

11. Authentication Part 3 & Access Control



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February 4th, 2022
CMSC 23200 / 33250



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

User-Centered Security

Some Ways to Understand Users

- Retrospective analysis of user-created password breaches
- Large-scale online studies
- Examine real passwords with permission
- Qualitative studies

How Do We Help Users
Make Better Passwords?

Problem 1: Bad Advice

Carnegie Mellon University

Password Requirements

Must Contain

- At least 8-characters.
- At least one uppercase alphabetic character (e.g., A-Z).
- At least one lowercase alphabetic character (e.g., a-z).
- At least one number (e.g., 0-9).
- At least one special character (e.g., [~!@#\$%^&*()?<>./_-=]).

Cannot Contain

- Known information (i.e., first name, last name, Andrew userID, date of birth, 9-digit Carnegie Mellon ID number, SSN, job title).
- Four or more occurrences of the same character (e.g., aaaa, 2222, a123a345a678a).*
- A word that is found in a standard **dictionary**.*
(after removing non-alpha characters).

**This requirement does not apply to Andrew account passwords that are more than 19 characters in length (e.g., passphrase).*

Additional Policies

- Last five passwords cannot be used.
- Cannot be changed more than four times in a day.

Problem 2: Inaccurate Feedback



Password1!



Problem 3: Unhelpful Feedback

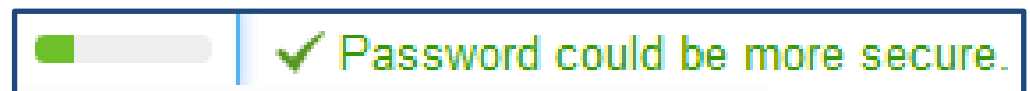
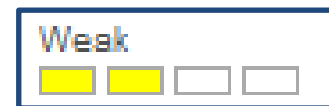
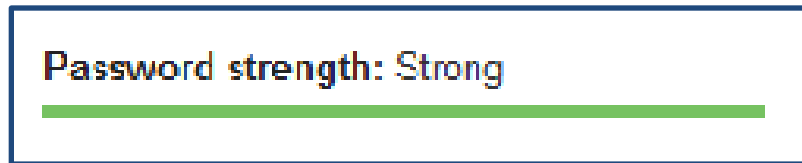
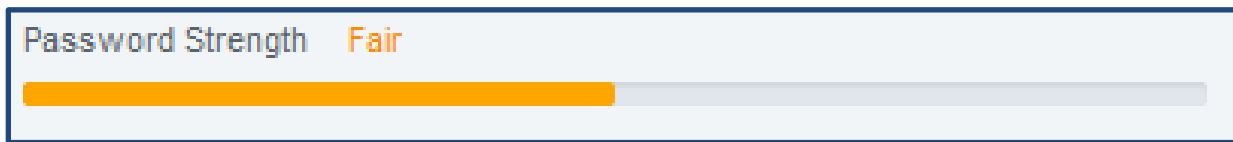
A password input field with a light blue border and a grey clear button on the right. The password is obscured by seven black dots.

✘ Please enter a stronger password.

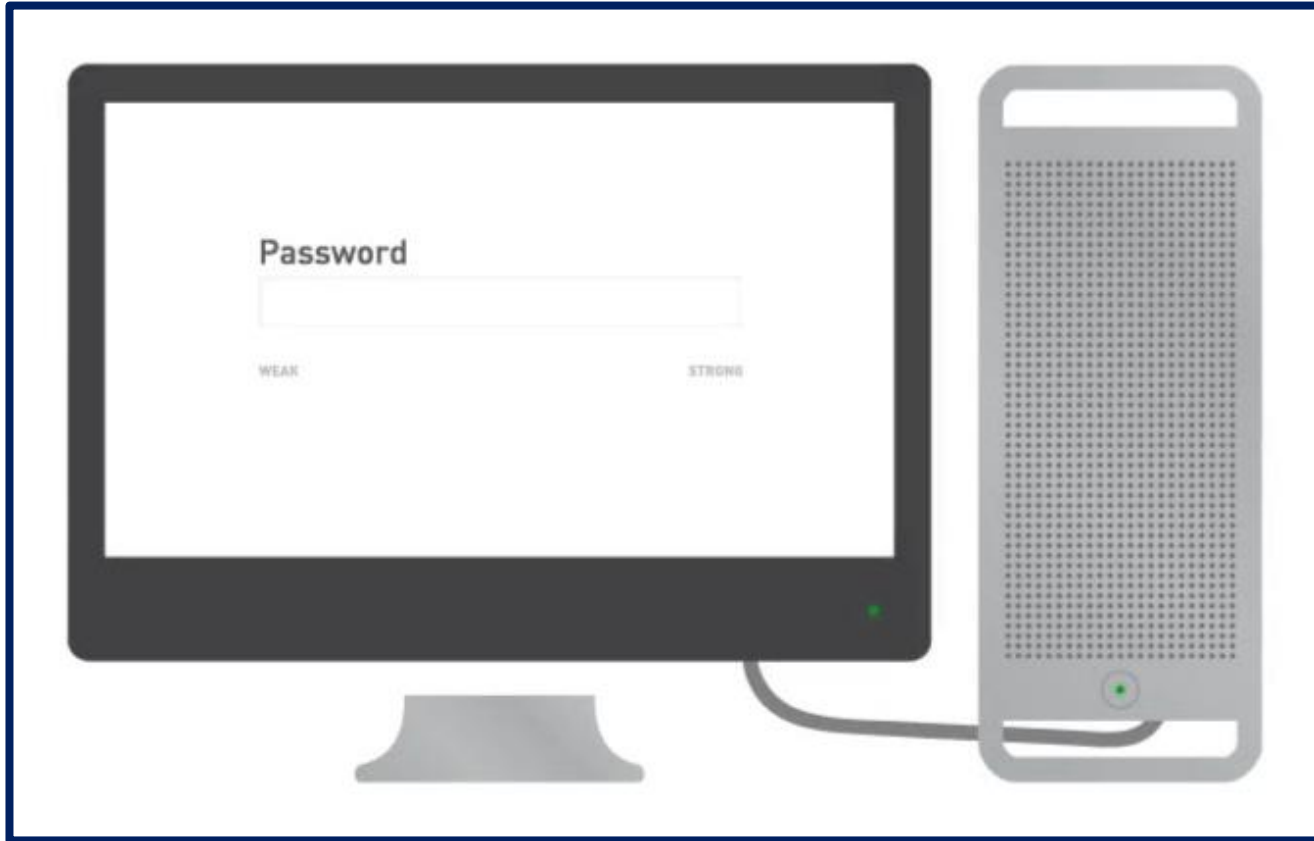
✘ Please enter a stronger password.

