

# 19. Authentication and Access Control Part 1



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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

# Who Am I?

- David Cash
  - Distinguished cryptographer
  - Fan of rare plants
  - All-around good guy

Or Am I?

How (and why) do we  
authenticate users?

# Authentication Abstractly

- Verify that **people** or **things** (e.g., a server) are who they claim to be
- Authentication  $\neq$  Authorization  $\neq$  Access Control
  - *Authorization* is deciding whether an entity should have access to a given resource
  - *Access control* lists / policies
- **Principal**: legitimate owner of an identity
- **Claimant**: entity trying to be authenticated

# Authentication Use Cases

- Explicit authentication
  - Single-factor authentication
  - Multi-factor authentication (e.g., with Duo)
- Implicit authentication
  - Continuous authentication
- Risk-based authentication: vary auth requirements based on estimated risk

# How We Authenticate (1/3)

- Something you know
  - Password
  - PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Something you have
  - Private key (of a public-private key pair)
  - Hardware device (often with a key/seed)
  - Phone (running particular software)
  - Token (e.g., hex string stored in a cookie)

# How We Authenticate (2/3)

- Something you are
  - Biometrics (e.g., iris or fingerprint)
- Somewhere you are
  - Location-limited channels
  - IP address



# How We Authenticate (3/3)

- Someone you know (social authentication)
  - Someone vouches for you
  - You can identify people you should know
- Some system vouches for you
  - Single sign-on (e.g., UChicago shib)
  - PKI Certificate Authorities



# Why Are Passwords So Prevalent?

- Easy to use
- Easy to deploy
- Nothing to carry
- No “silver-bullet” alternative

# Why Are Passwords So Prevalent?

<i>Memorywise-Effortless</i>	Usability
<i>Scalable-for-Users</i>	
<i>Nothing-to-Carry</i>	
<i>Physically-Effortless</i>	
<i>Easy-to-Learn</i>	
<i>Efficient-to-Use</i>	
<i>Infrequent-Errors</i>	
<i>Easy-Recovery-from-Loss</i>	
<i>Accessible</i>	Deployability
<i>Negligible-Cost-per-User</i>	
<i>Server-Compatible</i>	
<i>Browser-Compatible</i>	
<i>Mature</i>	
<i>Non-Proprietary</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Physical-Observation</i>	Security
<i>Resilient-to-Targeted-Impersonation</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Throttled-Guessing</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Unthrottled-Guessing</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Internal-Observation</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Leaks-from-Other-Verifiers</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Phishing</i>	
<i>Resilient-to-Theft</i>	
<i>No-Trusted-Third-Party</i>	
<i>Requiring-Explicit-Consent</i>	
<i>Unlinkable</i>	

Bonneau et al. "The Quest to Replace Passwords: A Framework for Comparative Evaluation of Web Authentication Schemes," In *Proc. IEEE S&P*, 2012

