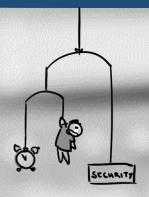
Computer Security





"An effect, not a goal."

Tobias Fiebig

Max Planck Institute for Informatics

About



- B.Sc. Cognitive Science (2012)
- M.Sc. System & Network Engineering (2013)
- Dr.-Ing. Network Measurement and IT Security (2017)
- Until March 2022 Assistant Professor for Information System Security at TU Delft, since April 2020 permanent
- Since April 2022 Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik





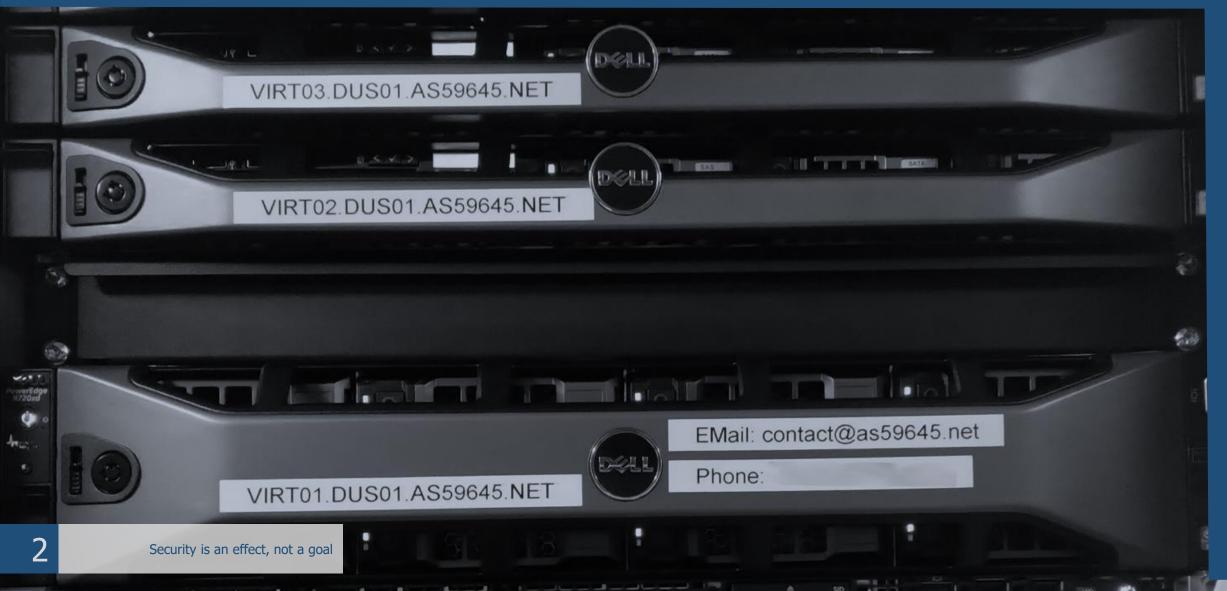






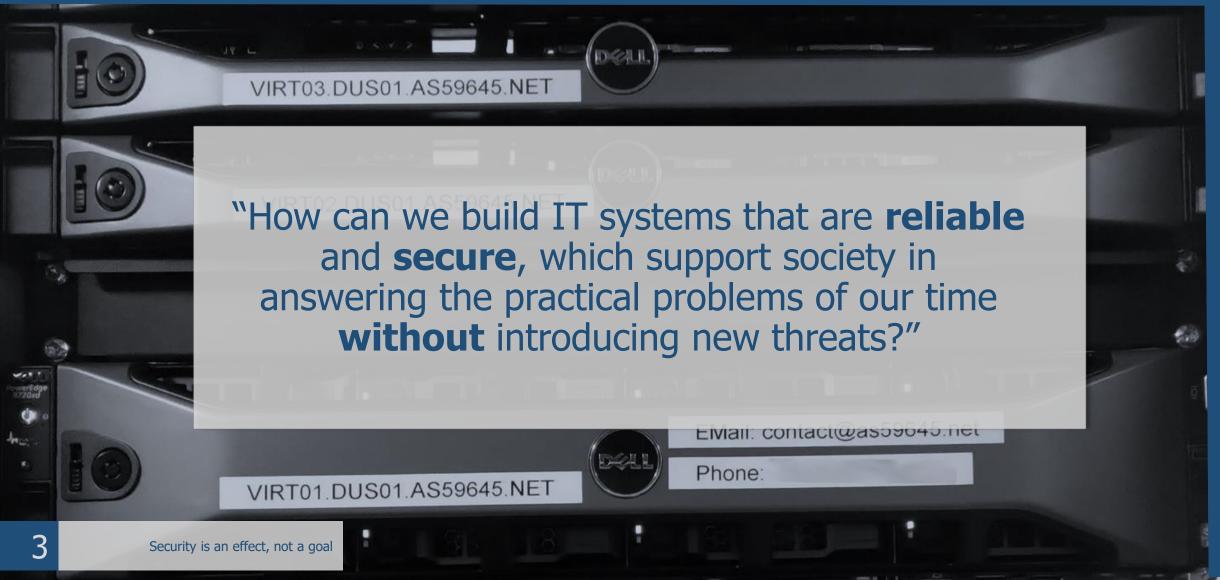
Sysadmin, Researcher, Teacher





Sysadmin, Researcher, Teacher









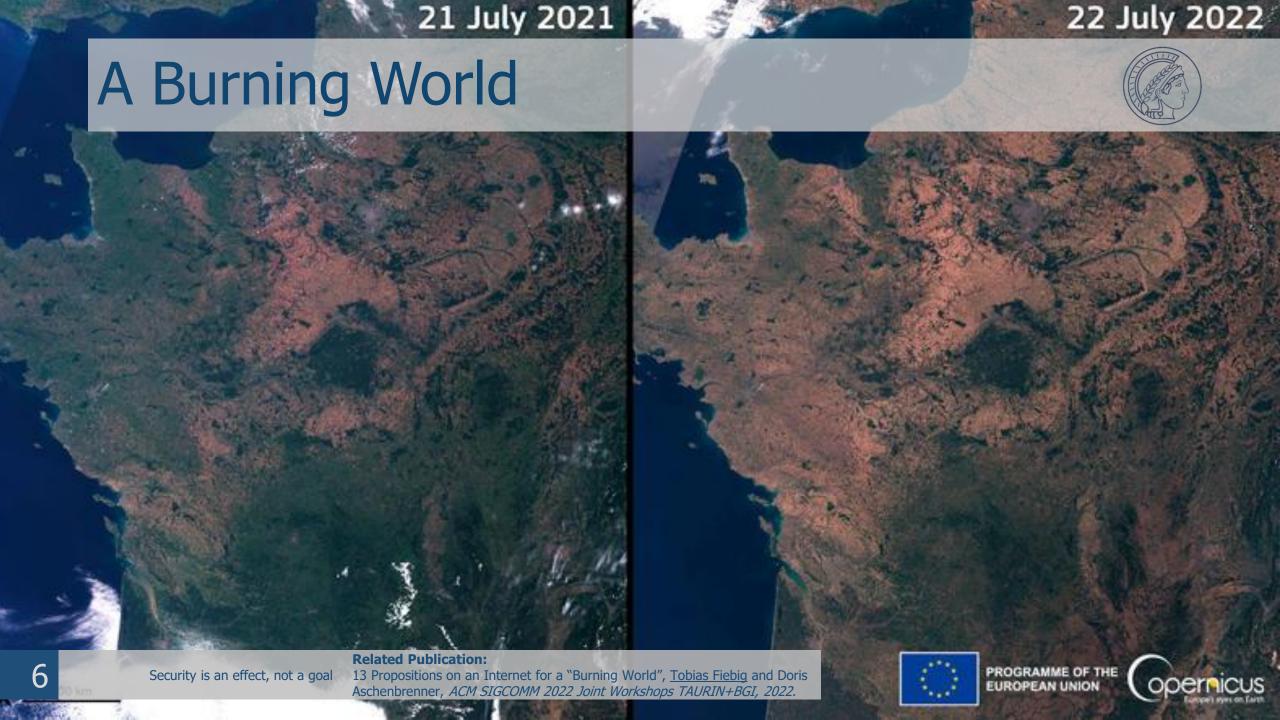
A Burning World By Cameron Strandberg from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada - DSC_7139, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12424098





