

# RSA® Conference 2019

San Francisco | March 4–8 | Moscone Center



# BETTER.

SESSION ID: SEM-M01

## Opening Remarks: Security, Privacy & Human Behavior

**Lorrie Cranor**

Director, CyLab Security and Privacy Institute  
Carnegie Mellon University  
@lorrietweet



#RSAC



## industryvoice

Security

# Human error is the root cause of most data breaches

Financial damage of data leaks must be considered by firms

Markel Direct



## The Weakest Link: The Role of Human Error in Cybersecurity



CEOs in the News

## Almost 90% of Cyber Attacks are Caused by Human Error or Behavior

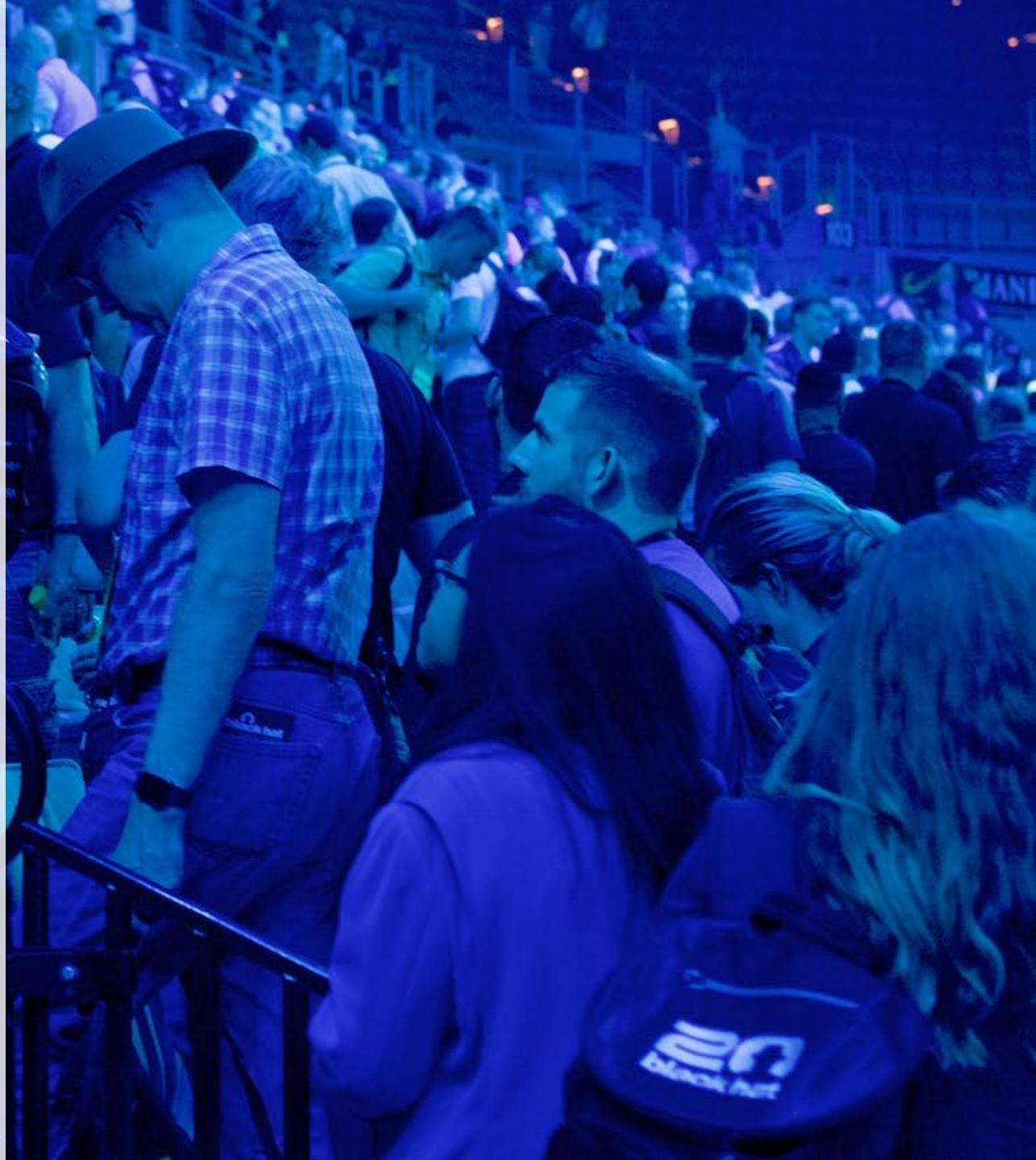
By Ross Kelly - March 3, 2017



Few store managers would respond to revelations that a junior assistant had been stealing from the cash register by investing thousands of dollars in new security cameras. It could be far cheaper for them to instill hiring practices that

# The human threat

- Malicious humans
- Clueless humans
- Unmotivated humans
- Humans constrained by human limitations



SOCIAL MEDIA, SECURITY

## Twitter's New Privacy Policy Means You Need to Change Your Settings



By Nancy Messieh / May 23, 2017 / 3 minutes

Advertisement

Twitter recently **introduced** an updated privacy policy announcing changes to how they collect user data and deliver advertising into your timeline. So what does the update mean and what should you do about it?

If you haven't logged in to Twitter since the changes were announced, you'll see this message:



ENTERPRISE

## Google clarifies its location tracking help page for confused users

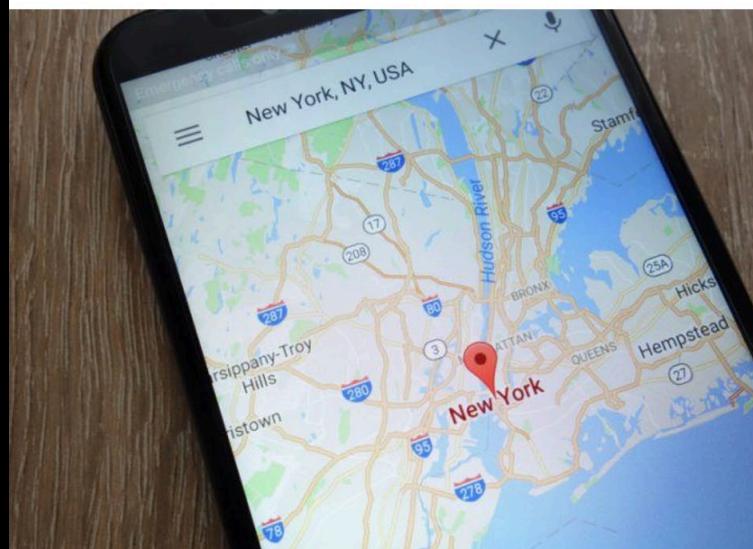
by Ellen Tannam



17 AUG 2018



260 VIEWS



Google Maps on mobile device. Image: Piotr Swat/Shutterstock



BUSINESS



## Facebook to make privacy settings less difficult to use

By Nicolas Vega

March 28, 2018 | 11:16am



AFP/Getty Images

Facebook said Wednesday it will finally simplify the notoriously confusing maze of privacy settings on its site.

