Fun With Research

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Outline

- **A short bio with some observations that I hope will be helpful**
- **A brief look at some opportunities you might want to think about**
- **What is research like?**
- **Some current research on passwords**

WDY WTB WYGU?

WKo SDY LTD?

Bio

Key: right place at the right time

- **This can be gamed, with a little luck**
  - **look for exponential growth**
  - **(this is true with stock picking, too.)**
- **The result can be fame and fortune, while you are having fun and changing the world**

Waves of the future

- **Genetics**
- **Diseases**
- **Plant research**
- **Advanced and cheap engineering**
- **Big Data**

Genetics

- **gene sequencing is getting cheaper at near exponential rates**
- **we are only starting to understand what it all means**
- **combine with micro fluidics, electronic circuits**

Human diseases

- **We know we can cure a number of diseases**
  - **malaria**
  - **dracunulosis (Guinea worm, almost done)**
  - **measles**
  - **schistosomiasis**
  - **anything that requires humans in the reproductive cycle**
- **Aging is a disease**

Plant research

- **not quite as busy a field**
- **extremely important**

Advanced engineering on the cheap

- **the world needs an $8 kitchen stove that lasts a long time and doesn’t dump smoke in the house**
- **a $300 paper house that lasts a year in all sorts of weather (it has been done)**
- **aim high: most poor Africans would love to own a used Toyota**
- **it is hard to make big advances in materials science, but they are valuable**
  - **batteries**

Big data

- **“disk” storage space is getting exponentially cheaper**
- **cameras, microphones, GPS are everywhere**
- **all this calls for vast processing and analysis**
  - **system and data administration**
  - **statistics**
- **this is a lucrative and dangerous technology**
  - **want to help us get it right?**

Problems to solve

- **we can greatly improve teaching**
- **this grade system was designed to create good factory workers**
- **some learning styles fare much better than others**
- **insidious problem: addictive computer games**

The Science of what's possible

- **Aluminum used to be rarer than silver**
- **Nitrogen used to be hard to fixate**
- **Energy used to be hard to get**
- **Computation used to be at human rates**

What's possible

- **Diamond window glass**
  - **It's just carbon!**
- **Energy from the sun**
  - **sunlight has enough energy to split water**
- **Gasoline is not evil**
  - **it can be a renewable resource!**
- **Human body parts**
  - **raw materials are cheap, we just need some smarts**

What's possible (cont)

- **Let's get good at nuclear power**
- **energy can get much cheaper**
- **there is a lot of water in the world**
- **we know how to make people rich**
- **we know how to cut family sizes**

Money

- **Pick growing businesses, industries, research areas**
- **Money doesn’t have to be a goal, but life is better if it isn’t a problem**
- **Start saving immediately: 10+10**
  - **do not expect the government to be there for you in old age**
  - **that means at least $1million (present value) in the bank when you are 60**

Research

- **government**
  - **probably under major funding squeeze over your lifetimes (not a good sign).**
- **academic**
  - **teach, publish, or perish. Get your PhD, write grant proposals, and do awesome stuff.**
- **corporate**
  - **alas, a fading opportunity. I apologize: it was a magnificent ride**

Rethinking Passwords

Intel's rules

- The password must be at least 8 characters long.
- The password **must** contain at least:
  - one alpha character [a-zA-Z];
  - one numeric character [0-9];
  - one special character from this set:
    ` ! @ $ % ^ & * ( ) - _ = + [ ] ; : ' " , < . > / ?
- The password **must not**:
  - contain spaces;
  - begin with an exclamation [!] or a question mark [?];
  - contain your login ID.
- The first 3 characters cannot be the same.
- The sequence of the first 3 characters cannot be in your login ID.
- The first 8 characters cannot be the same as in your previous password.
- Passwords are treated as case sensitive.

Golden Rule Health

PASSWORD RULES (Please note the password is case sensitive)

Must contain at least 8 characters.

Must include a number and a letter.
No more than two consecutive characters may be the same.

Passwords must be changed at least every 180 days.

No password may be re-used for a period of 1 year.

3 invalid attempts to login will result in a 30 minute lockout.

Wachovia (now Wells Fargo)

Passwords must be 7-20 characters
Must include at least one letter and one number, with no spaces
Semi-colons cannot be part of a Password
Passwords are case sensitive
Do not use your User ID as your Password

Dartmouth

- It should be eight characters long using only numbers and upper- and lower-case letters. **Note**: Passwords longer than eight characters will not work to authenticate you with some applications used at Dartmouth, such as Kerberos and Oracle Calendar.
- There can be no more than four characters in sequence (e.g., **12345** or **abcde** are not allowed).
- It must contain at least five different characters (e.g., **2a3a2a3a** only contains three different characters so is not allowed).
- It cannot be a word found in the dictionary, including foreign languages (e.g., **password**).
- It cannot be a reversal of a word found in the dictionary (e.g., **drowssap**).
- It cannot be a word found in the dictionary, plus one additional character either before or after the word (e.g., **xalgebra** or **algebrax**).
- It cannot be a word found in the dictionary with numbers substituted for look-alike letters (e.g., **passw0rd** or **pa55word**).
- It cannot be a word found in the dictionary minus any punctuation, symbols, or numbers (e.g., **oclock** or **soninlaw**).

	length	case sens.	A-Z	a-z	0-9	sym	OK	not OK
Intel	>=8	Yes	R	R	R	ok		␣
Golden Rule	>=8							
Wachovia	7-20	Yes	ok	R		no		
Dart-mouth	8		ok	ok	ok	no		
AT&T Uvers	6-24	Yes	R		R	no	_	__
AT&T GNO	5-8	No						
OAG	7-50	Yes	R		R			␣ ‘ “
War-craft	8-16		R		R			-!”#$
DHS	8-15		R		R			␣
Calnet	9-255		3	3	3	3	␣	
UAL	6-24	No						
Lehigh	>=7		2	2	2	2		

These “eye-of-newt” rules are not user-friendly

- **hard to remember**
- **hard to type**
- **doesn’t increase the search space (password strength) that much**
- **Enforcing these rules excludes genuinely strong and easier pass phrases**

Dictionary Attacks

- **Have a computer try as many password guesses as possible**
- **The required effort is called the "work factor", and the resistance to attack is often (incorrectly) called the "entropy" of the password.**
- **These attacks can be directed at online authentication services, or against stolen hashed password files.**

mail.coastal.cheswick.com login failures:
Sep 21 03:11:03 mail sshd[90325]: Invalid user cgi from 219.139.108.134
Sep 21 03:11:15 mail sshd[90335]: Invalid user oracle from 219.139.108.134
Sep 21 03:11:18 mail sshd[90337]: Invalid user tomcat from 219.139.108.134
Sep 21 03:11:47 mail sshd[90361]: Invalid user nagios from 219.139.108.134
Sep 21 04:50:29 mail sshd[54849]: Invalid user devtest from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:50:33 mail sshd[54851]: Invalid user dede from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:51:49 mail sshd[54895]: Invalid user anja from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:51:55 mail sshd[54897]: Invalid user anja from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:51:59 mail sshd[54899]: Invalid user platinum from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:52:03 mail sshd[54901]: Invalid user plcmspip from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:52:06 mail sshd[54903]: Invalid user teamcity from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:52:13 mail sshd[54905]: Invalid user teamspeak from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:59:33 mail sshd[55143]: Invalid user addr from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:59:37 mail sshd[55145]: Invalid user adempiere from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:59:40 mail sshd[55147]: Invalid user admin2 from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:59:43 mail sshd[55149]: Invalid user admin from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 04:59:57 mail sshd[55157]: Invalid user admin from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 05:00:02 mail sshd[55159]: Invalid user admin from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 05:00:05 mail sshd[55177]: Invalid user adminftp from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 05:00:08 mail sshd[55179]: Invalid user adminhelp from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 05:00:12 mail sshd[55181]: Invalid user admin from 58.213.48.82
Sep 21 05:00:15 mail sshd[55183]: Invalid user admin from 58.213.48.82

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

-- Macbeth, Act 1, Scene 1

Use A Different Password on each System

Change Your Password Frequently

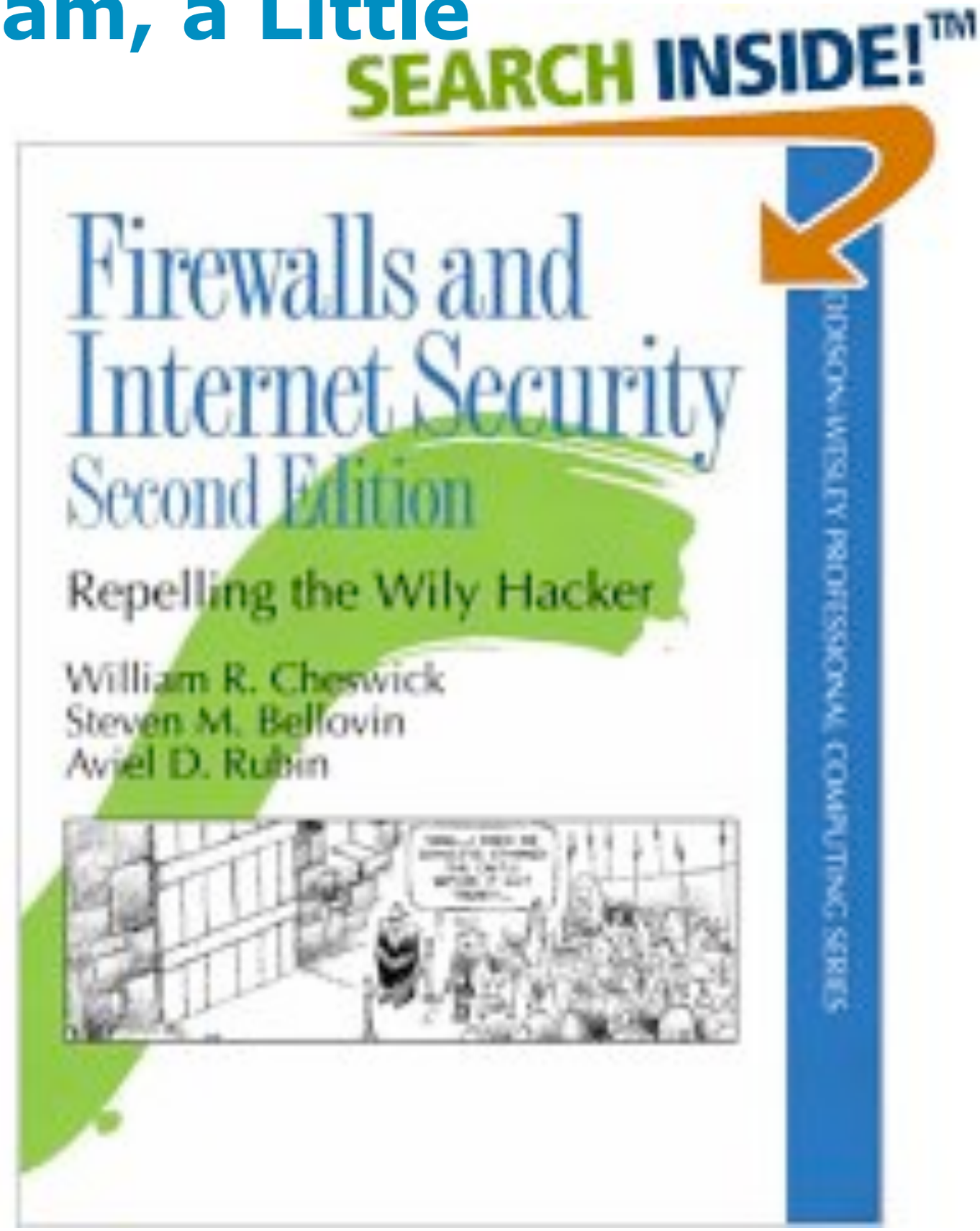
Don’t Reuse Passwords

Don’t Write Your Password Down

This is a usability nightmare!

