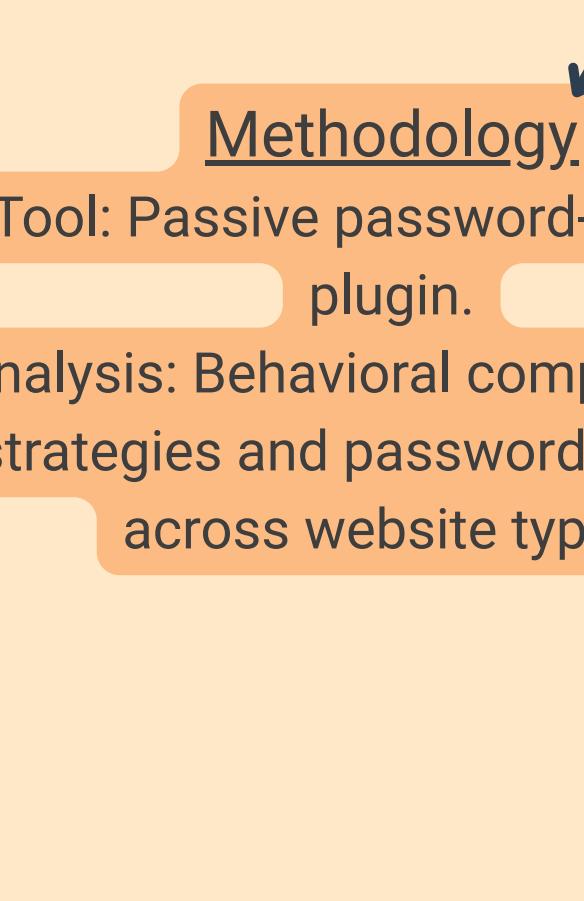
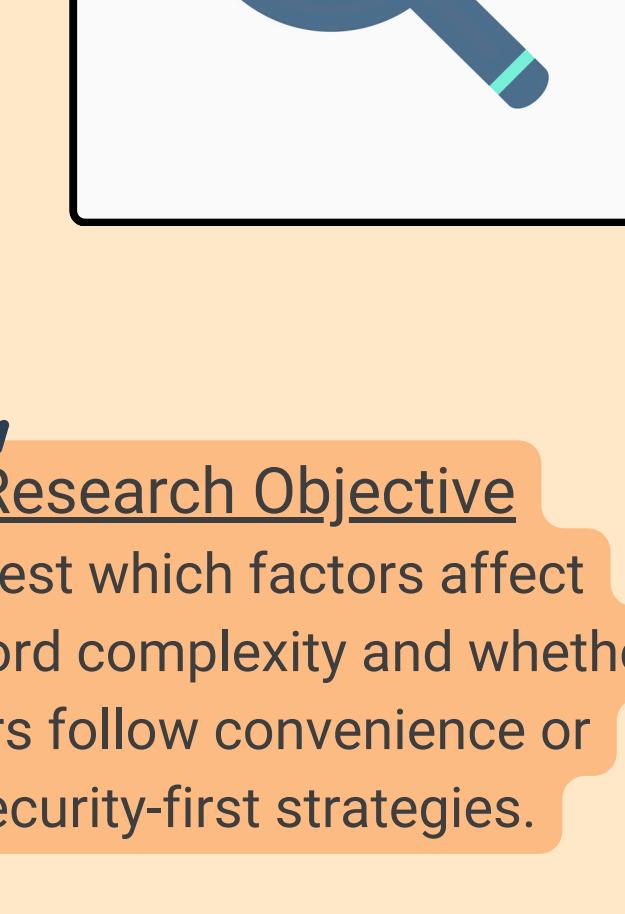


People choose safety over convenience

How real users manage their passwords more wisely than expected

Background

Passwords are a common point of failure in digital security. While it's often assumed that users prioritize ease and reuse. This study examines how people actually behave when creating passwords.



Research Objective

To test which factors affect password complexity and whether users follow convenience or security-first strategies.

Methodology

Tool: Passive password-tracking plugin.

Analysis: Behavioral comparison of strategies and password strength across website types.

