

# 01. Course Overview; Introduction to Usable Security & Privacy

Blase Ur, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
CMSC 23210 / 33210



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**



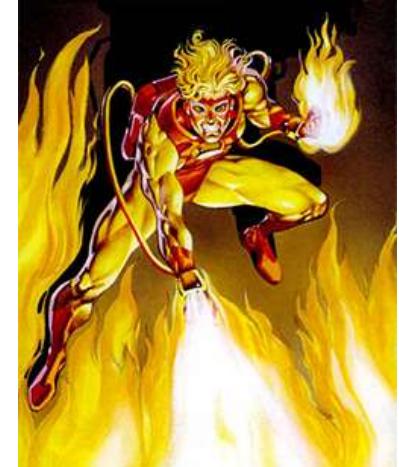
**Security, Usability, & Privacy**  
**Education & Research**

# Today's class

- Course staff introductions
- Usable security and privacy = ???
- Course policies / syllabus
- Overview of course topics
- Reasoning about the human in the loop

# Introductions

- Blase Ur
- Assistant Professor of CS
  - Joined in January 2017
  - PhD at CMU in Fall 2016, advised by Lorrie Cranor
- SUPERgroup: Security, Usability, & Privacy Education & Research
- ~~“Professor Ur” “Dr. Ur” “Blase” “Dr. Blase”~~
- OH: Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00, Ryerson 157
  - This week: Friday 1:00 – 2:00



# Introductions (TA staff)

- Maria Hyun
  - OH: Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00, Ryerson 254
- Gushu Li
  - OH: Mondays 4:30 – 5:30, Ryerson 254
- Hua Li
  - OH: Fridays 3:00 – 4:00, Ryerson 375

# Humans

“Humans are incapable of securely storing high-quality cryptographic keys, and they have unacceptable speed and accuracy when performing cryptographic operations... But they are sufficiently pervasive that we must design our protocols around their limitations.”

— C. Kaufman, R. Perlman, and M. Speciner.  
*Network Security: PRIVATE Communication in a PUBLIC World.*  
2nd edition. Prentice Hall, page 237, 2002.

# Interdisciplinary approach useful

**Other disciplines have experience studying human behavior. We can borrow their models and methods:**

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Cognitive sciences
- Warnings science
- Risk perception
- Behavioral economics
- HCI
- Design
- Communication
- Persuasive technology
- Learning science
- Network analytics

# What makes usable security different?

- Presence of an adversary
- Usability is not enough. We also need systems that remain secure when:
  - Attackers (try to) fool users
  - Users behave in predictable ways
  - Users are acting under stress
  - Users are careless, unmotivated, busy

# Goals for this course

- Gain an appreciation for the importance of usability within security and privacy
- Learn about current research in usable security and privacy
- Learn how to conduct usability studies
- Learn how to critically examine user studies you hear about or read about

Usable security research bridges  
security and usability

# User-selected passwords

| Security   | Usability/HCI  | Usable Security   |
|--|--|---|
| What is the space of possible passwords?   | How <i>difficult</i> is it for a <b>user</b> to create, remember, and enter a password? How long does it take? | All the security/privacy and usability HCI questions  |
| How can we make the password space larger to make the password harder to guess?  | How hard is it for users to learn the system?  | How do <b>users</b> select passwords? How can we help them choose passwords harder for <b>attackers</b> to predict? |
| How are the stored passwords secured?  | Are users <i>motivated</i> to put in effort to create good passwords?  | As the password space increases, what are the impacts on usability factors and predictability of human selection?   |
| Can an <b>attacker</b> gain knowledge by observing a user entering her password? | Is the system <i>accessible</i> for users of all abilities?  |   |

# Course communication

- Updated syllabus is always available:  
<https://super.cs.uchicago.edu/usable17/>
- We will sign you up for Piazza
  - Opt in to get emails when we send announcements!

# Components of your grade

- Quizzes (daily): 16%
- Midterms (2): 20%
- Problem sets (5): 24%
- Group Project: 40%

# Readings

- Generally one required reading per class
- Complete the readings before class
- Most readings from recent conferences
- 33210 students: about one additional reading per week

# Required textbook

- There is no required textbook

# Quizzes

- Given in the first five minutes of class
  - End at 3:05 pm
- Will be a quick quiz based on that day's required reading
- If you will be unable to arrive on time for a class, email a reading summary and highlight of the required reading(s) before class to the TAs

# Problem sets

- 5 problem sets
  - Submit them printed, on paper!
  - No late problem sets accepted!
  - Drop single lowest grade
- 33210 only: “reading summary”
  - 3-7 sentence summary
  - One “highlight”

# What are problem sets like?

- Conduct mini studies + report results
- Evaluate the incidence or state of something in the real world
- Conduct usability evaluations of tools
- Propose possible studies

# Example reading summary

Ur et al. investigated whether crowdsourced recommendations impact the Firefox privacy settings humans and sloths choose. They conducted a 183-participant lab study in which participants were prompted to set up a clean installation of Firefox as they normally would when given a new computer. Participants were randomly selected either to see crowdsourced recommendations for the settings, or no recommendations. They found that both humans and sloths were statistically significantly more likely to choose privacy-protective settings when given recommendations, though sloths took 83 times as long to do so.

Highlight: I wonder if the results would have differed if they had used Chrome, rather than Firefox. Chrome's privacy settings are hidden behind multiple browser clicks. I would be surprised if Chrome recommendations change non-use of privacy settings.

