UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Defense of a Master's Thesis

Initial Comparative Empirical Usability Testing for the Collaborative Authentication System

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For the MSCS degree in Computer Science & Engineering

The CoAuthentication system is an authentication system that relies on some or all members of a pre-registered set of secure hardware tokens being concurrently present to an authentication server at the moment of authentication. Previous researchers have compared various embodiments of the CoAuthentication system to each other including using Quick Response (QR) codes/cellphone cameras and Near Field Communication (NFC) between tokens. This Thesis concerns the initial design and implementation of empirical comparative testing mechanisms between the CoAuthentication system and other commonly used authentication systems. One contribution is a simulated standard user ID and password login and a simulated RSA SecureID(R) one time password (OTP) login with embedded usability testing mechanisms. Another contribution is the development and implementation of a new Bluetooth communication functionality between tokens. A third contribution is the addition of usability testing mechanisms to two versions of this functionality.

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The Public is Invited

Examining Committee

Jay Ligatti, Ph.D., Major Professor Dmitry Goldgof, Ph.D. Xinming Ou, Ph.D.

Robert Bishop, Ph.D. Dean, College of Engineering Dwayne Smith, Ph.D. Dean, Office of Graduate Studies

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