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Oracle Forensics
By Pete Finnigan
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Introduction - Commercial Slide

• PeteFinnigan.com Limited
• Founded February 2003
• CEO Pete Finnigan
• Clients UK, States, Europe
• Specialists in researching and securing Oracle databases providing consultancy and training
• http://www.pete FINNIGAN.com
• Author of Oracle security step-by-step
• Published many papers, regular speaker (UK, USA, Slovenia, Norway, more)
• Member of the Oak Table Network

What is Forensics?

What is Oracle Forensics?

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What Information Is Out There?

Agenda

• What is forensics and Oracle forensics?
• In real terms what does it mean?
• What information is out there
• Are there any tools?
• The issues — audit on, audit off and more
• Where to find forensic data
• Finding evidence — correlating data
• Plan for forensic analysis — make it easy

fo-ren-sics

n. (used with a sing. verb)

1. The art or study of formal debate; argumentation.
2. The use of science and technology to investigate and establish facts in criminal or civil courts of law.


Oracle forensics is the process by which someone (an auditor?) tries to determine when / how / why (and by who) something happened by gathering correlated and incriminating evidence.

Oracle forensics often occurs when as an auditor I am called in to help a client discover how a breach occurred and hopefully some clue as to who did it.

These techniques are often championed through the need to do this with no audit trail, no archive logs or worse – the success rates are dependant on how fast we can look and what is available.

If this leads to criminal proceedings the evidence must be gathered without distortion or change to the system.

What is Information Is Out There?

• Pete Finnigan (2003) - Detecting SQL Injection in Oracle - http://www.securityfocus.com/infocus/1714 some forensics ideas - mining redo, sql extraction, trace, audit
• Pete Finnigan (2004) – Oracle Forensics module – SANS training
What Information Is Out There? (2)

- 2 books – (note: one of the books is not available as I write this):

Are There Any Tools?

- Yes and no
- There are no specific Oracle forensics tools – Yet.
  - David is developing FEDS (or whatever it will eventually be called)
- Most of the evidence can be extracted with existing tools
  - Existing OS forensics tools can be used
  - Simple SQL Queries
  - Database dumps
  - More exotic options, BBED, ORA-Dude, AUL/MyDUL
  - Connect to the SGA to read the SQL in the SGA

The Issues

- The problem when you want to investigate why is that inevitably there is no audit trail
- If audit is on, then use it. Beware of testing for altered audit trails (This is one of the key tenets of forensics – validity and chain of custody)
- If no audit and archive log is on use the changes captured
- If no audit, no archive logs then there is still hope
- Mining blocks and redo is time consuming and error prone
- Detecting “Select” statements is harder

Where To Find Forensic Data

- TNS listener log
- Many types of trace files
- Sqlnet logs (server and clients)
- Sysdba audit logs
- Datafiles for deleted data
- Redo (and archive) logs
- SGA (v$sql etc)
- Apache access logs

Oracle is great at leaving a whole swath of evidence!!

Where To Find Forensic Data (2)

- v$db_object_cache
- Wh$r$% views
- W$r$ views
- Statspack views
- col_usage$ views
- Audit trails –
  - AUD$, FGA_LOG$
  - Application audit (who/when, triggers, other)
- Flashback, recycle bin
- More?

Looking For A Password Change

The disadvantage of the SGA is that a database restart flushes it, a shared pool flush will also remove evidence and also the data is very transient. For a password change everything ran as SYS so other correlations are necessary to find the actual user who did it.

Views such as v$sql_bind_data and v$sql_bind_capture can sometimes reveal data.
Data Gathering From AUD$

- The advantage of the audit trail is that historic data is present.

Audit trail Example

- If an audit trail exists then this can provide the best evidence:
  - Check for SYS.AUD$ or core audit to OS
  - Check for SYS.FGA_LOGS
  - Check for Triggers and shadow tables
  - Test for who/when (E-Business Suite supports this)
- Don’t depend on audit though as it may have been altered! (you need to prove it is valid)
- Detect possible data changes first:
  - Look for gaps
  - Correlate the audit trail (time, rowid, session, access and change to the audit trail itself – audit on audit)

Audit Example 2

- Beware of deleted rows
- Can you spot the issue?

timestamps

- Using timestamps on the object you are investigating or in general across the database can be useful to detect change and also for correlation
- This is one of the tenets of Forensics – create a timeline

Correlation

- Use correlation in two ways
  - If you have one piece of evidence look for others with matching values (could be time, address, sql_hash, scn, xid …)
  - If you don’t know what to search for, i.e. you have been hacked but not sure how but know the time period; use the timestamp to locate all correlated evidence.
- Use timestamps on objects, redo (Log Mining) and more within the database
- Correlate time based evidence with external sources (oracle) such as listener.log, sqlnet logs, syslog, trace, OS evidence and more
- Correlate user information with OS logs, client PC logs, firewalls, personal firewalls, web server logs

Tertiary Data – Listener.log

- Great source of data for times and correlations.
- Arup nanda has a great three part paper – Mining Information from the listener log
  http://www.dbazine.com/oracle/or_030231124.html
**Tertiary Data – SYSDBA Audit**

On "No boxes look in audit_file_dest for trace files. PID based trace files – hard to correlate. Shows SYS (actually SYSDBA) audit if audit_sys_operations=TRUE. Connects are audited by default as sysdba.

**Deleted Data**

- David introduced the idea of looking for deleted data in data blocks in his 6 part Oracle forensics series.
- This is not new as others are more concerned with recovery, block internals, DUL like tools have found this years ago.
- The idea is being built into FEDS (we believe).
  - This is unsupported – in terms of undefined results.
  - The deleted data is transient.
  - Recycle bin and Flashback also good options (If available).
- As are Redo and archive logs (not transient) – again if available.
- Tools like BBED could be used or hex editors.

**Database Dumps**

SQL: alter session set events Immediate trace name library, cache level 1/7.
Session altered.

**Investigation Without Disturbance**

- If a suspected breach has occurred
- Plan ahead – i.e. don’t blunder in
- Consider:
  - Can the results of the investigation be trusted.
  - Altering the database or shutting down could remove evidence – e.g. shared pool is cleared.
  - The investigation should not alter the data or create a large foot print in the database thereby changing the value of the investigation.

**Investigation Without Disturbance (2)**

- Establish the server state – users, ports, files, directories, memory, system time etc
- Collect Oracle files – sysdba trace, archive logs, alert logs, listener log, sqnet logs, trace, copy data files (if possible)
- Grab the SQL from v$sql (direct SGA access is an option - http://www.petefinigan.com/oracle.htm)
- Grab SYS.AUDS and SYS.FGA_LOG$.
- Grab AWR and statspack if available.
- Analyse changes to users and roles and privileges.
- Checksum the PL/SQL, Java, triggers, views.
- Investigate.

**Log Miner**

Examining alert logfile using query:

```sql
SELECT change_time, change_type, type, version_string, name FROM v$logfile
```
• What can we build as toolkit?
• Mining blocks not ideal – time biased and not consistent – FEDS look promising BUT
• A Tool kit should / Could be methodology include:
  – A plan of actions
  – OS commands to gather files
  – SQL commands to gather details from the database
  – Dump commands

• Looked at what are forensics and what are Oracle forensics?
• Looked at what information is out there
• Looked at the issues – audit on, audit off and more
• Looked at where to find forensic data
• Looked at finding evidence – correlating data
• Oracle Forensics is a new and exciting area and very current due to recent data losses

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