

03- Reasoning about the Human in the Loop

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Usable Privacy and Security

Carnegie
Mellon
University

CyLab



Engineering &
Public Policy



Today's class

- Human in the Loop Framework
- Usable privacy and security studies 101
- Everyday usability
- Privacy illustrated

The Human in the Loop

The human threat

- Malicious humans
- Clueless humans
- Unmotivated humans
- Humans constrained by human limitations



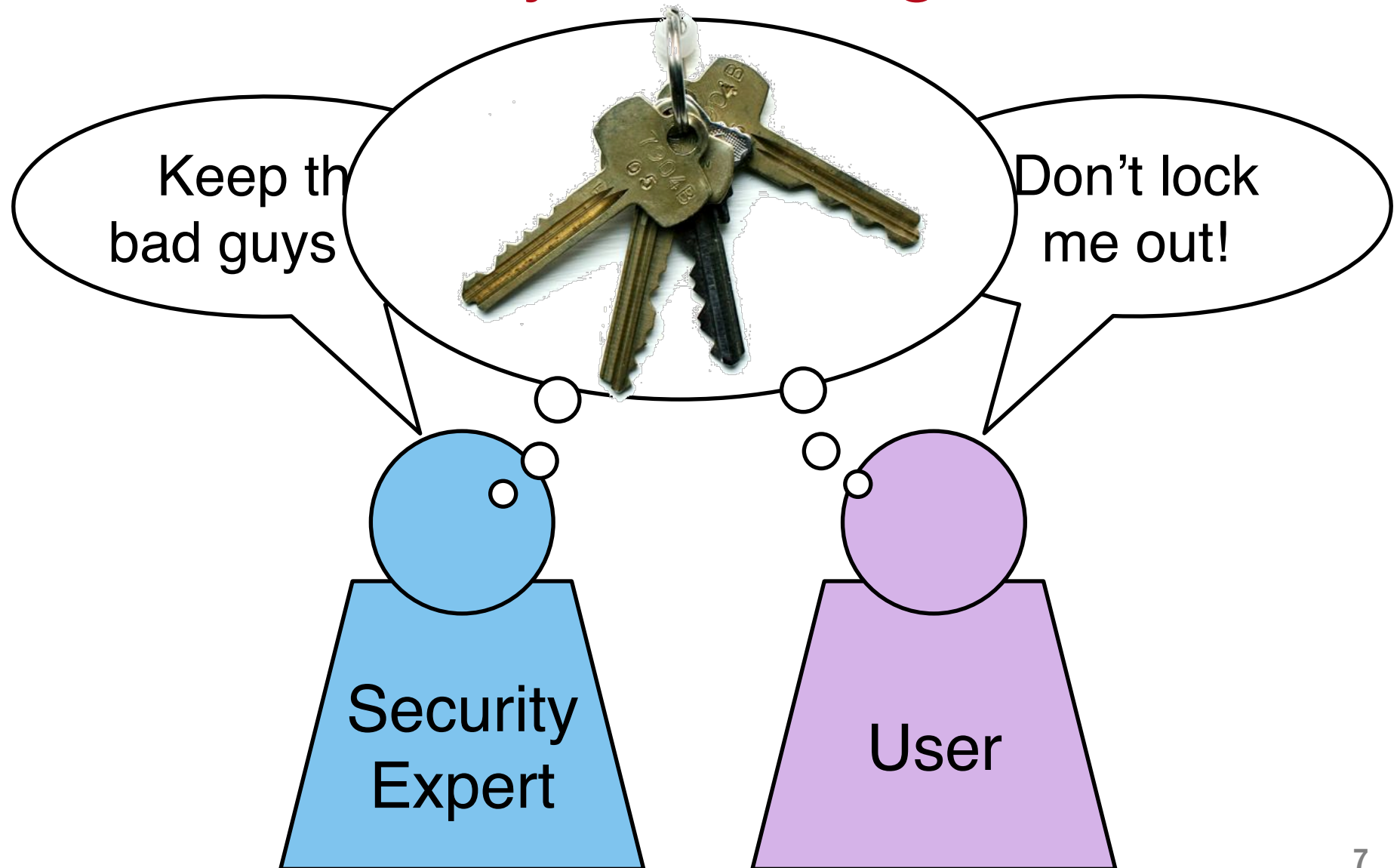
Are you capable
of remembering
a unique strong
password for
every account
you have?



Security is a secondary task



Concerns may not be aligned



Grey

- Smartphone based access-control system
- Used to open doors in the Carnegie Mellon CIC building
- Allows users to grant access to their doors remotely

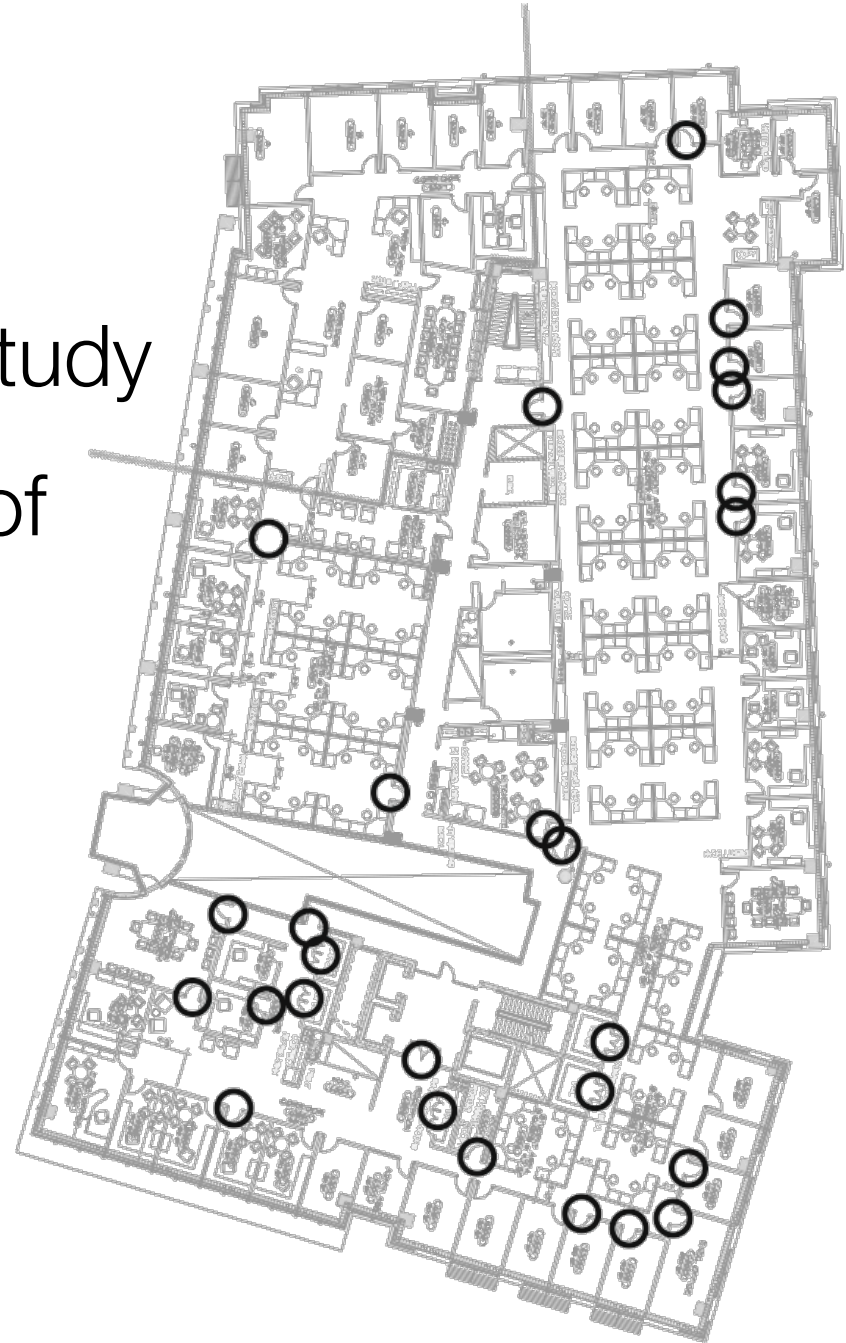


L. Bauer, L.F. Cranor, R.W. Reeder, M.K. Reiter, and K. Vania. **A User Study of Policy Creation in a Flexible Access-Control System.** CHI 2008. <http://www.robreeder.com/pubs/greyCHI2008.pdf>

