
Internet Privacy: Who gathers data and how, and what can be done about it

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Date: March 3, 2011 (Thursday)
Time: 5:00 pm (refreshment starts at 4:45 pm)
Place: 202 ECEC, NJIT

About the Speaker

Balachander Krishnamurthy is a member of technical staff at AT&T Labs--Research.

His main focus of research of late is in the areas of Internet privacy, Online Social Networks, and Internet measurements. He has authored and edited ten books, published over 80 technical papers, holds twenty six patents, and has given invited talks in over thirty countries.

He co-founded the successful Internet Measurement Conference and the Workshop on Online Social Networks. He has been on the thesis committee of several PhD students, collaborated with over seventy five researchers worldwide, and given tutorials at several industrial sites and conferences.

His most recent book "Internet Measurements: Infrastructure, Traffic and Applications" (525pp, Wiley, with Mark Crovella), was published in July 2006 and is the first book focusing on Internet Measurement.

His previous book 'Web Protocols and Practice: HTTP/1.1, Networking Protocols, Caching, and Traffic Measurement' (672 pp, Addison-Wesley, with Jennifer Rexford) is the first in-depth book on the technology underlying the World Wide Web, and has been translated into Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, and Chinese.

Bala is homepageless and not on any OSN but many of his papers can be found at

<http://www.research.att.com/~bala/papers>

About the Talk

For the last few years we have been examining the leakage of privacy on the Internet: how information related to individual users is aggregated as they browse seemingly unrelated Web sites. Thousands of Web sites across numerous categories, countries, and languages were studied to generate a privacy "footprint". I will report on our longitudinal study consisting of multiple snapshots of our examination of such diffusion over six years. We examine the various technical ways by which third-party aggregators acquire data and the depth of user-related information acquired. Our results show increasing aggregation of user-related data by a steadily decreasing number of entities.

I will present information on leakage of personally identifiable information (PII) via Online Social Networks (both traditional and mobile OSNs). I will discuss various options on what can be done about this serious problem.

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