Proactive Strength Checking

- Initial idea: provide feedback
- In practice: complexities regarding what to model, and how to do so efficiently



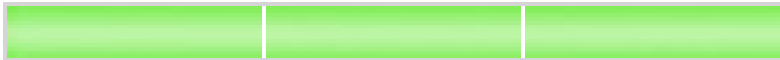
Meters' Security & Usability Impact



Blase Ur, Patrick Gage Kelley, Saranga Komanduri, Joel Lee, Michael Maass, Michelle Mazurek, Timothy Passaro, Richard Shay, Timothy Vidas, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor. How Does Your Password Measure Up? The Effect of Strength Meters on Password Creation. In *Proc. USENIX Security Symposium*, 2012.

Meters Are Ubiquitous

Brilliant



Bad



Password Strength Fair



Password strength: Strong



Weak



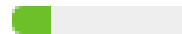
Strong



Weak



✓ Password could be more secure.



Test Meters' Impact

- How do meters impact password security?
- How do meters impact usability?
 - Memorability
 - User sentiment
 - Timing
- What meter features matter?
- 2,931-participant online study

Baseline Password Meter



LiveMail

Create a password

Account Password

A strong password helps prevent unauthorized access to your email account.

Type new password:

8-character minimum; case sensitive

Password strength: **Bad.** Consider adding an uppercase letter or making your password longer.



Retype new password:

Make my password expire every 72 days.

Save

Visual Differences

Type new password:

8-character minimum; case sensitive

Baseline meter

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Three-segment

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Green

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Tiny

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Huge

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



No suggestions

Fair.



Text-only

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.

Visual Differences

Type new password:

8-character minimum; case sensitive

Baseline meter

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Three-segment

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Green

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Tiny

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Huge

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



No suggestions

Fair.



Text-only

Fair. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



Scoring Differences

Type new password:

8-character minimum; case sensitive

Baseline meter

Excellent!



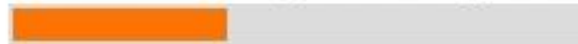
Half-score

Poor. Consider adding a different symbol or making your password longer.



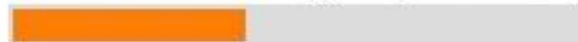
One-third-score

Bad. Consider adding a different symbol or making your password longer.



Nudge-16

Poor. Consider making your password longer.



Nudge-Comp8

Excellent!



Key Results

- Stringent meters with visual bars increased resistance to guessing
- Visual differences did not significantly impact resistance to guessing
- No significant impact on memorability

Authentication in Practice: Moving Towards A Passwordless World?

Case Study: WebAuthn

FIDO2 BRINGS SIMPLER, STRONGER AUTHENTICATION TO WEB BROWSERS



FIDO AUTHENTICATION: THE NEW GOLD STANDARD



Protects against phishing, man-in-the-middle and attacks using stolen credentials



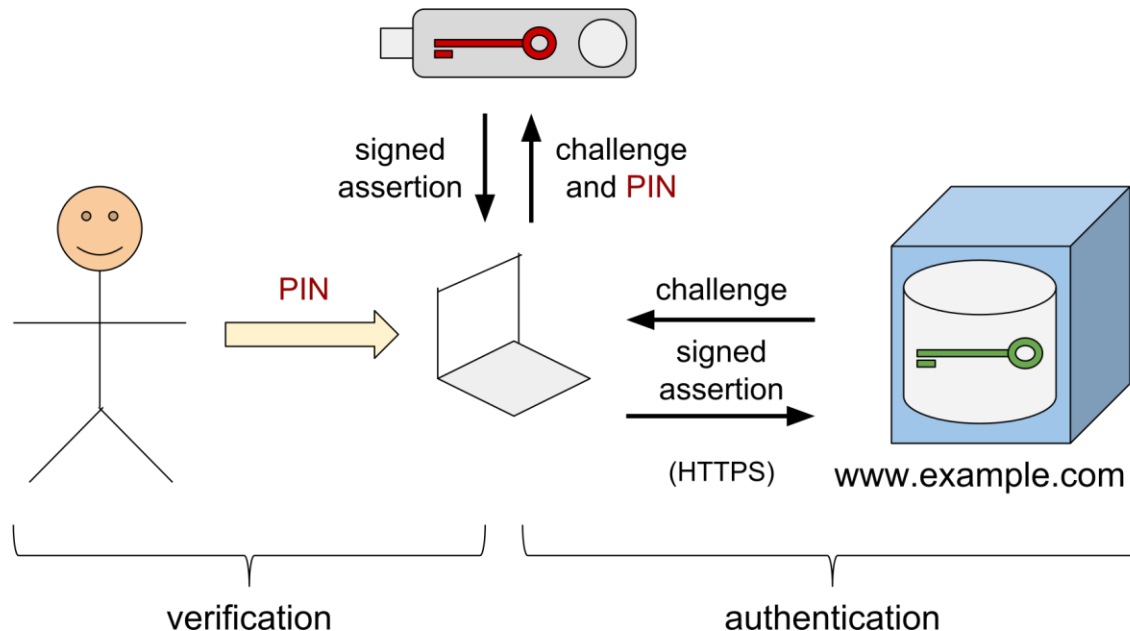
Log in with a single gesture – HASSLE FREE!



