Research Framework

INFR11158/11230 Usable Security and Privacy

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Overview

- Recap
- Human in the loop
- Planning studies putting together
- Take-home

Give a try!



Give a try!



- Snapshot of an app on a phone
- Child playing with dog
- Edited picture
- Motion detection enabled

Give a try!



What are the privacy concerns?

- Children being monitored
- Camera placed in the living room

Codebook

Analysis of child safety and privacy-related features and information											
	Code/subcode	Explanation									
If safety is mentioned	Webpage providing additional safety resources	The webpage provides extra links and resources for safety,									
(in text)	Webpage not providing additional safety resources	The webpage provides no extra links or resources for safety, and it just mentions words about safety.									
If privacy is mentioned (in text)	Webpage providing additional privacy resources	The webpage provides extra links and resources for privacy, and it just mentions words about privacy.									
	Webpage not providing additional privacy resources	The webpage provides no extra links or resources for privacy, and it just mentions words about privacy.									
Presence of product features addressing privacy or safety		The webpage shows features, such as child safety lock or privacy shutter buttons.									
Presence of	parental control-related information	The webpage shows how they offer parental control for the products, e.g., child-specific access control.									
Prese	nce of information for parents	The webpage shows information on what parents could do or not do with the children and the device, e.g., parents should supervise children when using the device.									
Presence of child-sp	ecific content, features, functions, and profile	The webpage shows products offering child mode, content, and child profiles.									
Presence of in	nformation/disclaimer of potential risks	The webpage shows potential safety risks or misuse, or explains what parents need to be aware of regarding the potential privacy or safety risks.									
Presence of info	ormation on child data collection and use	The webpage shows how the company handles child-related data. Examples include data collection and use, sh and selling.									
Indication of child e	xistence (when child image is not presented)	The webpage shows no children, but the image shows child-related signals, including children's bedroom or toys/stuff around the smart home device or in the room.									
Presence of smart hom	e guide, e.g., teaching children about device use	The webpage shows instructions or materials directly addressing children, teaching children about device use.									

• Read the data, iteratively refine the codes (in discussion with others), organize codes in a hierarchy...

Inductive coding vs deductive coding

- **Inductive:** look for any ideas that interest you from different aspects

- Snapshot of an app on a phone
- Child playing with dog
- Edited picture

....

- Motion detection enabled

- **Deductive:** start with some hypothesis
 - Children being monitored
 by app (privacy concern)
 Camera placed in the
 - living room (place of the scene)

We often use inductive and deductive coding together!

Reliability

- Stability (intra-rater reliability): whether the same coder codes the data in a consistent way throughout the process
- Reproducibility (inter-coder reliability): whether different coders code the same piece of data consistently (metric: Cohen's Kappa)

Do we still need a human coder?

CollabCoder: A Lower-barrier, Rigorous Workflow for Inductive Collaborative Qualitative Analysis with Large Language Models



Figure 1: CollabCoder, An Integrated Workflow for Collaborative Qualitative Analysis. The workflow consists of three key stages: 1) Independent Open Coding, facilitated by on-demand code suggestions from LLMs, yielding initial codes; 2) Iterative Discussion, focusing on conflict mediation within the coding team, producing a list of agreed-upon code decisions; 3) Codebook Development, where code groups may be formed through LLM-generated suggestions, based on the list of decided codes.





Raw Data

How A Business Works was an excellent book to read as I began my first semester as a college student. Although my goal is to major in Business, I started my semester off with no idea of even the basic guidelines a Business undergrad should know. This book describes in detail every aspect dealing with business relations, and I enjoyed reading it. It felt great going to my additional business classes prepared and knowledgeable on the subject they were describing. Very well written, Professor Haeberle! I recommend this book to anyone and everyone who would like additional knowledge pertaining to business matters.

This is an inspirational and insightful book that is well written and contains some profound methods to improve your thinking and improve your life. The ideas and methods that Robbins suggests are not just theory but I can attest from personal experience that they really work as I have successfuly used some of the concepts. Fried summarizes the best personal development strategies and combines it with brilliant business principles to help you become the entrepreneur of your own existence. I LOVED it.

Whether just starting out with a new business or being a seasoned owner pregnancy will throw some curve balls. This book helps you navigate through business and pregnancy and how they relate to one another. Must read for women who own their own businesses and want/are starting a family. Disclosure - I received a copy of this book for review purposes. However all opinions are my own.

I read a lot of motivational, business and self help books. This one is nothing like the others. There's a ton of great advice in this book, much of it is counter to conventional wisdom. I found it refreshing to read because the author is not afraid to say things that may be unpopular. My only real complaint is that it is such an easy book to read (feels like you are in the room listening to him speak)that you may end up flying through some of the great points without them registering fully. Read this one with a highlighter in hand.

