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# ***Security and Privacy: Reconciling the Strengths and Limitations of Human and Artificial Intelligence***

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<https://normsadeh.org>

# The Scourge of Phishing

From: "SunTrust"<secure@suntust.com>  
To: -  
Subject: Account Temporarily Suspended  
Date: 2017-08-25 10:09AM



Dear SunTrust Client,

As part of our security measures, we regularly screen activity in the suntrust Online Banking System. We recently contacted you after noticing on your online account, which is been accessed unusually.

To view your Account,

1. Visit [suntrust.com](http://suntrust.com)
2. Sign on to Online Banking with your user ID and password
3. Select your account

We appreciate your business and are committed to helping you reach your financial goals. call us at 800-SUNTRUST (786-8789), or stop by your local branch to learn more about our helpful products and services.

Thank you for banking with SunTrust.

Sincerely,  
SunTrust Customer Care



## Claim Your Tax Refund Online

We identified an error in the calculation of your tax from the last payment, amounting to \$ 419.95. In order for us to return the excess payment, you need to create a e-Refund account after which the funds will be credited to your specified bank account.

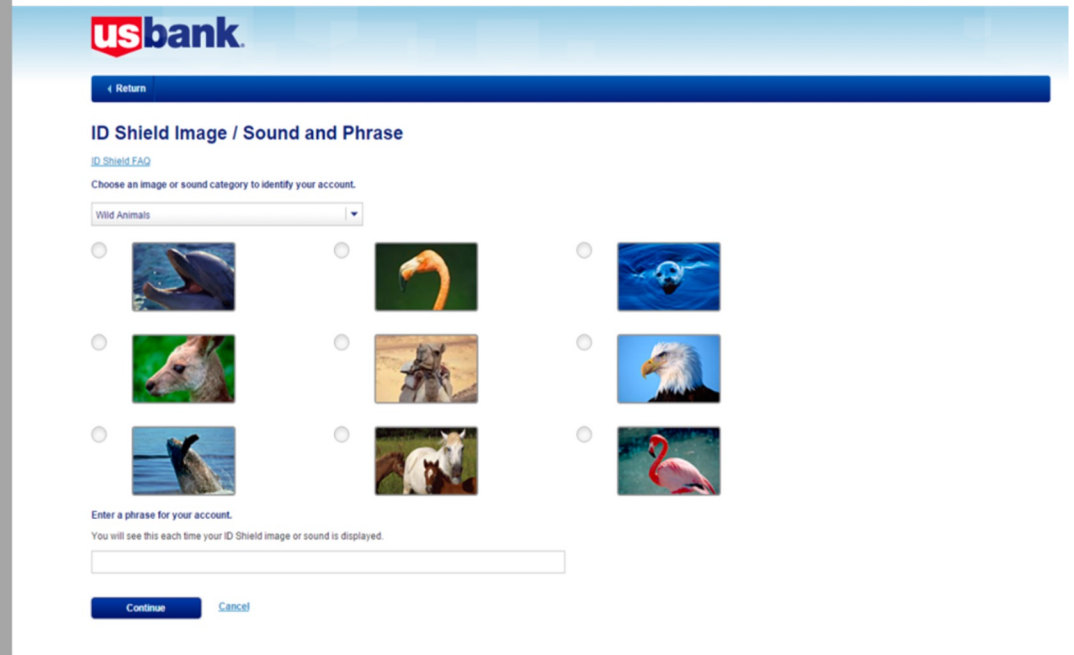
Please click "Get Started" below to claim your refund:

[Get Started](#)

We are here to ensure the correct tax is paid at the right time, whether this relates to payment of taxes received by the department or entitlement to benefits paid.

# Traditional Solutions Have their Limits

- Spam email filters
- Personalized Security Images
- DKIM
- Emails from system administrators
- Lecturing employees once a year about security
- etc.

A screenshot of the US Bank website's 'ID Shield Image / Sound and Phrase' setup page. The page has a blue header with the 'usbank.' logo and a 'Return' link. Below the header, the title 'ID Shield Image / Sound and Phrase' is displayed, followed by a link to the 'ID Shield FAQ'. A prompt asks the user to 'Choose an image or sound category to identify your account.' A dropdown menu is set to 'Wild Animals'. Below this, there is a 3x3 grid of animal images: a dolphin, a toucan, a penguin, a cow, a giraffe, a bald eagle, a walrus, a horse, and a flamingo. Each image has a radio button to its left. Below the grid, a prompt says 'Enter a phrase for your account.' and 'You will see this each time your ID Shield image or sound is displayed.' There is a text input field and two buttons: 'Continue' and 'Cancel'.

Source: US Bank

# Making Humans Part of the Solution

Phishing takes advantage of technical limitations when it comes to authenticating different entities (e.g., bank website)...

...but fundamentally it is a **social engineering attack**...

