



A (Nearly) Painless Solution to Web Application Security

Jonathan Burket, Patrick Mutchler, Michael Weaver, Muzzammil Zaveri

University of Virginia  
<http://guardrails.cs.virginia.edu>





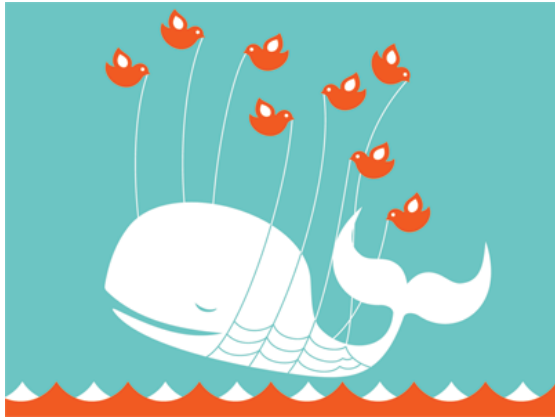
# So What?



# Sinatra

## Web applications are easy to create!





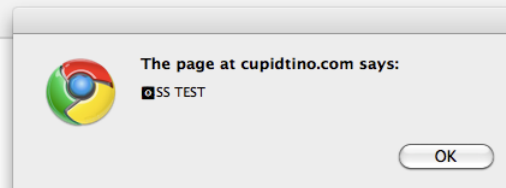
BUT.....



