

7. Authentication

Part 2



Blase Ur and David Cash
January 20th, 2023
CMSC 23200 / 33250



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Credential Breaches

Some Breached Companies

LinkedIn



Adobe

SONY®



GAWKER

000webhost.com
better than paid hosting

YAHOO!

STRATFOR
GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE

Data-Driven Statistical Attacks

- (2009) 32 million passwords: 
- (2016) 117 million passwords: 
- (2017) 3 billion passwords: 
- Total: >10 billion passwords stolen from >500 services

Have I Been Pwned (HIBP)

https://haveibeenpwned.com

511	10,599,375,985	113,991	199,574,641
pwned websites	pwned accounts	pastes	paste accounts

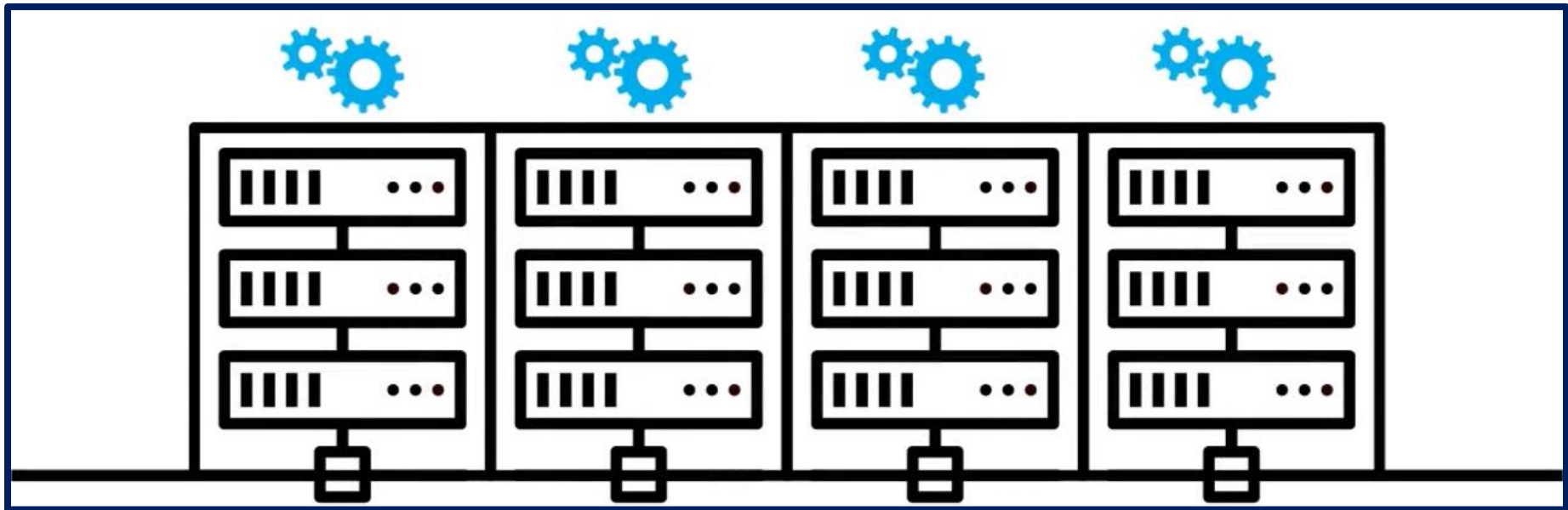
Largest breaches

	772,904,991	Collection #1 accounts
 verifications.io	763,117,241	Verifications.io accounts
	711,477,622	Onliner Spambot accounts
	622,161,052	Data Enrichment Exposure From PDL Customer accounts
	593,427,119	Exploit.In accounts
	457,962,538	Anti Public Combo List accounts
	393,430,309	River City Media Spam List accounts
	359,420,698	MySpace accounts
	268,765,495	Wattpad accounts
	234,842,089	NetEase accounts

Recently added breaches

	645,786	Filmai.in accounts
NurseryCam	10,585	NurseryCam accounts
	358,822	People's Energy accounts
	1,436,435	NetGalley accounts
	110,156	CityBee accounts
	2,481,121	Ge.tt accounts
	1,047,200	StoryBird accounts
	1,906,808	Pixlr accounts
	1,422,717	MeetMindful accounts
	2,811,929	Bonobos accounts

Password Cracking



Blase Ur, Sean M. Segreti, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Saranga Komanduri, Darya Kurilova, Michelle L. Mazurek, William Melicher, Richard Shay. Measuring Real-World Accuracies and Biases in Modeling Password Guessability. In *Proc. USENIX Security Symposium*, 2015.

Statistical Metrics For Passwords

- Traditionally: Shannon entropy
- Recently: α -guesswork
- Disadvantages of statistical approaches
 - Entropy does not consider human tendencies
 - Usually no per-password estimates
 - Huge sample required
 - Not real-world attacks

Parameterized Guessability

- How many guesses a particular cracking algorithm with particular training data would take to guess a password

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$
2. $h("password") = 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99$

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$
2. $h("password") = 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99$
3. $h("monkey") = d0763edaa9d9bd2a9516280e9044d885$

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$
2. $h("password") = 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99$
3. $h("monkey") = d0763edaa9d9bd2a9516280e9044d885$
4. $h("letmein") = 0d107d09f5bbe40cade3de5c71e9e9b7$

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$
2. $h("password") = 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99$
3. $h("monkey") = d0763edaa9d9bd2a9516280e9044d885$
4. $h("letmein") = 0d107d09f5bbe40cade3de5c71e9e9b7$
5. $h("p@ssw0rd") = 0f359740bd1cda994f8b55330c86d845$

Attack Model



80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c



1. $h("123456") = e10adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f883e$
2. $h("password") = 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99$
3. $h("monkey") = d0763edaa9d9bd2a9516280e9044d885$
4. $h("letmein") = 0d107d09f5bbe40cade3de5c71e9e9b7$
5. $h("p@ssw0rd") = 0f359740bd1cda994f8b55330c86d845$
6. $h("Chic4go") = \mathbf{80d561388725fa74f2d03cd16e1d687c}$



Chic4go

Guess # 6

j@mesb0nd007!

Guess # 366,163,847,194

$n(c\$JZX!zKc^bIAX^N$

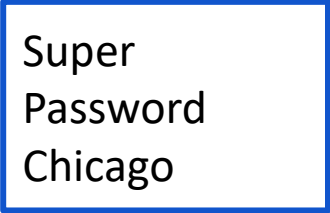
Guess # past cutoff

Broad Cracking Approaches

- Brute force (or selective brute force)
- Wordlist
- Mangled wordlist
 - Hashcat and John the Ripper
- Markov models
- Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar
- Neural networks
- In practice: manual, iterative updates

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist



Super
Password
Chicago

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Guesses

Super1

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Guesses

Super1
Password1

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Guesses

Super1
Password1
Chicago1

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Guesses

Super1
Password1
Chicago1
Super
P4ssword
Chic4go

Mangled Wordlist Attack

Wordlist

Super
Password
Chicago

Rulelist

1. Append "1"
2. Replace "a" → "4"
3. Lowercase all

Guesses

Super1
Password1
Chicago1
Super
P4ssword
Chic4go
super
password
chicago

Example Wordlists and Rulelists

Wordlist

PGS ($\approx 20,000,000$)

Linkedin ($\approx 60,000,000$)

HIBP ($\approx 500,000,000$)

Example Wordlists and Rulelists

Wordlist

PGS ($\approx 20,000,000$)

Linkedin ($\approx 60,000,000$)

HIBP ($\approx 500,000,000$)