L. Bauer, L. F. Cranor, M. K. Reiter, and K. Vania. **Lessons Learned from the Deployment of a Smartphone-Based Access-Control System.** SOUPS 2007. http://cups.cs.cmu.edu/soups/2007/proceedings/p64_bauer.pdf

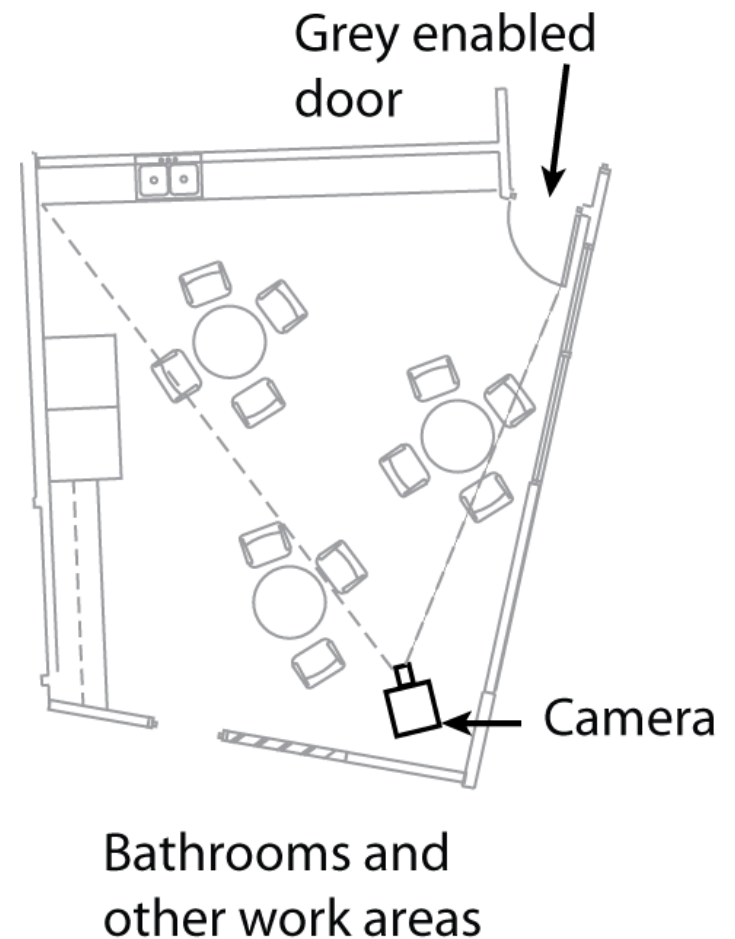
Data collection

- Year long interview study
- Recorded 30 hours of interviews with Grey users
- System was actively used: 29 users x 12 accesses per week

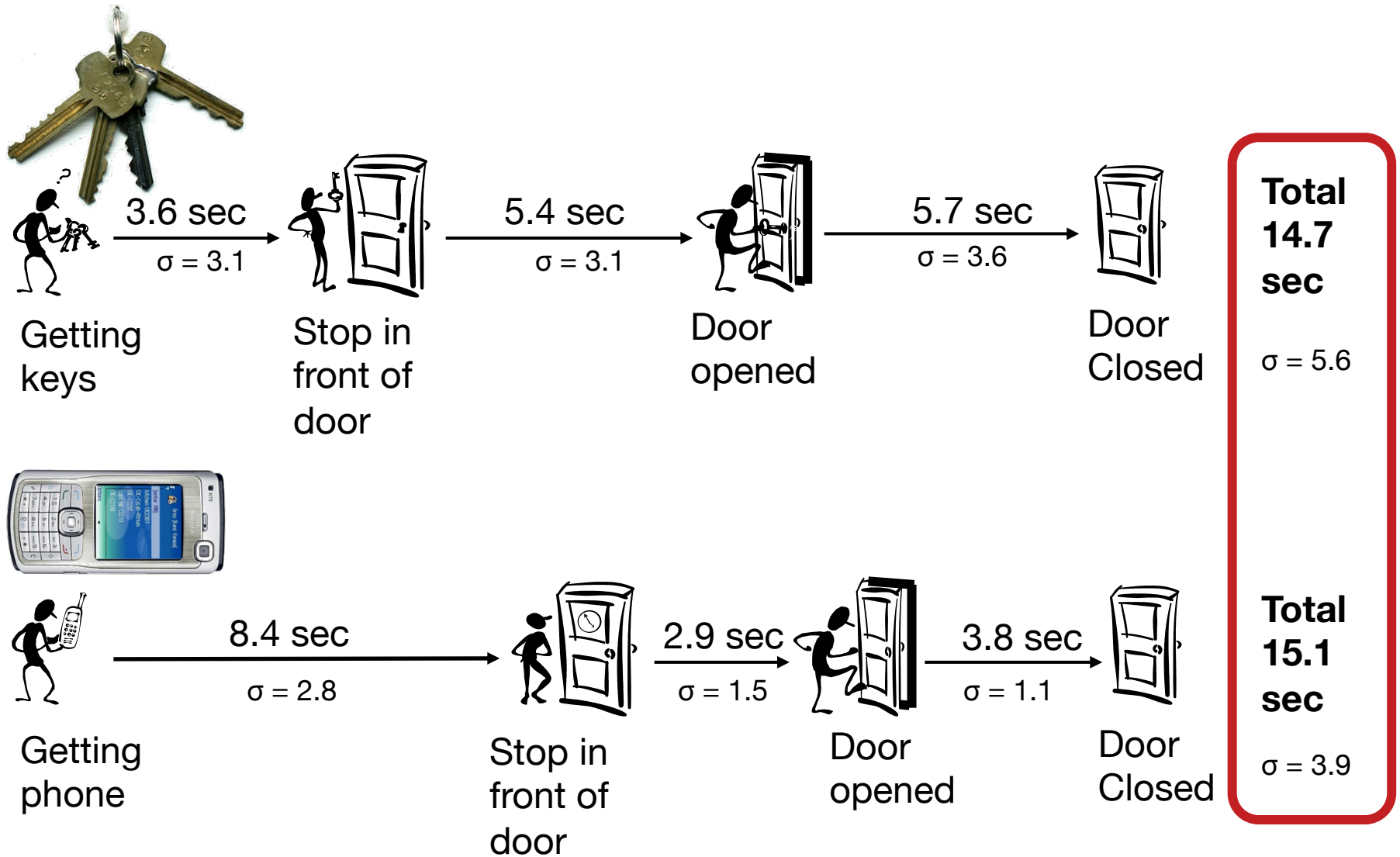


Users complained about speed

- Users said Grey was slow
- But Grey was as fast as keys
- Videotaped a door to better understand how doors are opened differently with Grey and keys