**Web security is not easy!**

Cupidtino Beta

**wahoo**



DIASPORA\*

Annotated Ruby on  
Rails Code

Attach Policies to Data

Fine grained taint-tracking

## GuardRails

Nearly effortless

Improve Readability

Reduce implementation errors

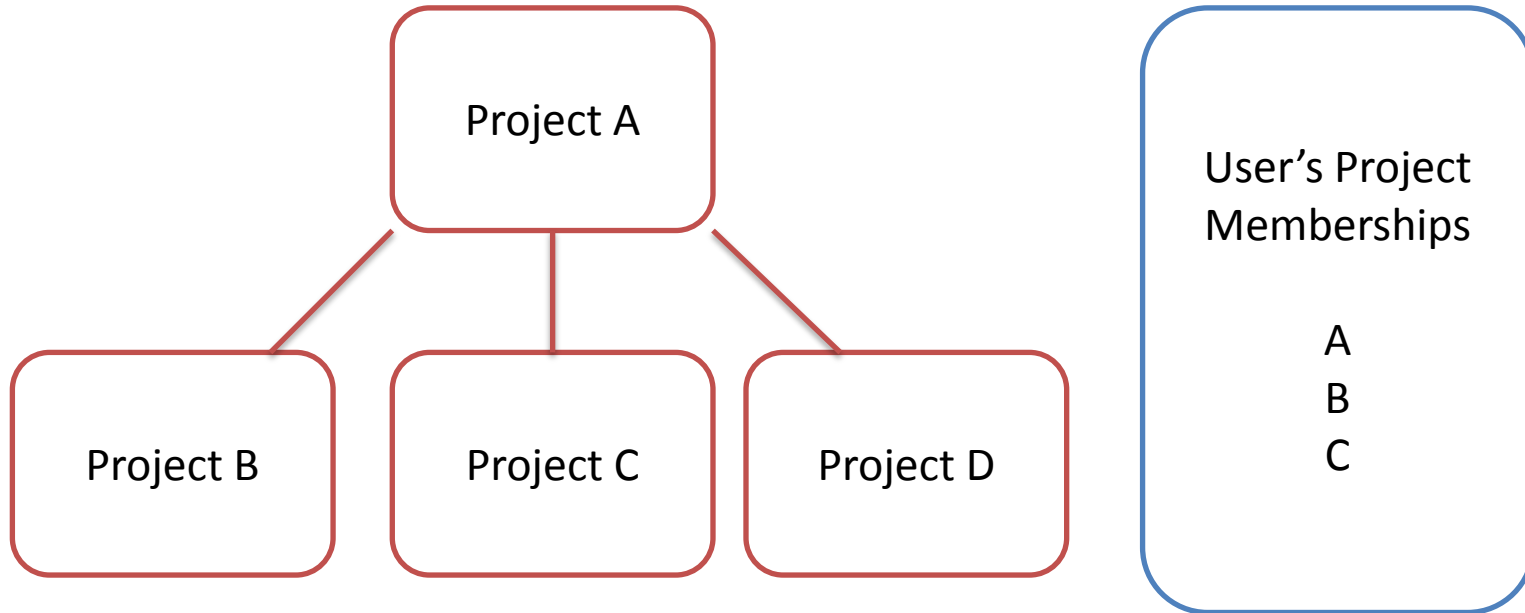
Secure Ruby on  
Rails Code

# Access Control Policies

Patrick Mutchler



# An Example



# Access Control is Annoying and Tedious

```
if include_subprojects && !active_children.empty?  
  ids = [id] + active_children.collect {|c| c.id}  
  
  conditions = ["#{Project.table_name}.id IN  
    (#{ids.join(',')})"]
```





# Access Control is Annoying and Tedious

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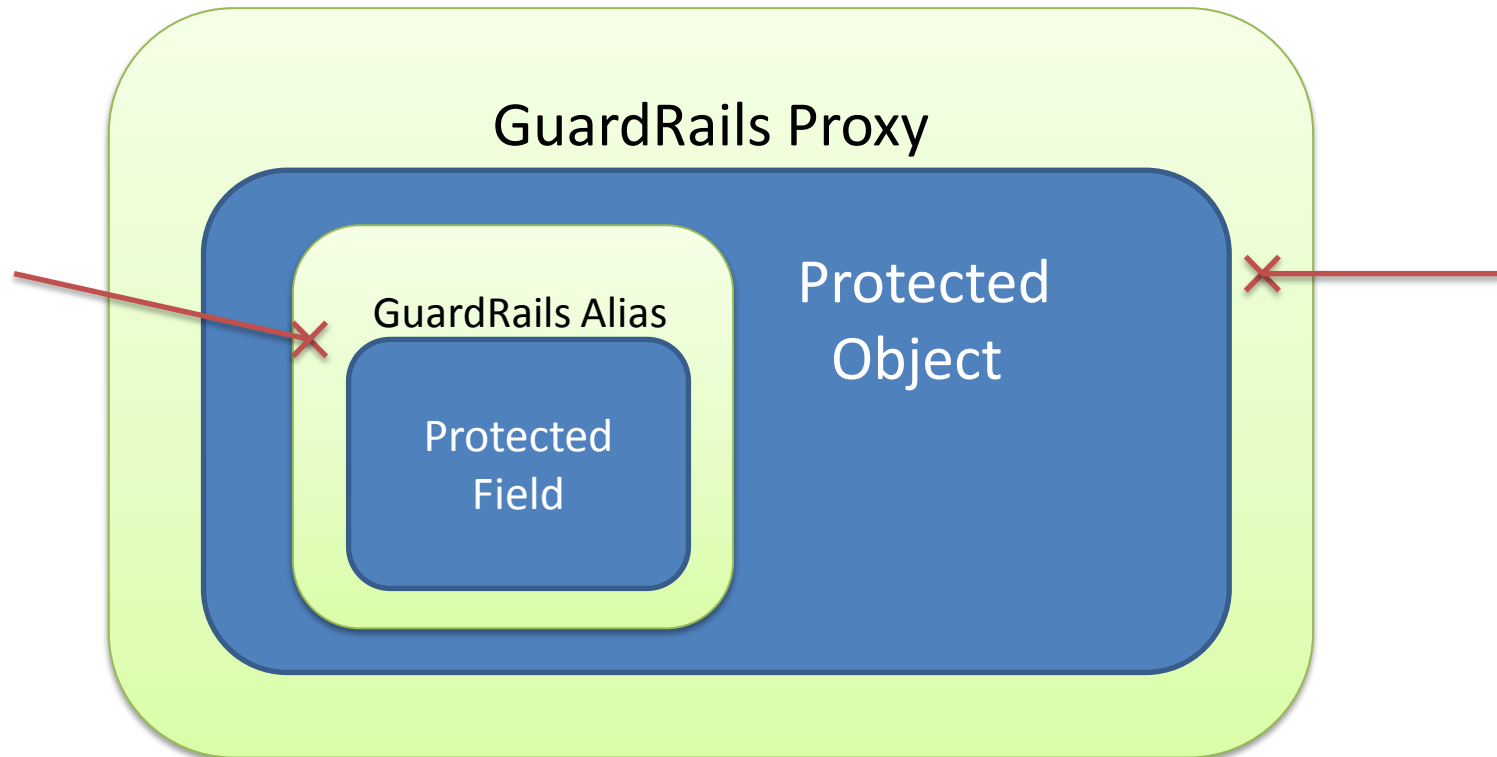