Already supported in market by top online services

Case Study: WebAuthn

- Created under the FIDO2 project, now a W3C standard
- Goal: Authenticate on web using public-key crypto
- Implemented in specialized hardware OR in software using a TPM/TEE



Case Study: WebAuthn

User interaction: Push a button on a key, type a PIN into the device, present biometric (fingerprint) to hardware reader



fido
ALLIANCE



Authentication in Practice: Password Add-Ons / Alternatives

Single Sign-On



Single Sign-On: Shibboleth

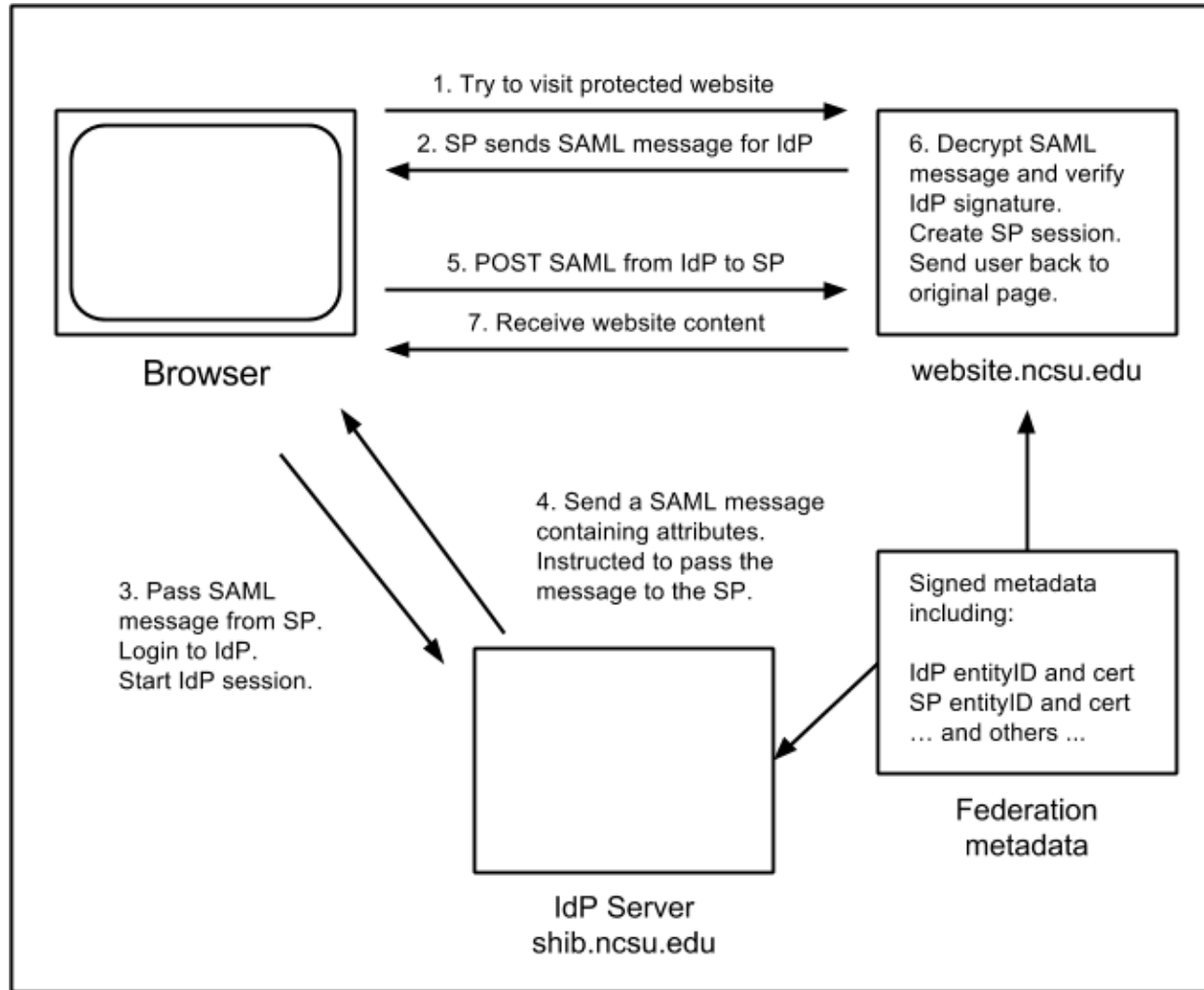
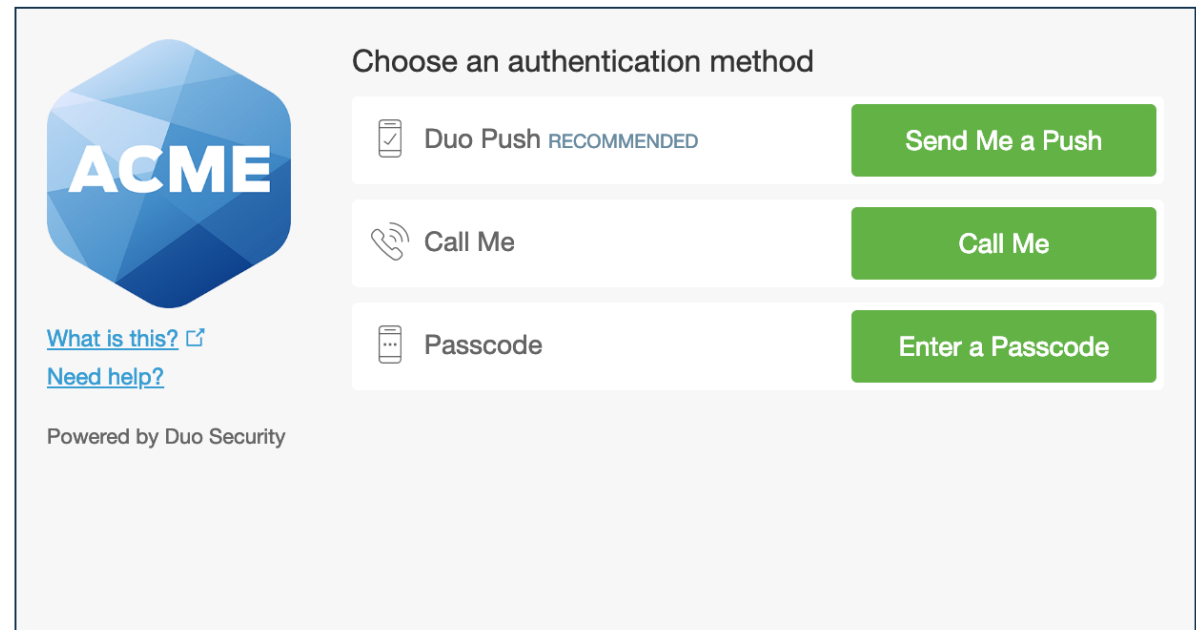
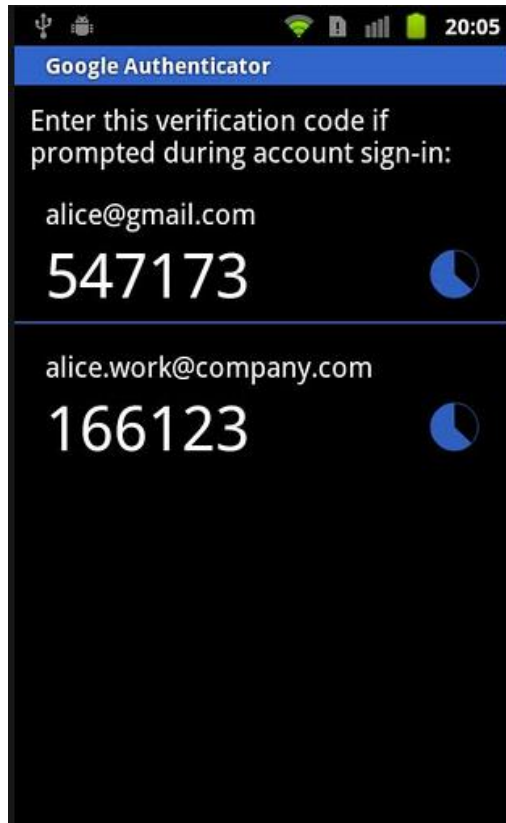


