

Blaming the cryptographic user

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Unrelated advertisement:

<http://nametags.cr.yp.to>

Cryptography promises
to provide confidentiality,
integrity, availability
against network attackers.

Oops, is cryptography
failing to meet this promise?

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Traditional response:
Blame the user.

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e.g. Padding-oracle attacks broke RSA SecurID 800 tokens?

“RSA reminds all of its customers to apply the latest OS security patches . . . An end user should remove the RSA SecurID 800 device from its USB port when not in use.”

e.g. Timing attacks extracted kernel's AES keys? “Don't allow untrusted code to run alongside your crypto code.”

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e.g. RSA-2048 painfully slow? User should have bought more hardware to handle the load.

A different response:

Build a cryptographic library
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<http://nacl.cr.yp.to>

Joint work with

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