



Rethinking Passwords

How many passwords do you have? Do passwords increase or decrease security? Or are passwords just annoying? Can we do better?

We've known that passwords and security have been inadequate for over thirty years, and things have only gotten worse. Traditional password advice and rules are seldom appropriate for today's threats, yet we labor with the password rules and servers of yesteryear. Strong passwords are weakening our security, and it is time to fix that. There are numerous proposals for new password solutions. Can we escape the varying eye-of-newt password rules that plague everyone's online lives? Can we get grandma safely to the other side of the authentication street? This talk will review some of the many research ideas that have been proposed, and offer some suggestions toward getting us out of this thicket.

Bill Cheswick, <http://www.cheswick.com>, is an expert in security, visualization, and user interfaces. Ches joined Bell Labs in December 1987, where he became postmaster and firewall administrator and designer. In 1990 he published a paper on firewall design that coined the word "proxy" in its current meaning. He co-authored the book *Firewalls and Internet Security; Repelling the Wily Hacker* with Steve Bellovin. This book taught Internet security to a generation of administrators. In 1998, Ches started the Internet Mapping Project with Hal Burch. Since then, Ches has worked for Lumeta Corporation and AT&T Labs in Florham Park. During his sabbatical over the winter of 2007 he worked on science museum projects, including an upgrade for the Liberty Science Center's digital darkroom.

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013, 8:00 pm.
(Refreshments and networking at 7:30 pm.)
Place: Small Auditorium, Room CS 105
Computer Science Building, Princeton University
Information: Dennis Mancl (908) 582-7086, Jan Buzydlowski (610) 902-8343
On-line info: <http://PrincetonACM.acm.org>

All Princeton ACM / IEEE-CS meetings are open to the public. Students and their parents are welcome. There is no admission charge, and refreshments are served.

A pre-meeting dinner is held at 6:00 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant on Route 1. Please send email to princetonacm@acm.org in advance if you plan to attend the dinner.