Split the raw data into pre-defined data units, e.g., sentence, paragraph, etc.

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Unit1

(2b)

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Unit3 Unit3 Whether just starting out with a new business or being a seasoned owner pregnancy will throw some curve balls. This book helps you navigate through business and pregnancy and how they relate to one another. Must read for women who own their own businesses and want/are starting a family. Disclosure - I received a copy of this book for review purposes. However all opinions are my own.

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Keywords & codes suggested by AI and crafted by human



Compute similarity scores for merging codes



find it effective to		Atlas.ti Web													CollabCoder										
come up with codes		ŝ	4	2	2	3		6	í.		1	-	2	1		5			8						
produce final code groups	-	2 5				5		1 3			- 1		2	2			11	8							
identify disagreements	-	ļ	4			7		2		2	1		2			8				6					
understand others' thoughts	- 1		4			5			5	1	1	- 1	1	2		5	ć.			i					
esolve disagreements and make decisions	-	2			8			2	3		1	- 1		2		5			8						
understand the current level of agreement	-	2		5			4		4		1	- 1		2	3				10						
final quality confidence	-	2			7		2		4		1	- 1		3		4		5		3					
level of preference		3		3			7		1	2		- 1	1		4		4			6					
level of control	-	2		3		5		4		2		- 1		3			8			4					
level of understanding	-		5		3			6		2		- 1	1	1			10			3					
learn to use quickly	-	2	2			7			3	2		- 1		3	-		7			5					
easy to use	-	2		4		3		4		Э		- 1	1	1			9			4					
eel confident/prefer	0		2	4	6	8	10	12	2	14	16	0	2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16				
			S	trong	ly Disa	agree	-	Dis	agre	e		Neutr	al		Ag	ree		Strong	ly Agr	ee					

Discuss: can AI replace human in qualitative analysis?



What do you want to know or learn? What hypothesis do you want to test? What metrics do you want to apply?

Is [my tos] usable?



Needs to be more specific to be testable.

Some of research questions:

- Can people differentiate between a subdomain and a domain when reading a URL?
- Does [my new system] help people differentiate between malicious URLs and safe ones?
- Can users use [my new password manager] faster and with less errors than [the old password manager]?
- Does knowing how an app will use its permissions impact app installation decisions?
- What factors impact end-users' willingness to update software?
- Using [website], can users successfully opt-out of cookie tracking without forming inaccurate mental models?

Why do Chrome users ignore malware errors more often than Firefox users?



Why do people ignore malware warnings and what can we do about it?

Your Reputation Precedes You: History, Reputation, and the Chrome Malware Warning

Hazim Almuhimedi Carnegie Mellon University hazim@cs.cmu.edu Adrienne Porter Felt Robert W. Reeder Sunny Consolvo Google, Inc. felt, rreeder, sconsolvo@google.com

ABSTRACT

Several web browsers, including Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox, use malware warnings to stop people from visiting infectious websites. However, users can choose to click through (i.e., ignore) these malware warnings. In Google Chrome, users click through a fifth of malware warnings on average. We investigate factors that may contribute to why people ignore such warnings. First, we examine field data to see how browsing history affects click-through rates. We find that users consistently heed warnings about websites that they have not visited before. However, users respond unpredictably to warnings about websites that they have previously visited. On some days, users ignore more than half of warnings about websites they've visited in the past. Next, we present results of an online, survey-based experiment that we ran to gain more insight into the effects of reputation on warning adherence. Participants said that they trusted high-reputation websites more than the warnings; however, their responses suggest that a notable minority of people could be swaved by providing more information. We provide recommendations for warning designers and pose open questions about the design of malware warnings.

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern browsers such as Google Chrome and Mozilla



Figure 1: Malware warning in Google Chrome 32

Amazon Mechanical Turk workers. We investigate the impact of people's familiarity with the website they are attempting to visit, as well as how they found out about the website. We also tested minor variations of the instrument used in our survey-based experiment to determine how small wording changes affected responses (e.g., whether or not participants were primed with the word "warning").

Our field data and Mechanical Turk experiment both support our familiarity hypothesis. In our analysis of 3.875,758

Frameworks

Frameworks help researchers structure their thinking around problems. Frameworks are proposed by experts in the field and represent how those people think about and break up certain types of problems.



