Practitioner Survey Screen Shots

Information Page

Information Sheet

OMB Control #0693-0043 06/30/2025

NIST Human-Centered Security Survey

You are invited to participate in a research study. <u>Your participation is voluntary</u>. You should read the information below and ask questions about anything that you do not understand. A researcher will be able and available to answer your questions.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this study is to understand current human-centered security researcher-practitioner interaction points and associated challenges throughout the entire research lifecycle. Study insights can inform the creation of bridges between human-centered security researchers and cybersecurity practitioners. We are conducting an online, anonymous survey of practitioners. We are asking you to take part in this research study because you are an adult (18+ years of age) who has a job that involves developing, administering, implementing, or overseeing security-related technologies, systems, processes, training, policies, services, programs or the security components of those.

PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT
If you decide to take part in this study you will be asked to complete an online, anonymous survey. The survey has an expected completion time of seven (7) minutes. During the survey, you will be asked about your professional experience, your current organization, and your familiarity with and consideration of human-centered security in your work. You will not be compensated for your participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY
The members of the research team, NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) to include the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) may access the data. The IRB reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of you, the research subject.

Your information is strictly anonymous. No identifiers, data, or information are collected that can be traced back to you. The data provided is not associated or linked back to you by anyone, including the researchers.

When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences or journals, no identifiable information will be used. Results will be reported in aggregate.

POSSIBLE RISKS
This research is considered to be minimal risk. That means that the risks associated with this study are the same as what you face every day. There are no known additional risks to those who take part in this study. There is a very small risk that someone who is not authorized could get access to the data. However, data will be anonymized and not linked back to you. Data will be stored on protected NIST computers and servers requiring multi-factor authentication. Data will be retained per NIST record-keeping requirements for five (5) years after the study is closed.

INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION
If you have any questions about this study, please contact Julie Haney at julie.haney@nist.gov.

RPO/ IRB CONTACT INFORMATION
If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the NIST Research Protections Office and/or Institutional Review Board at 301-975-5445or email rpoffice@nist.gov.

You should only decide to participate if the following is true for you:

I understand the above description of the research and the risks and benefits associated with my participation as a research subject. I understand that by proceeding to the next page, I am choosing to take part in this research voluntarily with this survey.

You may download a copy of this of this information sheet here.

Terminology Page

Terminology

Terms

The following terms are used throughout the survey:

Security will be used as shorthand for "cybersecurity."

Human-centered security (sometimes called "usable security") considers the human, social, and organizational factors related to security processes, technologies, products, policies, etc. It involves the relationships and interactions between people and cybersecurity, including people's perceptions, the challenges they encounter, and designing usable systems, products, and services that also result in improved security outcomes.

Information About You and Your Job

Q1

Which of the following best describes your current position as a practitioner? Select all that apply. If you are also a researcher, you will have an opportunity to indicate that later in the survey

- ☐ Security practitioner
- ☐ IT practitioner
- ☐ Software or hardware developer
- ☐ Manager or executive
- ☐ Policy maker
- ☐ Educator/trainer
- ☐ Other

Q2

How many years have you worked in a job involving security?

- ○ Less than 1
- ○ 1-5
- ○ 6-10
- ○ 11-15
- ○ 16-20
- ○ More than 20 years

Q3

Which of the following best describes your current, primary organization/institution?

- ○ Academic
- ○ Private industry
- ○ Non-profit
- ○ Government
- ○ Other

Q4

In which region is your current organization?

○ Africa
○ Asia
○ Europe
○ North America
○ Oceania
○ South America
○ Caribbean Islands
○ Pacific Islands

Q5

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

○ High school or equivalent
○ Some college/university
○ Associates (2 year college/university) degree
○ Bachelor's degree
○ Master's degree or equivalent
○ PhD, JD, or other professional degree
○ Other

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Involvement with Research

Q6

Have you ever been a researcher?

○ Yes, in the past
○ Yes, and I currently still am a researcher
○ No

Q7

Have you ever provided input into the conceptualization, design, or analysis of a research study?

