

2.1.8 Ensure telnet server is not enabled (Scored)

Profile Applicability

Level 1 - Server
Level 1 - Workstation

Description

The `telnet-server` package contains the `telnet` daemon, which accepts connections from users from other systems via the `telnet` protocol.

Rationale

The `telnet` protocol is insecure and unencrypted. The use of an unencrypted transmission medium could allow a user with access to sniff network traffic the ability to steal credentials. The `ssh` package provides an encrypted session and stronger security.

Audit

Verify the `telnet` service is not enabled. Run the following commands and verify results are as indicated:

```
grep -R "^telnet" /etc/inetd.*
```

No results should be returned

check `/etc/xinetd.conf` and `/etc/xinetd.d/*` and verify all `telnet` services have `disable = yes` set.

Remediation

Comment out or remove any lines starting with `telnet` from `/etc/inetd.conf` and `/etc/inetd.d/*`.

Set `disable = yes` on all `telnet` services in `/etc/xinetd.conf` and `/etc/xinetd.d/*`.

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