Human in the Loop: Communication

- Warnings alert users to avoid a hazard
- **Notices** inform users about characteristics of an object
- Status indicators inform users about system info.
- Training teaches users about threater and mitigation
- Policy informs users about what the are expected to comply with







Human in the Loop: Communication Impediments

- Environmental stimuli (either related or unrelated) may divert users' attention away
- Interference prevents communication from being received as intended (can be malicious)







Human in the Loop: Human Receiver

- Personal variables, e.g., demographics, personal characteristics, knowledge, etc. – ability to comprehend and apply communications
- Intentions like attitudes, impacting the decision of whether to pay attention on a communication
- Capabilities to take proper actions

Human in the Loop: Human Receiver

- Communication delivery: should pay attention long enough to process it
- Communication processing: comprehend and acquire knowledge
- **Application:** retent the knowledge and knows when it's applicable and to apply it

WIFI PASSWORD: 8282324340 YOU WILL NEED TO LOGIN TO HOMEGROWN (NOT HOMEGROWN GUEST)





Learn more

You received this email to let you know about important changes to your Google Account and services. © 2019 Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA




The Website Ahead Contains Malware!

Google Chrome has blocked access to youtube.com for now.

Even if you have visited this website safely in the past, visiting it now is very likely to infect your computer with malware.

Malware is malicious software that causes things like identity theft, financial loss, and permanent file deletion. Learn more

Go back Advanced

Improve malware detection by sending additional data to Google when I encounter warnings like this. Privacy policy







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Daily Click Through Rates (CTR) for igorning Chrome warning

Notice how they range from 10% to 27%

Something is happening on certain days

Date	CTF	R N	Date	CTR	R N
Tu Oct 01	15%	97,585	Tu Oct 15	16%	73,370
We Oct 02	15%	96,076	We Oct 16	18%	85,266
Th Oct 03	15%	$104,\!075$	Th Oct 17	15%	68,947
Fr Oct 04	16%	84,165	Fr Oct 18	11%	132,410
Sa Oct 05	15%	80,433	Sa Oct 19	10%	99,778
Su Oct 06	15%	77,931	Su Oct 20	12%	95,163
Mo Oct 07	16%	80,640	Mo Oct 21	14%	$91,\!651$
Tu Oct 08	17%	90,356	Tu Oct 22	21%	131,700
We Oct 09	21%	$145,\!893$	We Oct 23	18%	$121,\!944$
Th Oct 10	21%	96,159	Th Oct 24	24%	151, 387
Fr Oct 11	23%	93,059	Fr Oct 25	27%	117,002
Sa Oct 12	15%	79,295	Sa Oct 26	14%	64,740
Su Oct 13	15%	79,134	Su Oct 27	14%	70,713
Mo Oct 14	18%	89,180	Mo Oct 28	15%	59,567

Table 1: Chrome malware warning click-through rates (CTRs) and sample sizes for October 2013. Darker shaded values indicate higher CTRs. Note the wide variance in daily CTRs. **Idea:** Maybe Chrome is blocking popular websites on those days? **Counter example:** On one day when YouTube was blocked, CTR dropped from the normal 15% to 8%.

Because it was a large site being blocked, social media and news both told users to heed the warning which they did.

The reality is more complex than popularity alone – news media, word of mouth, and other factors might influence user behavior

Idea: Maybe people ignore warnings on sites they visit often and think are safe.



Figure 3: Daily CTR, separated by whether the website was already in the user's browsing history. For 28 days in January-February 2014.



The Website Ahead Contains Malware!

Google Chrome has blocked access to youtube.com for now.

Even if you have visited this website safely in the past, visiting it now is very likely to infect your computer with malware.

Malware is malicious software that causes things like identity theft, financial loss, and permanent file deletion. Learn more

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How might you test if this effect is really due to familiarity ?



Figure 3: Daily CTR, separated by whether the website was already in the user's browsing history. For 28 days in January-February 2014.

The paper's approach:

- "We asked 1,397 Mechanical Turk workers to tell us how they would react to screenshots of Google Chrome malware warnings."
- 2X2 study design. Varying the reputation of the referring source and the reputation of the destination page.

		Referring person or site reputation			
		High	Low		
Destination site reputation	High	High, High	High, Low		
	Low	Low, High	Low, Low		

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WQAI5nJWHs



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Details about problems on this website Proceed at your own risk «

Improve malware detection by sending additional data to Google when I encounter warnings like this. Privacy policy

"YouTube is a well known website. I would assume the malware block is an error."

"Because I frequent youtube.com a lot and I have never gotten any malware."

Conclusion

- Users have complex decision making processes around security
- Testing those processes requires thought and multiple rounds of data gathering and testing.
- Studies need to be setup to handle correlation vs causation concerns.
- Don't stop digging if you get an easy answer, validate it.

