An Investigation on Jawi CAPTCHA Based Security for Login Authentication and Authorization: Is It an Alternative Solution?

Sakinah Ali Pitchay, Nur Nabihah Mohd Suhaimi, Madihah Mohd Saudi, Farida Ridzuan, Nurlida Basir and N.F.Nabila

Abstract—Authentication plays a significant role in computer security to validate human users. CAPTCHA is one of human interaction proof test to verify whether user is a human or a computer program. It has become a very popular security mechanism used to prevent any automated abuse of online services which is intended for human user. The test usually is provided in the authentication phase where the user will be directed to the next page if they are authorized. From the login site, an attacker creates a program exploiting the username and password to get into a website. Recently, there are a lot of different types of CAPTCHA available on the internet. However, most of them have been successfully attacked by automated programs. Thus, this paper investigates existing related works on CAPTCHA which focus on login authentication and authorization by proposes a different approach using Jawi script. Based on investigations of the systematic review and preliminary findings, it shows that this is the first work that proposed using a different script and possible future directions for producing more reliable human/computer distinguishers. Future works will develop an alternative and stronger CAPTCHA to prevent breaking cyber-attack such as dictionary attack while maintaining ease of implementation on website and ease of use for human by reducing the difficulties on reading the CAPTCHA.

Index Terms— Jawi CAPTCHA, Authentication, Authorization, cyber-attack

I. INTRODUCTION

CAPTCHA is a short form of Completely Automated Public Turning Test to tell Computers and Humans Apart. Login services are major phase that exist in most application of website on the internet. As the usage of web services is increasing, the higher the chances of malicious

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Sakinah Ali Pitchay is with the Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Malaysia. Currently she is a senior lecturer in Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) and also Associate Fellow with Institute Science Islam. (corresponding author: sakinah.ali@usim.edu.my) *Member, IAENG*.

Nur Nabihah Mohd Suhaimi is a Bachelor of Computer Science in Information Security and Assurance student in FST, USIM.

Madihah Mohd Saudi is the Associate Professor, Farida Ridzuan, Nurlida Basir and N.F.Nabila are senior lecturer in FST, USIM.

programs attack on it. CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart) test can solve the probability of being attacked as it prevents various websites from bots program that are created to attack any network resources. Bots are short form from 'robot' which is also a type of malware takes control over an affected computer.

According to [11], a good quality CAPTCHA test should the following characteristics: (i) Content of CAPTCHA can be easily understood by human, (ii) Quick and consume less time, (iii) Suitable for all types of bots abuse. CAPTCHA must be highly secure and easy to use [11]. The previous works on CAPTCHA discuss that many versions of CAPTCHA have been proposed, developed and should not be only difficult to solve by computer programs, but should also friendly [19]. Many companies provide free services, however in the meantime, they suffered from attacks such as dictionary attack, password attack and brute force attack. Therefore, to solve this problem, CAPTCHA can be applied as it will ensure only human obtains an account and CAPTCHA is used to protect all the services on the websites [15]. The following section will identify the problems related to CAPTCHA and are summarised as follows:

A. Difficulties on reading the text-based CAPTCHA

The previous text-based CAPTCHA tried to make the test easier for human user and difficult enough for computer programs and bot [19]. However, the efforts including created a strong and complex CAPTCHA of many schemes that have background, lead to confusions, blurring, and tilting of text which may make it hard enough for human user to pass the test. Addition of background confusion and twisting of test may cause recognition and usability problem for human user to read the CAPTCHA.

B. Requires a large database for video and audio captcha

All CAPTCHA apart from text-based CAPTCHA provides a greater security. However, it is lack in terms of space availability which consumes large size of space to upload those types of CAPTCHA on the website [13]. The usage of video and audio based CAPTCHA tests need larger database and may face usability problem as user need to download or view and listen to it first before the user can solve the test. Thus, the scheme should be simple and at the same

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- time, it is secured enough to avoid abuses from bots.
- C. Existing English text-based CAPTCHA had been commonly attacked

For the text-based CAPTCHA, researchers keep developing another language of CAPTCHA such as in Arabic, Persian and Latin as English text-based CAPTCHA have been attacked by dictionary attack [16]. Therefore, there is a need to develop another script of CAPTCHA that never been implemented yet.