Rulelist

Korelogic ($\approx 5,000$)

Megatron ($\approx 15,000$)

Generated2 ($\approx 65,000$)

Example Wordlists and Rulelists

Wordlist

PGS ($\approx 20,000,000$)

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Rulelist

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Generated2 ($\approx 65,000$)



$10^9 - 10^{15}$
guesses

Example Wordlists and Rulelists

Wordlist

Rulelist

PGS ($\approx 20,000,000$)

Linkedin ($\approx 60,000,000$)

HIBP ($\approx 500,000,000$)

Korelogic ($\approx 5,000$)

Megatron ($\approx 15,000$)

Generated2 ($\approx 65,000$)



$10^9 - 10^{15}$
guesses

+ Hackers' private word/rule lists

John the Ripper

- Wordlist mode requires:
 - Wordlist (passwords and dictionary entries)
 - Mangling rules
- Guesses variants of input wordlist
- Speed: Fast
- “JTR”



John the Ripper



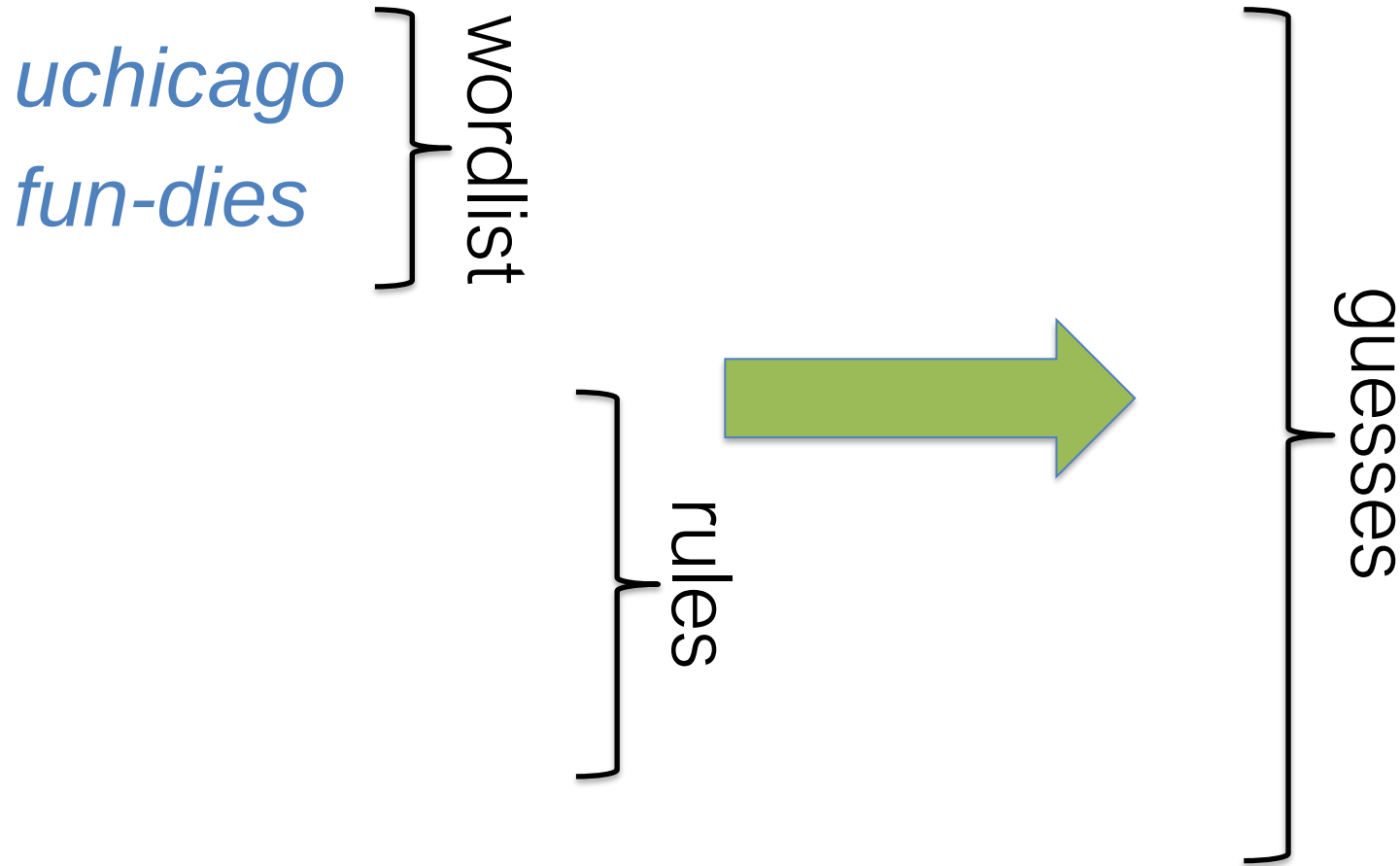
wordlist

rules

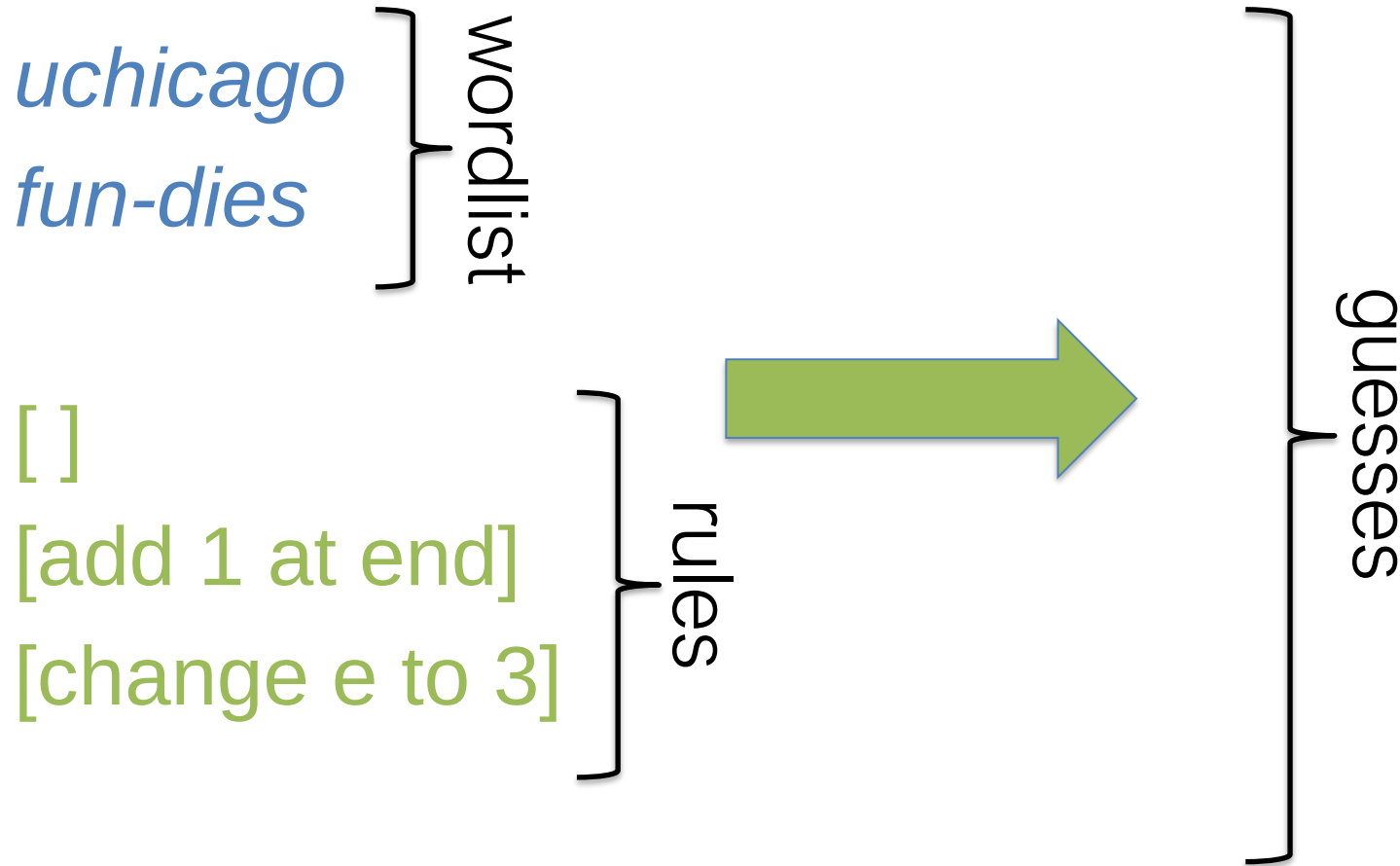


guesses

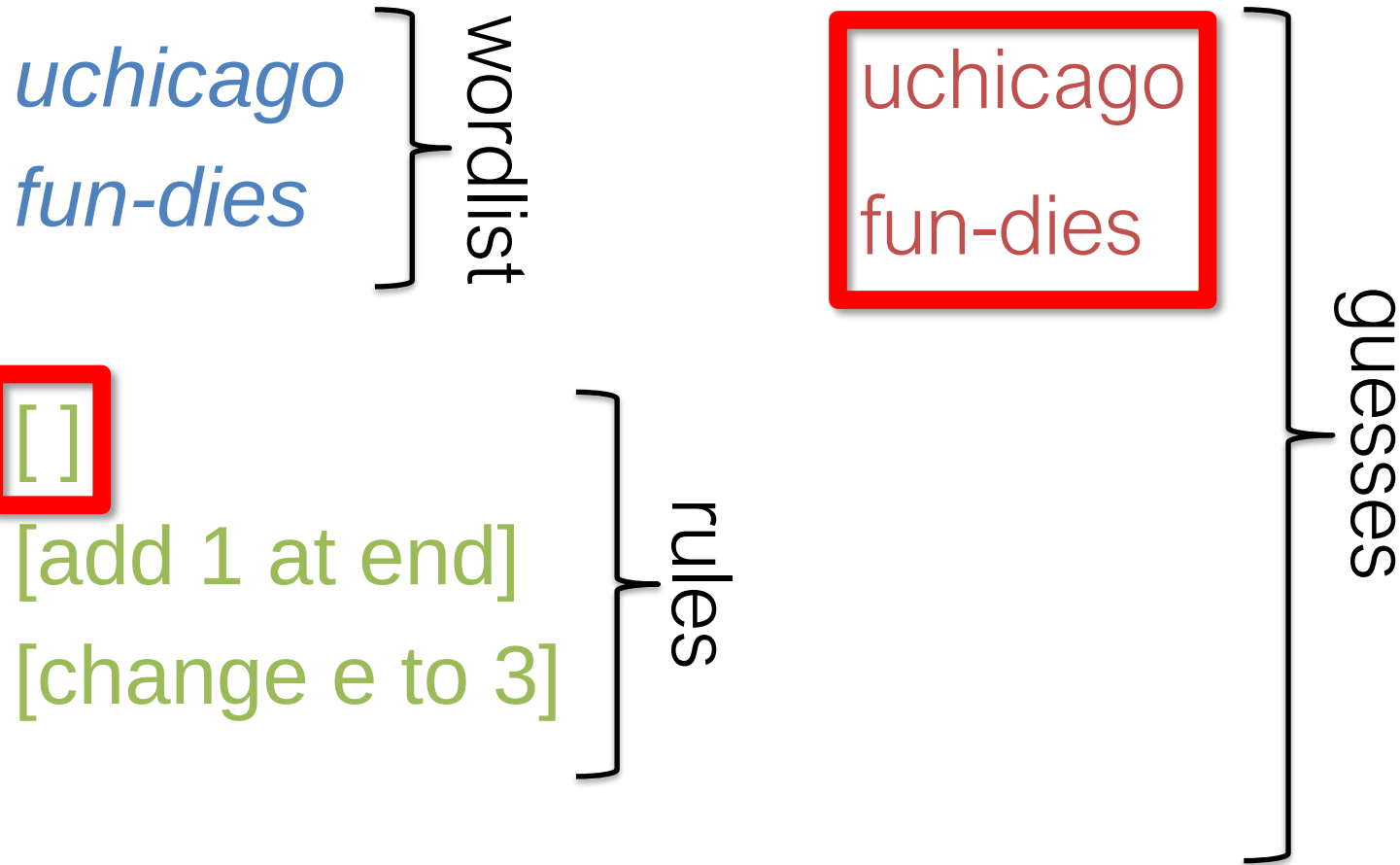
John the Ripper



John the Ripper



John the Ripper



John the Ripper



uchicago
fun-dies

wordlist

uchicago
fun-dies

uchicago1
fun-dies1

guesses

[]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules

John the Ripper



uchicago
fun-dies

wordlist

[]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules

uchicago

fun-dies

uchicago1

fun-dies1

uchicago

fun-di3s

guesses

Hashcat

- Wordlist mode requires:
 - Wordlist (passwords and dictionary entries)
 - Mangling rules
- Guesses variants of input wordlist
- Speed: Fast



Hashcat



hashcat
advanced
password
recovery

wordlist

rules



guesses

Hashcat



hashcat
advanced
password
recovery

uchicago
fun-dies

wordlist

[]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules



guesses

Hashcat



hashcat
advanced
password
recovery

uchicago

fun-dies

wordlist

[]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules

uchicago

uchicago1

uchicago

guesses

Hashcat



hashcat
advanced
password
recovery

uchicago

fun-dies

wordlist

[]

[add 1 at end]

[change e to 3]

rules

uchicago

uchicago1

uchicago

fun-dies

fun-dies1

fun-di3s

guesses