# “Midterms”

- Take-home “midterm” (like a problem set) due April 24<sup>th</sup>
- In-class “midterm” on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- These will ask you to use the skills developed in class, rather than remembering trivia
- Prepare by doing the readings and participating in discussions

# Final exam

- There is no final exam

# Project

- Design, conduct, and analyze a pilot user study in usable privacy or security
  - Groups assigned based on your preferences
  - We will provide a list of project topics but your suggestions are welcome
- Deliverables: Project proposal, ethics application, progress report & presentation, final paper, and final presentation (May 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Submit a poster to SOUPS 2017 and/or a paper to another conference

# Projects from prior UPS courses

- How Does Your Password Measure Up? The Effect of Strength Meters on Password Creation (USENIX Security '12)
- The Post that Wasn't: Exploring Self-Censorship on Facebook (CSCW '13)
- QRishing: The Susceptibility of Smartphone Users to QR Code Phishing Attacks (USEC '13)
- Biometric Authentication on iPhone and Android: Usability, Perceptions, and Influences on Adoption" (USEC '15)
- Supporting Privacy-Conscious App Update Decisions with User Reviews (SPSM '15)
- Usability and Security of Text Passwords on Mobile Devices (CHI '16)

# Participation in class

- You are expected to participate in class
  - Raise your hand during discussions
  - Share interesting privacy/security news
  - Play an active role in small-group activities
  - Spark discussion on the class email list
- You are expected to be in class (on time!)
- Please note exam and group presentation dates and DO NOT schedule job interviews on those dates

# 23210 vs. 33210

- Same lectures
- Same\* assignments
  - 33210 students have extra problems
- Same project
  - 33210 students must have implementation

# 23210 vs. 33210

- 23210 is an elective within UG CS major
- 33210 may count for UG programming languages and systems sequence if you successfully petition
- Graduate students must take 33210
  - Systems elective

# Academic integrity

- University of Chicago policies about plagiarism and academic integrity
- Don't look at other students' assignments
  - Exception: When we explicitly say you may
  - Talking verbally about problem sets is ok
- Quote text and cite ideas that are not yours
- Consequences of cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 on the assignment to expulsion from the University of Chicago

# Wellness

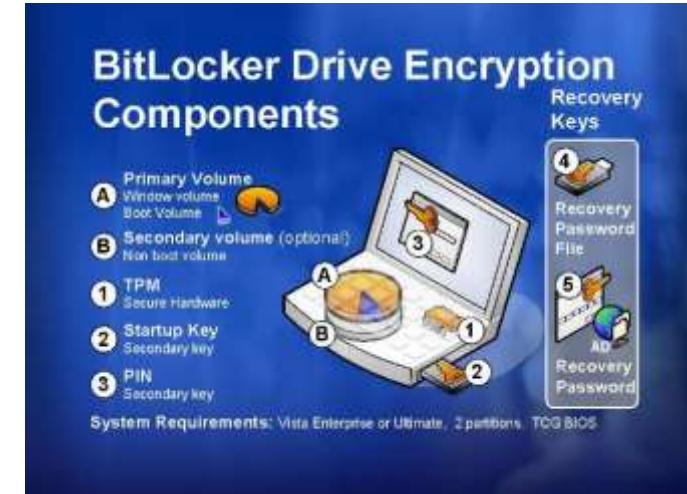
- Take care of yourself during the class
- Let us know if you are overwhelmed
- Take advantage of the university's wellness and mental health resources

# Course topics

- Overviews of security and privacy
- Introduction to HCI methods and the design of experiments
  - How (and why) to conduct different types of quantitative and qualitative studies
  - Ecological validity and ethics
- Specific usable privacy and security topics

# Usable encryption (3/29)

- Why don't people encrypt their email and their files?



# Passwords (4/5)

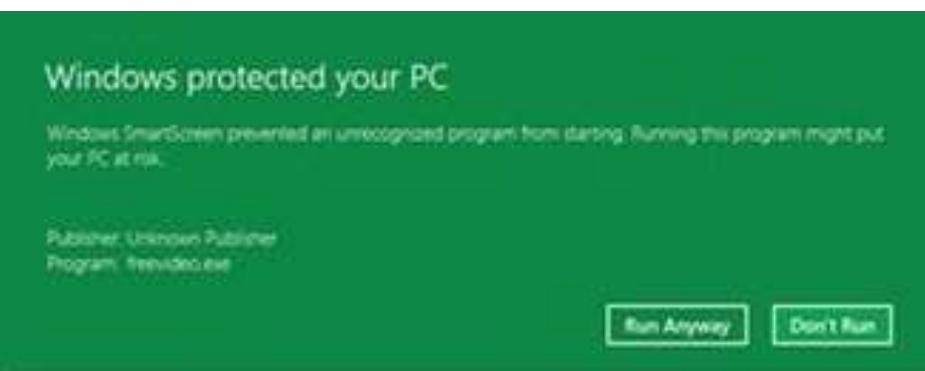
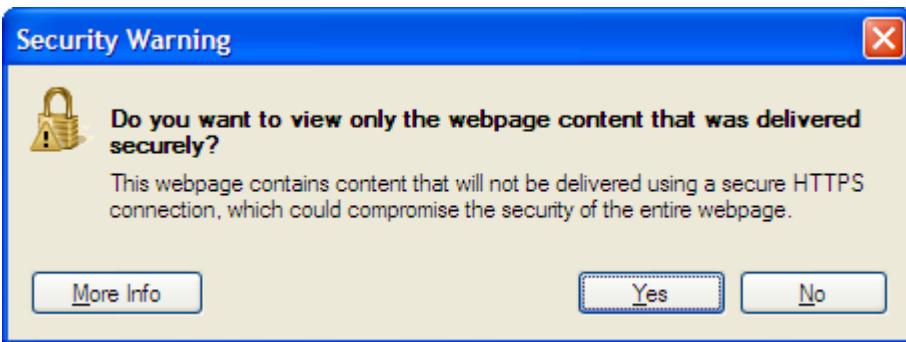
- Can people make passwords that are easy to remember, yet hard to crack?

>Password strength: Poor. Consider adding a digit or making your password longer.



# Security warnings (4/12)

- Can we make them more effective?



# Social media and privacy (4/17)

- Can people want to share some things widely yet want other things to be private?

## A GUIDE TO FACEBOOK's PRIVACY OPTIONS

Turn on Secure Browsing to help prevent eavesdroppers from reading your Facebook posts or stealing your password.

Adjust your Security Settings to protect your Facebook account.

For extra protection, turn on Login Approvals to have Facebook send a special security code to your mobile phone whenever you try to log in to Facebook from a new device. If someone steals your Facebook password they will not be able to log in without this code.