Based on the identified problems, this paper proposes a new text-based CAPTCHA using Jawi script for login authentication and authorization. It is hoped that this work can increase the security of login services and can solve the hardness user faced while solving the CAPTCHA. Jawi Script has special characteristics which differs from another script. It looks almost similar to Arabic Script except 6 letters. Jawi script contains 35 letters and they are written from right to left like Arabic. Jawi script is used limited by certain country such as in Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Hence, Jawi script as text-based CAPTCHA is more secured as it is a new method in this security field.

The remainder of the paper is organised as follow. In Section II, we discuss the login mechanism for security purposes. Section III summarizes the types of CAPTCHA and section IV highlights the related works. Alternative approach is proposed in Section V and followed by preliminary findings in Section VI. Finally, conclusions and future work are discussed in Section VII.

II. LOGIN MECHANISM

There are two types of login mechanism. Method in [11] used template matching and polynomial fitting algorithm to estimate the baseline.

A. Authentication

Authentication is the act in security where it is the process of determining the identity of a user [18]. There are many reasons why authentication is needed for any services. The main purpose of authentication is to verify the status of the user is a human or a machine which attempts to interact with the system getting the permission to login. Secondly, authentication is used to gather information regarding the way of user is accessing the system. Some of strategies that are usually used to identify a user are:

- Username and password: The typical one and the simplest. It is one of the approaches to identify someone because it is fully software-based.
- Physical security device: A physical device that is used to identify a person. In this case, a password or personal identification number (PIN) is also required to ensure that it is the right person.
- Biometric identification: Biometrics is the process of identifying someone using physical characteristics on user body such as voice recognition and thumbprints. It is assumed as strongest third-party authentication.
- User Based authentication: This common form of authentication whereby user use his login id and password that one registered and stored in system database which are validated under credentials.

- Smart Card based authentication: It is known as a second factor authentication which store cryptographic data inside the card.
- Grid Based authentication: It is a second factor authentication which is provided by entrust identity guard.
- Knowledge Based Authentication (KBA): This facility provides additional confidence in user's identity to challenge attacker that is unbreakable. This scheme can ask the user to answer at least one 'secret' question to confirm information about user that already known through registration process like cross verification. KBA is frequently used as an element in multifactor authentication and for self-service password.
- One Time Password (OTP): It is a dynamically generated password which is valid for once only. Thus, when the hacker hacks this password he cannot used it for the second time.

B. Authorization

Authorization is the process of determining the privilege for the user whether they are permitted to access the system or not. Similarly, authorization verifies what the user is authorized to do.

III. ISSUES IN CAPTCHA

Table 1 summarizes on comparison types of CAPTCHA [4-5]. The types of attack usually exist in the authentication and authorization phase are as follows. There are two common types of attack which are brute-force attack and dictionary attack. The brute-force attack involves the activity of trial and illegal method used by application programs to decode encrypted data such as password or Data Encryption Standard (DES) keys [13]. This attack usually focuses on breaking of password. In dictionary attack, one of the basic attacks to break into password-protected computer or server by systematically enters every word in a dictionary as a password. It is also can be used to find the necessary keys to decrypt an encrypted message or document.

IV. RELATED EXISTING WORKS

From Table 2, it shown that another type of CAPTCHA is more secured than text-based CAPTCHA. However, in terms of usability text-based CAPTCHA is the most easily implemented and low-cost program compared to others. Language apart from English, is more secured as there is no evidence or research that showing Arabic CAPTCHA is vulnerable to attack. Jawi script and Arabic script is very similar to each other, only a few letters exist in Jawi but absent in Arabic script. For the text-based CAPTCHA, words other than English letter are more secured. Therefore, this paper proposes the text-based CAPTCHA in Jawi text since the English CAPTCHA has been attacked by the dictionary attack.

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TABLE I COMPARISON ON THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES FOR EACH TYPE OF CAPTCHA