Who’s responsible for this?

Well, I am, a Little



What are these rules for?

Dictionary Attacks

Where Do Security Policies Come From?

Dini Florêncio and Cormac Herley

SOUPS 2010

Those that accept advertising, purchase sponsored links, or user has a choice have weakest password requirements

Strongest passwords: .gov, then .edu

These rules come from the Deep Past in computing and security

- **Time sharing terminals in public places**
- **Attacks on the login interfaces on network services**
- **Network eavesdropping was often trivial**
- **The stakes were usually much lower**
- **Institutionalized passwords on, say, telephone switches**
- **Changing passwords: lost military crypto gear**

CSC-STD-002-85: DOD Password Management Guideline

- **The “green book”.**
- **A variety of mostly-excellent security suggestions**

Scheme	Cracked in		Change time	
8 character, full alphanumeric	6.72	mins.	0.40	ms.
8 character, EoN	9.25	days	31.19	ms.
11 character, EoN	20,390	years	7.4	days
13 character, full alphanumeric	906,123	years	331	days
12 character, Eye-of-newt	1,896,229	years	692	days

The Dictionary Attack Arms Race

- **Moore's Law: 12 doublings since 1990**
- **And multi-core CPUs are perfect for password cracking**
- **Can a human choose and remember a password that a computer can't guess when limited only by computer speed and time available?**
- **Guessing rates can be 8 x 10^9 guesses per second per CPU!**

100 Most Influential People in IT
eWeek, 2008-04-04

96. Dave Winer
Software developer and entrepreneur

Winer is the developer of RSS.

97. Thornton May
Florida Community College, IT Leadership Academy
May is a noted technology futurist.

98. William
Cheswick
Lead member of technical staff, AT&T Labs

Cheswick continues to innovate in the area of communications research.

99. Chris Anderson
Author
Anderson, editor in chief of Wired, proffered the notion of the niche in his book, “The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business Is Selling Less of More.”

100. Ben Bernanke
Chairman, Federal Reserve Board
No one will have a bigger impact on the fate of the nation’s banks and financial services companies, interest rates, or access to credit.

A note on Grandma

What are the most common current threats

- **Keystroke loggers**
- **Phishing attacks**
- **Password database compromise**

None of these are grandma's fault!

- ***Users are Not the Enemy*, A. Adams and M.A. Sasse, *Commun. ACM*, 42(12), 1999.**

It is simply poor engineering to expect people to select and remember passwords that are resistant to dictionary attacks

Results

- **People violate many of these rules routinely, for usability reasons**
- **Stringent rules increase use of fall-back systems, which are usually less secure, or more expensive**
- **The rules don’t make most things more secure in the face of most current threats**

Some Password Ideas

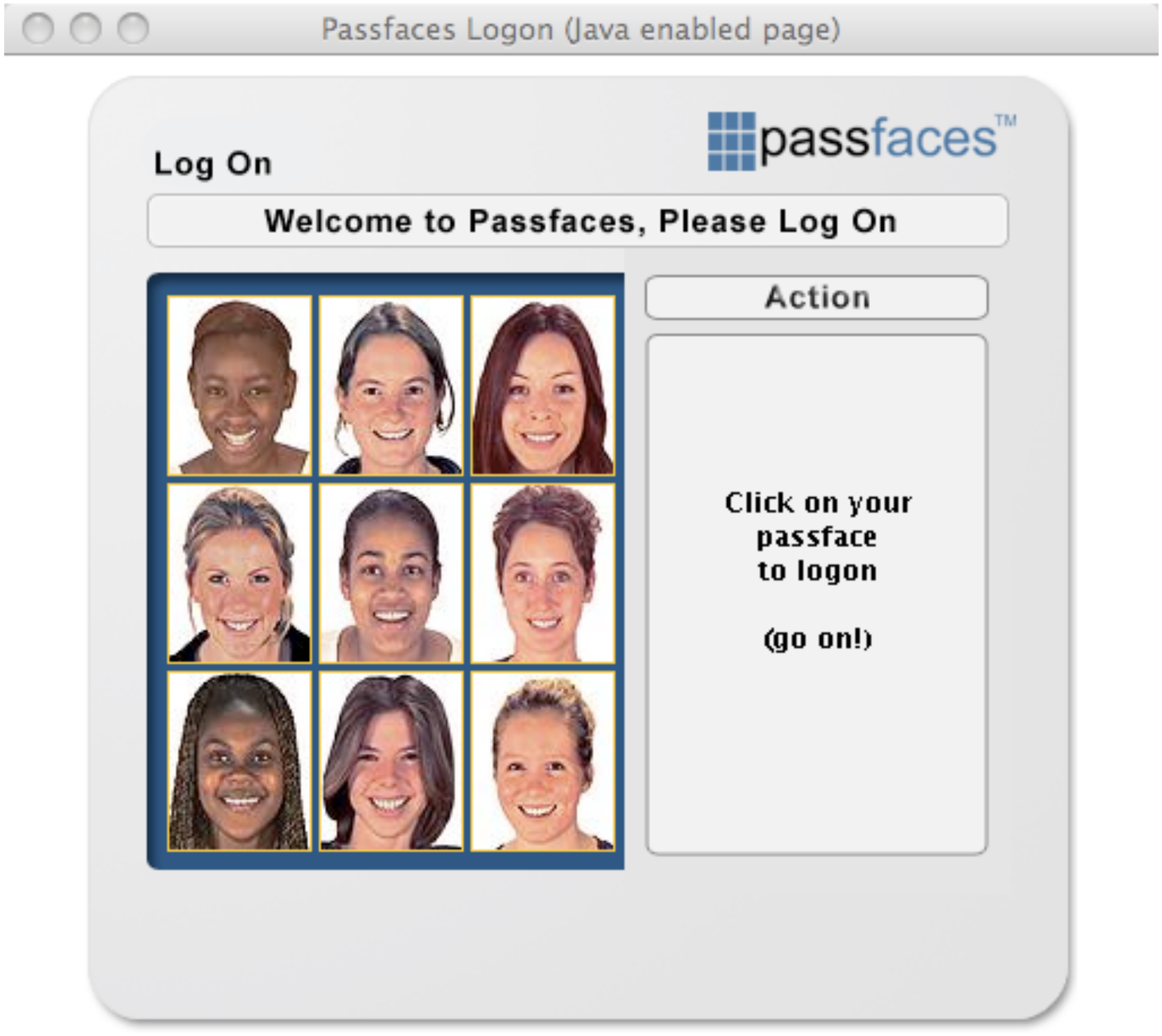
From academia, and me

For a complete survey, see

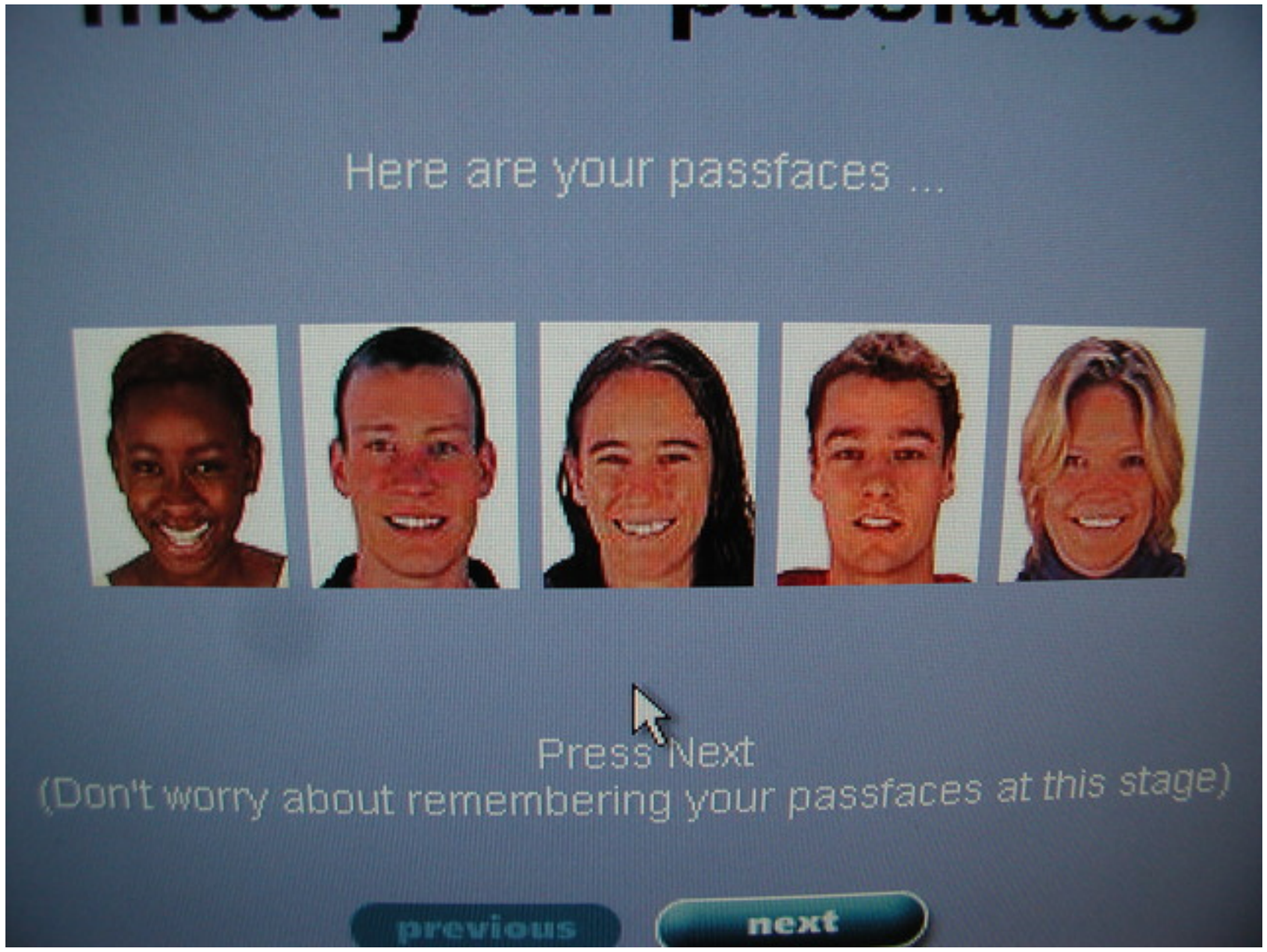
- http://people.scs.carleton.ca/~paulv/papers/gpsurvey-27sept2010.pdf

