

Second Secure List Server bi-monthly project report

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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 First Secure List Server bi-monthly project report, as sent to Valer Mischenko on Aug 31, 2008.

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
Publish first project report	08-09-01	08-08-31
Bug: Implement test suite	08-10-15	08-10-30
Publish second project report	08-11-01	08-11-01

See the first report for details on the tasks completed for Milestone 1.

The test suite consists of two parts: first a simple script `pgp-smime/pgp-smime-testsuite.sh`, which was finished with `bzr commit revno: 460` on branch `nick 2.1-pgp-smime`. See the Mailman `pgp-smime` `bzr` branch in Launchpad at <https://code.launchpad.net/~joostvb/mailman/2.1-pgp-smime>. The second part of the suite is a running SLS installation on the author’s workstation, hosting several test lists with additional PGP and S/MIME key pairs. Work on documenting the setup of such a system is currently in progress (to be completed with other documentation on 09-01-15).

Some extra time was spent on releasing version 2008-09-25 of the patch, available from http://non-gnu.uvt.nl/pub/mailman/mailman-2.1.11-pgp-smime_2008-09-25.patch.gz, announced in `Message-ID: <20080925084757.GK14261@bruhat.mdcc.cx>` on the GPG/SMIME mailman devel list at Thu, 25 Sep 2008. Work on shipping a new release is currently in progress, it’ll likely get shipped this month.

Contacting Sabayon’s Fabio Erculiani took some time (15 Oct 2008). There has also been contact with Brenno de Winter (the Smallsister project, 13 Oct 2008).

A minor status update on SLS has been posted to the Mailman Developers (28 Sep 2008, `Message-ID: <20080928110912.GT11325@bruhat.mdcc.cx>`, archived at <http://www.mail-archive.com/mailman-developers@40python.org/msg11143.html>).

Finally, I've acted upon helpful feedback from Lars Kruse about the SLS website.

2 Planned tasks

Task	Planned
Bug: Enforce confidentiality	08-11-15
Bug: Better user interface	08-12-15
(Milestone 2)	08-12-15
Publish third project report	09-01-01
Write and publish documentation	09-01-15
Create a package of SLS	09-03-01
Publish fourth project report	09-03-01
Disseminate results	09-03-01
Try get SLS shipped w/ distros	09-03-01
(Milestone 3)	09-03-01
Act upon auditors final report	09-04-01
(Milestone 4)	09-04-01
Fifth and final project report	09-04-01

The 2 open Bug-tasks are critical open bugs as found by Security Auditor Guus Sliepen and published in "Security Audit of the Secure List Server, Part I", August 1, 2008. While fixing these bugs, the patch will be kept as non-intrusive and minimal as possible.

Once these bugs are fixed, I'll contact Mailman developer Barry Warsaw and ask him to perform his review he has offered via the Mailman Developers list.

The documentation will be written for users, for list admins, for site admins, as well as for developers.

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

The dissemination of results will be done by announcing the achievements on relevant mailing lists, and by giving a presentation at e.g. the FOSDEM conference (will probably happen february 2009 in Brussels), and/or a meeting of CCC Ulm, and/or Chemnitz Linuxtage.

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 whether or not to include this patch is under control of the package maintainer (not the patch author).