Diagram from <https://docs.shib.ncsu.edu/docs/shibworks.html>

For a good (long) explanation, see: <https://www.switch.ch/aai/demo/>

Two-Factor Auth



Physical Tokens / Smart Cards

- Codes based on a cryptographic key
 - Token manufacturer also knows the key
- What if there is a breach?



Authentication in Practice: I Forgot My Password

Resetting Accounts

- I forgot my password!
- Send an email?
- Security questions?
- In-person verification?
- Other steps?
- (No backup)

Authentication in Practice: Password Managers

Password Managers

- Trust all passwords to a single master password (still a good idea in most cases)
 - Also trust software
 - Centralized vs. decentralized architectures

LastPass 



1Password

Authentication in Practice: Password Reuse 😞

Password Reuse-Based Attacks



Keep your account secure

Based on our automated security check, your Facebook password matches one that was stolen from another site. We aren't aware of any suspicious activity on your account, but please change your password now to help keep it secure.

[Learn More](#)

[Continue](#)

Maximilian Golla, Miranda Wei, Juliette Hainline, Lydia Filipe, Markus Dürmuth, Elissa Redmiles, Blase Ur. “What was that site doing with my Facebook Password?” Designing Password-Reuse Notifications. In *Proc. CCS*, 2018.

People Reuse Passwords

Booking.com

R0cky!14



reddit

R0cky!17

淘宝网
Taobao.com

American Airlines



facebook

R0cky!17



123456

ebay

YouTube

R0ckyStar



Microsoft

Rocky!16

slack

SONY



Google

R0cky!17

Baidu



Dropbox

R0ckyBox

twitter

R0cky!17



PayPal






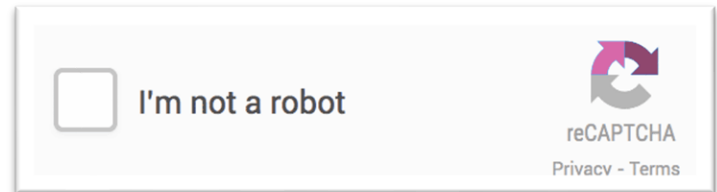
Memory-Hard Hash Function



Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
jim@mail.com	\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...
...	...



Rate-Limiting Guessing



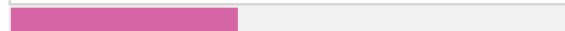
Password Strength Meter



Username

Password

acmccs18



Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Your password could be better.

- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Make your password longer than 8 characters [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider using 1 or more symbols [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: `\a#D18cmccs`

[How to make strong passwords](#)



AcmeCo



LinkedIn



Linked

Email	SHA-1 Hash of Password
jane@aol.com	7c4a8d09ca3762af61e595209
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	7c222fb2927d828af22f59213
jim@mail.com	ba93664a90285b9ff18a7a081
john@hotmail.com	b1b3773a05c0ed0176787a4f1
...	...



Crack All The Things!



```
Bash
$> hashcat -m 100 -a0 $TARGET $DICT
123456
Password
R0cky!17
Football!17
CanadaRocks!
```



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...



Dead On Arrival



Email	Cracked
...	...
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
...	...



**1 guess is
enough!**



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...



Monitoring the Black Market

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a listing on the RealDeal marketplace. The browser's address bar shows the URL `trdealmgm4uvm42g.onion/listing/3600`. The page header includes a navigation bar with links for Home, My RealDeal, Support, and Logout, along with a user profile and account balance (BTC 0.0000). Below the header is a search bar with the text "I want to order ..." and a "Go" button. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home / Information and Fraud / Databases / LinkedIn 167M. The listing itself is titled "LinkedIn 167M" and is sold by the user "peace_of_mind" (100.0% rating, Level 1 with 14 reviews). The price is listed as 0.50000 / BTC 5.0000. The listing is currently "In stock." and includes a "Postage Option" dropdown menu. A "Buy It Now" button is prominently displayed, along with a quantity selector set to 0. Below the listing, there are buttons for "Favorite" and "Question". A table of details is provided at the bottom of the listing:

Escrow	Yes, escrow by RealDeal is available.
Class	Digital
Ships From	Worldwide



BEST PRODUCTS

REVIEWS

NEWS

VIDEO

HOW TO

SMART HOME

CARS

DEALS



JOIN / SIGN IN

SECURITY

Facebook buys black market passwords to keep your account safe

The company's security chief says account safety is about more than just building secure software.