Visit the Apps settings to limit the amount of information each app can access and also make sure apps don't post on your timeline if you don't want them to. If you don't want your friends to see what your apps are posting, change the Posts on your behalf setting to Only Me. Also pay attention to the Apps others use settings, which control the information about you that Facebook will provide to apps that your friends use, even if you don't use those apps. Create Instant Personalization if you don't want Facebook to share your information with partner websites.

These icons are used throughout Facebook to control who can see your information. For example, they control who can see the information on your profile and timeline.

Check to find out who can see your posts before you click the Post button, and click on the icon to change your settings. Consider limiting your posts to Friends. If you make your posts visible to Public or Friends of Friends, thousands of people might see them.

Only accept friend requests from people you know. If you are friends with some people you don't know very well, consider adding them to your Acquaintances list and setting your sharing settings to Friends except Acquaintances.

Click the lock icon in the top right corner to access Facebook's Privacy Shortcuts.

Click here to configure who can see your future posts, see where you've been tagged, and find out what other people can see on your timeline.

You can change the settings for who sees your future posts here, but be careful. If you change your settings for an individual post, your settings will change for all future posts unless you change the settings again.

Click here to access timeline and tagging settings, app privacy settings, and more. For example, if you've previously shared some posts too widely, use the Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or public option to change the sharing setting to Friends for all your past posts.

If you like or comment on a post, your comment will be seen by the friends of the person who posted it or a wider audience, depending on that person's sharing settings.



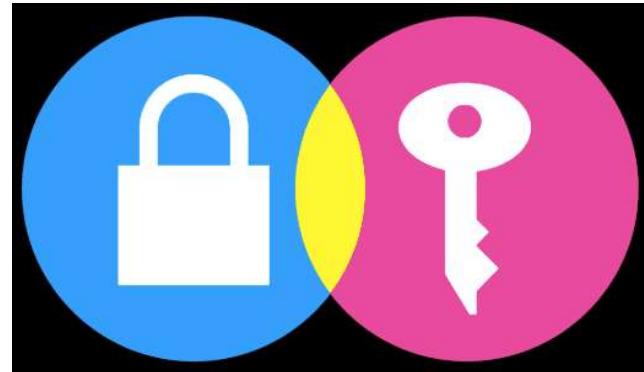
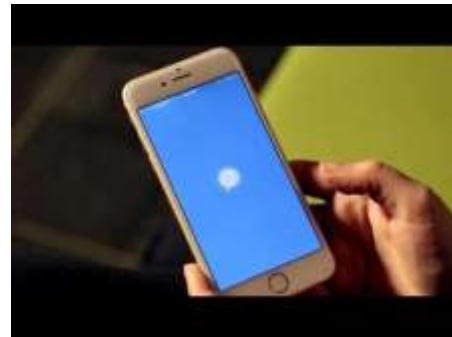
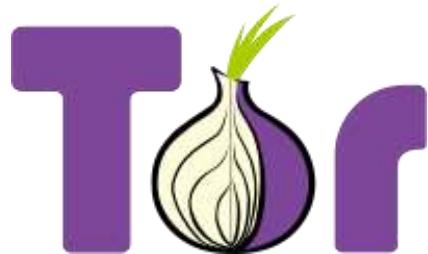
# Web security & privacy (4/24)

- How do we keep the web secure and private, and how do we keep users aware of what's happening as they browse?



# Anonymity; activists/journalists (4/26)

- Can anonymity tools help journalists, activists, and others protect their privacy?



# Privacy notice and choice (5/1)

- How do we communicate privacy-critical information in a sea of information?

## SoundCloud Class B

-  You stay in control of your copyright
-  Collected personal data used for limited purposes
-  6 weeks to review changes
-  Indemnification from claims related to your content or your account
-  Personal information can be disclosed in case of business transfer or insolvency

 More details

| FACTS | WHAT DOES FARMERS-MERCHANTS BANK (FM Bank) DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?   |
|-------|---|
| Why?  | Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.  |
| What? | The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social Security number and <b>Income</b></li><li><b>Account balances</b> and <b>Payment History</b></li><li><b>Credit history</b> and <b>Credit scores</b></li></ul> When you are <i>no longer</i> our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice.   |
| How?  | All financial companies need to share <b>customers'</b> personal information to run their everyday business. For these purposes, we share your information with the following categories of recipients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Service providers</b> to perform services on our behalf and to provide services directly to you, such as when we engage other companies to make collections, process transactions, and provide customer service. These companies are prohibited from using your information other than to perform services on our behalf.</li><li><b>Business partners</b> to share your information, such as when we sell or buy another business or its assets. In these transactions, the buyer's obligation to protect your information is usually limited by a contract with us that requires us to use your information only for our business purposes.</li><li><b>Other companies</b> and <b>public forums</b> as described in this notice.</li></ul> |

## Amazon Privacy Policy

| types of information              | how we use your information     |                        |           |               |           | who we share your information with |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                   | provide service & maintain site | research & development | marketing | personalizing | profiling | other companies                    | public forums |
| contact information               |                                 |                        | opt out   | opt out       |           | opt in                             |               |
| cookies                           |                                 |                        | opt out   | opt out       |           | opt in                             |               |
| demographic information           |                                 |                        |           |               |           |                                    |               |
| financial information             |                                 |                        |           |               |           |                                    |               |
| health information                |                                 |                        |           |               |           |                                    |               |
| preferences                       |                                 |                        | opt out   | opt out       |           | opt in                             |               |
| purchasing information            |                                 |                        | opt out   | opt out       |           | opt in                             |               |
| social security number & gov't ID |                                 |                        |           |               |           |                                    |               |
| your activity on the site         |                                 |                        | opt out   | opt out       |           | opt in                             |               |
| your device location              |                                 |                        |           |               |           |                                    |               |

 we will collect and use your information in this way  
 opt out

 we will not collect and use your information in this way  
 opt in

 we will not collect and use your information in this way  
 opt in

# Mobile devices and the IoT (5/3)

- What are the privacy and security implications of new ways of computing?



