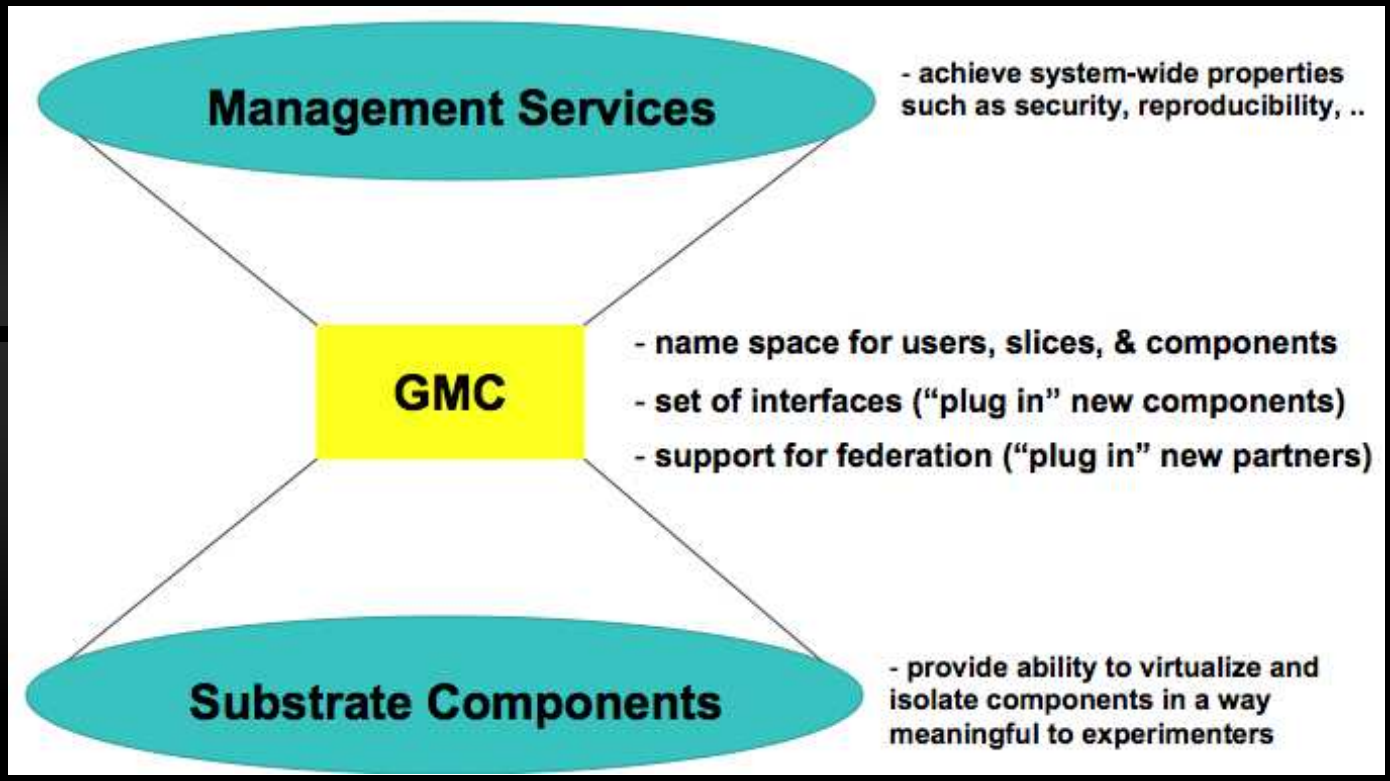
GENI and Security

Deborah Frincke, PNNL, co-chair
Matt Bishop, UCD, co-chair
Chen-Nee Chuah, UCD, community collaborator
Karl Levitt, NSF, NSF co-ordinator
Mike Reiter, CMU, GENI security leader and provider of early materials
Terry Benzel, USC/ISI, GENI resource

Introduction and Charge

- Our Focus:
  - Potential Uses: Security-related experiments to run on GENI
  - Necessary Components: Required instrumentation for GENI
  - Designing Security In: Security of GENI itself
- Our challenge for you:
  - Input, lots of input!
  - Your ideas for how to maximize GENI's usefulness to the security community
    - Access, architecture, guarantees, etc.

