
Seminar Information

Instructor: Prof. Kevin Fu
Room CS358, 545-4006, kevinfu@cs.umass.edu
Office Hours Tues: 3:00-4:00PM or by appointment

Student email list: cmpsci-691i-1-fal07@courses.umass.edu
Web page: <http://prisms.cs.umass.edu/cs691i/>

1 Overview

This graduate seminar will survey recent research in security and privacy from the domains of radio-frequency identification (RFID), implantable medical devices, secure storage, and other timely topics. Our main goal will be to cover cutting-edge research and identify novel research problems. Where appropriate, we will also cover some background material and classic security papers. Students will be evaluated based on weekly summaries, class participation, and one in-class presentation.

Intended audience. This 1-credit seminar is intended for graduate students.

Prerequisites. Undergraduate degree in Computer Science or CS415 or CS591D.

Time and location. Lunch-time seminars are held in Room 303 in the Computer Science Building on Wednesdays from 12:20PM to 1:10PM. A schedule of topics is posted on the Web site.

Contact. Be sure to check your UMass email address regularly. If you check another email address, set up your UMass account to forward your mail appropriately.

2 Textbook and reading

There is no textbook for this course. We will assign regular readings from research literature on computer security.

3 Grades and methods of evaluation

Grading is weighted as follows:

Presentation	10%
Summaries	45%
Class participation	45%

3.1 Summaries

Each week we will read one research paper. To demonstrate your preparedness for discussion, you must submit a short summary of text (approximately one Web browser screenfull). The text must cover:

- A 2–3 sentence summary of the paper and its contribution
- Strengths and weaknesses of the technical and intellectual contribution

Bring a print out to the seminar. Also bring with you a few intellectually stimulating questions for discussion. Don't show up empty-handed!! After class, you must post your summary (perhaps revised based on class discussion) on a blog. If you do not have a blog, create one. The blog may be either completely public or private to UMass at your discretion. We suggest using the UMass Amherst blog service (<http://blogs.umass.edu/>). Google also offers a nice blogging service. Send the URL of your blog to the instructor by Friday (Sept 7).

3.2 Class participation

Students may participate in class by engaging in intellectually-stimulating discussion on the topic of the day. Students can also engage in discussion during class and on the class email list. Quality rather than quantity counts most in this subjective evaluation.

3.3 Presentation

You will sign up for a time slot to present a paper or your own original research. Talk with the instructor to select an appropriate paper. The instructor makes final decisions on what papers are eligible for the seminar.

4 Policies

4.1 Lateness

Don't be late. Be punctual with attendance and submit your summaries on-time.

4.2 Collaboration and plagiarism

You may discuss material with others, but your writing must be your own. When in doubt, contact the instructors about whether a potential action would be considered plagiarism.

When discussing problems with others, excluding projects, do not show any of your written solutions to others, including code. Do not show any books or papers used to discover the solution. Do not take notes about the solution other than to jot down publicly available references. Use only verbal communication.

If you do discuss material with anyone besides the instructors, acknowledge your collaborators in each write-up. If you obtain a key insight with help (e.g., through library work or a friend), acknowledge your source, briefly state the insight, and write up the solution on your own. In most of your write-ups, we expect to see citations.

We cannot emphasize enough that **you MUST cite all your sources** properly. You must remove any possibility of someone else's work from being misconstrued as yours. We consider the facilitation of plagiarism (giving your work to someone else) as plagiarism as well.

Never misrepresent someone else's work as your own. It must be absolutely clear what material is your original work. Plagiarism and other anti-intellectual behavior will be dealt with severely. Investigating plagiarism is a pleasant experience for neither instructor or student. Please help us by avoiding any questionable behavior.

Cheating is usually the result of other problems in school. Please come see us anytime if you are unable to keep up with the work for any reason and we will work something out. We want to see you succeed and will do everything we can to help you out!