Web-Science-Seminar: “Trust and Privacy in Social Media”

IIG topics: “Privacy in Social Media”

1. Applicability of Privacy-Enhancing Technologies in Social Media

Supervisor: Christian Zimmermann

Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PETs) aim at data-minimization in order to protect privacy. A broad variety of PETs has been developed during the last decades for varying domains and with varying goals. Their applicability and usefulness in the context of Online Social Networks, however, has repeatedly been questioned. In particular, their suitability to meaningfully address the Big Data and inference problems in Online Social Media has increasingly come into question.

Basic Literature:


2. Applicability of Transparency-Enhancing Technologies in Social Media

Supervisor: Christian Zimmermann

Online Social Network providers and other E-Business providers collect, aggregate and analyze vast amounts of their users’ personal data. Traditional approaches towards privacy by secrecy by use of Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PET) are often argued to come to their limits in this context. Recently, Transparency-Enhancing Technologies have come into focus as a supplement to PET. However, it is yet unclear how TET can provide trustworthy information and whether they actually contribute to privacy protection.

Basic Literature:

3. Applicability of Usage Control Mechanisms in Social Media

Supervisor: Christian Zimmermann

Usage Control (UCON) has been proposed as a generalization of access control. The usage control model integrates access control, digital rights management and trust management. In contrast to classic access control, usage control aims at controlling not only who may access which data, but also how the data may be used or distributed afterwards.

Basic Literature:


4. Applicability of Accountability-Oriented Approaches towards Privacy in Social Media

Supervisor: Christian Zimmermann

The concept of accountability has a long history in the fields of economics and politics. However, it also increasingly gets into the focus of computer science and information systems research as a means towards privacy protection and policy compliance checking. While some accountability mechanisms have already been proposed, it is yet an open question how accountability mechanisms can be applied for supporting privacy protection in Online Social Networks and other Internet services.

Basic Literature:

5. Digital Persona and Trust Banks in Social Media

Supervisor: Claus-Georg Nolte

The digital persona is a part of the individual identity that has been extended into the online sphere to which corresponds a digital unconscious structuring a digitally divided self. One attempt to control this digital persona and to ensure privacy and security is the so-called “trust bank”. The task of this topic is to analyze the concept of trust banks with regard to the idea of privacy as online self-determination. Therefore, the provided literature should be used as entry point to find further papers and information to answer this question sufficiently.

Basic Literature:


6. Identity Management & Privacy in Social Media

Supervisor: Claus-Georg Nolte

In the last few years, profiles in social network services like Facebook, Google or Twitter have become an identity management tool which enables users to login into other services or applications and manage which data is transferred. Nevertheless, also other classic identity management approaches like “Open ID” still exist and keep being actively used. The guiding question for this task is if and how identity management preserves user privacy and which problems occur with this challenge. As usually, the provided literature is just an entrance and based on it further literature should be searched and analyzed.

Basic Literature: