

Fourth Secure List Server bi-monthly project report

Joost van Baal <joostvb@ad1810.com>

March 18, 2009

Introduction

As agreed upon in the June 13, 2008 document “Memorandum of Understanding Secure List Server Project”, this report documents work done by the author for the Secure List Server project (<http://non-gnu.uvt.nl/mailman-pgp-smime/>), as funded by the NLnet Foundation. It also lists the current plans for the project.

This document is a follow-up to the Third Secure List Server bi-monthly project report, as sent to Valer Mischenko on January 26, 2009.

1 Completed tasks

Here’s a condensed overview of the progress made thus far.

Task	Planned	Delivered
(Start project)	08-07-01	08-06-24
(Milestone 1)	08-08-15	08-08-09
(Milestone 2)	08-12-15	09-01-06
Publish third project report	09-01-01	09-01-26
Write and publish documentation	09-01-15	09-01-12
Create a package of SLS	09-03-01	in progress
Publish fourth project report	09-03-01	09-03-18
Disseminate results	09-03-01	09-02-08
(Milestone 3)	09-03-01	in progress

See the previous reports for details on the tasks completed for Milestones 1 and 2.

Some documentation has been written and published. The article “Secure List Server: Mailman, PGP and S/MIME - Support for encryption and authentication for the GNU mailing list software” from January 2009 is maintained using the SLS version control system, and available from <http://non-gnu.uvt.nl/mailman-pgp-smime/pgp-smime/talk/mailman-pgp-smime-talk.txt>. This article was printed on paper and handed out at the 2 presentations in Ulm and Brussels. This documentation still needs to get integrated with the documentation which comes with Mailman itself. The current documentation focusses on list and site admins; user oriented documentation still needs to be written.

A lightning talk request for fosdem has been submitted on 08-11-06 and got accepted, see http://fosdem.org/2009/schedule/events/secure_list_server. The fosdem conference (see <http://fosdem.org/>) took place February 2009 at ULB Campus Solbosch in Brussels. The talk (<http://fosdem.org/2009/node/164>) took place on Sunday February 8th, 10:20, and lasted for 15 minutes. The talk has been recorded on video; see <http://ftp.heanet.ie/mirrors/fosdem-video/>

2009/lightningtalks/. (At fosdem, the author also organised the PGP KeySigning Party, see <http://fosdem.org/2009/keysigning>.)

Futhermore, a talk request for the Chaosseminar in Ulm has been submitted 08-11-24. The talk took place at 09-01-12, see http://ulm.ccc.de/ChaosSeminar/2009/01_Mailman_PGP_SMIME. The talk has been recorded on video; see <http://ftp.ccc.de/regional/ulm/chaosseminar/200901-mailman/>. About 17 Free Software developers (featuring Stefan Schlott, the original SLS-patch author) attended the talk, which started at 20:00. A lively discussion went on till 21:30. More information about this talk is in the Third Secure List Server report.

All talk recordings are available from <http://non-gnu.uvt.nl/mailman-pgp-smime/pgp-smime/talk/> also.

Some extra time was spent on keeping our code in sync with upstream by merging it. Feedback has been given to users on the GPG/SMIME Mailman development list.

(Also, a Debian package for the Small Sister client was build; available from <http://mdcc.cx/tmp/SmallMailClient/>.)

2 Planned tasks

Current plans are:

Task	Planned
Create a package of SLS	09-03-01
(Milestone 3)	09-03-01
Act upon auditors final report	09-04-01
Try get SLS shipped w/ distros	09-04-15
Fifth and final project report	09-04-15
(Milestone 4)	09-04-15

I'll also contact Mailman developer Barry Warsaw and ask him to perform his review he has offered via the Mailman Developers list.

Both a Debian and an RPM package for SLS will get build and published.

Currently, Guus Sliepen is working on his final security audit report.

In order to get SLS shipped with Free Software operating system distributions, maintainers of Mailman packages for e.g. GNU/Linux distributions (and the Sabayon and Smallsister projects) will get asked (and offered help) to include the patch. The author will work with the Debian Mailman package maintainer to try to get the patched Mailman shipped with Debian and Ubuntu, as discussed in a private conversation with the maintainer, Tilburg, 2008-06-06. The decision on wether or not to include this patch is under control of the package maintainer (not the patch author).