

Security in the News Presentation

You will create a video in which you teach the class about a security or privacy breach of your choosing. The video should be well organized and rehearsed, provide a clear explanation of the incident, and include your analysis of the incident. You will upload the video to YouTube (you can keep it unlisted so it is not searchable) and submit a link to the video in Gradescope.

Topic

Choose a recent computer security or privacy breach that has been covered in the news. The event must have occurred within the last three years. Possible sources for finding events include krebsonsecurity.com, wired.com, arstechnica.com, zdnet.com. There are plenty of others as well. Spend some time googling (you can even start with “recent computer security attacks”). Be sure that whatever topic you choose has sufficient information available for you to create your class.

Outline (15%)

Before the presentation deadline, submit the outline of your presentation to Gradescope. **Coming to office hours to talk through your outline is encouraged.** A starting point for your outline follows. Your outline may differ and it should have more detail. By the time you submit the outline you should feel confident that you have all the material you need for the final presentation. Gather information from a variety of sources (at least 4) such as news outlets, tech-oriented or business-oriented sites, and security experts' blogs.

1. Introduction: name the security or privacy breach and give the short version.
2. Motivation: explain why this is an important attack for us to study.
3. Background: provide the technical, procedural, social, or political information we need to understand the attack.
4. Attack: describe what happened. The description should include who the attacker was, what their motivation was, what the attack vector was. Provide technical details.
5. Consequences: explain who was affected, what the harm was (e.g., financial, personal, political, emotional) that resulted, and what changes, if any, were made by the victim in response to the attack.
6. Analysis: analyze the attack, response, and consequences to determine what we should learn from this event. Some questions to consider: What was the underlying root cause(s) that allowed the attack to happen? Are they primarily technical, procedural, societal? What is the current state of affairs? Who is or should be taking responsibility? Are there any lessons learned?
7. Conclusion: briefly recap the most important pieces you want the class to walk away with
8. References: Cite all the sources you used in putting together your outline.
9. Questions: Create two questions that you would ask, for example on a quiz or exam, to test your audience's understanding of the material you presented.

Presentation (85%)

The following are guidelines for creating the presentation.

- The video must be 10 minutes long. Do not go over. Do not go under by more than 30 seconds.
- The two questions at the end do not count against your 10 minutes.
- The first slide should have the title, your name, and your PID.
- Any figures, quotes, or data should be cited when they are used. If you use or recreate figures or diagrams you find online or in textbooks, cite them. Failing to cite someone else's work is plagiarism.
- General knowledge references should be cited at the end of the presentation.
- Do not use too much text on each slide. Do use figures to illustrate concepts. Include page numbers on the slides.
- Practice what you will say on each slide!
- You do not have to use slides. Use any format that will be informative and easy to follow.

Tone

Many of you will select topics that are inherently political and chances are you have an opinion about the politics involved. Be careful respectful with your language. Imagine that your classmates are watching these videos. How would you want someone to describe attacks perpetrated by an institution you respect and admire? If there is any ambiguity in the case, you must fully represent the ambiguity.

In other cases, the attack targets a vulnerable group. Again, be extra careful and respectful with your language. Imagine how you would feel watching a video about attacks perpetrated against people with whom you identify or about attacks to which you yourself have been a victim.

None of these topics are off the table, but a careful, respectful, and kind treatment of them is required.

Video Submission

To receive full credit you must do BOTH of the following.

- Upload the video to YouTube, AND
- Submit the link to the video to Gradescope.

You can make the video unlisted if you like, so that it is not searchable.

Dates

10/15/25 at 11:59PM

Topic chosen and submitted to Gradescope

11/12/25 at 11:59PM

Outline of talk submitted to Gradescope

12/03/25 at 11:59PM

Video posted to YouTube and link submitted to Gradescope