

## Challenges in Information Security

Prof. Bart Preneel  
COSIC – KU Leuven – Belgium  
Firstname.Lastname(at)esat.kuleuven.be  
<http://homes.esat.kuleuven.be/~preneel>  
December 2014

1

## Learning goals

- What are the goals for information security and privacy?
- What are the threats and causes that create these problems?
- Why is securing information systems hard?
  - technical aspects
  - non-technical aspects: legal, economical, psychological

2



## Information processing

the Internet of things,  
ubiquitous computing,  
pervasive computing,  
ambient intelligence ( $10^{12}$ )

Internet and mobile ( $10^9$ )

PCs and LANs ( $10^7$ )

mainframe ( $10^5$ )

mechanical processing ( $10^4$ )

manual processing

4

## Exponential growth

Ray Kurzweil, KurzweilAI.net

- Human brain:  $10^{14}$  ...  $10^{15}$  ops and  $10^{13}$  bits memory
- 2025: 1 computer can perform  $10^{16}$  ops ( $2^{53}$ )
- 2013:  $10^{13}$  RAM bits (1 Terabyte) cost 1000\$

5

## Outline

- COMSEC versus COMPUSEC
- IT Security threats
- Privacy risks
- e-Business
- Taking a step backwards
- Non-technical dimension
- Conclusions

6


### Military security terminology

**INFOSEC**

- COMSEC: securing (electronic) communications
- COMPUSEC: computer security

**Information Collection**





- Signal Intelligence (SIGINT)
  - COMINT: communications intelligence
    - traffic analysis
  - ELINT: electronic intelligence
    - TEMPEST: electromagnetic emanations
- ...
- Human Intelligence (HUMINT)
- Imagery Intelligence (IMINT)
- Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT)
- Technical Intelligence (TECHINT)
- Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)



7

### COMSEC

- pre-1915: manual encryption or simple devices
- 1917: one time pad
- 1915: rotor machines: (electro-)mechanical
- 1960's: electronic encryption
- 1975: integrated hardware
- 1990: software

8

### COMSEC in practice

- wired
  - SSL/TLS
  - VPN: IPsec
  - VOIP
- wireless
  - GSM, 3G
  - WLAN: WPA2 (RSN)
  - PAN: Bluetooth, Zigbee

9

### COMSEC

	Confidentiality	Data authentication	Entity authentication
1 G (analog)			
2 G (GSM)	weak		unilateral
3G			
WLAN			
TLS			unilateral
IPsec		optional ☺	
Skype	not open	not open	not open/meet in the middle attack

10

### COMSEC: network security

- fundamental protocols of the Internet do not have adequate security
- this is well understood, but there is no preventive patching
  - panic response to ever improving attacks
- changing widely used protocols is hard
- DNS attack [Kaminsky, Black Hat '08]
- BGP attack [Kapela-Pilosov, Defcon '08]
- More examples:
  - IPv6 attacks
  - SNMPv3 Bug [Wes Hardakar]
  - Insecure SSL-VPN [Mike Zusman]
  - Insecure Cookies [Mike Perry]

11

### COMSEC: DNSSec

- long and winding road (started in 1997)
- several attacks (e.g. cache poisoning [Kaminsky08])
- several TLDs signed 2005-2009
- live in July 2010 for root
- Versign signed .com early 2011
- <http://www.root-dnssec.org/>
- <http://ispcolumn.isoc.org/2006-08/dnssec.html>

12

### Use of crypto: COMPUSEC

- **data at rest:**
  - hard disk (BitLocker)
  - database
  - USB/memory card
  - mobile devices
- **secure execution**
  - TPM
  - Trusted Execution Technology (TXT)
  - ARM TrustZone

### COMPUSEC

- entity authentication
- access control
- protection of stored data: hard disk, USB
- device authentication and remote attestation
- correctness of execution
- sandboxing
- covert channels
- ...

14

### Insider attacks

Which technology would have stopped them?

15

### COMPUSEC in practice

- Java sandboxing
- DRM
- Electronic payments: EMV
- Access control: Mifare
- TPM
- BitLocker
- Electronic ID cards
- E-voting
- E-auctions
- ...

