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Grant Privacy Research in Cyber Environment

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Title

Transparency Bridges: Bridging Transparency Requirements in Smartphone Ecosystems

Abstract

This project aims at analyzing how different smartphone ecosystems comply with US and EU data privacy legal frameworks, specially highlighting the differences and similarities in transparency mechanisms. We are particularly interested in exploring how users' behaviors within and across these ecosystems is affected according to which legal framework is applicable to them. This project will be the first one of its kind to apply an interdisciplinary (law and human computer interaction) approach to the question of how differing legal and cultural factors in the US and EU affect citizens' privacy expectations, preferences and behaviors. While there have been numerous studies focusing on either US or Europe, there is no study that has tried to measure people's privacy behaviors in both populations. By combining our methodological expertise in user privacy studies, and MIT's expertise in US privacy law, together with IViR's deep background in European law, we will develop an analytical framework for understanding privacy behavior on digital platforms that span different legal environments, using the US and EU as exemplars of policy heterogeneity. The project will provide improved technical and legal understanding of transparency approaches, thus helping policy makers and technology designers to meet important user needs and increase fairness. Given the overlap in time of this project and the adoption of the new European data privacy framework (General Data Protection Regulation), we have a unique possibility to analyze the new EU regulations as they evolve, map them with current US regulations, and evaluate how these different legal systems are represented within different app ecosystems and affect user privacy expectations in both jurisdictions.

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