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**TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION GRAPHICAL
PASSWORD MECHANISM BASED ON
CULTURAL FAMILIARITY**



**MASTER OF SCIENCE (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2017**

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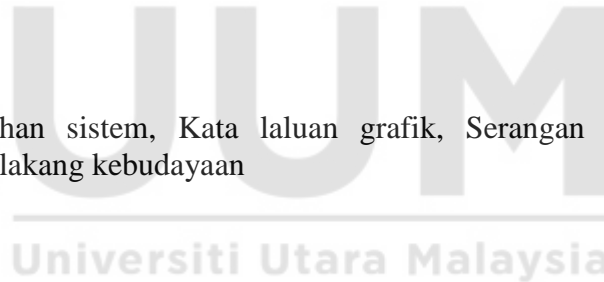
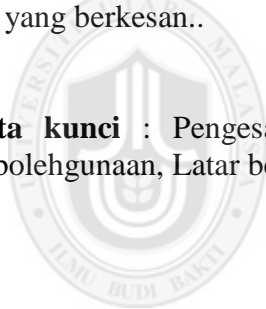
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Abstrak

Kata laluan berasaskan teks untuk pengesahan adalah terdedah kepada serangan kamus kerana pengguna cenderung untuk mencipta kata laluan yang lemah supaya mudah diingat. Apabila berurusan dengan pengesahan pengguna, gambar adalah lebih mudah diingat berbanding dengan perkataan. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan menentukan jenis gambar yang mungkin dipilih berdasarkan latar belakang kebudayaan pengguna. Ia juga mengkaji hubungan antara pilihan kata laluan dan kebiasaan budaya serta juga kesan Kata Laluan Grafik (GP) terhadap keselamatan dan kebolehgunaan. Senarai garis panduan telah dicadangkan bagi pengiktirafan kata laluan grafik. Ia dipercayai boleh meningkatkan keselamatan dan juga kebolehgunaan. Seramai 40 orang pelajar telah mengambil bahagian untuk membina pangkalan data GP. Kemudian, penilaian telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji kebiasaan dan keupayaan pengguna mengenali gambar dari pangkalan data dengan menggunakan 30 responden yang lain. Kadar login yang Berjaya adalah 79.51% dan ini menunjukkan bahawa GP berdasarkan kebudayaan telah meningkatkan kebiasaan responden dengan menggalakkan daya ingatan mereka. Responden yang memilih GP biasa mempunyai kadar cubaan meneka yang lebih tinggi berbanding responden yang memilih gambar yang tidak biasa. Kesimpulannya, sebanyak 8 garis panduan telah di bentuk berdasarkan aspek pilihan pengguna untuk memilih dan memproses GP. Garis panduan ini boleh digunakan oleh pereka sistem GP untuk membangunkan sistem GP yang berkesan..

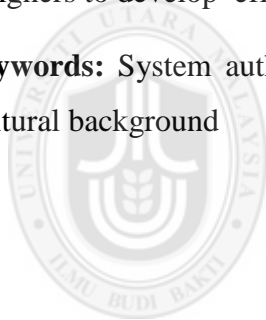
Kata kunci : Pengesahan sistem, Kata laluan grafik, Serangan keselamatan, Kebolehgunaan, Latar belakang kebudayaan



Abstract

Text-based passwords for authentication are exposed to the dictionary attack as users tend to create weak passwords for easy memorability. When dealing with user's authentication, pictures are more likely to be simply remembered in comparison with words. Hence, this study aimed to determine the types of pictures in accordance to users' cultural background. It also investigated the relationship between the choices of password and the cultural familiarity along with the effect of Graphical Password (GP) on security and usability. A list of guidelines was proposed for the recognition of graphical passwords. This is believed to increase the security as well as usability. A total of 40 students were recruited to build a GP database. Further, an evaluation was conducted to investigate users' familiarity and recognition of the GP from the database using 30 other respondents. The results showed that the 30 participants positively responded to the familiar pictures in accordance to their cultures. The result of successful login rate was 79.51% which indicates that cultural-based GP has increased the respondents' familiarity by promoting their memorability. Further, the respondents who chose familiar GP had higher guessing attack rate than the unfamiliar GP. Finally, a total of 8 guidelines were established based on the aspects that correspond to the users' preferences for choosing and processing GP. These guidelines can be used by graphical password system designers to develop effective GP systems.