Types of CAPTCHA	Strength	Weaknesses
Text based	1) Easy to be implemented on website.	1) Some user having a problem to insert the right input.
CAPTCHA	2) Battle Text-based CAPTCHA able to defeat	Causes of confusion are as follows:
	dictionary attacks.	Use of multiple lines.
	3) Re-CAPTCHA Text-based CAPTCHA always uses	Generation of multiple shapes.
	new dictionary words and unable to be break by	Using various fonts.
	optical character recognition.	Font size unstable.
		Strong blurred letters.
		2) Text-based CAPTCHAs easily can be broken by
		OCR techniques (e.g: Content based image retrieval).
		3) User with low level of visibility can hardly pass the
		test.
Images based	1) Simple click based system. Does not require user to	1) Users with low vision or because of blurring in the
CAPTCHA	type the words.	images face a problem of image identification.
	2) Image-based CAPTCHA pattern recognition of image	
	is using tough artificial intelligence (AI) program.	
Audio based	1) Employed for user who have impaired vision	1) Available only in English. User needs to have a
CAPTCHA	involving audio clip.	comprehensive English vocabulary.
	2) User-friendly.	2) Possibility of character having similar sound.
		3) Not effective for dumb user or user with low level of
77'1 1 1	1) 11 14 1 1 1 1 0 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	listening.
Video based CAPTCHA	Hard to break using Optical Character Recognition (OCR).	1) Large size of file, may cause user having a problem
САРТСПА		of downloading the video to answer the test.
	2) In certain cases, it provides greater security than other type of CAPTCHA.	2) Need to replay if unable to catch up with the speed of video.
Puzzle based	Similar to a game.	1) Consumes more times to solve the test.
CAPTCHA	2) Able to help user train their minds.	2) User cannot organize the puzzle within a short time.
	3) User can communicate more with this CAPTCHA	2) Oser cannot organize the puzzle within a short time.
	system as it is like a game.	
	by seem as it is like a game.	

TABLE II DIFFERENTIATION OF JAWI ALPHABET AND ARABIC ALPHABET COMPARISON OF RELATED EXISTING WORKS ON CAPTCHA

Wor	Feature	Strength	Drawback
k	reature	Strength	Drawback
2015	Password is based on the image	Security is more ensured. Only the legal	If the user forgot the sequence, they
	selection which requires the user to	user knows what kind of colour image	made as there is no backup password is
[7]	choose the colour of the image selected	selected and in what sequence they chose	provided.
	and in what sequence for the	for the authentication during registration.	
	authentication during the registration.		
2015	CAPTCHA is designed in ASP.net	Can be solved easily as they do not have	A problem might raise if there are user
54.03	under Visual Studio platform with C#	to type the whole word but only need to	who cannot read or understand the
[19]	which is easy to be implemented on the	provide word according to the associated	query description. (e.g: Type the third
	computer.	query.	word)
2015	II A A L L CARTOLIA A		TI CADECHA '141 1 14
2015	Use text-based CAPTCHA that	Combination of two text based captcha	The CAPTCHA might be hard to
[15]	includes both digit and letter.	increased the hardness of program bot to	recognized since the type of the letter
[15]	CaRP is a combination of Captcha and	break into the system Graphical password is resistant to attacks	is very complex Consumed a lot of database and
2013	graphical password scheme.	such as relay attack and shoulder-surfing	computer program.
[25]	graphical password scheme.	with dual view technologies.	computer program.
2014	Three group of images involved in this	Uses text password as well as graphical	Future work is based on the pattern as
2014	graphical password are famous places,	password to provide protection against	it is smaller in term of memory space.
[21]	famous people, and reputed company	different attack such as shoulder surfing	it is smaller in term of memory space.
[21]	name.	attack, dictionary attack, brute force	
	User clicks on the selected images	attack	
	during the registration phase to be used		
	as a password.		
	*		