from *Dirik, Memon, Birget*; SOUPS 2007

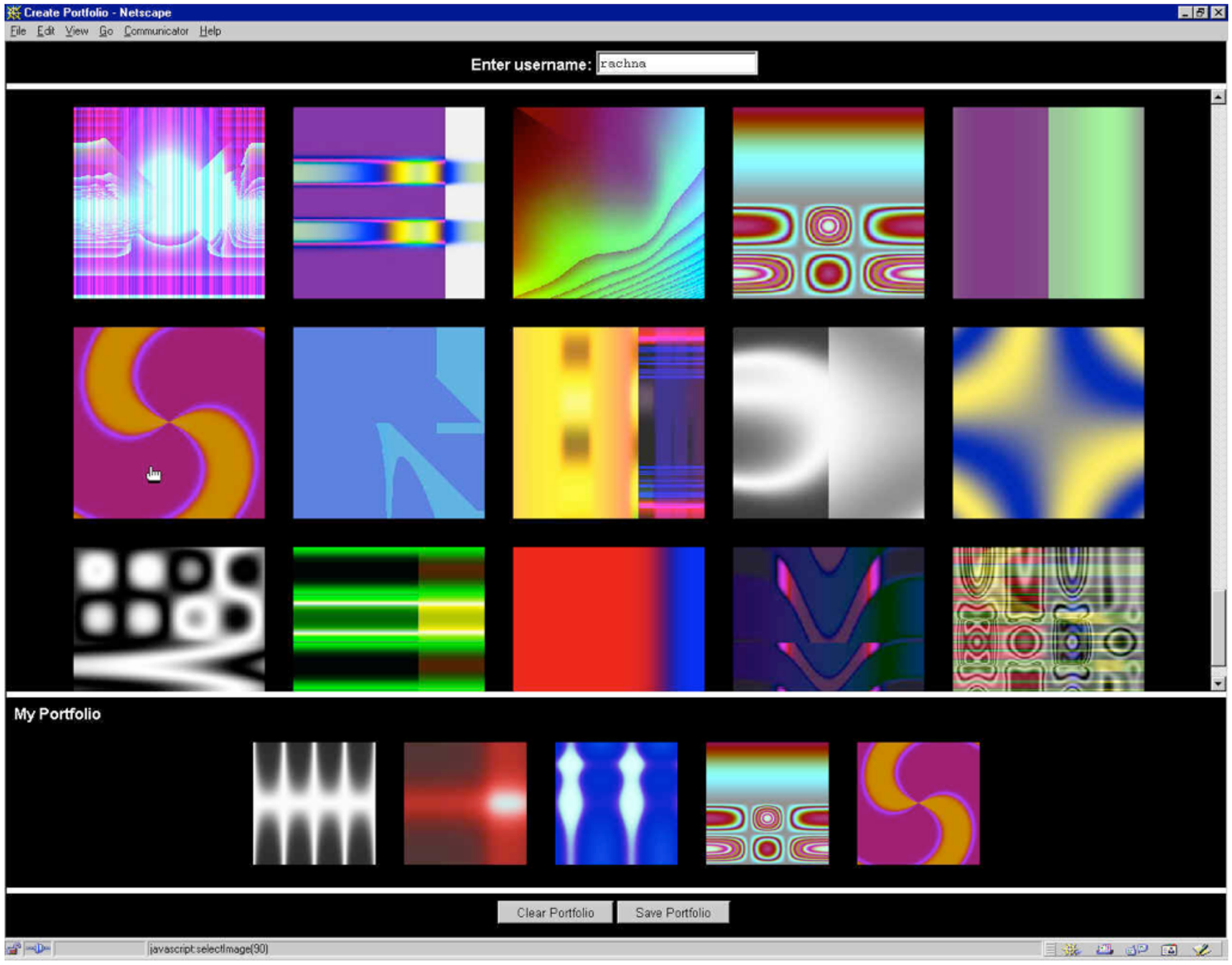
Passfaces


Passfaces Logon (Java enabled page)
Log On
passfaces™
Welcome to Passfaces, Please Log On
Action
Click on your
passface
to logon
(go on!)

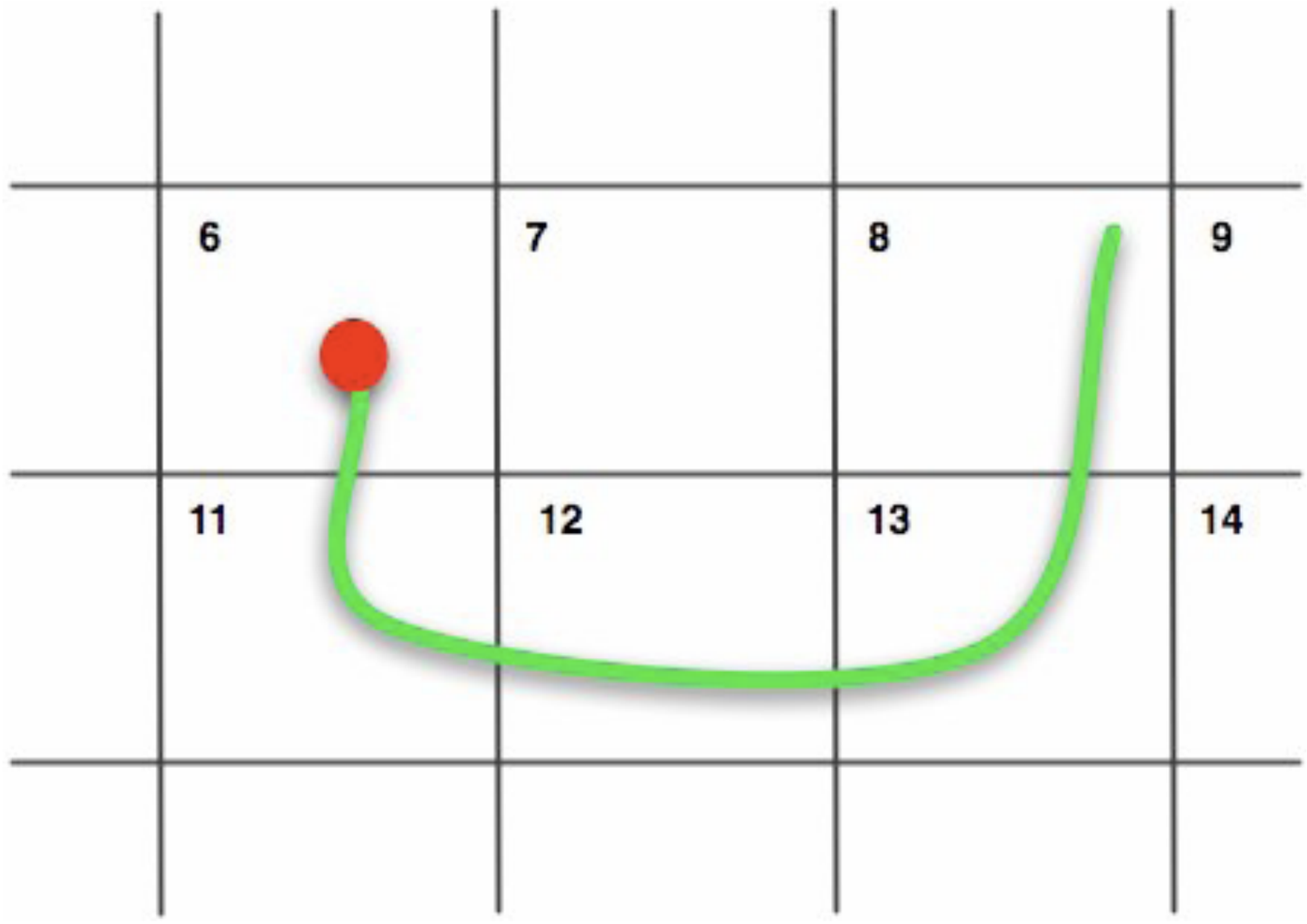
My passfaces



Deja Vu (Recognition-based)



Draw a Secret



Lin, Dunphy, *et al.* SOUPS 2007

Use Your Illusion (SOUPS 2008)