# Why Are Passwords So Prevalent?

Category	Scheme	Described in section	Reference	Usability							Deployability						Security										
				<i>Memorywise-Effortless</i>	<i>Scalable-for-Users</i>	<i>Nothing-to-Carry</i>	<i>Physically-Effortless</i>	<i>Easy-to-Learn</i>	<i>Efficient-to-Use</i>	<i>Infrequent-Errors</i>	<i>Easy-Recovery-from-Loss</i>	<i>Accessible</i>	<i>Negligible-Cost-per-User</i>	<i>Server-Compatible</i>	<i>Browser-Compatible</i>	<i>Mature</i>	<i>Non-Proprietary</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Physical-Observation</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Targeted-Impersonation</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Throttled-Guessing</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Unthrottled-Guessing</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Internal-Observation</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Leaks-from-Other-Verifiers</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Phishing</i>	<i>Resilient-to-Theft</i>	<i>No-Trusted-Third-Party</i>	<i>Requiring-Explicit-Consent</i>
(Incumbent)	Web passwords	III	[13]	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○							●	●	●	●	
Password managers	Firefox	IV-A	[22]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○						●	●	●	●	
	LastPass		[42]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				○	●	●	●	●
Proxy	URRSA	IV-B	[5]	●	■	■	●	■	○	■	■	●	●	●	●	○						○	●	●	●	●	
	Impostor		[23]	○	●	●	●	■	■	●	■	■	●	●	●	○	○	○					○	●	●	●	●
Federated	OpenID	IV-C	[27]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				●	●	●	●	
	Microsoft Passport		[43]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				●	●	●	●	
	Facebook Connect		[44]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				●	●	●	●	
	BrowserID		[45]	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				●	●	●	●	
	OTP over email		[46]	○	●	●	●	■	■	●	■	■	●	●	●	○	○	○	○				○	●	●	●	●
Graphical	PCCP	IV-D	[7]		●	●	○	○	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	○					●	○	●	●	●	
	PassGo		[47]		●	●	○	○	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	○					●	○	●	●	●
Cognitive	GrIDsure (original)	IV-E	[30]		●	●	○	○	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	○					○	●	●	●	●	
	Weinshall		[48]		●	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	○						○	●	●	●	●
	Hopper Blum		[49]		●	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	○						○	●	●	●	●
	Word Association		[50]		●	■	○	○	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	○						○	●	●	●	●
Paper tokens	OTPW	IV-F	[33]		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	S/KEY		[32]	●	■	■	■	○	●	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

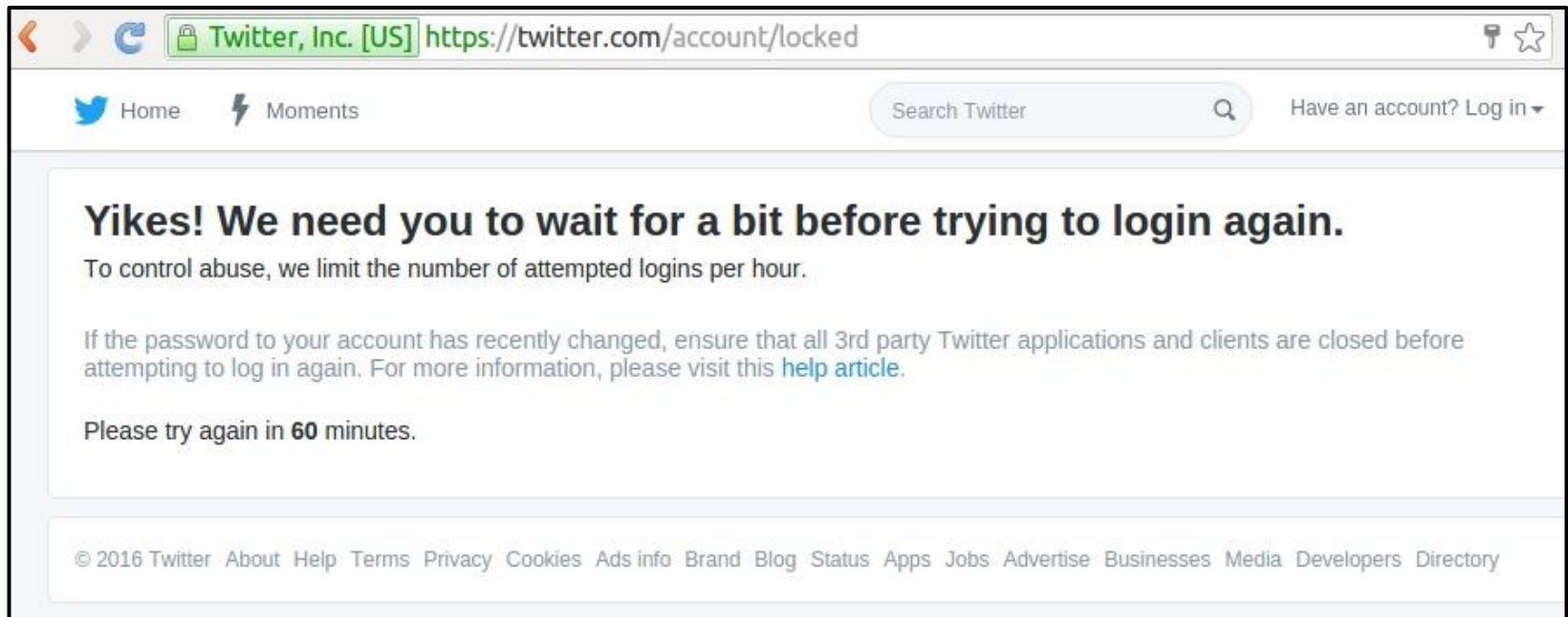
Bonneau et al. "The Quest to Replace Passwords: A Framework for Comparative Evaluation of Web Authentication Schemes," In *Proc. IEEE S&P*, 2012

