Claudia Diaz, Rachel Greenstadt, and Damon McCoy

Editors' Introduction

It is our great pleasure to introduce the first issue of the third volume of PoPETs, an open access journal that publishes articles accepted to the annual Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS).

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, yet rigorously peer-reviewed, paths to acceptance for authors. PoPETs publishes four issues per year, accepting submissions every three months. PoPETs' double-blind peer review process is similar to that of top tier computer security conferences, including phases for bidding, individual reviews, author rebuttals, discussion among reviewers, and consensus recommendation. Decisions are notified to authors two months after submission. Recognizing the need to increase the free, public availability of scientific publications, PoPETs is now published under the open-access Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license.

Articles submitted to this issue were reviewed by 75 members of the Editorial Board, all of whom are internationally recognized researchers in the field of computer security and privacy. The submitted articles, reviews, and discussion were available to all members of the editorial board that did not have a conflict of interest with the authors of the article. To identify conflicts of interest, the editorial board membership was published before submissions were opened and authors were asked to indicate members with whom any of the authors had a conflict of interest. In addition, editorial board members were asked to list the authors and institutions with which they have conflicts of interest. Finally, the edito-

rial board chairs also checked for missed conflicts. Editorial board members were welcome to submit articles, while the chairs were precluded from doing so.

There were 28 submissions to this issue of PoPETs, most of which were reviewed by four members of the editorial board (in a few cases, articles received three or more than four reviews). External experts were invited to review certain articles where necessary.

Ten of the 28 submissions had already been submitted to a previous PoPETs issue, and been invited to resubmit after major revisions. These 10 revised articles were re-assigned to the editorial board members that had reviewed the previous version. 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 28 submissions, 3 were accepted with minor changes and 8 were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions. A reviewer was assigned as a shepherd for the articles that required minor revisions, to ensure that the important points from the meta-review were addressed in the camera-ready version. Ten articles were ultimately accepted and are published in this issue, while the eleventh article required extra time to complete the revisions, and will appear published in the next issue. We owe special thanks to all the shepherds for the effort they put into ensuring that important revisions were made.

The authors of four 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 one of the next PoPETs two submission deadlines, 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.

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

The remaining 13 articles were rejected due to flaws more serious that what could be addressed with a few concrete revisions, or due to them not being considered sufficiently close to the topics listed in the call for papers. The meta-review endeavored to provide constructive comments to the authors of rejected articles to allow them to improve their work. Authors are permitted to resubmit a revised version to future issues of PoPETs, and previously rejected articles are treated as new submissions.

The 10 accepted articles in Issue 1 of this 2017 volume will join the submissions accepted in the subsequent three issues to form the program for PETS 2017, which will be held from July 18–21, 2017 in Minneapolis, USA.

We thank the following people for making the first issue of PoPETs Volume 2017 possible:

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Sincerely,

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