Related Publication:

13 Propositions on an Internet for a "Burning World", Tobias Fiebiq and Doris Aschenbrenner, ACM SIGCOMM 2022 Joint Workshops TAURIN+BGI, 2022.



Bear with me... it will all make sense.







Detlef's Granddaughter & the Ransomware





- Detlef, 58, with Elbemetal for 42 years. Internal tinkerer. CNC etc.; The old (manual) stuff.
- NOT good with "Computerse";
 IT still looks shellshocked when
 they think back to the SAP
 rollout on the box for his new
 CNC machine.
- Grandpa since two weeks ago.
- That's why Elbemetal now has ransomware.
- · Why?

Logging in at work...



Imagine, to log into work you would have to do the following...

- Go to website
- Log-in
- 2FA
- Get priv. key sent by mail (valid: 24h)

Apply for SSH key

Allowlist IP for Webmail

- Go to website
- Log-in
- 2FA
- Allowlist IP (Valid: 15m)

- Go to website
- Log-in
- 2FA
- Allowlist IP (Valid: 24h)

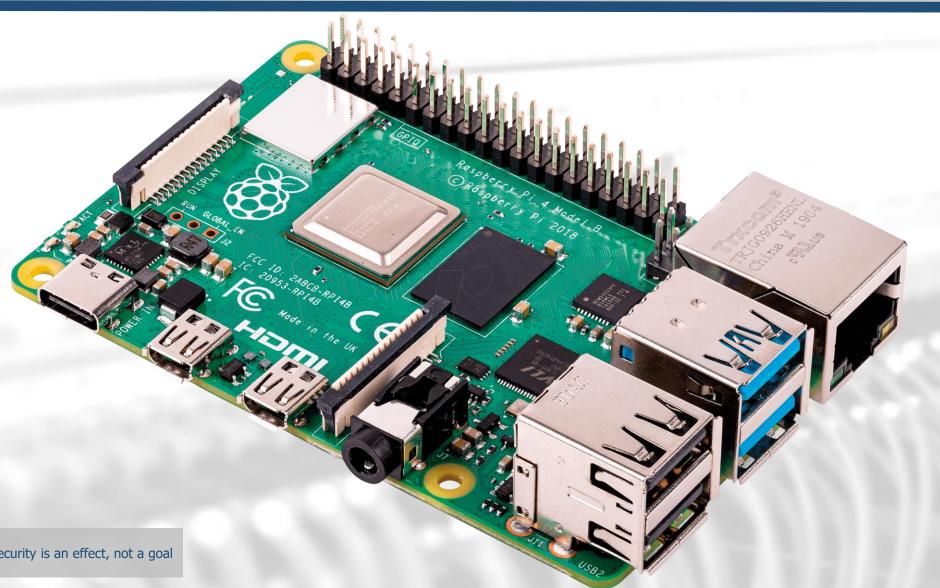
Allowlist for SSH

Login by SSH

- Use SSH key
- 2FA
- Be logged in

What would you do...?



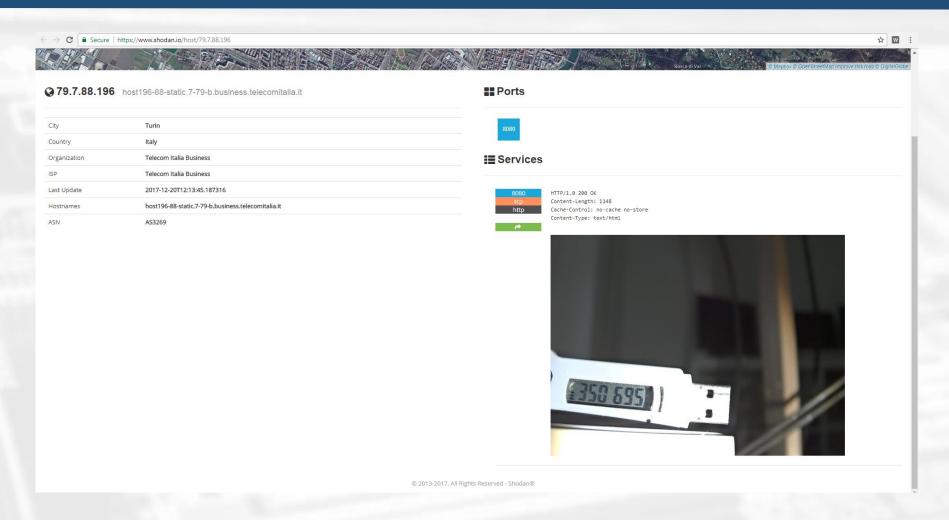




"Users will find a way."

People finding ways





Related Publication:

Investigating System Operators' Perspective on Security Misconfigurations, Constanze Dietrich, [...], Tobias Fiebiq, ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS '18), 2018.

Security Misconfigurations



- When security falls of the ledge
- Simple mistakes
- Oversights
- People doing people things



Related Publication:

Security Misconfigurations





Related Publication:

Prevention is not easy





Automation



Better Documentation



Clear (shared) Responsibilities



Better Processes (not more)



Incident RPGs



Really Blameless Post-Mortems

Related Publication:

Investigating System Operators' Perspective on Security Misconfigurations, Constanze Dietrich, [...], Tobias Fiebiq, ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS '18), 2018.

Safety Science



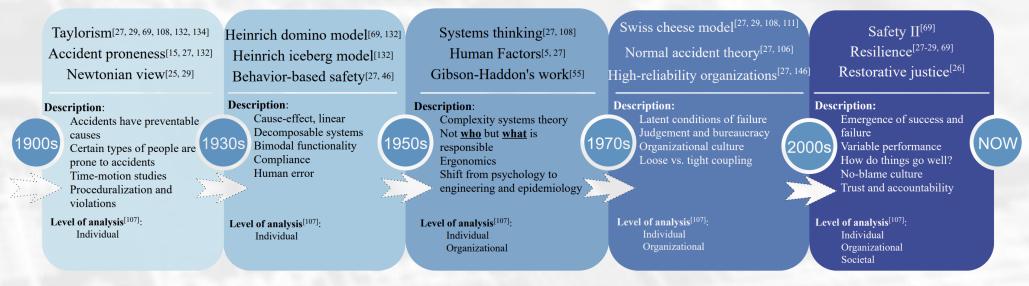


Figure 2: Overview of the development of human factors research in safety science [27]. Note how over time, the perspective shifted away from individual responsibility to, first, organizational factors, and finally to a societal perspective. Ultimately, the focus is no longer on how to prevent human error, but instead, on how to facilitate proper resilient operations.