# Mental models; user education (5/15)

- How do non-technical people think about privacy and security, and how can we better support them?



# Developers are users! (5/17)

- How can we make security and privacy usable for the experts who are building your tools?



# Inclusive security & privacy (5/24)

- How can we design security and privacy to work for everyone?
  - Age
  - Abilities
  - Culture



# The Human in the Loop

# The human threat

- Malicious humans
- Clueless humans
- Unmotivated humans
- Humans constrained by human limitations



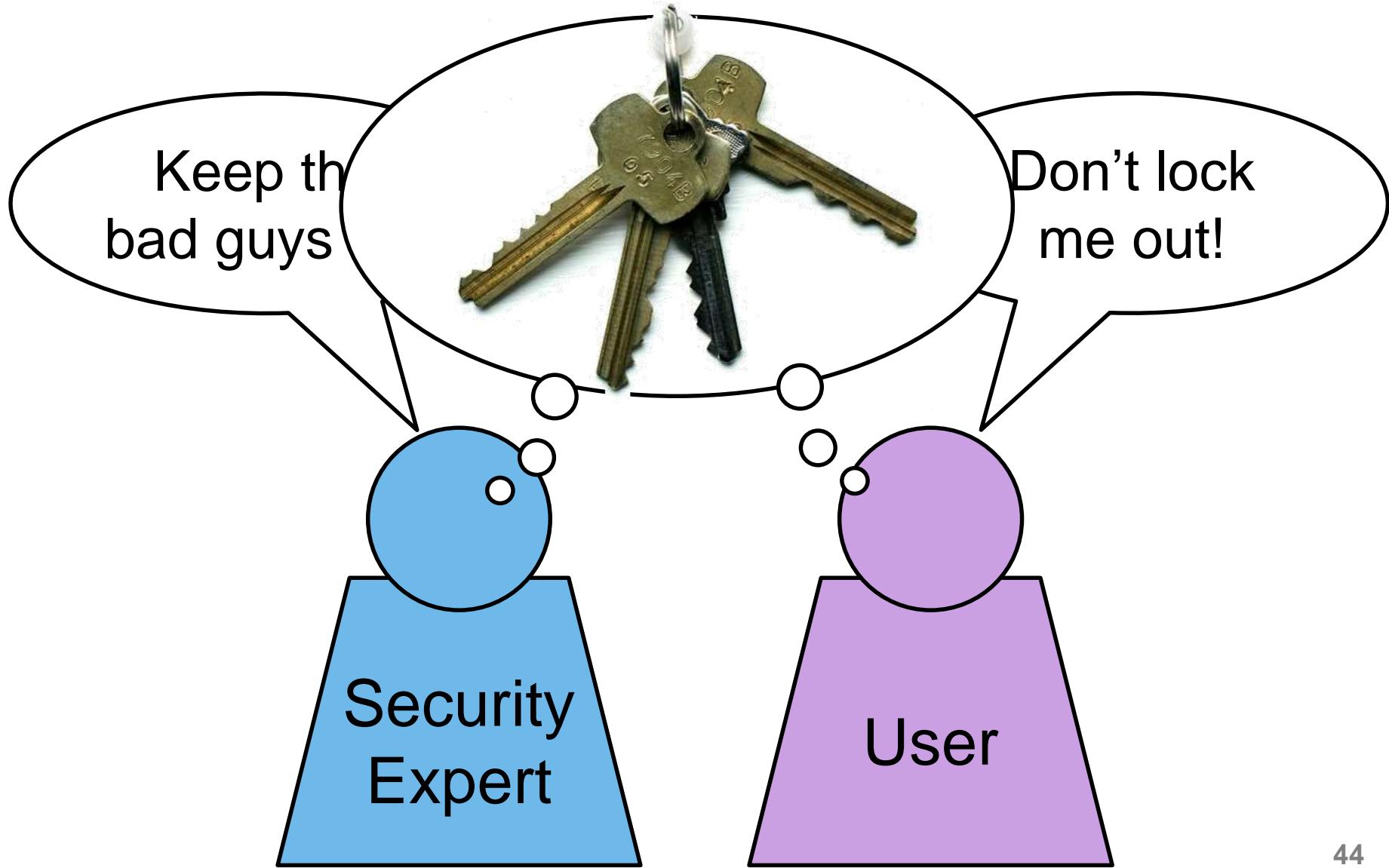
Are you  
capable of  
remembering  
a different  
strong  
password for  
every account  
you have?



