





CHAPTER 15 SECURITY AND THE VIRTUAL MACHINE

```
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```

```
public static setSecurityManager(SecurityManager sm)
   {
       if(security !!= null)
            throw new SecurityException
               ("SecurityManager already set");
       security = sm;
   }
}
```

The integrity of the security field is critical, since an applet that could set that field could control the security policy of the system. This makes security a likely target for attack.

15.4.3 Bypassing Java Security

The most straightforward attack would be to try to set the security field. The attacker's applet might be written in Java:

```
public class NastyApplet extends Applet
{
   void attack()
   {
        System.security = null;
        // The security manager is null, so everything is
       // permitted
        // Put code to wreak havoc here
   }
}
```

When this class is compiled, the Java compiler will notice that the security field is private to the System class and refuse to compile the file. This would not stop a determined attacker, who would proceed to rewrite the applet in Oolong:

```
.class public NastyApplet
.super java/applet/Applet
.method attack()V
                          ; Install null as the
aconst_null
                          ; security manager
putstatic java/lang/System/security Ljava/lang/SecurityManager;
;; Wreak havoc
.end method
```