Participants
Number of real users involved

Duration
Study length in weeks

Passwords
Total passwords collected

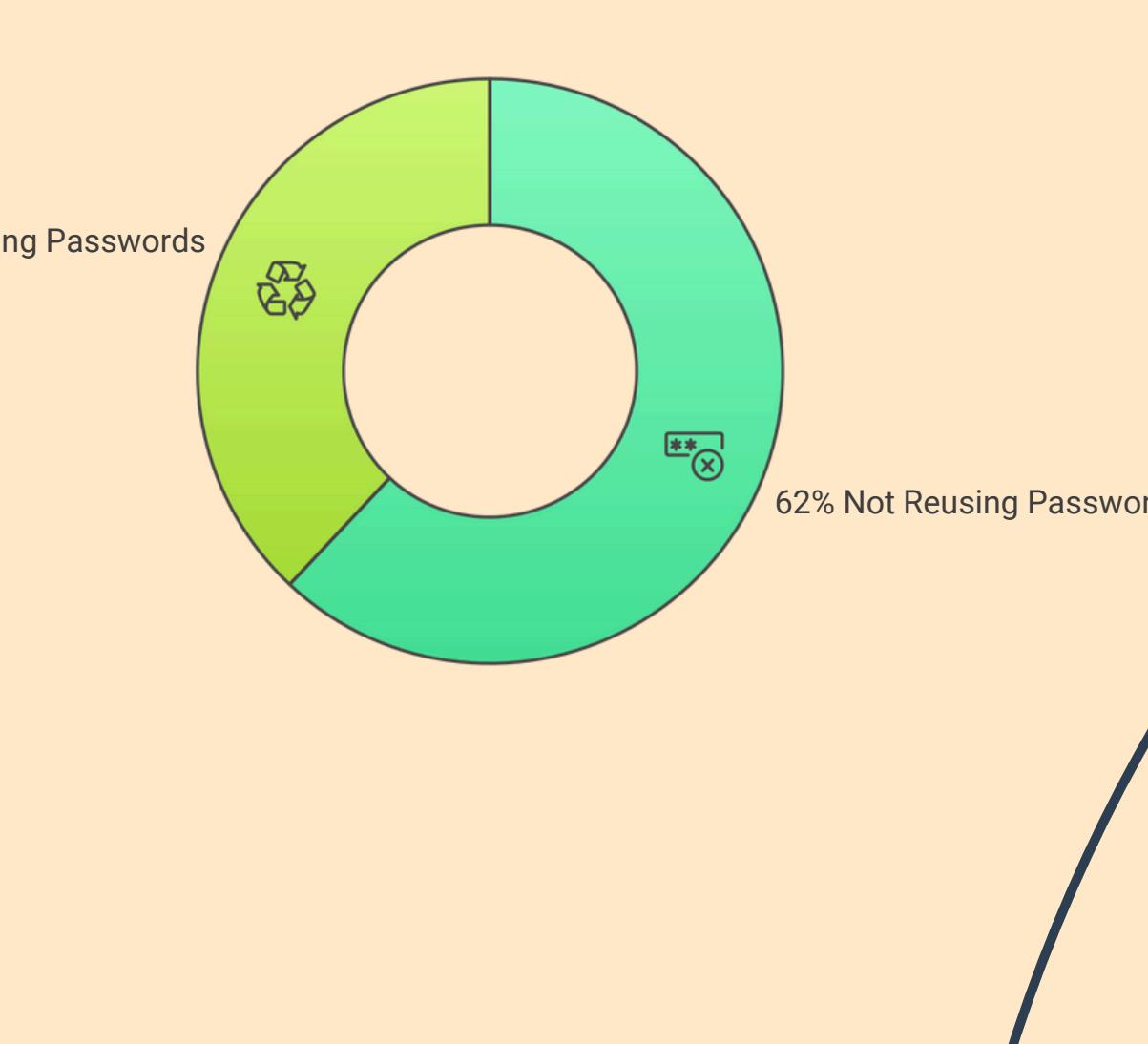
Websites
Different websites tracked

2533

134

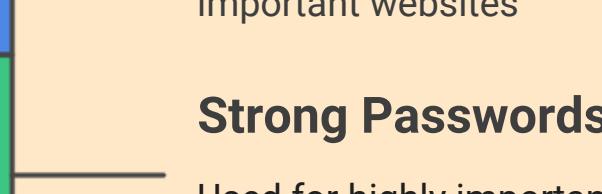