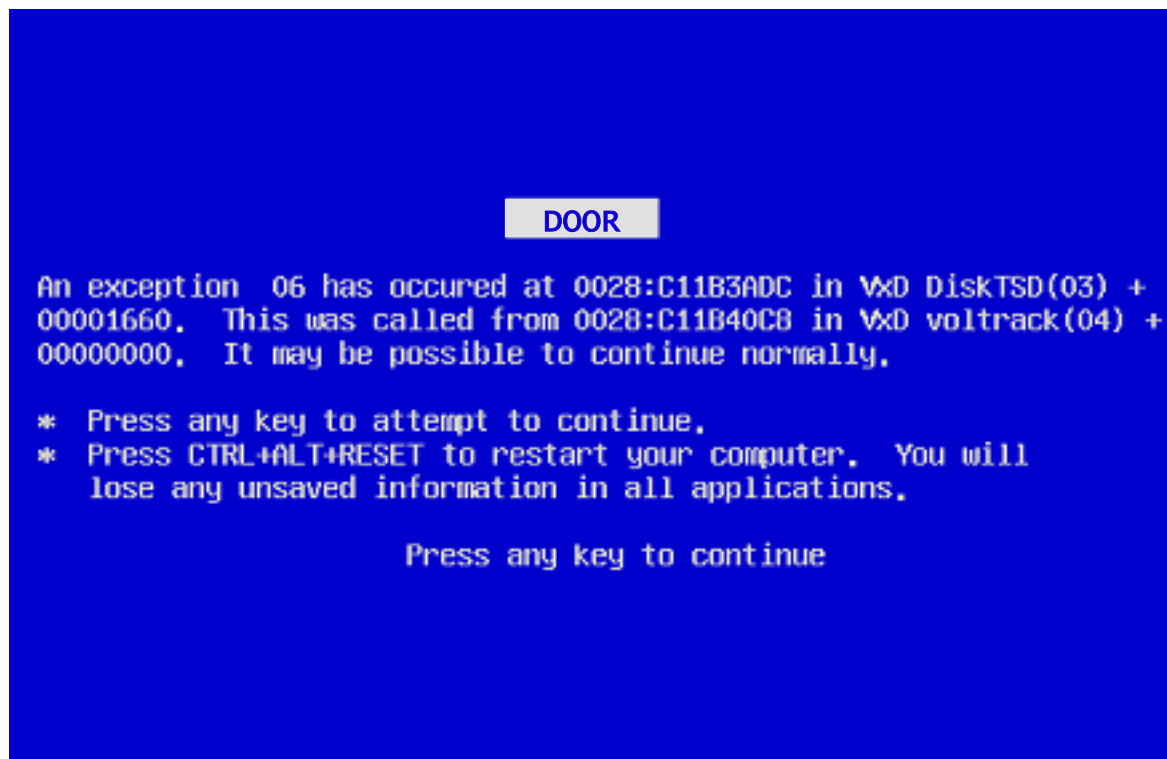
Average access times





“I find myself standing outside and everybody inside is looking at me standing outside while I am trying to futz with my phone and open the stupid door.”

Nobody wants to have to reboot their door



Unanticipated uses can bolster acceptance

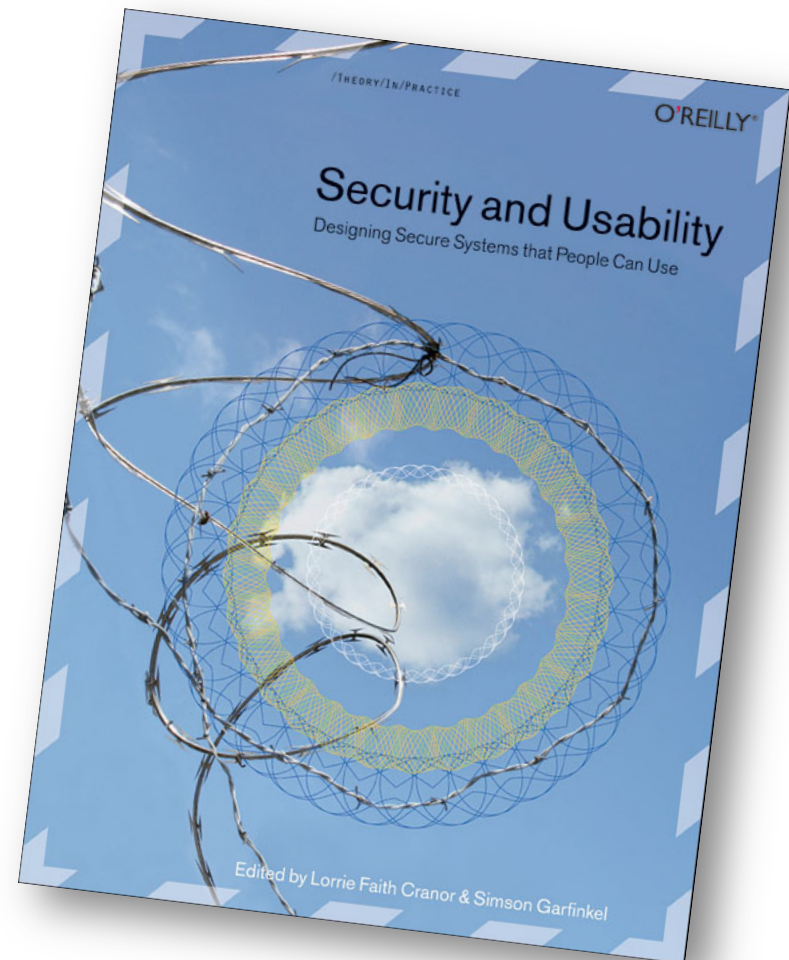


Convenience always wins



How can we make secure systems more usable?

- Make it “just work”
 - Invisible security
- Make security/privacy understandable
 - Make it visible
 - Make it intuitive
 - Use metaphors that users can relate to
- Train the user



What can make a system unusable?

- Confusing / misleading / unhelpful user interface
- Requiring user to make decisions for which user is not qualified
- Assuming knowledge or abilities that user doesn't have
- Assuming unreasonable amount of attention / effort

Try to better understand humans in the loop

- Do they know they are supposed to be doing something?
- Do they understand what they are supposed to do?
- Do they know how to do it?
- Are they motivated to do it?
- Are they capable of doing it?
- Will they actually do it?

