

Re: Protecting Source code of a perl script

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/comp.lang.perl.misc/2003-11/2284.html>

From: James Willmore (jwillmore_at_remove.adelphia.net)

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On 21 Nov 2003 09:19:11 -0800

wherrera@lynxview.com (Bill) wrote:

> *Ben Morrow* <usenet@morrow.me.uk> wrote in message
> news:<[bpku88\\$4q8\\$I@wisteria.csv.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:bpku88$4q8$I@wisteria.csv.warwick.ac.uk)>...
> > > *Actually this is a very frequent scenario.*
> > > *Or would you trust your personal medical files to the admin of*
> > > *the hospital computer?*
> >
> > *I would (implicitly) trust him not to look at them unless it was*
> > *strictly necessary. Or I would trust the hospital to sack him if*
> > *he did.*
>
> *This is actually a situation where obscurity is useful, not to keep*
> *away truly prying eyes, but to keep from accidental exposure of*
> *confidential data. There is a reason that changing rooms and shower*
> *stalls have doors or curtains, even if they do not lock :). I keep*
> *some data on a public server encrypted, even though a determined*
> *administrator could crack the encryption with only a day's work. (A*
> *non-administrator could not crack it without years of work, we*
> *hope.)*

You're **protecting** the data, not **obscuring** the data. So, if someone takes your hard drive, you know there's data on the hard drive, but can't read it because it's **protected**. You didn't **hide** the data, you **protected** the data through encryption.

The OP wanted to **obscure** (or **hide**) the data by changing the format of the script. Running 'strings' may yield vital information contained in the script turned binary. So, just changing the format of the script to **hide** the code is a weak way to **protect** the code.

It's a subtle, but important, difference.

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Jim

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comp.lang.perl.misc: Re: Protecting Source code of a perl script

a fortune quote ...

The optimum committee has no members. -- Norman Augustine