**So, why not make humans part of the solution?**

# Prevailing View of Cybersecurity Training Circa 2005

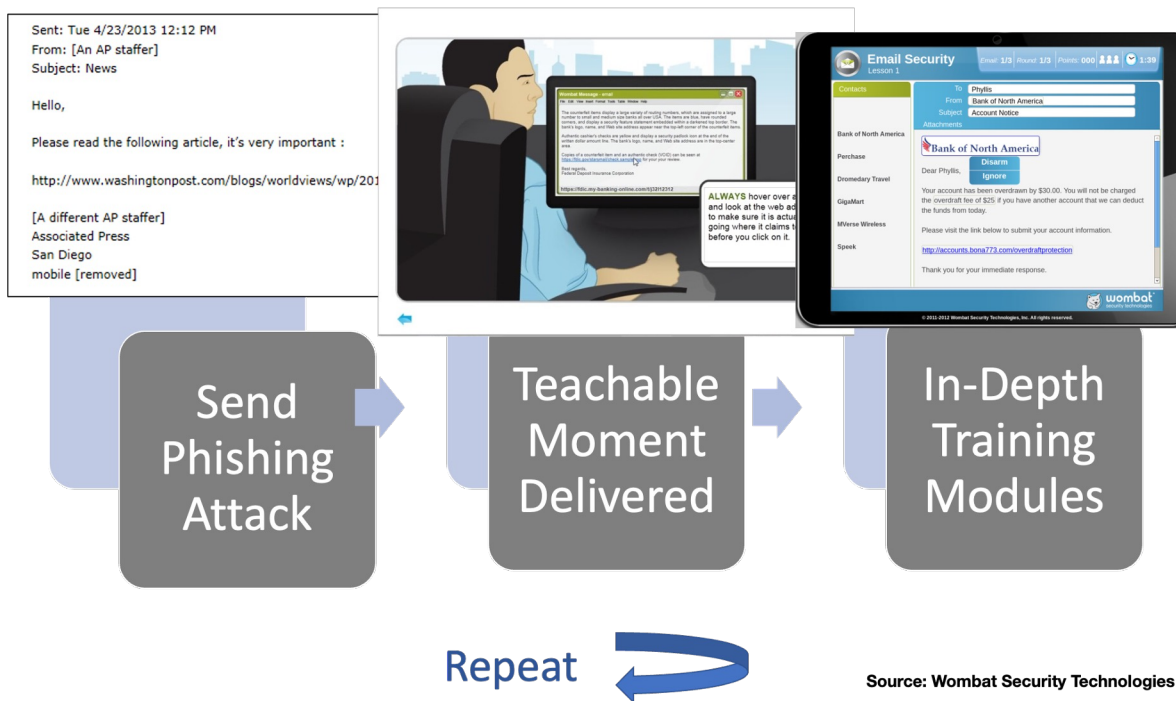


**Yet, humans  
are often the  
greatest  
source of  
vulnerability**

# Mock Phishing Attacks To Educate Users

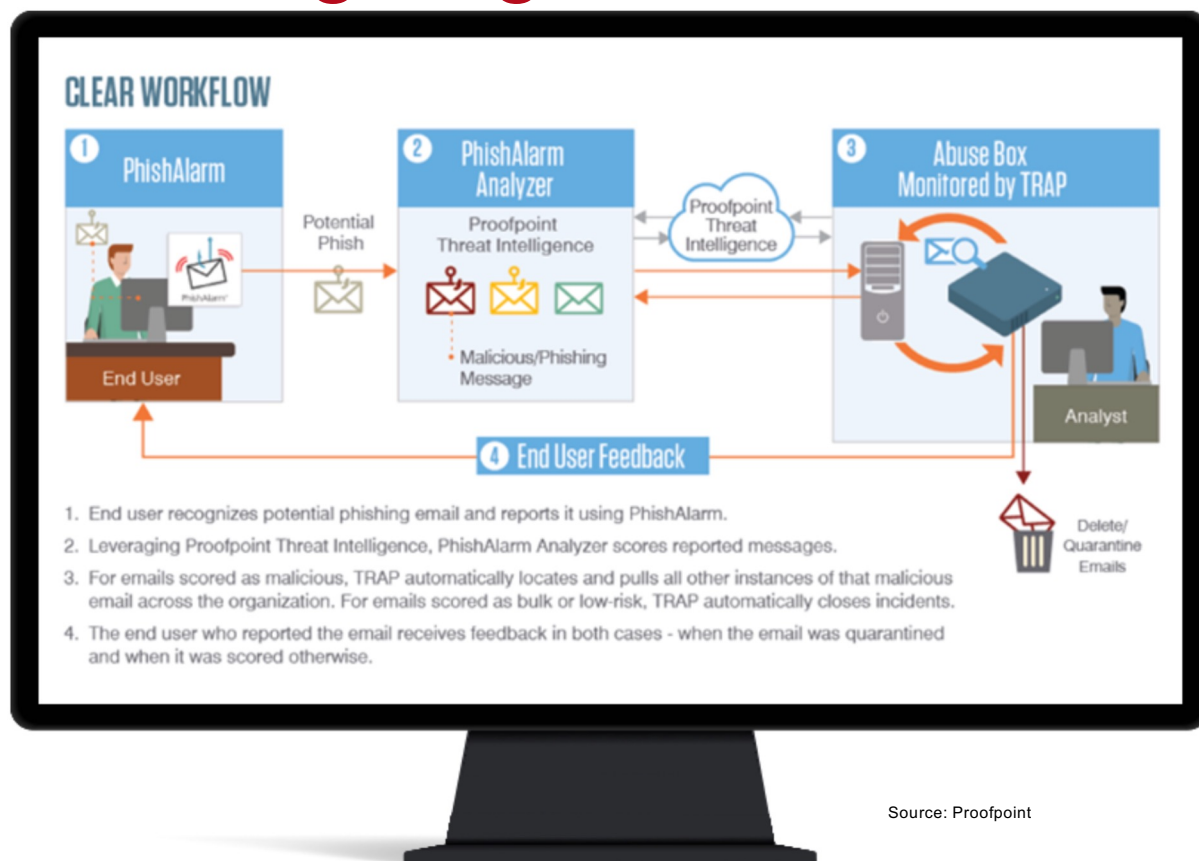
## Phishing Education Example

- Started as research project at CMU
- Built on Learning Science



- **Show people they are susceptible to attacks to get their attention**
- **Use teachable moment to teach them practical tips**
- Incorporated as Wombat Security Technologies in 2008
- Became de facto standard for training users & developed a suite of products for other threats
- Acquired by Proofpoint (NASDAQ: PFPT) in March 2018
- Among 500 fastest growing businesses in the US for 3 years in a row
- Thousands of corporate customers, tens of millions of users; about half of Fortune 500 companies as customers