A Very Short Course on Entropy

2^{10} = 1024 of the most common British words

the of and a in to it is to was for that you he with on by at are not this but had they his from she that which or we an were as do been their has would there what will all if can said who one so up as them some when could him into its then two out time my about did your now me no other only just more these also people know any first see very new may well should like than how get way one our made got after think between many years er those go being down yeah three good back make such on there through year over must still even take too more here own come last does oh say no work where erm us government same man might day yes however put world over another in want as life most against again never under old much something why each while house part number out off different went really thought came used children always four where without give few within about system local place great during although small before look next when case end things social most find group quite mean five party every company women says important took much men information per both national often seen given school fact money told away high point night state business second need taken done right having thing looked area perhaps head water right family long hand like already possible nothing yet large left side asked set whether days mm home called development week such use country power later almost young council himself of far both use room together tell little political before able become six general service eyes members since times problem anything market towards court public others face full doing war car felt police keep held problems road probably help interest available law best form looking early making today mother saw knew education work actually policy ever so at office am research feel big body door let name person services months report question using health turned million main though words enough child less book period until several sure father for level control known society major seemed around began itself themselves minister economic wanted upon areas after therefore woman city community only including centre gave job among position effect likely real clear staff black kind read provide particular became line moment international action special difficult certain particularly either open management taking across idea whole age process act around evidence view better off mind sense rather seems believe morning third else half white death sometimes thus brought getting church ten shall try behind heard table change support back sort whose industry ago free care so order century range gone yesterday training working ask street home word groups history central all study usually remember trade hundred programme food committee air hours experience rate hands indeed sir language land result course someone everything certainly based team section leave trying coming similar once minutes authority human changes little cases common role true necessary nature class reason long saying town show subject voice companies since because simply especially department single short personal as pay value member started run patients paper private seven eight systems herself practice wife price type seem figure former rather lost right need matter decision bank countries until makes union terms financial needed south university club president friend parents quality building north stage meeting foreign soon strong situation comes late bed recent date low concerned girl hard according as twenty higher tax used production various understand led bring schools ground conditions secretary weeks clearly bad art start up include poor hospital friends decided shown music month tried game anyone wrong ways chapter followed cost play present love issue at goes described more award king royal results workers expected amount students despite knowledge moved news light approach lord cut basis hair required further paid series better before field allowed easy kept questions natural live future rest project greater feet meet simple died for happened added manager computer security near met evening means round carried hear heart forward sent above attention story structure move agreed nine letter individual force studies movement account per call board success following considered current everyone fire agreement please boy capital stood analysis whatever population modern theory books stop in legal material son received model chance environment finally performance sea rights growth authorities provided nice whom produced relationship talk turn built final east talking fine worked west parties size record red close property myself example space giving normal nor reached buy serious quickly along plan behaviour recently term previous couple included pounds anyway cup treatment energy total thank director prime levels significant issues sat income top choice away costs design pressure scheme change a list suddenly continue technology hall takes ones details happy consider won defence following parts loss industrial activities throughout spent outside teachers generally opened floor round activity hope points association nearly allow rates sun army sorry wall hotel forces contract dead stay reported as hour difference meant summer county specific numbers wide appropriate husband top played relations figures chairman set lower product colour ideas look arms obviously unless produce changed season developed unit appear investment test basic write village reasons military original successful garden effects each aware yourself exactly help suppose showed style employment passed appeared page hold suggested continued offered products popular science window expect beyond resources rules professional announced economy picture okay needs doctor maybe events a direct gives advice running circumstances sales risk interests dark event thousand involved written park returned ensure fish wish opportunity commission oil sound ready lines shop looks immediately worth in college press fell blood goods playing carry less film prices useful conference operation follows extent designed application station television access response degree majority effective established wrote region green ah western traditional easily cold shows offer though statement published forms down accept miles independent election support importance lady site jobs needs plans earth earlier title parliament standards leaving interesting houses planning considerable girls involved increase species stopped concern public means caused raised through glass physical thought eye left heavy walked daughter existing competition speak responsible up river follow

Pick one at random, entropy = 10 bits ($2^{10} = 1024$)

the of and a in to it is to was for that you he with on by at are not this but had they his from she that which or we an were as do been their has would there what will all if can said who one so up as them some when could him into its then two out time my about did your now me no other only just more these also people know any first see very new may well should like than how get way one our made got after think between many years er those go being down yeah three good back make such on there through year over must still even take too more here own come last does oh say no work where erm us government same man might day yes however put world over another in want as life most against again never under old much something why each while house part number out off different went really thought came used children always four where without give few within about system local place great during although small before look next when case end things social most find group quite mean five party every company women says important took much men information per both national often seen given school fact money told away high point night state business second need taken done right having thing looked area perhaps head water right family long hand like already possible nothing yet large left side asked set whether days mm home called development week such use country power later almost young council himself of far both use room together tell little political before able become six general service eyes members since times problem anything market towards court public others face full doing war car felt police keep held problems road probably help interest available law best form looking early making today mother saw knew education work actually policy ever so at office am research feel big body door let name person services months report question using health turned million main though words enough child less book period until several sure father for level control known society major seemed around began itself themselves minister economic wanted upon areas after therefore woman city community only including centre gave job among position effect likely real clear staff black kind read provide particular became line moment international action special difficult certain particularly either open management taking across idea whole age process act around evidence view better off mind sense rather seems believe morning third else half white death sometimes thus brought getting church ten shall try behind heard table change support back sort whose industry ago free care so order century range gone yesterday training working ask street home word groups history central all study usually remember trade hundred programme food committee air hours experience rate hands indeed sir language land result course someone everything certainly based team section leave trying coming similar once minutes authority human changes little cases common role true necessary nature class reason long saying town show subject voice companies since because simply especially department single short personal as pay value member started run patients paper private seven eight systems herself practice wife price type seem figure former rather lost right need matter decision bank countries until makes union terms financial needed south university club president friend parents quality building north stage meeting foreign soon strong situation comes late bed recent date low concerned girl hard according as twenty higher tax used production various understand led bring schools ground conditions secretary weeks clearly bad art start up include poor hospital friends decided shown music month tried game anyone wrong ways chapter followed cost play present love issue at goes described more award king royal results workers expected amount students despite knowledge moved news light approach lord cut basis hair required further paid series better before field allowed easy kept questions natural live future rest project greater feet meet simple died for happened added manager computer security near met evening means round carried hear heart forward sent above attention story structure move agreed nine letter individual force studies movement account per call board success following considered current everyone fire agreement please boy capital stood analysis whatever population modern theory books stop in legal material son received model chance environment finally performance sea rights growth authorities provided nice whom produced relationship talk turn built final east talking fine worked west parties size record red close property myself example space giving normal nor reached buy serious quickly along plan behaviour recently term previous couple included pounds anyway cup treatment energy total thank director prime levels significant issues sat income top choice away costs design pressure scheme change a list suddenly continue technology hall takes ones details happy consider won defence following parts loss industrial activities throughout spent outside teachers generally opened floor round activity hope points association nearly allow rates sun army sorry wall hotel forces contract dead stay reported as hour difference meant summer county specific numbers wide appropriate husband top played relations figures chairman set lower product colour ideas look arms obviously unless produce changed season developed unit appear investment test basic write village reasons military original successful garden effects each aware yourself exactly help suppose showed style employment passed appeared page hold suggested continued offered products popular science window expect beyond resources rules professional announced economy picture okay needs doctor maybe events a direct gives advice running circumstances sales risk interests dark event thousand involved written park returned ensure fish wish opportunity commission oil sound ready lines shop looks 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Two random choices = 20 bits

the of and a in to it is to was for that you he with on by at are not this but had they his from she that which or we an were as do been their has would there what will all if can said who one so up as them some when could him into its then two out time my about did your now me no other only just more these also people know any first see very new may well should like than how get way one our made got after think between many years er those go being down yeah three good back make such on there through year over must still even take too more here own come last does oh say no work where erm us government same man might day yes however put world over another in want as life most against again never under old much something why each while house part number out off different went really thought came used children always four where without give few within about system local place great during although small before look next when case end things social most find group quite mean five party 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20 bits, our two words

- **“example early”**

Good stuff!

- **The list of words isn’t secret**
- **so spelling checker is okay!**
- **easy words to type**
- **on an iPhone, pick words where the “tappos” give the word you wanted**

Required entropy, according to Florêncio and Herley

- **Facebook, Twitter, etc. are a minimum of ~20 bits**
- **Banks are in the 30s**
- **Government in the mid 40s and up**

Another Solution: Don’t allow common passwords

Popularity* is *Everything

Stuart Schechter, Cormac Herley, Michael Mitzenmacher;

HOTSEC 2010.

Count and limit password choices

- **I.E. only 100 people (out of a million?) may use *password* as a password**
- **Makes the dictionary attack much harder: common targets vanish**
- **Makes passwords harder to choose, like picking a gmail account name: *dragonslayer6478***

Authentication schemes in general

- **Entropy is hard for usable systems**
- **High entropy systems are usually hard**
- **User studies are required**
  - **uses college kids, two department secretaries, and someone's grandma**
  - **results seldom surprising (to me, at least)**
- **Mechanical Turk can give much higher N, but tests are hard to create.**

Some Whacko Ideas from ches

Passmaps

(Zoomauth demo)

Carrier 10:46 AM

Keyring | Key options | Continue

Key name: Sample

Use hex for responses OFF

Zero if bad unlock ON

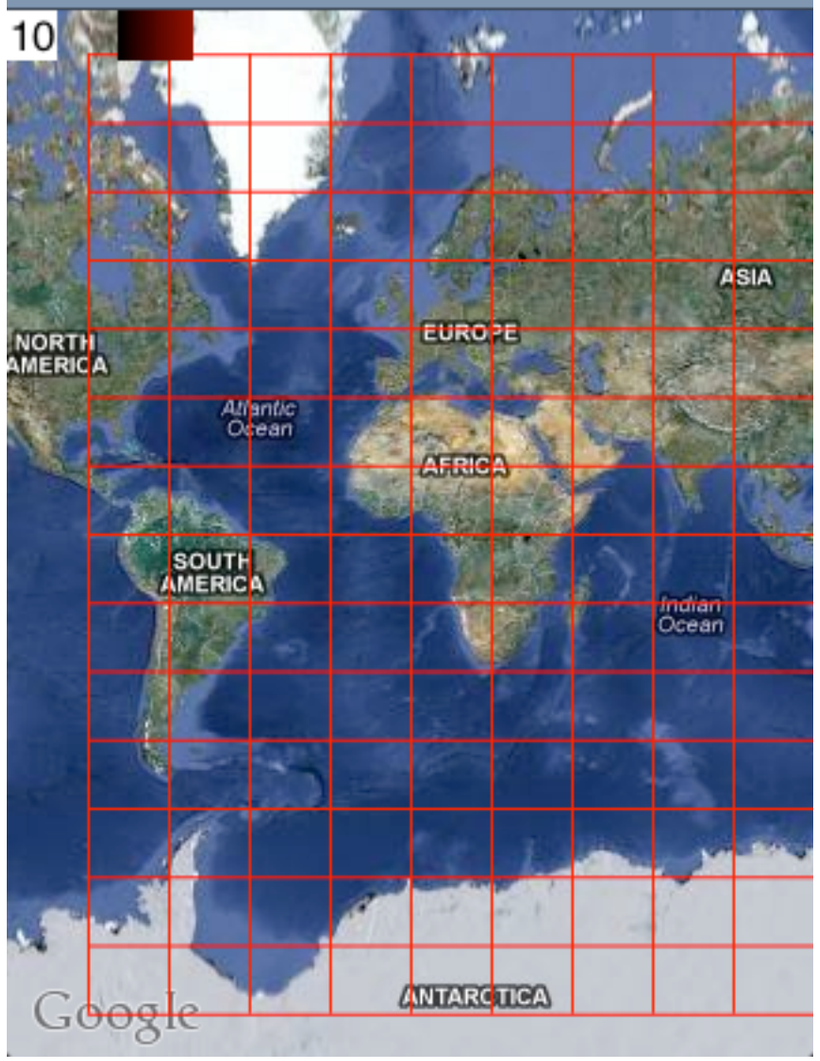
Use helper bits OFF

Select zoom type:

Map | Graph | Document

Carrier 10:46 AM

Key options | Zoom and tap



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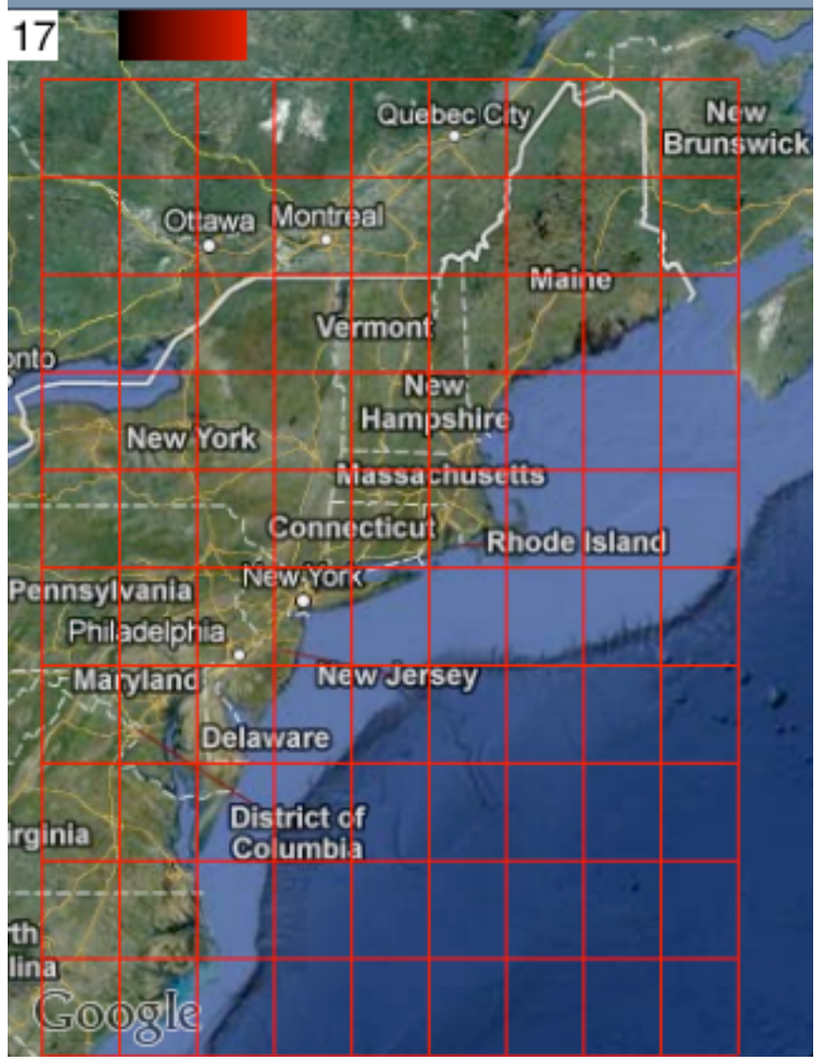


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35
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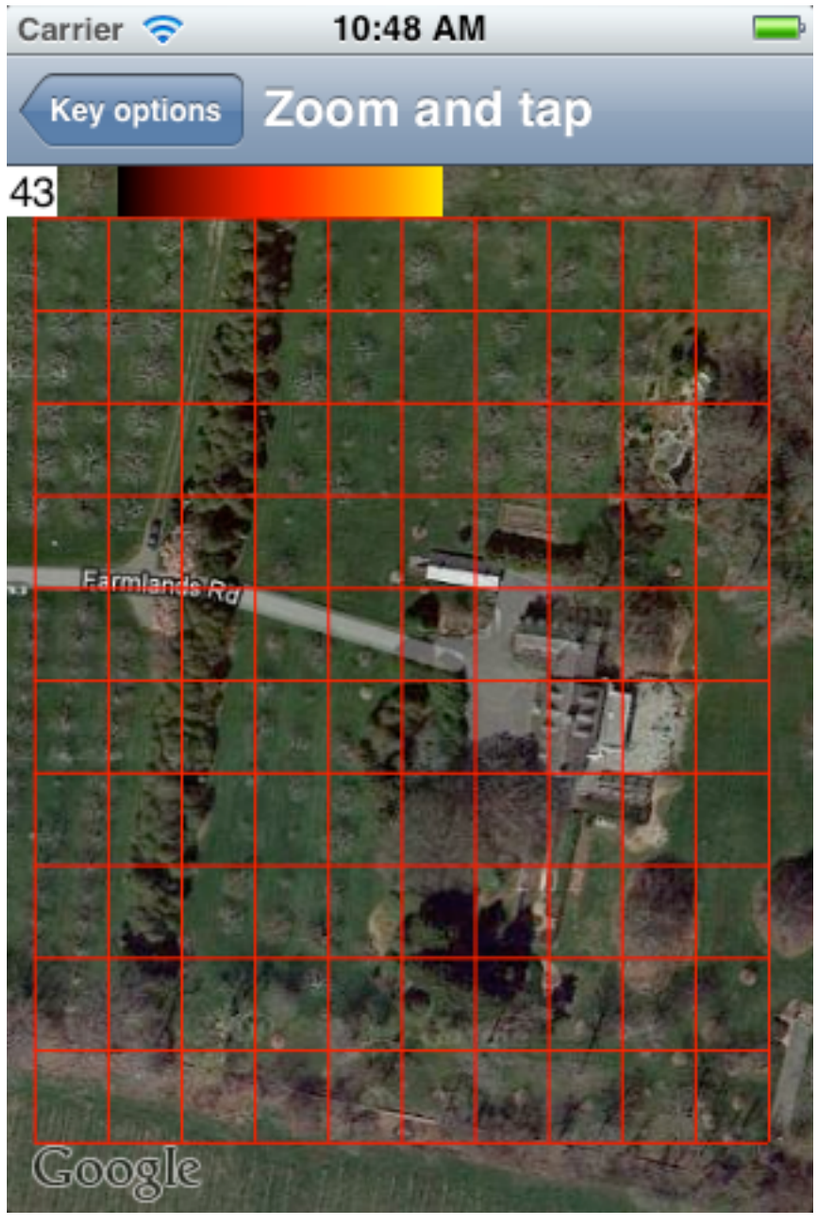
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43
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Google


Carrier
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Key options
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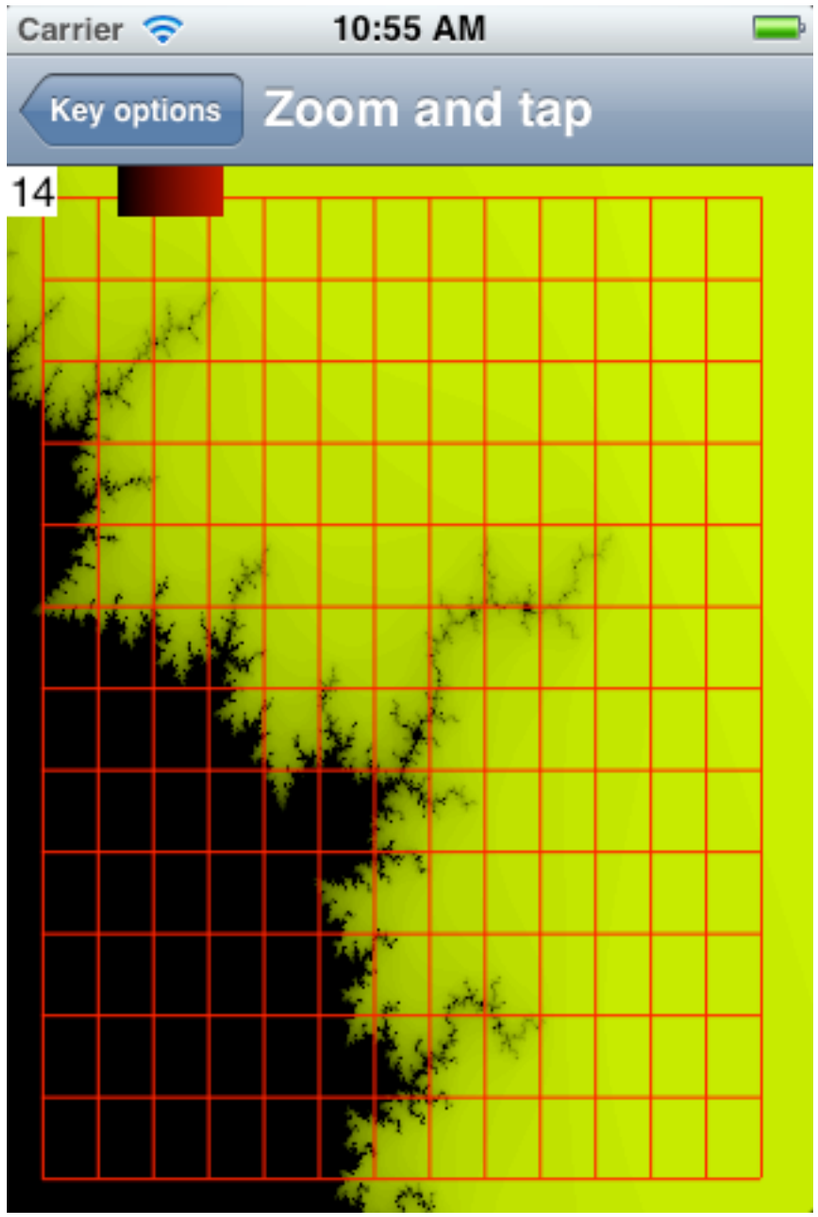
47
Google


Carrier
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Key options
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14

