

SA-13, the 13-item security attitude scale

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Directions to give to participants:

Each statement below describes how a person might feel about the use of security measures. Examples of security measures are laptop or tablet passwords, spam email reporting tools, software updates, secure web browsers, fingerprint ID, and anti-virus software.

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement. In each case, make your choice in terms of how you feel **right now**, not what you have felt in the past or would like to feel.

There are no wrong answers.

Response set:

1=Strongly disagree, 2=Somewhat disagree, 3=Neither disagree nor agree, 4=Somewhat agree, 5=Strongly agree

Items (randomize order if possible):

1. I seek out opportunities to learn about security measures that are relevant to me.
2. I am extremely motivated to take all the steps needed to keep my online data and accounts safe.
3. Generally, I diligently follow a routine for security practices.
4. I often am interested in articles about security threats.
5. I always pay attention to experts' advice about the steps I need to take to keep my online data and accounts safe.
6. I am extremely knowledgeable about all the steps needed to keep my online data and accounts safe.
7. I am too busy to put in the effort needed to change my security behaviors. (*reverse for computing full scale*)
8. I have much bigger problems than my risk of a security breach. (*reverse for computing full scale*)
9. There are good reasons why I do not take the necessary steps to keep my online data and accounts safe. (*reverse for computing full scale*)
10. I usually will not use security measures if they are inconvenient. (*reverse for computing full scale*)
11. I want to change my security behaviors to improve my protection against threats (e.g. phishing, computer viruses, identity theft, password hacking) that are a danger to my online data and accounts.

12. I want to change my security behaviors in order to keep my online data and accounts safe.
13. I worry that I'm not doing enough to protect myself against threats (e.g. phishing, computer viruses, identity theft, password hacking) that are a danger to my online data and accounts.

Scoring:

- **Engagement subscale (SA-6):** Mean of items 1, 3, 4
- **Attentiveness subscale (SA-6):** Mean of items 2, 5, 6
- **Resistance subscale:** Mean of items 7-10
- **Concernedness subscale:** Mean of items 11-13
- **Overall scale:** Reverse the Resistance items (recode responses as 6-r), then take the mean of all 13 items.

References:

Cori Faklaris, Laura Dabbish and Jason I. Hong. 2019. "A Self-Report Measure of End-User Security Attitudes (SA-6)." In *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2019)*, Aug. 11-13, 2019, in Santa Clara, CA, USA. USENIX Association, Berkeley, CA. Available at: <https://socialcybersecurity.org/files/SA6paper.pdf>

Cori Faklaris, Laura Dabbish, and Jason I. Hong. 2022. "Do They Accept or Resist Cybersecurity Measures? Development and Validation of the 13-Item Security Attitude Inventory (SA-13). arxiv preprint and white paper, 55 pages. Carnegie Mellon University. Available at: <https://socialcybersecurity.org/files/SA13paper.pdf>