Related Publication:

Safety Science



- Look at what works instead of focusing on what does not
- Systems must be *resilient* as (human) error is *inevitable*
- Human error cannot be removed or prevented
- A system (organization) may lead to failure
- We need a just/blameless culture to identify root-causes



Figure 2: Overview of the development of human factors research in safety science [27]. Note how over time, the perspective shifted away from individual responsibility to, first, organizational factors, and finally to a societal perspective. Ultimately, the focus is no longer on how to prevent human error, but instead, on how to facilitate proper resilient operations.

Related Publication:



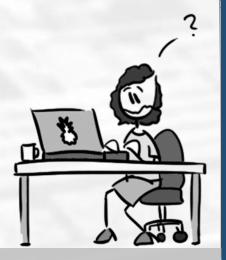


Sysyops: Who they are and what they do



- People running systems
- Not developpers (well, DevOps, but no...)
- Not users (but it depends)
- What?

Security is an effect, not a goal



Sysyops: Who they are and what they do



- NIST says: "individuals responsible for the installation and maintenance of an information system, providing effective information system utilization, adequate security parameters, and sound implementation of established Information Assurance policy and procedures."
- Limoncelli et al. define a sysadmin as "one who manages computer and network systems on behalf of another, such as an employer or a client."

Enterprise Security

Security is an effect, not a goal



- Monitoring (SIEM, IDS, WAF, Mailgateway, Logs)
- Control (Endpoint Security, Antivirus)
- Isolation (Firewall, AD, VPN, Proxy)
- General Security (2FA, Keycards, Tokens)
- Standards and Certificates (CC, ISO27001)



Enterprise Security



"Equifax was ISO-27001 certified."

- Me

"And then he said: 'There is no way they are not getting certified, if they buy it from us.'"

- Anonymous Big-4 Intern

Maersk



- Probably as close to the definition of 'Enterprise' you can get
- Still did not segment their network
- Still did not backup their active directory
- Did people just skip on doing their job?

Security is an effect, not a goal

Sysops' work isn't easy



- There are complexities EVERYWHERE
 - Network services/protocols get increasingly complex
 - Resources are scares
 - Operational requirements always are 'Prio1!'
 - Networks <u>grow</u> organically(!);
 - Called 'accumulating entropy' in SysOps literature
 - Legacy is pain



SMTP101

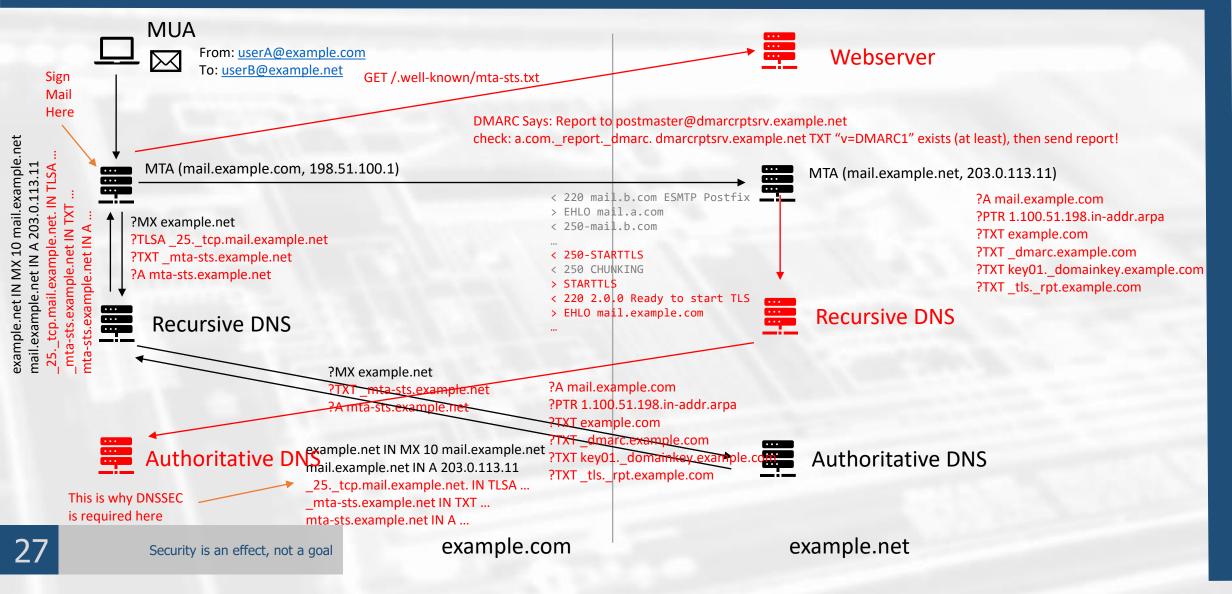




SMTP2023

Now with: fcrDNS, SPF, DKIM, DMARC, MTA-STS, TLS-RPT, TLSA (DANE) Still missing: IPv6 (Auth/Recursive DNS, delivery), BIMI, features & expansions for DMARC, DKIM, SPF & MTA-STS, DNS-RBLs, ARC, SRS, SPAM & Virus Checks





Complexity: The history of email RFCs



- There has been an explosion of standards since dot-com
- Mail exceeds DNS(!)
- Whelp

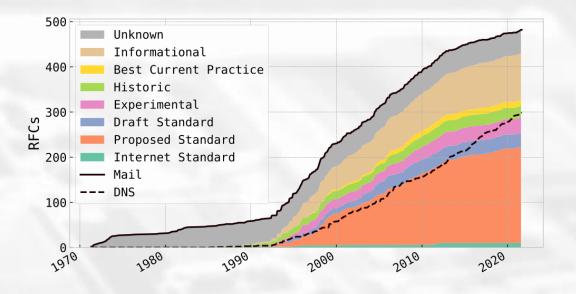
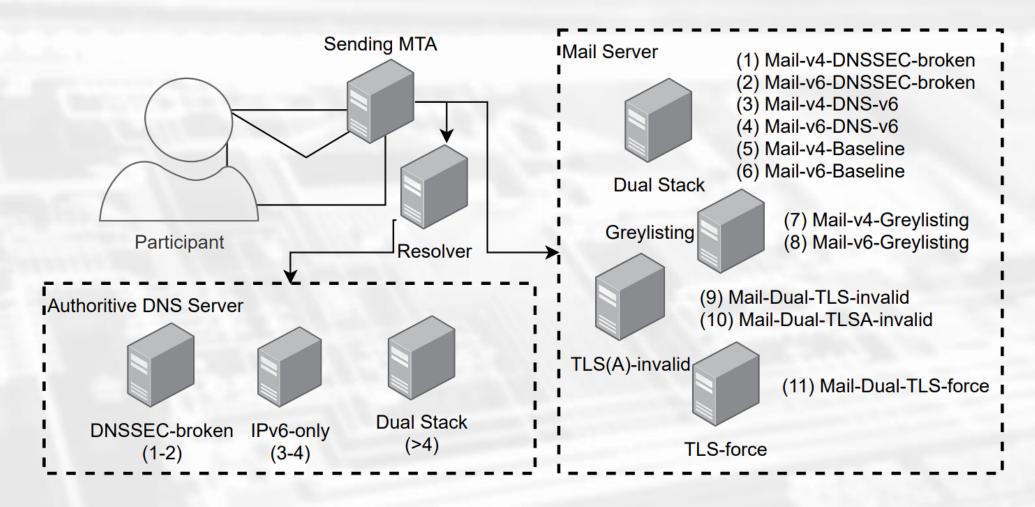


Figure 1: Overview of the explosion of email-related standards ("SMTP Camel"), compared to DNS-related standards.

