Week 5 assignment

Task 1.

Greetings, we would like to invite you to do the following user study, to test how well the interface below teaches people how to create strong passwords!

https://cups.cs.cmu.edu/meter/

let’s do a pretest first:

1. Please write down your idea about the attributes of a good password:
2. Please classify following passwords from very weak, weak … strong, very strong, then explaining your reasoning:
3. secret
4. S3cr3ts3cr3ts3cr3t
5. qwertyuiop
6. 1234567
7. seecurrityfraterrrni382ty
8. Please explore the “Password Meter “trying out the above passwords
9. Please try 2 more passwords that you think may be good.
10. Here is a copy of your answer to the pre-test, please do the following instructions:

• make bold the ones you still consider correct

• italicise aspects you now consider were incorrect – adding notes on the reasons for this

• then list anything new you learnt

• list anything you disagree with about the interface

• add any other comments about what you liked or disliked about the interface.

Task 2.

1. Please write down your idea about the attributes of a good password:

In my opinion, a good password should have as many different kinds of characters ( letters, numbers, symbols, etc) and as long as possible.

Also, their combination should not be in a predictable pattern. That means, there shouldn’t be exact word in the password, and the number shouldn’t be easy to guess.

Time: 2:40

I found this task fairly interesting as I can show my knowledge on it.

1. Please classify following passwords from very weak, weak … strong, very strong, then explaining your reasoning:
2. secret : very weak, as the length is short, there’s only letter, and it’s a word that’s very predictable.
3. S3cr3ts3cr3ts3cr3t : strong, as the length is long, and there’s a mix of capital letter, normal letter, and number. Although there’s still an easy pattern to guess, as its just one word repeated 3 times.
4. qwertyuiop : very weak. The length is short, only letter inside, and its predictable as its first row of letters on keyboard.
5. 1234567 : very weak, its just first 7 numbers.
6. seecurrityfraterrrni382ty : very strong, the length is very long, have a mix between letters and numbers, and there’s no easy pattern to recognise.

Time: 4:20

This one is ok. I love explaining these things, but not writing stuff.

1. Please explore the “Password Meter “trying out the above passwords

Secret: not a valid password

S3cr3ts3cr3ts3cr3t: strong

qwertyuiop: too common

1234567: not valid.

seecurrityfraterrrni382ty: very strong.

Time: 3:10

That one is good, I like seeing how my suggestions get approved.

1. Please try 2 more passwords that you think may be good.

Tried: 1. cykablyatidinahui

2. buyp90rushbnostop

Time: 1:10

Quite fun, I like trying these funny stuff.

1. Here is a copy of your answer to the pre-test, please do the following instructions:

• make bold the ones you still consider correct

• italicise aspects you now consider were incorrect – adding notes on the reasons for this

• then list anything new you learnt

• list anything you disagree with about the interface

• add any other comments about what you liked or disliked about the interface.

1. **secret** : very weak, as the length is short, there’s only letter, and it’s a word that’s very predictable.
2. **S3cr3ts3cr3ts3cr3t** : strong, as the length is long, and there’s a mix of capital letter, normal letter, and number. Although there’s still an easy pattern to guess, as its just one word repeated 3 times.
3. **qwertyuiop** : very weak. The length is short, only letter inside, and its predictable as its first row of letters on keyboard.
4. **1234567** : very weak, its just first 7 numbers.
5. **seecurrityfraterrrni382ty** : very strong, the length is very long, have a mix between letters and numbers, and there’s no easy pattern to recognise.

New things learnt: the capital letters and symbols should be mixed into the middle of password to maximise their effect.

Disagreement: none.

The interface: I like the interface pretty much, the layout is simple and clear, and the instructions it gives is easy to understand.

One of the improvements I can give is, there can be a check box, to show what attributes of a strong password the user have achieved, and what they don’t.

Time: 5:50.

I don’t like this one, I’m neither interested in nor being good at giving advices, and it cost too much time.

Generally, my mental model is a student who is fond of trying new stuff, being happy to learn new things, but lazy and not fond of doing works.

Task 3:summary

The document was designed straight forward, although some of the instructions was a bit vague( like the part 3. And 4. ) I would like to change the language to make the meanings more clear.

My observation about my own response: I was a bit impatient about the advice given from the website, although I still read most of them. besides this, I was comfort with the website.

I would recommend less writing requirements for users to do, as generally people don’t like writing too much stuff.