

# SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING ANDINFORMATION SYSTEMS FALL SEMESTER 2024-25

**SWE2012 – SOFTWARE SECURITY**

**TITLE:** THREE LEVEL AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

**SLOT:** A1

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ABSTRACT:

Three-level password authentication is a robust security mechanism designed to enhance access control and protect sensitive information. This authentication system involves three distinct layers of verification, adding an extra layer of security compared to traditional username-password combinations. The three levels typically include something the user knows (password), something the user has (e.g., a physical token or device), and something the user is (biometric information). This multi-layered approach significantly strengthens the overall security posture of an organization or system. In the present situation security is highly important. Keeping that as a major issue here we form a 3-level security system which increases the confidentially to the password in a higher level. At each session user need to get authenticated so that it is able for them to proceed to the next level.

LEVEL 1- Text Password.

LEVEL 2-Pattern-based password. LEVEL 3- Graphical Image Password.

After getting authenticated in all the levels the user can use the system. If fails to authenticate in any level then it is not possible to move to the next level.

# MOTIVATION:

"Three-level password authentication fortifies security by layering access control, ensuring that even if one layer is compromised, the system remains protected. This multi-tier approach combines something you know (password), something you have (OTP or token), and something you are (biometrics), creating a robust defense against unauthorized access. Elevate your data protection with this comprehensive security strategy."

# OBJECTIVE:

"Develop a robust three-level password authentication system to enhance security by integrating multiple layers of user verification: text password (Level 1), pattern-based password (Level 2), and graphical image password (Level 3). This system ensures that only fully authenticated users can access the system, with each level serving as a critical checkpoint. Failure at any level prevents progression, thereby significantly increasing password confidentiality and strengthening overall security in today's high-risk environment."

**4. PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

**4.1. Vulnerabilities in Single-Factor Authentication:**  
The prevalent use of single-factor authentication, primarily reliant on passwords, has become increasingly susceptible to security breaches. The rise of sophisticated cyber threats, including phishing attacks and password-cracking techniques, highlights the urgent need for a more robust authentication system. The problem lies in the inherent vulnerabilities of relying solely on something the user knows (passwords), necessitating the implementation of a three-level password authentication to fortify access control.

**4.2. Compromised Credentials and Unauthorized Access:**  
Organizations frequently encounter security breaches due to compromised user credentials. Passwords, even if complex, can be compromised through various means, posing a significant risk to sensitive data and systems. The challenge is to address the growing threat of unauthorized access resulting from stolen or leaked passwords. A three-level password authentication system addresses this problem by introducing additional layers of verification, making it significantly harder for attackers to gain unauthorized entry.

**4.3. Insufficient Protection Against Evolving Threat Landscape:**  
The dynamic nature of cyber threats requires continuous adaptation of security measures. Traditional authentication methods are struggling to keep pace with the evolving sophistication of attacks. Organizations face the problem of an inadequate defense against emerging threats, such as social engineering and biometric spoofing. A three-level password authentication system addresses this by incorporating diverse authentication factors, providing a more resilient defense against a wide range of cyber threats in the rapidly changing landscape.

**5. ARCHITECTURAL DIAGRAM:**

A diagram of a login and login page

Description automatically generated

**6. LITERATURE SURVEY:**

**PAPER: 01**  
**Paper Title:** Three-Level Password Authentication for Enhanced Security [1]  
**Author:** John Doe  
**Summary:** The article tackles the rising worry of text-based password breaches and data theft. Cybercrime has increased the requirement for strong login and access protection. The study proposes a Three-Level Password Authentication mechanism to mitigate these vulnerabilities. The suggested system has three more complicated authentication stages: text-based, image-based, and graphical-based passwords are set. The goal is to minimize password breaches, making unauthorized access harder even if the first levels are hacked.  
**Strengths:**

* Enhanced Security
* Versatility
* Resistance to Common Attacks
* Innovation  
  **Weaknesses:**
* Complexity
* Usability
* Time-Consuming
* Dependence on User Memory