Checkout: https://email-security-scans.org/
Test your own mail infrastructure (for fun and improvements)

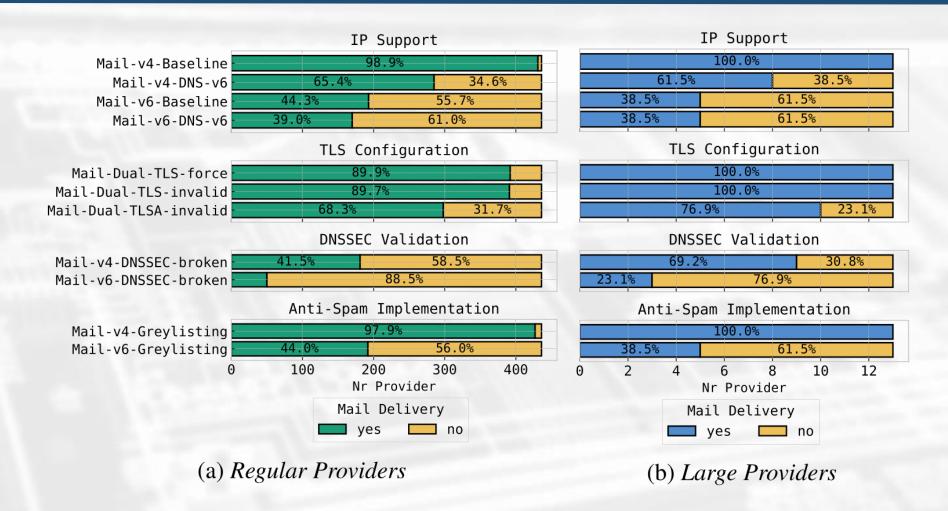
Measuring Email Standard Compliance





Email Standard Compliance





Related Publication:

Not that Simple: Email Delivery in the 21st Century, Florian Holzbauer, Johanna Ullrich, Martina Lindorfer, Tobias Fiebig, *USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC'22)*.

Email Standard Compliance: Implications



- The big ones move slow but when they move they do
- For small (self-hosted!) ones things are more difficult
 - Some are bleeding edge
 - Others are way behind

Security is an effect, not a goal

- Implications of deliverability
 - Google/MS tend to be stringy (and intransparent) when it comes to accepting (smaller) providers mails
 - Others (t-online.de ...) are not that compliant themselves
 - Forces centralization: "If you don't like (your mail disappearing), just go to Google!"

Dealing with Complexity



What we want

- Less people
- Running more services
- For more users
- Using less (work) time

What we do

- Cattle approach
- Get rid of pets/snowflakes
- Centralize
- Automate
- Standardize



Pets? Cattle? Zoo?



- Pets are special!
 - We love them
 - We care for them
 - They get the expensive cat food
 - They get LOOOOOOTS of toys
 - They can sleep in our bed
 - They get cuddles
 - They get the best doctors we can find
 - They are just awesome



Cattle though...





^{*}No cattle was hurt in the making of this burger

Snowflakes



- Beautiful
- Unique
- None like the other

· A blizzard is still no fun at all.



Consistency is Key



- McDonalds coffee isn't the best
- It isn't even good
- It is... well... decent... "good enough"

• BUT: It is always the same!



We do the same with systems...



- How we run servers
- How we support users
 - Try it; File a support ticket with google... try to talk to a human...









Blog Article

© Constanze Dietrich

"In a burning world, functionality is more important than security, but remains trumped by safety."







Blog Article

© Constanze Dietrich

"Systems that are too complex to be understood by a single person cannot be sustainable."







Search Results for "pass:"



T A N. ALOE SHAPES IN THE

PN: tempolit.repolit 1075-re 1718-like Joseph met pass. HISSINGS P. TIC 188.6.54 RDF Contentals P. UserName Passacril 15C 188.6.54 horserifi.n Fulfilling#

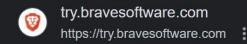


Search Results for "amex"



Card Holder Name Rully Ton Card Spe AMEX Card Number 37MESTICS (SNEED Expinals)

Sponsored



Download Brave For Free - Fast, Private & Safe

A privacy-first, free **browser** that loads 3x faster — without slowing your computer down.

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Earn tokens for browsing

No ads, Private search & more. The best privacy online.

1 click to ditch Big Tech

Safe browsing, search, VPN, & more. A Web browser that's user-first.

Block ads & trackers

Block ads for a fast, private Web. The browser that rewards you.



Brave Browser

https://brave.com

Brave Browser: Secure, Fast, & Private Web Browser with ...

The **Brave browser** is a fast, private and secure web browser for PC, Mac and mobile.

Download now to enjoy a faster ad-free browsing experience that saves ...

Download Brave

Brave is avaSecurity is an effect, not a goal web browser for your ...





Brave

<

Web browser

Brave is a free and open-source web browser developed by Brave Software, Inc. based on the Chromium web browser. Brave is a privacy-focused browser, which automatically blocks some advertisements and website trackers in its default settings. Wikipedia

Developer: Brendan Eich, Brave Software, Inc.

Initial release date: January 20, 2016

Programming languages: JavaScript, C++, Swift

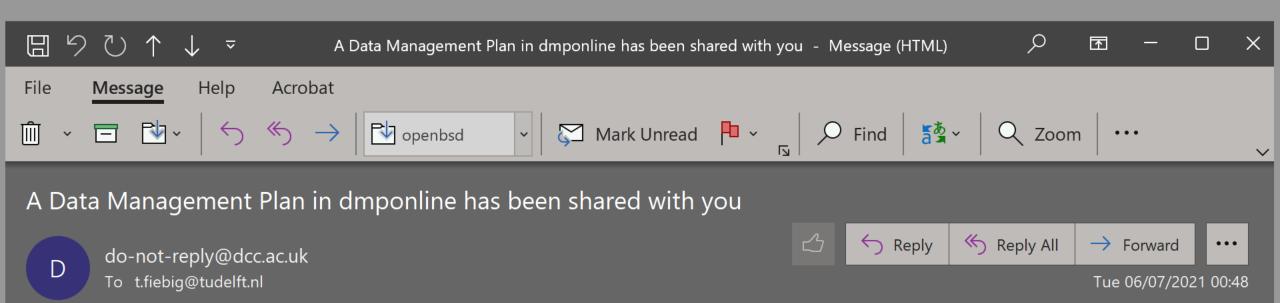
Engines: Blink, V8, (WebKit on iOS)

License: MPL 2.0

Platform: x86-64, IA-32 (Windows only), ARM (Mac

only)

Repository: github.com/brave/brave-browser



Hello First Name Surname

Your colleague <u>updated</u> tudelft.nl has invited you to contribute to their Data Management Plan in dmponline

Click here to accept the invitation, (or copy https://dmponline.tudelft.nl/users/invitation/accept?invitation_token=z_e2 into your browser). If you don't want to accept the invitation, please ignore this email.

