

Apu Kapadia and Steven J. Murdoch

Editors' Introduction

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It is our great pleasure to introduce the second issue of PoPETs, an open access journal that publishes articles accepted to the annual Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS). Articles submitted to this issue were reviewed by an Editorial Board of 66 members, who are internationally recognized researchers in the field of computer security and privacy.

Starting with PETS 2015, the PET Board, which oversees PETS, decided to follow a hybrid conference-journal model following in the footsteps of PVLDB.¹ A hybrid model brings journal-style reviewing to conferences to improve the quality of papers as well as to provide more predictable, but rigorously peer-reviewed, paths to acceptance for authors. Authors can submit papers to multiple deadlines per year, when their work has matured to the point of submission, and decisions are provided at predictable schedules. Furthermore, papers that are rejected in one round are eligible for re-submission in subsequent rounds. Recognizing the need to increase the availability of the publication, PoPETs is now published under the open-access Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license.

To avoid conflicts of interest, the editorial board membership was published before submissions were opened and authors were asked to identify members who should not review their paper. In addition editorial board members were asked to identify any conflicts of interest that authors did not list, and the editorial board chairs also checked for any missed conflicts. Editorial board members were welcome to submit papers, but the board chairs were not.

There were 73 submissions to the second issue of PoPETs, each of which was assigned for review by 4 members of the editorial board. Where necessary external experts were recruited to review certain papers. The 6 submissions which were invited to resubmit after originally being reviewed for the first issue were re-

assigned the same reviewers in the second issue. Following the double-blind review, there was intensive discussion among the reviewers, other members of the editorial board and the chairs, and a consensus decision was reached. One reviewer was then selected to write a meta-review which summarised the conclusion of the discussion and justification for the decision. Of the 73 submissions, 5 were accepted and 12 were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions. One editorial board member was assigned as a shepherd for each paper which required minor revisions and asked to ensure that during the 3 weeks allowed for the production of the camera-ready version the important points from the meta-review were addressed. All 12 such papers were ultimately accepted and are published here. We owe special thanks to Erman Ayday, Marina Blanton, Sky Farber, Ryan Henry, Amir Herzberg, Mohamed Ali (Dali) Kaafar, Yoshi Kohno, Brian Levine, Marc Liberatore, Ashwin Machanavajjhala, Reza Shokri, and Paul Syverson for the effort they've put into ensuring that these important changes were made.

A further 15 submissions were invited to resubmit to a future issue of PoPETs after having made major revisions in order to address issues identified in the meta-review which the reviewers considered would take longer than the available time for making minor revisions would allow. Provided these papers are submitted to the next PoPETs submission deadline these papers will be reviewed by the same editorial board members if possible and judged against how well the authors have addressed the points raised in the meta-review.

The remaining 41 papers were not accepted due to them not being considered sufficiently close to the topics listed in the call for papers or due to there being issues which it was unclear could be addressed within the 4 months allowed for a resubmission. In this case the meta-review endeavoured to provide constructive comments to the authors to allow them to improve their paper. Authors would still be permitted to resubmit to PoPETs but in which case they would be reviewed as new submissions by new members of the editorial board.

The 17 accepted papers from Issue 2 will join the 6 submissions accepted for Issue 1 to form the program for PETS 2015 to be held on June 30 – July 2, 2015 in Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA. We also continue to host the one-day Workshop on Hot Topics on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (HotPETs), now in

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¹ <http://www.vldb.org/pvldb/index.html>

its eighth year. HotPETS encourages the lively discussion of exciting but possibly preliminary ideas. As with previous years there are no published proceedings for HotPETS, allowing authors to refine their work based on feedback received and publish it at a future PETS or elsewhere. This year, PETS is co-located with the First Workshop on Surveillance & Technology, which aims to bring together researchers and scholars in privacy, security, cryptography, law, policy, behavioral economics and psychology to discuss all aspects of surveillance.

We thank the following people for making the second issue of PoPETS and PETS 2015 possible:

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Sincerely,

Apu Kapadia and Steven Murdoch

Program Chairs of PETS 2015 and Co-Editors-in-Chief of PoPETS.