

Reliable Secure-Software-Design Study Notes - Exam Secure-Software-Design Reviews

Secure Software Design (D487) In-Depth Study Guide

Subtitle: Based on Practical Core Software Security - A Reference Framework

Format: Chapter-by-Chapter Breakdown with Exam Readiness, Terminology, Threat Models, Deliverables, and Real-World Applications

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Differences between software security and application security
- Secure code vs quality code
- CIA Triad with definitions, examples, and violations
- Threat modeling overview (STRIDE, DREAD, DFDs, trust boundaries)
- Attack surface validation: entry/exit points, expansion via feature additions

Chapter 2: The Security Development Lifecycle (SDL)

- SDL vs SDLC distinction
- SDL phases mapped to SDLC phases
- Maturity models: BSIMM vs OpenSAMM
- ISO/IEC 27034 standard
- Tools and talent (SAST, DAST, manual reviews, SDL roles)
- Principle of Least Privilege and privacy integration
- Metrics: vulnerabilities caught pre-release, time to patch, training coverage

Chapter 3: Security Assessment (SDL Phase A1)

- Discovery session outcomes and stakeholders
- PIA planning, privacy questions, initial risk classification
- SDL Project Outline, Product Risk Profile, Threat Profile
- Metrics Template deliverable

Chapter 4: Architecture (SDL Phase A2)

- Policy compliance analysis with internal/external controls
- Threat modeling artifacts (DFDs, STRIDE threat mapping, data classification)
- Architecture Threat Analysis and mitigation planning
- Open-source evaluation (licensing, vulnerability exposure)
- Privacy information gathering

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WGU Secure-Software-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and Secure Software Systems: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Engineers and Security Architects and covers building well structured, reliable, and secure software systems. Learners explore principles for creating software that performs consistently and protects against security threats. The content addresses methods for implementing reliability measures and security controls throughout the software development lifecycle.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Pattern Selection and Implementation: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Developers and Software Architects and covers the selection and implementation of appropriate design patterns. Learners examine common design patterns and their applications in software development. The material focuses on understanding when and how to apply specific patterns to solve recurring design problems and improve code organization.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Scale Software System Design: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Architects and covers the design and analysis of large scale software systems. Learners investigate methods for planning complex software architectures that can scale and adapt to changing requirements. The content addresses techniques for creating system designs that accommodate growth and handle increased workload demands.

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WGU Secure Software Design (KEO1) Exam Sample Questions (Q65-Q70):

NEW QUESTION # 65

What are the three primary goals of the secure software development process?

- A. Cost, speed to market, and profitability
- **B. Confidentiality, integrity, and availability**
- C. Redundancy, scalability, and portability
- D. Performance, reliability, and maintainability

Answer: B

Explanation:

The three primary goals of the secure software development process, often referred to as the CIA triad, are confidentiality, integrity, and availability. These principles form the cornerstone of security considerations in the software development life cycle (SDLC).

* Confidentiality ensures that sensitive information is accessed only by authorized individuals and systems. This involves implementing access controls and encryption to protect data from unauthorized access.

* Integrity refers to maintaining the accuracy and consistency of data across its lifecycle. This means that the data is not altered or tampered with by unauthorized entities. Techniques like checksums and digital signatures help ensure data integrity.

* Availability ensures that information and resources are accessible to authorized users when needed. This involves creating resilient systems that can withstand attacks and recover quickly from any disruptions.

By integrating these security goals into each phase of the SDLC, from planning and design to development, testing, and maintenance, organizations can create more secure software systems that are resilient to cyber threats.

References: The information provided here is verified as per the Secure Software Design documents and best practices in the field, as outlined by sources such as Snyk1, GeeksforGeeks2, and SAFECODE3.

NEW QUESTION # 66

What refers to the review of software source code by developers other than the original coders to try to identify oversights, mistakes, assumptions, a lack of knowledge, or even experience?

- A. Fault injection
- **B. Manual peer review**
- C. User acceptance testing
- D. Dynamic code review

Answer: B

Explanation:

Manual peer review refers to the systematic examination of software source code by developers other than the original author. This practice is recognized as a valuable tool for reducing software defects and improving the quality of software projects. It involves developers inspecting the code to find and fix mistakes overlooked in the initial development phase, which enhances both the overall quality of software and the developers' skills.

Peer code review is less formal and more "lightweight" than the code inspections performed in the past, and it provides benefits such as knowledge transfer, increased team awareness, and creation of alternative solutions to problems.

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Expectations, Outcomes, and Challenges Of Modern Code Review¹

Introduction to Software Engineering/Quality/Code Review²

Software Security during Modern Code Review: The Developer's Perspective³

NEW QUESTION # 67

A product team, consisting of a Scrum Master, a Business Analyst, two Developers, and a Quality Assurance Tester, are on a video call with the Product Owner. The team is reviewing a list of work items to determine how many they feel can be added to their backlog and completed within the next two-week iteration.

Which Scrum ceremony is the team participating in?

- A. Daily Scrum
- B. Sprint Retrospective
- **C. Sprint Planning**
- D. Sprint Review

Answer: C

NEW QUESTION # 68

Which type of threat exists when an attacker can intercept and manipulate form data after the user clicks the save button but before the request is posted to the API?

- **A. Tampering**
- B. Spoofing
- C. Information disclosure
- D. Elevation of privilege

Answer: A

Explanation:

The type of threat described is Tampering. This threat occurs when an attacker intercepts and manipulates data being sent from the client to the server, such as form data being submitted to an API. The attacker may alter the data to change the intended operation, inject malicious content, or compromise the integrity of the system. Tampering attacks are a significant concern in secure software design because they can lead to unauthorized changes and potentially harmful actions within the application.

References:

* Understanding the different types of API attacks and their prevention¹.

* Comprehensive guide on API security and threat mitigation².

* Detailed analysis of Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) attacks and their impact on API security³.

NEW QUESTION # 69

The software security team prepared a report of necessary coding and architecture changes identified during the security assessment. Which design and development deliverable did the team prepare?

- **A. Updated threat modeling artifacts**
- B. Design security review
- C. Security test plans
- D. Privacy implementation assessment results

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

In the context of software security, a threat model is a structured representation that identifies potential threats to the system, evaluates their severity, and guides the development of mitigation strategies. When a security assessment reveals vulnerabilities or areas of concern, it's imperative to update the threat modeling artifacts to reflect these findings. This ensures that the threat model remains an accurate and current representation of the system's security posture.

By updating the threat modeling artifacts, the team documents the identified threats and outlines necessary coding and architectural changes to mitigate these threats. This proactive approach allows for the integration of security considerations early in the design and development phases, reducing the likelihood of vulnerabilities in the deployed system.

This practice aligns with the Design business function of the OWASP Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM), which emphasizes the importance of incorporating security into the software design process.

Within this function, the Threat Assessment practice focuses on identifying and evaluating potential threats to inform security requirements and design decisions. Updating threat modeling artifacts is a key activity within this practice, ensuring that security assessments directly influence the system's design and architecture.

References:

* OWASP SAMM: Design - Threat Assessment

NEW QUESTION # 70

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