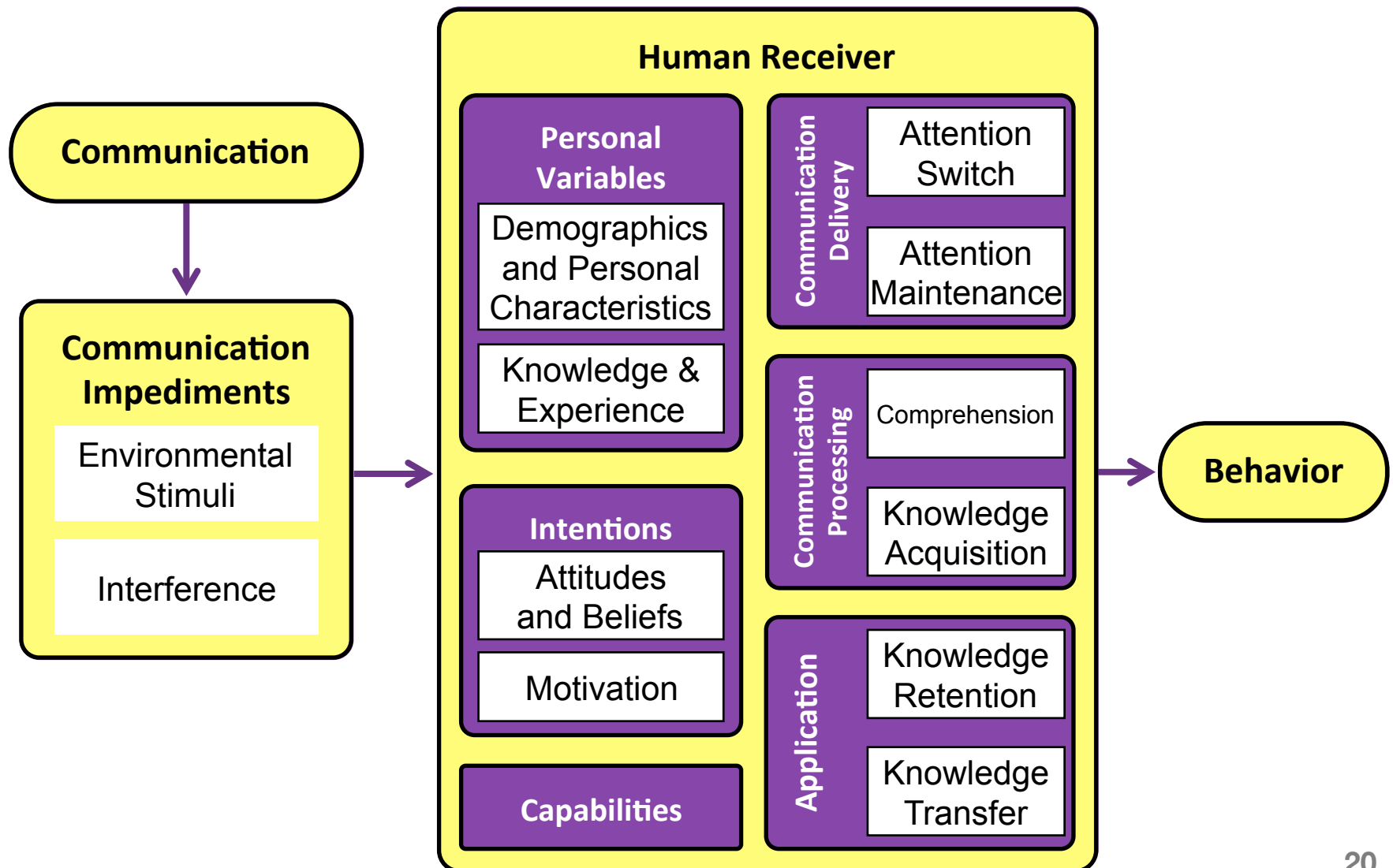
Human-in-the-loop framework

- Based on Communication-Human Information Processing Model (C-HIP) from Warnings Science
- Models human interaction with secure systems
- Can help identify human threats

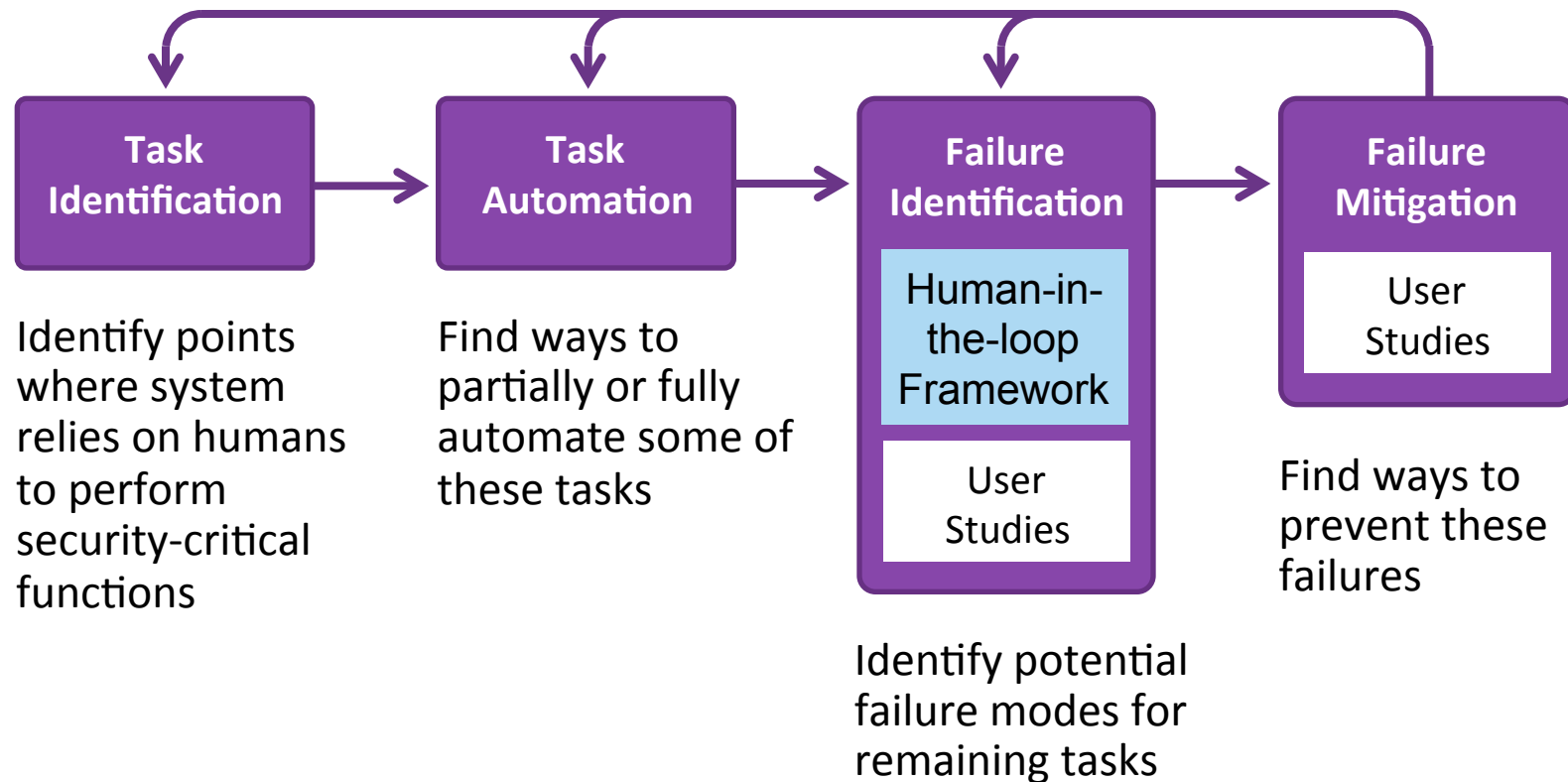


L. Cranor. A Framework for Reasoning About the Human In the Loop. Usability, Psychology and Security 2008.
http://www.usenix.org/events/upsec08/tech/full_papers/cranor/cranor.pdf

