

# Information Privacy: Current and Future Research Directions

Masooda Bashir, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Heng Xu, The Pennsylvania State University

April Lambert, Graduate Student, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Hsiao-Ying Huang, Graduate Student, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

## Abstract

As more and more data is collected, concerns about information privacy become more and more salient. Information privacy is an inter- and multi-disciplinary subject relevant to researchers throughout the iSchools community. This full-day workshop will bring researchers together to discuss current and future research directions in information privacy and how iSchools can respond to the forthcoming National Privacy Research Strategy. Through a keynote presentation, plenary speakers, position papers, and group discussion, participants will explore current privacy research issues and their relevance to information research conducted by the iSchools community. Privacy scholars may submit position papers on their research projects and future directions to the workshop website for selection for presentation during the afternoon of the workshop. In addition to discussions of the presentations, during breakout sessions the workshop participants will seek to define new information privacy research questions for future work by iSchools scholars.

**Keywords:** information privacy; data protection; privacy paradox; personally identifying information; confidential information

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**Contact:** mnb@illinois.edu; hxu@nsf.gov; adlambe2@illinois.edu; hhuang65@illinois.edu

## 1 Description, Purpose & Relevance

Information privacy is a inter- and multi-disciplinary subject relevant to researchers throughout the iSchools community (Smith, Dinev, and Xu, 2011). As more and more data is collected, particularly about online users, concerns about information privacy become more and more salient. Information privacy is a crucial topic for understanding the digital world (Regan, 2002), and multiple stakeholders in the information transfer cycle have an interest in understanding the privacy concerns and expectations of users (Smith, Dinev, and Xu, 2011). Privacy concerns arise at multiple stages of the information transfer cycle, and a number of researchers have begun to tackle this issue. For example, current research on information privacy includes topics such as understanding the privacy concerns of online users (Tsai et al., 2011), examining the paradox between users' stated privacy concerns and privacy-related behaviors (Young & Quan-Haase, 2013), developing privacy-enhancing technologies (Parra-Arnau, Rebollo-Monedero & Forné, 2015), assessing privacy protections for library patrons (Magi, 2010), and defining privacy-sensitive archival practices (Chunrong, 2014). We propose this workshop as a venue in which iSchools scholars who are doing research related to information privacy can come together to share the breadth of their work, learn from other iSchool researchers in the field, and discuss an education and research agenda regarding information privacy for the iSchool community.

Therefore, we propose a full-day workshop with a maximum of 50 participants that would focus on discussing the iSchools community's current research in information privacy and providing the opportunity to develop new research questions on the topic. Such a workshop would also allow researchers to develop collaborative relationships around information privacy research. The workshop would allow

iSchools information privacy researchers to respond to and discuss the forthcoming National Privacy Research Strategy (<https://www.nitrd.gov/cybersecurity/nationalprivacyresearchstrategy.aspx>) and the “Towards a Privacy Research Roadmap for the Computing Community” produced by Computing Community Consortium (<http://cra.org/ccc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/01/CCC-National-Privacy-Research-Strategy.pdf>). Invited speakers will be solicited to discuss the research agenda set by the strategy and roadmap and to discuss how iSchools can contribute to this research. We also propose developing a website to solicit position papers regarding the relevance and importance of iSchools’ researchers work to fulfilling the goals set out in the strategy and roadmap. Based upon submissions, the organizers will select papers for presentation that discuss the state of current information privacy research and potential directions for future research in light of these documents. We hope that the position papers submitted for this workshop will reflect the diversity of research on this topic within the iSchools community. The number of papers selected will depend on submissions.

The workshop will also include small group discussions by attendees around the research agenda set forth in the roadmap. Topics will include the measurement of privacy, the social science of privacy, security for privacy, the engineering of privacy, and policy for privacy, all of which are set forth in the roadmap. Notes from these small groups discussions could be collected and made available for participants and other researchers on the workshop’s website and/or in a depository such as IDEALS or be submitted as a workshop proceeding to a journal. The workshop will conclude with the small groups reporting back to the larger group on their discussions and a group discussion about a future research around information privacy.

## 2 Goals/Outcomes

The goal of the workshop would be to bring together the iSchools community’s Information Privacy researchers and to collaborate in setting the research agenda for this topic. Additional goals include promoting interest in this research area, encouraging researchers in related areas to consider the relevance of information privacy issues to their research, and providing a forum to foster collaboration among iSchools’ researchers.

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