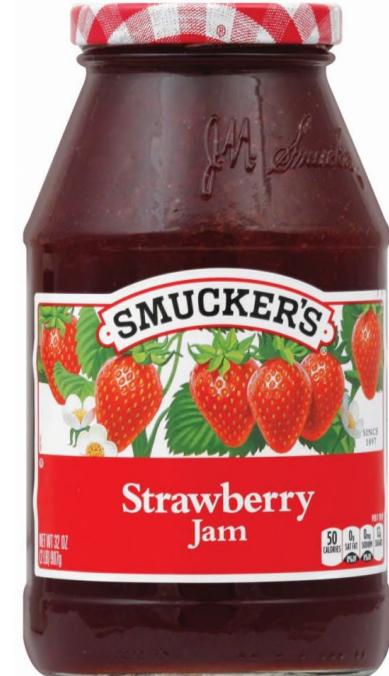
The embattled social network — which previously sent users to more than a dozen different pages when they wanted to adjust the amount of data they shared, or see what third-party apps had access to their information — announced plans to consolidate those settings onto one central page.

# Privacy is complicated



# Better together

Examining **security/privacy** and **usability** together is often critical for achieving either



# USENIX Security 1999

## Why Johnny Can't Encrypt: A Usability Evaluation of PGP 5.0

Alma Whitten

*School of Computer Science  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
alma@cs.cmu.edu*

J. D. Tygar<sup>1</sup>

*EECS and SIMS  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
tygar@cs.berkeley.edu*

### Abstract

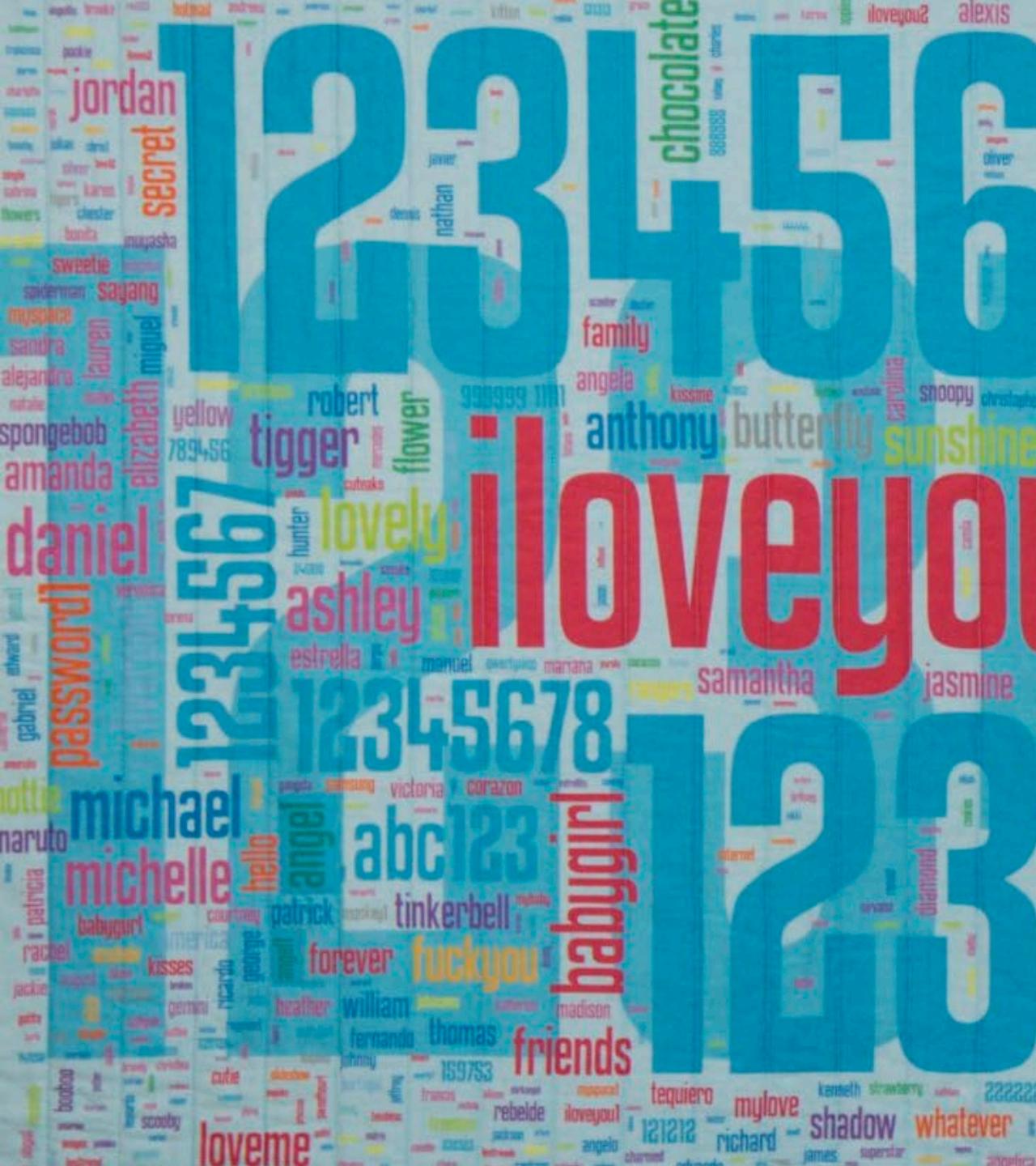
User errors cause or contribute to most computer security failures, yet user interfaces for security still tend to be clumsy, confusing, or near nonexistent. Is

### 1 Introduction

Security mechanisms are only effective when used correctly. Strong cryptography, provably correct

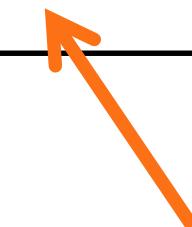
**Almost 20 years later Johnny still can't encrypt...**

**We still rely on users to do security and privacy tasks  
that they aren't good at**



Creating and  
remembering  
unique and  
complex  
passwords for  
dozens of  
accounts

# Comparing crypto key fingerprints



Do they match?