○ Yes
○ No

Q8

Have you ever been a participant in a security-related research study (for example, as a study interviewee, survey respondent, or participant in an experiment)?

○ Yes
○ No

Q9

Have you ever given a presentation at a security-related research conference or other event primarily attended by researchers?

☐ Yes -- from a practitioner perspective
☐ Yes -- from a researcher perspective
☐ ✳ No

Human-Centered Security

Context

Please answer the following questions from your practitioner perspective (even if you have been or are currently a researcher).

Q10

How familiar are you with human-centered security?

	Not at all Familiar	A Little Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Moderately Familiar	Very Familiar
Familiarity	○	○	○	○	○

Q11

What do you think is the level of importance of considering human-centered security in your work?

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Extremely Important
Level of importance	○	○	○	○	○

Q12

How often do you consider aspects of human-centered security in your work?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Frequency	○	○	○	○	○

Q13

What is the level of challenge you have experienced when considering human-centered security in your work?

	Not Challenging	Slightly Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Extremely Challenging	No Experience to Judge
Level of challenge	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q14

Rate your level of agreement with the following statement: "Information about human-centered security has made a positive impact on my work."

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Experience to Judge
Level of agreement	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q15

For what reasons do you disagree that human-centered security has made a positive impact on your work?

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Q16

Through what means, if any, have you become aware of human-centered security topics and insights? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Discussions with colleagues
- ☐ Discussions with researchers
- ☐ Papers/articles in practitioner-focused publications
- ☐ Papers/articles in research-focused publications
- ☐ Presentations at practitioner-focused conferences, meetings, or other events
- ☐ Presentations at research-focused conferences, meetings, or other events
- ☐ Podcasts
- ☐ News media
- ☐ Videos
- ☐ Websites, blogs, other online forums
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Mailing lists
- ☐ Tools or other software or hardware
- ☐ Knowledge and data repositories
- ☐ Government publications
- ☐ Standards documents
- ☐ Other
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- ☐ ✶ I am not aware of these topics

Q17

This question is about your opinions related to formal human-centered security research, which is a systematic investigation (e.g., a survey, interview, or experimental study) to explore the human, social, and organizational aspects of security. Rate your agreement with the following: "Human-centered security research is _____."

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Experience to Judge
Understandable	○	○	○	○	○	○
Something I can take and put into action	○	○	○	○	○	○
Easy to find and access	○	○	○	○	○	○
Relevant to my organization or situation	○	○	○	○	○	○
Up-to-date with current issues and technologies	○	○	○	○	○	○
Defendable to peers and leadership within my organization	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q18

How interested are you in receiving information about human-centered security research?

	Not Interested at all	Slightly Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Extremely Interested
Interest	○	○	○	○	○

Q19

In your opinion, what is the extent to which human-centered security researchers would be interested in producing research outputs for practitioners like you?

	Not Interested at all	Slightly Interested	Somewhat Interested	Moderately Interested	Extremely Interested
Interest	○	○	○	○	○

Q20

Through what means, if any, would you prefer to receive information about human-centered security topics and insights in the future? Select all that apply.

- [ ] Discussions with colleagues
- [ ] Discussions with researchers
- [ ] Papers/articles in practitioner-focused publications
- [ ] Papers/articles in research-focused publications
- [ ] Presentations at practitioner-focused conferences, meetings, or other events
- [ ] Presentations at research-focused conferences, meetings, or other events
- [ ] Podcasts
- [ ] News media
- [ ] Videos
- [ ] Websites, blogs, other online forums
- [ ] Social media
- [ ] Mailing lists
- [ ] Tools or other software or hardware
- [ ] Knowledge and data repositories
- [ ] Government publications
- [ ] Standards documents
- [ ] Other

- [ ] ※ I don't care to learn about these topics

Q21

What are the barriers to you, as a practitioner, being able to integrate human-centered security into your work?

Q22

What human-centered security topics do you think are most important for researchers to focus on right now (for example, how people respond to security attacks, cybersecurity workforce development, usable authentication mechanisms, phishing, security policy compliance, secure development, threat detection tools, security awareness training)?

Conclusion

Conclusion

Thank you for participating in our survey!