All the best

The dmponline team

Please do not reply to this email. If you have any questions or need help, please contact us at dmponline@dcc.ac.uk or visit https://dmponline.tudelft.nl/contact-us



Care-Work in IT?!

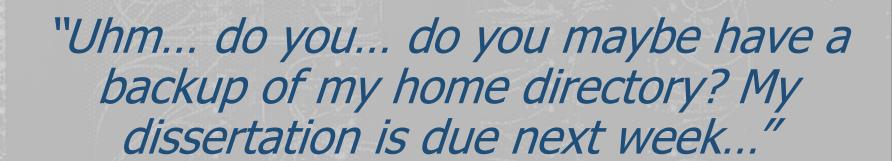


- Looked at how operators experienced the COVID19 lockdowns
- Turns out:

Security is an effect, not a goal

- Helping people is hard
- Dealing with being overwhelmed while having to handle the overwhelmness of others is hard
- You actually have care components in sysops work





Related Publication:

"I needed to solve their overwhelmness": How system administration work was affected by COVID-19, Mannat Kaur, [...], Tobias Fiebiq, ACM CSCW'22 / PACM HCI, 2022.

Component of Care



- Ops tend to be a bit... t-Ops-ic
 - BOfH stories
 - "King of the Hill" Operators having 'their baby'
 - Lot's of 'strength' culture

• But then there is also all this care work...

WARNING!



IF THE HELP DESK THINKS YOUR QUESTION IS STUPID, WE WILL SET YOU ON FIRE

Operator Visibility Paradox



- Low visibility (Things work):
 - If you do a good job, nobody sees you, and everybody wonders why
 you are even getting paid, if you never do anything/things run
 without you.
- High visibility (Things don't work):
 - If things go wrong a lot (independent of whose fault it is), people constantly see you, and wonder why you're even getting paid if you constantly break stuff.

The Toxic Loop



- Operators are grumpy and think users are stupid
- Users are demand-y and do not acknowledge operators carework
- Operators get more grumpy and to less care work
- Users get grumpy (and/or angry, scared, etc.) making care work harder
- Operators get more grumpy cause care-work got harder...

IT and IT Operations: A Men's World



- Computer stuff has always been n-uominated field
- Fundamental innovation in the fall thas been driven by men
- Without men, there would be no IT as we know it today



A brief (incomplete) history of tech...





Ada Lovelace, 1st Algorithm

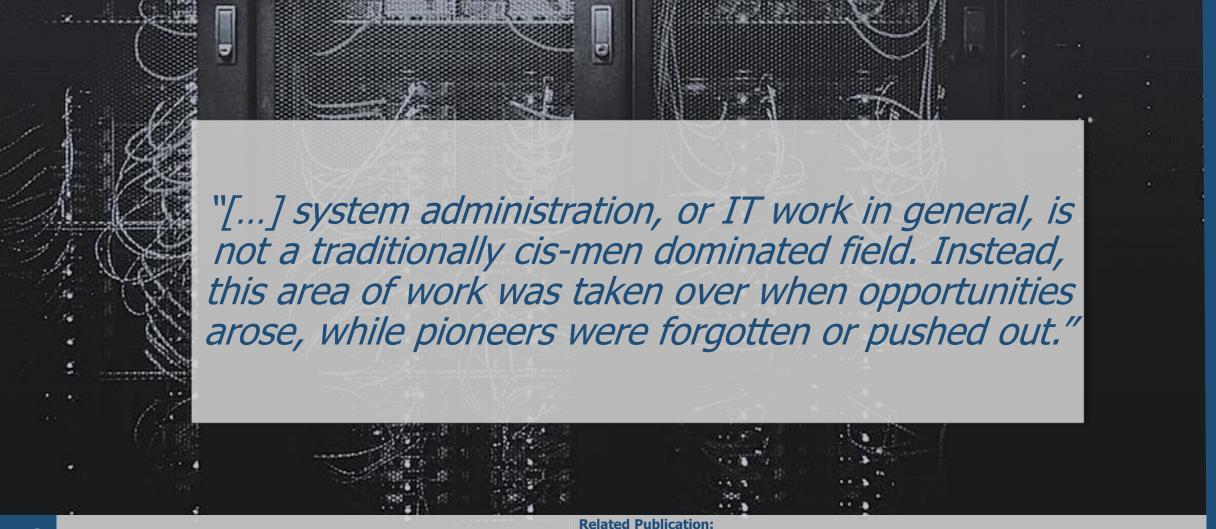
Related Publication:

"Oh yes! over-preparing for meetings is my jam:)": The Gendered Experiences of System Administrators, Mannat Kaur, Harshini Sri Ramulu, Yasemin Acar, Tobias Fiebiq, ACM CSCW'23 / PACM HCI, 2023.

Teamlead Flight SW Apollo 11

IT and IT Operations: A sad reality





"Oh yes! over-preparing for meetings is my jam:)": The Gendered Experiences of System Administrators, Mannat Kaur, Harshini Sri Ramulu, Yasemin Acar, Tobias Fiebiq, ACM CSCW'23 / PACM HCI, 2023.

Double-Invisibility



- People of marginalized genders experience a doubled version of the 'visibility paradox'
 - They are *double* invisibilized compared to cis-ad-men, especially when it comes to reward, success, and things working
 - They are double visibilized compared to cis-ad-men, when things go wrong or infrastructure does not work

