

Kostas Chatzikokolakis and Aaron Johnson

Editors' Introduction

DOI 10.2478/popets-2020-0001

It is our great pleasure to introduce Issue 1 of Volume 2020 of the Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETs). PoPETs is a journal that publishes articles accepted to the annual Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS). To contribute to the free availability of scientific publications, PoPETs is published under the open-access Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license.

PoPETS/PETS uses a hybrid conference-journal model, one that has since been adopted by many other conferences in the field. In this model, articles are published throughout the year at regular intervals, and the papers for the year are then presented at an annual conference. Reviewers can request revisions of submitted articles, which may then be revised and resubmitted in the same year. PoPETs publishes four issues per year. By enabling resubmission across these issues, PoPETS provides a high-quality peer-review process that enables authors and reviewers to work together to produce and recognize significant scholarly contributions.

The PoPETS double-blind peer-review process is similar to other top-tier computer security publications. The process includes initial review by the Chairs for scope and rules compliance, written reviews by multiple independent reviewers, author rebuttals to the reviews, discussion among reviewers, and consensus recommendation. The output of the review process is a set of reviews, a meta-review summarizing the reviewers' opinions after discussion, and one of the following decisions: Accept, Accept with Minor Revisions, Major Revisions, Reject and Resubmit, and Reject.

Articles submitted to this issue were reviewed by the 94 members of the Editorial Board and 29 external reviewers. 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 membership of the Editorial Board was published

before submissions were opened, and authors were asked to indicate members with whom any of the authors had a conflict. In addition, Editorial Board members were asked to list the authors and institutions with which they have conflicts of interest. Finally, the Chairs also checked for missed conflicts. Editorial Board members were welcome to submit articles, while the Chairs were precluded from doing so.

There were 70 submissions to this issue of PoPETs. 9 of the 70 submissions had been invited during a previous issue to resubmit after major revision, and these were reassigned to the Editorial Board members that had reviewed the previous version. Additionally, 8 articles that had been rejected from a previous issue were resubmitted to the journal, and they were reassigned to the same reviewers whenever possible. For all these resubmissions, the authors provided a summary of changes made to the prior version that explained how review concerns had been addressed.

The PETS consistency experiment ended in 2019 and was not conducted for this issue. This experiment was performed throughout 2019 to evaluate the consistency of reviewing decisions¹.

In this issue, we continued the two-round reviewing process that was started in Issue 4 of Volume 2019. In the first round, we assigned two reviewers to all papers, and at the end of the round we rejected all papers that had two reject scores (Reject or Reject and Resubmit). Non-rejected papers received additional reviews in the second round for a total of four reviews (in a few cases, submissions received fewer or more reviews). Many articles had an external review drawn from a pool of junior experts nominated by the community². Further external experts were invited to review certain articles. 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 to reach a consensus decision for each paper. One of the reviewers was then selected to write a meta-review that summarized the discussion and the justification for the decision.

Of the 70 submissions, 7 papers were accepted and 5 were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions.

Kostas Chatzikokolakis: University of Athens, E-mail: kostasc@di.uoa.gr

Aaron Johnson: U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, E-mail: aaron.m.johnson@nrl.navy.mil

¹ <https://petsymposium.org/experiment.php>

² <https://bit.ly/2gxVDd8>

For the latter, a reviewer was assigned as a shepherd to ensure that the important points from the meta-review were addressed. 11 articles were ultimately accepted (one of the papers was delayed to Issue 2 of Volume 2020 to allow for an extended shepherding process), and, together with an article from Issue 4 of Volume 2019 (which was also delayed for shepherding purposes), they form the 12 articles published in this issue. These articles will be presented at PETS 2020, July 14–18, 2020, in Montréal, Canada.

The authors of 49 other articles were invited to re-submit to a future issue of PoPETs. For 21 of them, specific major revisions were requested, to be reviewed by the same reviewers when submitted to one of the following two PoPETs submission deadlines. The remaining 28 articles received a decision of Reject and Resubmit (7 of them during the first round of review), as reviewers identified needed revisions that were unlikely to be successfully addressed in a short time. 12 papers received a decision of Reject (2 of them during the first round), either due to serious deficiencies or to being on topics out of scope for PoPETs. Finally, 5 papers were withdrawn by the authors before or during the reviewing period, and 9 submissions were rejected by the Chairs without Editorial Board review for being out of scope, over the page limit, or non-anonymous.

In this issue, we started an artifact-review procedure to collect, evaluate, and distribute any artifacts related to accepted papers (e.g. source code, datasets, machine-generated proofs, formal specifications, and build environments)³. Authors of accepted papers were encouraged (but not obliged) to submit their artifacts for review by an artifact-review committee. As a soft start, for 2020 the committee will be performing limited checks (e.g. documentation, licensing, and compilation); once approved, artifacts will accompany the corresponding papers on the PoPETs website.