6

1010



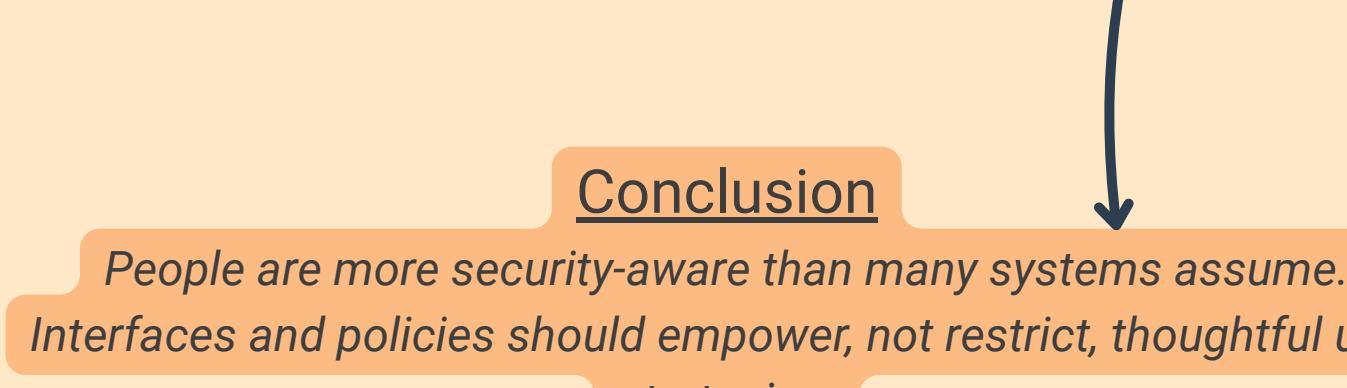
Key Findings

1) People manage more passwords than we assume - 4 to 8 on average.

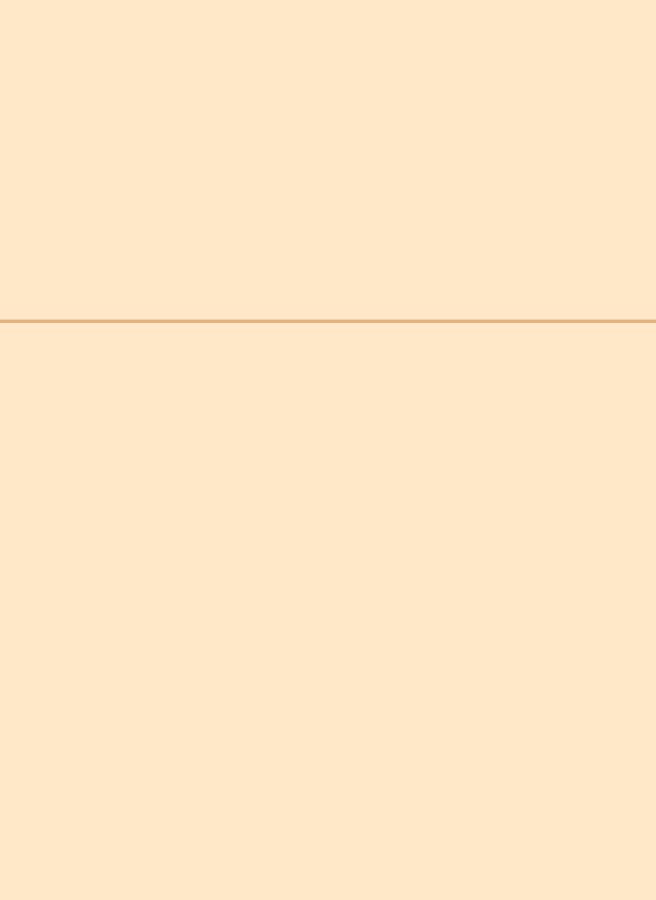
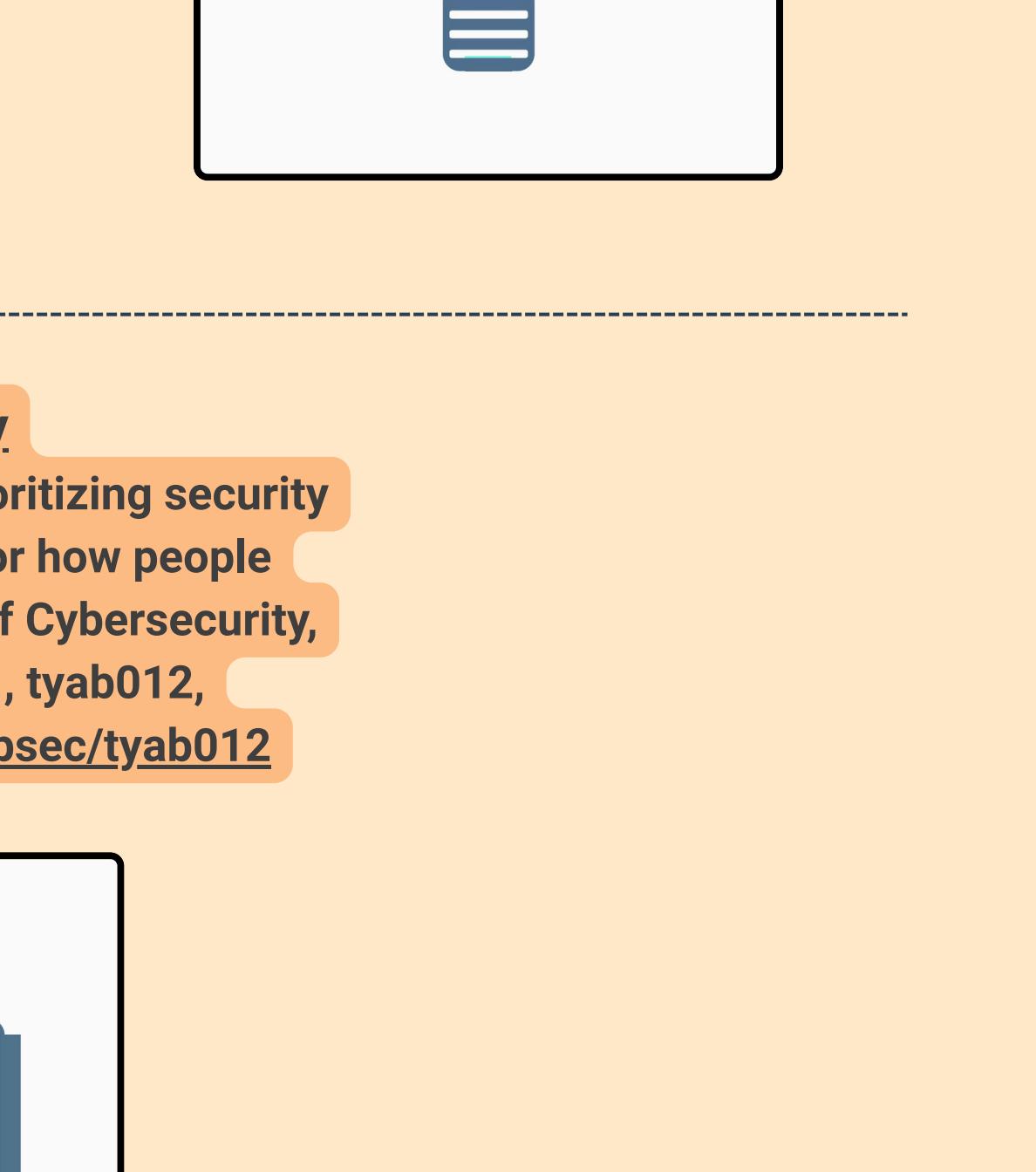