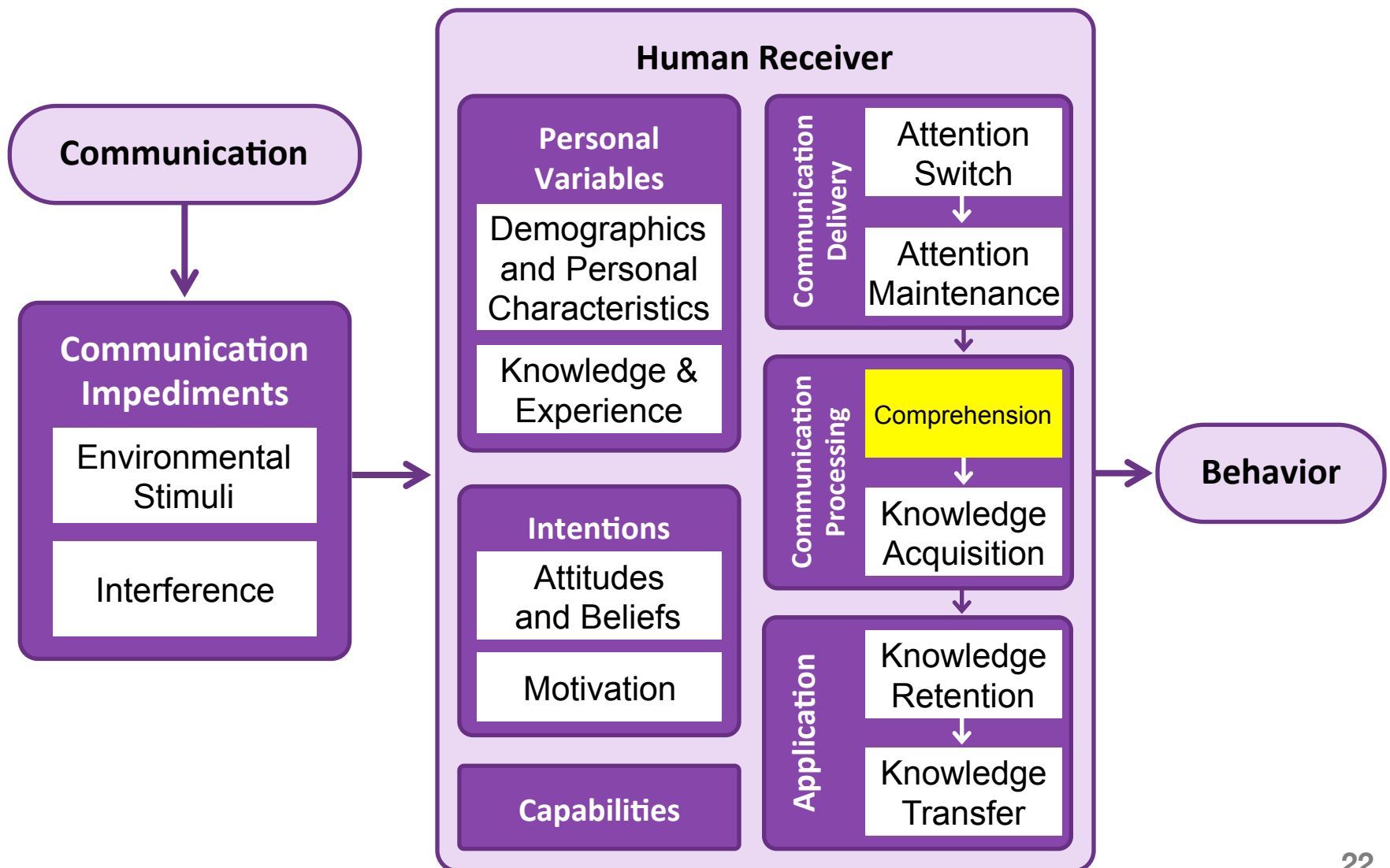
Human-in-the-loop framework

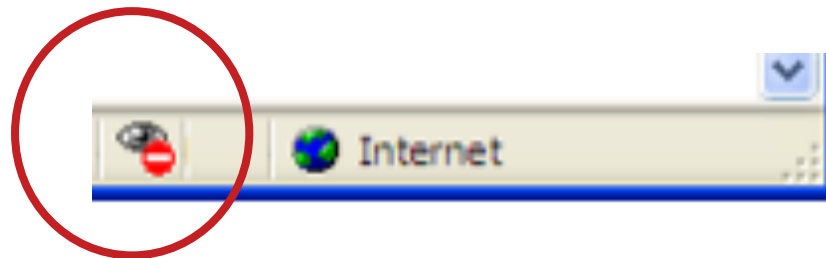


Human threat identification and mitigation process



Human-in-the-loop framework





Internet Explorer cookie flag



Privacy policy
matches user's
privacy preferences



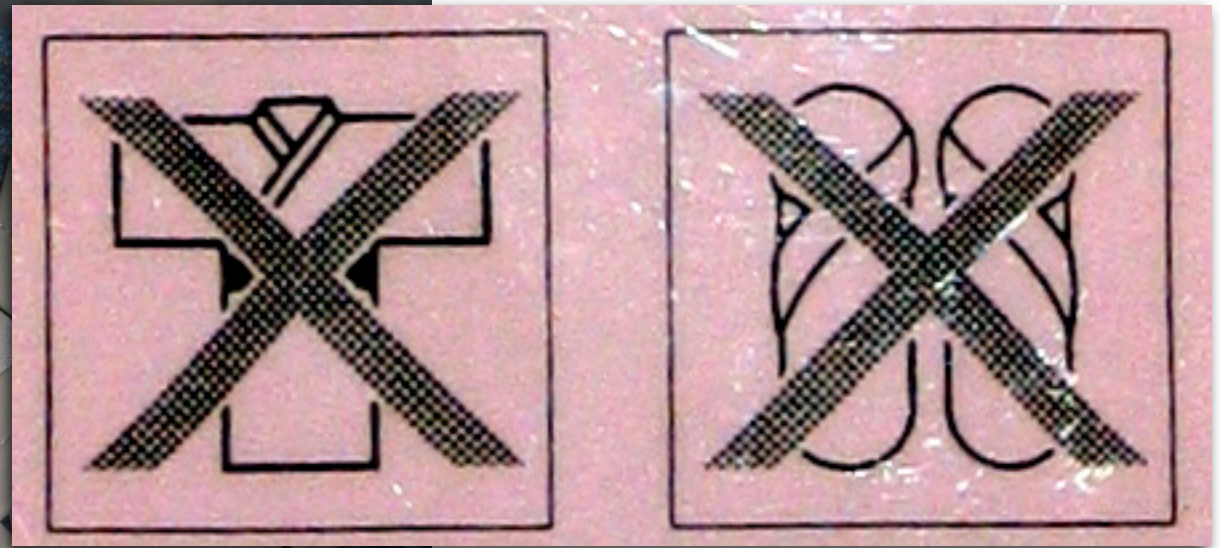
Privacy policy
does not match
user's privacy
preferences

OPERATOR SPECIALTY COMPANY, INC.



Moving Gate Can Cause
Serious Injury or Death





Warnings





What to do about hazards?