# PhishAlarm Analyzer: AI and Humans Working Together



- User reports are triaged using **AI/ML & security analysts make the final decision**
- Adapted filtering technology - rather than let **AI/ML have the final say, reintroduce people into the process**

# Phishing Can Take Many Forms

- SMS
- Facebook
- QR codes
- Phone calls - incl. Deepfakes...
- Malicious WiFi access points
- etc.



US009558677B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Sadeh-Konicopol et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,558,677 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 31, 2017**

(54) **MOCK ATTACK CYBERSECURITY  
TRAINING SYSTEM AND METHODS**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC ..... H04L 63/145; H04L 63/1408; H04L  
63/1416; H04L 63/1425; H04L 63/1433;  
H04L 63/1441; H04L 63/1458; H04L  
63/1466; H04L 63/1475; H04L 63/1483;  
H04L 63/1491; G06F 21/55; G06F 21/56;  
G06F 21/552; G06F 21/554; G06F  
21/562; G06F 21/563; G06F  
21/564; G06F 21/565; G06F  
21/566; G06F 21/567

(Continued)

(71) Applicant: **Wombat Security Technologies, Inc.**,  
Pittsburgh, PA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Norman Sadeh-Konicopol**, Pittsburgh,  
PA (US); **Kurt Wescoe**, Pittsburgh, PA  
(US); **Jason Brubaker**, Mechanicsburg,  
PA (US); **Jason Hong**, Pittsburgh, PA  
(US)

(73) Assignee: **WOMBAT SECURITY  
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**, Pittsburgh,  
PA (US)

(56)

**References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,324,647 B1 11/2001 Bowman-Amuah  
6,634,887 B1 10/2003 Heffernan, III et al.

(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **14/216,002**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 17, 2014**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Konicopol et al. "Protecting People from Phishing: The Patent"



# Phishing is Just An Example of...

...the important **role played by people in security**...and the challenges people are confronted to when dealing with an **increasingly more complex and diverse set of attack surfaces**

- **People as users**
- **People as developers**
- **People as platform providers**
- **People as regulators**

# Everyone is now a Sysadmin

Mirai Botnet Attack of Oct. 2016: 600,000 compromised devices creating traffic in excess of 1.2Tbps - DDoS Attacks

TECH | TECHNOLOGY

## What's Attacking the Web? A Security Camera in a Colorado Laundromat

Computer viruses are harnessing webcams, thermostats and other connected devices—while owners remain in the dark



A video recorder at this laundromat in Carbondale, Colo., was infected with a computer virus that propagates through household devices connected to the internet. The laundromat's owner was unaware her security system was hosting the virus. PHOTO: BLAKE GORDON FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

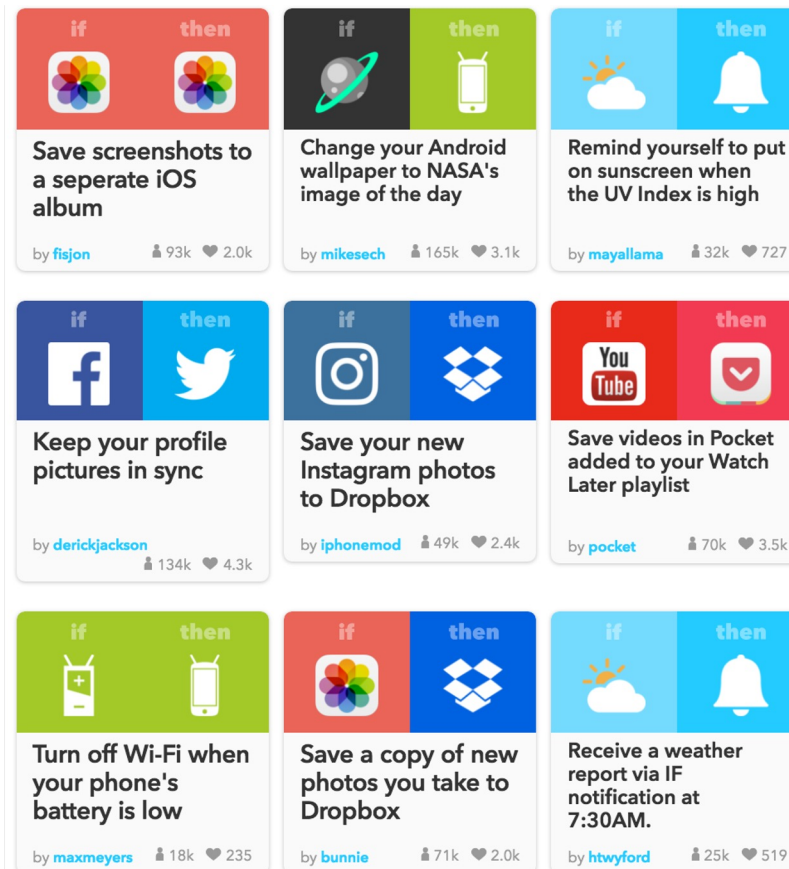
- Owner didn't notice traffic generated by her camera
- Camera would regularly crash but she learned to just restart it
- She lost her password but the manufacturer just resets the password to its default (123456) when this happens
- The security person who installed the camera learned about the virus after being contacted by the press
- Camera manufacturer denies any responsibility

# Everyone is a Developer - I

App Stores, IoT Platforms, etc.