Hashcat: Rule Language

Name	Function	Description	Example Rule	Input Word	Output Word	Note
Nothing	:	do nothing	:	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rd	
Lower-case	l	Lowercase all letters	l	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssw0rd	
Upper-case	u	Uppercase all letters	u	p@ss-W0rd	P@SSWORD	
Capital-ize	c	Capitalize the first letter and lower the rest	c	p@ss-W0rd	P@ssw0rd	
Invert Capital-ize	C	Lowercase first found character, uppercase the rest	C	p@ss-W0rd	p@SSWORD	
Toggle Case	t	Toggle the case of all characters in word.	t	p@ss-W0rd	P@ssW0RD	
Toggle @	TN	Toggle the case of characters at position N	T3	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rd	*
Reverse	r	Reverse the entire word	r	p@ss-W0rd	dr0Wss@p	
Duplicate	d	Duplicate entire word	d	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rdp@ssW0rd	
Duplicate N	pN	Append duplicated word N times	p2	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rdp@ssW0rdp@ssW0rd	
Reflect	f	Duplicate word reversed	f	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rd-dr0Wss@p	
Rotate Left	{	Rotates the word left.	{	p@ss-W0rd	@ssW0rdp	
Rotate Right	}	Rotates the word right	}	p@ss-W0rd	dp@ssW0r	
Append Character	\$X	Append character X to end	\$1	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rd1	
Prepend Character	^X	Prepend character X to front	^1	p@ss-W0rd	1p@ssW0rd	
Truncate left	[	Deletes first character	[	p@ss-W0rd	@ssW0rd	
Truncate right	]	Deletes last character	]	p@ss-W0rd	p@assW0r	
Delete @ N	DN	Deletes character at position N	D3	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0rd	*
Extract range	xNM	Extracts M characters, starting at position N	x04	p@ss-W0rd	p@ss	* #
Omit range	ONM	Deletes M characters, starting at position N	O12	p@ss-W0rd	psW0rd	*
Insert @ N	iNX	Inserts character X at position N	i4!	p@ss-W0rd	p@ss!W0rd	*
Over-write N	oNX	Overwrites character at position N with X	o3\$	p@ss-W0rd	p@ss\$W0rd	*
Truncate @ N	'N	Truncate word at position N	'6	p@ss-W0rd	p@ssW0	*
Replace	sXY	Replace all instances of X with Y	ss\$	p@ss-W0rd	p@ss\$W0rd	
Purge	@X	Purge all instances of X	@s	p@ss-W0rd	p@W0rd	+

