Part C) Security Research – Sean MacCauley, Jesse Kinser, Darin Patrick, Carter Diebold

As our group worked throughout the semester on the issues of security and primarily the issue of mobile security, we gained a great insight into research and mobile technology. Quite possibly one of the most important things that we learned was the importance of understanding and preventing mobile security in the future. As we discussed in our project and presentation, services like WiFi, Bluetooth and applications present many different ways for a person’s personal information to be attacked via a cellular device. As cell phones evolve and their use expands, the practice of preventing attacks on cell phones will become an enormous topic.

Since cell phone use is clearly worldwide and only growing stronger, the prevalence of attacks are increasing and evolving quickly. Our group feels that further research in this area would be a very useful tool. Any time something as widely used as cell phones presents a potential problem to users, it should be studied and researched. It would be great if Indiana University were to get involved in researching the subject more actively. Since it is a new issue, universities need to step up and take on the task in order for us to learn and prevent future problems. A way that Indiana University could get more involved is by getting access to a student set of cell phones that can be used for research and development. This can be followed by obtaining the rights to edit the operating system (of android for instance) and allowing network testing of altered versions of the system. Our group feels like this is something we may enjoy researching and learning more about, especially after our project this semester and all of the useful information that we learned. It would be great if we could continue our research by writing, editing, and testing our security system on an actual android operated mobile device. It would be difficult to write and implement, but with the right resources it could be done.

Our group thinks that there is a great value to undergraduate research in the School of Informatics. Within our group discussions, we have come to the consensus that there are not enough research opportunities for undergraduates. We think it would be a great benefit to undergraduates if the professors that are currently working on research projects included students from their classes. As we found with this project, it is very difficult for undergraduates to do complete projects without the help of mentors or advisors. That said, it would be a great introduction into research if teachers allowed students to assist them, even if just to get a feel for what research is like. Professors in Informatics could begin to do this by mentioning that they need assistance with their research and are taking student volunteers that want to gain experience. If every professor that was doing research participated, we think the School of Informatics would see a great response and possibly an increased interest in research and graduate studies. Our group has not seen enough of this in our current course load and we believe this would be an easy and effective way to introduce students into undergraduate research.