# Access Control is Annoying and Tedious

```
if include_subprojects && !active_children.empty?  
  ids = [id] + active_children.collect {|c| c.id}  
  
  conditions = ["#{Project.table_name}.id IN  
    (#{ids.join(',')})" AND #{Project.visible_by}"]
```



# Object Oriented Policy Enforcement



# Access Control Policies

Read

`User.find(..)`

Write

`@usr.secret= x`

Append

`addToMailingList(@usr)`

Create

`User.create`

Delete

`@usr.destroy`

# Access Control Policy Annotations

*# @ (policy\_class, targets, expression)*

# @ delete access, :admin

# @ write access, password, lambda{|user|user.id == self.id }

# @ read access, lambda{|user|  
 self.is\_public or user.memberships.include? self.id  
}

# Policy Violations

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the title "403 Forbidden - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar contains "http://192.168.0.106/cgi-bin". The main content area displays a "Forbidden" error message: "You don't have permission to access /cgi-bin on this server." Below the message, it says "Apache/2.0.52 (ASPLinux) Server at 192.168.0.106 Port 80". A button labeled "ГОТОВО" is visible at the bottom left of the browser window.

Overlaid on the browser window is a Notepad window titled "Workflow061110\_1.log - Notepad". The Notepad window displays a log of system events, including:

```
1", "2006-11-10 01:42:30", "Info", "SystemAudit", "7020", "NetRuntimeVersion", "K2Server::onStart", "7020 Running Microsoft .NET Framework v2.0.50727", "7a682389457c4538b5734815bed533d1", ""
2", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Info", "SystemAudit", "7021", "K2ServerVersion", "K2Server::onStart", "7021 Running K2.net Server 2003 SP4 (v3.6262.1.0)", "3c311e760eec4702a2168a8f0ceab8f3", ""
3", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Info", "SystemAudit", "4403", "RunningAsuser", "K2Server::onStart", "4403 K2.net Server started under K2DEV\DEVsvc-k2server", "3b5a973dac9f4b12936e82da464e2e74", ""
4", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Info", "SystemAudit", "7022", "PerfMonStarting", "K2Server::onStart", "7022 Starting K2.net Server Performance Monitoring", "a5581e24ff534e769eac577193459de", ""
5", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7100", "SQLInitSucceed", "K2Server::onStart", "7100 sql initialized (Svr:k2DEV01, DB:k2)", "a771f308571b469c812a73f318a757f9", ""
6", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7101", "SocketInitSucceed", "K2Server::onStart", "7101 initialized", "f3c803c0a39147529fce8d6a2e3c22f", ""
7", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7102", "WorkerInitSucceed", "K2Server::onStart", "7102 initialized", "c4ced1a3c21246e19dd06687d5afd4a0", ""
8", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7103", "EvalLicense", "K2Server::onStart", "7103 License Key", "5382711149b14fbab717887c45ad68fa", ""
9", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Info", "SystemAudit", "7104", "LicenseType", "K2Server::onStart", "7104 K2.net CPU(s)", "57cd43e8a81b4a79a80a9ed66cfc4a73", ""
10", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7106", "ThreadPoolInit", "K2Server::onStart", "7106 initialized", "fe7b412bce26407997c0b68afa85c00f", ""
11", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7107", "UMLInitSucceed", "K2Server::onStart", "7107 User M.K2UserManager initialized", "6aa14b3a927b4d2b8f5e037cb8147f09", ""
12", "2006-11-10 01:42:31", "Debug", "SystemAudit", "7108", "UMLInitSucceed", "K2Server::onStart", "7108 User M.K2UserManager initialized", "6aa14b3a927b4d2b8f5e037cb8147f09", ""
```

The PaperTracks web application interface is displayed. The navigation menu includes "Home", "Find a Paper", "My Papers", "My Groups", and "Admin". The user is logged in as "admin" and can click "Logout".