# About Our Privacy Policy

Whenever you do something like buy one of our products, watch a show or download an app, information is created. Because we know your privacy is important, we have a Privacy Policy to explain how we collect, use and protect that information. There's a quick summary below, and the actual policy is written in an easy to understand “**Frequently Asked Questions**” (FAQ) format ([/sites/privacy\\_policy/terms](#)). We want to simplify this explanation, so you can make informed choices about your privacy, and then spend the rest of your time enjoying our products and services.

Effective July 24, 2015

# A Quick Summary of Our Privacy Policy

Our Privacy Policy applies to your use of all products, services and websites offered by AT&T and our AT&T affiliates, such as DIRECTV, unless they have a different privacy policy. Because some apps, including some AT&T and DTV branded apps, require additional information, or use information in different ways, they may have their own privacy policies and/or terms and conditions. These apps may also offer you additional choices for managing your personal information.

[Back to Top](#)

## Our privacy commitments

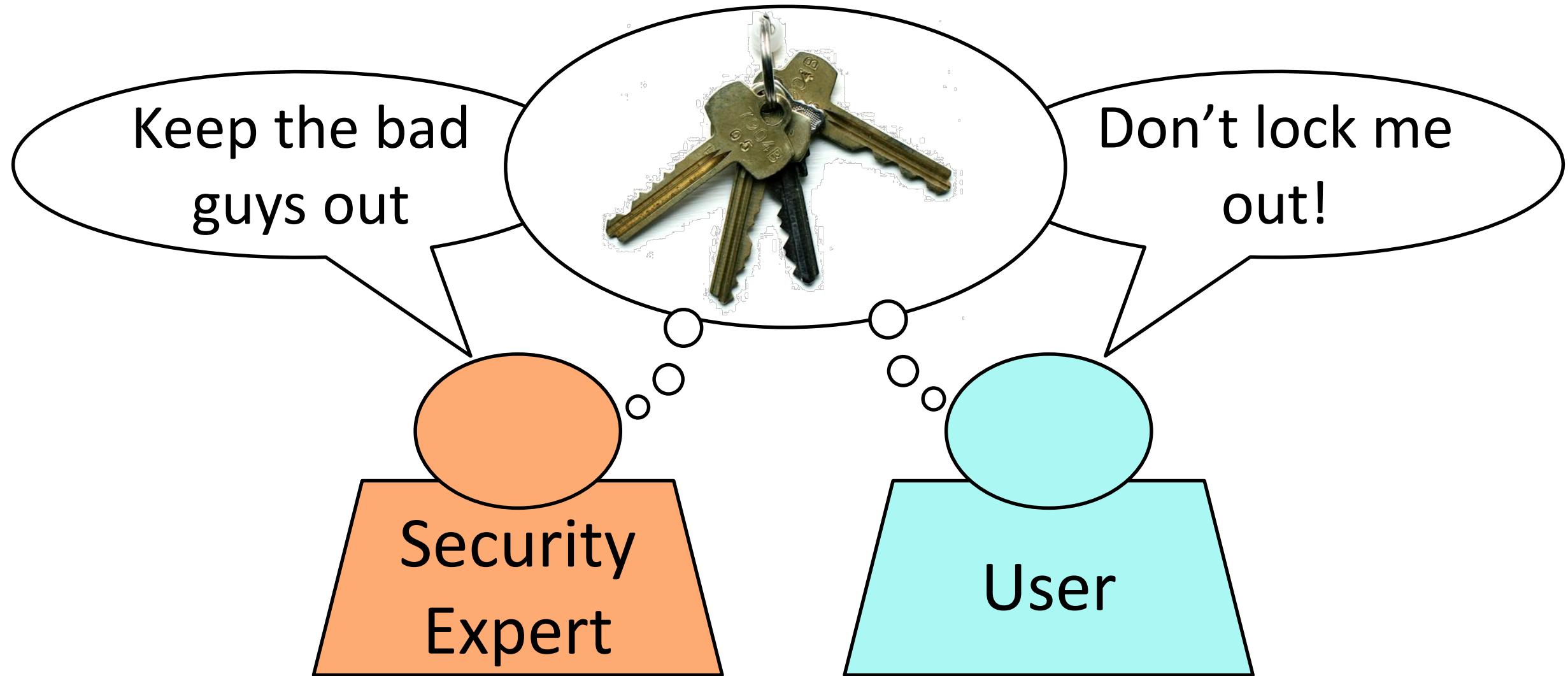
- We don't sell your Personal Information to anyone for any purpose. Period.
  - We keep your Personal Information in our business records while you are a customer, or until it is no longer needed for business, tax or legal purposes.
  - We will keep your information safe using encryption or other appropriate security controls.

# Reading and understanding long privacy policies

# Security and privacy are secondary tasks



# Concerns may not be aligned



## Research on security, privacy, and human behavior

User studies can help us better understand the human threat and design systems that meet user needs

# Reasons to conduct user studies

## Assess needs

What should we build?

## Examine tradeoffs

Which features/approaches best fit particular needs?

## Evaluate

Are requirements met?  
What should be improved?

## Find root causes

What underlying problems need to be fixed?

