# CWE Detail – CWE-317

## Description

The product stores sensitive information in cleartext within the GUI.

## Extended Description

An attacker can often obtain data from a GUI, even if hidden, by using an API to directly access GUI objects such as windows and menus. Even if the information is encoded in a way that is not human-readable, certain techniques could determine which encoding is being used, then decode the information.

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 3.0

Priority: P2 - Serious (High)

## Observed Examples (CVEs)

**•** CVE-2002-1848: Unencrypted passwords stored in GUI dialog may allow local users to access the passwords.

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Architecture and Design: OMISSION: This weakness is caused by missing a security tactic during the architecture and design phase.

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Read Memory, Read Application Data — Notes:

## Applicable Platforms

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

## Notes

**•** Terminology: Different people use "cleartext" and "plaintext" to mean the same thing: the lack of encryption. However, within cryptography, these have more precise meanings. Plaintext is the information just before it is fed into a cryptographic algorithm, including already-encrypted text. Cleartext is any information that is unencrypted, although it might be in an encoded form that is not easily human-readable (such as base64 encoding).