BY KATIE COLLINS | NOVEMBER 9, 2016 12:56 PM PST



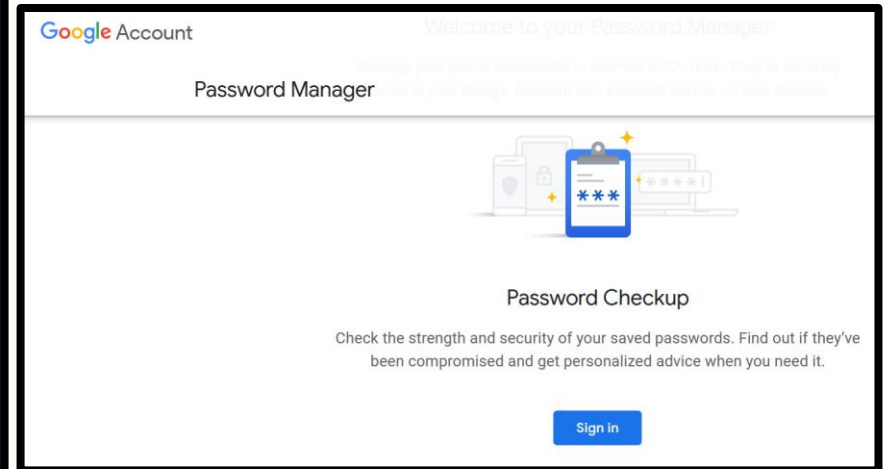
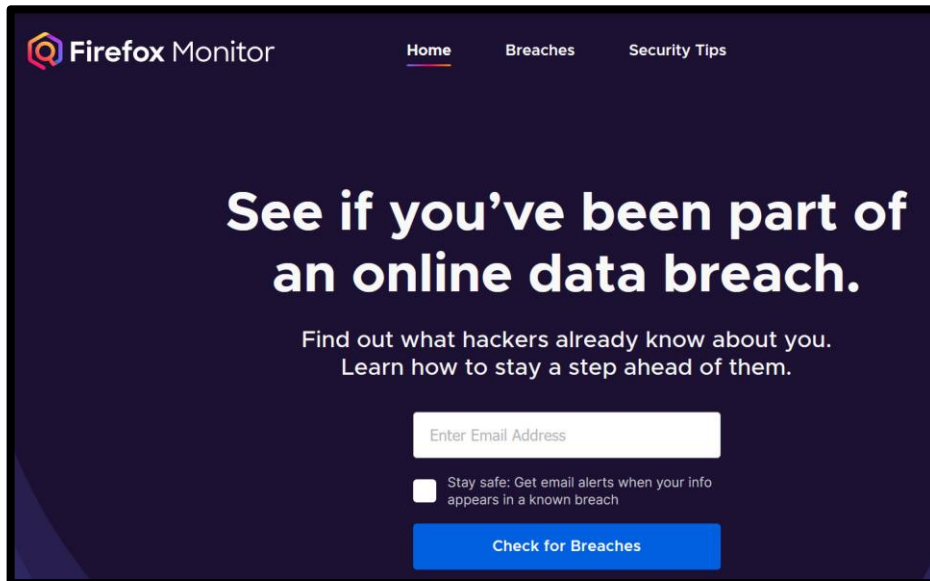
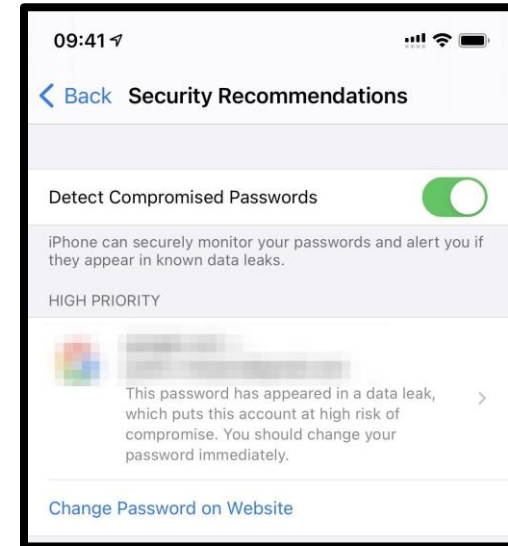
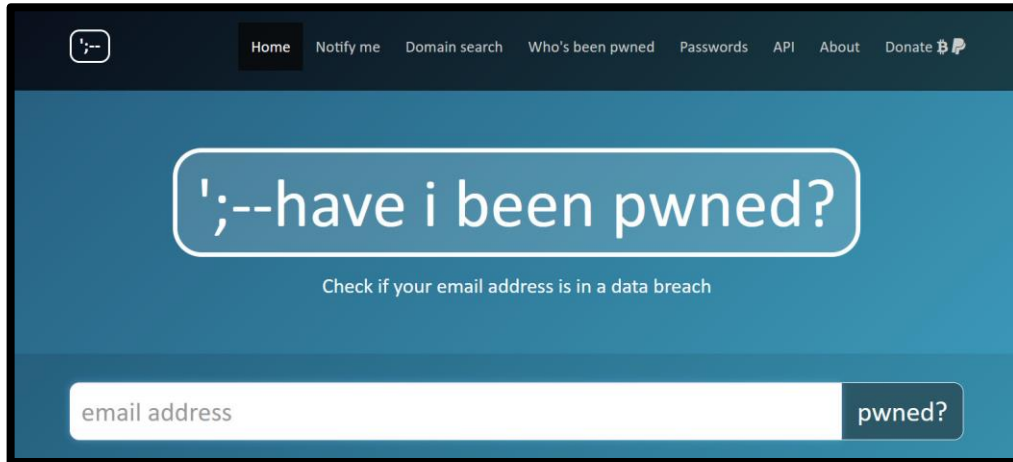
Password-Reuse Notifications

This collage illustrates various password-related notifications and security alerts from different companies and services. The notifications include:

- Houzz:** "Please update your Spotify password." and "Our security team noticed that your account was accessed from an unrecognized device." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Spotify:** "Please update your Spotify password." and "Our security team noticed that your account was accessed from an unrecognized device." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Microsoft:** "Unusual sign-in activity" notification for a Microsoft account, stating "We detected something unusual about a recent sign-in to the Microsoft account ****@comcast.net. To help keep you safe, we required an extra security challenge." It includes details like "Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 at 6:26 AM" and "Subject: Microsoft account unusual sign-in activity".
- Adobe:** "Guarding your personal information is very important to us, so we want to make you aware of a situation that could impact your Spirit Airlines FREE SPIRIT account." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Evernote:** "Dear Evernote user, Evernote's Operations & Security team has discovered and blocked suspicious activity on the Evernote network that appears to have been a coordinated attempt to access secure areas of the Evernote Service." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Sony:** "Password Reset" notification for a Sony Entertainment Network account, stating "As a security measure, you need to update your password." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Amazon:** "Keep Your Account Secure" notification for an Amazon account, stating "Your security on Instagram is a top priority for us. Based on our automated checks, we've discovered that the password you use for Instagram is the same as one that was stolen from another site." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Change Password".
- Netflix:** "Dear Sam, We have detected a suspicious sign-in to your Netflix account. Your Netflix account may have been compromised by a website or a service not associated with Netflix." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Pinterest:** "Hi, Ajay" notification for a Pinterest account, stating "We think someone may have logged into your Pinterest account without your permission." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Microsoft (another):** "Someone May Have" notification for a Microsoft account, stating "Recently, there was a security issue with your account." It includes instructions to update the password and a link to "Reset Passwords".
- Other:** Various other notifications from services like Houzz, Spotify, and Microsoft, all related to password updates and security alerts.

