

Protecting User Privacy in the Age of Big Data

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The increasing prevalence of Internet surveillance and various other technologies to gather information on users has made protecting user privacy a top priority. In addition to surveillance, various organizations and countries around the world are developing mechanisms to control users' access to information, either in the form of explicit censorship or more subtle forms of information manipulation. In light of increasing threats to users' access to free and open information on the Internet, our session aims to bring together a community of researchers who are examining threats to user privacy as well as technologies to protect privacy in ways that users understand.

The first half of the session will focus on threats to user privacy on the modern Internet. We will discuss various forms of user tracking and information control. The second half of the session will focus on technologies that aim at protecting user privacy in the face of increasing threats of surveillance and information control; moreover, it will shed light on the usability of these solutions by laymen users.

The speakers in this session represent experts on user privacy and protection from both industry and academic perspectives.