Proceedings

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Workshop on Usable Security (USEC)

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Program Co-Chairs' Message

The importance of human factors in security and privacy cannot be overstated. USEC and its sister workshop, EuroUSEC, play important roles in the usable security and privacy community. By collocating with conferences such as NDSS and IEEE Euro S&P, these workshops promote human-centered security and privacy research at established security and privacy conferences. The workshops encourage and facilitate conversations with traditional security and privacy researchers fostering collaboration and technology transfer, and are connecting the usable security and privacy community worldwide.

This year we're thrilled to introduce a new component to USEC 2019. USEC co-founder and Steering Committee member Jean Camp has initiated a collaboration with the Journal of Cybersecurity. We're establishing a special issue on Usable Security and Privacy in the Journal of Cybersecurity, providing a venue to extend seminal work published at USEC. We're excited for this opportunity to promote the USEC and EuroUSEC workshops and gain a wider audience for USEC publications and participation.

We're looking forward to the presentation of a set of great, diverse papers, engaging panel discussions and an entertaining and enlightening Keynote.

Keynote speaker Angela Sasse, member of the USEC Steering Committee, will reflect on what knowledge can be gathered from the research that has been published on Usable Security and Privacy, and what tangible changes this knowledge has made to user experience of security. She will review how usable security and privacy has often been misunderstood as a path to make users adhere to security and privacy rules that experts deem necessary, which explains why user sentiments towards security remains largely negative. However, she is optimistic that user-centered design will help understand user requirements for security and identify their preferred ways of achieving it. We look forward to her Keynote!

This year the authors of accepted papers represent seven countries from academia, industry and government. Our accepted papers fall roughly into three categories: The first is focused on understanding human behaviour as it relates to security, and empowering users in making better-informed decisions to protect themselves. The second is focused on privacy: Interestingly, apps are being investigated both as a threat to privacy, as well as a tool to better enable users to protect their privacy. The third is authentication: Even though devices have transitioned from desktop computers to laptops, smartphones, and now wearables, authentication remains an intersection where users are forced to interact with security.

We're happy that the scope of populations studied by authors has broadened: We are seeing research on facilitating security and privacy-preservation for developers, challenges faced by law enforcement, and research aiming to better understand how to support children in protecting their privacy.

We see diverse methods: while quantitative surveys are used to test hypotheses, qualitative interviews give a deep understanding of mental models and help researchers

better understand challenges. Studies are conducted in the wild, in the lab, and online. The field continues to benefit from inter-disciplinary research.

We are looking forward to an engaging workshop full of new insights, new ideas, and new challenges. We encourage you to meet new people and explore opportunities for multi-disciplinary collaborations.

We thank the members of our Program Committee who volunteered their time to review the submissions on a very tight schedule. To our Steering Committee: Angela Sasse, Jean Camp, Jim Blythe, Matthew Smith and Andrew Adams, thank you for your vision and guidance.

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