Giovanni Iachello <giac@cc.gatech.edu> on 04/18/2005 10:32:23 PM

To: submissions@nspw.org
cc:
Subject: NSPW submission

Dear NSPW submissions chair:

Attached you will find my submission for the 2005 NSPW.

Best Regards
Giovanni Iachello

1. The submission in PDF format, viewable by Adobe Acrobat reader.

See attached document.

2. A justification for inclusion in NSPW.

I consider this to be a "position statement".

Why your submission is appropriate for the New Security Paradigms Workshop:

Information security research has by and large ignored the social need for plausible deniability. The mathematical formulations of the concept proposed by research in untraceable messaging and steganography really do not reflect the ways people engage in this practice in everyday life. The result is a potentially dangerous mismatch between security expectations of products and organizations and their actual use and behavior in everyday life.

Based on real-world experience of information technology that engenders significant end-user privacy and security concerns, we identify four salient characteristics of the social practice of plausible deniability. These characteristics can be directly applied to influencing information security research at three distinct levels: during design of novel technology, during its evaluation, and during information security management.

Specifically, argue for the following potentially controversial points:

- consider all aspects of design with implications on interpersonal communication, not just narrowly defined security functions, as part of the analysis of security requirements;
- expressely built, into interpersonal communication tools, provisions for plausible deniability;
- expressely plan oversight mechanisms to avoid abuse of plausible deniability;
- expand evaluation standards such as the Common Criteria to address higher-level security requirements that are relevant to the users;
- introduce plausible deniability in infosec management practices, e.g., by employing two-tier management structures.

3. An Attendance Statement specifying how many authors wish to attend the workshop.

One author.

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- nspw2005.pdf