Name	Function	Description	Example Rule	Note
Reject less	<N	Reject plains if their length is greater than N	<G	*
Reject greater	>N	Reject plains if their length is less or equal to N	>8	*
Reject equal	_N	Reject plains of length not equal to N	_7	*
Reject contain	!X	Reject plains which contain char X	!z	
Reject not contain	/X	Reject plains which do not contain char X	/e	
Reject equal first	(X	Reject plains which do not start with X	(h	
Reject equal last	)X	Reject plains which do not end with X	)t	
Reject equal at	=NX	Reject plains which do not have char X at position N	=1a	*
Reject contains	%NX	Reject plains which contain char X less than N times	%2a	*
Reject contains	Q	Reject plains where the memory saved matches current word	rMrQ	e.g. for palindrome

Name	Function	Description	Example Rule	Input Word	Output Word	Note
Swap front	k	Swaps first two characters	k	p@ssW0rd	@pssW0rd	
Swap back	K	Swaps last two characters	K	p@ssW0rd	p@ssW0dr	
Swap @ N	*NM	Swaps character at position N with character at position M	*34	p@ssW0rd	p@sWs0rd	*
Bitwise shift left	LN	Bitwise shift left character @ N	L2	p@ssW0rd	p@æsW0rd	*
Bitwise shift right	RN	Bitwise shift right character @ N	R2	p@ssW0rd	p@9sW0rd	*
Ascii increment	+N	Increment character @ N by 1 ascii value	+2	p@ssW0rd	p@tsW0rd	*
Ascii decrement	-N	Decrement character @ N by 1 ascii value	-1	p@ssW0rd	p?ssW0rd	*
Replace N + 1	.N	Replaces character @ N with value at @ N plus 1	.1	p@ssW0rd	psssW0rd	*
Replace N - 1	,N	Replaces character @ N with value at @ N minus 1	,1	p@ssW0rd	ppssW0rd	*
Duplicate block front	yN	Duplicates first N characters	y2	p@ssW0rd	p@p@ss-W0rd	*
Duplicate block back	YN	Duplicates last N characters	Y2	p@ssW0rd	p@ssW0r-drd	*
Title	E	Lower case the whole line, then upper case the first letter and every letter after a space	E	p@ssW0rdw0rld	P@ssw0rdW0rld	+
Title w/separator	eX	Lower case the whole line, then upper case the first letter and every letter after a custom separator character	e-	p@ssW0rd-w0rld	P@ssw0rd-W0rld	+

Hashcat: Rule Language

***05 003 d '7**

Switch the first and the sixth char;

Delete the first three chars;

Duplicate the whole word;

Truncate the word to length 7;

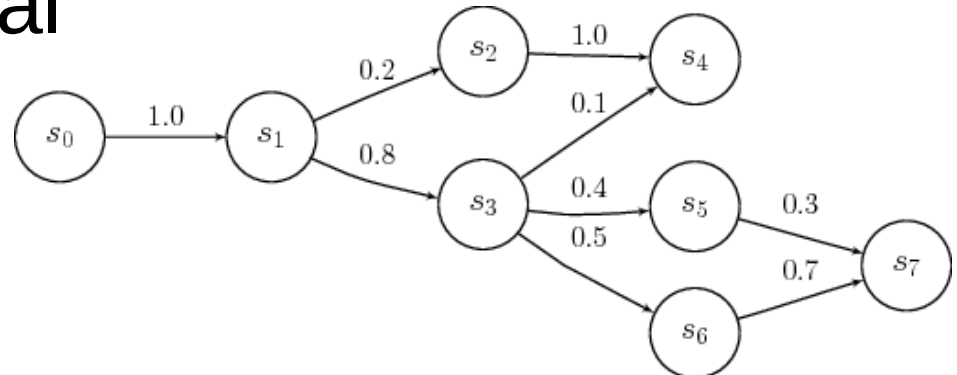
Hashcat (Other Modes)

- Mask attack (brute force within a specified character-class structure)
- Combinator attacks
- Hybrid attacks
- Many more!

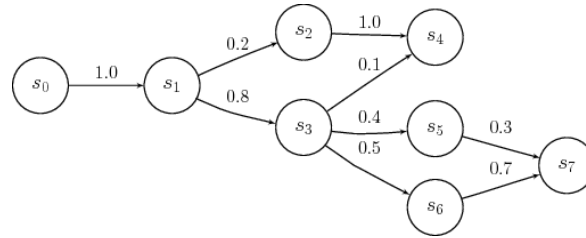


Markov Models

- Predicts future characters from previous
- Approach requires weighted data:
 - Passwords
 - Dictionaries
- Speed: Slow
- Smoothing is critical



Markov Models



chic4gooo

2-gram model (1 character of context):

[start] → c (1.0)

4 → g (1.0)

c → h (0.5), 4 (0.5)

g → o (1.0)

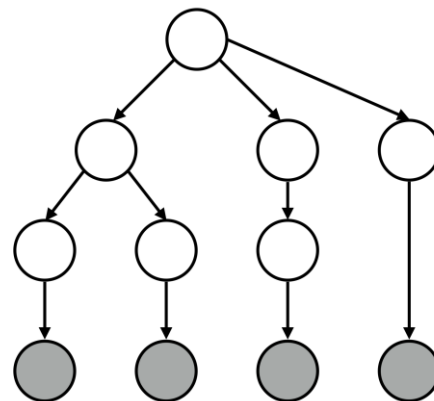
h → i (1.0)

i → c (1.0)

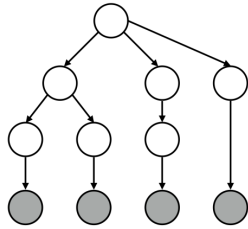
o → o (0.67) [end] (0.33)

Probabilistic Context-Free Grammar

- Generate password grammar
 - Structures
 - Terminals
- OG: Weir et al. IEEE S&P 2009
- Speed: Slow
- “PCFG”



PCFG



passwordpassword

password123

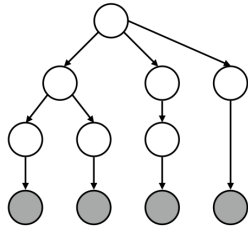
usenix3

5ecurity

iloveyou

nirvanaa123

PCFG



passwordpassword

password123

usenix3

5security

iloveyou

*nirvanaa*123

Structure Model:

L₁₆ (1/6)

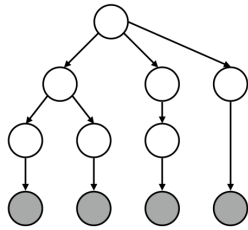
L₈D₃ (2/6)

L₆D₁ (1/6)

D₁L₇ (1/6)

L₈ (1/6)

PCFG



passwordpassword

password123

unix3

5ecurity

iloveyou

nirvanaa123

Digit Model:

$D_1 \rightarrow 3 (0.5) 5 (0.5)$

$D_3 \rightarrow 123 (1.0)$

Repeat for letters, etc.