Best solution: remove hazard



Next best: guard against hazard







If all else fails: warn

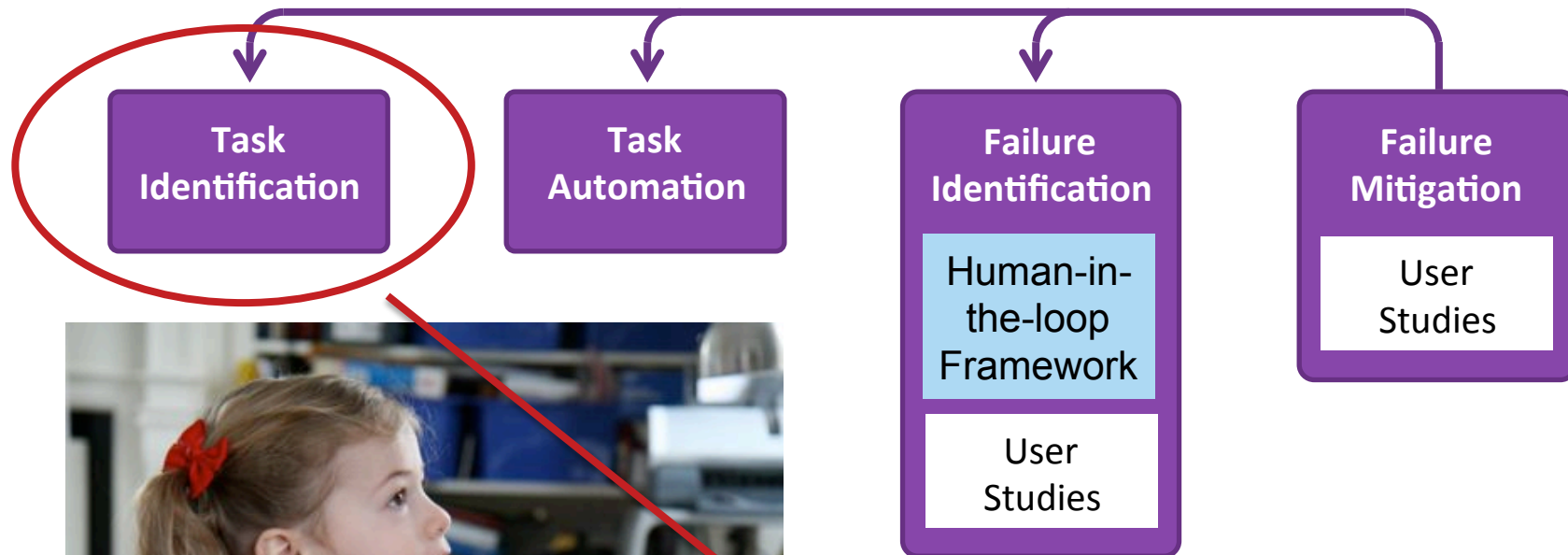




CAUTION  UNEVEN SURFACES



Human threat mitigation for warnings



Determine whether task I am trying to complete is sufficiently risky that I should stop

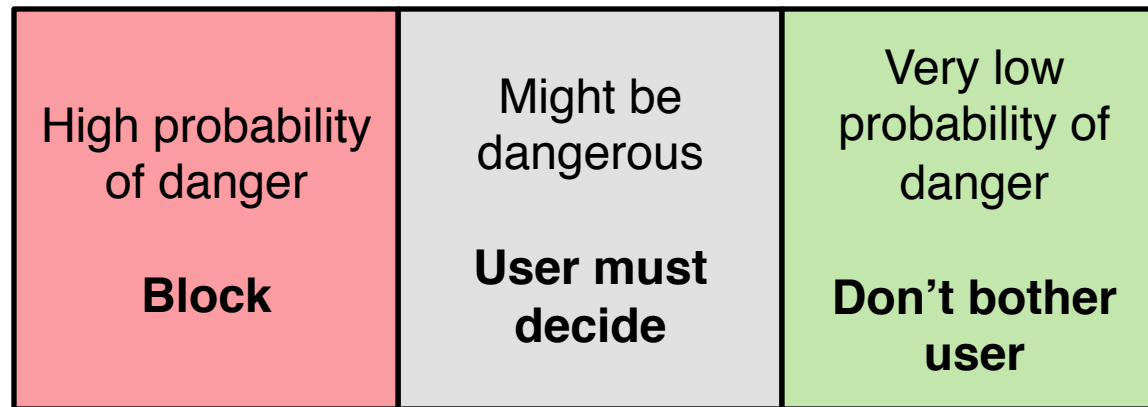
Automate and change tasks to reduce need for user involvement



Use automated
analysis to determine
probability of danger

Might be dangerous
User must decide

Support user decision



Improve warnings

Help user decide by asking question
user is qualified to answer

Bad question

Your web browser thinks this is a phishing web site. Do you want to go there anyway?

Don't go there

Go there anyway

I don't know what a phishing site is.

I really want to go to this site.

Of course I will go there anyway!



Better question

You are trying to go to evilsite.com. Do you really want to go there or would you rather go to yourbank.com?

Go to yourbank.com

Go to evilsite.com

*Of course I want to go to
yourbank.com!*



Usable privacy and security studies 101



Why do usable privacy and security studies?

Purpose	Useful to...
Assess needs	Decide what to build
Evaluate	Determine whether system meets requirements and what needs to be improved
Understand tradeoffs	Decide which features/approaches/systems best fit particular needs
Find root causes	Determine where redesigns or new approaches are needed

Excuses for not doing usability studies

- If people weren't so lazy/stupid/careless the system would work just fine
- I'm a cryptographer, not a usability expert
- I already know what people want
- No time, no money
- I find the system easy to use so it must be usable
- My kids can use the system so it definitely must be usable



Your kids are not typical users



J. Shaprio, J. Vanderburgh, E. Northrup, D. Chizmadia. **Design of the EROS Trusted Window System.** USENIX Security 2004.

User study steps

- Identify research questions, metrics, and use cases
- Decide on type of study and design study protocol
- Develop detailed scripts, surveys, scenarios, incentives, instrumentation, prototypes, recruiting materials, etc.
- Obtain ethics approval
- Pilot and iterate on study design
- Collect data
- Analyze Results
- Repeat some or all of these steps as needed

Usable security study challenges

- Keeping it real (ecological validity)
 - Create realistic sense of risk (**but not real risk**)
 - Provide realistic incentives
 - Don't bias participants
- Measuring the right thing
 - Design the right protocol
 - Control the variables
 - Instrument
- Observing infrequent events and small differences
- Legal, ethical, and practical issues

Everyday usability

Lessons from the loo

Icons



What state is
this system in?

Are these symbols more intuitive?