# Excuses for not doing usability studies

- If people weren't so lazy or stupid or careless it would work fine
- I already know what people want
- No time, no money
- I find the system easy to use
- It's so easy my kids can use it
- I'm not a usability expert



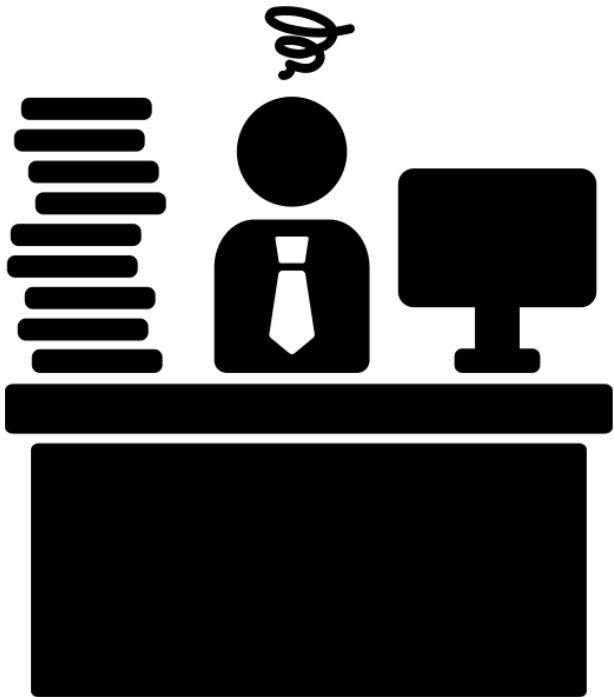
# How are security and privacy user studies different from other user studies?

the presence of a <sup>^</sup>**risk/adversary**  
simulated



# Need to make sure systems are usable and remain secure when...

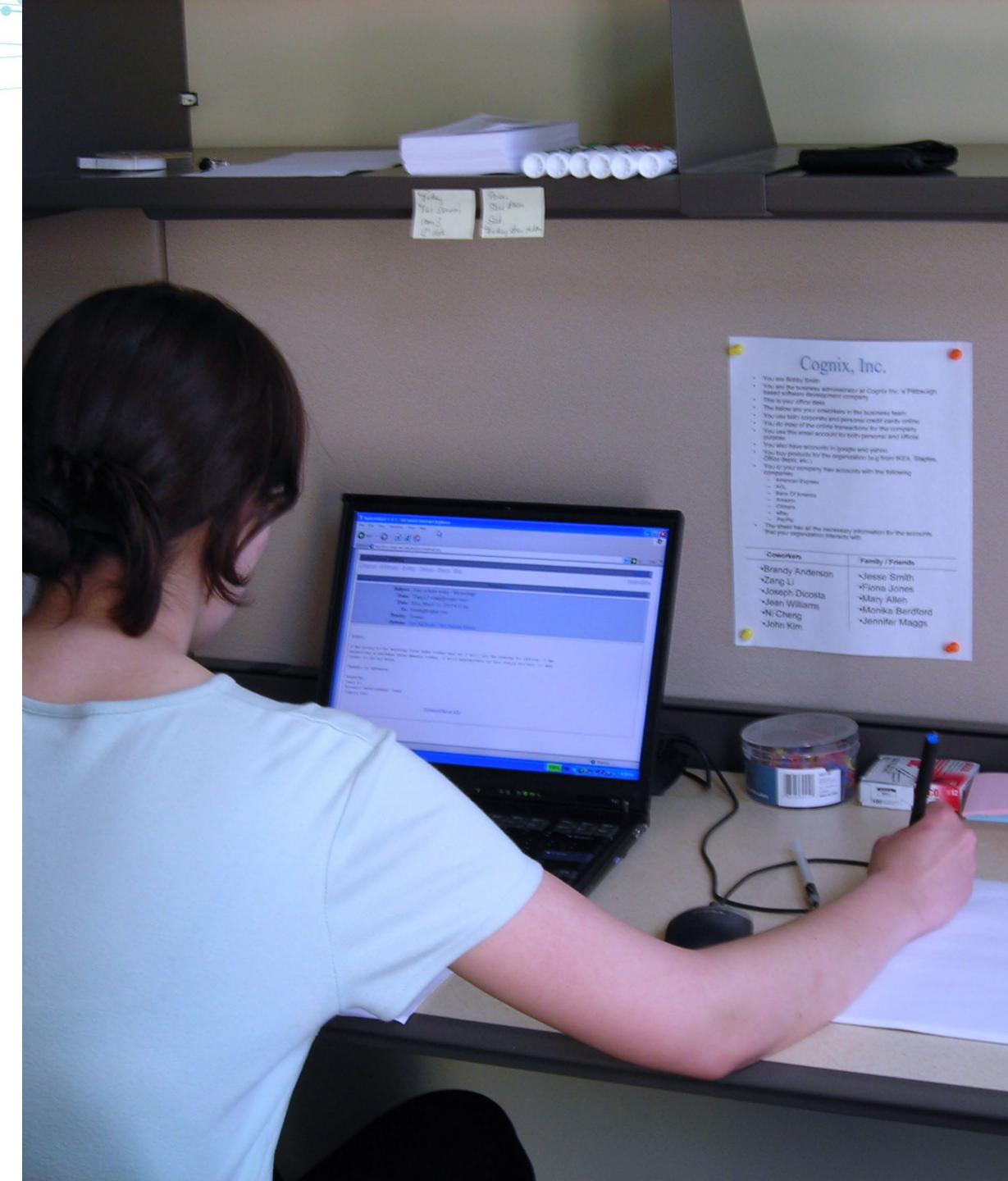
- Attackers (try to) fool users
- Users behave in predictable ways
- Users are unmotivated, careless, stressed, or busy



Icon created by Lisoile from Noun Project

# Usable security study challenges

- Keeping it real  
(ecological validity)
- Observing infrequent events  
and small differences
- Legal, ethical, and practical  
issues





**How can we design a (legal and ethical) study that allows us to observe users in a realistic scenario being exposed to risk?**

# Self report

- Surveys, interviews, focus groups
  - Opinions
  - Knowledge and perceptions
  - Actions – what have DID or what they WOULD DO in hypothetical situation
- Relatively easy and low cost
- Usually relies on naturally occurring or hypothetical risk
- Relies on people being honest (and remembering accurately)

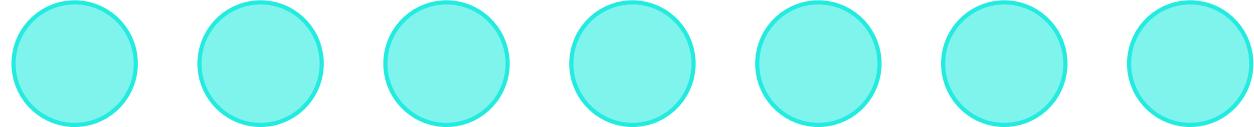


# Password perceptions study

B. Ur, J. Bees, S. Segreti, L. Bauer, N. Christin, and L. F. Cranor. Do users' perceptions of password security match reality? CHI 2016.

iloveyou88

**iloveyou88**  
much more  
secure



ieatkale88

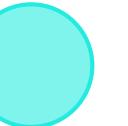
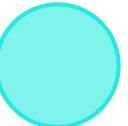
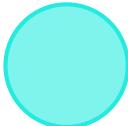
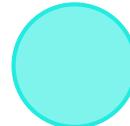
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MISCONCEPTION

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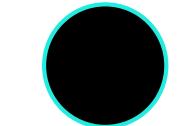
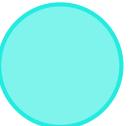
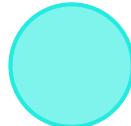
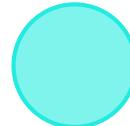
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iloveyou88

Illoveyou88  
much more  
secure



ieatkale88

ieatkale88  
much more  
secure

4,000,000,000 ×  
more secure!