Toxic Culture Harms Everywhere

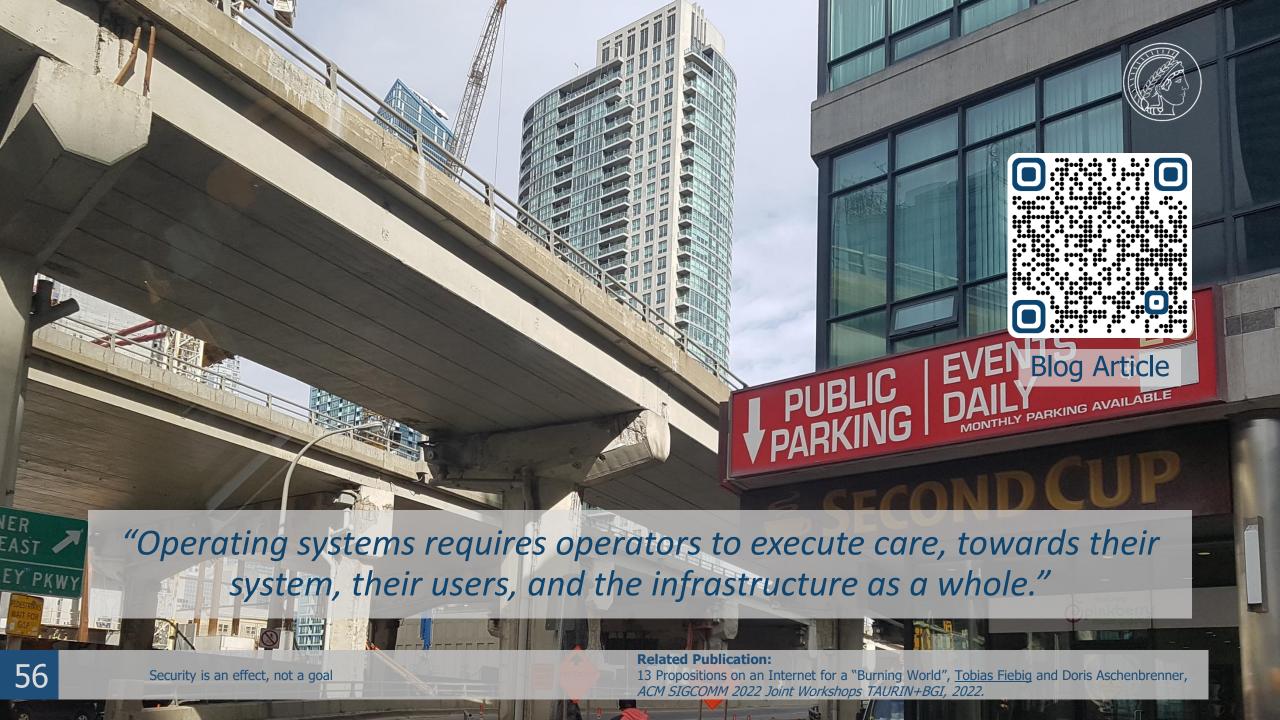


- The existence of sexism anywhere in the industry harms the career prospects of people of marginalized genders in good places:
 - Career advancement often ties in with changing jobs
 - If you are in a good place, changing jobs might mean you hit one of the toxic places
 - Participants even reported to feel stuck

Care, Gender & a Feminist Lens



- Think back to safety science; Preconditions for dealing with security (misconfigurations) are:
 - Blameless/just culture
 - Being open when discussing issues/incidents
 - •
- You must feel safe to contribute to a blameless culture
- You need an environment in which people can feel safe to be



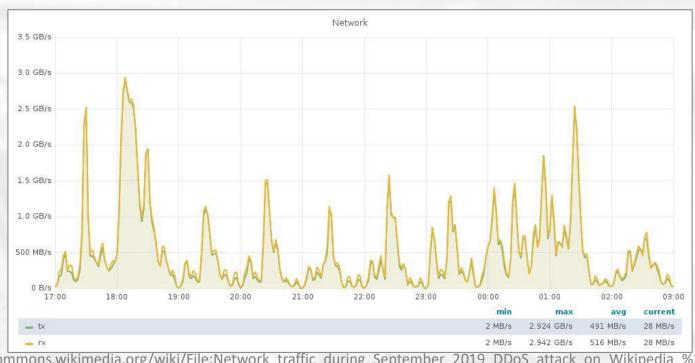


future in a world falling apart."

By Stougard - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8922390

Related Publication:





Blog Article

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Network traffic during September 2019 DDoS attack on Wikipedia %28small%29.jpg

"The centralization of the Internet has been promoted by a lack of care."

Security is an effect, not a goal



Remember Misconfigurations?







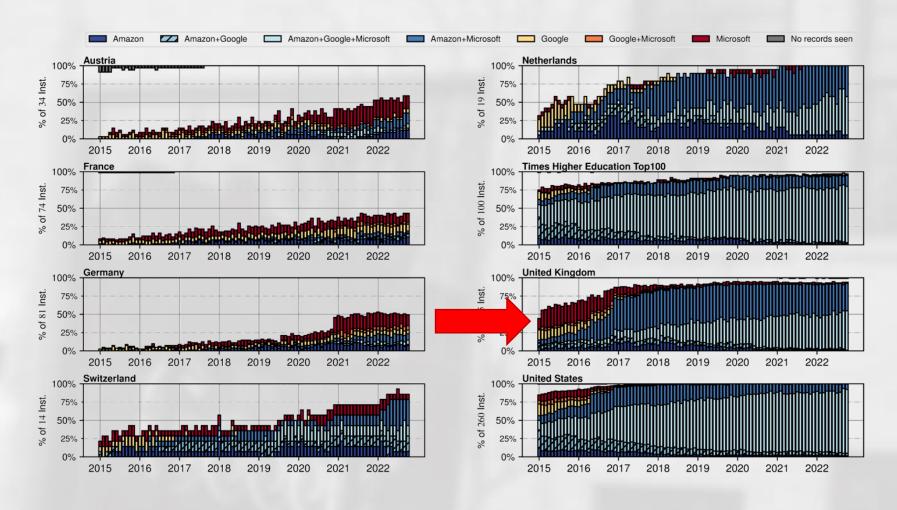
Blog Article

© Constanze Dietrich

"There is a tension between privacy and security pitting decentralization vs. centralization."

Amazon, Microsoft & Google

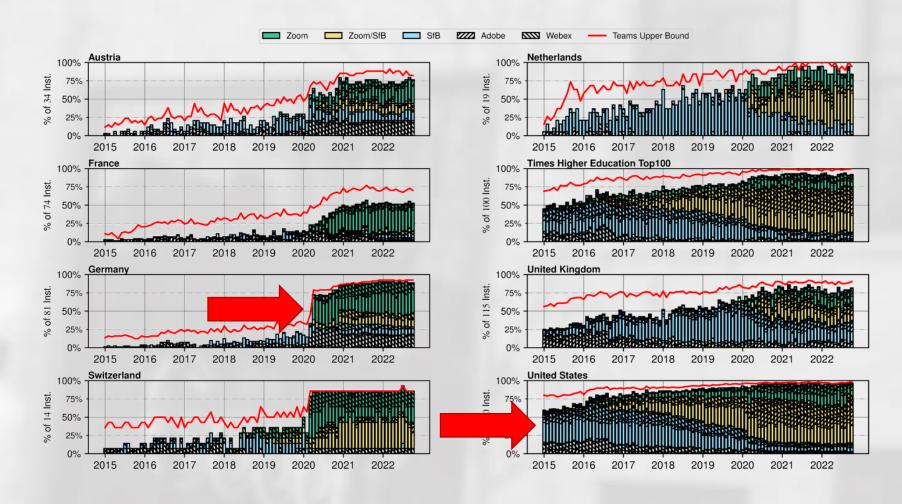




Related Publication:

Zoom et al.

