# CWE Detail – CWE-341

## Description

A number or object is predictable based on observations that the attacker can make about the state of the system or network, such as time, process ID, etc.

## Extended Description

N/A

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 0.0

Priority: Unclassified

## Observed Examples (CVEs)

**•** CVE-2002-0389: Mail server stores private mail messages with predictable filenames in a world-executable directory, which allows local users to read private mailing list archives.

**•** CVE-2001-1141: PRNG allows attackers to use the output of small PRNG requests to determine the internal state information, which could be used by attackers to predict future pseudo-random numbers.

**•** CVE-2000-0335: DNS resolver library uses predictable IDs, which allows a local attacker to spoof DNS query results.

**•** CVE-2005-1636: MFV. predictable filename and insecure permissions allows file modification to execute SQL queries.

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Architecture and Design: N/A

**•** Implementation: REALIZATION: This weakness is caused during implementation of an architectural security tactic.

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Varies by Context — Notes: This weakness could be exploited by an attacker in a number ways depending on the context. If a predictable number is used to generate IDs or keys that are used within protection mechanisms, then an attacker could gain unauthorized access to the system. If predictable filenames are used for storing sensitive information, then an attacker might gain access to the system and may be able to gain access to the information in the file.

## Potential Mitigations

**•** Implementation: Increase the entropy used to seed a PRNG. (Effectiveness: N/A)

**•** Architecture and Design: Use products or modules that conform to FIPS 140-2 [REF-267] to avoid obvious entropy problems. Consult FIPS 140-2 Annex C ("Approved Random Number Generators"). (Effectiveness: N/A)

**•** Implementation: Use a PRNG that periodically re-seeds itself using input from high-quality sources, such as hardware devices with high entropy. However, do not re-seed too frequently, or else the entropy source might block. (Effectiveness: N/A)

## Applicable Platforms

**•** None (Class: Not Language-Specific, Prevalence: Undetermined)

## Demonstrative Examples

**•** Because the seed for the PRNG is always the user's ID, the session ID will always be the same. An attacker could thus predict any user's session ID and potentially hijack the session.

## Notes

**•** Maintenance: As of CWE 4.5, terminology related to randomness, entropy, and  
 predictability can vary widely. Within the developer and other  
 communities, "randomness" is used heavily. However, within  
 cryptography, "entropy" is distinct, typically implied as a  
 measurement. There are no commonly-used definitions, even within  
 standards documents and cryptography papers. Future versions of  
 CWE will attempt to define these terms and, if necessary,  
 distinguish between them in ways that are appropriate for  
 different communities but do not reduce the usability of CWE for  
 mapping, understanding, or other scenarios.