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	Also used text password.		
2017	-Graphical scheme: Recognition	Improves the usability and the security	Prototype produced was not suitable in
	Based, pure-called based and cued	during the authentication	mobile version.
[1]	recall based.		
	-Graphical authentication combining		
	pattern and a background image.		
2016	Use the technique of Pair Based	Password is more secured as the	User can be confused to choose the
2010	authentication scheme onto CAPTCHA	CAPTCHA having common element in	letter of CAPTCHA in the form of row
[12]	Creates a matrix to arrange the	selecting row and column	and column
[12]	<u> </u>	selecting fow and column	and Column
****	characters, numbers, and images.		
2016	Login method that includes a voice	Reduce the degree of attack on the	Problem could happen if the user
	recognition system	password break.	computer does not have a microphone
[10]	The voice will be stored in the		to record the voice recognition.
	password database		
2015	CaRP stand for CAPTCHA as	Graphical password consists of pixels	Need to consume a lot of space since it
	Graphical Password	embedded in the picture	combines the two type of password
[2]	It uses the images to provide	Hard for the program bot to define the	which is image and CAPTCHA text-
	authentication.	pixels and break the CAPTCHA.	based
	Image password will appear in the first	_	
	place before the CAPTCHA image		
2014	Consist of BarCAPTCHA,	Difficult for BOT program to distinguish	Consumes a lot of computer memory
2014	TransparentCAPTCHA and	on which bars represent text and noise.	to run this program.
[17]	ThreadCAPTCHA	Pixels used to represent text and nother	to run uns program.
[1/]	TilleauCAFTCHA	_	
		object in the CAPTCHA image hardly	
		can be found by the computer program.	
2014	Focus on click-based graphical	Sound signature is used to help user to	Lots of database are required to store
	password scheme called Cued Click	recall the forgotten graphical password	and process the audio file.
[22]	Points (CCP)	It is proved to have good performance in	
	A password consists of sequence of	terms of speed, accuracy, and ease of use.	
	images in which user can select one		
	click-point per image.		
	User is also required to select a sound		
	signature correlated to each click point		
	as the sound signature is used to help		
	the user in recalling the click point on		
	an image.		
2013	The CAPTCHA image is distorted by	Proposed to prevent automated-bots and	Dots background may cause confusion
2013	adding various types of noises in the	help the user during the authentication	to read the word.
[16]	background whether in the form of	process	to read the word.
[16]	dots, lines, and arcs	_	
	dots, fines, and arcs	Number of characters, font types, font	
2011		sizes make it hard for OCR to read.	
2011	Uses algorithm to find key-points of	Secure and very hard to be cracked	Low resolution of the image produced
	input images against database images	because the CAPTCHA requires the user	
[24]	using Robust Scale-invariant feature	to follow the hand gesture displayed	
	transform (SIFT)	which is impossible for the bot program	
		to do	
2011	Involves setting of technique in the	Exploit the difference in the reading	Limited to certain people that
	obfuscator module to produce	effectiveness between humans and	interacting in the Deva script.
[26]	DevaCAPTCHA robustness.	computer programs.	
-		Increase the security of Indian language	
		based applications	
2008	Convert a textual CAPTCHA into a	Improving usability of text-based	Can cause a confusion for some humar
2000	clickable CAPTCHA.	CAPTCHA	user to key in the input required by the
[0]		CALICIA	
[9]	Combines multiple CAPTCHA text in		CAPTCHA system
	a grid which consists of English and		
	some other languages.		
	Need to click on the English text		
	САРТСНА.		
2010	Algorithm is based on Chellapillas	CAPTCHA image can be quickly	Too much cluttering line and character

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	T .		,
[14]	Preprocessing, Image Opening,		effort to read the CAPTCHA.
	Labeling, Component Splitting and		
	Character Extracting		
	The CAPTCHA implemented with the		
	cluttering line and character wrapping		
2010	CAPTCHA solver (breaking) uses	Increase of robustness and build secured	Lot of process need to be performed
	modules like Pre-processing,	CAPTCHA to provides secured online	and the usage of EZ Gimpy
[6]	segmentation, and character	authentication.	CAPTCHA has already being attacked.
	recognition.		
	Use Pattern Matching technique gives		
	high accuracy where it used 8		
	neighbours segmentation algorithms in		
	which characters are not connected.		
2006	The usage of Persian or Arabic word as	User able to recognize the words easily	Similarity of the background colour
	text-based CAPTCHA	but not computer programs.	with the text colour causes the user
[23]			cannot easily recognized the word
			displayed.
			The existence of random lines which
			made the recognition of dots in the
			word is impossible in some cases.
2004	Consist of image CAPTCHA that	Bot program can hardly detect the image	Mislabeling problems that lead human
	required the user to key in the input on	displayed and cannot do the dictionary	to falsely insert the input for the
[8]	the image displayed (e.g. ball, bus)	attack.	САРТСНА.
E-3			Less image is presented in CAPTCHA
			per round causing the deflate of the
			computer performance.
2003	Algorithm A is used to find words in	Affordable space is needed for creating	Gimpy and EZ Gimpy CAPTCHA are
	the image works from the bottom up	this technique.	already exposed to the dictionary
[20]	starting with visual cues and	User-friendly.	attack.
[20]	incorporates lexical information.	Reduces the set of words into the	The cost to fix the problem is quite
	Algorithm B created to find entire	manageable size using pruning technique.	costly.
	words at once instead of looking for	managenesis size using pruning teeninque.	
	letters.		
	icucis.		

