

2.3.3 Ensure talk client is not installed (Scored)

Profile Applicability

```
Level 1 - Server  
Level 1 - Workstation
```

Description

The “talk” software makes it possible for users to send and receive messages across systems through a terminal session. The talk client, which allows initialization of talk sessions, is installed by default.

Rationale

The software presents a security risk as it uses unencrypted protocols for communication.

Audit

Run the following commands to verify talk is not installed:

```
dpkg -s talk
```

Remediation

Run the following command to uninstall talk:

```
apt-get remove talk
```

Impact

Many insecure service clients are used as troubleshooting tools and in testing environments. Uninstalling them can inhibit capability to test and troubleshoot. If they are required it is advisable to remove the clients after use to prevent accidental or intentional misuse.

From:

<https://secscan.acron.pl/> - **SecScan**

Permanent link:

<https://secscan.acron.pl/ubuntu1604/2/3/3>

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