Editors' Introduction

Rob Jansen
U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
Washington, DC, USA
robert.g.jansen7.civ@us.navy.mil

Zubair Shafiq
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA, USA
zubair@ucdavis.edu

It is our great pleasure to introduce Issue 1 of Volume 2025 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 since its inception has 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 by the authors and re-reviewed by a revision editor. PoPETs publishes four issues per year. By incorporating interactive revision and review 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 Editors-in-Chief for rules compliance and in-scope content, written reviews by multiple independent reviewers, author rebuttal, discussion among reviewers, and consensus decisions with disagreements resolved by the Editors-in-Chief or the Vice Chairs. The output of the review process is a set of reviews, a meta-review summarizing the reviewers' opinions after discussion (for papers that are not early-rejected during the first round), and one of the following decisions: *Accept*, *Revise*, and *Reject*.

Reviewing by the Editorial Board is performed in two rounds. In the first round, the Editors-in-Chief assign two reviewers from the Regular Editorial Board and a Vice Chair to all papers, and at the end of the round early decisions are made to reject certain papers that have two Reject scores from the reviewers. The remaining papers receive additional reviews in the second round for a total of four reviews (in a few cases, submissions received fewer or more reviews). One of the assigned reviewers is appointed as a meta-reviewer, who guides and summarizes the discussion into a meta-review and a decision recommendation.

Some articles had an external review drawn from a pool of experts nominated by the community[1] or identified by a member of the Editorial Board as a qualified reviewer. All reviews were sent to the authors of papers that proceeded to the second round of review, and those authors were invited to provide a written rebuttal to the reviews. After the rebuttal period there was a discussion among the reviewers, the meta-reviewer, other members of the Editorial Board, the Vice Chairs, and the Editors-in-Chief to reach a consensus decision for each paper. The meta-reviewer then wrote a meta-review that summarized the discussion and the justification for the decision.

Authors of articles that received a *Revise* decision were invited to revise their submission according to a well-defined set of revision criteria included in the meta-review. An interactive revision process was used to enable authors to complete the revisions deemed necessary by the reviewers. The revision process was guided by a single revision editor whose identity was kept secret from the authors, and all communication between the authors and the revision editor was done (anonymously) through our article submission system. First, authors were instructed to aim for one of two revision deadlines: the first within one month of author notification, and the second within four months of author notification. Authors were asked to propose a revision schedule appropriate for their chosen deadline, and revision editors were asked to review and approve the schedules. Second, authors revised their submissions according to the meta-review and were able to ask the revision editor for clarifications about the revision criteria listed in the meta-review, for intermediate feedback, or for further direction. Revision editors reviewed intermediate versions, providing additional feedback when necessary, and ultimately issuing a final decision of *Accept* or *Reject*. Submissions accepted by the first (one month) revision deadline are published in this issue of PoPETs, and submissions accepted after the first (one month) but before the second (four month) revision deadline will be published in the next issue of PoPETs.

Articles submitted to this issue were reviewed by 170 members of the Editorial Board, 8 Vice Program Chairs, and 16 external reviewers. The submitted articles, reviews, and discussion were available to all members of the Editorial Board who 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 Editors-in-Chief also checked for missed conflicts. Editorial Board members were welcome to submit articles, while the Editors-in-Chief were precluded from doing so.

There were 146 submissions to this issue of PoPETs. 25 of the 146 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, 29 articles that had been rejected from a previous issue were resubmitted to the journal. For all of these resubmissions, the authors

---

[1] The nomination form is available at https://forms.gle/U3t73hLnUAfsZEY16.

provided a summary of the changes that were made to the prior version of the paper that explained how concerns from previous reviews had been addressed.

Of the 146 submissions, 24 received a decision of *Accept*, and 29 received a decision of *Revise*. For the latter, a reviewer was assigned as a revision editor to guide the revision process as described above; 20 of these articles were revised and accepted by this issue's revision deadline and the remaining 9 articles are pending revision (and may be published in the next issue). Thus, 44 articles in total are accepted in this issue and will be presented at PETS 2025.

The remaining 93 submissions were not accepted to appear in this issue. 17 submissions were desk-rejected by the Editors-in-Chief without review by the Editorial Board for being out of scope, over the page limit, or non-anonymous. 74 submissions received a decision of *Reject*, 32 after the first and second round of reviewing and an additional 42 after the second round of reviewing. For these rejected papers, reviewers identified either serious deficiencies, that the needed revisions are too large or unlikely to be successfully addressed in a short time, or issues of scope. Finally, 2 submissions were withdrawn by the authors during the review process.

For the 2025 volume, we continue an artifact-review procedure to collect, evaluate, and distribute artifacts related to accepted papers (e.g. source code, datasets, machine-generated proofs, formal specifications, and build environments)[2]. Authors of accepted papers are encouraged (but not obliged) to submit their artifacts for review by an artifact-review committee. The committee performs some checks on artifact quality (e.g. documentation, licensing, and compilation); once approved, artifacts accompany the corresponding papers on the PETS website.

