

# SA-6, the six-item security attitude scale

Cori Faklaris, Laura Dabbish and Jason I. Hong, *Carnegie Mellon University*

## 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.

**Scoring:** Take the average of items 1 through 6.

For general reference, below is the score output reported to people who take our Security Attitude quiz at <https://socialcybersecurity.org/SA6quiz.html> :

- Less than 3.57 = *much lower than average score for a U.S. population sample*
- From 3.57 to 3.99 = *close to the average score for a U.S. population sample*
- More than 3.99 = *much higher than average score for a U.S. population sample*

**Reference:** 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. Preprint DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.29840.05125/3](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.29840.05125/3)