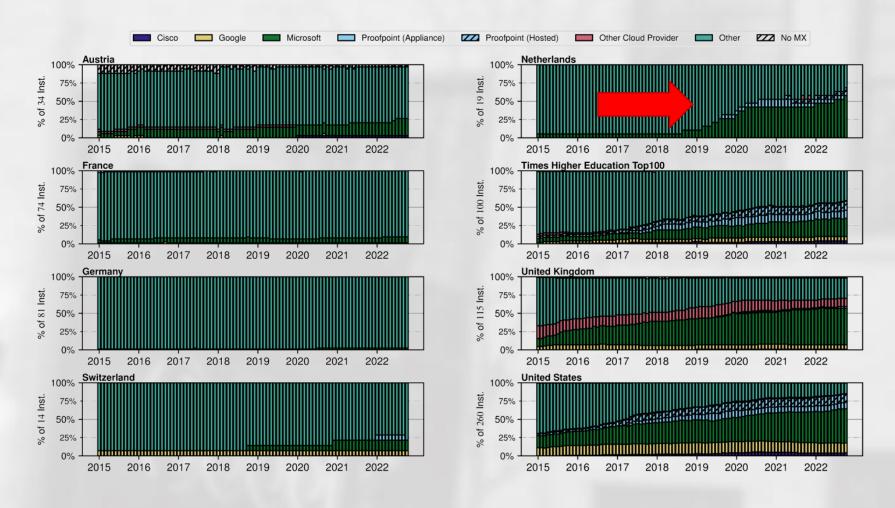




Related Publication:

Email

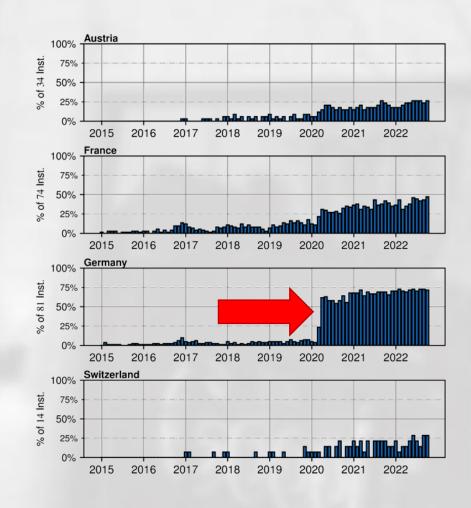


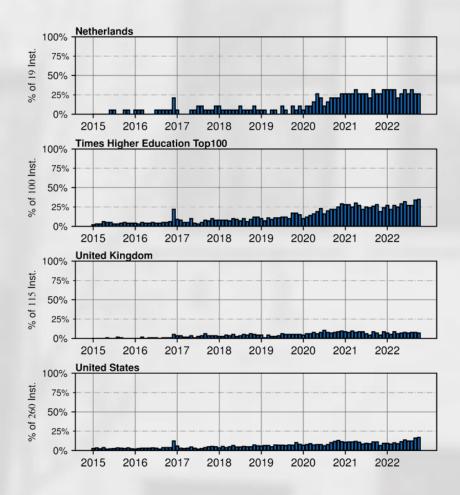


Related Publication:

Self-Hosted Video Lecturing (BBB)







Related Publication:

Academic Freedom vs. Centralization



- By relying on cloud infrastructures, universities become dependent
- Think: "We are interested in good business relationships with our customers. That paper does not look like a good business relationship."

The Intercept_

ZOOM CENSORSHIP OF PALESTINE SEMINARS SPARKS FIGHT OVER ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Zoom cited anti-terrorism laws to shut down an event with Palestinian activist Leila Khaled — and other events criticizing its censorship.



Replying to @echo_pbreyer

Incredible: Microsoft decides which e-mail Members of the European Parliament get to read in their inbox. It's called Outlook spam filter and cannot be disabled.

3:14 PM · Feb 22, 2021 · Moa Bridge



Google hired Timnit Gebru to be an outspoken critic of unethical AI. Then she was fired for it.

Gebru is one of the most high-profile Black women in her field and a powerful voice in the new field of ethical Al, which seeks to identify issues around bias, fairness, and responsibility.

Related Publication:

The question is not if they would.





It is if we want to get in a situation where they could.





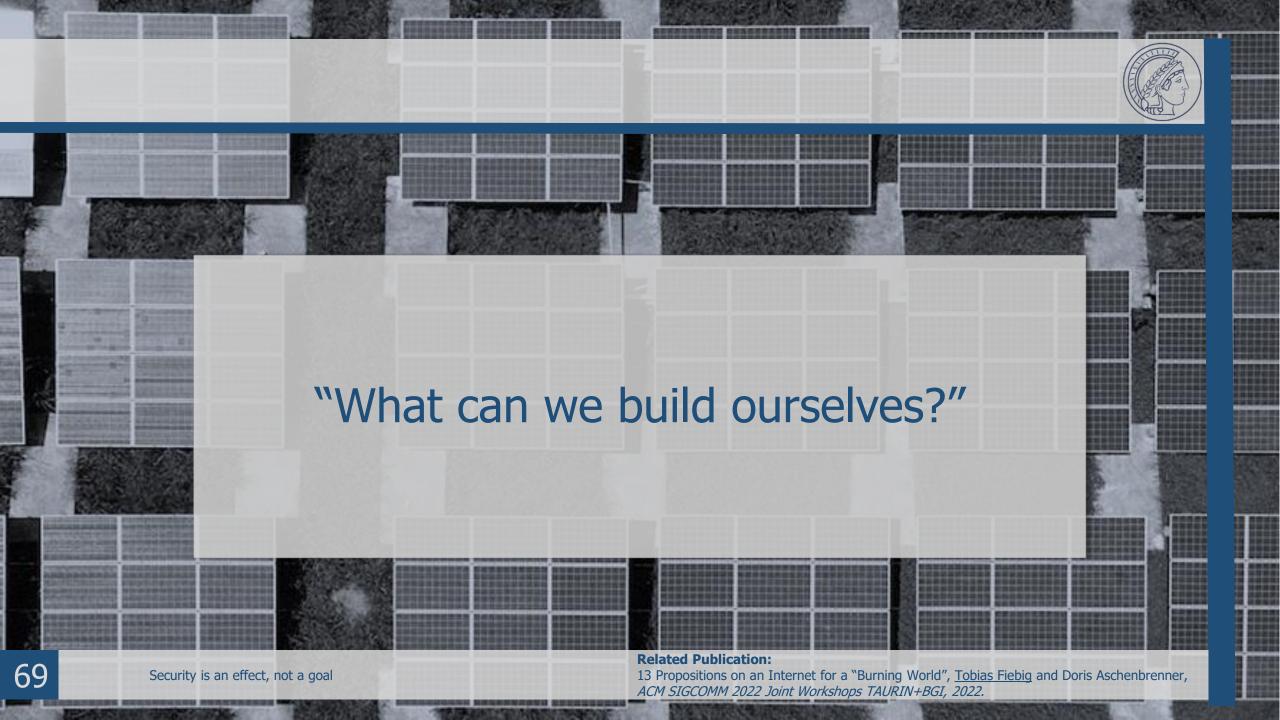


Blog Article

"We have to be prepared for hypergiants' failing."