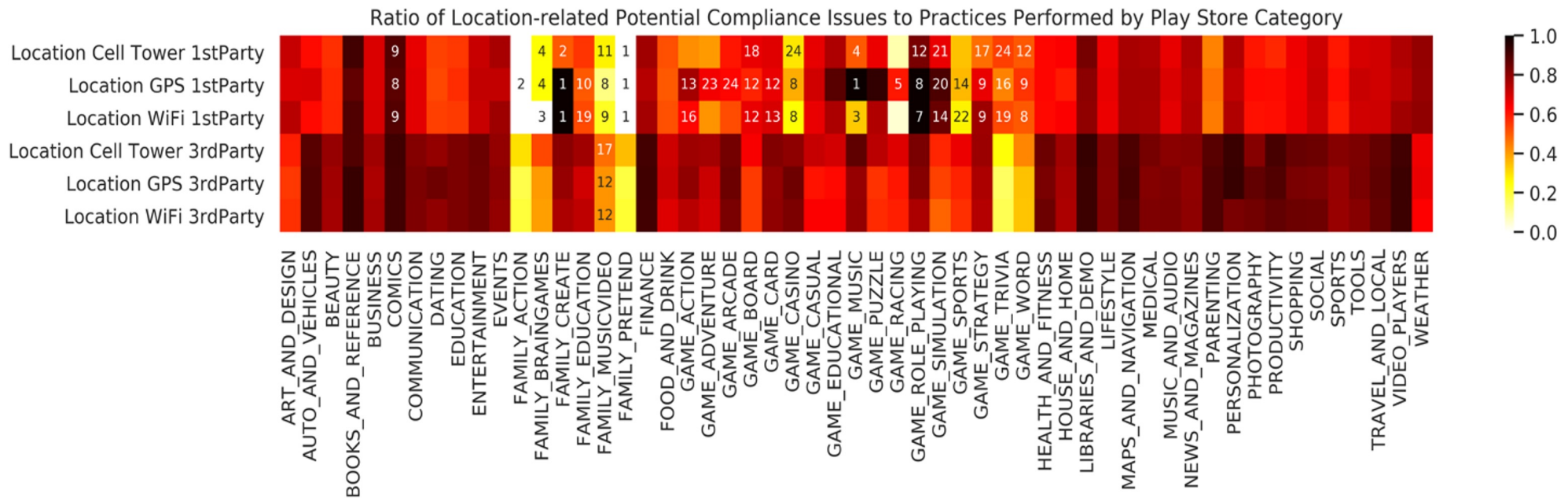
## Sample Shared Recipes

<https://ifttt.com/recipes>



# Everyone is a Developer - II

Potential Privacy Compliance Issues - Automated Analysis of over 1 million Android Apps - Darker color indicates a data practice appears to be performed but not disclosed



# The Human Bottleneck

Lack of:

- **Expertise**
- **Time**
- **Attention**
- **Motivation**



Source: <https://www.datanami.com/2016/09/13/sas-goes-back-future-cognitive-computing-viya/>

# Privacy as a Usability Challenge - I

“**Notice and Choice**” is at the core of privacy regimes around the world.

Yet, as someone once said: “***Only in Fantasy Land, do people read the text of privacy policies***”

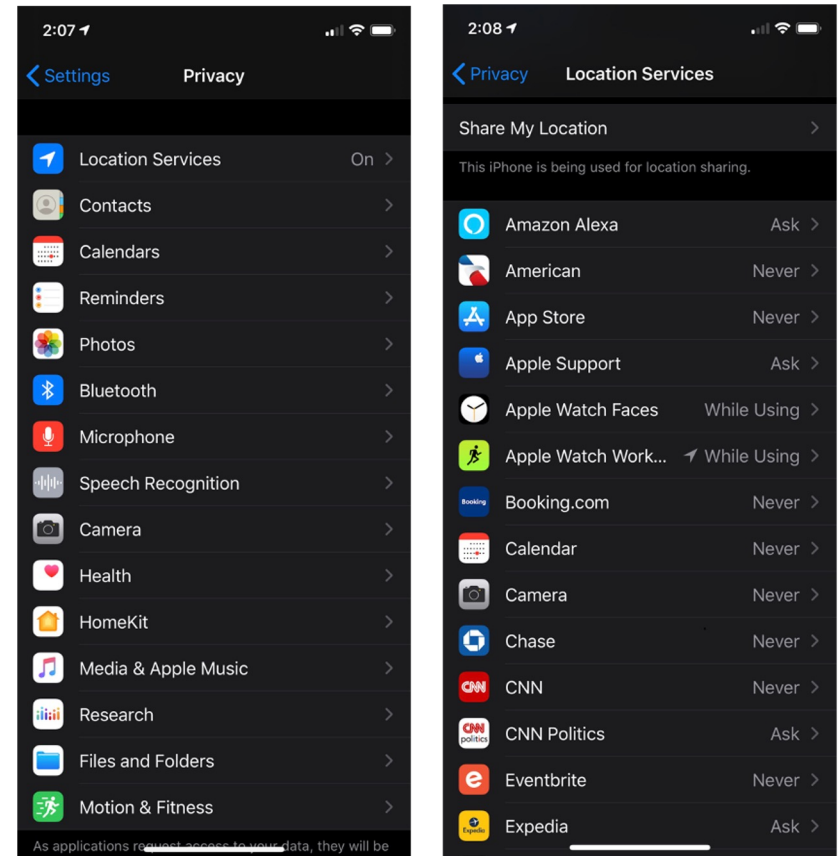




# Privacy as a Usability Challenge - II

..and who has the time to configure all their privacy settings - let alone understand what they really mean?