These icons
may be helpful



Or maybe these

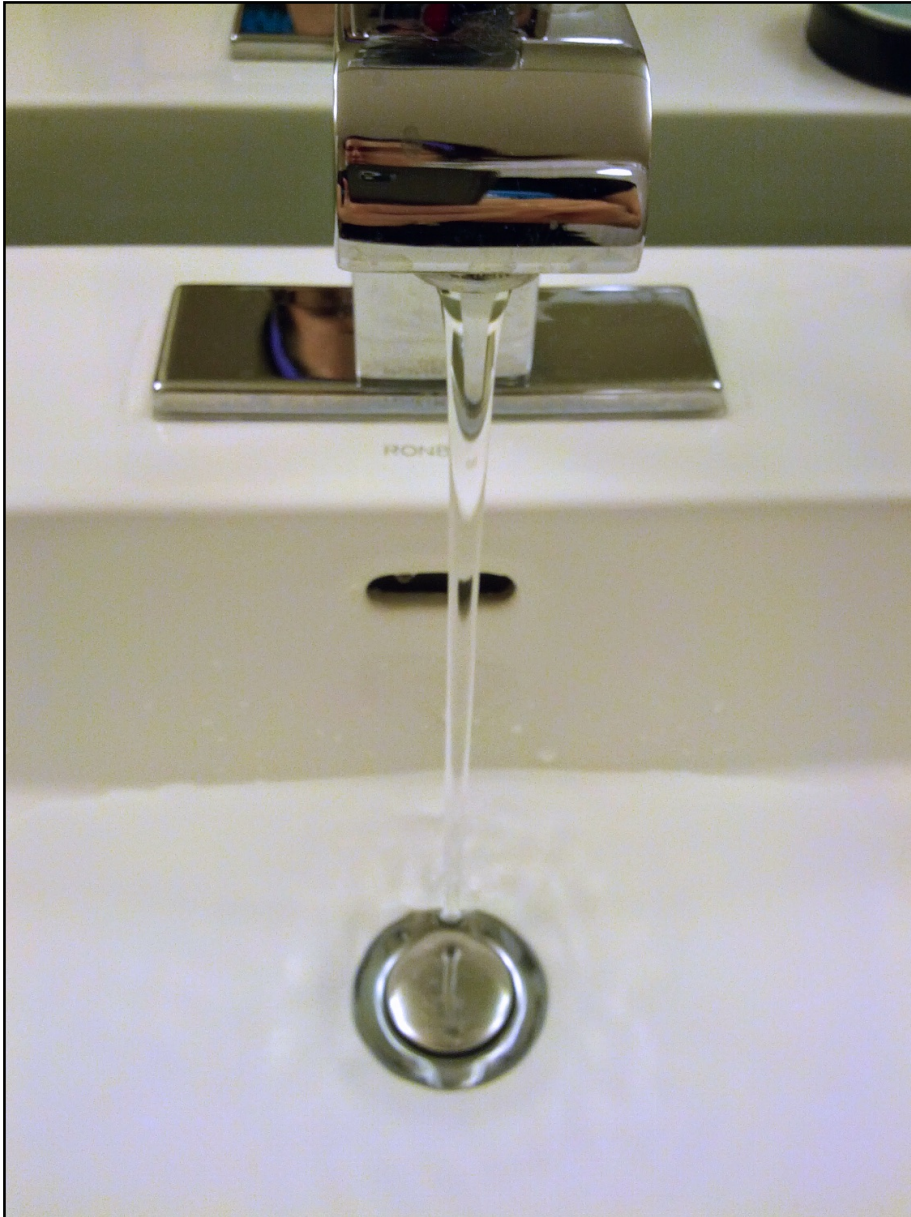


Hidden features

Where are
the doors?







How do you unplug the sink?



How
do you
turn on
the top
shower
head?



How do you turn on
this shower?





How do you turn on
this shower?

More or less confusing features

People were
confused until
they posted
instructions





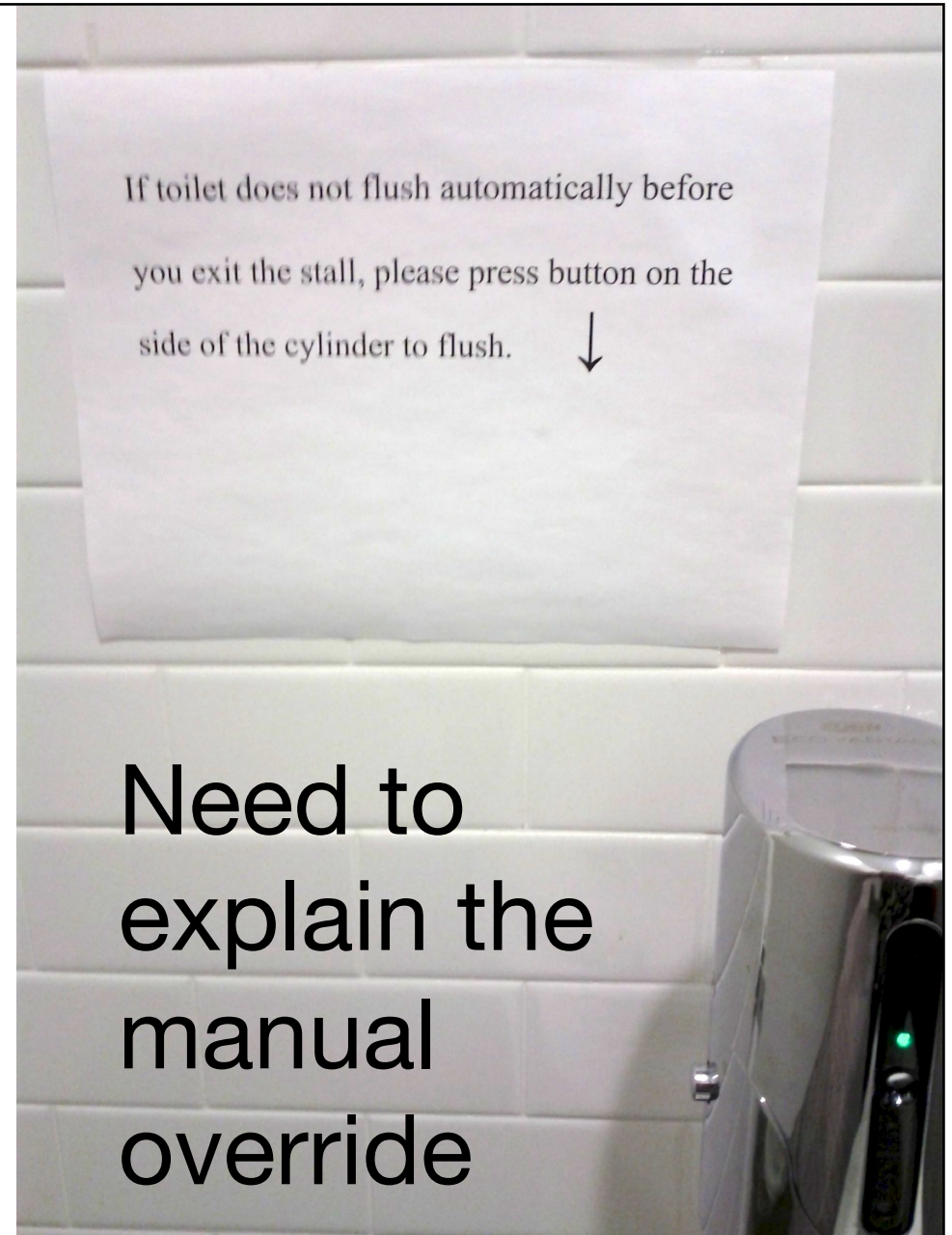
This is at
Harvard



People may become habituated to expect the system to work automatically

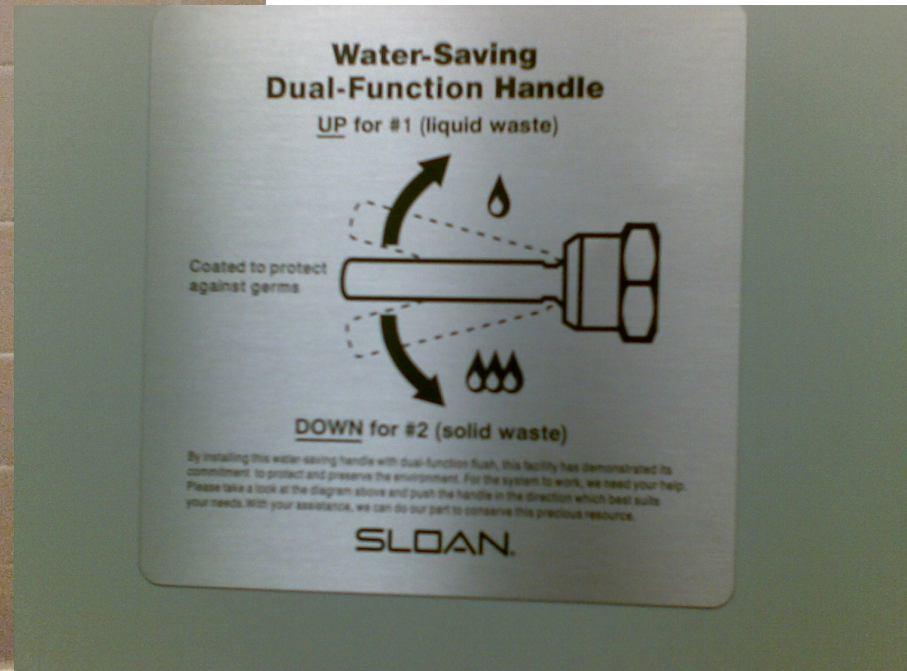
This one is
supposed to
work
automatically





Need to
explain the
manual
override

Should toilets require this much explanation?





A more
intuitive
approach?



A more
intuitive
approach?

(but that
tile...)



Normally
you pull
handles



Which way do
you turn it to
make it hot?



Some things are easier to change than others



Perspective matters



Is the ladies' room on the left or the right?

From which direction will users be viewing the instruction?