Artist's Impression of Supernova 1993J by ESA/Hubble, CC BY 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=35306789

Related Publication:

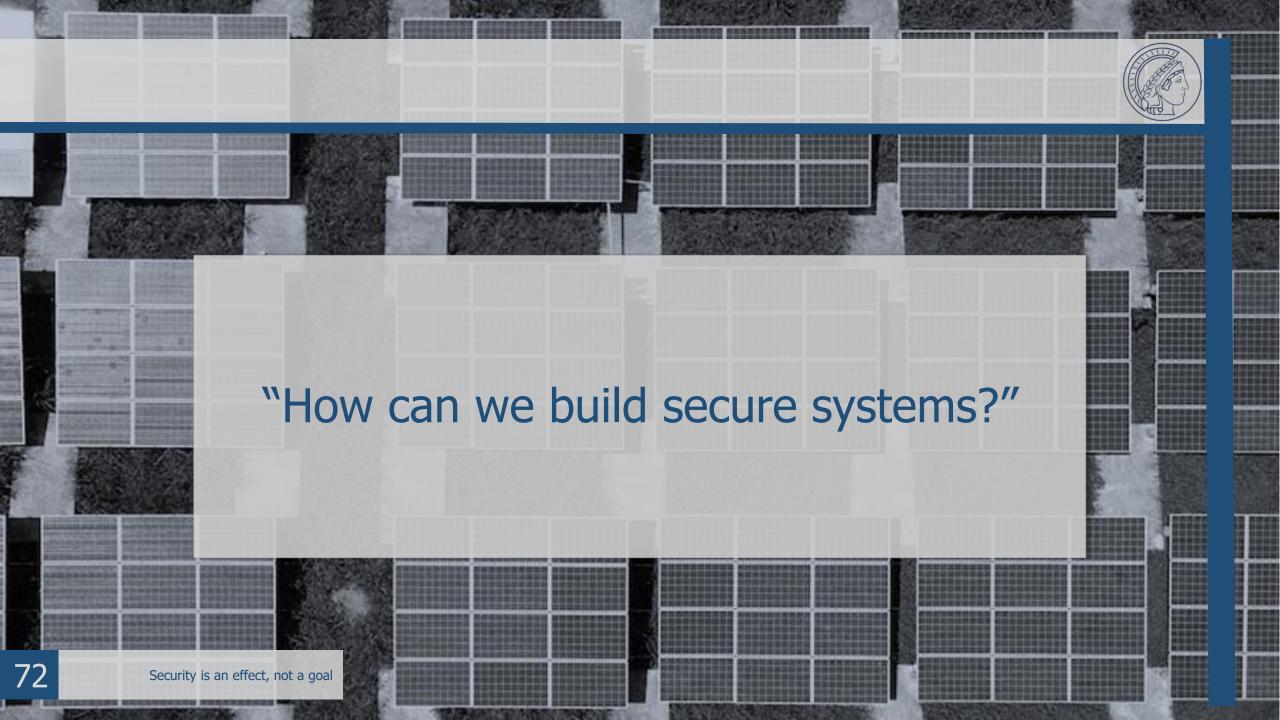




Privacy-by-Compliance



- With the progressing cloudification data is going... somewhere
- It is hard to keep track
- DPAs are usually in place...
- And a privacy policy is written so generic that it stops meaning anything









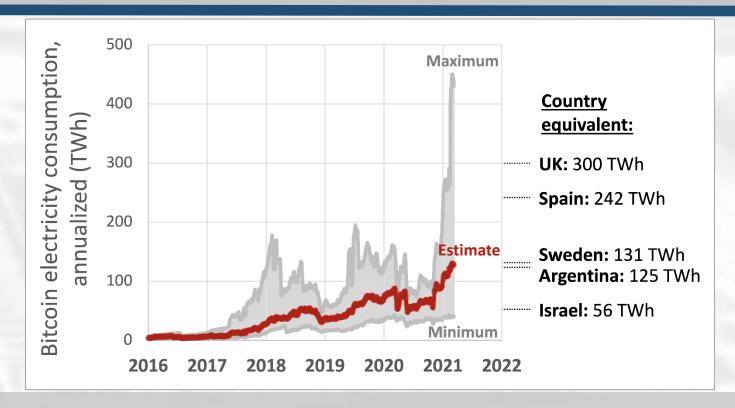
Blog Article

"There are no technical solutions for social and societal problems."

https://www.eff.org/pages/surveillance-cameras

Related Publication:







Blog Article

"Systems should enable a better tomorrow and not burn the world even further."

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bitcoin_electricity_consumption.png

Related Publication:

The future won't be bright...





By Andrew Miloshoff - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=89976070

Related Publication:

The future won't be bright...



END OF THE WORLD

... as engineers it's our job to make it brighter.

By Andrew Miloshoff - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=89976070

Related Publication:

Taking Responsibility





Getting Everything Right



Organizationally

- Caring for users
- Human Factors
- The feminist lens and a just culture
- Acknowledging care work
- Resilient design

•

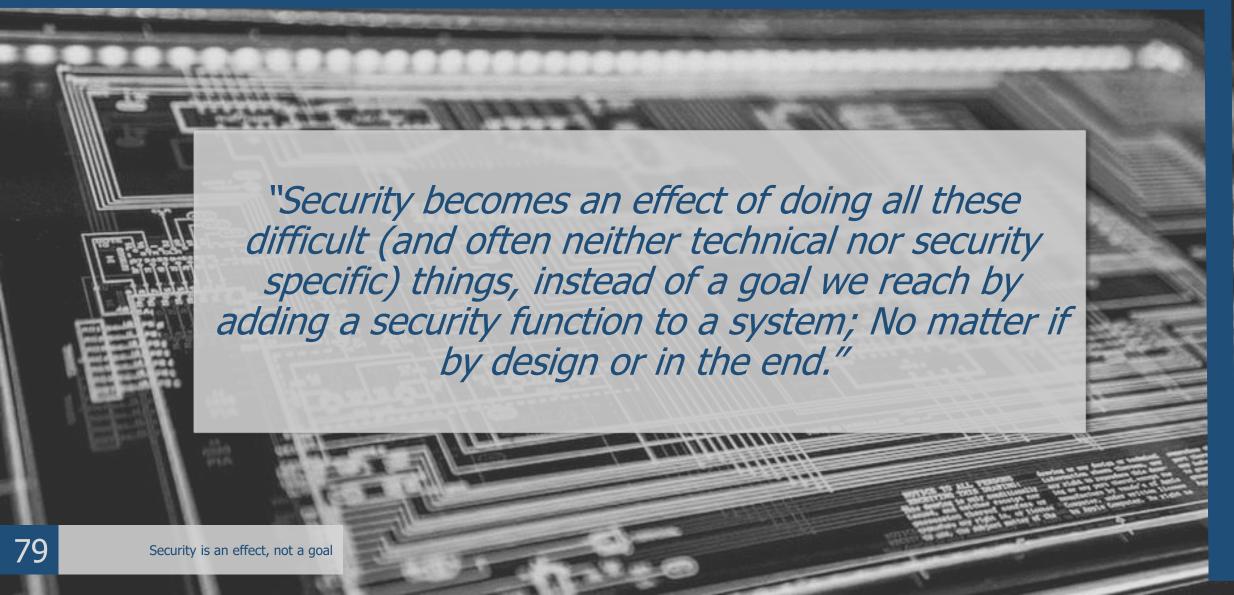
Technically

- Doing the small things:
 - Chores
 - Updates
 - Backups
- Reducing complexity
- Caring about systems
- Caring for users' needs

•

If we get all of that right...





Answers





Building a Secure Future



Keynotes, Papers, Slides

