

CSE 484 / CSE M 584  
Computer Security:  
So what?

TA: Jared Moore  
jlcmoore@cs

# Logistics

- Hw #3 Friday
- Final projects due next Wednesday (12/13)
- Today:
  - Hw 3 questions
  - Final project questions
  - Course Evaluations
  - Debrief on security

# HW3

- Questions?

# Final Project

- Questions?

# **BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF PAPERS**

# Readings for today

[1] C. Herley, [“So long, and no thanks for the externalities: the rational rejection of security advice by users,”](#) in *Proceedings of the 2009 workshop on New security paradigms workshop*, 2009, pp. 133–144.

[2] J. Mickens, [“This World of Ours,”](#) ;login: *The USENIX Magazine*, Jan-2014.

“users’ rejection of the security advice they receive is entirely rational from an economic perspective. The **advice** offers to shield them from the direct costs of attacks, but **burdens them with far greater indirect costs in the form of effort.**” [1]

“Since victimization is rare, and imposes a one-time cost, while security advice applies to everyone and is an ongoing cost, the burden ends up being larger than that caused by the ill it addresses.” [1]

“Thus **the cost of any security advice should be in proportion to the victimization rate.**” [1]

“It is well-known that five-way secret sharing has been illegal since the Protestant Reformation [Luther1517]. However, using recent advances in polynomial-time Bojangle projections, we demonstrate how a set of peers who are frenemies can exchange up to five snide remarks that are robust to Bojangle-chosen plaintext attacks.” [2]



“The “threat model” section of a security paper resembles the script for a telenovela that was written by a paranoid schizophrenic ... In the real world, threat models are much simpler (see Figure 1). Basically, you’re either dealing with Mossad or not-Mossad.” [2]

<b>Threat</b>	Ex-girlfriend/boyfriend breaking into your email account and publicly releasing your correspondence with the My Little Pony fan club	Organized criminals breaking into your email account and sending spam using your identity	The Mossad doing Mossad things with your email account
<b>Solution</b>	Strong passwords	Strong passwords + common sense (don’t click on unsolicited herbal Viagra ads that result in keyloggers and sorrow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Magical amulets?</li> <li>◆ Fake your own death, move into a submarine?</li> <li>◆ YOU’RE STILL GONNA BE MOSSAD’ED UPON</li> </ul>

Figure 1: Threat models

For the next three or so minutes, discuss with your neighbors the content of the articles we read. If none of you read the articles, find get in a group with someone that did!

- What questions did you have?
- What, if anything, did you think was left out?

# Address one of these questions

- How does security research advance?
  - Is it pointless?
- When are research subjects interesting as opposed to relevant or vital?
- At what point do we consider privacy a right that should be protected?
  - On whom does the obligation to secure data lie?

**“the cost of any security advice should be in proportion to the victimization rate.” [1]**

Divide up into groups based on whether you agree, disagree, or claim no contest to the above statement. In your groups, spend about five minutes coming up with arguments and evidence to back up your position. Each group will then attempt to convince the class of their position.

# Course Evaluations

- AA
  - <https://uw.iasystem.org/survey/184524>
  - <https://tinyurl.com/uw484aa>
- AB
  - <https://uw.iasystem.org/survey/184533>
  - <https://tinyurl.com/uw484ab>