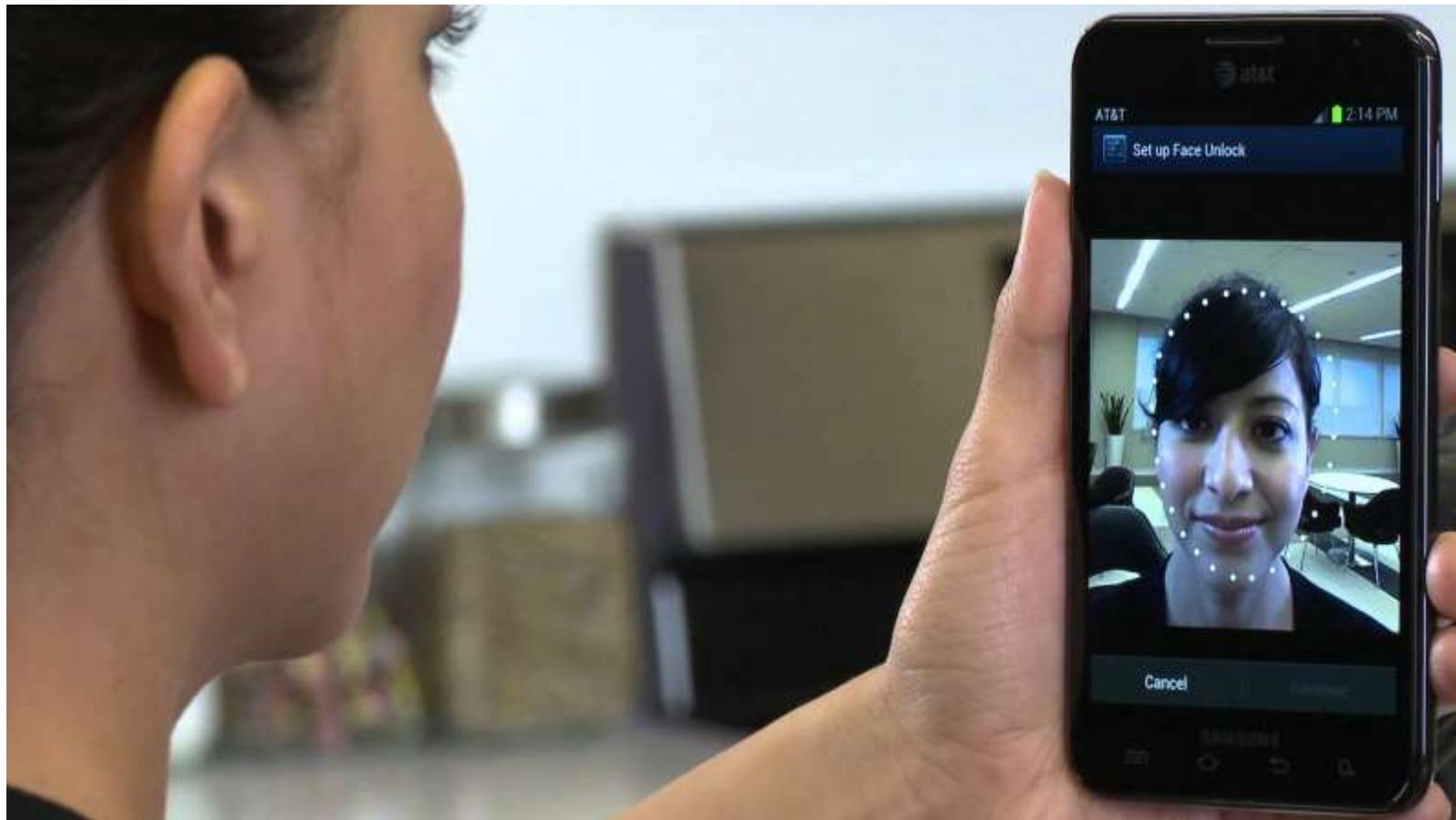
# Security is a secondary task



# Concerns may not be aligned



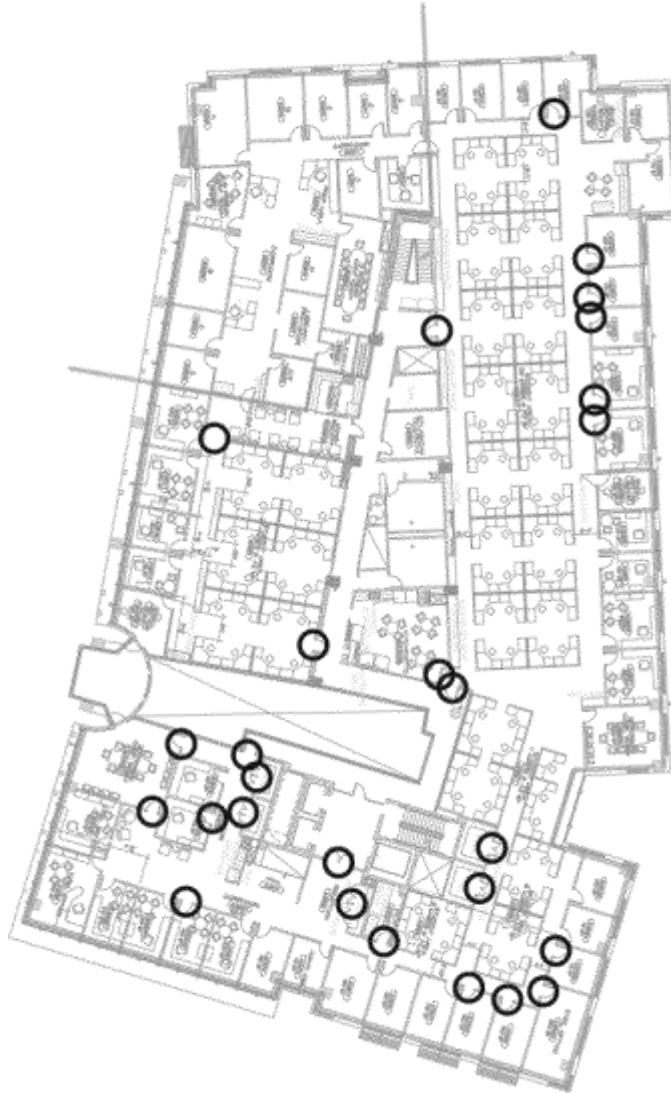
# Perceptions have an important impact



# Perceptions have an important impact



# Perceptions have an important impact



# Perceptions have an important impact



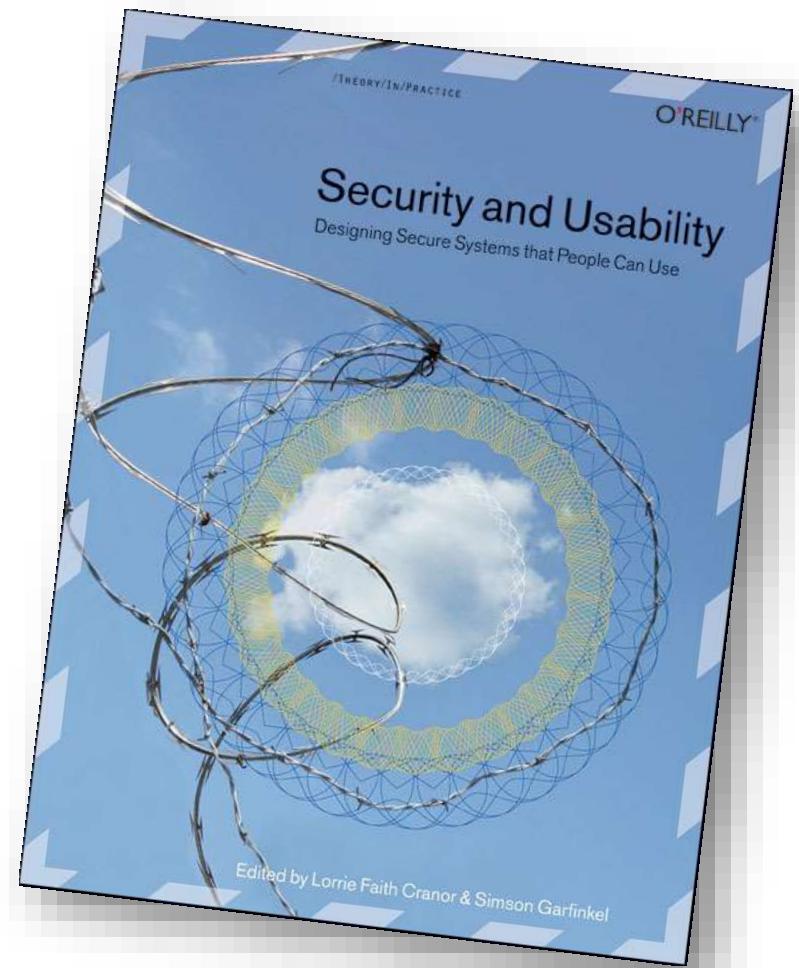
“I find myself standing outside and everybody inside is looking at me standing outside while I am trying to futz with my phone and open the stupid door.”

# Convenience always wins



# How can we make secure systems more usable?

- Make it “just work”
  - Invisible security
- Make security/privacy understandable
  - Make it visible