Professionals (“Pros”)

- Proprietary wordlists and configurations
 - 10^{14} guesses
 - Manually tuned, updated
- For example: KoreLogic
 - Password audits for Fortune 500 companies
 - Run DEF CON “Crack Me If You Can”

KoreLogic
S E C U R I T Y



Approach

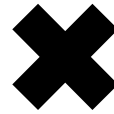
4 password sets

```
password  
iloveyou  
team0123  
...
```

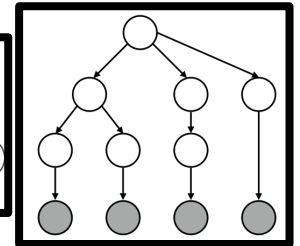
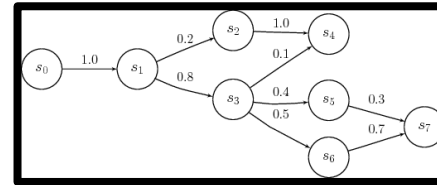
```
passwordpassword  
1234567812345678  
!1@2#3$4%5^6&7*8  
...
```

```
Pa$$w0rd  
iLov3you!  
1QaZ2W@x  
...
```

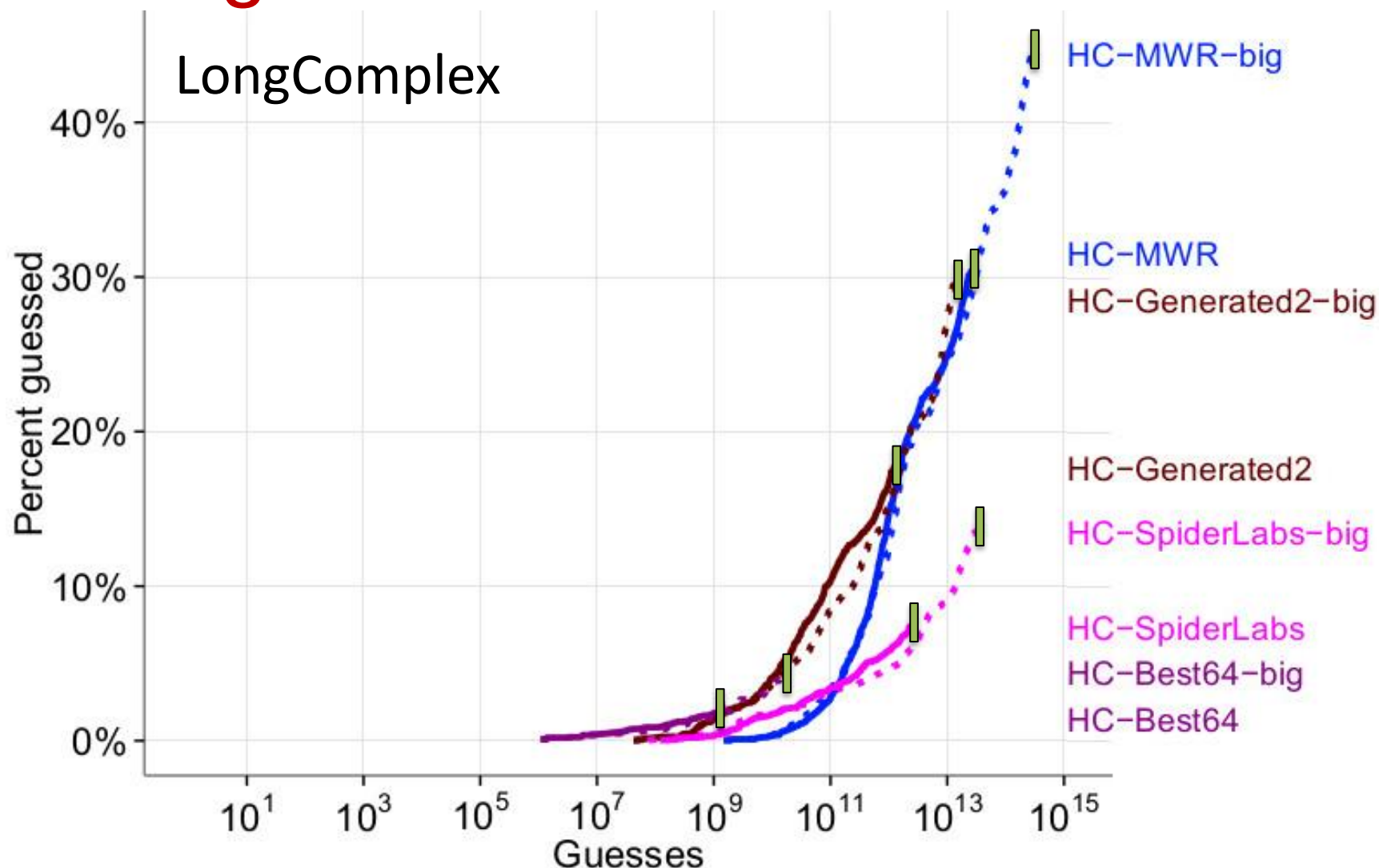
```
pa$$word1234  
12345678asDF  
!q1q!q1q!q1q  
...
```



