

# Security Engineering Coursework 1: Security Economics & Psychology

Ross Anderson & Yuvraj Patel

**Deadline 16/02/23 12:00**

This coursework asks you to write a short (1250 words maximum, excluding references) review of three papers on the above topic.

1. *Why Information Security is Hard – An Economic Perspective.*, Ross Anderson, ACSAC'2001 ([link](#)).
2. *So Long, And No Thanks for the Externalities: The Rational Rejection of Security Advice by Users*, Cormac Herley, NSPW '09 ([link](#)).
3. *You Get Where You're Looking For The Impact of Information Sources on Code Security*, Yasemin Acar, Michael Backes, Sascha Fahl, Doowon Kim, Michelle L Mazurek, Christian Stransky, IEEE S&P 2016 ([link](#))

The format should be as follows:

- Summary: 1–3 paragraphs per paper describing each paper's key insights and results.
- Key Themes: Approximately 400 words discussing similarities and contrasts between the three works. Do they use similar methodologies? Do they come to similar conclusions?
- Legacy: Approximately 400 words. Here you should explore the citations within the papers and influential papers that cite these works (using, e.g., Google Scholar) to discuss how these papers have been interpreted over time and how they relate to other works. In addition, we expect you to reference ten other papers, describe their relevance, and back up or refute the arguments made in the original three papers.

This coursework is worth 5% of your total marks and is pass/fail – no intermediate marks will be awarded. It is intended to prepare for the second coursework, which will be of a similar format and worth 25% of your total marks. Brief feedback will be given on how to improve your subsequent coursework.

Word counts should be provided on your submission, which you should submit via Learn on the “Assessment” page. Word counts significantly above the 1250-word limit are heavily discouraged; they will be penalized in the second coursework.

## Scholarship

While we encourage you to discuss the papers on, e.g., Piazza, all text within essays must be **your independent work**, and you must not send text from your essay to anyone else other than the markers via Learn. Essays will be checked for similarity using automated tools and manual checking. Students are reminded of the school's policy on poor scholarship linked [here](#).

## **Extensions**

Extensions are permitted, and Extra Time Adjustments (ETA) for extensions are permitted as per the information displayed on the Learn Ultra page. You can find "Coursework Planner" that provides the late rules information along with the deadlines. You can get more details related to Late coursework and extension requests [here](#).

For electronic submissions, the last version that has been submitted by the deadline will be the one that is marked (late submission will only be accepted if no submission in time has been made).