V. ALTERNATIVE APPROACH: JAWI SCRIPT

In the previous years, Jawi script became the first script used among the Malay, Indonesian as well as Bruneian. Nowadays, Jawi script are still included in educational module specifically in Asean countries such in Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. It is said to be almost similar with the Arabic letters excepts for a few words. Recent work in [3] employs Arabic word and claim as the first to generate Arabic handwritten CAPTCHAs. However, pronunciation between Arabic and Jawi script are different where Jawi script could be written as in Malay medium language and with the additional of six characters in Jawi alphabet. The list of Arabic script and Jawi script are presented in Table 2. Thus, this paper proposes an alternative solution by providing another text-based CAPTCHA using Jawi script. The user can choose on the language based on familiarity either English or Jawi script text based CAPTCHA.

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm TABLE\,III} \\ {\rm DIFFERENTIATION\,OF\,JAWI\,ALPHABET\,AND\,ARABIC} \\ {\rm ALPHABET} \end{array}$

Twenty-nine characters of the Jawi alphabet similar
to Arabic alphabet:
(a) , (b) , $$ (t) , $$ (tha) , (j) , (\hat{E}) , $$ (kh) , $$ (d) , $$
(dh), (r), (z), (sh), (sh), (1), (1/4) ف $(1/4), (1/4)$ ف $(1/4), (1/4)$
(n), غ ('), غ (gh) في (f), في (gh) في (gh) في ((q), غ ('), غ ('), غ
(u), هـ (h), و ('), و (y).
The added six characters only in Jawi Alphabet:
(ny). پ (c), ک (ng) ث (p), گ (g), dan پ (ny).

VI. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

To identify the requirements needed for the system, two methods for information gathering are investigated. The review of previous works and the second technique is by conducting an online survey on Jawi-text CAPTCHA. 4 close-ended and 1 open-ended questions have been answered by 146 respondents from random background area in Malaysia. The significant findings are summarised in Figure 1 - 5.

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Fig. 1. 90% are familiar and 10% are not familiar with CAPTCHA to measure the familiarity.

The first question concludes majority of the user are familiar with the CAPTCHA.

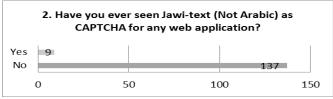


Fig. 2. 6% have seen and 94% have never seen Jawi-text CAPTCHA

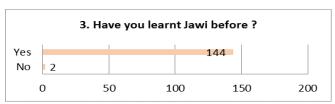


Fig. 3. 6% have seen and 94% have never see Jawi-text CAPTCHA



Fig. 4. 99% can read and write in Jawi-text and 1% could not.

Second question is a survey on existence of Jawi-text based CAPTCHA over the internet. User that answered "Yes" are required to identify the website that used Jawi-text. Unfortunately, none of them answered the question. This shows that the respondents unable to recall where the Jawi-text based CAPTCHA is being implemented and not widely used on the website or probably confused with the Arabic CAPTCHA. Third question is to analyse the knowledge of Jawi within respondents. It concludes that most of the user prefers Jawi-text based and able to recognize the displayed text.

5. Which of the following category that you prefer to write in Jawi-text as CAPTCHA? Please choose only two (2) category that you find the easiest as for Jawi text-based CAPTCHA.

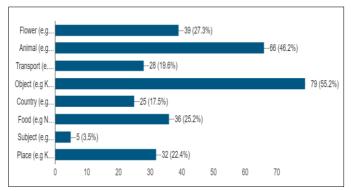


Fig. 5. Object (i.e: chair, table) received the highest number of votes as the easiest Jawi-text based CAPTCHA to be implemented. The second highest is animal and the most less voted is subject (i.e: Mathematics, Science).

Fourth question measures the total number of user who can read and write in Jawi-text. Hence, in terms of usability, Jawi-text based CAPTCHA is not a big issue for country that utilizes Jawi as one of the reading material. The final question is to identify the most suitable types to be implemented for the login authorization. Based on the preliminary findings, Jawi-text based CAPTCHA is proposed as the alternative secured solution and object was chosen as the category of word to be written digitally in Jawi character.

VII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper investigates different kinds of CAPTCHA that have been developed till recent. A systematic review has been investigated, login mechanism, types of CAPTCHA and identify the strength and drawbacks on related existing works. In future, focus will be on text-based CAPTCHA using Jawi script that provides high quality of security that preventing the system from bot abuse. Though the proposed work is limited to countries that utilizes Jawi script, but it is recommended to have an alternative approach for English text-based CAPTCHA due to increasing of cyber-attacks such as dictionary attack, password attack and brute force attack.

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