenBSD





Reducing the impact of exploits

- exec-shield
 - Provides protection against stack, buffer or function pointer overflows
 - Provides protection against other types of data overwriting exploits
 - Works transparently, no application recompilation is necessary
- Doesn't negate the need for security updates
- PIE



Reducing the impact of exploits

- SELinux
 - Mandatory Access Controls
 - Integrated into Linux Kernel
 - 10 years of NSA research
 - Separates policy from enforcement
 - Role-based access control
- SELinux and Apache
 - Choose your policy
 - High only display pages in /var/www/html
 - Medium can run CGI scripts in /var/www/cgi-bin
 - Low can display pages in users home directories
 - A cracker only gets the same access as the policy states



Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Completely misunderstood

C V E	Title	Description
C A N -	Error page XSS	Cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability in the default error
2 0 0 2 -	using wildcard	page of Apache 2.0 before 2.0.43, and 1.3.x up to 1.3.26,
0 8 4 0	D N S	when UseCanonicalName is "Off" and support for wild card
		DNS is present, allows remote attackers to execute script as
		other web page visitors via the Host: header.
C A N -	Cross-site	A pache was vulnerable to cross-site scripting issues. It was
2 0 0 0 -	scripting can	shown that malicious HTML tags can be embedded in client
1 2 0 5	reveal private	web requests if the server or script handling the request does
	s e s s i o n	not carefully encode all information displayed to the user.
	in formation	Using these vulnerabilities attackers could, for example,
		obtain copies of your private cookies used to authenticate
		you to other sites.



mod_rewrite canonicalisation

- CVE-2001-1072, August 2001
- Pass // to most rewrite rules
 - Including ones in our own documentation
- Wrong!

```
RewriteRule ^/somepath(.*) /otherpath$1
[R]
```

Right

```
RewriteRule ^/+somepath(.*) /otherpath$1
[R]
```

```
http://www.awe.com/somepath/fred
http://www.awe.com//somepath/fred
```



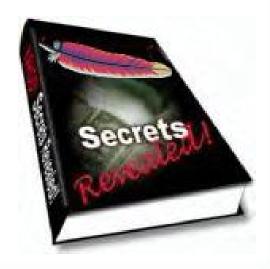
htpasswd races

- CVE-2001-0131, 2001
- Temporary file creation vulnerability
 - Any local user can read or modify contents of Apache password file if they exploit a race when an administrator runs htpasswd (or htdigest)
- Fixed in some places
 - Some Debian distributions (Jan 2001-Jun 2002, Oct 2002+)
 - Some Red Hat distributions (Red Hat Linux 7.0+)



Secrets, finally revealed

- Don't Panic
- Make a security policy for dealing with Apache emergencies
- Give good evaluation feedback
- Mitigate the risks
- Review the secrets





"The only truly secure system is one that is powered off, cast in a block of concrete and sealed in a lead-lined room with armed guards -- and even then I have my doubts."

-- Gene Spafford

Secret: If this is too much effort, turn off your server

