



Week 4 Quiz – Guidelines for Usable Security

10 questions

Attempt: 1
Score: 8/10

1
point

1.

What is the principle of least privilege?

- ☐ Users are given limited administrative privileges in a secure system
- ☐ A system should be able to access only the information it needs to perform its functions
- ☒ The least privileged users are not allowed to use a secure system

1
point

2.

Which of the following is not a guideline for creating usable security systems?

- ☒ Prevent users from granting authority unless their request is approved by the security staff
- ☐ Make sure that users know what authority they have granted and what that means for security decisions
- ☐ Make sure users know what authority they hold
- ☐ Create interfaces that make it clear what software the user is interacting with and providing information to.

1
point

3.

Which of the following is a good guideline about showing detail to users?

- ☐ Withhold all details from users because it will only confuse them
 - ☒ Show a level of detail that's informative and useful to the user, and no more than that
 - ☐ Show users a much technical detail as possible so they can make an informed decision
-

1
point

4.

If you are warning users about a security problem that has been detected, which is the best message to show them?

- ☐ A detailed technical description of the error so the user can make the most informed decision about what action to take.
 - ☐ A subtle message at the top of the page that a user can see but that will not interrupt their workflow.
 - ☒ A message that alerts them to the error and makes the most obvious option the one that stops the user from proceeding. A small link is given to ignore the warning and proceed.
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1
point

5.

In a system where a person can grant authority to others to his or her own access resources, which of the following is true?

- ☒ Users should be able to reduce the authority granted to others
- ☒ The interface should help users be aware of what authority they have granted in the past
- ☐ Authority should be granted without requiring the user to explicitly give consent



The easiest way to do a task should require the most minimal granting of authority

1
point

6.

True or False: A design guideline for creating usable secure systems is to make the most secure way to complete a task the easiest way to complete the task.



True



False

1
point

7.

For an average user, which of the following is the most usable way to set file permissions?



unix command line based access using the chmod command



A pop up menu that allows a user to select a document as "private", "shared with select users", or "public". If one of the latter two options are selected, the user is then prompted to select "others can read" or "others can edit"



A graphical user interface menu with options the user, group, and global permissions, next to which a user can check boxes labeled "r", "w", and "x" to grant permission

1
point

8.

Which guideline is violated when an interface does not make capitalization differences unambiguous (e.g. a lower case "L" and capital "i" appear to be the same thing)



Show a level of detail that's informative and useful to the user, and no more than that



Make it easy for users to control access to their resources

Make it easy for users to control access to their resources

- ☒ Make it easy to see the differences between objects and actions that could be confused.
-

1
point

9.

True or false: Users should be aware of what authority they hold, what authority they have granted, and what the implications are for security decisions

- ☒ True
- ☐ False
-

1
point

10.

Which of the following is true?

- ☐ The more usable a system is, the less secure it is because users do not understand security, so to make a usable system, security must be downgraded or left off.
- ☒ The more usable a system is, the more secure it is because usable systems help users make good security decisions and easily choose the most secure actions
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