

Blase Eric Ur

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Usable Security and Privacy, Computer Security, HCI/Usability

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Computer Science, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

PhD in progress (2011-), Computation, Organizations, and Society

- Advisor: Lorrie Faith Cranor

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

A.B. in Computer Science, June 2007.

- Thesis: “Privacy in Social Networking: A Usability Study of Privacy Interfaces for Facebook.”
- Primary Advisors: Rachna Dhamija and Michael D. Smith

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2012 NDSEG (National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate) Fellowship.
- 2012 Yahoo! Key Scientific Challenges Award.
- CHI 2012 “Best Paper Honorable Mention” for “Why Johnny Can’t Opt Out...”
- 2011 and 2012 Honorable Mention for NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.
- 2010-2011 Fulbright Scholarship to Hungary.
- Harvard University: recommended for “High Honors in Computer Science” upon graduation.
- Harvard University: graduated Cum Laude, 2007
- Received grades of “Summa,” “Magna Plus,” and “Magna Plus” on undergraduate thesis.
- Harvard Office For the Arts 2007 Louise Donovan Award (“Unsung Hero”)

PUBLICATIONS

Blase Ur, Patrick Gage Kelley, Saranga Komanduri, Joel Lee, Michael Maass, Michelle Mazurek, Timothy Passaro, Richard Shay, Timothy Vidas, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, and Lorrie Faith Cranor. How does your password measure up? The effect of strength meters on password creation. (To appear in) USENIX Security Symposium 2012.

Blase Ur, Pedro G. Leon, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Richard Shay, Yang Wang. Smart, Useful, Scary, Creepy: Perceptions of Online Behavioral Advertising. (To appear in) Symposium On Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) 2012.

Richard Shay, Patrick Gage Kelley, Saranga Komanduri, Michelle Mazurek, **Blase Ur**, Timothy Vidas, Lujo Bauer, Nicholas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor. Correct horse battery staple: Exploring the usability of system-assigned passphrases. (To appear in) Symposium On Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) 2012.

Pedro G. Leon, **Blase Ur**, Rebecca Balebako, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Richard Shay, Yang Wang. Why Johnny Can’t Opt Out: A Usability Evaluation of Tools to Limit Online Behavioral Advertising. ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2012. **Best Paper Honorable Mention.**

Peter Klemperer, Yuan Liang, Michelle Mazurek, Manya Sleeper, **Blase Ur**, Lujo Bauer, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Nitin Gupta, Michael Reiter. Tag, You Can See It! Using Tags for Access Control in Photo Sharing. ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2012.

Rebecca Balebako, Pedro Leon, Richard Shay, **Blase Ur**, Lorrie Faith Cranor. Measuring the Effectiveness of Privacy Tools for Limiting Behavioral Advertising. Web 2.0 Security and Privacy (W2SP) 2012.

Blase Ur, Manya Sleeper, Lorrie Faith Cranor. {Privacy, Privacidad, Приватност} Policies in Social Media: Providing Translated Privacy Notice. WWW Workshop on Privacy and Security in Online Social Media (PSOSM) 2012.

Pedro G. Leon, Justin Cranshaw, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Jim Graves, Manoj Hastak, **Blase Ur**, Guzi Xu. What Do Online Behavioral Advertising Disclosures Communicate to Users? CMU-CyLab-12-008 Tech Report, 2012.

Blase Ur and Yang Wang. Online Social Networks in a Post-Soviet State: How Hungarians Protect and Share on Facebook. iConference 2012.

Saranga Komanduri, Richard Shay, Greg Norcie, **Blase Ur**, Lorrie Faith Cranor. AdChoices? Compliance with Online Behavioral Advertising Notice and Choice Requirements. (To appear in) I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society.

Jordan Ash, Monica Babes, Gal Cohen, Sameen Jalal, Sam Lichtenberg, Michael Littman, Phillip Quiza, **Blase Ur**, Emily Zhang. Scratchable Devices: User-Friendly Programming for Household Appliances. HCI International (HCII) 2011.

Jordan Ash, Monica Babes, Gal Cohen, Sameen Jalal, Michael Littman, Luis Piloto, Phillip Quiza, **Blase Ur**. Scratchable Devices. Scratch@MIT (Poster) 2010.