User Passwords

Site Requirements



3) Password reuse is uncommon (only 38%) - most people don't rely on just one password.

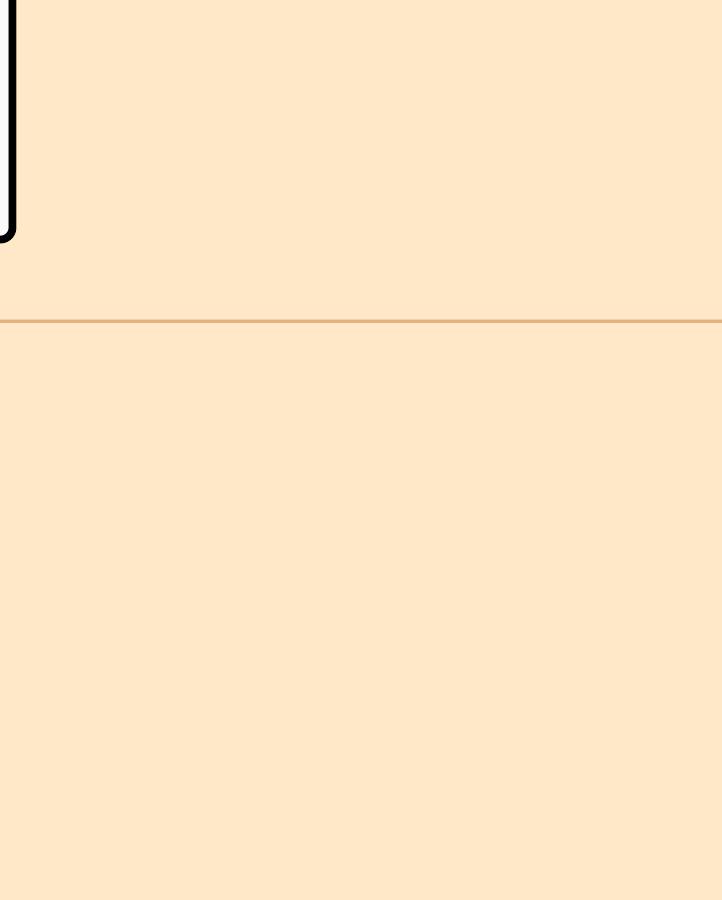


Discussion

These findings challenge common assumptions: users aren't blindly following minimum rules – they adapt password strength based on site value. This behavior shows a basic understanding of risk prioritization.

Conclusion

People are more security-aware than many systems assume. Interfaces and policies should empower, not restrict, thoughtful user strategies.



Bibliography

Rick Wash, Emilee Rader, Prioritizing security over usability: Strategies for how people choose passwords, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, Volume 7, Issue 1, 2021, tyab012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyab012>

