



# Data Security in ERP

---

and Other Large Business Systems



# Legal Notice

---

## Data Security in ERP and Other Large Business Systems

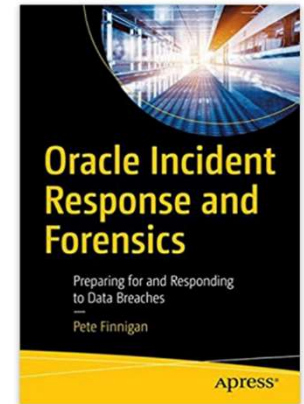
Published by  
PeteFinnigan.com Limited  
Tower Court  
3 Oakdale Road  
York  
England, YO30 4XL

Copyright © 2020 by PeteFinnigan.com Limited

No part of this publication may be stored in a retrieval system, reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, scanning, recording, or otherwise except as permitted by local statutory law, without the prior written permission of the publisher. In particular this material may not be used to provide training of any type or method. This material may not be translated into any other language or used in any translated form to provide training. Requests for permission should be addressed to the above registered address of PeteFinnigan.com Limited in writing.

**Limit of Liability / Disclaimer of warranty.** This information contained in this course and this material is distributed on an “as-is” basis without warranty. Whilst every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this material, neither the author nor the publisher shall have any liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the instructions or guidance contained within this course.

**TradeMarks.** Many of the designations used by manufacturers and resellers to distinguish their products are claimed as trademarks. Linux is a trademark of Linus Torvalds, Oracle is a trademark of Oracle Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All other product names or services identified throughout the course material are used in an editorial fashion only and for the benefit of such companies with no intention of infringement of the trademark. No such use, or the use of any trade name, is intended to convey endorsement or other affiliation with this course.



## Pete Finnigan – Background, Who Am I?

---

- Oracle Security specialist and researcher
- CEO and founder of PeteFinnigan.com Limited in February 2003
- Writer of the longest running Oracle security blog
- Author of the Oracle Security step-by-step guide and “Oracle Expert Practices”, “Oracle Incident Response and Forensics” books
- Oracle ACE for security
- Member of the OakTable
- Speaker at various conferences
  - UKOUG, PSOUG, BlackHat, more..
- Published many times, see
  - <http://www.petefinnigan.com> for links
- Influenced industry standards
  - And governments



# Agenda

---

- Introduction
- Traditional ERP security
- The GAP in ERP security
- Some examples
- How to secure data in an ERP environment

# Section

---

## Introduction

## Where Are We Going Today?

---

- My focus is database security
- I regularly audit databases that support ERP (and other big business applications)
- Usually I see a complete lack of any semblance of security at the data layer when its supporting ERP
- This discussion is not specific to one ERP/Big application
- I want to broaden the discussion beyond ERP security and focus on the data layer



**PFCL**  
PETEFINNIGAN.COM LIMITED

## Section

---

# Traditional ERP Security

## ERP Security

---

- At a high level ERP security is often discussed / complied with at ....:
  - Separation of duties (SOD)
  - Conflict of interest (COI)
  - ERP level security settings – forms / menus / blocks / field level
- Fraud / Limits / Business Level
- Compliance with higher level rules / stds



# ERP Layers

---

- ERPs are not just an ERP
- There are many layers underneath of
  - Application screens
  - Application and web servers
  - Reporting servers
  - Databases
  - Operating systems
- People normally access ERPs at the ERP level not lower level
- Some users often are allowed lower level access
  - Customisations / Excel / Reports / SQL\*Developer / TOAD...

