What is usability?

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Roadmap

- What is usability?
 - Properties of usability
 - How do usability mix with security?
- Why is usable security and privacy hard?

A definition of usability

The extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use

- ISO 9241

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- Satisfaction: Do users like parts of the system?

How to measure usability?

- System usability scale (SUS)
 - 10 multiple choice questions
 - Options are 5-point scale for each questions
 - From strongly agree to strongly disagree
 - <u>https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/methods/system-usability-scale.html</u>

Questions

- 1. think that I would like to use this system frequently.
- 2. I found the system unnecessarily complex.
- 3. I thought the system was easy to use.
- 4. I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this system.
- 5. I found the various functions in this system were well integrated.
- 6. I thought there was too much inconsistency in this system.
- 7. I would imagine that most people would learn to use this system very quickly.
- 8. I found the system very cumbersome to use.
- 9. I felt very confident using the system.
- 10. I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this system.

Usable Security and Privacy

• We need to consider security / privacy and usability together

- Need to take an interdisciplinary approach
 - Security + network analytics + HCI + ...

Why is usable security different than HCI?

- We NEED to consider a threat model
 - Generally no threat model in HCI
- Usability is not enough, we also need security
 - Adversary will (try to) fool users
 - Users will behave predictably
 - Users will act under stress and make mistakes
 - Users will be careless, unmotivated, busy

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System design/measurement	User studies	System design/measurement + User studies

Putting together Security and Usability: Passwords Example

Security	Usability	Usable Security
# all possible passwords?		
How to make the password space larger (introducing new password creation rules) to make the password harder to guess?		
Can an attacker guess the password for given set of creation rules by observing users to type in the password?		

Putting together Security and Usability: Passwords Example

Security	Usability	Usable Security
# all possible passwords?	How difficult is it for a human to create,	
How to make the password space larger (introducing	remember, and enter a password in your	
new password creation rules) to make the password harder to guess?	interface? How long does it take?	
	How hard is it for users to learn the system?	
Can an attacker guess the password for given set of		
creation rules by observing users to type in the password?	Does the system support users with disabilities? E.g., blind users?	

Putting together Security and Usability: Passwords Example

Security	Usability	Usable Security
# all possible passwords?	How difficult is it for a human to create,	All the security + usability questions
How to make the password	remember, and enter a	
space larger (introducing	password in your	How do users select their
new password creation	interface? How long does it	passwords? How can we
rules) to make the	take?	help them choose
password harder to guess?		passwords which are less
		guessable by attackers?
	How hard is it for users to	
	learn the system?	
Can an attacker guess the		As we add more and more
password for given set of		password creation rules,
creation rules by observing	Does the system support	what are the impacts on
users to type in the	users with disabilities? E.g.,	usability properties of the
password?	blind users?	system and predictability in
		the choice of passwords?

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- Technology change: Users are often not familiar with changing technologies and attacks.