**PAPER: 02**  
**Paper Title:** Three-Level Password Authentication System [2]  
**Authors:** Rahul Chourasia, Dr. N. Partheeban  
**Summary:** The research introduces a Three-Level Password Authentication System to improve user authentication. Three authentication stages mitigate single-level password issues. These levels feature text, color, and image passwords. The study shows how this multi-layered method may prevent different cyber assaults and improve resource access security.  
**Strengths:**

* Enhanced Security
* Diverse Authentication Methods
* Resilience Against Attack
* Innovative Approach  
  **Weaknesses:**
* Complexity
* Usability Concerns
* Time-Consuming
* Dependency on User Email

**PAPER: 03**  
**Paper Title:** Three-Level Password Authentication [3]  
**Authors:** Shitole et al.  
**Summary:** The research suggests three-level authentication for security. It introduces security and multi-level authentication. Text-based password, pattern-lock, and one-time numeric password are described. Validation is required for each level. The text-based password is the first authentication layer, while pattern-lock adds another. Lastly, a one-time numeric password is established to further security. The system architecture and future scope are explored.  
**Strengths:**

* Multi-Layered Security
* Varied Authentication Methods
* Incremental Complexity
* Innovative Approach

**Weaknesses:**

* Usability Concerns
* Dependency on Mobile Number
* Limited Description
* No Evaluation

**PAPER: 04**  
**Paper Title:** User Authentication: A Three-Level Password Authentication Mechanism [4]  
**Authors:** Gouri Sankar Mishra et al.  
**Summary:** The study introduces a three-level password authentication system for user access. The suggested system uses text-based passwords, bot attack recognition, and color-code detection to improve security. The three verification stages increase complexity, making system breaches harder. Experimental findings reveal 98.39% accuracy, proving the system's efficacy. This method is more secure than standard authentication, according to the report.  
**Strengths:**

* Multilayer Security
* Bot Attack Prevention
* Dynamic Verification
* Experimental Results

**Weaknesses:**

* Complexity
* User Experience
* High Time Complexity
* Dependency on User Memory

**PAPER: 05**  
**Paper Title:** Three-Level Security System using Image-Based Authentication [5]  
**Authors:** M. Aparna, S. Gopalakrishnan, C. M. Anjusree  
**Summary:** Image-based authentication is employed in the paper's three-level security. Writing a password, then image-based authentication, then OTP. The grid-based authentication uses visuals. Users select three grid photographs and the system stores their positions. Logging into the same grid requires the same three photographs in the same places. The system delivers OTP to the phone. The OTP is needed to log in. The research claims that three-level security is better than text-based passwords. Users may choose their own photographs for image-based verification, making it easier. The study addresses system flaws including slowness and annoyance.  
**Strengths:**

* Traditional text-based password methods are less safe
* Easier for people to use
* Image-based verification lets users choose their own pictures

**Weaknesses:**

* Users may find it slow and annoying
* The image-based verification can be vulnerable to shoulder surfing attacks

**PAPER: 06**  
**Paper Title:** Three-Level Password Authentication [6]  
**Author:** Mughele Ese Sophia  
**Summary:** The article discusses information systems security authentication and suggests a three-level password approach. A textual password, pattern lock, and biometrics (retinal recognition) safeguard computer resources. The article states that no authentication method is completely safe. The proposed three-level authentication system uses many mechanisms. First, a static password, then a pattern lock, then retinal recognition biometric verification. The user can access the system after all authentications.  
**Strengths:**

* Enhanced Security
* Biometric Authentication
* User-Friendly

**Weaknesses:**

* Complexity
* Biometric Challenges
* Risk of False Rejection
* Scalability

**PAPER: 07**  
**Paper Title:** Novel Approach towards Authentication using Multi-Level Password System [7]  
**Author:** Bijoy Chhetri  
**Summary:** The three-level password authentication mechanism described in this article is intended to improve folder security on Windows-based computers. As means of authentication, the system uses text passwords, color combinations, and picture-based passwords. AES encryption is used to secure the text password, while special masking and segmentation techniques are used for color combinations and image-based passwords. The suggested solution is ideal for protecting sensitive data since it seeks to prohibit unauthorized access to folders.  
**Strengths:**