*“Notice and Choice is broken”*  
Fred Cate



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# What If Computers Understood the Text of Privacy Policies?



# Annotation Tool

Current Policy: a\_98\_neworleansonline.com

**Select a category**

First Party Collection/Use Third Party Sharing/Collection

User Choice/Control User Access, Edit and Deletion

Data Retention Data Security Policy Change Do Not Track

International and Specific Audiences Other

7/41

Previous Next

Annotated Practices: 1

**Select an attribute**

First Party Collection/Use

Does/Does Not Does

Collection Mode Unspecified

Action First-Party Collect on website

Identifiability Identifiable

**Select a value**

Personal Information Type Contact

Purpose Unspecified

User Type Unspecified

Choice Type Unspecified

Choice Scope Unspecified

☐ References another place in the policy

Save

**Highlight text span for an attribute, value pair**

**Information We Collect**

Whether you access our Online Services from your computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device, NOTMC and its agents may collect some information that identifies you or relates to you as an individual ("Personal Information"), such as your name, email address, telephone number, e-mail address, user name and password (for account administration), device ID, including IP address, geolocation (if using a mobile application and you consent to providing it), and additional personal information necessary for the administration of certain promotional events.

Please write your comments for this paragraph

**Practices of this paragraph**

First Party Collection/Use

- Does Unspecified Collect on website Identifiable Contact Unspecified

Unspecified Unspecified Unspecified Clone Delete

Third Party Sharing/Collection

S. Wilson, F. Schaub, A. Dara, F. Liu, S. Cherivirala, P.G. Leon, M.S. Andersen, S. Zimmeck, K. Sathyendra, N.C. Russell, T.B. Norton, E. Hovy, J.R. Reidenberg, N. Sadeh, "The Creation and Analysis of a Website Privacy Policy Corpus", ACL '16: Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Aug 2016

# Automatic Identification of Data Practice Disclosures

The screenshot displays the Yahoo! Privacy Practices page. On the left, a sidebar titled "Privacy Practices" allows filtering by category. The "Data Retention" category is selected, showing 1 result. The retention period is set to "All" and the purpose is "All". The main content area, titled "Privacy Policy", shows the "Yahoo News Privacy Policy" from Sep 25, 2014, with a reading level of College (Grade 13). The policy text includes sections on confidentiality, security, and changes to the policy. A callout box highlights a sentence: "A user's user profile is retained indefinitely to fulfill an unspecified purpose." The page also features a "Take a tour" button and a "more filters" link.

Yahoo! yahoo.com

Arts Business Computers Games Health Home Recreation Reference Regional Society World

**Privacy Practices**  
Click a category to filter practice statements.

- First Party Collection/Use 67
- Third Party Sharing/Collection 21
- User Choice/Control 6
- User Access, Edit and Deletion 4
- Data Retention 1**
- Data Security 8
- Policy Change 6
- Do Not Track 0
- International and Specific Audiences 8

**Privacy Policy**

Yahoo News Privacy Policy from Sep 25, 2014. Reading Level: College (Grade 13)  
125 privacy practice statements in total  
This privacy policy also applies to Flickr, Yahoo Finance, Yahoo News, Yahoo Sports, and Yahoo! Good Morning America.

We reserve the right to send you certain communications relating to the Yahoo service, such as service announcements, administrative messages and the Yahoo Newsletter, that are considered part of your Yahoo account, without offering you the opportunity to opt out of receiving them.

You can delete your **Yahoo account by visiting our Account Deletion page. Please click here to read about information that might possibly remain in our archived records after your account has been deleted.**

**CONFIDENTIALITY** A user's user profile is retained indefinitely to fulfill an unspecified purpose.

We limit access to personal information to those who we believe reasonably need to come into contact with that information to provide products or services to you or in order to do their jobs.

We have physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to protect personal information about you.

To learn more about security, including the security steps we have taken and security steps you can take, please read Security at Yahoo.

**CHANGES TO THIS PRIVACY POLICY**

Yahoo may update this policy. We will notify you about significant changes in the way we treat personal information by sending a notice to the primary email address specified in your Yahoo account or by placing a prominent notice on our site.

**QUESTION AND SUGGESTIONS**

If you have questions, suggestions, or wish to make a complaint, please complete a feedback

# User Choice Instance Extraction



## Choice Instance !!!

If you do not want us to use  
personal information that we  
gather to allow third parties to  
personalize advertisements  
we display to you, please  
adjust your Advertising  
Preferences .