# Observe real-world activity

- Many data collection challenges
- Usually not conducive to controlled experiment
- Relies on naturally occurring risk
- Events of interest may be infrequent



A photograph showing a person from the side and over their shoulder. They are wearing glasses and a yellow and green plaid shirt. They are seated at a desk, looking at several computer monitors in the background which display various graphical interfaces. In the foreground, they are interacting with a laptop computer. The scene suggests a research or monitoring environment.

# Security Behavior Observatory

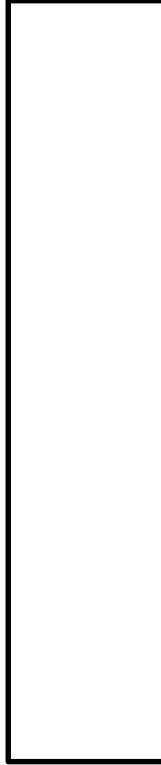
- Network of instrumented home Windows computers
- ~200 active participants
- Natural observation + surveys and interviews
- Data includes hashed passwords

# People reuse their passwords a lot

On average, participants had

- 26 different accounts
- 10 distinct passwords

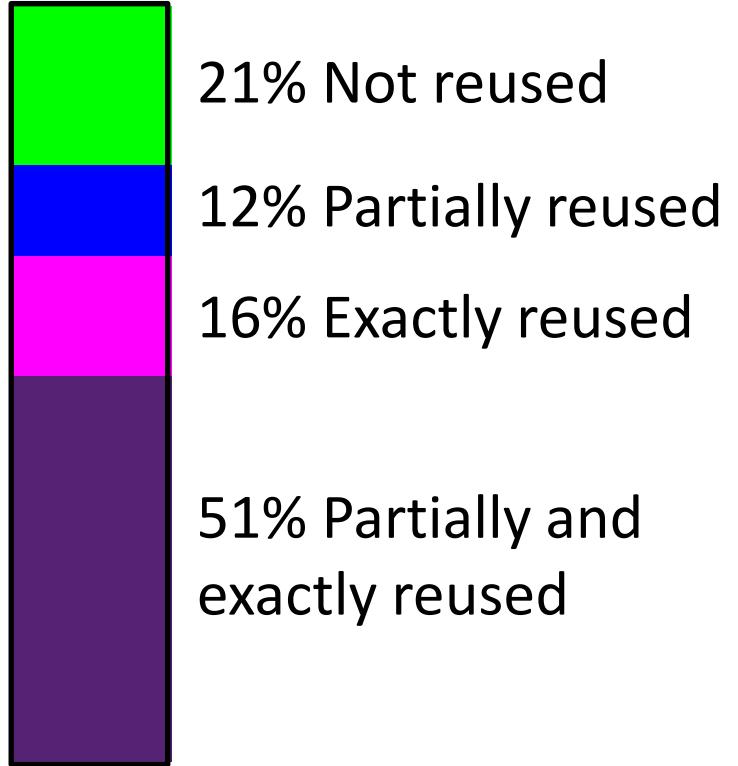
S. Pearman, J. Thomas, P. Emami Naeini, H. Habib, L. Bauer, N. Christin, L. Cranor, S. Egelman, and A. Forget. Let's go in for a closer look: Observing passwords in their natural habitat. CCS 2017.



# People reuse their passwords a lot

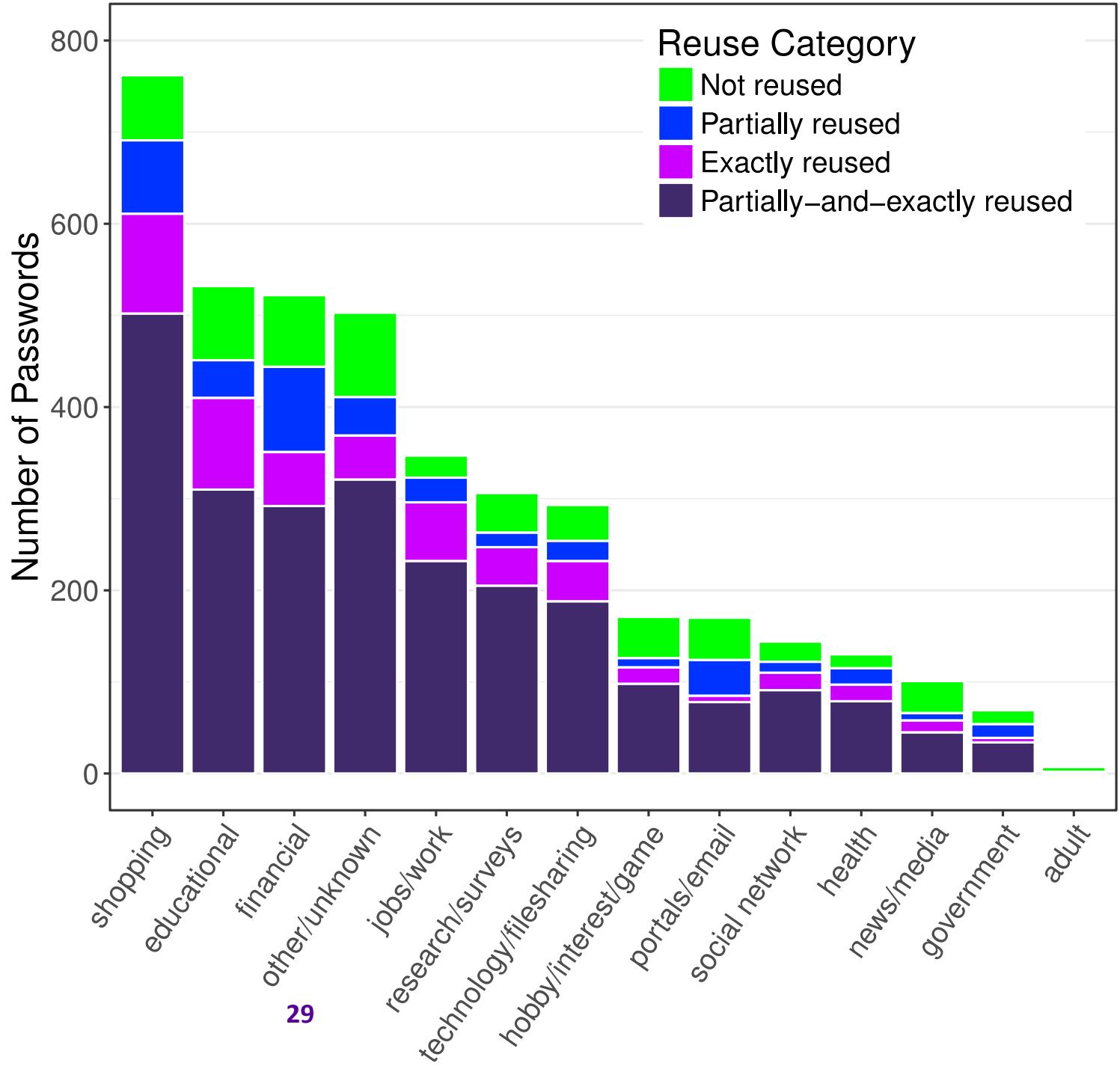
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Lots of reuse  
across almost all  
categories of  
websites