Authentication in Practice: Checking for Compromised Credentials

Checking for Compromised Credentials



Checking for Compromised Credentials

Under the hood:

How Password Checkup helps keep your accounts safe

01

Whenever Google discovers a username and password exposed by a data breach, we store a strongly hashed and encrypted copy of the data.



(my.username, my.p@sswOrd!)

A8 B1 C0 88 C4 7C 67 1C BE F4 22 61 08 01 A9 31

A8 B1

AjjuK8GhGFLcN9kgFcuSw+nUWgpKQLMcutwWK4=

Argon2 hash

Elliptic curve encryption

We keep an unencrypted, 2-byte hash prefix to partition the database.

We encrypt the full hash using a secret key known only to Google.

02

When you log in to a site you use, Password Checkup will send a strongly hashed and encrypted copy of your username and password to Google. This ensures that Google never learns your account details.



A8 B1 C0 88 C4 7C 67 1C BE F4 22 61 08 01 A9 31

A8 B1

A9817QFblJNqT+cyclc3w4x8bElbkjGaatG5GQk=

Argon2 hash

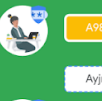
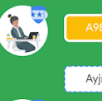
Elliptic curve encryption

Google only learns an anonymous hash prefix of your account details.

Password Checkup encrypts your full account details using a secret key known only to you.

03

We use **private set intersection** with **blinding** to search through every unsafe username and password without revealing your account details, or anyone else's, during the process.



Password Checkup fetches an encrypted database of every unsafe username and password that shares the same anonymous hash prefix of your account details.

A8 B1

A9817QFblJNqT+cyclc3w4x8bElbkjGaatG5GQk=

Ayjm5BQ+J1eEJKVF5RONzpozjwmAvnx/qTohNwM=

AjjuK8GhGFLcN9kgFcuSw+nUWgpKQLMcutwWK4=

To search this encrypted data, Password Checkup asks Google to re-encrypt your account details with

Password Checkup locally decrypts the result with . This yields a copy encrypted only with .

04

The final check for whether your username or password was in a data breach is entirely local. If your account details were exposed, you should change your password immediately.



AjjuK8GhGFLcN9kgFcuSw+nUWgpKQLMcutwWK4=

Password Checkup locally searches if your username and password, now encrypted with , match any of the unsafe username and passwords in the encrypted database .

