

OKWS

Read: Building Secure High-Performance Web Services with OKWS. (See readings.)

Hand-In Procedure

You are to turn in this homework during lecture. Please write up your answers to the exercises below and hand them in to a 6.828 staff member at the beginning of lecture.

OS Security and Web Server Security

Exercise 1 One of the biggest lessons in Unix security is that few if any servers should run as *root*. Justify.

Exercise 2 Maybe this paper is all wrong then. OKWS claims to be more secure than a comparable Apache configuration, but Apache runs all processes as *nobody* (or *www* depending on your OS/distribution) while OKWS runs certain components as *root*.

(a) Which parts of OKWS run as *root*?

(b) Why do they run as *root*?

(c) How does Apache avoid *root*?

(d) Which method seems more secure? (No right answer here).

This completes the homework.