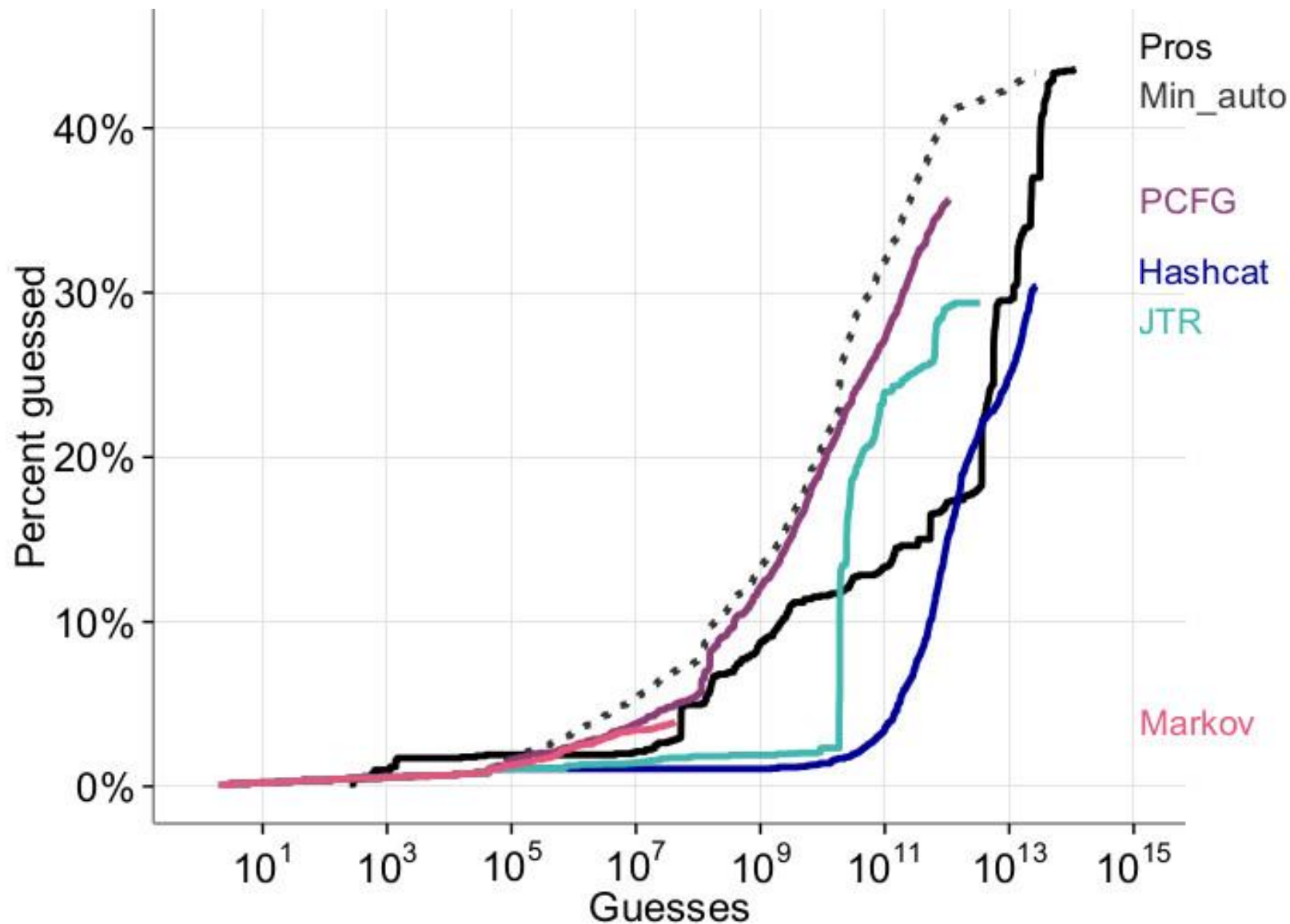
5 approaches



Configuration Is Crucial



Comparison for Complex Passwords



Per-Password Highly Impacted

P@ssw0rd!

Per-Password Highly Impacted

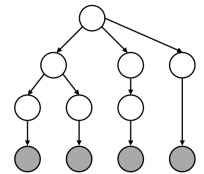
- JTR guess # 801



P@ssw0rd!

Per-Password Highly Impacted

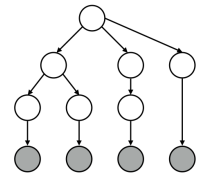
- JTR guess # 801
- Not guessed in 10^{14} PCFG guesses



P@ssw0rd!

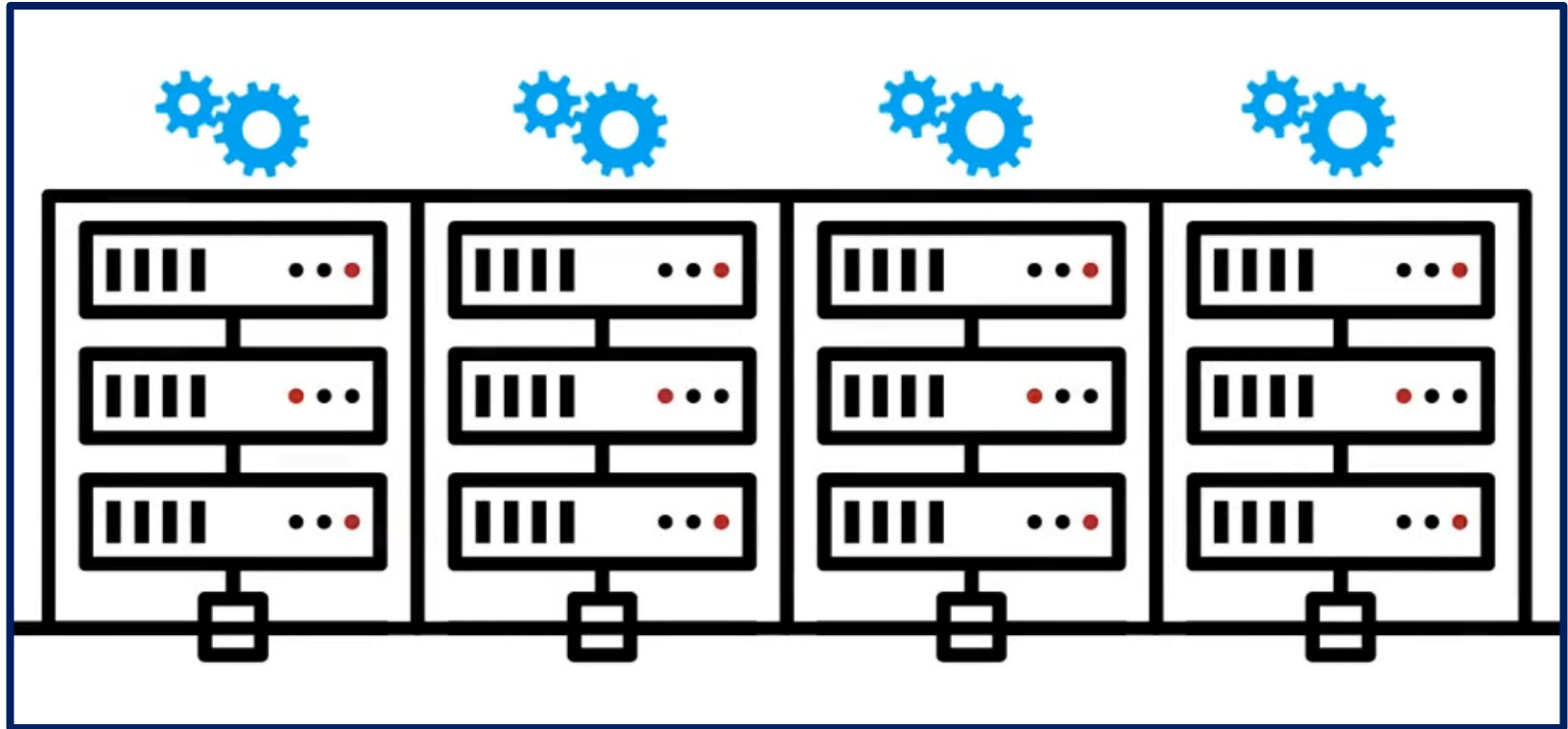
Per-Password Highly Impacted

- JTR guess # 801
- Not guessed in 10^{14} PCFG guesses



P@ssw0rd!

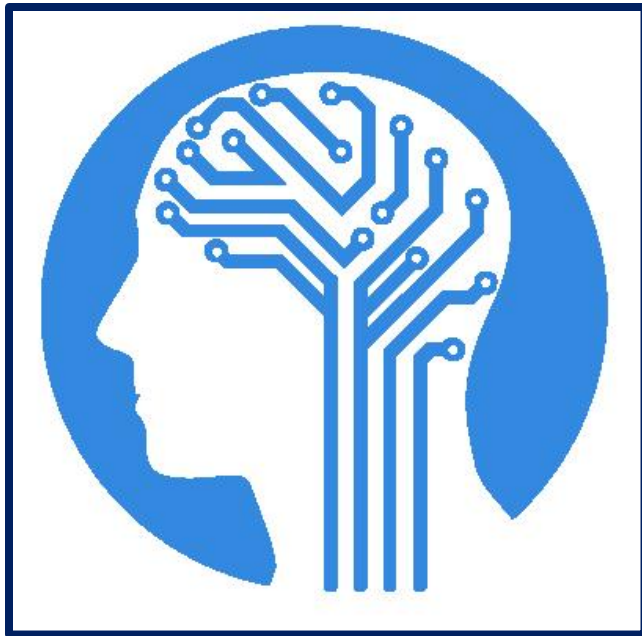
Neural Networks For Passwords



William Melicher, Blase Ur, Sean M. Segreti, Saranga Komanduri, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Lorrie Faith Cranor. Fast, Lean, and Accurate: Modeling Password Guessability Using Neural Networks. In *Proc. USENIX Security Symposium*, 2016.