COMPUSEC is much harder than COMSEC

16

### IT security threats

- Government interception
- Financial fraud
- End systems security (bugs, viruses, rootkits)
- Botnets
- SPAM
- Phishing
- Communications systems security
- Social networks
- Consumerization
- Cloud computing

17

18

## Interception by governments

### 1. PRISM (server)

### 2. Upstream (fiber)

**You Should Use Both**

## 3. Traffic data (DNR)

- traffic data is not plaintext itself, but it is very informative
  - it may contain URLs of websites
  - it allows to map networks
- **6 June 2013: NSA collecting phone records of millions of Verizon customers daily**
- Top secret court order requiring Verizon to hand over all call data shows scale of domestic surveillance under Obama
- **EU: data retention directive (2006/24/EC)**

TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN

## Muscular

### Current Efforts - Google

TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN

Jan 9 2013: In the preceding 30 days, field collectors had processed and sent back 181,280,466 new records — including “metadata,” which would indicate who sent or received e-mails and when, as well as content such as text, audio and video (from Yahoo! and Google)

## Snowden revelations (ctd)

Most spectacular: **active defense**

- networks
  - Quantum insertion: answer before the legitimate website
  - inject malware in devices
- devices
  - malware based on backdoors and 0-days (FoxAcid)
  - supply chain subversion

Translation in human terms: **complete control** of networks and systems, including bridging the air gaps

No longer deniable  
Oversight weak

## TEMPORA architecture (GCHQ)

(1) Gain “access” to raw content: intercept (cable, satellite), hack, buy, ask.

## Credit Card Fraud (USA)

2009: 2.0-8.6B\$

Source: [Celent Communications](#), via Lafferty Publications

### Financial fraud SEPA

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/cardfraudreport201307en.pdf>

2011: 1.16 billion EUR, 0.04% of transactions  
Share of Card Not Present increased to more than 50%

Source: All reporting CPDs. Note that, as outlined in the introduction, total levels of fraud in the years 2008, 2009 and 2011 increased partly owing to the inclusion of data from additional CPDs.

25

### Malware

- Virus: spread via executables (software, Word documents, ...)
- Worm: spread via network
- Trojan horse: secret malicious functionality
- Rootkit: control computer
- Ransomware: encrypt

Transmission: email, Internet, intranet, web pages, GSM, 3G, Bluetooth, WiFi, USB drives, CDs, memory cards, ...

26

### Virus

- Proof of concept: 1970s
- First threat: mid 1980s
- Explosion: mid 1990s
- 6.3 Million in 2011

Source: F-Secure

29

### Malware trends

Some anti-virus companies have stopped counting in 2009

- Kaspersky  
[http://www.securelist.com/en/analysis/204792299/IT\\_Threat\\_Evolution\\_Q2\\_2013](http://www.securelist.com/en/analysis/204792299/IT_Threat_Evolution_Q2_2013)
  - detected and neutralized almost 1 billion malicious objects
  - millions of malicious URLs
  - mobile malware reached 100K
- Sophos  
<http://www.sophos.com/en-us/medialibrary/PDFs/other/sophossecuritythreatreport2013.pdf>
  - growth: Facebook, cloud, Android, OS X
  - polymorphism and targeting

28

### APT – Advanced Persistent Threats

- Targeted theft or damage, but less visible
- Google Aurora Q3/Q4 2009
- Stuxnet – July 2010
- Duqu – September 2011
- Flame – May 2012
- Red October – October 2012
- Regin – November 2014

29

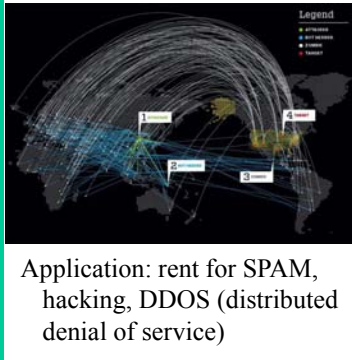
### Stuxnet

- used four 0-day vulnerabilities, 2 specific for Siemens PLCs
- PLC rootkit
- 2 stolen private keys to sign its files
- 7 forms of replication (rather than 2)
- bridged air gap via USB
- meant to destroy: from espionage to sabotage (high speed spinning of centrifuges)
- deception: recorded normal operation and played them back
- could disable the kill switch of the device (to prevent operator intervention)
- affected 20% of nuclear centrifuges in Iran

Is this the tip of the iceberg?

