

Privacy-Enhancing Artificial Intelligence and Language Technologies (PAL 2019): Preface to the Proceedings

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This AAAI Spring Symposium, held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California on March 25-27, 2019, is the second in a series of events. The first, “Privacy and Language Technologies” (PLT), was a AAAI Fall Symposium in Arlington, Virginia on November 17-19, 2016. Enthusiasm at PLT and a desire to run a similar event with a broader focus led us to organize PAL 2019.

The goal of this symposium is to bring together researchers in privacy and researchers in either artificial intelligence (AI) or human language technologies (HLTs), so that we may collectively assess the state of the art in this growing intersection of interests. Privacy is an always-evolving and nuanced concern of computer users, as new technologies that use the web, smartphones, and the internet of things (IoT) collect a myriad of personal information. Rather than viewing AI and HLT as problems for privacy, our aim is to “flip the script” and explore how AI and HLT can help meet users’ desires for privacy when interacting with computers. We also aim to explore how AI and HLT can help developers and regulators detect potential compliance issues. Overall, we focus on two research questions:

1. How can AI and HLT preserve or protect privacy in challenging situations?
2. How can AI and HLT help interested parties (e.g., computer users, companies, regulatory agencies) understand privacy in the status quo and what people want?

We received fifteen paper submissions, which were subject to double-blind peer review by our program committee. Ten submissions were accepted pending minor revisions to address reviewer comments. Authors of the remaining five submissions were invited to submit abstracts and posters to be lightly reviewed by the organizers. Three of those five

were revised in response to this invitation, and those three appear in these proceedings as well.

We thank many people for their help in making this event possible:

- Our program committee, for their time, effort, and reviewing comments
- Our invited speakers, Jessica Staddon of Google and Serge Egelman of ICSI
- AAAI, especially Carol Hamilton and Ipshita Ghosh, for running registration and making the local arrangements

We also thank the presenters and the attendees for their interest in making this event a success.