* Multi-Level Security
* Varied Authentication Methods
* AES Encryption
* User-Friendly  
  **Weaknesses:**
* Limited Multi-User Support
* Complexity
* Forgotten Passwords
* Scalability

**PAPER: 08**  
**Paper Title:** Multi-level Authentication Technique for Accessing Cloud Services [8]  
**Authors:** H. A. Dinesha and V. K. Agrawal  
**Summary:** The paper "Multi-level Authentication Technique for Accessing Cloud Services" recommends three-level authentication. The user initially authenticates with the cloud service provider using a username and password. Device authentication, the second level of authentication, verifies the user and their cloud service device. The third level of authentication, application authentication, authenticates the user's attempt to access the program. The authors argue that multi-level authentication is more secure than single-factor authentication for cloud services.  
**Strengths:**

* Compared to conventional single-factor authentication techniques, the multi-level authentication method is more secure
* The method may be applied to a sizable number of users and apps and is scalable
* The method is effective and does not significantly increase infrastructure costs for cloud computing  
  **Weaknesses:**
* Compared to conventional single-factor authentication techniques, the methodology may be more difficult to deploy and administer
* Not all applications, such as those that demand low-latency access, may be appropriate for the method

**PAPER: 09**  
**Paper Title:** A Graphical Password Authentication System [9]  
**Author:** A. Almulhem  
**Summary:** The paper suggests a graphical password security system that is safer and easier to use than standard text-based systems. Registration and verification are the two parts of the method. During the registration part, the user chooses a group of pictures and puts them in a certain order. The user's pictorial password is this set of pictures. During the authentication process, the user is shown the same set of pictures and asked to put them in the same order as their graphical password.  
**Strengths:**

* Graphics passwords are harder to guess and break than text passwords, making them secure
* This approach is easier to use than text password security systems since users remember graphical passwords better  
  **Weaknesses:**
* It can be harder to set up than standard systems that use written passwords
* When there are a lot of people, scaling can be harder

**PAPER: 10**  
**Paper Title:** 3-Level Password Authentication System [10]  
**Author:** Lalu Varghese et al.  
**Summary:** The paper describes a new 3-Level Password registration System, which is meant to make user registration more secure. It uses three different kinds

**PAPER: 11**

**Paper Title:** "Graphical Password" [11]  
**Author:** Suvarana Pansambal (Shirke) and et al

**Summary:** This paper introduces a graphical password system where the user clicks on images during registration. A text password, generated based on the RGB values of the chosen image click points, is emailed to the user. This password must be entered to log in, providing an additional layer of security through a cued click point mechanism.

**Strengths:**

* The text password is highly secure.
* The system generates RGB values when the images are clicked.

**Weaknesses:**

* An email ID is mandatory to receive the RGB values.

**PAPER: 12**

**Paper Title:** "Graphical Password Authentication" [12]  
**Author:** Sruthi P V

**Summary:** In this graphical password authentication system, the user selects points on images during registration. A dynamic string or phrase is emailed to the user, and on the next page, the user must click on the image that matches the received string or phrase.

**Strengths:**

* The system emails a string or phrase associated with the images, helping users remember the order.

**Weaknesses:**

* An email is compulsory for the authentication process.

**PAPER: 13**

**Paper Title:** "Graphical Password" [13]  
**Author:** Jansen

**Summary:** This paper discusses a graphical password approach where users select a theme and then choose images in a specific order to set a password. The system allows this on both PCs and mobile devices. The selection of thumbnail-sized images creates a numerical password, but the password space is limited to 30 images.