## Where is ERP Security?

---

- The settings, configuration and other mechanisms can be in many places in an ERP
- Settings for the high level application security can be in the database for ephemeral settings and tech settings or in binaries, configuration files
- Often ERP have technical settings for the ERP in the database, servers, and configurations
- The supporting servers **can be** secured
- The supporting databases **can be** secured
- Complex layers where the DB plays two roles
  - Stores business data and config of the application

## Black Box

---

- The database is often treated as a black box
- This is wrong
- Data thieves do not take this approach
- Attackers don't care
  - About ERP settings or database settings
  - Or OS settings or database settings
- If an attacker can access the database or OS directly they will and they will steal data

## ERP Data Level Security Is Often Missing

---

- Often there are no database level protections on data
- Some may use TDE – but without DV or similar to prevent SQL access this protects only the files
- Some may use VPD or Database Vault
- Some use masking, redaction, etc
- BUT by default, often data is **not** protected at the table level

## The Data Attacker

---

- The Attacker is not a kid in his bedroom but most likely someone who works for you directly or via a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Hacking is not always hacking but excessive rights and misuse and authority failures
- I want to explore this loophole between data and ERP further

## Section

---

The GAP

## ERP Security – The Problem Space

---

- ERP systems such as JDE, EBS, Siebel, SAP and more are often focused at a business function level
- Security is at the ERP level and
  - Driven on fraud, money, SOD and COI
  - Often sites ignore the server and database and network levels – specifically in terms of the audit conducted
- The bridge between ERP and database and server is not considered seriously enough
  - That does not mean companies do not do network security or database security or OS security but
  - The ERP is treated as a “black Box” and audits focus in ERP land

## Security Audits of ERP

---

- Focused on technical settings in the ERP such as limits
- Focused on the business functionality
- Focused on the security settings in the ERP
- Focused on ERP users / responsibilities
- Focused on separation of duties and potential conflicts of interest



## Regulations and Reasons to Secure Better

---

- Reasons to take data security seriously
  - GDPR – Since May 2018
    - Protects citizens rights over personal data
  - Sarbanes Oxley – US parents?
    - Stops financial balance sheet reporting fraud
  - PCI – process or store cards
  - Many more...

## ERPs Often Implement Security in Oracle

---

- ERPs have many levels of security including
  - Parameters
  - Profiles
  - ERP users and passwords
  - ERP responsibilities, roles..
  - ERP screens, menus, forms
  - SOD and COI issues are based on complex build up of permissions on multi-elements and screens
- ERPs in general control access to data through all of these components
  - This is usually not at the data level

## BUT...

---

- Most of ERPs are implemented in the database itself as:
  - Tables,
  - Views,
  - Metadata
  - Code such as PL/SQL
- These are not controlled by ERP security controls inside of the ERP itself
  - Recursive security is missing

## BUT ... (2)

---

- The database is software running on a server or multiple servers (Unix often but can be Windows)
- The data and metadata are stored in datafiles on disk (SAN, ASM, Network Storage, Local disks)
- Users are expected to access the ERP front end but often some users are allowed:
  - Reporting interfaces
  - Development tools such as TOAD, SQL\*Developer etc

## Threats to an ERP Outside of the ERP

---

- System admins can access anything
  - Root → oracle → database as sysdba → all data (steal PII, finance) → security controls
  - Oracle → database as sysdba → all data (steal PII, finance) → security controls
  - DBA – database as DBA → all data (steal PII, finance) → security controls
  - Business User database as user → all data (steal PII, finance) → security controls

## Actual Threats

---

- The security of the ERP can be changed by editing metadata in ERP tables
- ERP users can have passwords reset by database UPDATE
- ERP responsibilities can be changed by INSERT, UPDATE
- ERP rule trees can be edited to allow a COI
- ERP processes (check printing?) can be run outside of the ERP

## Data Theft

---

- Data theft can occur completely outside of ERP controls
- A DBA, admin, reporting user allowed direct access can access data outside of ERP controls
- Data can be stolen from
  - Database, SGA, redo logs, archive logs, report files, data files, test systems, network sniffing, many many more