Carrier 10:55 AM

Key options | Select document

- calculus.pdf
- tcith-asl.pdf
- walden.pdf

Carrier 10:55 AM

Select document | Select page

Page 172

Carrier 10:55 AM

Select page | Zoom and tap

$$22\text{-}2 \qquad \int \quad -2$$

$$u = 1 - x^2,\ x^2 = 1 - u \text{ and the in}$$

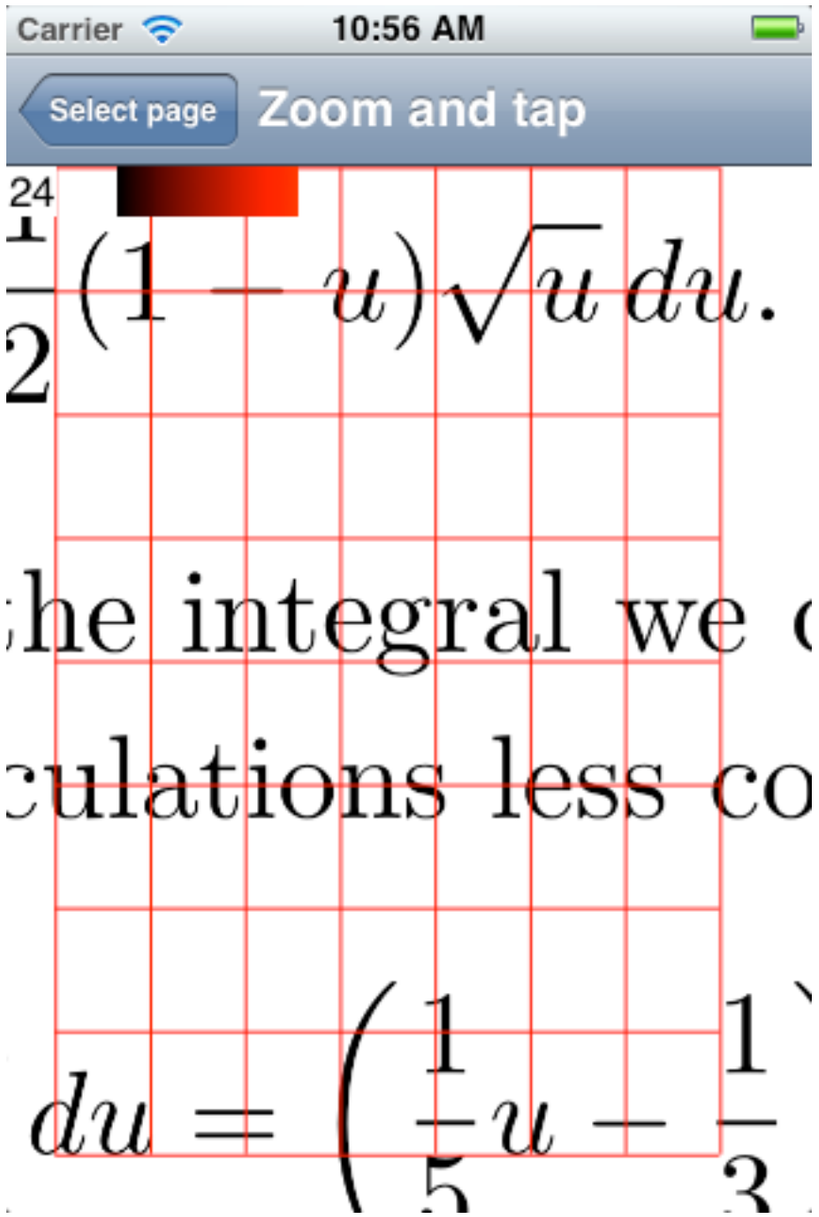
$$\int -\frac{1}{2}(1-u)\sqrt{u}\,du.$$

exactly the integral we computed

e the calculations less confusing.

$$-u)\sqrt{u}\,du = \left(\frac{1}{5}u - \frac{1}{3}\right)u^{3/2} +$$

$$^2\,dx = \left(\frac{1}{5}(1-x^2) - \frac{1}{3}\right)(1-x^2)^3$$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24
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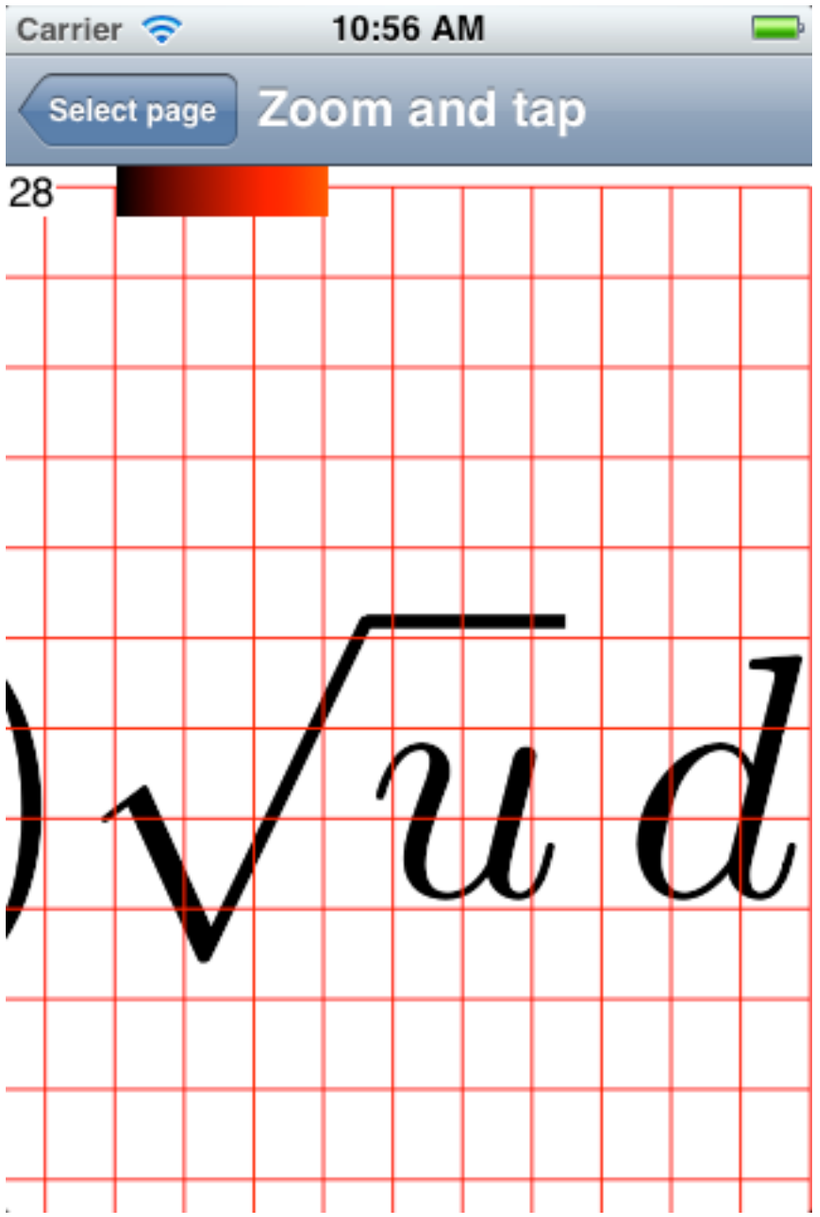
culations less co
$du = \left(\frac{1}{5}u - \frac{1}{3}\right.$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28
$)\sqrt{u}\,d$

Can Something You Know Be Saved?

Baris Coskun and Cormac Herley, in *Proc. 11th Information Security Conference (ISC 2008)*, pp. 421-440, Springer-Verlag [September 2008]

Can "something you know be saved?"

- **I think so**
- **and, we don't have a choice in most cases**
- **security and convenience: tradeoff?**
- **It is going to be one of the authentication factors**
  - **something you know**
  - **something you have**
  - **something you are**
  - **where you are**
  - **.....**

Better Solutions

#1: Getting out of the game

SecureNet Key SNK-004

A login from my distant past

RISC/os (inet)

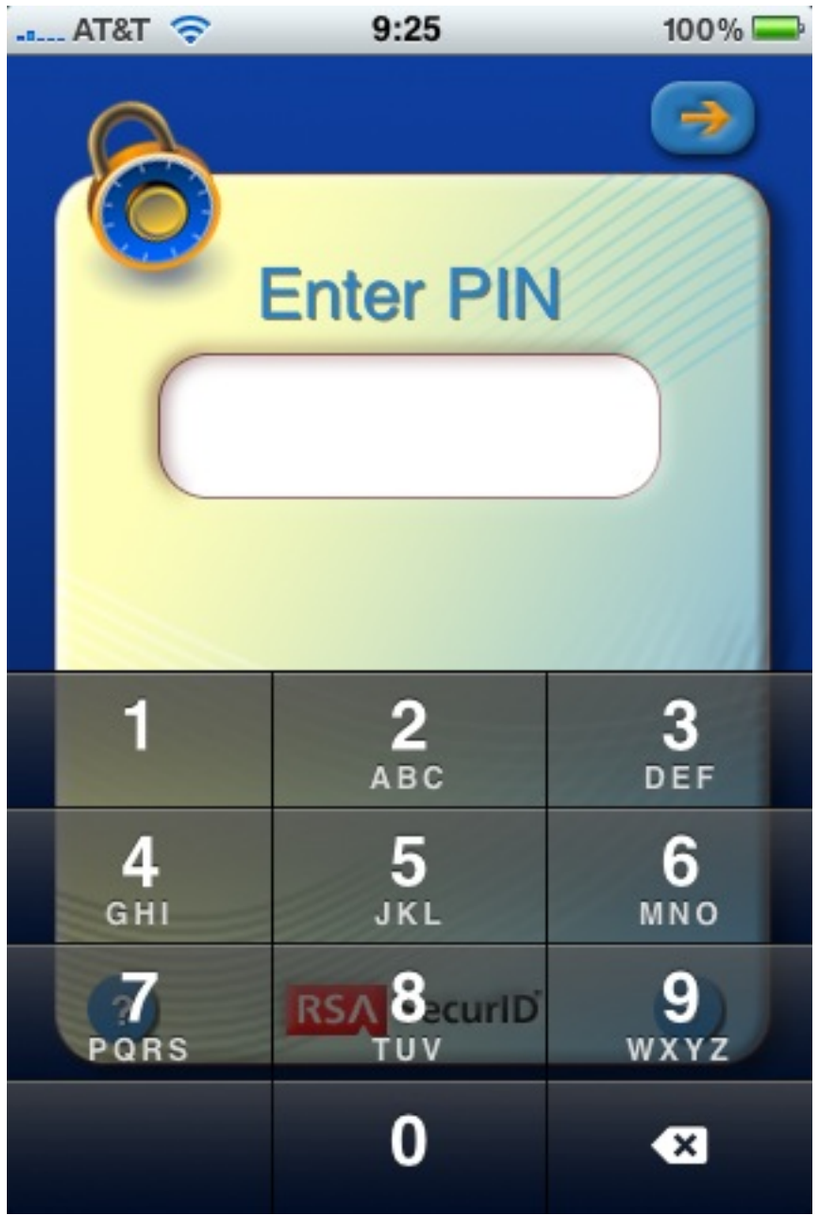
Authentication Server.

Id? ches
Enter response code for 70202: 04432234

Destination? cetus
$

SecureID

RSA Softkey


AT&T
9:25
100%
Enter PIN
1
2 ABC
3 DEF
4 GHI
5 JKL
6 MNO
7 PQRS
8 TUV
9 WXYZ
0


AT&T
9:25
100%
Passcode
8621 1490
27 sec remaining
RSA SecurID

Great Things about the Softkey

- **You always have your iPhone with you**
- **A bad PIN simply gives the wrong answer**
- **That means that the program doesn't know the right answer**
- **That means that forensics can't run a dictionary attack on it with having an observed login**
- **That means that a lost iPhone isn't an authentication disaster**

Challenge/Response passwords

- **Gets us out of the game**
- **Sniffing is not useful**
- **Man-in-the-middle can still be used**
- **Pretty much nothing to forget**
- **A PIN is helpful to make two-factor authentication**
- **Surprisingly cheap**

Why aren’t these ubiquitous?

