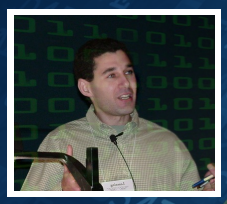
Ending Malware Mayhem



Lawrence Saul
Professor , Computer Science and Engineering

CURRENT RESEARCH

Learning to detect malicious activity on the Internet

Over 2.4 billion people access the Internet around the globe, and tens of millions use popular web services such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter on a daily basis. While the Internet continues to integrate with our everyday lives, few truly understand the perils that lurk only one click away. Many Internet users are unable to distinguish a scam from a legitimate email, web page, or web service. The Internet offers a highly ambiguous environment, and Dr. Saul's research sheds light on malicious and criminal activity that covertly transpires on the web. To help address this problem, Dr. Saul's research at the University of California, San Diego, reveals and helps eliminate underground "malicious actors" who exploit innocent click-goers in a multitude of ways.

- Dr. Saul has explored how intelligent algorithms can automatically identify malicious content on the Web. For example, he has built systems that identify malicious web pages based on clues from their textual content, structural tags, page links, visual appearance, and URLs.
- He has also studied the listings for abuse-related jobs that appear on freelancing Web sites such as Mechanical Turk and Freelancer.com. These jobs are outsourced to low-cost laborers who work for cents on the dollar to spam or engage in deceptive practices not supported by law.
- In recent work, he has developed an automatic system for the large-scale monitoring of online storefronts for spam-advertised goods. The system was developed from an extensive crawl of black-market web sites that deal in illegal pharmaceuticals, replica luxury goods, and counterfeit software. The operational goal of...

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AFFILIATION

University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Physics Department, 1994 ,Massachusetts Institute of Technology

RESEARCH AREAS

Technology, Computational Sciences / Mathematics, IOT, Devices, Data

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Saul's research on the multimillion dollar industry of illicit e-commerce. There are many new areas that need to be researched, and Dr. Saul will use the support to study new automated methods for prediction and data analysis in this highly adversarial domain.