



Department of Computer Science

Implementing Privacy Rights on the Internet: From Laws to Systems

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Hosted by: Martin Kellogg

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025
Coffee: 2:15 PM – 2:30 PM
Time: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (Eastern Time (US and Canada))
Location: GITC 4402 (4th floor Seminar Lecture Hall)

Zoom Link: <https://njit-edu.zoom.us/j/93210063293?pwd=y04hAt4uHaQp9sg1RvNqpxVju3JNpz.1>.

Abstract:

New privacy laws like the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) grant individuals crucial privacy rights, including the ability to opt out of ad tracking or the right to data deletion. However, these rights will remain theoretical without effective technical implementation. Focusing on the web and mobile app platforms, I will discuss the design and implementation of opt-out mechanisms. Specifically, I will discuss the challenges of transmitting opt-out signals through Global Privacy Control. I will put GPC into the broader context of making privacy rights viable on the Internet analyzing progress made in recent years and sketching out potential avenues for evolving the Internet into a system that inherently respects privacy rights.

Bio:

Sebastian Zimmeck is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wesleyan University and specializes in information privacy and security. His research focuses on developing privacy tech for the web and mobile app platforms using machine learning and program analysis. Sebastian co-founded Global Privacy Control and leads Wesleyan's privacy-tech-lab. He advises tech companies and government regulators. Prior to joining Wesleyan, he was a postdoc at Carnegie Mellon's Institute for Software Research. Sebastian holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Columbia University and was a Google Research Fellow at the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology. He also holds a J.D. and PhD (Law) from the University of Kiel and an LLM from the University of California, Berkeley, and practiced privacy law as an attorney.