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Human-Centered Security: Focusing on the human in IT security and privacy research

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The role of the human for security and privacy is highly relevant, e.g., when it comes to secure authentication, communication, or the detection of phishing e-mails. As such, the human is an important element in today's security-critical systems. Yet, humans have often been considered a weak link as it is finally them who create weak passwords or click on phishing links. Measures to prevent these insecure behaviours include automation, training or the creation of policies. But why do users behave insecurely in the first place? And how can we change that?

This talk aims to shine light on the psychological aspects of IT security and privacy that help to understand human security behaviour and provide examples from different application areas. Furthermore, it will outline a mindset that suggests viewing the human as a potential solution with regard to security and privacy rather than only viewing the human as a weak link to be dealt with.

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