

To Amy Brown.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to start by thanking both my advisers. *Mike* was always available, a good friend, with amazing insights and advice (often on personal topics) for a green bean as myself. Be it 2 am or 2 pm I knew he was going to be there with a good word or a sharp research remark. Through his ways he made me experience and understand respect and restraint. I owe much of the enjoyment I get out of research writing to *Sunil* and his many great eye-opening perspectives, including on social dimensions of academia and the much debated peer-review process. It was invaluable to experience his entire tenure process parallel my graduate studies and succeed. I was extremely lucky to have the academic parents I had. I never had to worry about funding, going to (often expensive) conferences and organizing my own schedule. Thank you. Growing up now, “away from home”, I will miss you.

I want to thank *Amy Brown*. For being. *Bogdan Carbunar*, my long-term apartment mate and good friend. *Melissa Dyehouse* for allowing me to teach her skiing and putting up with me for weeks through Europe. *Daniel Aliaga* for the racquetball, mountain biking and car races. *Nicoleta Neagu*, for being there. *Ion Constantinescu*, for shelter, skiing and personality. *Mirela Mustata* for driving through rain, snow and mud for me, in times when I needed a friend. *Jens Palsberg* for the great comedy club experiences and friendship. *Irina Athanasiu* for Pizza Hut. *Murat Kantargioglu*, for Tomatina. *Ladislau Boloni* for latex (the digital kind). *Ton Kalker* for the insights into issues of high dimensionality of usability spaces and friendship. *Dr. Gorman*, clearly the most important person in our department, for great conversations during empty campus holiday weeks, for advice, help and insights into the intricacies of academic bureaucracy. *Renate Mallus* for dancing and smiling. The friends from the Vienna Coffee-shop including *Olga*, *Shared*, *Jacques*, *Mercan* and *Umut*. For games, fun and a great atmosphere.

I would also like to thank my teachers at Purdue. *Doug Comer* for his PhD topic generator and his great TCP/IP class. *Susanne Hambrusch* for the great advice on the association between flower-power and academics. The members of my PhD committee (*Jens Palsberg*, *Elisa Bertino* and *Samuel Wagstaff*) for useful advice and insights. *Debbie Frantz* and the entire staff at CERIAS for great chats and help with speedy travel reimbursements. *Dan Marinescu* for guidance and help in my first year at Purdue. *Eugene Spafford* (*Spaf*) for a great research environment at CERIAS.

I thank my parents for coming up with the idea of having me, my father (1935-2003) for teaching me the power of work and persistence. There are creations out there that become relevant after they cease to exist, often leaving a bitter taste of things that could've been on a backdrop of things that actually were. My mother, for too many things, including reading the Dialogues of Socrates to a three and a half year old version of me as bed-time stories.

I want to thank all of the above and those many others that I ought to but probably forgot due to being stressed and growing older. My graduate student years were the most amazing and fun years in my life so far and you all were a big part of this experience. Thank you.