GENI Architecture



— from Tom Anderson's talk

What It Means

- GENI *manages* resources
  - Slices
  - Other objects (files, firewalls, monitors, ports)
- Manager *has* APIs
  - Users
  - Resources
  - Other networks such as ORBIT, DETER/EMIST, CENS, ESNET
- Manager *does* access control
  - Access determined by policy

Threats to GENI

- Exploitation of a slice
  - Runaway experiments
    - Unwanted Internet traffic, exhausting disk space
  - Misuse of experimental service by end users
    - eg, to traffic in illegal content
  - Corruption of a slice
    - Via theft of experimenter's credentials or compromise of slice software
- Exploitation of GENI itself
  - Compromise of host system
  - DoS or compromise of GENI management infrastructure

Build Security In From the Start

… critical for good security!

Experiments (Discussed)

- Threats to the core
  - Bad/malicious routers (black holes, etc.)
  - Worms propagating through routers
  - “Captured” routers
  - Lifecycle attacks on routers
- Threats to the end points
  - DDoS attacks

Instrumentation (Discussed)

- ✓ Extraction of data
- ✓ VM with ability to capture all traffic
- ✓ Hooks for digital forensics (traceback, etc.)
- ✓ Tools for experiment-specific monitors
- ✓ Controls over who can view data
- ✓ Ability to monitor any resource—CPU usage, memory usage, slices, etc.
- ✓ Highly instrumented, controllable testbed

GENI Security (Discussed)

- Access control
  - A decentralized framework based on credentials and formal logic
  - Focused on implementing least privilege with a small, assured TCB
  - Will be sufficiently flexible to regulate access to wide range of resources; have not identified the full list yet (but don't need to)
  - Will be available to GENI and applications alike
  - Can be used to implement slice "kill switch" and audit trail
  - Eventually incorporating attestation ala TCG
- Key management
  - Public key certification encompassed by access control framework
    - GENI will have a PKI
  - Private key protection optionally supported via capture-resilience protocols or hardware tokens

Experiment Ideas and Issues

- How do we scale experiments to reflect the larger networks?
- How fast could a worm really spread in the face of infrastructure and/or end host controls?
  - How do homogeneity and/or diversity affect this?
  - Create libraries of worms for use on GENI
- What protocols for protecting infrastructure are or can be made practical by augmenting infrastructure?
  - WATCHERS (routers monitor each other), others
- How do we use the infrastructure to help handle DDoS attacks?

More Experiments

- Use GENI to test Internet voting
- Test software, run time monitoring security
- Evaluate Internet threats to SCADA, power grid, other critical functions
  - Running a backup demo for power grid
- Disaster management and survivability
  - Graceful degradation
  - Containing the failures or attacks
  - Collaborative sensors to provide early warning
  - Priority of jobs, traffic to properly allocate scarce resources
  - How many failed nodes can be tolerated?

Instrumentation Ideas and Issues

- Monitoring
  - What layer(s) of network
  - What aspects of hosts
  - What attributes (routing, performance, etc.)
  - How much data to collect
  - Where to collect it
  - Where to store it
- Dissemination
  - Privacy issues leading to data sanitization
  - Access control

More Instrumentation

- How to demonstrate GENI results can be applied to Internet
  - How do you compare networks
  - What attributes are important
  - Is experiment repeatable
- Forensics
- Deceptive technologies
- Performance issues

GENI Management Support

- View GENI as resource manager
  - Slices, systems, routers, etc. all objects
  - API for experimenters to access GENI
- Access control
  - Formal logic to prove what accesses allowed
  - Combine it with certificates for identity management
- Privacy
  - Protect privacy of experiments, data used and derived

More GENI Management Support

- GENI's insider problem…how do *we* solve it?
  - Attacker masquerades as experimenter, uses that to compromise GENI, other experiments
- Vulnerabilities in the GMC
  - How do we find, mitigate them?
- Interaction with edge networks (eg, wireless)
  - Define the interface between GENI and other testbeds (ORBIT, DETER/EMULAB, CENS)
  - Determine what guarantees (if any) they provide when combined with access controls in GENI

Other Security Ideas and Issues

- ***Critical and key problem:***

Build security into GENI

… this **includes assurance**

- Risks to GENI
- COTS, not COTS systems
- Heterogeneity vs. homogeneity
- PKI management
- Virtualization of resources
- Availability issues
- Legal issues
- Generally: advance the state of the art and science of security

See you in the breakout session!

Remember:

Build security into the GENI architecture