  - Make it intuitive
  - Use metaphors that users can relate to
- Train the user





# What can make a system unusable?

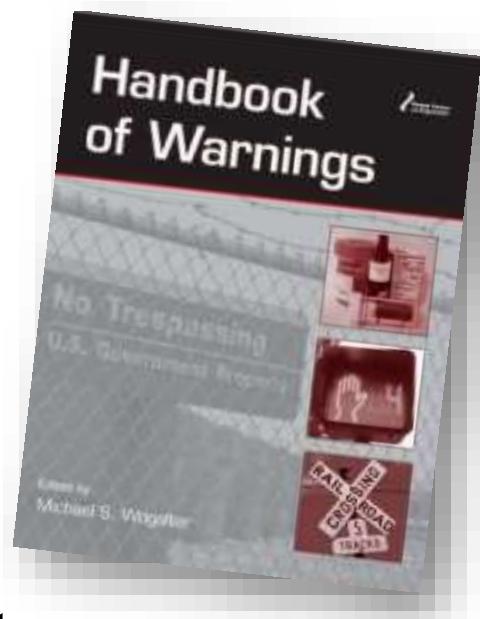
- Confusing / misleading / unhelpful user interface
- Requiring a user to make decisions for which the user is not qualified
- Assuming knowledge or abilities that the user doesn't have
- Assuming unreasonable amount of attention / effort

# Understand human in the loop

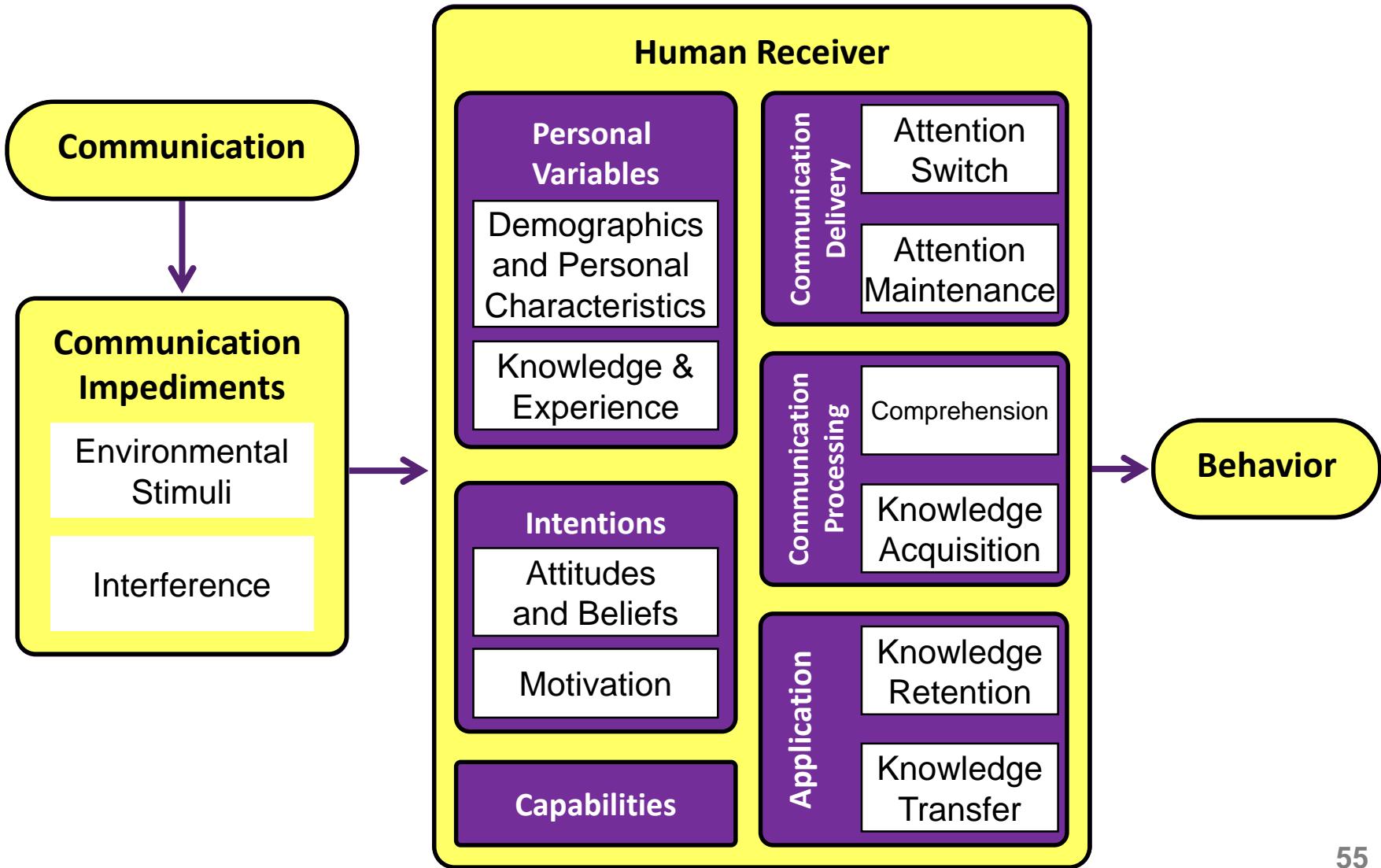
- Do they know they are supposed to be doing something?
- Do they understand what they are supposed to do?
- Do they know how to do it?
- Are they motivated to do it?
- Are they capable of doing it?
- Will they actually do it?