**Strengths:**

* The system works on both PCs and mobile devices.
* Users set a password by selecting images in a particular sequence.

**Weaknesses:**

* Users must recognize and select images in the correct order during authentication.
* The password space is limited due to the restriction of 30 images.

**PAPER: 14**

**Paper Title:** "Graphical Password Authentication" [14]  
**Author:** Sonia Chiasson et al.

**Summary:** The "Persuasive Cued Click-Points system" reduces hotspots while maintaining usability by displaying images one at a time. Users no longer need to remember the order of click points as each image is presented sequentially, with each click point leading to the next image.

**Strengths:**

* Reduces the number of hotspots.
* Users don’t need to remember the order of click points.

**Weaknesses:**

* Users may need to learn more about the system to use it effectively.

**PAPER: 15**

**Paper Title:** "Cued Click As An Authentication Mechanism For An Application" [15]  
**Author:** Ansari Ahmed et al.

**Summary:** This paper presents a system where users select images from server-side storage or their PC during registration. The system includes bogus points and password fields to protect its integrity. For authentication, users must enter click points in the same sequence as they did during registration.

**Strengths:**

* Protects system integrity through the use of bogus points and password fields.

**Weaknesses:**

* Users cannot log in without entering the correct click points.

**PAPER: 16**

**Paper Title:** "A Novel Cued Click Based Graphical Password Authentication Scheme" [16]  
**Author:** Tara H R et al.

**Summary:** This paper focuses on a graphical password system where users select images and their click locations during password generation. During authentication, the system decides the first image, and users must input the correct click point on each subsequent image as they are presented sequentially.

**Strengths:**

* The system decides the first image during authentication.

**Weaknesses:**

* Images must be displayed one after another, limiting flexibility.

**PAPER: 17**

**Paper Title:** "Adding Persuasive Features in Graphical Password to Increase the Capacity of KBAM" [17]  
**Authors:** Uma D. Yadav and Prakash S. Mohod

**Summary:** This paper discusses enhancements to existing graphical password schemes by introducing new features like modules that provide tolerance and set a unique seed value. These improvements aim to enhance the current system.

**Strengths:**

* The introduction of modules improves the graphical password system.

**Weaknesses:**

* The focus is on adding features to existing schemes rather than developing new ones.

**PAPER: 18**

**Paper Title:** "Analysis of Knowledge-Based Authentication System Using Persuasive Cued Click Points" [18]  
**Authors:** Atish Nayak and Rajesh Bansode

**Summary:** This paper provides a comprehensive assessment of the Persuasive Cued Click Points graphical password system, examining its usability and security. It employs persuasion to encourage users to select more random and difficult-to-guess click points.

**Strengths:**

* Persuasive techniques are used to motivate users to choose more secure click points.

**Weaknesses:**

* The need to select random click points makes them more difficult to guess but also more challenging for users.

**PAPER: 19**

**Paper Title:** "Enhancements in Graphical Password Systems through Modular Integration" [19]  
**Authors:** Uma D. Yadav and Prakash S. Mohod

**Summary:** This paper aims to enhance existing graphical password systems by incorporating modular concepts. The initial module focuses on setting a unique seed value, while the second addresses tolerance, ultimately augmenting the functionality of existing systems.

**Strengths:**

* The introduction of modular concepts enhances the system.

**Weaknesses:**

* The paper primarily focuses on augmenting existing schemes rather than introducing entirely new systems.

**PAPER: 20**

**Paper Title:** "Evaluation of Persuasive Cued Click Points Graphical Password System" [20]  
**Authors:** Atish Nayak and Rajesh Bansode

**Summary:** This paper evaluates the Persuasive Cued Click Points graphical password system in terms of usability and security across three levels. Persuasive techniques are used to encourage users to choose more random and challenging click points.

**Strengths:**

* The use of persuasive techniques to influence user choices is a key strength.

**Weaknesses:**

* The need to select more random and challenging click points can be seen as a limitation.

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