Keywords: System authentication, Graphical password, Security attack, Usability, Cultural background



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Table of Contents

Permission to Use.....	I
Abstrak	II
Abstract	III
Acknowledgement.....	IV
Table of Contents	V
List of Tables.....	X
List of Figure.....	XI
List of Abbreviations.....	XIII
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	4
1.3 Research Questions.....	6
1.4 Research Objectives.....	6
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study	7
1.7 Overview of the Thesis	8
CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 Authentication Methods.....	10
2.2 Knowledge Based	12
2.2.1 Traditional Text-Based Passwords	12
2.2.2 Graphical-Based Passwords.....	13
2.3 Existing Studies on Graphical Password	17
2.4 Security of Graphical Password.....	29
2.4.1 Guessing Attack	29
2.4.2 Dictionary Attack.....	30
2.4.3 Brute Force (Exhaustive) Attack	30

2.4.4	Spyware Attack.....	31
2.4.5	Shoulder Surfing Attack	32
2.4.6	Social Engineering Attack	32
2.5	Usability of Graphical Passwords.....	33
2.6	Current Utilization of Graphical Passwords	34
2.7	Types of Pictures Used for Recognition-Based Graphical Passwords	35
2.8	Challenge Set Designs for Recognition-Based Graphical Passwords	38
2.9	Recognition-Based Graphical Passwords Methods (RBGP).....	39
2.9.1	Passface Scheme Passwords	39
2.9.2	Dejavu Scheme (Random Art Passwords).....	40
2.9.3	Triangle Scheme (Object Passwords)	42
2.9.4	Story Scheme	43
2.9.5	Comparison of Typical Recognition-Based Graphical Password	44
2.10	Comparison of Typical Recognition-Based Schemes Resistance Against Possible Attacks	45
2.11	Culture	47
2.12	Cultural Images.....	48
2.13	Cultural Images in Graphical Passwords.....	48
2.14	National Images	50
2.15	Cultural Effects on Usability and Security of Recognition-Based Graphical Password Authentication.....	51
2.16	Cultural Models	52
2.17	Overview of Literature Review	54
2.18	Summary.....	55
	CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	56
3.1	Introduction.....	56
3.2	Research Methodology	56
3.3	Research Design	57

3.4	Phase One : Identification of the Problem.....	59
3.5	Phase Two : Collecting Pictures.....	59
3.6	Phase Three : Construction Database and Prototype.....	60
3.6.1	Construct Database and Prototype.....	60
3.6.2	Registration in the System.....	61
3.7	Phase Four : Experiment.....	61
3.7.1	Security Aspects.....	62
3.7.2	Usability Aspect.....	62
3.8	Phase Five : Data Analysis.....	63
3.9	Phase Six : Discussion.....	63
3.10	Data Collection Procedures.....	64
3.11	Sampling Technique and Study Sample.....	64
3.12	Research Instruments.....	66
3.13	Pilot Test.....	66
3.13.1	The Importance of Pilot Study.....	67
3.13.2	The Goal of a Pilot Study.....	68
3.13.3	Validity and Reliability.....	69
3.13.4	Face Validity.....	70
3.13.5	Population Distribution of the Pilot Study.....	70
3.13.6	Pilot Test Results (Appendix A).....	71
3.13.7	Pilot Test Results (Appendix B,C and D).....	73
3.14	Summary.....	73
 CHAPTER FOUR CULTURAL FAMILIARITY'S IMPACT ON		
CHOOSING PICTURES FOR RECOGNITION-BASED		
GRAPHICAL PASSWORDS.....74		
4.1	Introduction.....	74
4.2	The Aims of the Experiment 1.....	75

