Massachusetts Institute of Technology
6.915: Network and Computer Security
Professor Ronald L. Rivest

Handout 1
September 7, 1994

Course Information

Lecturer:	Prof. Ronald L. Rivest NE43-324, 3–5880 Office Hours by appointment
Teaching Assistant:	Rosario Gennaro NE43-344, 3–6259 rosario@theory.lcs.mit.edu Office Hours: Monday 9:30–11 A.M.
Secretary:	Be Hubbard 3–6098 be@theory.lcs.mit.edu

1 Prerequisites

The prerequisites for the course are 6.033 (*Computer System Engineering*) and either 18.063 (*Introduction to Algebraic Systems*) or 6.046 (*Introduction to Algorithms*).

2 Units

This is a 12-unit (3-0-9) U-level course intended primarily for seniors and first-year graduate students. (Graduate students will *not* receive H–credit for this class.)

3 Lectures

Lectures will be held in Room 36-153 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. Students are expected to attend all lectures.

4 Handouts and course notebook

Handouts will be available at the beginning of lecture. If you fail to obtain a handout in lecture, you can get a copy in the class file cabinet outside room NE43-311. If you take the last copy of a handout, please inform the course secretary so that more copies can be made.

5 The class on line

We have a Web page at

`http://theory.lcs.mit.edu/~rosario/6.915/home.html`

We also have a course locker on Athena. In order to access the locker type `attach 6.915` at your Athena prompt and then `cd /mit/6.915`.

We will use the Web page and the Athena course locker to put handouts and lecture notes available on line.

6 Textbook

The text for the course is: *Security in Computing* by C. Pfleeger (Prentice–Hall).

7 Homework

Problem sets will be assigned on a weekly basis. They will be often handed out on Thursday and be due on the following Thursday. Late homework will not be accepted. If you can't make it to class when a problem set is due, turn it in early at the course secretary's office.

Students will be also required to scribe notes for one lecture during the term. These notes will be edited and then distributed to the rest of the class, as well as posted on the Web. You should prepare them in Latex, using a template that will be given to you.

8 Term project

Each student will be responsible for a term project. The nature and the topic of the project is your choice, although it needs the teaching staff approval. A proposal for your term project is due before *November 2nd,* and the project is due on *December 7th.* Although it is expected that most students will do individual term projects, we are willing to consider collaborative term projects, especially if they involve extensive implementation or are otherwise appropriately ambitious.

9 Grading

Besides weekly problem sets and the final project the class will have a midterm exam. Grading will be as follows: 30% each the problem sets, the midterm and the final project. The remaining 10% will be for class participation (including scribing of the lecture notes). Write well; your writing style is a factor in determining your grade. There is *no* final exam.

10 Collaboration

You may collaborate in study groups for the solutions of homeworks. You must, however, write up solutions on your own. If you do collaborate, acknowledge your collaborators in the write-up for each problem. If you obtain a solution with help (e.g., through library work), acknowledge your source, and write up the solutions on your own. Plagiarism and other anti-intellectual behavior will be dealt severely.

No collaboration is permitted on the take–home midterm quiz. Collaboration on the term project needs to be discussed with the teaching staff, as noted above.