We thank the following people for making the first issue of PoPETs Volume 2025 possible:

General Chair for PETS 2025:
- Adam Aviv, George Washington University

Vice Program Chairs/Associate Editors-in-Chief:
- Gunes Acar, Radboud University
- Diogo Barradas, University of Waterloo
- Devashish Gosain, BITS Pilani
- Katharina Kohls, Ruhr University Bochum
- Athina Markopoulou, University of California, Irvine
- Rishab Nithyanand, University of Iowa
- Tobias Pulls, Karlstad University
- Paul Syverson, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

Program Committee / Editorial Board:
- Omer Akgul, Carnegie Mellon University
- Mário Alvim, UFMG
- Frederik Armknecht, University of Mannheim
- Hassan Asghar, Macquarie University
- Erman Ayday, Case Western Reserve University
- Hannah (Hannaneh) B. Pasandi (Barahouei Pasandi), University of California - Berkeley
- Sangwook Bae, Cape
- Zinaida Benenson, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

- Pascal Berrang, University of Birmingham
- Gergely Biczok, CrySyS Lab, Budapest Univ. of Technology and Economics
- Igor Bilogrevic, Google
- Eleanor Birrell, Pomona College
- Cecylia Bocovich, The Tor Project
- Joe Calandrino, Federal Trade Commission
- Niklas Carlsson, Linköping University
- Sofia Celi, Brave
- Varun Chandrasekaran, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Panagiotis Chatzigiannis, Visa Research
- Min Chen, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security
- Yimin (Ian) Chen, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Sherman S. M. Chow, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Francesco Ciclosi, University of Trento
- Shaanan Cohney, University of Melbourne
- Tianshuo Cong, Tsinghua University
- Kovila Coopamootoo, King's College London
- Scott Coull, Google
- Rob Cunningham, University of Pittsburgh
- Ha Dao, MPI-INF
- Anupam Das, North Carolina State University
- Debajyoti Das, KU Leuven
- Edwin Dauber, Widener University
- Alex Davidson, NOVA LINCS, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
- Martin Degeling, Independent Reseacher
- Soteris Demetriou, Imperial College London
- Nurullah Demir, Institute for Internet Security
- Roger Dingledine, The Tor Project
- Ye Dong, Singapore University of Technology and Design
- Nir Drucker, IBM Research - Israel
- Markus Duermuth, Leibniz University Hannover
- Christoph Egger, Université Paris Cité, CNRS, IRIF
- Tariq Elahi, University of Edinburgh
- Saba Eskandarian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Vero Estrada-Galiñanes, EPFL
- Imane FOUAD, Inria/Univ of Lille
- Alvaro Feal, Northeastern University
- Natasha Fernandes, Macquarie University, Australia
- Bryan Ford, EPFL
- Kevin Gallagher, NOVA LINCS, NOVA School of Science and Technology
- Peng Gao, Virginia Tech
- Simson Garfinkel, BasisTech, LLC & Harvard University
- Christina Garman, Purdue University
- Paolo Gasti, New York Institute of Technology
- Sepideh Ghanavati, University of Maine
- Zahra Ghodsi, Purdue University
- Rachel Greenstadt, New York University
- Adam Groce, Reed College
- Thomas Gross, Newcastle University, United Kingdom
- Matteo Grosse-Kampmann, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences and AWARE7 GmbH
- Andreas Haeberlen, University of Pennsylvania / Roblox
- Syed Mahbub Hafiz, LG Electronics USA, Inc.
- Florian Hahn, University of Twente

---

[2]https://petsymposium.org/artifacts.php

- Lucjan Hanzlik, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security
- Jamie Hayes, Google Deepmind
- Ryan Henry, University of Calgary
- Nguyen Phong Hoang, University of British Columbia
- Sanghyun Hong, Oregon State University
- Nick Hopper, University of Minnesota
- Murtuza Jadliwala, The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Limin Jia, Carnegie Mellon University
- Aaron Johnson, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
- Tushar Jois, City College of New York
- Marc Juarez, University of Edinburgh
- Nesrine Kaaniche, Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Bailey Kacsmar, University of Alberta
- Stefan Katzenbeisser, University of Passau, Germany
- Nadim Kobeissi, Symbolic Software
- Konrad Kollnig, Law & Tech Lab, Maastricht University
- Dhruv Kuchhal, Amazon, Inc.
- Piyush Kumar, University of Michigan
- NING LUO, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Duc Le, Visa Research
- Hieu Le, University of Michigan
- Jaewoo Lee, University of Georgia
- Zheng Li, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security
- Kaitai Liang, TU Delft
- Kangjie Lu, University of Minnesota
- Nathan Malkin, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Sunil Manandhar, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
- Shrirang Mare, Western Washington University
- Rahat Masood, University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- Fabio Massacci, Univ. of Trento/Vrije Univ. Amsterdam
- Travis Mayberry, US Naval Academy
- Shagufta Mehnaz, Penn State University
- Maryam Mehrnezhad, Royal Holloway University of London, UK
- Sebastian Meiser, University College London
- Meisam Mohammady, Iowa State University
- Victor Morel, Chalmers University of Technology
- Pedro Moreno-Sanchez, IMDEA Software Institute
- Johannes Mueller, CNRS/LORIA Nancy
- Steven Murdoch, University College London
- Adwait Nadkarni, William & Mary
- Milad Nasr, Google Deepmind
- Joseph Near, University of Vermont
- Nam Ngo, Privacy & Scaling Explorations, Ethereum Foundation
- Benjamin Nguyen, INSA Centre Val de Loire
- Shirin Nilizadeh, The University of Texas at Arlington
- Simon Oya, The University of British Columbia
- Catuscia Palamidessi, Inria
- Nisha Panwar, Augusta University
- Panagiotis Papadopoulos, iProov Limited
- Jeongeun Park, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- Dario Pasquini, George Mason University
- Sai Teja Peddinti, Google
- Amogh Pradeep, CrowdStrike