4.3	The Design and Method of Experiment 1.....	76
4.4	The Procedure of Experiment 1.....	76
4.5	Results of the Experiment 1.....	77
4.5.1	Respondent Profile Appendix (A).....	77
4.5.2	Pictures Database.....	79
4.6	The Aim of Experiment 2.....	81
4.7	The Design of Experiment 2.....	81
4.8	The Method of Experiment 2.....	85
4.9	The Procedure of Experiment 2.....	86
4.10	Results of the Experiment 2.....	88
4.10.1	Respondent Profile Appendix (B,C and D).....	88
4.10.2	Number of Familiar Pictures Selected.....	90
4.11	Discussion.....	91
4.12	Summary.....	92
CHAPTER FIVE User Guidelines based on Cultural Familiarity's		
Impact on the Security and Usability of Recognition- Based		
Graphical Passwords94		
5.1	Introduction.....	94
5.2	Participants of Experiment.....	95
5.3	Reliability Test for Appendix (B,C and D).....	95
5.4	Security Evaluation (Experiment 3).....	96
5.4.1	The Aim of Experiment 3.....	96
5.4.2	Educated guessing attack.....	97
5.4.3	The Method of Experiment 3.....	98
5.4.4	The Design of Experiment 3.....	99
5.4.5	The Procedure of Experiment 3.....	100
5.4.6	The Result of Experiment 3.....	101

5.4.7	Post-questionnaire (Appendix C) Results for Experiment 3	102
5.4.8	Discussion of Experiment 3	104
5.5	Usability Evaluation (Experiment 4)	106
5.5.1	The Method of Experiment 4	106
5.5.2	The Procedure of Experiment 4	107
5.5.3	Results of Experiment 4	109
5.5.4	Discussion of Experiment 4	112
5.6	The Aim of Experiment 5	114
5.7	The Method of Experiment 5	115
5.8	The Procedure of Experiment 5	115
5.9	The Results of Experiment 5	116
5.10	Summary	119
CHAPTER SIX CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS		120
6.1	Introduction	120
6.2	Discussion	121
6.3	Research Contributions	122
6.4	Limitations of the Study	123
6.5	Future work	123
References		124
Appendix A		135
Appendix B		136
Appendix C		137
Appendix D		138
Appendix E		139

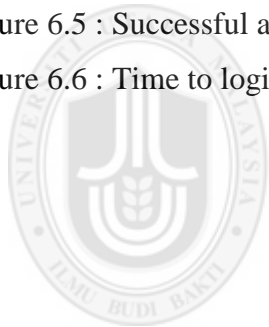
List of Tables

Table 2.1 : Summary of Authentication methods	10
Table 2.2 : Comparison of different graphical password mechanisms in previous studies.....	27
Table 2.3 : Comparison of Typical Recognition-Based Graphical Password	44
Table 2.4 : Comparison of typical recognition-based schemes.....	46
Table 3.1 : Questionnaires.....	66
Table 3.2 : Gender Distribution of the Pilot Study	71
Table 3.3 : Course Level Distribution of the Pilot Study.....	71
Table 3.4 : Time to finish the questionnaire of the Pilot Study	72
Table 3.5 : Reliability Testing Result	73
Table 5.1 : Familiar pictures based on the participants' preferences.....	84
Table 6.1 : Number of participants for each group in the study	95
Table 6.2 : Comparing the main with the pilot test results	96
Table 6.3 : GSR for culturally familiar and unfamiliar pictures	102
Table 6.4 : Login attempts among groups.....	109
Table 6.5 : Descriptive results for the usability test.....	112
Table 7.1 : Agreement rate among participants when registered for GP	117