Design communicates function



Locking and
unlocking door
automatically
changes color
of lock
indicator

Inconvenient designs

Door slams



Please hold
the door when
closing.
Thanks!

A better
solution
would be to
add a spring
so the door
won't slam



It saves space,
but kind of an
awkward way to
wash your hands



Is this a convenient
place to plug in an
Ethernet cable?





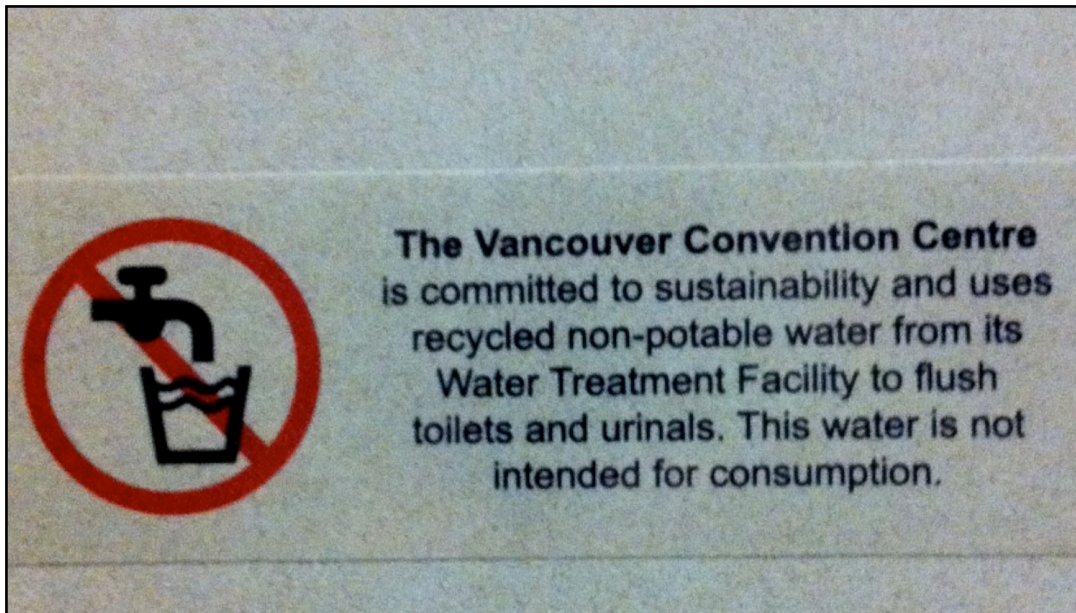
Unfortunately these Urinals are out of order.
We aim to resolve this maintenance problem
as soon as possible.
We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Thanks for the apology, but how about
telling me where I can find one that works?

Other issues

Designing for cultural differences





Don't drink the potty water!



This bathtub has been treated with snash
2000 anti-slip substance for your safety

אמבטיה זו עברה טיפול סנאש 2000
למניעת החלקה לביטחונך האישי



סנאש שיווק בינלאומי בע"מ SNASH int Markating
טל. 9/2-3-5748483

I feel so much safer now!

IF THIS RESTROOM IS
IN NEED OF ATTENTION,

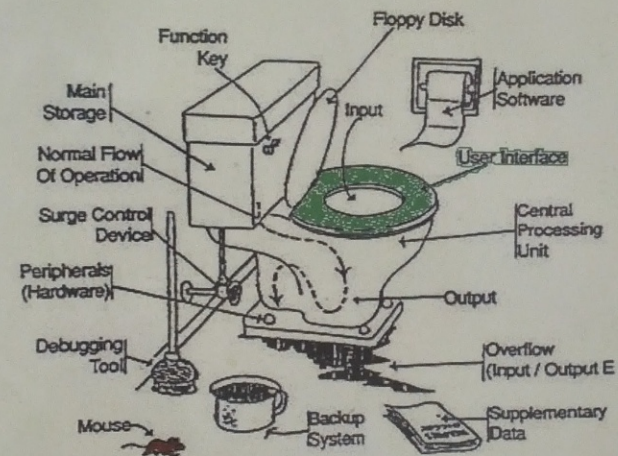
PLEASE CALL:
225-4141

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING
IDENTIFIER FOR THIS RESTROOM:
C2B1

HOUSE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

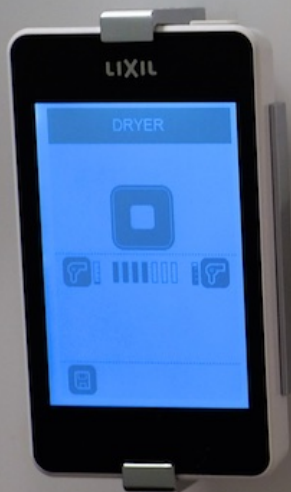
Maintenance
instructions
can be helpful

Please make an effort to keep this
bathroom clean for everyone who
uses it. No trash on the floor, clean
up after yourself and please be neat.



Please clean the user interface when
your application is completed.

Thank you.

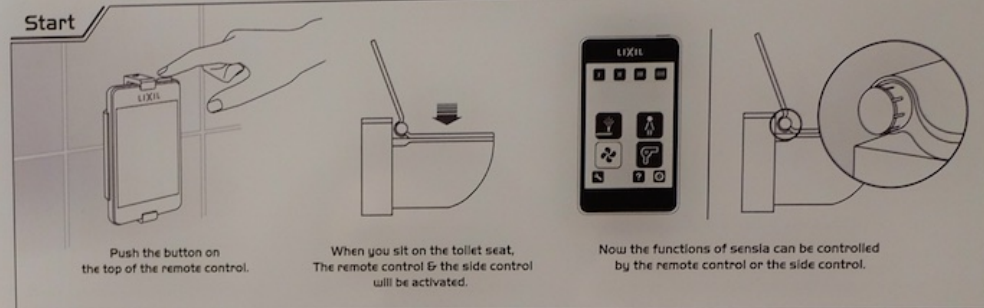


A remote control...
and a quick guide

LIXIL

Quick guide to using LIXIL SENSIA for women

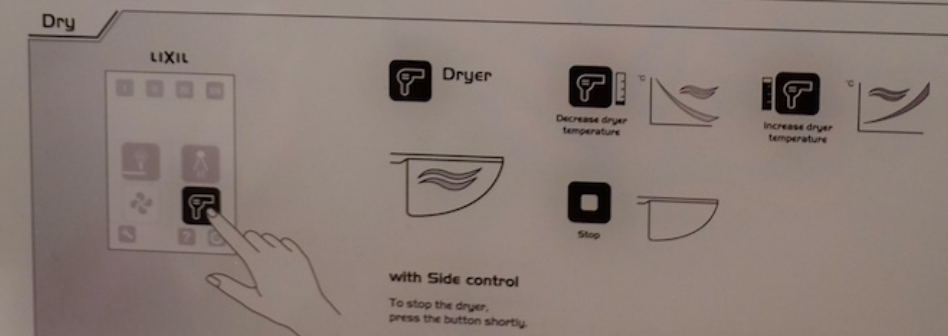
Start



Wash



Dry



A patch for a privacy problem





IMAGES OF PRIVACY

What does privacy mean to you? We asked people to draw what privacy means to them. We went into schools to ask children of different ages, and we asked adults across the United States to contribute their images of privacy. Now we're asking people around the world to add to our collection. Explore the drawings here:

[abstract](#) [ads](#) [age20-29](#) [age30-39](#) [age40-49](#)

[age50-59](#) [age60-69](#) [age90-99](#) [alone](#) [alone/private space](#)

[anonymous](#) [away from family](#) [bank statement](#) [basement](#) [bathing](#)

[bathroom](#) [bedroom](#) [big brother](#) [blanket](#) [bow](#) [box](#) [brain](#) [browser](#)