

Ryan Mahoney

Research topic

For my research topic, I want to research authentication and access to files and pages on a server. Specifically I will look at how systems such as novasis allow a student to see only their own pages and information that is allowed for them. I will also look at how to keep private files on a server not meant to be accessed externally. This will include how to set up secure permissions and authentication for files.

The summer before freshman year I discovered a flaw within novasis that allowed user's access to their housing assignments before the files were released to the user. It was a simple flaw that can be avoided through what I believe are simple security means. For this reason, I wish to research the topic further. I find it very interesting as this security problem is pertinent to our Villanova Community. If it is easy to access a page that should be restricted, it could also be possible that someone could also access much more important unauthorized pages.

I plan to give a presentation to the class talking about this topic.