List of Figure

Figure 1.1 : General structure of the thesis	9
Figure 2.1: Classification of the Existing Graphical Passwords (Almuairfi, Veeraraghavan, & Chilamkurti, 2013).....	14
Figure 2.2 : Graphical Password Interface Used in Experiment (Weidenbeck et al., 2005).....	15
Figure 2.3 : Grid Selection: A User Selects a Drawing Grid in Which to Draw their Password (Thorpe and Van Oorschot, 2004)	16
Figure 2.4: Registration Stage for a Recognition-Based Graphical Password (English, 2012).....	17
Figure 2.5 : GO-pass (Tao 2006)	19
Figure 2.6 : User identification system (Syukri, Okamoto, and Mambo, 1998).....	20
Figure 2.7 : Graphical input displays (Jermyn, Mayer, Monrose, Reiter, and Rubin, 1999).....	21
Figure 2.8 : Inkblot example (Stubblefield and Simon, 2004).....	22
Figure 2.9 : Image recall example (Jansen, 2004)	23
Figure 2.10: Graphical password system framework (Eljetlawi, 2008).....	24
Figure 2.11: A graphical password scheme using culturally related pictures (Aljahdali and Poet, 2014c).....	25
Figure 2.12 : The human–computer interface for a user to enter his or her graphical password (Chang et al., 2012).....	25
Figure 2.13 : Passfaces	40
Figure 2.14 : déjà vu (Touraj, 2015)	41
Figure 2.15 : Triangle Scheme (Sobrado, 2002).....	42
Figure 2.16 : Story Scheme (Farnaz, 2009).	43
Figure 2.17: Comparison of typical recognition schemes (Angeli et al. 2005)	45
Figure 2.18 : A Malaysian famous building called “PETRONAS Twin Towers	51
Figure 2.19 : Literature review Map	54
Figure 3.1 : Overall phases of research design	58
Figure 4.1 : The gender distribution of the respondents	77
Figure 4.2 : The academic degree distribution of the respondents	78
Figure 4.3 : The age distribution of the respondents.....	78
Figure 4.4 : The nationality distribution	79

Figure 4.5 : The number of pictures for each category	81
Figure 5.1 : : User interface for the first attempt.....	83
Figure 5.2 : Show the stored related information about the participants	86
Figure 5.3 : Show familiarity question.....	87
Figure 5.4 : The gender distribution of the respondents	88
Figure 5.5 : The academic degree distribution of the respondents	89
Figure 5.6 : The age distribution of the respondents.....	89
Figure 5.7 : Schools of the participant	90
Figure 5.8 : Number of pictures selected from Malaysia culture for creating graphical passwords	90
Figure 6.1 : Shows the security attack similarity with GP.....	99
Figure 6.2 : Relationship with victims	Figure 6.3 : Educational Background
.....	103
Figure 6.4 : Reasons behind guessing	103
Figure 6.5 : Successful and failed login rate for each group.....	110
Figure 6.6 : Time to login in	111



List of Abbreviations

DAS Draw A Secret

GP Graphical Password

GPG Graphical Password Guideline

GSR Guessing Success Rate

RBGP Recognition Based Graphical Password

SR Successful login Rate

TL Time Login



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The latest advances in networked computing bring a number of advantages to the security of applications along with possible chances for becoming a target to numerous online threats. As such, the application of computer security, which is viewed as complex paradigm, is now the main area for researchers to secure and enhance its current security mechanisms for the benefit of organizations and individuals (Colella & Colombini, 2012; Vacca, 2013). This include the constant upgrades to the security services which lay behind the need for protecting end-users against theft or damage of one's electronic resources. Even with today's security parameters, it become difficult for users to attain these updates (Cavalcante et al., 2012), which, in turn, led to raising the needs for adequate and simple security features that users can easily memorize and keep.

However, the actual ubiquity regarding graphical interfaces for applications, and input devices such as touch-screen devices that permit in addition to typed input, has opened the doors for developing various graphic user authentication approaches (e. g., (Bellare, Ristenpart, & Tessaro, 2012; Khanh Dang & Tri Dang, 2013; Mihajlov & Jerman-Blažič, 2011; Salim, Reid, & Dawson, 2015)). Graphical authentication approaches were initially introduced to suit devices which do not allow typewritten input. Furthermore, current graphical authentication approaches present the possibility for offering a kind of authentication which is closely more robust than text passwords (Renaud, Mayer, Volkamer, & Maguire, 2013). These efforts were based

The contents of
the thesis is for
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