

Faculty of Computer Science  
2003-2004 Seminar Series

Don't Forget the People: Human Factors  
of System Security

By

Scott Flinn, NRC-IIT

Scott Flinn is currently a researcher in the Human Web group of the Institute for Information Technology - e-Business, located in the NRC building on the UNBF campus. His background and research interests combine Human Computer Interaction and Information Security in roughly equal measure. His current research interests revolve around helping people to use complex systems. The problems faced by system administrators and by casual users of Internet based information systems are of particular interest.

Wednesday, December 17th, 2003

3:30 - 4:30pm

ITC317

\*\*Refreshments will be served at 3:20 p.m.\*\*

My goals for this talk are twofold: to introduce the area of human factors of secure systems in general, and to describe some of the recent work I have been doing in the area. I will begin by describing some of the unique challenges we face, supporting the discussion with several "horror stories" about how things can and do go badly wrong. I will then describe what I believe to be a promising approach; namely, to reformulate the security problem as one of risk management in which people are an intrinsic part of the system and play a central role in its operation. One result is that we can then use the formal methodologies of HCI to define meaningful metrics for the security of information systems. I will finish by describing how I am currently applying this approach to the specific challenge of helping casual users of the Web make informed choices regarding the security and privacy of the transactions they engage in.

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STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

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