30

### Botnets



- Attacker controls 10.000-100.000 computers

Application: rent for SPAM, hacking, DDOS (distributed denial of service)

### SPAM in 2012

- SPAM makes up 65% of the Internet email traffic
  - 7% in 2001; 90-95% around 2005; 82% in 2010
  - 90-200 billion SPAM messages/day
  - 5% carries malware
- 40% of all social media accounts are created by spammers
- billions of dollars spent on spam defense
- cost to large company a few million \$/year
- cost to society
  - vector for malware
  - spoiling e-mail as communication tool: time and attention
  - ISP/mobile fees
  - storage and bandwidth

Bill Gates (2004): Spam Will Be 'Solved' In 2 Years

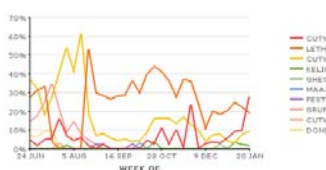
### SPAM 2013 statistics

PHARMACEUTICALS	48.63%
DATING	18.46%
MALWARE LINKS	7.90%
REPLICAS	6.53%
DIPLOMAS	1.83%
ADULT	1.00%
GAMBLING	0.54%
FINANCE	0.45%
PHISHING	0.30%
SOFTWARE	0.29%
SCAMS	0.04%
MALWARE	0.01%
OTHER	16.83%

**SPAM content**  
[Source: M86 security lab]

Latest trend:  
on-line casinos

**SPAM by botnet**  
[Source: M86 security lab]



### SPAM and economics

- list of  $10^8$ - $10^9$  "good" names
- cost per message:  $\sim 10^{-4}$ - $10^{-5}$  €; total cost  $10^4$ - $10^5$  €
- hit ratio:  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-4}$ : 30,000-300,000 responses
  - SPAM only works because users respond
- cost per click is 0.30 € compared to 0.07 € for commercial advertising – this explains reduction
- botnet: machines for sale for a few dozen EURO
  - can be used for SPAM and for DDOS attacks
  - most SPAM messages come from a dozen botnets
- see e.g., [http://www.marshall.com/trace/spam\\_statistics.asp](http://www.marshall.com/trace/spam_statistics.asp)

### Phishing reports received Jan '05-March '10 (source www.antiphishing.org)

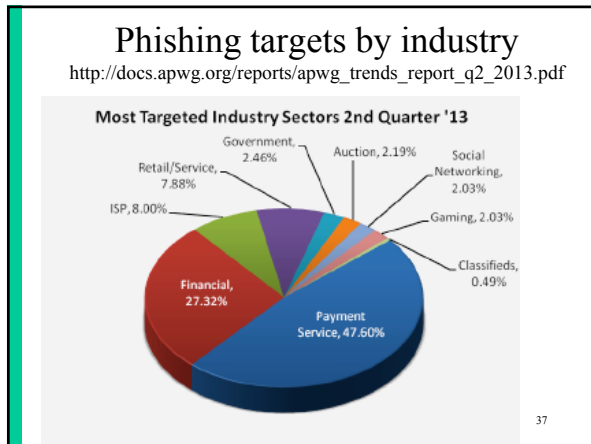


Oct. 2004: 6597



### Phishing

- 0.1%-1% of email is phishing related
- more than 31,000 new phishing sites per month
  - peak of 41,000 in 2009; "only" 25,000 in 2006
- consumers react very naively (human factor)
- even experts can't distinguish some phishing messages from real ones
- direct losses from Phishing costed banks and credit card issuers \$2.8 Billion per year (e.g., theft, call center activity)
- targeted attack: spear phishing



### Spying: surveillance software and key loggers

67.88\$ at keyLlama.com

- can memorize 8 MByte key presses

99.95\$ at eblaster.com

100.00\$ WiFi Pineapple

- 4 Mbyte key PS/2 key logger
- hard to detect

74.88\$ at keyLlama.com

39

### Social networks

- vector for malware
  - Facebook rogue application toolkit
- social engineering
- leaking company secrets
- personal privacy risk

- establish your organization's presence before anyone else does

40

### Consumerization

- Personal smart phones, tablets, ... enter the workplace, not provisioned by company
- March 2011 survey by Vanson Bourne of 300 CIOs of companies with more than 3000 employees
  - 67% concerned about protecting their corporate data since WikiLeaks
  - 78% don't know what devices are connected to the corporate network
  - 77% don't know what data is lurking on all of those devices.
  - 33% can track these devices
  - 50% can secure these devices should they be lost or stolen
  - 75% "security headaches" are actually caused by the mobile devices

<http://www.mformation.com/mformation-news/press-releases/cios-raise-security-concerns-around-backdoor-mobile-devices>

41

### Cloud security: is it different?

- What's the same
  - can do intrusion detection/monitoring
  - can encrypt stored data
  - availability? Service/network/power - SLA
- What's different
  - AV could be easier
  - pen testing?
  - forensics?
  - personnel security
  - localization
- Privacy
- Large and attractive target
  - What if someone takes over the infrastructure management?

