

Someone in Your Contact List: Cued Recall-Based Textual Passwords

Abstract:

Textual passwords remain the most commonly employed user authentication mechanism, and potentially will continue to be so for years to come. Despite the well-known security and usability issues concerning textual passwords, none of the numerous proposed authentication alternatives appear to have achieved a sufficient level of adoption to dominate in the foreseeable future. Password hints, consisting of a user generated text saved at the account setup stage, are employed in several authentication systems to help users to recall forgotten passwords. However, users are often unable to create hints that jog the memory without revealing too much information regarding the passwords themselves. We propose a rethink of password hints by introducing S`YNTHIMA, a novel cued recall-based textual password method that reveals no information regarding the password, requires no modifications to authentication servers, and requires no additional setup or registration steps.