## Section

---

Some Examples



## Example: JDE Data Level Security Controls

- Literally everything except passwords are granted I,U,D,S to PUBLIC (99.9%)

```
Command Prompt - sqlplus pfc/pfc@//192.168.56.101:1521/et1local
SQL> select count(*),privilege,owner from dba_tab_privs where grantee='PUBLIC' and owner like 'JDE%' group by privilege,owner order by
owner;
COUNT(*) PRIVILEGE          OWNER
-----
95 ALTER                JDECTL920
95 DELETE                JDECTL920
95 INDEX                 JDECTL920
95 INSERT                JDECTL920
95 SELECT                JDECTL920
95 UPDATE                JDECTL920
4468 ALTER               JDEDATA920
4468 DELETE              JDEDATA920
4468 INDEX                JDEDATA920
4468 INSERT              JDEDATA920
4468 SELECT               JDEDATA920

COUNT(*) PRIVILEGE          OWNER
-----
4468 UPDATE              JDEDATA920
12 ALTER                 JDEDD920
12 DELETE                JDEDD920
12 INDEX                  JDEDD920
12 INSERT                JDEDD920
12 SELECT                 JDEDD920
12 UPDATE                 JDEDD920
21 ALTER                 JDEOL920
21 DELETE                 JDEOL920
21 INDEX                  JDEOL920
21 INSERT                 JDEOL920

COUNT(*) PRIVILEGE          OWNER
-----
```

## Example: JDE Database Level Audit Trail

---

- A sample JDE installation has no database level audit trails
- SYSDBA audit is enabled but this does not track data level actions by other users

```
SQL> sho parameter audit
```

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
audit_file_dest	string	C:\ORACLE\ADMIN\E1LOCAL\ADUMP
audit_sys_operations	boolean	TRUE
audit_trail	string	NONE
unified_audit_sga_queue_size	integer	1048576

```
SQL> _
```



## Section

---

# Secure Data in an ERP

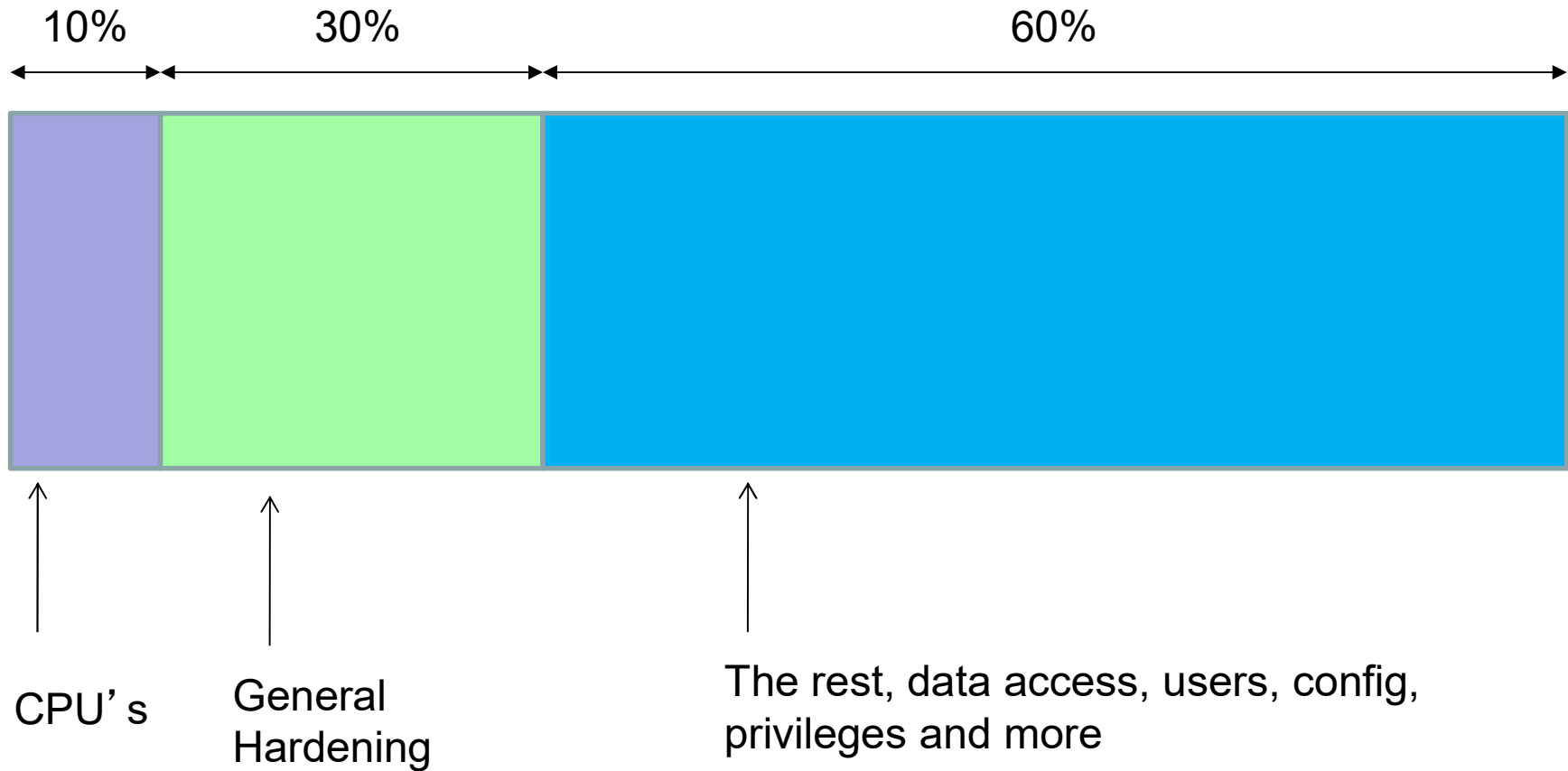
## We Must Secure the Database and Server

