

**Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, NJ
Room 220, Peirce Building
Friday November 4
11am-Noon**

Algebra and Cryptography Seminar

**Graphical Passwords
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Passwords are the most commonly used form of user authentication. They are also one of the weakest links of computer security systems.

Graphical passwords are based on visual information and try to exploit the innate human ability to process images. An example of a system that we developed uses an image on the screen and lets the user choose a few click points; these click points are the “password”, and the user has to click closely to these points again in order to log in. There are some interesting implementation problems for this graphical password system. I'll also talk about usability, human factors, and the possibility of dictionary attacks. Another topic is the design of password systems that are resistant to “shoulder surfing” (i.e., where the login is observed without, however, the password being revealed).

For directions see Maps and Directions at www.stevens.edu or call (201) 216 5449. The seminar schedule is posted at www.sci.ccny.cuny.edu/~shpil/algcryp2005.html

