

Personal and Ubiquitous Computing Call For Papers Theme Issue on Privacy and Security

<http://www.personal-ubicomp.com>

Editors

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This journal issue is about ubiquitous computing, and much of the research it reports looks forward to the day when computation and associated resources such as storage and networking is everywhere - on our persons, in our homes, on the streets, in cafes, schools, and, of course, the workplace. In this context there is also much work on adding 'eyes' and 'ears' to computing, both to enable user interaction in situations precluding use of conventional keyboards, mice, and screens, but also to capture and perhaps share interesting or important moments in our activities in these environments.

In parallel with all the advantages we foresee for such ubiquitous computational presence are some serious dangers to our security and privacy. Hackers have stolen credit cards from Internet commerce sites: how easy will it be to steal much more information when it is transmitted wirelessly? In the U.S. a number of recent criminal cases have highlighted the value of surveillance cameras in public places; where and how do we draw the line to prevent video snooping into our homes, and in these days of fear of terrorism, which of our activities will remain private? If computer networks are in fact secure, how do we present that to the users, and allow them to develop an informed level of trust, especially with a plethora of devices and means of connectivity which change as we move about? If systems are truly ubiquitous and controlled by many separate parties, how will individuals control where and when their private information gets disseminated and aggregated (e.g., location, activities)?

For this special issue we solicit contributions addressing problems such as these, in the domain of privacy and security for ubiquitous computing. We are soliciting contributions addressing either technology, methods, and systems for managing personal digital privacy or social and regulatory considerations of users' perceptions and value of privacy. We are especially interested in systems that try to incorporate social needs and/or regulatory constraints. In this issue we take a particularly broad view of the terms "ubiquitous computing" to include surveillance and monitoring by governments and other agencies, because the infrastructure required for more limited senses of the term will provide a significant enabling infrastructure.

Important dates

Submission date: 1 Dec 2003

Final copy due following review: 1 Mar 2004

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Please submit manuscripts, or address enquiries as to the suitability of submissions, to ubi-privacy@media.mit.edu.