---

- To properly secure an ERP **we must also:**
  - Secure the operating system
  - Secure the core database against general threats
  - Secure the core database against ERP level threats
  - Secure the network between the ERP and the database (often not segregated or encrypted)

# Database Security High Level

---



## Threats – Platform and Data

---

- There are two key threats
- **Data Theft:** The attackers goal is to steal your data, PII, Cards, Health, Business confidential or more
- **Platform Access:** The attacker is not interested in your data or simply does not see the value in it. Instead he sees your Oracle database as an easy target to attack and from there to access what he really wants – other services, websites or more
- **Therefore we must protect data as a key task but we must not neglect the Oracle platform as a potential target and lock it down as well**



## Securing A Database is Complex

---

- The focus for years is on hardening and patching – CPU and CIS for instance
  - This is fine BUT it does not secure your data at all
- Data security is harder to do as its specific
- User level security – permissions, profiles
- Access controls – grants, roles, objects
- Context based security
- **We must consider ERP data in the database**



## Implement Comprehensive Audit Trails

---

- In general ERP systems usually have some level of audit trails at the ERP level
- The database engine does not audit itself generally
- We must implement audit trails in the database using standard audit, Unified audit, FGA or triggers
- We must also audit the data itself in the database
- We must audit ERP security (metadata and controls)
- You must be able to find out if someone abuses the ERP from the database

## Layers of Database Security

---

- Patch
- Harden
- User rights / control = Least Rights
- Data access controls = Least Right
- Access controls to the database
- Context based security
- Secure Coding

## Context Based Security

---

- ERP controls do not control access to data tables
- Database table level controls are too granular
- Context based controls needed
- Can use Oracle products – DV, VPD, OLS, TSDP, ...
- Can also use encryption as a context control
- Home grown controls can be created using triggers, views, procedures and contexts

## Conclusions

---

- ERP security is generally in the ERP
- The assumption is that the ERP is controlled at the ERP level
- We must understand that an attacker (or employee) can access data or security directly in the database or operating system
- We must secure the core database
- We must secure the ERP in the database
- We must implement audit trails in the database

# Questions

---

If Anyone has questions, please ask now or catch us after the event!!

# Data Security in ERP

---

and Other Large Business Systems