We thank the following people for making the first issue of PoPETs Volume 2020 possible:

General Chair for PETS 2020:

- Jeremy Clark, Concordia University
- Sébastien Gambs, Université du Québec à Montréal

Program Committee / Editorial Board:

- Abdelrahman Aly, imec-COSIC, KU Leuven
- Abigail Marsh, Macalester College

- Alan Mislove, Northeastern University
- Alptekin Küpçü, Koç University
- Amir Herzberg, University of Connecticut
- Amir Houmansadr, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Ananth Raghunathan, Google Brain
- Anna Squicciarini, Penn State University
- Anupam Das, North Carolina State University
- Arkady Yerukhimovich, George Washington University
- Aylin Caliskan, George Washington University
- Aziz Mohaisen, University of Central Florida
- Bart Preneel, KU Leuven
- Blase Ur, University of Chicago
- Bogdan Carbunar, Florida International University
- Boris Koepf, Microsoft Research
- Catuscia Palamidessi, INRIA
- Cecylia Bocovich, Tor Project
- Charalampos Papamanthou, University of Maryland
- Chaya Ganesh, Aarhus University
- Christo Wilson, Northeastern University
- Claudia Diaz, KU Leuven
- Claudio Soriente, NEC
- Cristina Onete, Université de Limoges / XLIM
- Dali Kaafar, CSIRO
- Daniel Zappala, Brigham Young University
- David Evans, University of Virginia
- Douglas Leith, Trinity College Dublin
- Erman Ayday, Case Western Reserve University / Bilkent University
- Esfandiar Mohammadi, ETH Zurich
- Fabian Prasser, TU Munich
- Florian Kerschbaum, University of Waterloo
- Florian Schaub, University of Michigan
- Gergely Acs, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- Giovanni Cherubin, EPFL
- Hassan Takabi, University of North Texas
- Ian Miers, Cornell Tech; University of Maryland
- Igor Bilogrevic, Google
- Jamie Hayes, UCL
- Jonathan Mayer, Princeton University
- Joris Van Hoboken, University of Amsterdam & Vrije Universiteit Brussels
- Julien Freudiger, Apple
- Kartik Nayak, VMWare Research / Duke University
- Kévin Huguenin, Université de Lausanne
- Lujo Bauer, Carnegie Mellon University
- Marc Juarez, KU Leuven
- Mario Alvim, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

³ <https://petsymposium.org/artifacts.php>

- Markulf Kohlweiss, Edimbourgh University
- Mathias Humbert, Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC)
- Matthew Wright, RIT
- Melek Önen, EURECOM
- Melissa Chase, Microsoft Research
- Micah Sherr, Georgetown University
- Michelle Mazurek, University of Maryland
- Minhui Xue, The University of Adelaide
- Narseo Vallina, IMDEA Networks Institute
- Nataliia Bielova, INRIA
- Nick Hopper, University of Minnesota
- Nick Mathewson, The Tor Project
- Nina Taft, Google
- Nitesh Saxena, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Panagiotis (Panos) Papadimitratos, KTH
- Patrick Loiseau, Inria
- Paul Syverson, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Pedro Moreno-Sanchez, TU Wien
- Philipp Jovanovic, EPFL
- Rachel Greenstadt, Drexel University
- Rebekah Overdorf, EPFL
- Reza Shokri, National University of Singapore
- Rishab Nithyanand, University of Iowa
- Rob Jansen, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Roya Ensafi, University of Michigan
- Ruba Abu-Salma, University College London (UCL)
- Scott Coull, FireEye
- Sebastian Angel, University of Pennsylvania
- Sebastian Meiser, University College London
- Sébastien Gambs, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
- Shruti Tople, Microsoft Research
- Sonia Ben Mokhtar, CNRS
- Stefanie Roos, TU Delft
- Stefan Katzenbeisser, University of Passau
- Takao Murakami, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)
- Tao Wang, HKUST
- Theresa Stadler, Privitar
- Travis Mayberry, U.S. Naval Academy
- Wouter Lueks, EPFL
- Xi He, University of Waterloo
- Yang Zhang, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security
- Yoshi Kohno, University of Washington
- Yossi Gilad, MIT
- Zubair Shafiq, University of Iowa

Publications Chairs:

- Vasilios Mavroudis
- Tobias Pulls

Artifact Chairs:

- Cecylia Bocovich
- Jack Grigg

Video Chair:

- Ryan Henry

Publicity Chairs:

- Rebekah Overdorf
- Kat Hanna

Web Chairs:

- Ian Goldberg
- Kat Hanna

Sponsorship Chairs:

- Rachel Greenstadt
- Steven Murdoch

Stipend Chairs:

- Roger Dingledine
- Emiliano De Cristofaro
- Damon McCoy
- Andrei Serjantov

PET Award Chairs

- Simone Fischer-Hübner
- Ross Anderson

We thank the following shepherds:

- Boris Koepf
- Micah Sherr
- Nina Taft
- Daniel Votipka

We thank the following proof reviewer:

- Wouter Lueks

We thank the following external reviewers:

- Archita Agarwal
- Mashael AlSabah
- Pauline Anthonysamy
- Chris Clifton
- Jessica Colnago
- Pardis Emami Naeini
- Ittay Eyal
- Peng Gao
- Gloria Gonzalez Fuster
- Lachlan Gunn
- Cheng Guo
- Marios Isaakidis
- Pierre Laperdrix
- Hemi Leibowitz
- Vasilios Mavroudis
- Allison McDonald
- Arvind Narayanan
- Nisarg Raval
- Jingjing Ren
- Alfredo Rial
- Thomas Roessler
- Michael Schliep
- Mahmood Sharif
- Yixin Sun
- Daniel Votipka
- Ryan Wails
- Ding Wang
- Tianhao Wang
- Philipp Winter

Sincerely,

Kostas Chatzikokolakis and Aaron Johnson

Program Co-Chairs of PETS 2020 and Co-Editors-in-Chief of PoPETs Volume 2020.