Planning research studies

Research Studies

- 1. Define your research question
- 2. Identify your variables
- 3. Run your study
- 4. Evaluate the outcome

Step 1: Define your research question

Some research questions:

- Can people differentiate between a subdomain and a domain when reading a URL?
- Does [my new system] help people differentiate between malicious URLs and safe ones?
- Can users use [my new password manager] faster and with less errors than [the old password manager]?
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- What factors impact end-users' willingness to update software?
- Using [website], can users successfully opt-out of cookie tracking without forming inaccurate mental models?

For task based lab studies

- First decide what "usable" means
- Identify what you think your users need to be able to do using your system or what kind of attitude you want them to have
- The goals need to be specific and easy to identify if they have or have not been completed
- Examples:
 - Find a stool on a shopping page and purchase it
 - Be willing to give the app 5 stars after interacting with it for the first time
- Bad examples:
 - Have fun using the site
 - Find a bus to go somewhere

"Usable" could mean:

- User can accomplish a task in Y minutes
- User can accomplish task with no unrecoverable errors
- After interacting with an interface the user has an accurate mental model of when their message is and is not encrypted
- User feels more confident in using secure messaging
- Users voluntarily select higher entropy passwords
- User creates a password that they can remember after a month of not using it

Step 2: Identify your variables

What kind of data do you want?

Attitudinal – User attitudes and opinions

VS.

- Behavioral What the user actually does or is capable of doing
- Qualitative Unstructured data. Typically unstructured language data vs.
- Quantitative Structured data. Typically numerical data that can be summed or counted



https://www.nngroup.com/articles/which-ux-research-methods/

For quantitative studies

What are you going to measure?

- In statistics there are classically two types of measurements (variables): dependent and independent
- Dependent
 - Also known as the outcome variable
 - "Dependent" on the study
 - Measures the usability goal
- Independent
 - Anything you are directly manipulating
 - An element of the study which is under your control
 - A pre-existing feature of your participant

Lets use this study as an example



Research Question:

Can users reliably identify if an app can or cannot perform an action directly tied to a permission.





Variables that would make sense

- Research Question: Can users reliably identify if an app can or cannot perform an action directly tied to a permission?
- Dependent
 - Number of permissions correctly/incorrectly read
 - Time spent reading each permission screen
- Independent
 - Study group (which screen shown)
 - · If the permission was privacy sensitive or not
 - Order of the tasks
 - Time of day
 - Type of most used device (laptop, mobile, PC)
 - Demographics of the participants (gender, age, native language, ...)



Figure 3: Daily CTR, separated by whether the website was already in the user's browsing history. For 28 days in January-February 2014.

Common dependent things to measure

- Number of dangerous errors made
- Time to complete task
- Percent of task completed
- Percent of task completed per unit of time
- Ratio of successes to failures
- Time spent in errors
- Percent or number of errors
- Percent or number of competitors better than it
- Frequency of help and documentation use

Step 3: Setup your study

Between vs. Within subjects

Between subjects

- Your study only shows one interface to one person
- You are measuring how well the people randomly assigned to the A interface did compared to the people randomly assigned to the B interface
- Lots of variability with this method
- Within subjects
 - Your study shows all interfaces to all people
 - You are measuring the difference in how they do on the two interfaces
 - Less variability (same person) but more learning effects and priming

Study design

- RQ: Does [my new interface] enable people to accurately determine what permissions an app will use?
- A/B test between the existing and new interface
- Between subjects
- 10 Tasks shown in the same order to all participants
- Dependent variables
 - Accuracy on task
- Independent variables
 - Which interface (A or B)



Step 4: Evaluate the outcome

Types of data

- Numeric
 - **Continuous** Any value on the range is possible including decimal (1-5)
 - **Discrete** Only certain values on the range are possible (1,2,3,4,5)
 - Interval Only certain values on the rage are possible and each has equal distance from its neighboring values (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree)
- Categorical
 - Binary Only two possibilities (true, false)
 - Ordinal The values have an ordering (slow, medium, fast)
 - Nominal The values have no ordering (apple, pear, kiwi, banana)

Study design

- Accuracy on all tasks
 - Discrete
- Which interface
 - Categorical binary


Take-home

- (Blog) Habib, H., Zou, Y., Yao, Y., Acquisti, A., Cranor, L., Reidenberg, J., Sadeh, N. and Schaub, F., 2021, May. <u>Toggles</u>, <u>dollar signs</u>, and triangles: How to (in) effectively convey <u>privacy choices with icons and link texts</u>. In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-25).
- (Blog) Guardian <u>UK's AI Safety Institute 'needs to set</u> standards rather than do testing'