Better Password Scoring

- Real-time feedback
- Runs entirely client-side
- Accurately models password guessability



**Recurrent Neural
Networks (RNNs)**

LSTM Architecture

Generating Passwords

Generating Passwords

passw  o or maybe 0 or O or ...

Generating Passwords

passw



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 1%

C: 0.6%

...

O: 55%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 20%

1: ...

Generating Passwords

""

Prob: 100%



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 2%

C: 5%

...

O: 2%

...

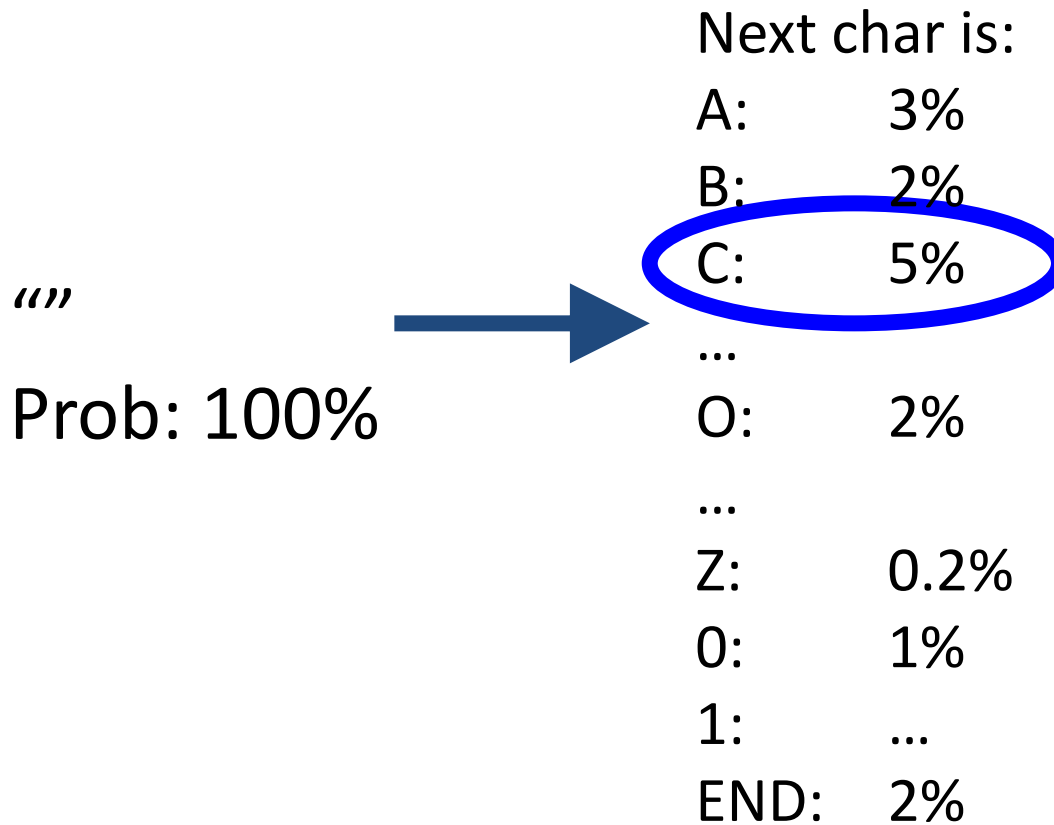
Z: 0.2%

0: 1%

1: ...

END: 2%

Generating Passwords



Generating Passwords

“C”

Prob: 5%



Generating Passwords

“C”

Prob: 5%



Next char is:

A: 10%

B: 1%

C: 4%

...

O: 8%

...

Z: 0.02%

0: 3%

1: ...

END: 6%

Generating Passwords

“C”
Prob: 5%



Next char is:

A: 10%

B: 1%

C: 4%

...

O: 8%

...

Z: 0.02%

0: 3%

1: ...

END: 6%

Generating Passwords

“CA”

Prob: 0.5%



Next char is:

A: 3%

B: 10%

C: 7%

...

O: 1%

...

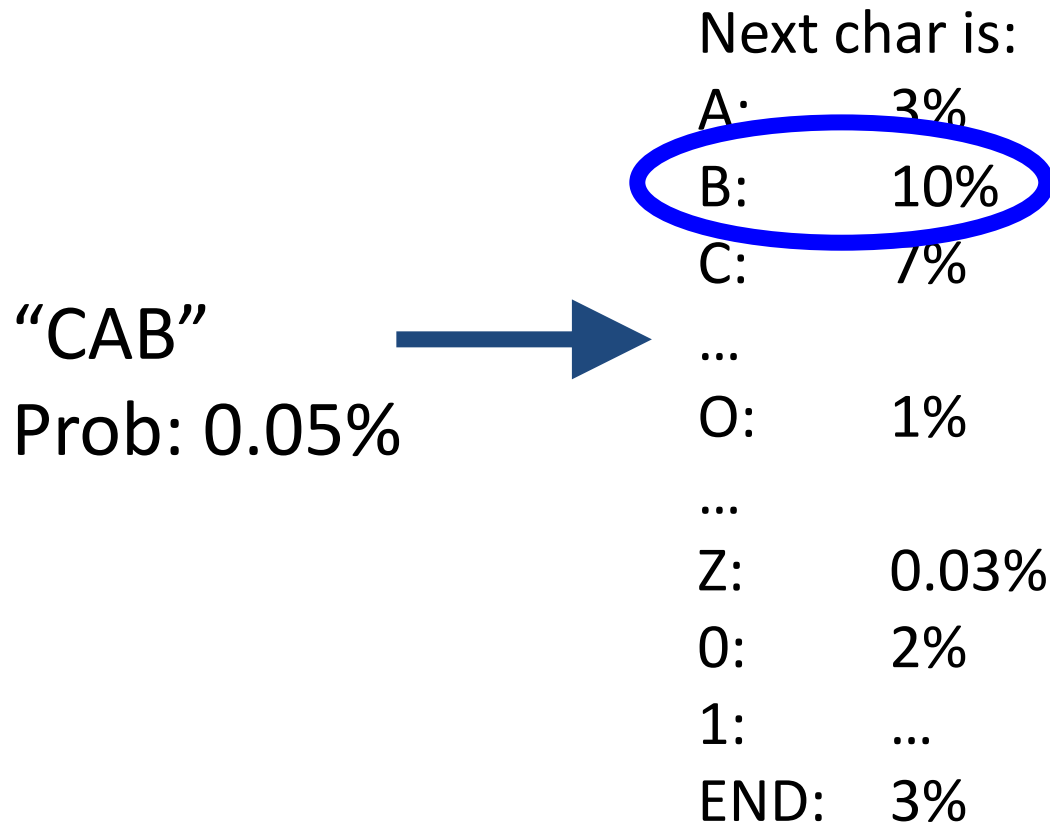
Z: 0.03%

0: 2%

1: ...

END: 12%

Generating Passwords



Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.05%



Next char is:

A: 4%

B: 3%

C: 1%

...

O: 2%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 4%

1: ...

END: 12%

Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.05%



Next char is:

A: 4%

B: 3%

C: 1%

...

O: 2%

...

Z: 0.01%

0: 4%

1: ...

END: 12%

Generating Passwords

“CAB”

Prob: 0.006%

Descending Probability Order

CAB -	0.006%
CAC -	0.0042%
ADD1 -	0.002%
CODE -	0.0013%
...	

