

Claudia Diaz and Apu Kapadia

Editors' Introduction

DOI 10.1515/popets-2016-0001

It is our great pleasure to introduce the second issue of the second volume 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 80 members of the Editorial Board, all of whom 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 published articles as well as to provide more predictable, but rigorously peer-reviewed, paths to acceptance for authors. Authors can submit articles to four deadlines per year once their work has matured to the point of submission. PoPETs publishes four issues per year, accepting submissions every three months. Reviews are conducted similarly to conferences, including bidding, individual reviews, author rebuttals, discussion among reviewers, and consensus recommendation. Decisions are provided to authors two months after submission. 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 article. In addition, editorial board members were asked to identify any conflicts of interest the authors did not list, and the editorial board chairs also checked for any missed conflicts. Editorial board members were welcome to submit articles, but the chairs were not.

There were 55 submissions to this issue of PoPETs, most of which were assigned for review to four members

of the editorial board (in a few cases, articles received three or five reviews). External experts were recruited to review certain articles where necessary. Eleven of the submissions for this issue had already been submitted to a previous PoPETs issue, and been invited to re-submit after major revisions. These eleven submissions were re-assigned the same reviewers. Additionally, five articles that had been submitted and rejected from a previous issue of the journal, were resubmitted to this issue. In many cases these revised versions were assigned the same reviewers that had evaluated it in a previous round. Authors of resubmitted articles (either rejected or invited to do major revisions) were asked to provide a summary of changes between the prior and current version that explained how review concerns had been addressed.

Following a first phase of double-blind individual reviews, the reviews were sent to authors, who were given the opportunity to submit a rebuttal. After the rebuttal period there was a discussion among the reviewers, other members of the editorial board and the chairs, before a consensus decision on the paper was reached. One of the reviewers was then selected to write a meta-review that summarized the conclusion of the discussion and the justification for the decision. Of the 55 submissions, two were accepted with minor changes and eight were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions. An editorial board member was assigned as a shepherd for the articles that required minor revisions, and asked to ensure that the important points from the meta-review were addressed in the camera-ready version. The eight articles were ultimately accepted and are published in this issue. We owe special thanks to all the shepherds for the effort they've put into ensuring that these important changes were made.

The authors of 17 other articles were invited to re-submit to a future issue of PoPETs after having made major revisions that address the issues identified in the meta-review. Provided these articles are submitted to the next PoPETs two submission deadlines, they will be reviewed by the same editorial board members (when ever possible) and judged against how well the authors have addressed the points raised in the meta-review.

The remaining 28 articles were rejected due to them not being considered sufficiently close to the topics listed in the call for papers, or due to issues deeper than what could be addressed within the four months allowed for

Claudia Diaz: KU Leuven, E-mail: claudia.diaz@esat.kuleuven.be

Apu Kapadia: Indiana University Bloomington, E-mail: kapadia@indiana.edu

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

a resubmission with major revisions. In this case the meta-review endeavored to provide constructive comments to the authors to allow them to improve their article. Authors are still permitted to resubmit to future issues of PoPETs but the articles would be treated as new submissions.

The ten accepted articles for Issue 2 of this 2016 volume will join the submissions accepted in the first issue, and the two remaining issues of the volume to form the program for PETS 2016, which will be held from July 19–22, 2016 in Darmstadt, Germany.

We thank the following people for making the second issue of PoPETs Volume 2016 possible:

General Chair for PETS 2016:

- Ahmad-Reza Sadeghi, TU Darmstadt

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- George Danezis, University College London
- Anupam Datta, Carnegie Mellon University
- Emiliano De Cristofaro, University College London
- Roberto Di Pietro, Bell Labs France
- Roger Dingledine, The Tor Project
- Orr Dunkelman, University of Haifa
- Serge Egelman, UC Berkeley / ICSI
- William Enck, NC State University
- Roya Ensafi, Princeton University

- Zekeriya Erkin, TU Delft
- David Fifield, UC Berkeley
- Bryan Ford, EPFL
- Ian Goldberg, University of Waterloo
- Thomas Groß, Newcastle University
- Carl Gunter, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Marit Hansen, Independent Centre for Privacy Protection Schleswig-Holstein
- Nadia Heninger, University of Pennsylvania
- Ryan Henry, Indiana University Bloomington
- Cormac Herley, Microsoft Research
- Amir Herzberg, Bar Ilan University
- Alejandro Hevia, Universidad de Chile
- Raquel Hill, Indiana University Bloomington
- Jaap-Henk Hoepman, Radboud University Nijmegen
- Nick Hopper, University of Minnesota
- Amir Houmansadr, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Yan Huang, Indiana University Bloomington
- Jean-Pierre Hubaux, EPFL
- Rob Jansen, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Aaron Johnson, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Mohamed-Ali (Dali) Kaafar, NICTA Australia
- Seny Kamara, Microsoft Research
- Jonathan Katz, University of Maryland
- Stefan Katzenbeisser, TU Darmstadt
- Aggelos Kiayias, University of Athens
- Negar Kiyavash, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Bart Knijnenburg, University of California, Irvine
- Yoshi Kohno, University of Washington
- Tanja Lange, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
- Peeter Laud, Cybernetica
- Brian Levine, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Nick Mathewson, The Tor Project
- Damon McCoy, NYU
- Tyler Moore, University of Tulsa
- Steven Myers, Indiana University Bloomington
- Shirin Nilizadeh, UCSB
- Guevara Noubir, Northeastern University
- Kenny Paterson, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Adrian Perrig, ETH Zurich
- Bart Preneel, KU Leuven
- Thomas Ristenpart, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Mike Rosulek, Oregon State University
- Reihaneh Safavi-Naini, University of Calgary
- Angela Sasse, University College London

- Martin Schmiedecker, SBA Research
- Micah Sherr, Georgetown University
- Radu Sion, Stony Brook University
- Adam Smith, Pennsylvania State University
- Thorsten Strufe, TU Dresden
- Paul Syverson, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Patrick Traynor, University of Florida
- Michael Tschantz, International Computer Science Institute
- Kami Vaniea, University of Edinburgh
- Yang Wang, Syracuse University
- Matthew Wright, UT Arlington
- Marc Liberatore
- Prateek Mittal
- Claudio Orlandi
- Alfredo Rial
- Mahmood Sharif
- Arunesh Sinha
- Florian Tramèr
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- Eugene Vasserman

Sincerely,

Claudia Diaz and Apu Kapadia

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We thank the following shepherds:

- Roberto Di Pietro
- Mohamed Ali (Dali) Kaafar
- Jonathan Katz
- Brian Levine
- Kenny Paterson
- Angela Sasse
- Martin Schmiedecker
- Matthew Wright

We thank the following external reviewers:

- Jacob Appelbaum
- Ero Balsa
- David Barrera
- Marina Blanton
- Randy Bush
- Claude Castelluccia
- Kovila Coopamootoo
- Italo Dacosta
- Lin Huang
- Mohsen Imani