VMWare isn't an additional security layer, it's just another layer to find bugs in [Kostya Kortchinsky]

42

### Outline

- COMSEC versus COMPUSEC
- IT Security threats
- Privacy risks
- e-Business
- Taking a step backwards
- Non-technical dimension
- Conclusions

43

### Largest (known) privacy breaches

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/worlds-biggest-data-breaches-hacks/>

- 152,000,000 2013-09-17 Adobe
- 145,000,000 2014-02/03 Ebay
- 130,000,000 2009-01-20 Heartland Payment Systems
- 94,000,000 2007-01-17 TJX Companies Inc.
- 90,000,000 1984-06-01 TRW, Sears Roebuck
- 77,000,000 2011-04-26 Sony Corporation (120 MEURO)
- 76,000,000 2014-07-?? JP Morgan
- 76,000,000 2009-10-01 National Archives and Records Administration
- 70,000,000 2014-12-19 Target credit card data
- 50,000,000 2013-04-07 LivingSocial (daily deals)
- 50,000,000 2013-03-02 Evernote
- 40,000,000 2005-06-19 CardSystems, Visa, MasterCard, Amex
- 35,000,000 2011-07-28 SK Communications, Nate, Cyworld
- 32,000,000 2009-12-14 RockYou Inc.
- 26,500,000 2006-05-22 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- 25,000,000 2007-11-20 HM Revenue and Customs, TNT (CD)

"only" 10K-500K in individual health care breaches (total a few million)

### Data loss: lost media

[http://datalossdb.org/search?breach\\_type\[\]=LostMedia](http://datalossdb.org/search?breach_type[]=LostMedia)

The screenshot shows a search results page for 'Lost Media' with several entries. Each entry includes an ID, a brief description of the breach, the date, the number of records lost, the source, and the submitter. For example, entry ID-148 mentions 165,000 notified about names and Social Security numbers on lost compact discs.

44

### Privacy and technology

- search engines
- XML
- biometry
- location (GSM!!, GPS)
- printers
- DRM
- spyware and cookies
- huge databases
- data mining
- video cameras
- RFID

- PET: Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- proxies
- pseudonyms
- cryptology
- mixes
- credentials

46

### Privacy violations

The image shows two screenshots. The top one is from PanoptiClick, a website that visualizes data collected about users. The bottom one is from 'What the Internet Knows About You', a website that tracks and displays user data. The URL <http://panoptlick.eff.org/> is provided.

47

### Security for everyone

The diagram features a green triangle with 'Government' at the top, 'Users' at the bottom left, and 'Industry' at the bottom right. To the left of 'Users' is a box labeled 'privacy', and to the right of 'Industry' is a box labeled 'DRM'. To the right of the triangle is an illustration of a house under construction with workers and a sign that says 'SECURITY'. Below the diagram is a yellow box with the text: 'warning: this is an oversimplification - e.g. privacy is a security property'.

48



### The privacy debate

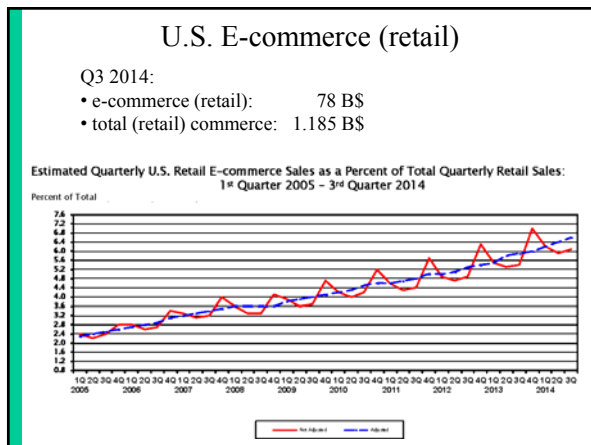
- user: convenience and improved service
- businesses:
  - protect company assets (email, DRM)
  - price discrimination
- law enforcement: fraud, theft, stalking, counterfeiting
- national security
- privacy is essential for a democracy
- legislation
- technology

