

Preface

As a society, we have used different forms of authentication since ancient times – of people, documents, materials of value, etc. With the emergence of networked computers in the latter part of the twentieth century, authentication research flourished and many new techniques were developed. Among the central concepts developed or improved upon, we find PINs, passwords, various forms of backup authentication, techniques for device identification, and cryptographic techniques for message authentication.

While consumer habits and the use of legacy systems have hampered changes to authentication systems, we argue that systems designed with these issues in mind can be successfully deployed, and help address global security issues of increasing importance. In this book, we support this argument by describing a collection of new authentication technologies to address unmet authentication needs in a way that minimizes friction, and experimental evaluations of the technologies to quantify the benefits of deployment.

A handset is not just a small computer – it is a small computer with a different user interface. People use it differently. Therefore, mobile authentication is not simply authentication on a mobile device – there are other constraints and enablers. This book focuses on mobile authentication.

While this book provides a view of frontiers in authentication research, we certainly do not make any claims of covering all angles. However, we hope to convince the reader of the value of departing from the status quo and adopting new authentication methods.

Mountain View, California,
May, 2012

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<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4614-4877-8>

Mobile Authentication
Problems and Solutions
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2013, XIV, 113 p., Softcover
ISBN: 978-1-4614-4877-8