- **Cheap devices available before 1990**
- **People hate:**
  - **Having to carry the device**
  - **Entering the challenge (why SNK lost)**
  - **Entering the response**
  - **Carrying multiple devices**

Better Solutions

#2: Limiting guesses

Limiting guesses

- **This has worked for ATM PINs since the early 1970s!**
- **It requires and authentication server, or some means to shut off the card/account**
- **It replaces the *eye of newt* rules with…**

The Non-moronic password rule!

Pick something a friend, colleague won’t guess in a few tries,
and they can’t figure out while watching you type it

Summary solution

- **Limited guesses and lock the account**
- **Non-moronic passwords**
- **Make locked accounts less painful**

Grandma can understand and comply with this rule

- **It makes sense**
- **Now, dictionary words are okay**
- **Simpler passwords are easier to remember**
- **You probably don’t have to write them down**

Less painful account locking

- **Don’t count duplicate password attempts**
  - **they probably thought they mistyped it**
- **Make the password hint about the primary password, and don’t have a (weak) secondary**
- **Allow a trusted party to vouch for the user, so he can change his password**
- **Lock the account in increasing time increments**
- **Remind the user of password rules**

We need research on account locking

- **Not studied much in the open literature**
- **Practitioners could contribute:**
  - **what does a lost password cost?**
  - **how long will a user wait for an unlock?**

Better Solutions?

#3: Grasping the “passphrase” nettle

Still Want Your Strong Passwords?

Okay, fine. But let’s make them fun, or at least easier to type (and tap)

iPhone-Friendly? (40 bits)

- **grade likes jokes guess**
- **goes joke gold gods rode fire rows**
- **votes mines bored alike yard**
- **what knit bomb unit star grow**
- **actor agent above angel abuse**
- **honey learn least lemon links**

www.cheswick.com/insult
(42 bits)

You grim-faced pipe of pleuritic snipe sweat
You dire chiffonier of foul miniature poodle squirt
You teratic theca of pathogenic moth dingleberry
You worrying pan broiler of bilious puff adder slobber
You vile wok of tumorigenic aphid leftovers
You baneful reliquary of pneumonic miller stumps
You atrocious terrine of harmful Virginia deer vomition
You excruciating pony of septic redstart eccrisis
You blotted kibble of unhygenic wild sheep spittle
You hard-featured fistula of podagric macaque flux

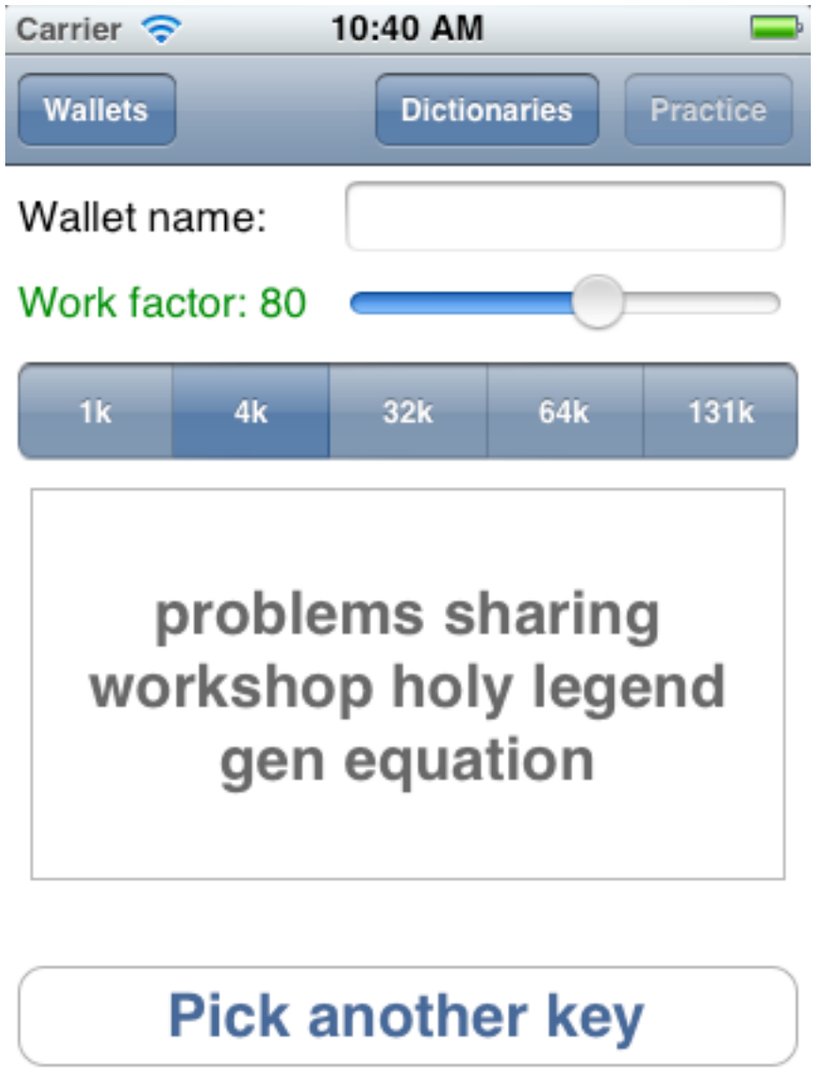
If you really need “high entropy” passwords

- **Not user-chosen, but user can veto, waiting for a “good one”**
  - **User-chosen phrases have much lower entropy**
- **They are going to write it down, for a while**
- **For daily use: who’s going to remember this over a year?**

Words Are Better Than Eye-of-Newt

- **Much easier to type**
- **Spelling checking (iPhone) is your friend, not enemy**
- **Markus Jakobsson's *Fastwords***

(105 demo)


Carrier
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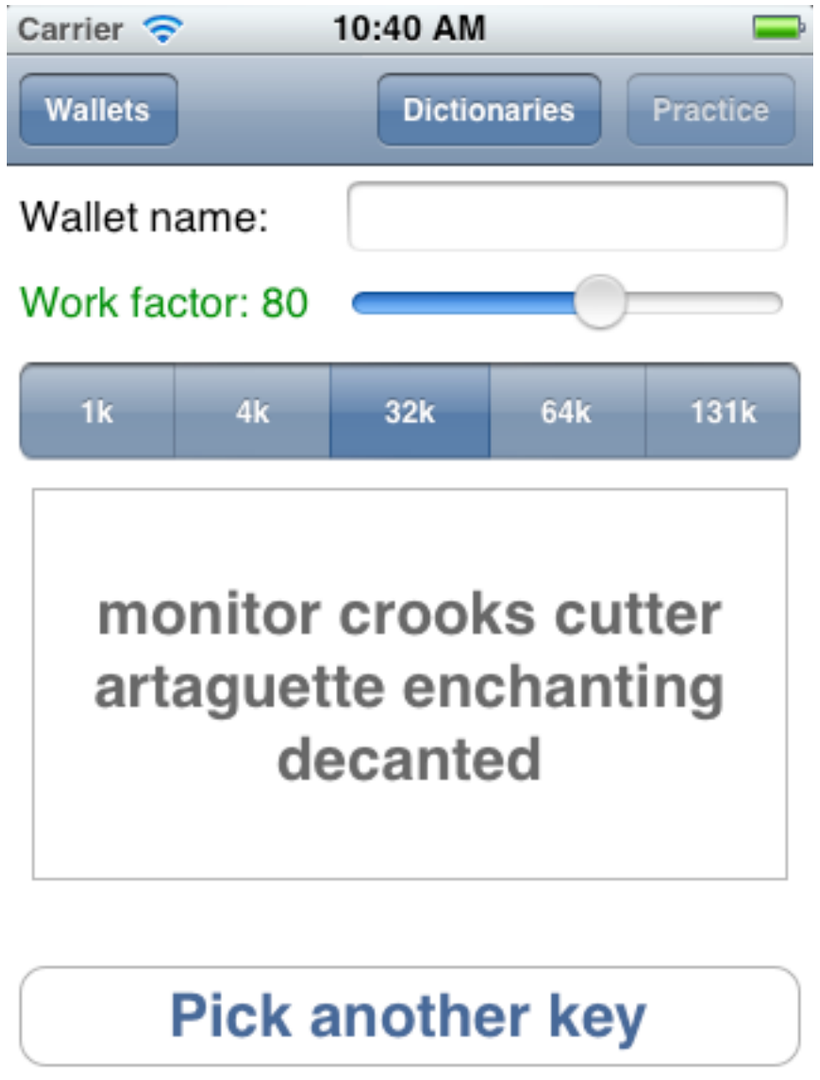
Wallets
Dictionaries
Practice
Wallet name:
Work factor: 80
1k
4k
32k
64k
131k
problems sharing workshop holy legend gen equation
Pick another key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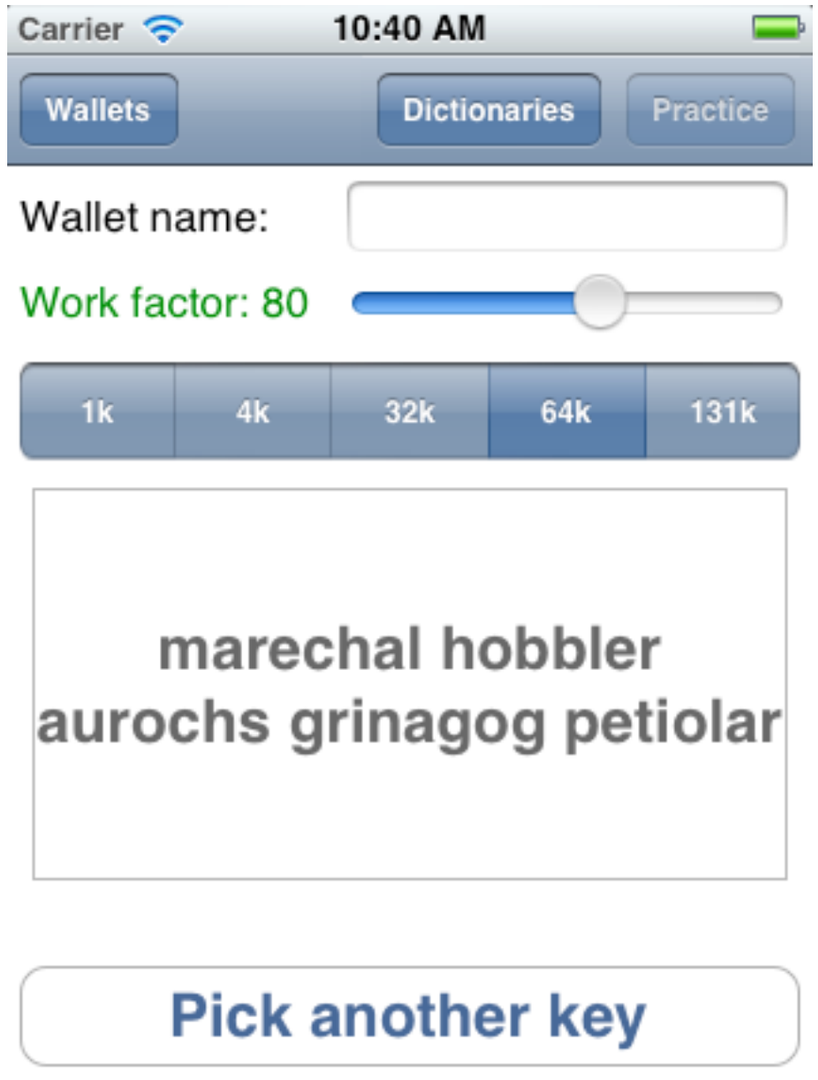
Pick another key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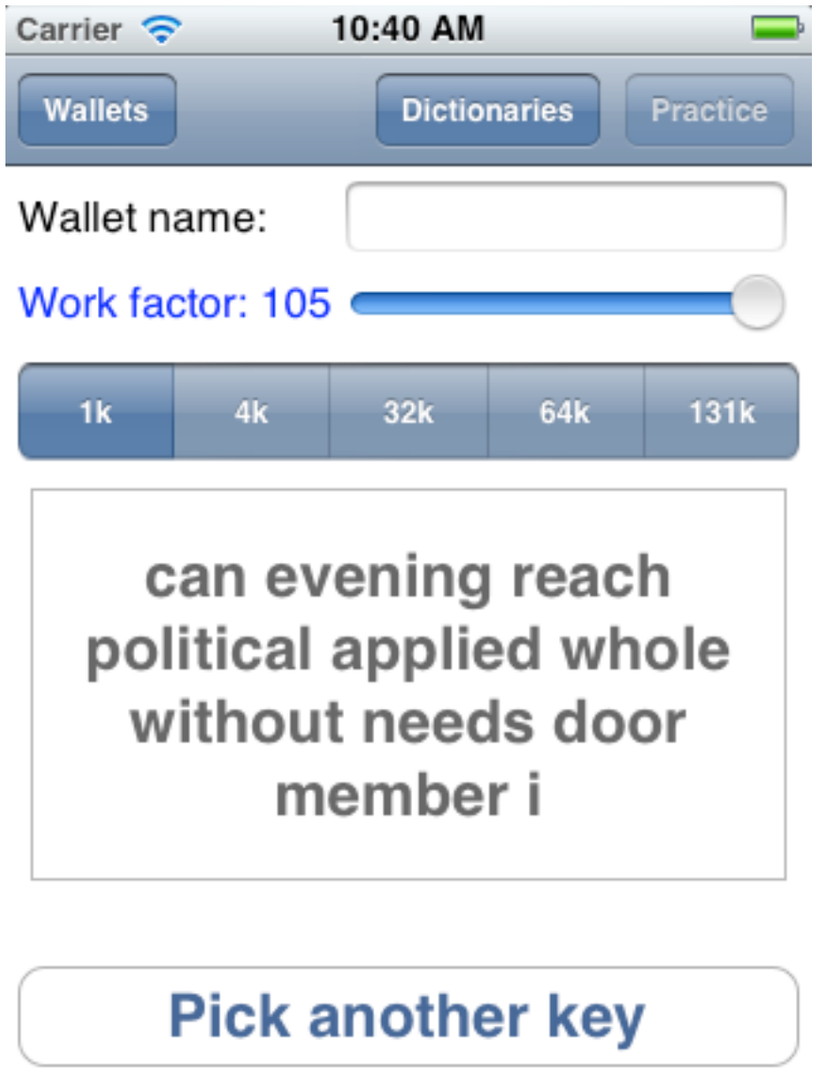
Pick another key