49

### Business perspective on security

<p><b>Direct Losses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• theft                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– money</li> <li>– confidential information</li> <li>– computer resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• productivity loss                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– data corruption</li> <li>– recovery and continuity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Indirect losses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• secondary loss                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– sales</li> <li>– competitive advantage</li> <li>– brand</li> </ul> </li> <li>• legal exposure                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– privacy regulations</li> <li>– legal obligations</li> <li>– contract breach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---	--

50



### Taking a step backwards


- computer security research is about 40 years old
- thousands of researchers, ten thousands of scientific articles, thousands of security products and services
  - Gartner: security services spending 35 BS in 2011
- increased accountability [Sarbanes-Oxley '02] [Basel II '04]
- critical infrastructure protection

[Adi Shamir '07] We are winning yesterday's information security battles, but we are losing the war. Security gets worse by a factor of 2 every year.

Somehow humanity can deal with imperfect systems


52

### IT environment




**Walled fortress**

- closed doors, physical isolation
- security as protection
- defend data, networks and systems



**Open metropolis**

- open, unbounded, interconnected
- trust as an enabler
- share content and resources
- protect data




**Feudal system**

- impose central rules
- data for protection
- loss of control


53

### Complexity of technology

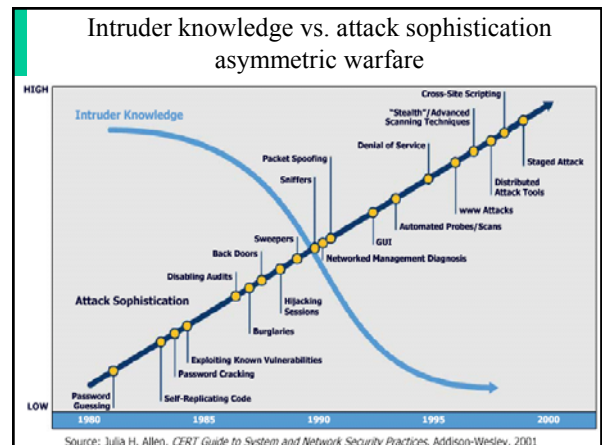
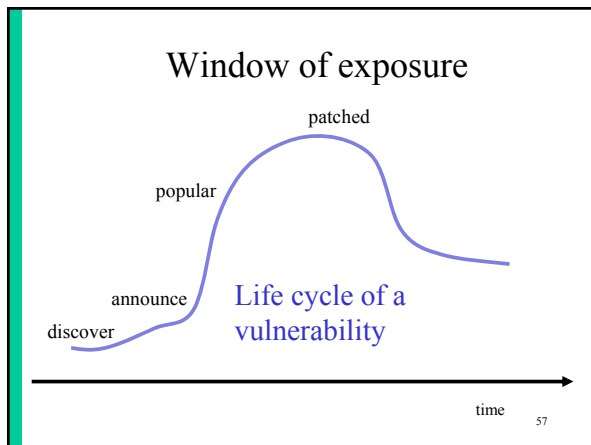
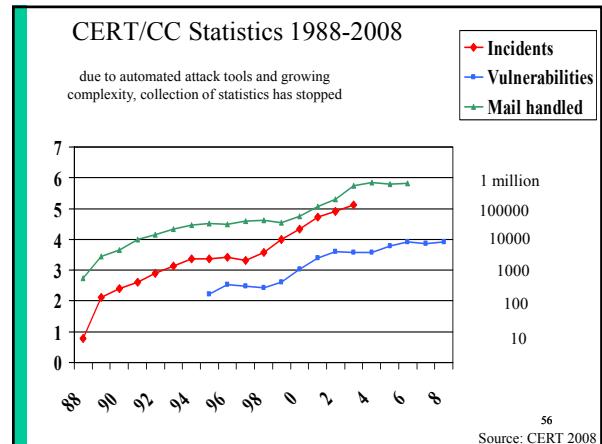
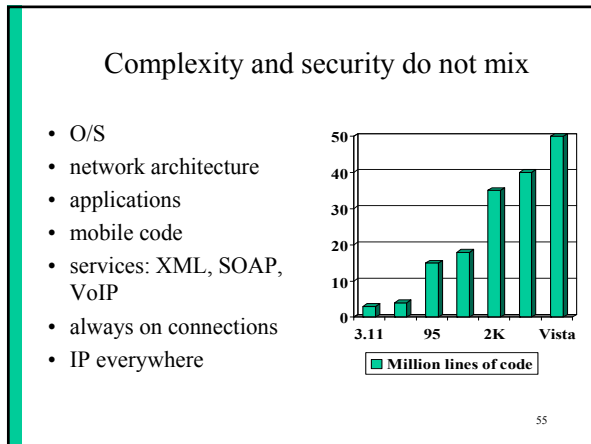
- IC: 2 B transistors
- Windows/Linux: 20-200 M lines of code
- Application: 1-20 M lines of code
- Internet: 3 B computers/tablets
- Mobile phones: 6 B