# Attacks Against Passwords

- Online attack
  - Try passwords on a live system
  - Usually rate-limited

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- Offline attack
  - Try to guess passwords from the password store / password database



# Some Breached Companies

LinkedIn



Adobe

SONY



GAWKER

000webhost.com  
better than paid hosting

YAHOO!

STRATFOR  
GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE

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- Offline attack
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- Offline attack
  - Try to guess passwords from the password store / password database
- Phishing attack
- Shoulder surfing
- Attack password-protected file / device




# Storing Passwords

- Hash function: one-way function
  - Traditionally designed for efficiency (e.g., MD5)
  - Password-specific hash functions (e.g., bcrypt, scrypt, PBKDF2)

# Storing Passwords

- Salt: random string assigned per-user
  - Combine the password with the salt, then hash it
  - Stored alongside the hashed password
  - Prevents the use of rainbow tables
- Both **hash** and **salt** passwords

# Data-Driven Statistical Attacks








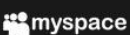


- (2009) 32 million passwords: 
- (2016) 117 million passwords: 
- (2017) 3 billion passwords: 
- Total: >10 billion passwords stolen from >500 services

# Have I Been Pwned (HIBP)


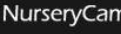








https://haveibeenpwned.com

511	10,599,375,985	113,991	199,574,641
pwned websites	pwned accounts	pastes	paste accounts

### Largest breaches

	772,904,991	<a href="#">Collection #1 accounts</a>
	763,117,241	<a href="#">Verifications.io accounts</a>
	711,477,622	<a href="#">Onliner Spambot accounts</a>
	622,161,052	<a href="#">Data Enrichment Exposure From PDL Customer accounts</a>
	593,427,119	<a href="#">Exploit.In accounts</a>
	457,962,538	<a href="#">Anti Public Combo List accounts</a>
	393,430,309	<a href="#">River City Media Spam List accounts</a>
	359,420,698	<a href="#">MySpace accounts</a>
	268,765,495	<a href="#">Wattpad accounts</a>
	234,842,089	<a href="#">NetEase accounts</a>

### Recently added breaches

	645,786	<a href="#">Filmai.in accounts</a>
	10,585	<a href="#">NurseryCam accounts</a>
	358,822	<a href="#">People's Energy accounts</a>
	1,436,435	<a href="#">NetGalley accounts</a>
	110,156	<a href="#">CityBee accounts</a>
	2,481,121	<a href="#">Ge.tt accounts</a>
	1,047,200	<a href="#">StoryBird accounts</a>
	1,906,808	<a href="#">Pixlr accounts</a>
	1,422,717	<a href="#">MeetMindful accounts</a>
	2,811,929	<a href="#">Bonobos accounts</a>



# Offline Attack

- Attacker compromises database


- hash(“Blase”) =

- `$2a$04$iHdEgkI681VdDMc3f7edau9phRwORvhYjqWAIb7hb4B5uFJO1g4zi`

- Attacker makes and hashes guesses
- Finds match → try on other sites
  - Password **reuse** is a core problem

# Understanding Users' Password Behaviors

# Some Ways to Understand Users

- Retrospective analysis of user-created passwords The logo for 'rockyou' is displayed in a stylized font. 'rock' is in blue and 'you' is in grey.
- Large-scale online studies
- Examine real passwords
- Qualitative studies