The main content area shows the "Group" information for "UVAResearch", which is "Researches at University of Virginia".

There are two summary boxes:

- Members:** This group does not have any users.
- Top Papers:** No one in this group has a paper yet.

Below the summary boxes, there are two empty line graphs:

- Total Number of Papers:** The graph shows a single data point at "Aug 2010" with a value of 0.
- Total Number of Citations:** The graph shows a single data point at "Aug 2010" with a value of 0.

The footer of the page reads "ead localhost".

# Data Policy Example



```
def require_user
  unless current_user
    self.notice = I18n.t("page_only_viewable_when_logged_in")
    redirect_to new_user_session_url
    return false
  end end

def require_no_user
  if current_user
    self.notice = I18n.t("page_only_viewable_when_logged_out")
    redirect_to root_url
    return false
  end end

def store_location # disallow return to login, logout, signup pages
  disallowed_urls = [signup_url, login_url, logout_url]
  ..
```

# Dynamic Taint Tracking

Jonathan Burket



xkcd.com



# Dynamic Taint Tracking

Protects against injection attacks

## SQL Injection:

“SELECT profile FROM users WHERE username=” + user\_name + “”

Good: user\_name = “jazzFan26”

Bad: user\_name = “”; DROP TABLE users--”

## Cross-Site Scripting:

“User: <a href=‘profile\_page’>” + user\_name + “</a>”

Good: user\_name = “DrKevinPhillips”

Bad: user\_name = “<script language=‘javascript’>  
alert(‘document.cookie’);</script>”

# Expressive Taint Status

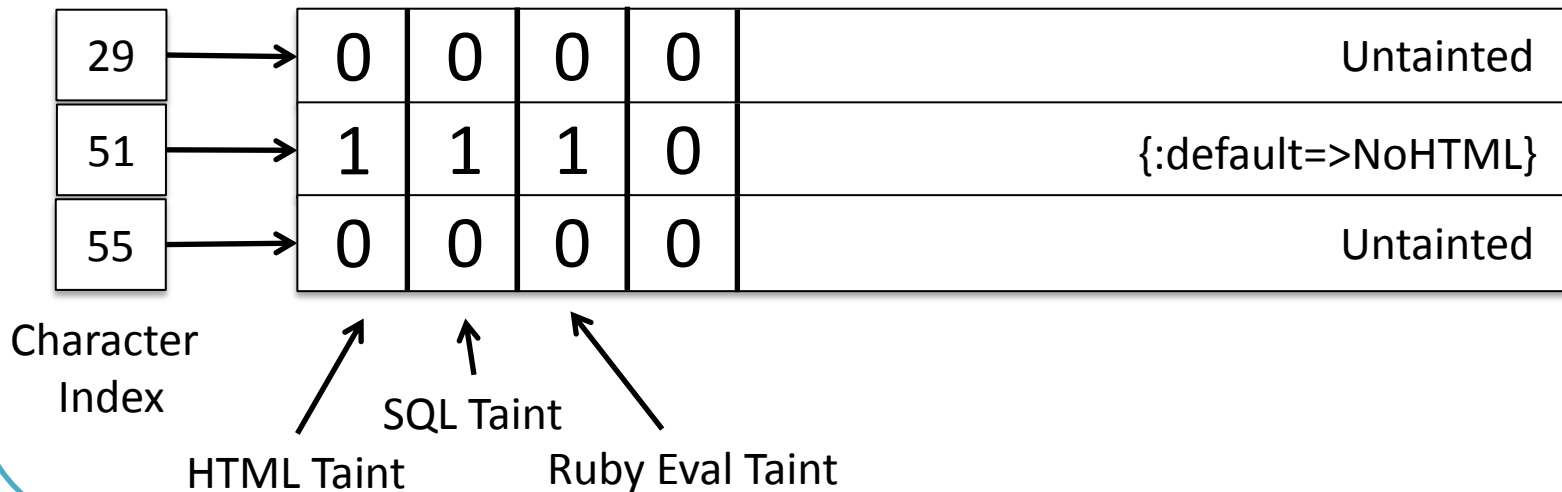
“<a href=“profile?id=184392”><h1>SoccerFan1985</h1></a>”

