

The Challenges of Understanding Security in Web Browser
Case study: Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox

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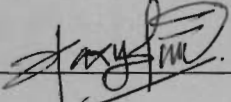
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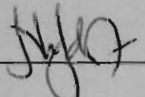
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ABSTRACT

Many applications contain security features that are available for the end user to select and configure, as well as the ability to place the users in situation where they must take security related decisions. Web browser is one of these applications which consider as the only way to browse the internet. This study exposes the available security features in both of Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox in Microsoft Windows XP; moreover describes results of survey over 232 students in Universiti Utara Malaysia from different educational background to explore typical Internet user awareness and understanding toward web browser security features within windows XP through internet user behavior when using a Web browser to access the Internet. The study reveals some significant area of difficulty, with many standards security features presenting usable security challenge for large proportion of respondents. The results and finding highlight the lack of internet user understanding and awareness toward security features in the web browser.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

PERMISSION TO USE	i
ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Problem Statement	4
1.1 Research objectives	5
1.2 Scope of the study	6
1.3 Expected Output	6
1.4 Summary	6

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction	7
2.1 Security as demand	7
2.2 Graphical User Interface Design	8
2.3 Usability in secure System	9
2.4 Design for Usability	11
2.5 Conflict in implementation of usable security	13
2.6 Web Browser Security goals	14
2.7 Internet Explorer security feature	15
2.7.1 Protected Mode	18
2.7.2 Privacy Reporting	19
2.7.3 Cookies Filtering	20
2.7.4 Phishing Filter	21
2.7.5 Parental Control	23
2.7.6 Pop-up Windows block	24
2.7.6 Block Web browser add-ons	25
2.7.8 Digital Signature	25
2.7.9 Using secure Internet sites for transactions	26

2.8	Mozilla Firefox security features	27
2.8.1	Phishing Protection	29
2.8.2	Pop-up Locking	30
2.8.3	Spyware protection	31
2.8.4	Automated Update	
2.9	Human factor and security	31
2.10	Understanding Web Browser's security features from user perspective	32
2.11	Other Related Studies	34
2.12	Summary	37

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0	Introduction	39
3.1	Problem Selection	39
3.2	Identification of Data	40
3.3	Research Tool Selection	40
3.3.1	Survey design	41
3.4	Sample Selection	42
3.5	Data Collection	43
3.6	Data Analysis	43
3.7	Summary	44

CHAPTER 4 : FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.0	Introduction	45
4.1	Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox security features	45
4.2	Respondent demographic and background	47
4.3	Reliability and Validity	51
4.4	Findings and Results	
4.5	Conclusion of finding	60
4.6	Summary	60

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.0	Introduction	61
5.1	Discussion	61
5.2	Limitation of the research	62
5.3	Future work	62

5.4 Conclusion of research	63
5.5 Summary	63
REFERENCES	64
APPENDIX A	70
APPENDIX B	79

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1	Browser Security Features	46
Table 4.2	Responses by Gender	47
Table 4.3	Responses by Age Category	48
Table 4.4	Responses by Education Background	48
Table 4.5	Responses by College	49
Table 4.6	Responses by Internet Usage	50
Table 4.7	Responses by Browser Type	50
Table 4.8	Responses for Security Techniques	51
Table 4.9	Reliability Test Results	52
Table 4.10	Descriptive Statistics for Scale Statements	53
Table 4.11	Responses of Scenario 1	55
Table 4.12	Responses of Scenario 2	56
Table 4.13	Responses of Scenario 3	58
Table 4.14	Major User Attitudes and Related Questions	59
Table 4.15	User Attitudes Mean	59

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSS	Cascading Style Sheets
DHTML	Dynamic Hyper Text Markup Language
FF	Firefox
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language
HTTPS	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol over Secure Socket Layer
IE	Internet Explorer
P3p	Platform for Privacy Preferences
RSS	Really Simple Syndication
SSL	Secure Socket Layer
TLS	Transport Layer Security
UAC	User Account Control
UIPI	User Interface Privilege Isolation

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The accelerating number and sophistication of attacks against computers connected to the internet and systems has markedly increased the demand for computer security professionals. This demand has recently motivated a significant increase in the number of security techniques and different mechanism, which it applies those techniques in suitable methods to come up with different types of attacks.

The Internet is an interconnected Computer Networks that enable user to access web pages and allow users to navigate from one to another via hyperlinks Might be exposed to the attacks through navigating the web resources.

The only way to navigate and browse the internet can be done by using software that can access the resources of the Web called Web Browser. Some of the famous Web browsers available for personal computers include Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, and Netscape. All of these types have a security mechanism, which is only effective when used correctly (Alma, W, and J & D. Tygar. 1998). However, security mechanism depends on both users and technology.

A web browser is a software program that allows accessing of information on the internet. Followed by the Worldwide Web software that was written by Tim Berners-Lee and released to the public in 1991, numerous web browsers have been developed and

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only

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