# Observe hypothetical security tasks

- Ask participants to perform a security task in the context of a hypothetical scenario
- Subject them to ~~real risk~~  
simulated

Not ethical to harm  
study participants



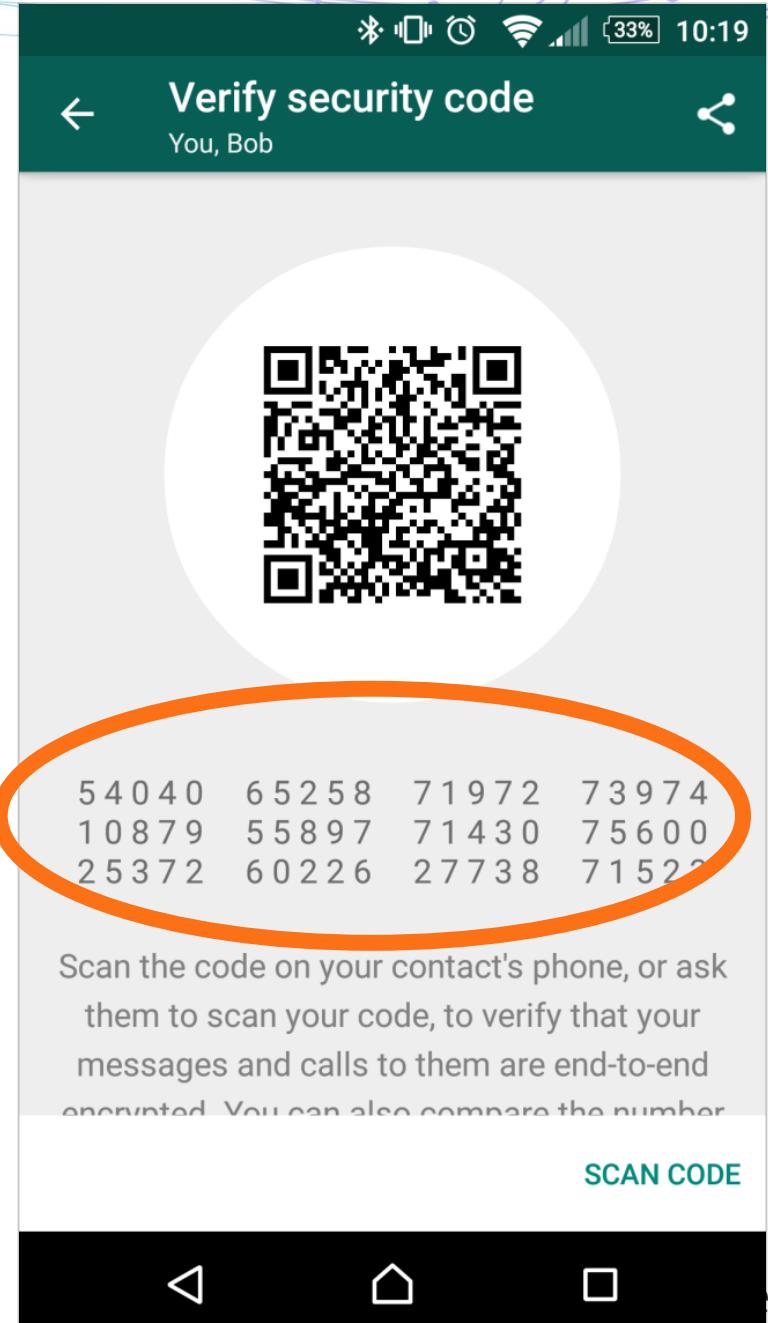
# Observe hypothetical security tasks

- Ask participants to perform a security task in the context of a hypothetical scenario
- Subject them to ~~real~~ risk
  - simulated
- May use deception + debrief
- May use economic incentives
- Users may be extra alert to security issues



# Alice wants to verify Bob's fingerprint

- WhatsApp provides numeric fingerprints
- Alice can compare this with fingerprint on Bob's business card or other source



# What type of fingerprint is best?

```
8174 5886 6247 7685 4281 4047  
0930 1306 7201 2113 8177 9827
```

```
+--[ ECDSA 256]---+  
o o.  
= o  
+ . .  
o .  
S .  
o E .  
+ o +..  
. o * +o  
o.++*o.|  
+-----+
```



```
tin yellow blood short  
attention tax danger bulb  
wood the normal healthy  
up false nut bright
```

```
buri padi luya kilo yise rada  
deyu sipi hofe hage xata rite
```

# Online role-play experiment

Joshua Tan, Lujo Bauer, Joseph Bonneau, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Jeremy Thomas, Blase Ur. Can Unicorns Help Users Compare Crypto Key Fingerprints? CHI 2017

- 661 participants role-played accountant tasked with updating employee SSNs in database
- For each of 30 employees, required security check involving fingerprint comparison
- Each participant saw 30 fingerprints of same format, **including 1 attack**
- Tested 5 textual formats, 3 graphical formats

### Employee Database

Name	Email	SSN	Position	Office	Address
Barry Cole	b.cole@printideas...		PR Coordinator	Scranton	5592 New...
Roger Johnson	r.johnson@printid...	263-00-1985	HR Director	Los Angeles	248 Wayla...
Susan Deckers	s.deckers@printid...	476-00-1769	Accountant	Scranton	101 Nestle ...
Shannon Novak	s.novak@printide...	881-00-4275	Project Manager	New York City	933 Gates ...

