



# SANAM GHORBANI LYASTANI

"I am a UX/Usable security researcher and Ph.D. candidate at the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security with 6+ years experience. My research focuses on improving the usability of user authentication through innovative human- and data-centered study designs. In my work, I employed a vast array of qualitative and quantitative research methods for HCI, including surveys, lab studies, participatory design, cognitive walkthrough, think aloud, interviews, and mixed methods."

## Education

Since 09/2016

**Ph.D. candidate at CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security**, Department of Computer Science, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany (Graduation expected 09/2023)

04/2015 – 09/2016

**Preparatory phase for graduate school**, Department of Computer Science, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

05/2014 – 07/2014

**Internship student** at Center for Information Security, Privacy and Accountability (CISPA), Saarbrücken, Germany

02/2012 – 09/2013

**Master of Computer Science (Information Security)**, UTM University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11/2006 – 10/2010

**Bachelor of Information Technology (Information System Engineering)**, MMU University, Cyberjaya, Malaysia

## Research Projects

*Studying the Impact of Managers on Password Strength and Reuse*

Designed and conducted the **first large-scale online study** with 476 participants about password managers' influence on users' real-life passwords using a **novel browser-plugin** to monitor user behavior and conduct in-situ surveys.

Used a combination of both quantitative and qualitative approaches (regression models).

*Comparative Usability Study of Passwordless Authentication*

Designed and conducted the **first lab study of FIDO2 passwordless authentication** to collect insights about end-users' perception, acceptance, and concerns about this technology.


Lab study with 94 participants using **explainer videos and mock-up websites** for hand-on tasks.

Used a combination of both quantitative and qualitative approaches (open/axial coding, regression models).


*Systematic Study of the Consistency of Two-Factor Authentication User Journeys*

Conducted the first systematic study of the external, functional **consistency of two-factor authentication user journeys** on 84 top-ranked websites.

Used inductive research methods to find comparison factors: open and axial coding from grounded theory on screen-recorded user journeys.

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## CERTIFICATES (Coursera)

Introduction to user experience principles and processes (University of Michigan)

Foundations of user experience (UX) design (Google)

Data Analysis with R Programming (Google)

## SKILLS

Grounded theory, Human-centered usability studies and testing, UX research, Qualitative and quantitative research methods, Data analysis.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming: C++, R

Misc: Latex

## LANGUAGES

Farsi ● ● ● ● ●  
English ● ● ● ● ○  
German ● ● ○ ○ ○