MISP CORE DEVELOPMENT CRASH COURSE

How I learned to stop worrying and love the PHP

CIRCL / Team MISP Project

MISP Threat Sharing

CIISI-IE Dublin 2024

MISP Threat Sharing

- MISP is based on PHP 7.3+
- 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

- 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

- 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

- Components = reusable code for Controllers
  - ▶ Authentication components
  - ▶ RestResponse component
  - ▶ ACL component
  - ▶ Cidr component
  - ▶ IOCImport component (should be moved)

- Handling API responses (RestResponseComponent)
- Handling API requests (IndexFilterComponent)
- auth/session management
- ACL management
- CRUD Component
- 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)

- 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)

- 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

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

Views - Generators

MISP core development crash course

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Views - Generators

- Mostly in genericElements
- Preparing the move to Cake4
- Important ones
  - Form - generate forms in a standardised way (/add, /edit, etc)
  - IndexTable - index lists using Field templates (/index, etc)
  - SingleViews - key-value lists with child elements (/view, etc)
  - Menues - to be refactored, see Cerebrate

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- Located in app/Lib
- Code that is to be reused across several layers
- Important ones
  - ▶ Dashboard - Dashboard widget backend code
  - ▶ EventReport - Report generation
  - ▶ Export - MISP -> external format converter modules
  - ▶ Tools - List of generic helper libraries - examples:
    - Attachment, JSON conversion, random generation, emailing, sync request generation
    - Kafka, ZMQ, AWS S3, Elastic integration, PGP encryption, CIDR operations

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(),...)

- funtional testing
- Github actions
- 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