AjjuK8GhGFLcN9kgFcuSw+nUWgpKQLMcutwWK4=

Aw0FPY11g7H4d9gh4d9jwvE7hy8B0C0Gt=

Ax1.3f8dwaNfuzZ+sm8Pyp04AFcgj811P7m9Y=

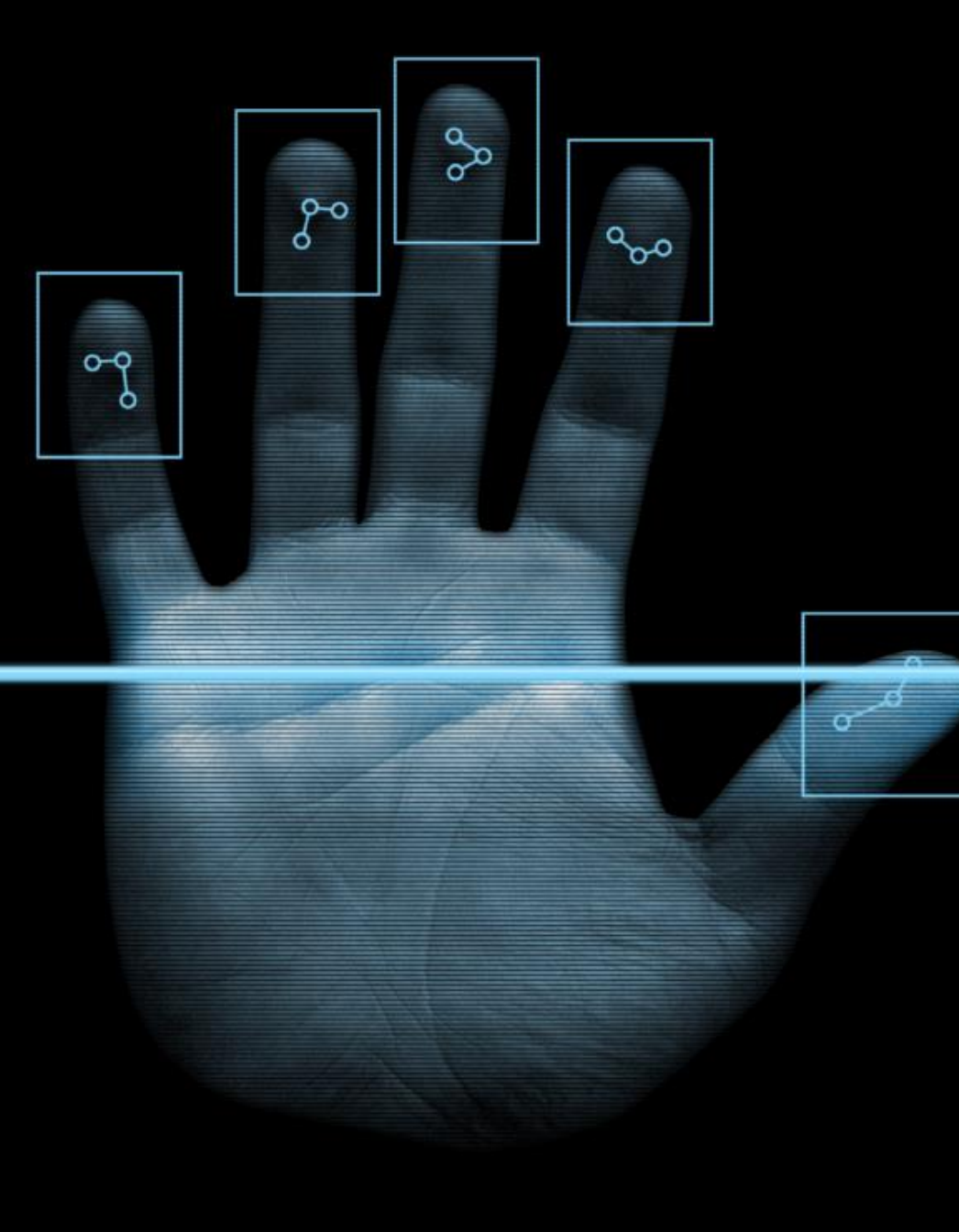


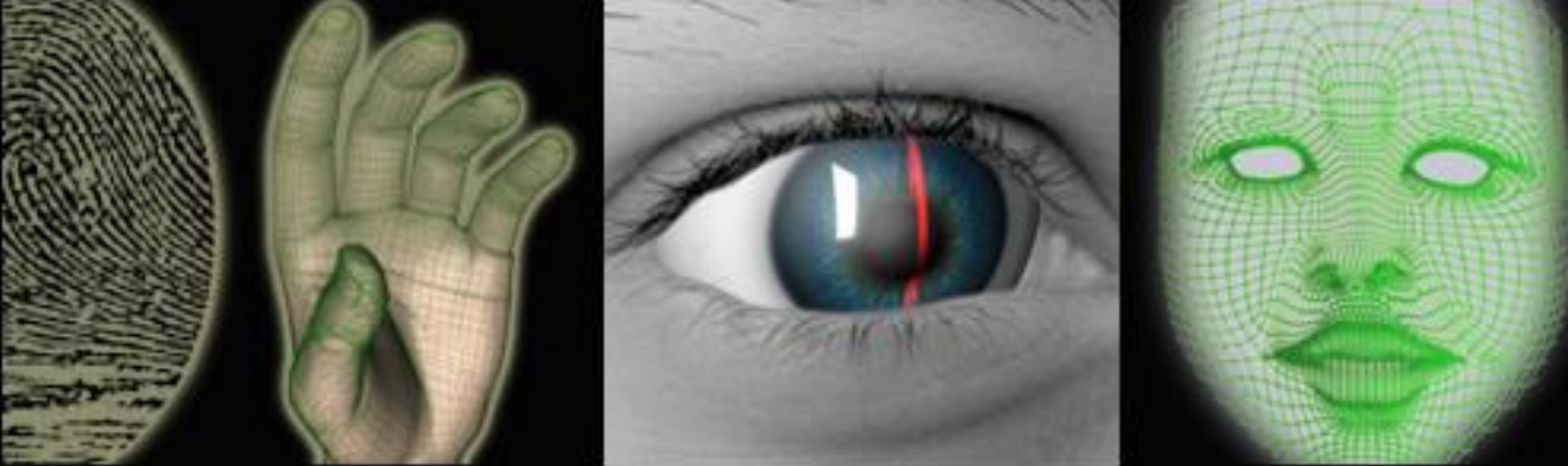
What about
Biometrics?





Images fair use from wordpress.com and kaspersky.com, as well as Creative Commons from matsuyuki on Flickr





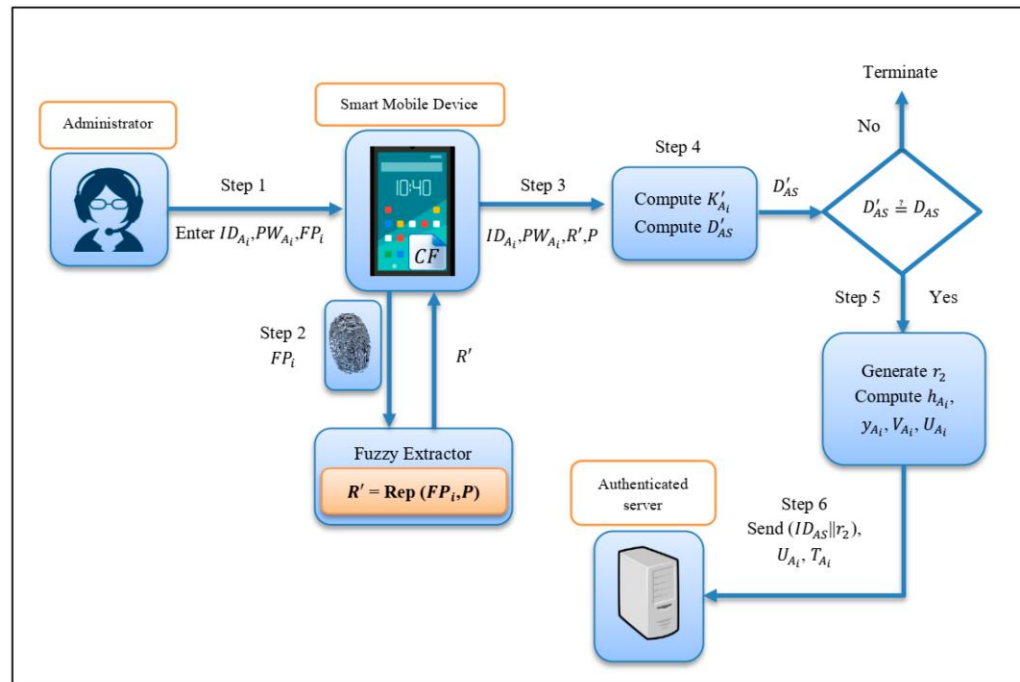
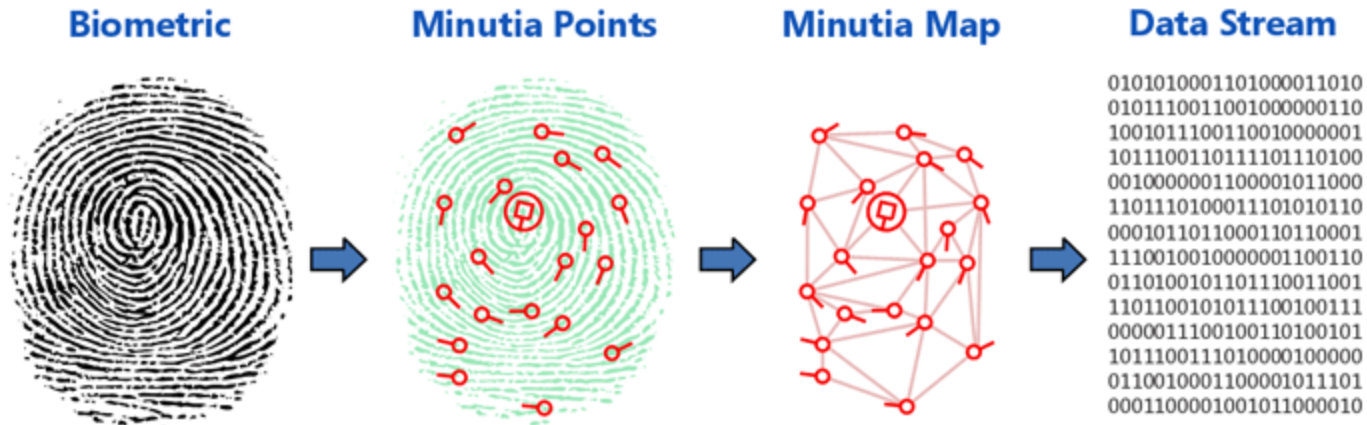
Biometrics