- Bart Preneel, KU Leuven
- Haotong Qin, ETH Zurich
- Lucy Qin, Georgetown University
- Ananth Raghunathan, Meta Inc.
- Sazzadur Rahaman, University of Arizona
- Thilina Ranbaduge, Data61, CSIRO
- Joel Reardon, University of Calgary and AppCensus, Inc
- Alfredo Rial, Nym Technologies
- Florentin Rochet, UNamur
- Andy Rupp, University of Luxembourg and KASTEL SRL
- Kavous Salehzadeh Niksirat, EPFL
- Wendy Seltzer, Tucows
- Siamak Shahandashti, University of York, UK
- Mahmood Sharif, Tel Aviv University
- Supreeth Shastri, University of Iowa
- Yan Shvartzshnaider, York University
- Tjerand Silde, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Lucy Simko, George Washington University
- Sachin Kumar Singh, University of Utah
- Georgios Smaragdakis, Delft University of Technology
- Xiangfu Song, National University of Singapore
- Thorsten Strufe, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- Ruoxi Sun, CSIRO's Data61
- Wei Sun, UC San Diego
- Yixin Sun, University of Virginia
- Ajith Suresh, Technology Innovation Institute (TII), Abu Dhabi
- Gambs Sébastien, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Nina Taft, Google
- Rajat Tandon, Juniper Networks Inc.
- Zahra Tarkhani, Microsoft
- Hikaru Tsuchida, Saitama Institute of Technology
- Anselme Tueno, SAP
- Fatih Turkmen, University of Groningen
- Tobias Urban, Institute for Internet Security; Westphalian University of Applied Sciences
- Christine Utz, Radboud University
- Luke Valenta, Cloudflare, Inc.
- Tom Van Goethem, KU Leuven / Google
- Eugene Vasserman, Kansas State University
- Ryan Wails, Georgetown University & US Naval Research Laboratory
- Coby Wang, Visa Research
- Di Wang, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
- Haoyu Wang, Huazhong University of Science and Technology
- Zachary Weinberg, Million Concepts LLC
- Christian Weinert, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Primal Wijesekera, ICSI & UC Berkeley
- Christo Wilson, Northeastern University
- Xusheng Xiao, Arizona State University
- Luyi Xing, Indiana University Bloomington
- Yixi Xu, Microsoft
- Yaxing Yao, Virginia Tech
- Arkady Yerukhimovich, George Washington University

- Leo Zhang, Griffith University
- Shaohu Zhang, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Zhiyi Zhang, Meta
- Ziming Zhao, University at Buffalo
- Yixin Zou, Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy

Publications Chairs:

- Pouneh Nikkhah Bahrami, University of California, Davis
- Ryan Wails, Georgetown University & US Naval Research Laboratory

Artifact Chairs:

- Maximilian Noppel, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- Miti Mazmudar, University of Waterloo

Artifact Infrastructure Chair:

- Tobias Fiebig, Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik

Sponsorship Chairs:

- Steven Murdoch, University College London
- Susan McGregor, Columbia University

Publicity/Web Chairs:

- Sofia Celi, Brave
- Kat Hanna
- Mathilde Raynal, EPFL

Infrastructure Chairs:

- Roger Dingledine, The Tor Project

- Ian Goldberg, University of Waterloo

We thank the anonymous revision editors for their hard work.

We thank the following external reviewers:

- Jonas Böhler, SAP Security Research
- Ian Goldberg, University of Waterloo
- Urs Hengartner, University of Waterloo
- Dominik Herrmann, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
- Alptekin Küpçü, Koç University
- Russell W. F. Lai, Aalto University
- Weihan Li, Beihang University
- Mohammad Malekzadeh, Nokia Bell Labs
- Peter Mayer, University of Southern Denmark
- Nisha Panwar, School of Computer and Cyber Sciences
- Reethika Ramesh, University of Michigan/Palo Alto Networks
- Harshini Sri Ramulu, Paderborn University
- Stefanie Roos, University of Kaiserslautern-Landau
- Nirvan Tyagi, University of Washington
- Liang Wang, Princeton University
- Attila Yavuz, University of South Florida

Sincerely,

Rob Jansen and Zubair Shafiq

Co-Editors-in-Chief of PoPETs Volume 2025 and Program Co-Chairs of PETS 2025