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CS 24: CS Scholars

Human Centered Computer Security

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The seminar that I went to was about the human factor of computer security in modern society. It focused on the issues that humans have now that there is essentially a new field of danger that exists because of the onset of the Internet and robots. One point that she made that I found particularly interesting was how she connected security to computer science in terms of the tradeoff process that both fields go through. Although I had already known that security and computer technology are deeply connected, I had not realized that developing proper security systems involves a tradeoff between human assets and security costs. Human assets being things like their property, children, and personal belongings.

Another insight that she talked about was security risk that exists in the technology in the health field. Such as security risks in things such as heart monitors, internal body balancing chips/devices, and health information. There is apparently a huge issue with security in these health systems because hackers could access health or patient information from these medical devices. So she talked about the pros and cons with various methods of security that they tried utilizing, such as things like UV tattoos or a failsafe medical bracelet.

One oversight that the presenter didn’t really address was how one would sustain security within the system itself. She talked about the vulnerabilities that security systems these days have when attacked from the outside, but did not really talk about how one could defend against an attack that was done from within. Like what if someone wanted to hack “him or herself”. When thinking about security, I feel like one should not only assume that an attack is only going to come externally. One should consider all the possibilities and defend against such, no matter how trivial or ridiculous the scenario, such as hacking oneself.

There were not really any concepts that were particularly confusing during her seminar. The seminar was a general overview of the security risks that exist within modern society. It covered the basic risks and costs of security in terms of its effects on human beings. The only topic that may have been somewhat confusing was her descriptions of the various vulnerable devices in the health field. Some of the medical terminology she used were things I have never heard of before and thus lead to less comprehension of evident security risks.