MISP core development crash course

How I learned to stop worrying and love the PHP

Team CIRCL

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Some things to know in advance...

- MISP is based on PHP 5.6+
- Using the MVC framework CakePHP 2.x
- What we’ll look at now will be a quick glance at the structuring / layout of the code
MVC FRAMEWORKS IN GENERAL

- separation of business logic and views, interconnected by controllers
- main advantage is clear separation of the various components
- lean controllers, fat models (kinda...)
- domain based code reuse
- No interaction between Model and Views, ever
Structure of MISP Core app directories

- **Config**: general configuration files
- **Console**: command line tools
- **Controller**: Code dealing with requests/responses, generating data for views based on interactions with the models
- **Lib**: Generic reusable code / libraries
- **Model**: Business logic, data gathering and modification
- **Plugin**: Alternative location for plugin specific codes, ordered into controller, model, view files
- **View**: UI views, populated by the controller
Controllers - Scope

- Each public function in a controller is exposed as an API action
- request routing (admin routing)
- multi-use functions (POST/GET)
- request/response objects
- contains the action code, telling the application what data fetching/modifying calls to make, preparing the resulting data for the resulting view
- grouped into controller files based on model actions
- Accessed via UI, API, AJAX calls directly by users
- For code reuse: behaviours
- Each controller bound to a model
Controllers - functionalities of controllers

- Pagination functionality
- Logging functionality
- Controllers actions can access functionality / variables of Models
- Controllers cannot access code of other controller actions (kind of...)
- Access to the authenticated user’s data
- beforeFilter(), afterFilter() methods
- Inherited code in AppController
Controllers - components

- Components = reusable code for Controllers
  - Authentication components
  - RestResponse component
  - ACL component
  - Cidr component
  - IOCIimport component (should be moved)
Controllers - additional functionalities

- Code handling API requests
- Auth/session management
- ACL management
- API management
- Security component
- Important: quertString/PyMISP versions, MISP version handler
- Future improvements to the export mechanisms
Controls anything that has to do with:

- finding subsets of data
- altering existing data
- inherited model: AppModel
- reusable code for models: Behaviours
- regex, trim
Versatile hooking system

- manipulate the data at certain stages of execution
- code can be located in 3 places: Model hook, AppModel hook, behaviour
Hooks / model pipeline for data creation / edits

- beforeValidate() (lowercase all hashes)
- validate() (check hash format)
- afterValidate() (we never use it)
- could be interesting if we ever validated without saving
- beforeSave() (purge existing correlations for an attribute)
- afterSave() (create new correlations for an attribute / zmq)
Hooks for deletions
  ▶ beforeDelete() (purge correlations for an attribute)
  ▶ afterDelete() (zmq)

Hooks for retrieving data
  ▶ beforeFind() (modify the find parameters before execution, we don’t use it)
  ▶ afterFind() (json decode json fields)
Models - Misc

- code to handle version upgrades contained in AppModel
- generic cleanup/data migration tools
- centralised redis/pubsub handlers
- (Show example of adding an attribute with trace)
Views - Scope and Structure

- Templates for views
- Layouts
- Reusable template code: elements
  - Attribute list, rows (if reused)
- Reusable code: helpers
  - Commandhelper (for discussion boards), highlighter for searches, tag colour helper
- Views per controller
Views - Types of views and helpers

- ajax views vs normal views
- data views vs normal views vs serialisation in the controller
- sanitisation h()
- creating forms
  - sanitisation
  - CSRF
Distribution

- Algorithm for checking if a user has access to an attribute
- Creator vs owner organisation
- Distribution levels and inheritance (events -> objects -> attributes)
- Shorthand inherit level
- Sharing groups (org list, instance list)
- Correlation distribution
- Algorithms for safe data fetching (fetchEvents(), fetchAttributes(),...
Testing your code

- Functional testing
- Impact scope
  - View code changes: only impacts request type based views
  - Controller code changes: Should only affect given action
  - Model code changes: can have impact on entire application
  - Lib changes: can have affect on the entire application
- Don’t forget: queryACL, change querystring