Submit

#### Security Check (Barry Cole)

Secure Chat Client has received a message from Barry Cole. Please compare the following fingerprint to the one shown on the business card.

6C 0E 52 15 10 4F 92 8B F2 3C  
CE C7 7E D1 B8 34 85 94 74 71

#### Barry Cole [Secure Chat Client]

Incoming message from Barry Cole. Security check required.



Elapsed Time: 70.1 s  
Current Time to Beat: 540 s  
Employees Remaining: 30

# People aren't good at this!

- Textual formats all had similar missed attack rates
- Graphical formats more varied in attack rates, faster to compare
- No fingerprints performed very well
- Unicorn performed the worst!



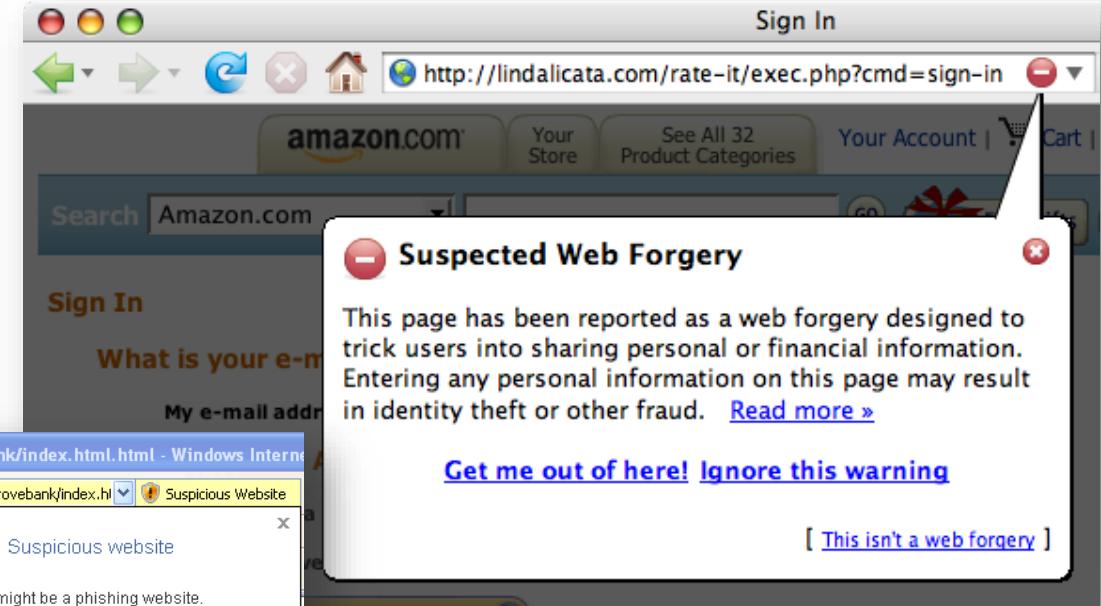
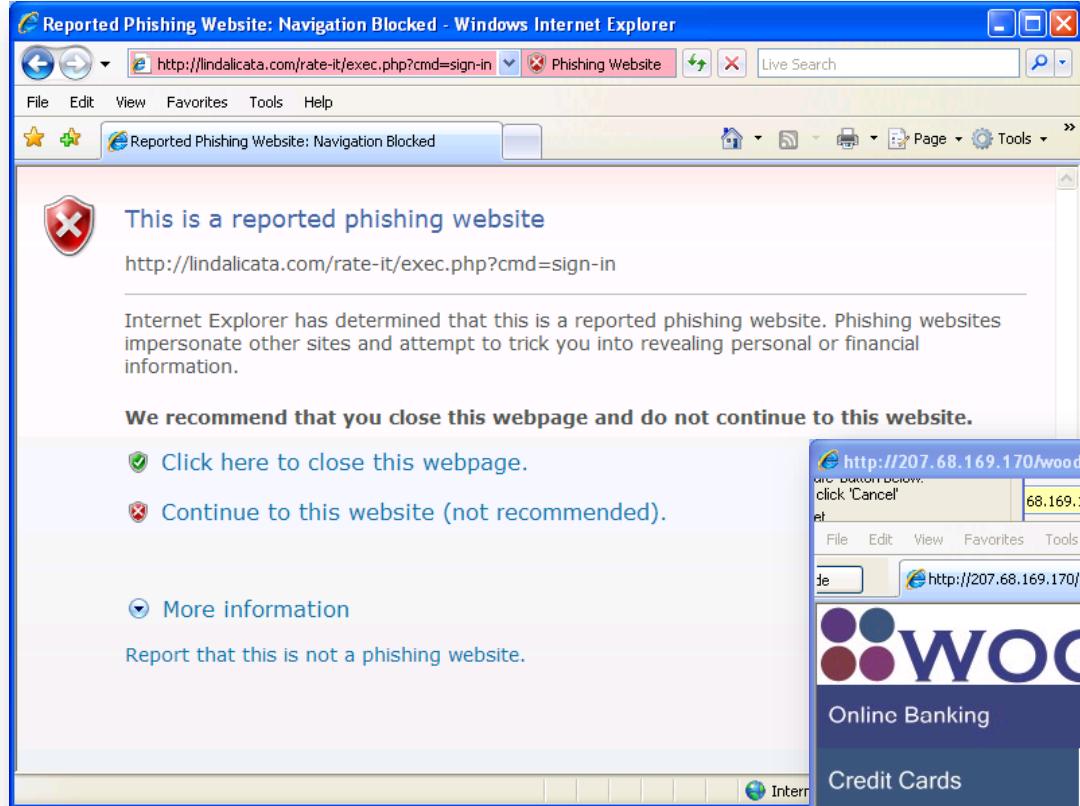
# Observe non-security tasks

- Ask users to perform tasks unrelated to security
- Trigger simulated risk events
- May use deception + debrief



# Browser phishing warning study

S. Egelman, L. Cranor, and J. Hong. You've Been Warned: An Empirical Study of the Effectiveness of Web Browser Phishing Warnings. CHI 2008.