- Fingerprint
- Iris scans or retina scans
- Face recognition
- Finger/hand geometry
- Voice or speech recognition
- The way you type
- (Many others)

Practical Challenges for Biometrics

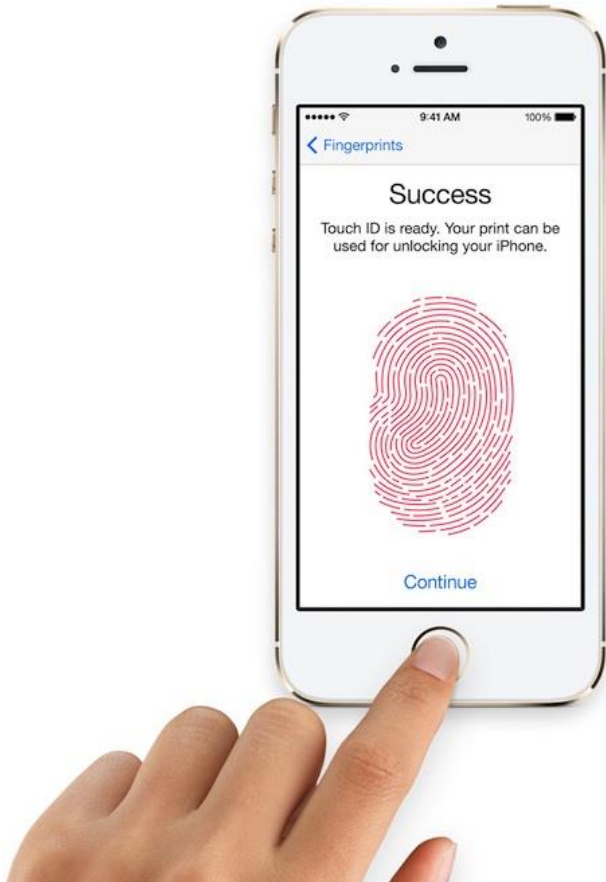
- Immutable (can't be changed)
- Potentially sensitive data
- High equipment costs
- Sensitive to changes in the environment
- Biometrics can change over time

Storing Biometrics: Templates

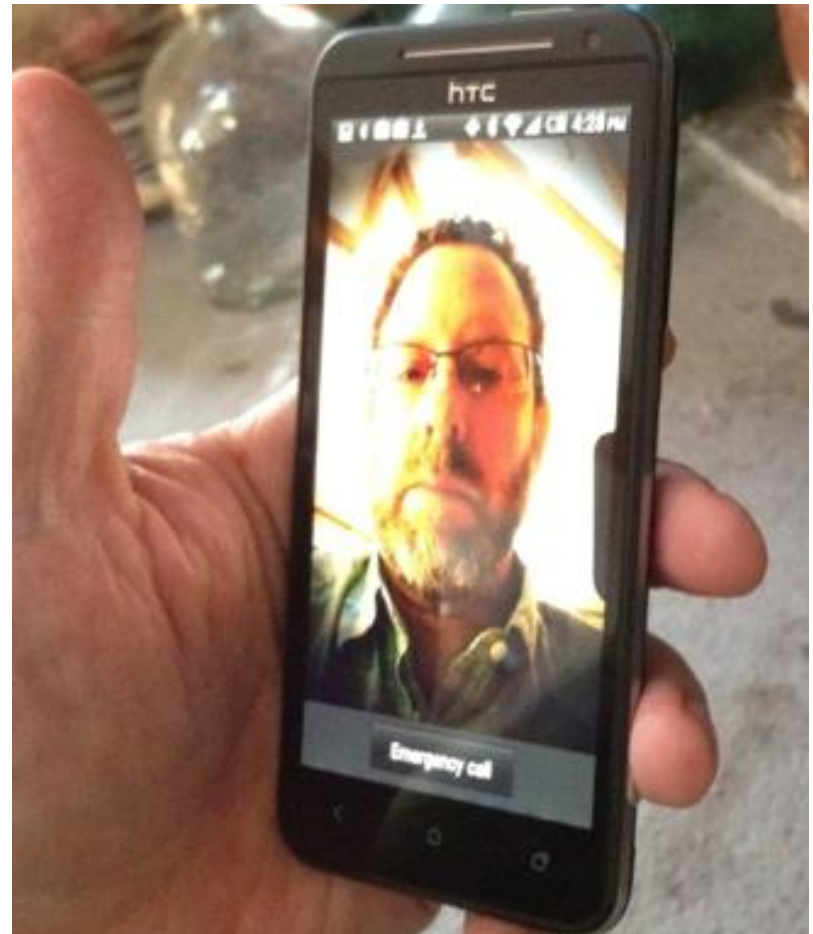




iPhone Touch ID



Android Face Unlock



Smartphone Biometrics

- Purpose is to reduce the number of times a user must enter their password
- Falls back to the password
- Face recognition can be tricked by a photo
- Fingerprint recognition can be tricked by a gummy mold
- Users find fingerprint unlock convenient, but do not particularly like face unlock

Authentication Conclusions

- Authentication is really hard!
 - Hard for system administrators
 - Hard for users
- Unfortunately, authentication is necessary

Access Control

Access Control: Basic Instantiation

- File permissions on UNIX:
 - Owner, Group, Others
- Useful commands
 - chown (**change owner** of a file)
 - chown blase:plantnerds rareplants.txt
 - chmod (**change modes** of a file)
 - chmod g+w rareplants.txt (**u**ser **g**roup **o**thers, add **+** or remove **-**, **r**ead **w**rite **e**xecute)
 - chmod 750 rareplants.txt (additive: 0 = nothing, 1 = execute, 2 = write, 4 = read)

Access Control

- Role-based access control
 - Authorization based on role (e.g., “UChicago student”)
- Attribute-based access control
 - Authorization based on attribute(s) (e.g., “Over 7 feet tall”)
- Context-based access control
 - Authorization decision depends on the context (e.g., time of day)