Carrier
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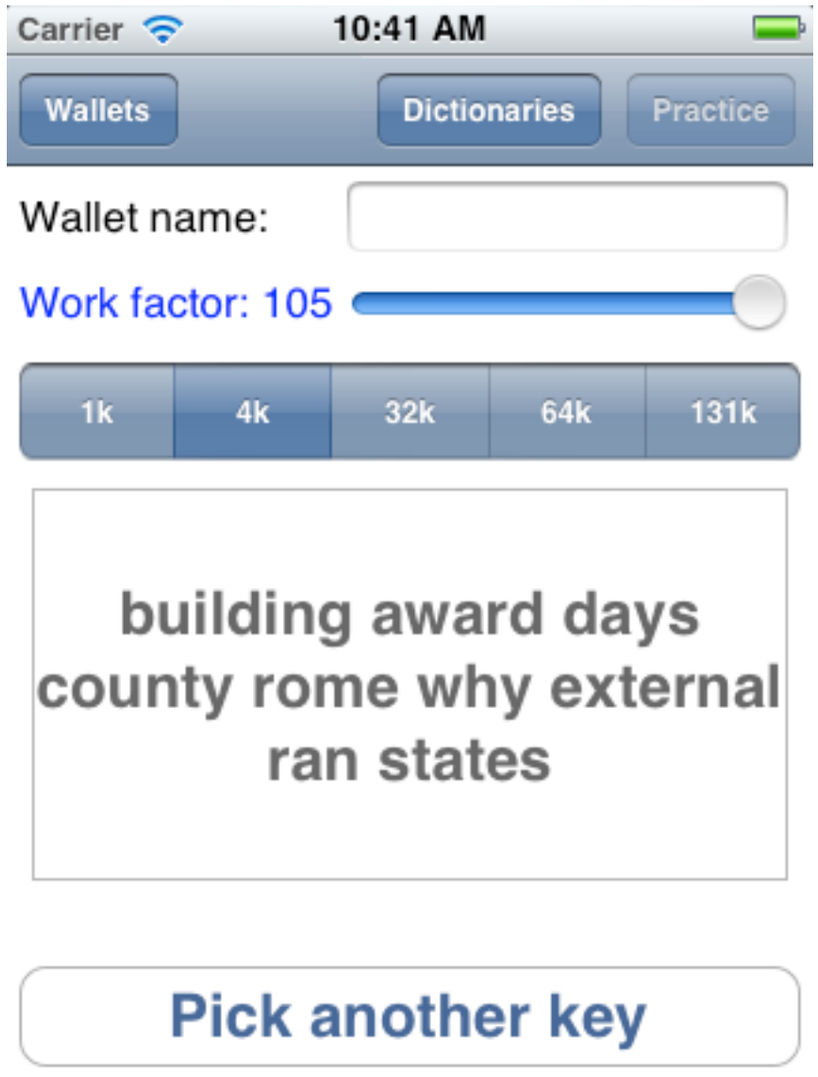
Pick another key


Carrier
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Wallets
Dictionaries
Practice
Wallet name:
Work factor: 105
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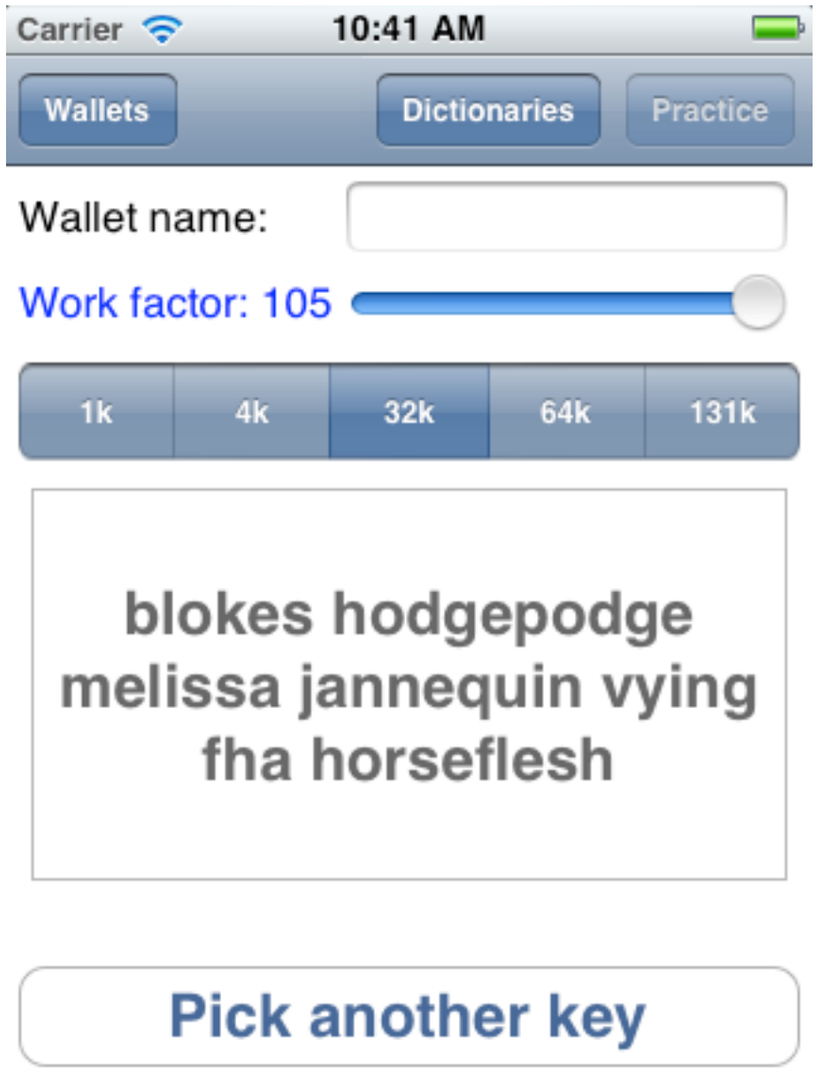
4k
32k
64k
131k
building award days county rome why external ran states
Pick another key


Carrier
10:41 AM
Wallets
Dictionaries
Practice
Wallet name:
Work factor: 105
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4k
32k
64k
131k
blokes hodgepodge melissa jannequin vying fha horseflesh
Pick another key

Use one Really Strong password to lock your password wallet

- **You are not going to remember it immediately**
- **You will learn it after a while**
- **You don’t have to change it**
- **2^105 bits means average work factor of 20,282,409,603,651,670,423,947,251,286,016 =**
- **20 * 10^30 = 33 million times Avogadro’s number**

Benefits

- **The dictionary is not secret**
- **You can use spelling checkers**
- **No fancy-pants attacks by Dave Wagner or anyone else**
- **The wallet can be stored in a public place, or even on your smart phone and backups**
- **You can lose your smartphone without leaking secrets from the wallet**
- **One can build authentication into this, giving challenge/response**

Of course, there are a lot of assumptions here

- **Secure client software**
- **No shoulder surfing**
- **Your written backup could fall in the wrong hands**
- **Rubber hose cryptography**
- **Wallet software could leave useful traces behind in the smart phone**
- **….**

Frankly, I am sick of this!

Several solutions that work

Fun With Research

Bill Cheswick
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