# Human-in-the-loop framework

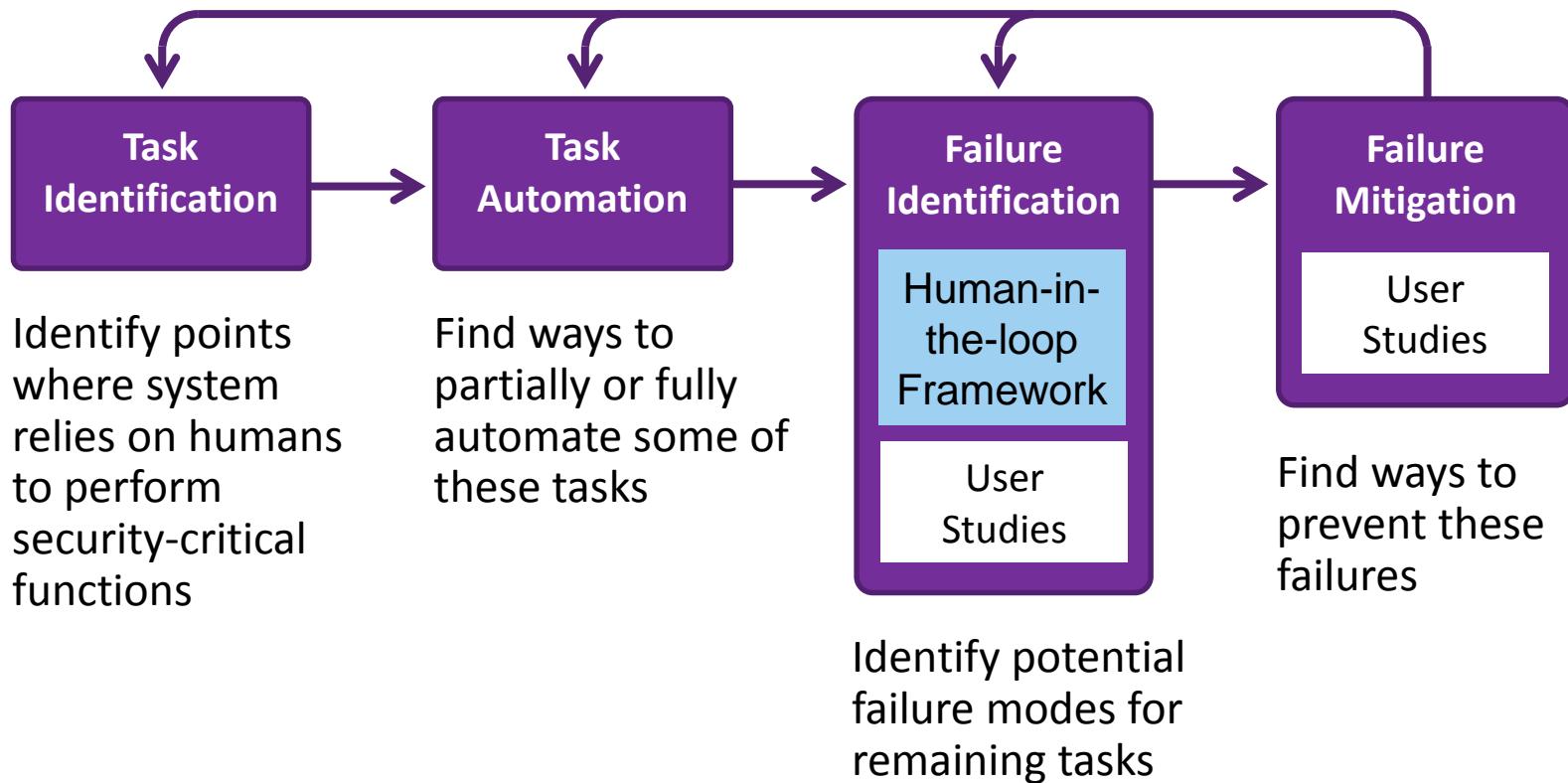
- Based on Communication-Human Information Processing Model (C-HIP) from Warnings Science
- Models human interaction with secure systems
- Can help identify human threats