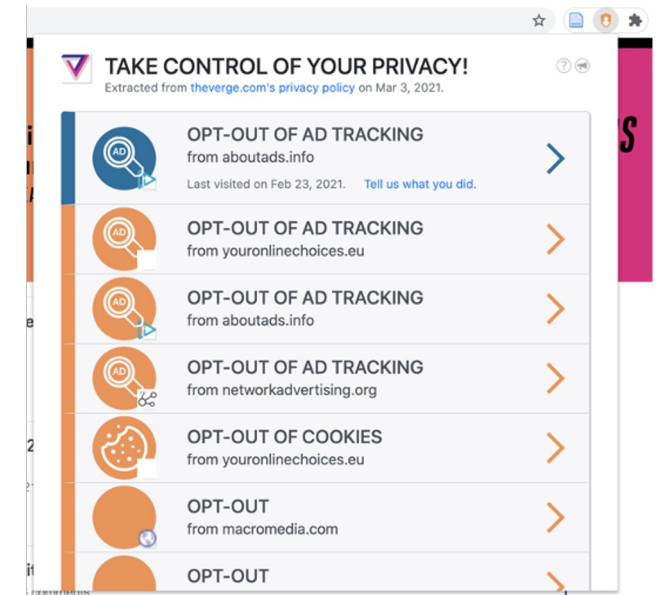
- User choices often buried deep in the text of long policies
- Is it possible to **automatically extract information** about such “choice instances” from privacy policies?
- Use Natural Language Toolkit tokenizer to subdivide segments into sentences & build classifiers

**Results: Recall & Accuracy > 90%**

Vinayshekhar Bannihatti Kumar, Roger Iyengar, Namita Nisal, Yuanyuan Feng, Hana Habib, Peter Story, Sushain Cherivirala, Margaret Hagan, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Shomir Wilson, Florian Schaub, Norman Sadeh, **"Finding a Choice in a Haystack: Automatic Extraction of Opt-Out Statements from Privacy Policy Text"**, WWW '20, Apr 2020 [\[pdf\]](#)

# Applications

- **Helping end users**
  - Opt-Out Easy Browser Extension (available in Chrome store)
  - Privacy Q&A
- **Helping Product Managers, Privacy Engineers and Developers**
  - MAPS Privacy Compliance tool - used to help with GDPR compliance
- **Helping Platforms and Regulators**
  - Automated compliance analysis of mobile apps - results shared with FTC, Cal AG



## ...But Automation Only Goes So Far...

Example: Privacy Question Answering:

- Difficulty of user to articulate their questions
- Privacy Policies are vague and ambiguous
- Need to come up with answers that are useful and legally sound at the same time

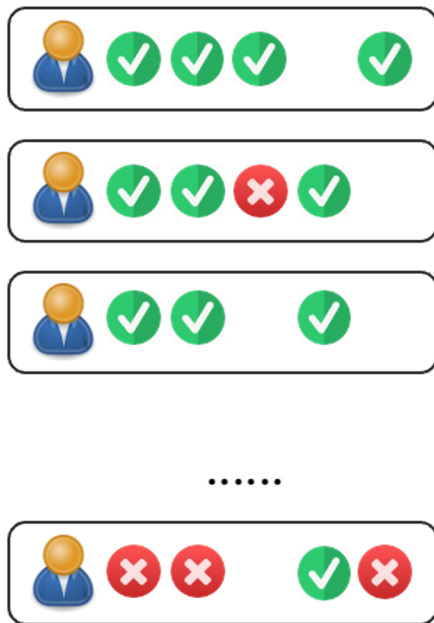
Example: Automated Compliance Analysis

- Need human verification (e.g., interpretation of policy statements or of what the code does)

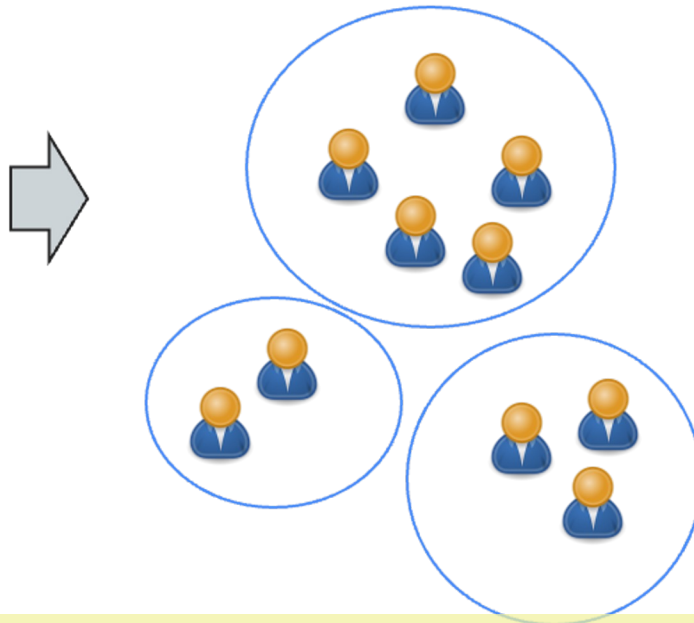
# What If Computers Understood People's Privacy Concerns and Expectations?

