

# 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*