# Required a little deception

- Lab study on online shopping
- Purchase paper clips from Amazon
- Answer questions about shopping (for another study)
- That's when we phished them
- Check email to get your receipt
- That's when they fell for it



Your Amazon.com order (#102-6801884-2225735): your approval required [Inbox](#)

★ "Amazon.com" <[order-update@amazonaccounts.net](mailto:order-update@amazonaccounts.net)> to me

[show details](#) Jun 13

[Reply](#) | [▼](#)

Please approve this delay so that we can continue processing your order. (Note that if we haven't received your approval by the end of business tomorrow, the item will be cancelled.

the item will be cancelled. we'll still try to obtain and ship the item(s) before that date.) To do so, visit the following Order Update page in Your Account:

<http://www.amazonaccounts.net/gp/signin/104-3310393-0927909.htm>

If clicking the above link doesn't work, you can copy and paste the link into your browser's address window, or retype it there.

Y  
b  
y  
s  
P  
**http://www.amazonaccounts.net/gp/signin/1  
04-3310393-0927909.htm**

that cannot accept incoming e-mail. Please do not reply to this message.

Thanks for shopping at [Amazon.com](#), and we hope to see you again.

Sincerely,

Customer Service Department

<http://www.amazon.com>

=====

Check your order and more: [Order Update](#)

# Success!

- Most participants got phished
- Significant differences between conditions
- Observed interesting user behavior that helped us understand root cause of failures



# Confused by domain names

“The address in the browser was of amazonaccounts.net which is a genuine address”

**Your Amazon.com order (#102-6801884-2225735): your approval required** [Inbox](#)



"Amazon.com" <order-update@amazonaccounts.net> to me

[show details](#) Jun 13

[!\[\]\(9fc9e0a0764396cfd9a6cf8e0fd8862a\_img.jpg\) Reply](#) [!\[\]\(8c1c41a475ee414bd19edf724a654c1c\_img.jpg\) Forward](#)

Hello from [Amazon.com](#).

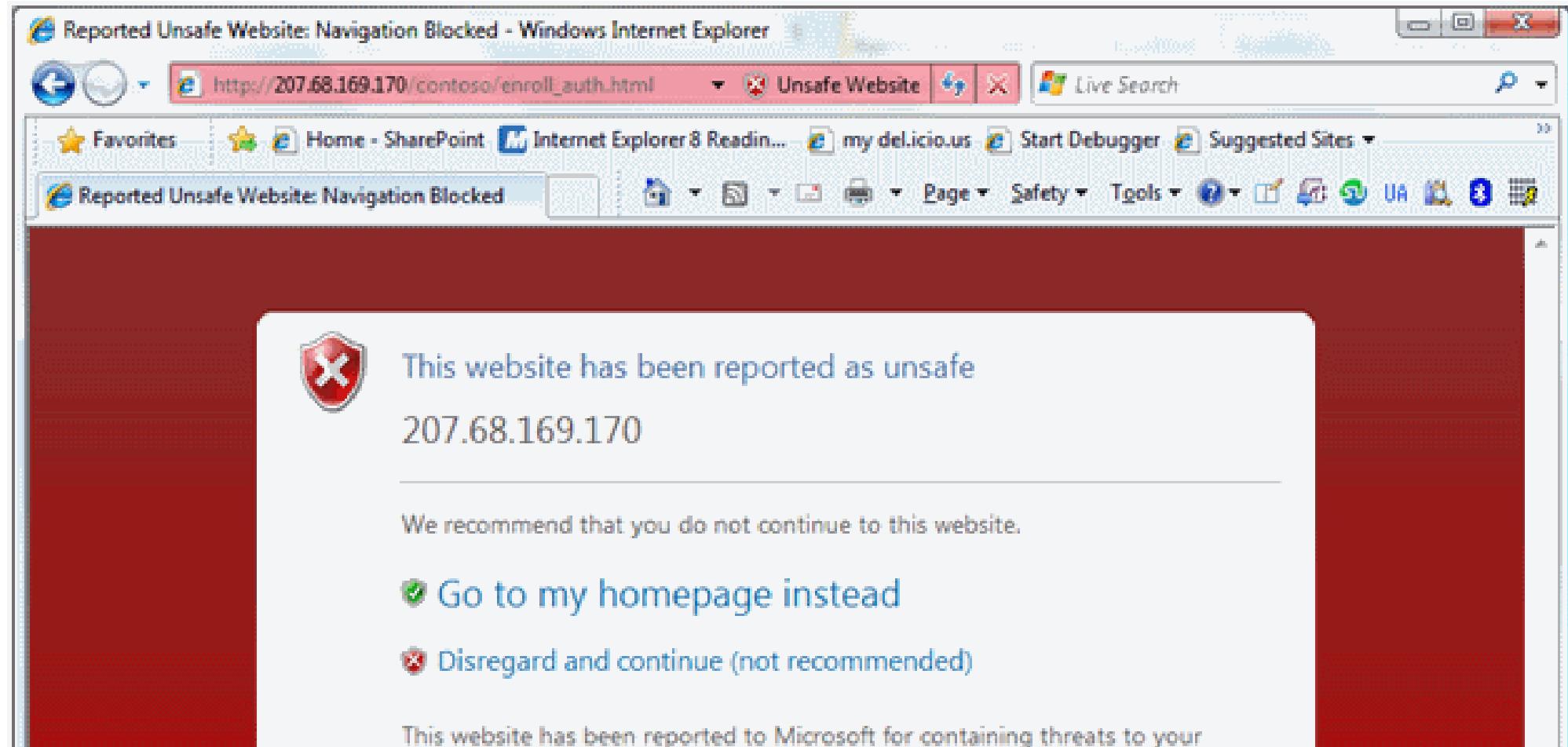
We wanted to let you know that there is a delay with item(s) in the order you placed (Order# 102-6801884-2225735).

# Confused mental models

Some users repeatedly closed their browser, returned to the phishing email, and clicked on the link again



# Research led to better phishing warnings



# Our agenda today

- Understanding humans
  - 4 talks + discussion
  - Networking break
- Emerging threats
  - 2 talks + discussion
  - Lunch break
- Protecting humans
  - 4 talks + discussion