- Securing a complex system: difficult, expensive and slow
- Fast evolution of ICT world



54



### Nature of threat has changed

- From hacking for fun or bragging rights to hacking for money to hacking by governments
- Underground ecosystem
  - Tools to create malware and find vulnerabilities
  - Finding vulnerabilities and writing exploits
  - Using exploits to get valuable data
    - credit cards, social security numbers, company secrets
  - Turning bits into money: credit card scams, money mules, blackmailing

59

### Legal complexity

- Legislation is national
  - compliance drives security
- Industry is in part national
- Attackers operation on a worldwide scale
- International coordination suboptimal
  - NATO, OECD, Council of Europe, EU (ENISA)
- Militarization of cybersecurity?

60

### Economic problems

- in ICT world: market share is more important than security
  - Success requires 40-80% adoption
- market of lemons: user cannot distinguish between secure and insecure products
- players do not want to pay for security or privacy of others (“tragedy of the commons”): market failure
  - botnets
  - payment systems
  - software exploits

R. Anderson: Why Information Security is Hard. An Economic Perspective, 2006, <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~rja14/econsec.html>  
 R. Anderson, R. Böhme, R. Clayton, T. Moore, Security Economics and the Internal Market, report for ENISA, 2008

61

### Humans have problems making security decisions

- always a tradeoff
  - Security costs time, memory, effort
- humans are very bad at making e-security decisions
  - our brains have developed to take security decisions in the African highlands about 100,000 years ago
    - “stay or flee” reflex in amygdala (very fast)
    - heuristics in neocortex
- large gap between being secure and feeling secure
  - exploited by politics and marketing

“any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic” [Arthur C Clarke 1961]

B. Schneier, The Psychology of Security, 2008, <http://www.schneier.com/essay-155.pdf>

62

### How do we judge risks?

#### overestimate

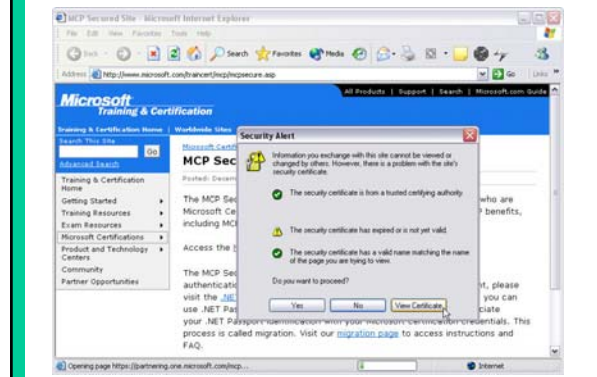
- spectacular
- rare
- personal
- outside our control
- in the news
- intentional
- Immediate
- new and unfamiliar
- w.r.t. kids and loves ones

#### underestimate

- daily
- frequent
- anonymous
- under our control
- unmentioned
- natural
- long term
- familiar
- w.r.t. ourselves

63

### Usability issues

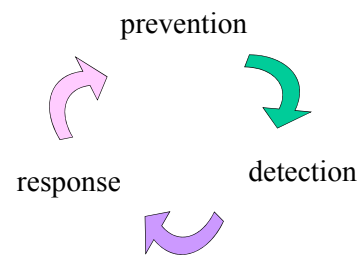


### From risk avoidance to risk management

- accept the risk
- reduce risk with technology
- reduce risk with procedures
- reduce risk with insurance
- reduce risk with disclaimers
- transfer the risk

65

### Process approach to security



66