# Privacy Assistants - I

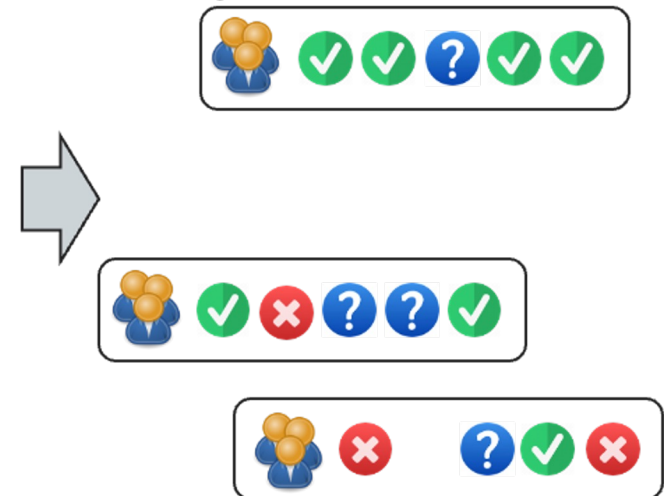
Users with their settings



Clustering of users based on features extracted from their settings



Each cluster has an associated set of recommended privacy settings



B. Liu, M.S. Andersen, F. Schaub, H. Almuhiemedi, S. Zhang, N. Sadeh, A. Acquisti, and Y. Agarwal, **"Follow My Recommendations: A Personalized Assistant for Mobile App Permissions"**, SOUPS 2016- US patents 10,956,586

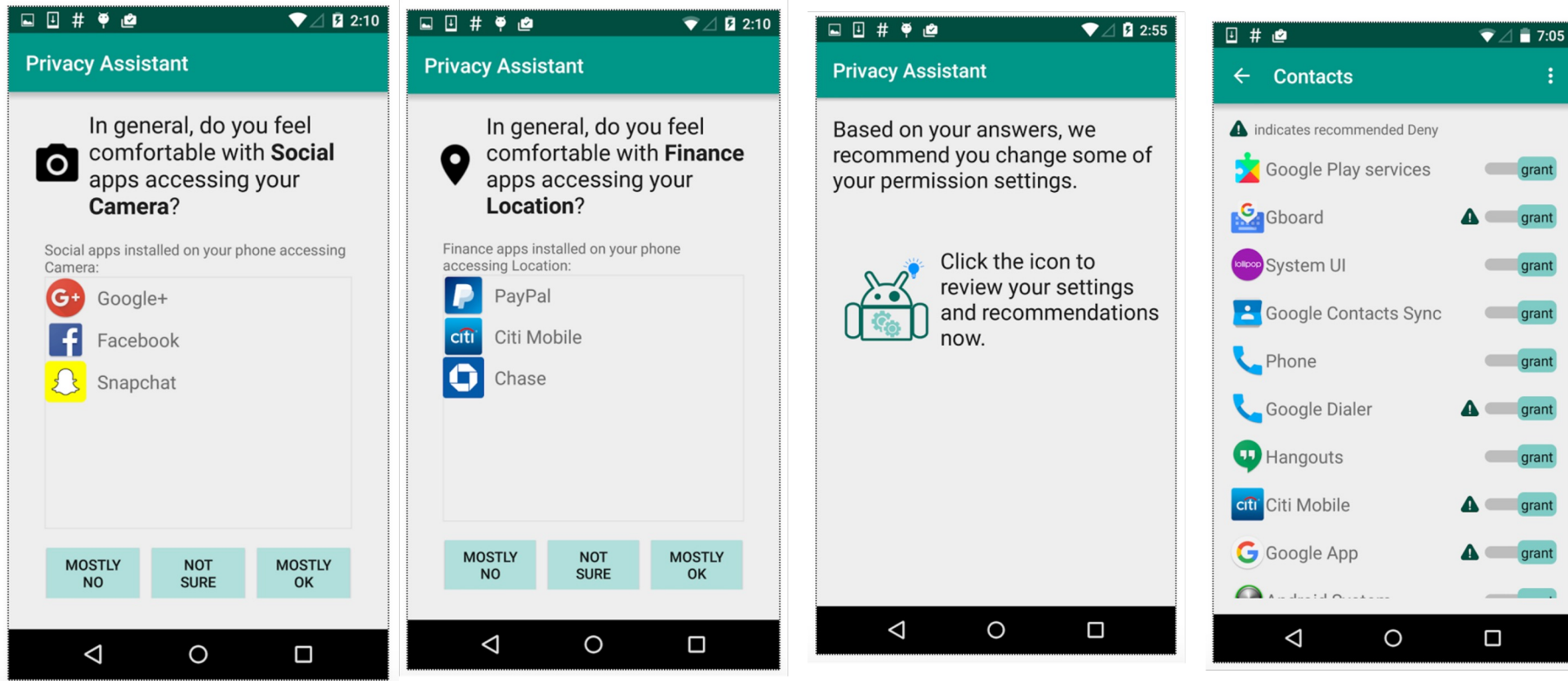
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# Privacy Assistants II

Generating recommendations rather than automating privacy decisions



Successfully deployed in Google Play store for rooted phones for several years

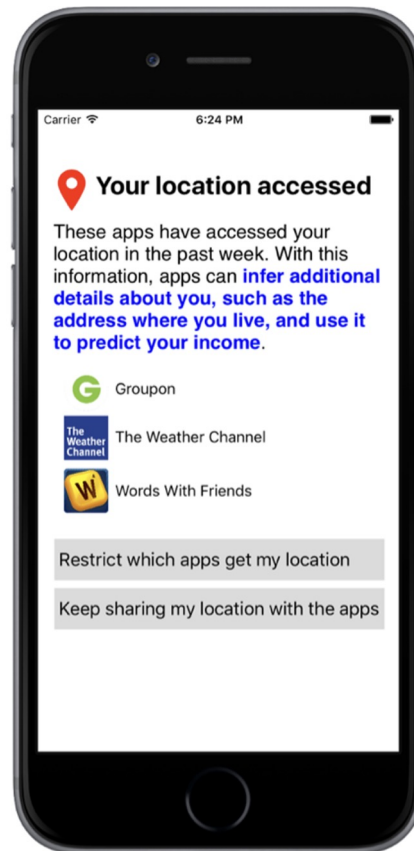


# Why Recommendations?

**Agency is a major part of privacy:** users should remain in charge of their decisions...but **AI can help** them make these decisions and can help overcome fundamental **usability limitations**