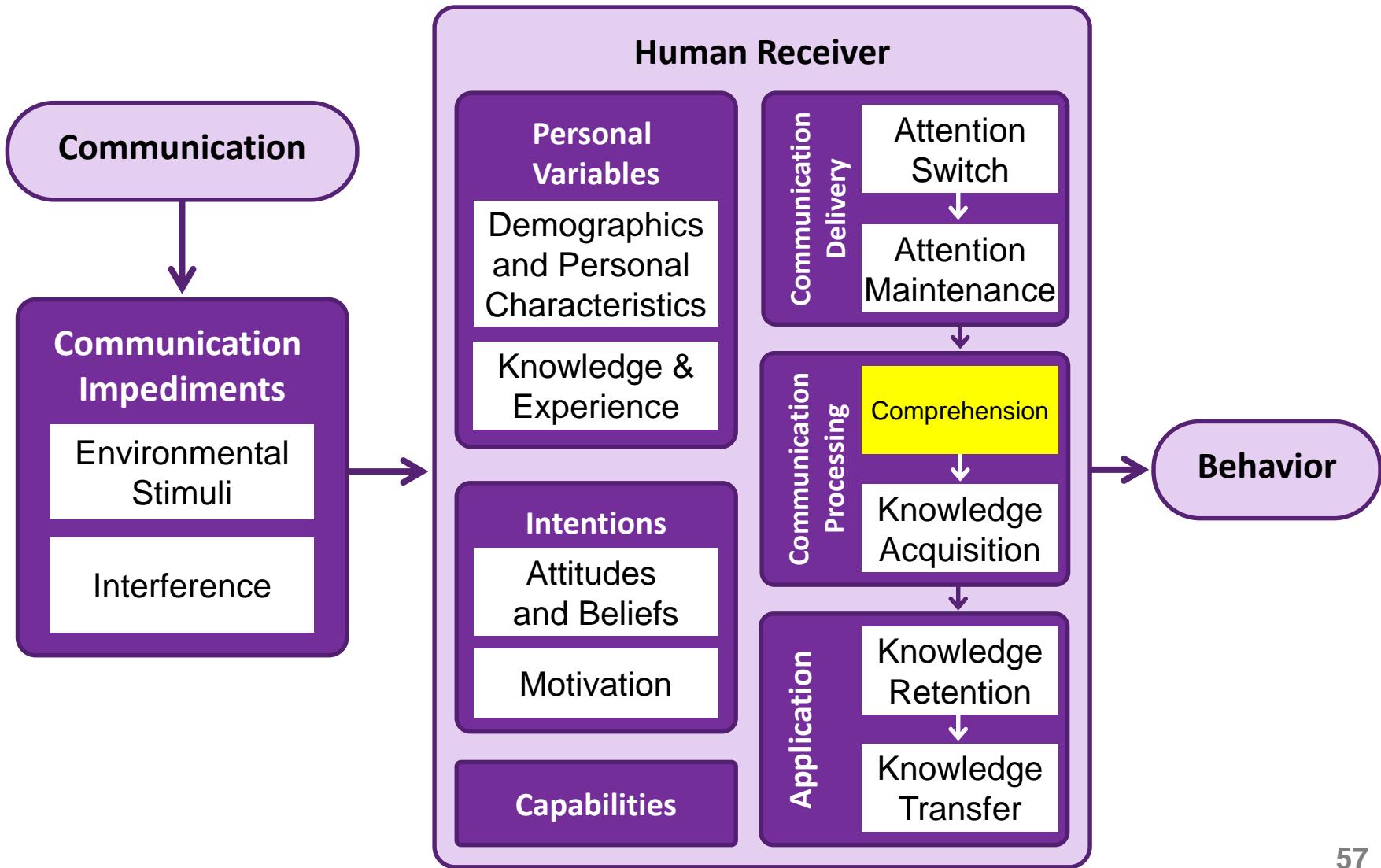
# Human-in-the-loop framework

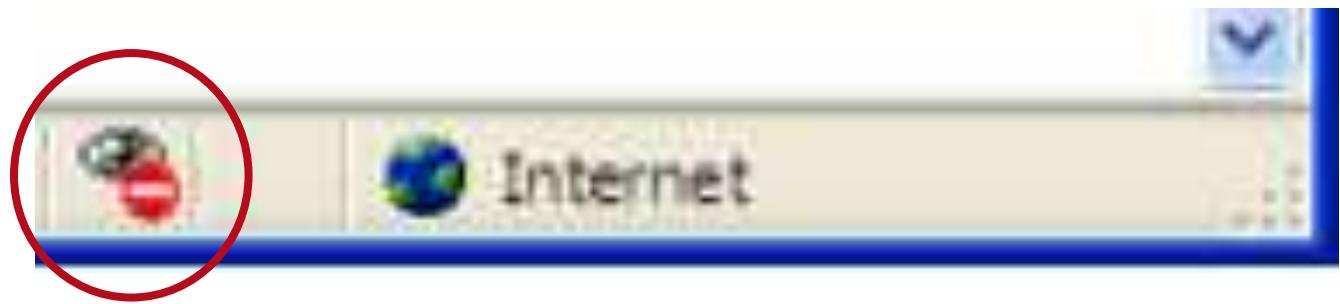


# Threat identification & mitigation



# Human-in-the-loop framework





*The Platform for Privacy Preferences*

# Web Privacy with P3P



O'REILLY

Lorraine Faibis-Ofner

IBM P3P Policy Editor - C:\Program Files\IBM P3P Editor\My Documents\sampleexample.p3p

File Policy Selected Help

Data Elements:

- User information
  - Third-party individual information
    - Third Party's Name
    - Third Party's Birth Date
    - Third Party's Identity certificate
    - Third Party's Gender
    - Third Party's Job Title
    - Third Party's Home Contact
    - Third Party's Business Contact
    - Name of Third Party's Employer
    - Department or division of or

Groups:

- Groups
  - Access log information
  - Customer data
    - Physical contact information
    - Online contact information
    - Purchase information
  - Gift recipient data
    - Third Party's Name
    - Third Party's Home Contact Information
    - Third Party's Business Contact Information

Your Policy:

Policy Elements | HTML Policy | XML Policy | Compact Policy | Errors |

| Data element        | Group               | Purpose             | Recipient      | Optional |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|
| Click-stream data   | Access log info...  | admin, current,...  | ours           | no       |
| HTTP protocol ...   | Access log info...  | admin, current,...  | ours           | no       |
| Physical contac...  | Customer data       | current, develop... | ours, delivery | no       |
| Online contact i... | Customer data       | current, develop... | ours, delivery | no       |
| Purchase infor...   | Customer data       | current, develop... | ours, delivery | no       |
| Third Party's N...  | Gift recipient d... | current, develop... | ours, delivery | no       |
| Third Party's H...  | Gift recipient d... | current, develop... | ours, delivery | no       |

Successfully loaded "C:\Program Files\IBM P3P Editor\My Documents\sampleexample.p3p"