Design Space

- Model size: 3mb (browser) vs. 60mb (GPU)
- Transference learning
 - Novel password-composition policies
- Training data
 - Natural language
- (Many others)

Key Results

- Neural networks produce better guesses than previous methods
- Larger model not a major advantage
- Browser implementation in Javascript

Intelligibility (Explanations)



Building a Data-Driven Meter

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Create Your Password". It has three input fields: "Username", "Password", and "Confirm Password". The "Password" field contains the text "Mypassword123" and has a red progress bar below it. A checkbox labeled "Show Password & Detailed Feedback" is checked. A blue "Continue" button is at the bottom right. A feedback panel on the right side of the form displays the message "Your password is very easy to guess." followed by three bullet points with blue square icons: "Don't use dictionary words (password)", "Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character", and "Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end". Each bullet point has a "(Why?)" link. Below the list, it suggests "A better choice: My123passwoRzd" and includes a link "How to make strong passwords".

Create Your Password

Username

Password

Mypassword123

Show Password & Detailed Feedback ☒

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password is very easy to guess.

- Don't use dictionary words (password) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: My123passwoRzd

[How to make strong passwords](#)

Blase Ur, Felicia Alfieri, Maung Aung, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, Jessica Colnago, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Henry Dixon, Pardis Emami Naeini, Hana Habib, Noah Johnson, William Melicher. Development and Evaluation of a Data-Driven Password Meter. In *Proc. CHI*, 2017.



We designed & tested a meter with:

- 1) Principled strength estimates
- 2) Data-driven feedback to users





- 1) Principled strength estimates (RNN)
- 2) Data-driven feedback to users





2) Data-driven feedback to users



Provide Intelligent Explanations

Unic0rns

Don't use simple transformations of words or phrases (**unicorns** → **Unic0rns**)

Capitalize a letter in the middle, rather than the first character

- 21 characteristics
- Weightings determined with regression

After Requirements Are Met...

Create Your Password

Username

blase

Password

.....

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)

See Your Password With Our Improvements

[How to make strong passwords](#)

...Displays Score Visually

[illegible]

...Provides Text Feedback

Create Your Password

Username

blase

Password

.....

Show Password & Detailed Feedback ☐

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password could be better.

■ Don't use dictionary words or words used on Wikipedia [\(Why?\)](#)

■ Consider inserting digits into the middle [\(Why?\)](#)

■ Consider making your password longer [\(Why?\)](#)

See Your Password With Our Improvements

[How to make strong passwords](#)

...Gives Detail (Password Shown)

Create Your Password

Username

blase

Password

CryptoUnicorn3|

Show Password & Detailed Feedback

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password could be better.

■ Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto) [\(Why?\)](#)

■ Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)

■ Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: C3ryptoUniCORN@

[How to make strong passwords](#)

...Offers Explanations

Create Your Password

Username

blase

Password

CryptoUnicorn3|

Show Password & Detailed Feedback ☒

Confirm Password

Continue

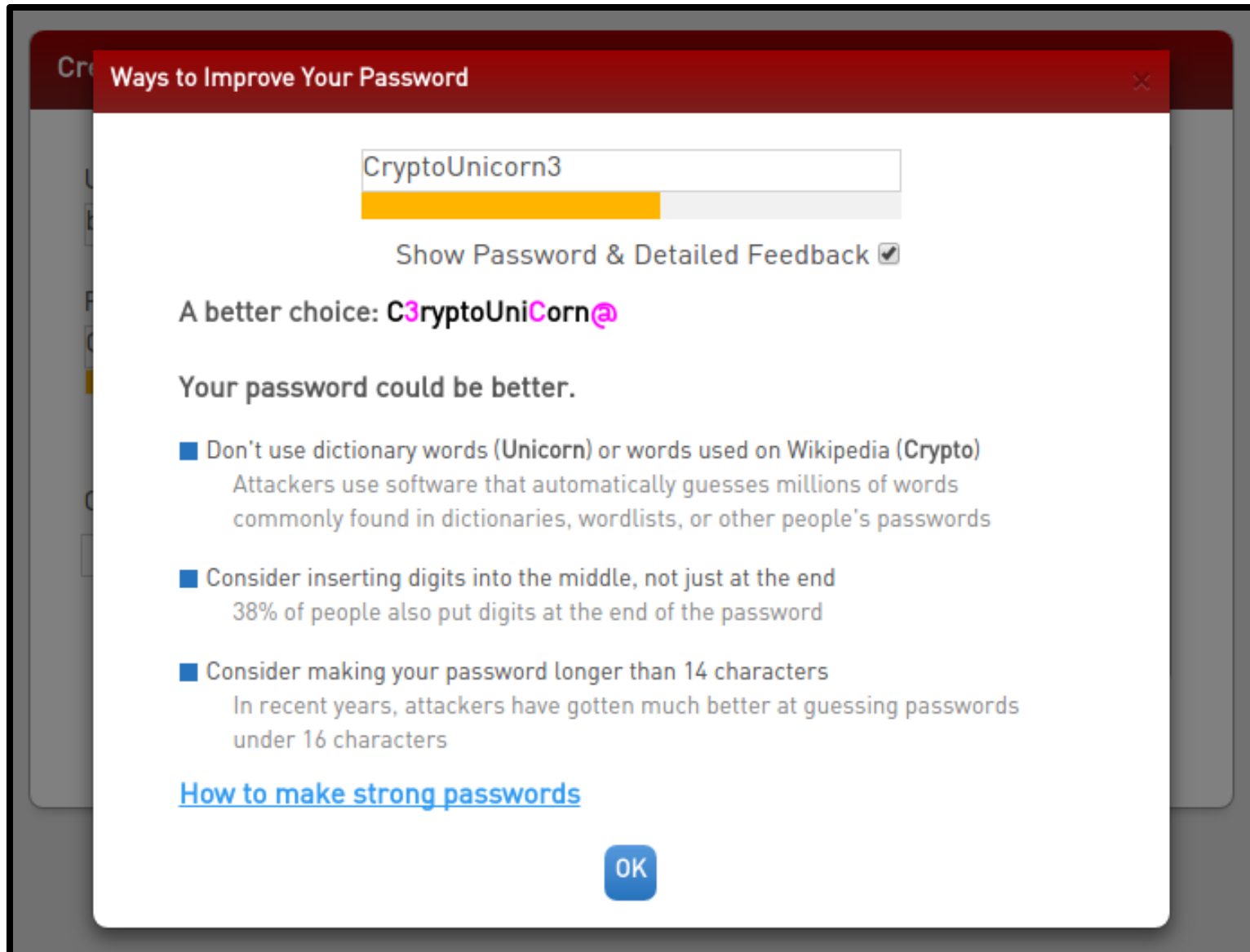
Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: C3ryptoUniC0rn@

[How to make strong passwords](#)

Explanations Shown in Modal



Standard Feedback

The image shows a web form titled "Create Your Password". It includes fields for "Username" (containing "blase"), "Password", and "Confirm Password". A "Continue" button is at the bottom. A feedback box on the right says "Your password could be better." and lists two suggestions: "Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto)" and "Consider making your password longer than 14 characters". Two red callout boxes highlight a suggested password: "A better choice: C3ryptoUniCorn@".

Create Your Password

Username
blase

Password

Confirm Password

Continue

Your password could be better.

- Don't use dictionary words (Unicorn) or words used on Wikipedia (Crypto) [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider making your password longer than 14 characters [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: C3ryptoUniCorn@

A better choice: C3ryptoUniCorn@

[How to make strong passwords](#)