

Seek password to progress at Wollongong

TO create secure identity management, many government and private corporate organisations are looking for a single authentication system that is adaptable.

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is leading the way in the development of this technology.

The growing use of wired and wireless networks to access information resources, and the increasing occurrence of identity theft and attacks on corporate networks, means there is an increasing security risk associated with password-based user authentication.

Password management is becoming a significant cost to organisations, as simple password management is replaced with multi-factor authentication systems that strengthen information security.

However, as users of a system need to access several services, each with a different password, the number of passwords they need to remember increases.

The most important interface people encounter when accessing an information system is the identification and authentication chal-

lenge. The identification phase allows a subject to claim to be a specific entity by presenting identifying credentials.

These could be as simple as a user ID or a personal identification number (PIN), or they could be physical attributes.

Once a user has claimed an identity, the system checks that the client exists in the user database and verifies that the subject really is who he claims to be. The problem with these systems is that if users need to access several resources on different systems, they are usually required to provide identification and authentication information for one.

Associate Professor Willy Susilo is heading a project which aims to develop a single authentication system that can be used to access several services.

UOW's bachelor, master & research programs are available at the Wollongong campus in Australia and bachelor programmes are available at INTI Sarawak.

Those interested in finding out more about studies in Computer, Network & Information Security can visit www.uow.edu.au

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