

Apu Kapadia

# Editor's Introduction

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It is our great pleasure to introduce 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 an Editorial Board of 59 members, 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.<sup>1</sup> A hybrid model brings journal-style reviewing to conferences to improve the quality of articles as well as to provide more predictable, but rigorously peer-reviewed, paths to acceptance for authors. Authors can submit articles to multiple deadlines per year once their work has matured to the point of submission, and decisions are provided at predictable schedules. 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 19 submissions to this issue of PoPETs, each of which was assigned for review to four members of the editorial board. External experts were recruited to review certain articles where necessary. Three of the submissions for this issue had already been submitted to a previous issue, and invited to resubmit after major revisions. These three submissions were re-assigned the same reviewers in this issue.

Following the double-blind individual reviews, there was intense discussion among the reviewers, other members of the editorial board and the chairs, before a consensus decision 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 19 submissions, one was accepted and two were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions. One 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. Both of these articles were ultimately accepted and are published in this issue. We owe special thanks to Kostas Chatzikokolakis and Erman Ayday for the effort they've put into ensuring that these important changes were made.

The authors of six other articles were invited to resubmit 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 submission deadline, they will be reviewed by the same editorial board members (whenever possible) and judged against how well the authors have addressed the points raised in the meta-review.

The remaining 10 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 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 reviewed as new submissions by new members of the editorial board.

The three accepted articles for Issue 1 of this 2016 volume will join the submissions accepted in the three subsequent issues of the volume to form the program for PETS 2016, which will be held from July 19–22, 2016 in Darmstadt, Germany.

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

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

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- Ahmad-Reza Sadeghi, TU Darmstadt

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- Giulio Aliberti

**Cover design:**

This is the first issue for which we have a book cover. We thank Matthew Wright for leading this effort. The imagery suggests the privacy of being one of many fish in a large school. The design is thanks to the excellent work of Leah Jansen, an artist and graphic designer in Washington, D.C. Her blog and portfolio are at <http://www.rubybows.com/>. The design includes an encoded haiku, courtesy of PETS regular Nick Mathewson.

Finally, we are happy to introduce Claudia Diaz as the new Co-Editor-in-Chief for the current and next volumes, starting with the next issue. Apu Kapadia will continue to serve as Co-Editor-in-Chief for this volume. We thank Steven Murdoch for his service as Co-Editor-in-Chief for Volume 2015.

Sincerely,

Apu Kapadia

Program Co-Chair of PETS 2016 and Co-Editor-in-Chief of PoPETS.