- **Major requirement:** the recommendations have to be ***understandable*** and ***auditable***

# Explanation is not easy - Example: Framing



# The Impact of Framing Measured by Change in Privacy Settings

Condition	Wording
(1) Baseline	"These apps have <b>accessed</b> your location in the past week."
(2) Frequency	"These apps have accessed your location <b>1,865 times</b> in the past week."
(3) Background	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week although <b>you did not use them.</b> "
(4) Purposes	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week for purposes <b>not related to the apps' main function.</b> "
(5) Purposes + Example	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week for purposes <b>not related to the apps' main function, such as location-based advertising.</b> "
(6) Inferences	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week. With this information, apps can <b>infer additional details about you.</b> "
(7) Inferences + Example	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week. With this information, apps can <b>infer additional details about you, such as the address where you live.</b> "
(8) Predictions	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week. With this information, apps can <b>infer additional details about you, such as the address where you live, and use it to predict your income.</b> "
(9) Predictions + Implications	"These apps have accessed your location in the past week. With this information, apps can <b>infer additional details about you, such as the address where you live, and use it to predict your income. Knowing your income can affect prices and discounts you see in ads.</b> "

Purple color indicates statistically significant difference compared to baseline (Halmuhimedi, 2018)

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# The Big Picture - I

Security and privacy are increasingly challenging

- **Software-centric** and **data-centric** economy
- Layers upon layers of functionality/system of systems
- Complex **dataflows** and a world of **poorly documented APIs**
- **Everyone is a user, sys admin, developer**
- 90% of all security breaches can be traced to some kind of **human failure** - lack knowledge, time, motivation

# The Big Picture - II

- **AI is compounding the complexity** of these challenges ...**but just like humans it can also be part of the solution...**
- AI can help speed up the **detection of attacks**; it can help make cars more **secure**; it can help **authenticate** people; it can help us **manage our privacy** and much more
- ...but it can also introduce its own **vulnerabilities** (e.g. vulnerable ML models)
- ...and can also further add to **people's confusion** (e.g. lack of transparency leads to lack of trust)
- ...and it can also be used for **malicious purposes** (e.g., deep fakes, social media manipulation, automated attacks)

# Combining Human and Artificial Intelligence

- Developing solutions that effectively combine the strengths of both human and artificial intelligence requires:
  - Developing a **deeper understanding and better modeling of the strengths and weaknesses of both humans and AI**
    - What are people realistically capable of doing and how we can best help them
    - What are AI systems capable of doing, what are their limitations, how can we configure them to benefit from their capabilities without paying a price for their limitations? **What guarantees should we require in different contexts?**
- Training People** to Understand the **evolving capabilities and limitations of AI** (e.g. to avoid falling for deep fake attacks)
- Increasing critical in security and privacy where the **stakes are increasingly higher - not just money but human lives and democracy**

# Q&A

The **Usable Privacy Policy Project** and the **Personalized Privacy Assistant Project** involve collaborations with a number of individuals

More details at:

***Usableprivacy.org***

***Privacyassistant.org***

***Explore.usableprivacy.org***

***iotprivacy.io***



# Selection of References

- Janice. Tsai, S. Egelman, L. Cranor, A. Acquisti, “**The effect of online privacy information on purchasing behavior: An experimental study**,” Information Systems Research, 22 (2), 2010
- Michael Benisch, Patrick Gage Kelley, Norman Sadeh, Lorrie Faith Cranor. [Capturing Location Privacy Preferences: Quantifying Accuracy and User Burden Tradeoffs](#). *Journal of Personal and Ubiquitous Computing*, 2011.
- Zhang, Y Feng, L Bauer, LF Cranor, A Das, and N Sadeh, "[Did you know this camera tracks your mood?](#)": [Understanding Privacy Expectations and Preferences in the Age of Video Analytics](#)", Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies, 2, 1, Apr 2021
- Vinayshekhar Bannihatti Kumar, Roger Iyengar, Namita Nisal, Yuanyuan Feng, Hana Habib, Peter Story, Sushain Cherivirala, Margaret Hagan, Lorrie Faith Cranor, Shomir Wilson, Florian Schaub, Norman Sadeh, "[Finding a Choice in a Haystack: Automatic Extraction of Opt-Out Statements from Privacy Policy Text](#)", WWW '20, Apr 2020
- Sebastian Zimmeck, Peter Story, Daniel Smullen, Abhilasha Ravichander, Ziqi Wang, Joel Reidenberg, N. Cameron Russell, and Norman Sadeh, "[MAPS: Scaling Privacy Compliance Analysis to a Million Apps](#)", Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS 2019), 3, Jul 2019
- H. Almuhiemedi, F. Schaub, N. Sadeh, Y. Agarwal, A. Acquisti, I. Adjerid, J. Gluck, L. Cranor, "**Your Location Has Been Shared 5398 Times! A Field Study on Mobile Privacy Nudges**", in Proc. CHI 2015, Jul 2015

# Selection of References - III

- Examples of ongoing research projects at CMU:
  - The Usable Privacy Policy Project: <https://usableprivacy.org>
  - The Privacy Assistant Project: <https://privacyassistant.org>