

Understanding Shoulder Surfer Behavior and Attack Patterns Using Virtual Reality

Yasmeen Abdrabou
yasmeen.essam@unibw.de
University of the Bundeswehr Munich
University of Glasgow

Jonathan Liebers
jonathan.liebers@uni-due.de
University of Duisburg-Essen
Germany

Uwe Gruenefeld
uwe.gruenefeld@uni-due.de
University of Duisburg-Essen
Germany

Ville Mäkelä
ville.makela@uwaterloo.ca
University of Waterloo
Canada

Radiah Rivu
sheikh.rivu@unibw.de
University of the Bundeswehr Munich
Germany

Alia Saad
alia.saad@uni-due.de
University of Duisburg-Essen
Germany

Pascal Knierim
pascal.knierim@unibw.de
University of the Bundeswehr Munich
Germany

Stefan Schneegass
stefan.schneegass@uni-due.de
University of Duisburg-Essen
Germany

Tarek Ammar
tarek.ammar@campus.lmu.de
LMU Munich
Germany

Carina Liebers
carina.liebers@uni-due.de
University of Duisburg-Essen
Germany

Mohamed Khamis
mohamed.khamis@glasgow.ac.uk
University of Glasgow
United Kingdom

Florian Alt
florian.alt@unibw.de
University of the Bundeswehr Munich
Germany

ABSTRACT

In this work, we explore attacker behavior during shoulder surfing. As such behavior is often opportunistic and difficult to observe in real world settings, we leverage the capabilities of virtual reality (VR). We recruited 24 participants and observed their behavior in two virtual waiting scenarios: at a bus stop and in an open office space. In both scenarios, participants shoulder surfed private screens displaying different types of content. From the results we derive an understanding of factors influencing shoulder surfing behavior, reveal common attack patterns, and sketch a behavioral shoulder surfing model. Our work suggests directions for future research on shoulder surfing and can serve as a basis for creating novel approaches to mitigate shoulder surfing.

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