System Administration

Security Philosophy
Why should you care about security?

• You may be obligated to do so under various rules or laws:
  - FERPA
  - HIPPA
  - University policy
  - State guidelines
Why should you care about security?

• You may have data that is irreplaceable
  - Research data
  - Thesis
  - Article or book
  - Grades
Why should you care about security?

• You are a good neighbor
  - If your machine is compromised, you can cause problems for other people
  - Their system is more vulnerable
  - Waste bandwidth
  - People who could be doing real work now have to deal with cleanup
Security is a process, not an end

- The only machine that is totally secure is one that doesn't exist
  - Ken Thompson, "Reflections on Trusting Trust"
Balance Security with Usability

- A totally secure system isn't probably all that usable
- 'Calculus' of security: what will I be out if there is a security problem? What problems will I cause if there is a security problem? What will increased security cost me?
Overall Security Strategy

• Turn off services you do not use
• Keep those that you do use up-to-date
• Monitor appropriate mailing lists/security sites for information about exploits
• Limit access to services
• *Lather, rinse, repeat*