# CWE Detail – CWE-334

## Description

The number of possible random values is smaller than needed by the product, making it more susceptible to brute force attacks.

## Extended Description

N/A

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 1.8

Priority: P4 - Informational (Low)

## Observed Examples (CVEs)

**•** CVE-2002-0583: Product uses 5 alphanumeric characters for filenames of expense claim reports, stored under web root.

**•** CVE-2002-0903: Product uses small number of random numbers for a code to approve an action, and also uses predictable new user IDs, allowing attackers to hijack new accounts.

**•** CVE-2003-1230: SYN cookies implementation only uses 32-bit keys, making it easier to brute force ISN.

**•** CVE-2004-0230: Complex predictability / randomness (reduced space).

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Architecture and Design: N/A

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

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Bypass Protection Mechanism, Other — Notes: An attacker could easily guess the values used. This could lead to unauthorized access to a system if the seed is used for authentication and authorization.

## Potential Mitigations

**•** 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)

## Applicable Platforms

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

## Demonstrative Examples

**•** This deployment descriptor has set the session ID length for this Java web application to 8 bytes (or 64 bits). The session ID length for Java web applications should be set to 16 bytes (128 bits) to prevent attackers from guessing and/or stealing a session ID and taking over a user's 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.