## String

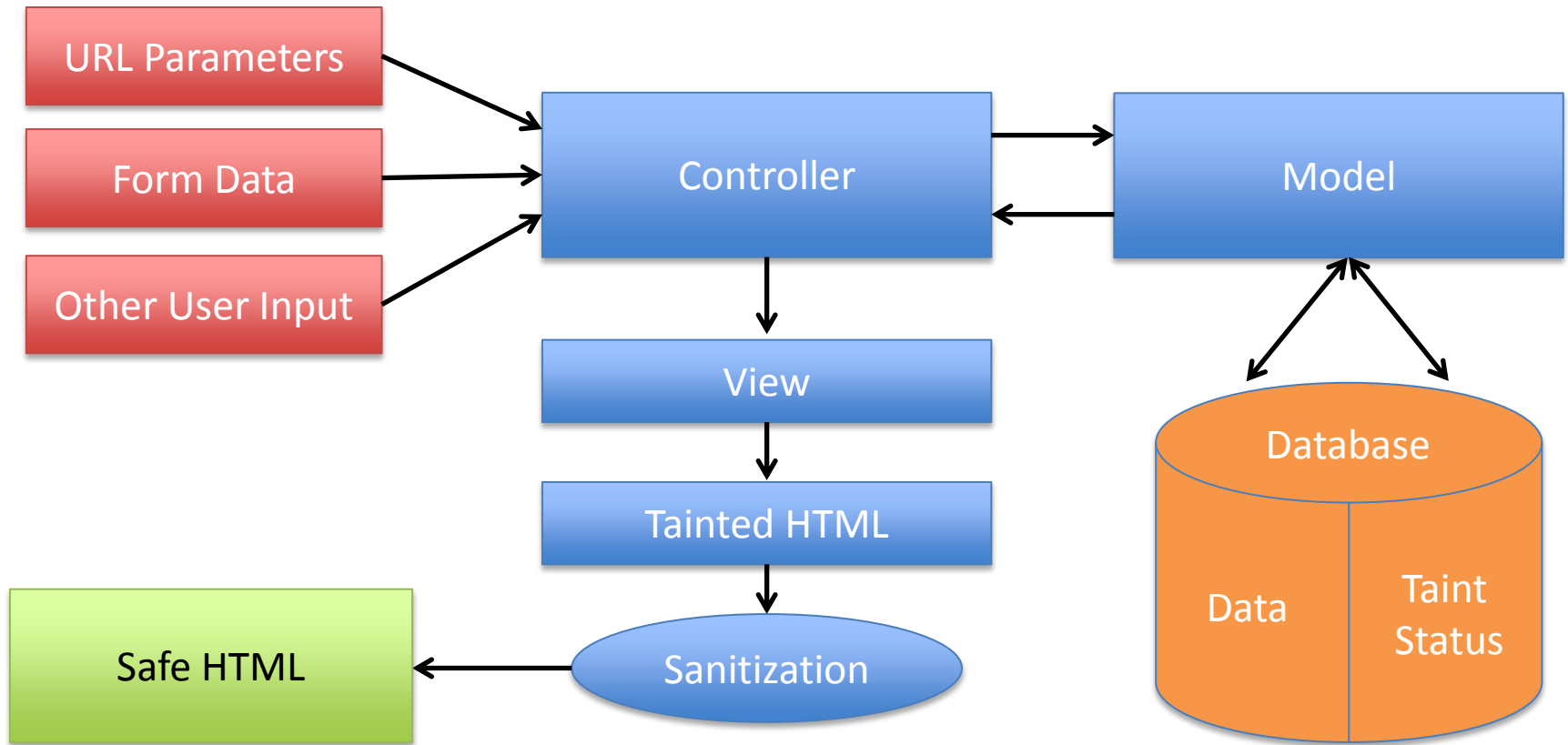
Value:

“<a href=“profile?id=184392”><h1>SoccerFan1985</h1></a>”

Taint:

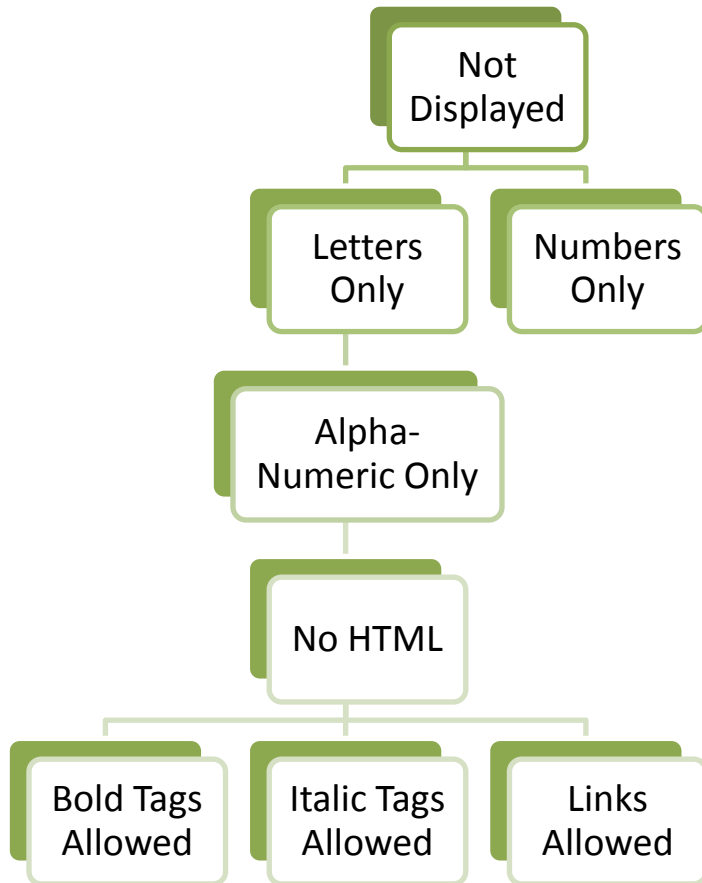


# Taint Propagation



**“foo” + “bar” → “foobar”**

# Taint Lattice



- Combination of taint statuses
- Extendable by developers
- Subtyping

# Context-Appropriate Sanitization

# @ taint, username, AlphaNumeric

# @ taint, full\_name, NoHTML,  
TitleTag: LettersAndSpaces

# @ taint, profile, BoldItalicUnderline,  
"//script[@language='javascript']": Invisible

# PaperTracks

Home
Find a Paper
My Papers
My Groups
Admin

Logged in as: admin (Logout)

Group  
Group name:  
**UVAResearch**

The page at http://localhost:3000 says:  
FREE STUF AT www.freestuff.com

OK

Members:

Papers:

This group does not have any
paper yet

Welcome to University of Virginia



Waiting for www.catfacts.org...

# PaperTracks

Find a Paper
My Papers
My Groups
Admin

Logged in as: admin (Logout)

Group  
Group name: **UVAResearch**  
Researches at University of Virginia

Members:

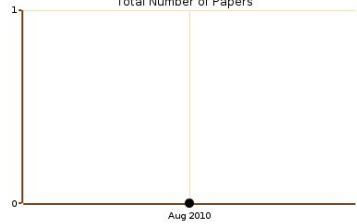
Top Papers:

This group does not have any users
No one in this group has a paper yet

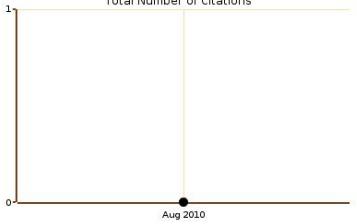
---

Welcome to **University of Virginia**

Total Number of Papers



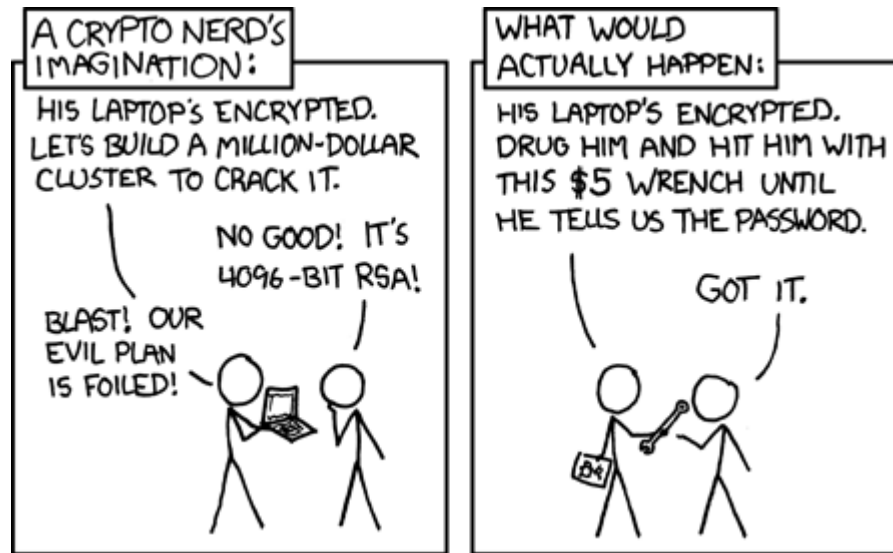
Total Number of Citations



lead localhost

# Demo and Early Results

Michael Weaver



# Other real-word examples





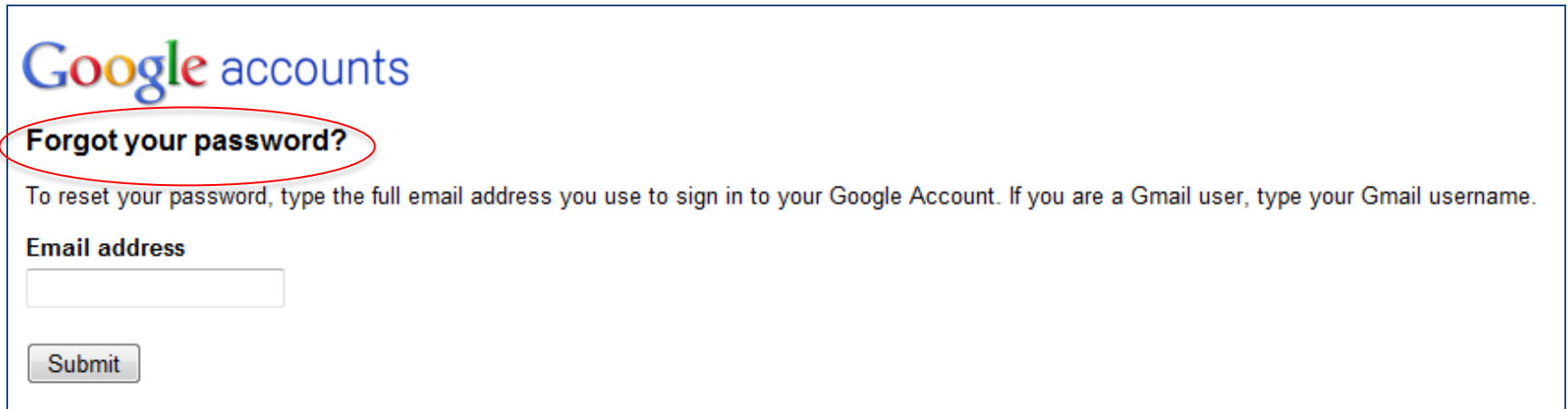
# Looking to Try Out GuardRails?

- Our Contact Info: [guardrails@cs.virginia.edu](mailto:guardrails@cs.virginia.edu)
- WebPage: <http://guardrails.cs.virginia.edu>

# Questions?

# Access Control Policies

## Context-Dependent Policies



The image shows a screenshot of the Google accounts password reset page. The Google logo is at the top left, followed by the text "accounts". Below this, the link "Forgot your password?" is circled in red. Underneath is a paragraph of instructions: "To reset your password, type the full email address you use to sign in to your Google Account. If you are a Gmail user, type your Gmail username." This is followed by a label "Email address" and an empty text input field. At the bottom left of the form is a "Submit" button.

Google accounts

**Forgot your password?**

To reset your password, type the full email address you use to sign in to your Google Account. If you are a Gmail user, type your Gmail username.

Email address

Submit

## Privileged Functions