

Report on 4th Interdisciplinary Summerschool on Privacy (ISP 2019)

Nijmegen, The Netherlands

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First day on Monday 2nd of September 2019, after breakfast in the hotel Erica in Nijmegen, Netherlands, summer school started at 9am with a round of introductions that everyone introduced him/herself with a short talk about their affiliation and their field of research/job. Then we had a lecture on “Exploring dark patterns and conceptions of designer responsibility” by Colin Gray. This talk was about results of several studies that address practitioner engagement with ethics, by a focus on “dark patterns”. After break, we had a lecture on “Exit strategies: dark pattern, interface critique and the struggle for separation” by Michael Dieter. This presentation was related to the contradictions manifest within competing conceptions of the contemporary user and a number of projects as experiments with interface critique had been discussed. Then we had dinner. Dinner time was around 18:45 every day.

Second day of school, we had a lecture on “Targeted advertising and ad delivery: privacy threats and opportunities” by Alan Mislove at 9am. This talk was a state of the art in targeted advertising, that how these advertising services can be misused, and how targeted advertising can make opportunity to increase the transparency of advertising systems. After coffee break, we started working on the case studies. The session of case studies was very interesting, they divided us to 4 groups of 6 people in each group. Every group should work separately. Every group worked on one case study, in total there were two different case studies and every two group had the same case study but they should just work with their own group members. There were different tasks in the case study that we should do and at the end each group gave a 15 minutes presentation on Thursday about their own case studies, dark patterns, and problems in the case study, and our proposed solutions to these problems. After lunch we continued working on the case studies, and after that we had a lecture on “Dark transparency patterns” by Gloria

Gonzalez Fuster. This talk was about how transparency obligations imposed on data controllers are twisted and can obfuscate data subjects. Then we had social event dinner in restaurant “De Hemel” in downtown Nijmegen.

Next day summer school started with a lecture on “Confronting digital resignation” by Nora Draper. This talk was about digital resignation which is the desire to control our personal data along with a feeling of being unable to do that. After coffee break and lunch, we continued working on the case studies. And then we had a lecture on “From soft nudging to manipulation: why should we care?” by Nicolo Zingales. This lecture was about concept of “nudging”, and it highlighted different ways in which this concept is used and the significant differences between its forms and manifestations. After dinner there was a plan of walk in the woods, but since it was raining all the day and everywhere was wet and also it was getting dark, the plan was canceled!

On Thursday, school started with a talk on “Shedding light on dark patterns: ways to empower users in making deliberate informed consent decisions” by Moniek Buijzen. This presentation discussed theoretical insights regarding information processing and behavioral change that talked about how technology users make decisions about sharing their personal data, also it talked about effects of dark patterns in consent statements, in addition the topic of dark patterns from an interaction design perspective had been addressed. After coffee break, we worked on the case studies. Then in the afternoon there was a talk on “Have I given consent to this? Analyzing the transparency of mobile products” by Narseo Vallina Rodriguez. This lecture discussed the origin and nature of various privacy threats faced by users of mobile platforms and applications. After coffee break, every group presented their case studies and at the end audiences asked their questions from both groups with the same case study and both groups answered the questions and discussed the issues.

Friday was the last day of the summer school with a lecture on “Dark patterns, legal aspects: for a possible theory of the ‘illicito multi-offensivo’ (single

‘multiple-offence’ act)” by Mario Guglielmetti. This lecture discussed this issue that online platforms often put users into “rabbit holes” (“compelling behavioural patterns”) using “deception by design”, and it discussed diagnosis, prognosis, and possible solutions for this issue. And at the end before lunch it was evaluation and handing out the certificates.