Blase Ur and Vinod Ganapathy. "Evaluating Attack Amplification in Online Social Networks." Web 2.0 Security and Privacy (W2SP) 2009.

Blase Ur. "Privacy in Social Networking: A Usability Study of Privacy Interfaces for Facebook." Undergraduate Honors Thesis 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Lecturer

September 2008 - August 2010

- Developed all course materials, supervised staff of Teaching Assistants, and gave weekly lectures for 14:440:127, "Introduction to Computers for Engineers." Total enrollment exceeded 1700 students over 6 sessions (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Summer I and III 2010). This course was a comprehensive introduction to programming in the Matlab language, data analysis, and numerical methods. Other topics included recursion, randomness, and filtering.
- Example Instructor Ratings (Spring 2009): *I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as: 4.24 / 5* (Rutgers undergraduate mean: 3.79). *The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions: 4.47 / 5* (Rutgers undergraduate mean: 4.09)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Engineering Honors Program

Spring 2010

- Developed and led a project-based seminar for 15 first-year honors engineering students on "Home Automation Systems and Computer Control." The students exhibited their working home automation system at workshops for local middle school students, recruitment events for incoming first-year engineers, and at Rutgers Day.

NJ Governor's School of Engineering and Technology at Rutgers University

Instructor

Summers 2006 - 2010

Developed and taught the following enrichment classes for academically talented high school students:

- Summer 2010: Home Automation- "Why is my coffee maker conspiring against me?"
- Summer 2009: "Hacking Social Networks"- Security/Privacy on Facebook, MySpace, and Flickr
- Summer 2008: Usable Systems, Social Media, and ArtScience

- Summer 2007: New Technology- P2P Systems and Digital Media
- Summer 2007 and 2008: Technology Math (Applied Cryptography and Pseudorandomness)
- Summer 2006: Computer Security and Usability

Rutgers University Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Summer Program

Instructor

Summers 2006 - 2008

- Taught lectures and developed course materials for “Introduction to Computers for Engineers.” The EOF summer program comprises incoming first-year engineering students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Rutgers University School of Engineering, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Program Development Specialist, Senior Project Coordinator

August 2007 - August 2010

- Organized enrichment programs for gifted and talented high school students, including the NJ Governor’s School of Engineering and Technology and Northern NJ Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Responsibilities included curriculum development, hiring summer program staff and instructors, fundraising, administration, and outreach efforts.
- Served as an advisor to students in the Educational Opportunity Fund program for economically and educationally disadvantaged engineering students.

Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club, Cambridge, Massachusetts

President (2006) and Technical Liaison (2004, 2005)

September 2003 - June 2007

- Led one of the three largest extracurricular organizations on Harvard’s campus, involving 500 - 800 students per semester in up to 50 yearly productions.
- Developed new training initiatives, including “Tech Week” workshops, the Visiting Light Designer Project, and Production Photograph Archive.
- Met regularly with the Executive Director of the American Repertory Theatre and the Harvard Committee on Dramatic Arts, as well as the undergraduate population.
- Served as sound designer, set designer, lighting designer, video designer, technical director, or master rigger on over 50 dramatic productions.

American Repertory Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sound Designer

January 2007 - June 2007

- Created and implemented sound designs for *Killing Game* (dir. Scott Zigler) and *Abigail’s Party* (dir. Arthur Nauzyciel) at the ART’s Institute for Advanced Theatre Training graduate school.

Harvard Office for the Arts, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Shop Assistant / ATD

2004 - 2007

- Conducted tool training sessions and maintained carpentry shops and theaters.

SKILLS

- Programming: Matlab, Perl, C, C++, Javascript, Arduino/Processing, Java, Lisp, Basic, Pascal
- Languages: English (native), Hungarian (proficient), Spanish (proficient)
- Applications: L^AT_EX, Multitrack Audio Editing, Video Production, Photoshop, Vectorworks
- Music: Electric Bass, Guitar, String Bass, African Percussion, Recording
- Other: Photography, Carpentry, Theatrical Design, MIG Welding, Audiovisual Systems