

Dubious Computing Conventions -- that hurt us.

- **Speaker:** Aaron Peterson
 - * **Room:** CC 235
 - * **Time:** Sun 9:30 am – 10:00 am
- **Format:** Lecture (30 Min + Q&A)
 - * **Difficulty:** Introductory
 - * **Track:** Security / Privacy
 - * **Presenter Location:** In-person
 - * **Experience:** several-th time speaking

Description:

Our computer systems will fail — often without even trying. As developers and designers, we *can* and *should* protect users from unexpected errors, data loss, and the many pitfalls baked into decades of computing conventions.

This talk categorizes harmful or fragile conventions into five groups: **Physical**, **Legacy**, **New-for-Newness**, **Cultural**, and **Security**. Aaron explores why some corner cases are so difficult that we collectively ignore them, even though addressing them would require only thoughtful defaults and better user-interaction patterns.

Examples include:

- Filesystem case sensitivity
 - * Character encoding chaos
 - * Mis-clicks and

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