

## Preface

E-commerce services are suffering abuse by programs (bots, spiders, etc.) masquerading as legitimate human users. Efforts to defend against such attacks have, over the past several years, stimulated investigations into a new family of security protocols – “Human Interactive Proofs” (HIPs) – which allow a person to authenticate herself as a member of a given group: e.g., as a human (vs. a machine), as herself (vs. anyone else), as an adult (vs. a child). Most commercial uses of HIPs today are CAPTCHAs, “Completely Automatic Public Turing tests to tell Computers and Humans Apart,” which exploit the gap in ability between humans and machine vision systems in reading images of text. HIP challenges can also be non-graphical, e.g., requiring recognition of speech, solving puzzles, etc.

We are pleased to present the first refereed and archivally published collection of state-of-the-art papers on HIPs and CAPTCHAs. Each paper was reviewed by three members of the Program Committee, judged by the Co-chairs to be of sufficient relevance and quality, and revised by the authors in response to the referees’ suggestions.

The papers investigate performance analysis of novel CAPTCHAs, HIP architectures, and the role of HIPs within security systems. Kumar Chellapilla, Kevin Larson, Patrice Simard, and Mary Czerwinski describe user trials of a CAPTCHA designed to resist segmentation attacks, including a systematic evaluation of its tolerance by human users. Henry Baird, Michael Moll, and Sui-Yu Wang analyze data from a human legibility trial of another segmentation-resistant CAPTCHA and locate a highly legible engineering regime. Amalia Rusu and Venu Govindaraju describe research towards CAPTCHAs based on reading synthetically damaged images of real images of unconstrained handwritten text. Yong Rui, Zicheng Liu, Shannon Kallin, Gavin Janke, and Cem Paya discuss the results of experiments with human subjects presented with two kinds of CAPTCHAs: one based on reading text, and a new one based on the detection of well-formed synthetic faces.

Monica Chew and J.D. Tygar discuss collaborative filtering CAPTCHAs which do not depend on absolute answers, but are graded by comparison with other people’s answers. Tim Converse proposes CAPTCHA generation as a not-for-profit Web service and argues for open-sourcing the code. Daniel Lopresti proposes using instances of open pattern recognition problems to build CAPTCHAs in order to benefit both online security and pattern recognition research.

Jon Bentley and Colin Mallows describe methods for quantifying the assurance that can be inferred from a correct answer to a password query: the principles underlying this analysis are applicable to the evaluation of CAPTCHA security. Rachna Dhamija and J.D. Tygar investigate HIPs in which a user issues challenges to the computer, rather than the other way around, enabling the detection of phishing attacks.

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We are warmly grateful for the time and skill volunteered by our Program Committee, as well as to our Advisory Board for kindly assisting in publicizing the event and suggesting ways to make the program more stimulating.

May 2005

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# Organization

HIP 2005 was organized by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Lehigh University and was endorsed by IAPR, the International Association for Pattern Recognition.

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## Sponsoring Institutions

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from Microsoft Research and Avaya Labs Research.

Human Interactive Proofs

Second International Workshop, HIP 2005, Bethlehem,  
PA, USA, May 19-20, 2005, Proceedings

Baird, H.S.; Lopresti, D.P. (Eds.)

2005, XII, 596 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-26001-1