

Re: How to get an unix programmer started on web programming?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2005-09/msg00081.html>

- *From:* Jerry Stuckle <jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 01 Sep 2005 09:33:48 -0500
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Andrew DeFaria wrote:

Jerry Stuckle wrote:

Volker,

Don't allow access to your Oracle server through the web, especially if you have confidential data on it that's not needed by the web. If someone successfully hacks your system, they not only could have full access to the data in your Oracle databases, but they could damage them as well.

Rather, replicate only the data necessary to run your website to another database accessible by the web server (if you're happy with Oracle, that's fine). Then access that subset from the server.

And if your users update this data from the website (i.e. order entry has to decrement inventory count), don't just automatically replicate the changes back to your main database. Rather, have the web site code call a program running on the Oracle server (or another server behind your firewall). This program should (again) validate the information and then make the database changes.

IMHO this is unnecessary paranoia. A well written system will not allow a user to hack your system and access arbitrary bits of data in a database nor destroy a database. In any event limiting such data to a subset and then engineering what needs to be done to keep things in sync is overkill. If the hacker

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hacks he'll hack your subset database and such a hack will probably be as painful.

Andrew,

You've obviously never worked with the (U.S.) Federal government or a large or medium sized company. These groups have all kinds of data on their system which could be ripe for hackers - social security numbers and other private information of personnel, for instance. If such data is hacked, it could lead to serious criminal and/or civil legal proceedings.

Even non-personnel data such as market research, sales figures and other things can be expensive to the company if leaked.

And ANY system can be hacked. Some are more secure than others, but ANY system is vulnerable. But the more roa