

Distinguished Lectures

Fall 2025



Dr. Lorrie Faith Cranor

Director and Bosch Distinguished Professor
CyLab Security and Privacy Institute
Carnegie Mellon University

From Password Requirements to IoT Cybersecurity Labels: Informing Policy Makers and the Public with Research, Art, and Fashion

Monday, November 10, 2025
Reception with Refreshments: 10:30 a.m.
Lecture: 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Lory Student Center - Never No Summer

Measuring the Impact of Privacy Indicators in Online Search Results: A Behind-the-Scenes Account from a Series of Experimental Studies

Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Lecture: 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Rockwell West Room 213

Sponsored by
Colorado State University's Information Science
and Technology Center (ISTeC)

In conjunction with the
Department of Computer Science and
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar Series

Abstracts

From Password Requirements to IoT Cybersecurity Labels: Informing Policy Makers and the Public with Research, Art, and Fashion

An increasing number of security and privacy researchers are conducting research with the intention of informing public policy discussions. I will talk about how I got interested in public policy and discuss a wide range of research projects I've worked on over the past 30 years that had some impact on public policy discussions including research on the usability of privacy tools, the cost of reading privacy policies, various types of privacy labels, password policy, and the California privacy choice icon. I will also discuss some of my creative uses of art and fashion to inform the public about privacy and security concepts.

Measuring the Impact of Privacy Indicators in Online Search Results: A Behind-the-scenes Account from a Series of Experimental Studies

Many e-commerce websites post privacy policies to address Internet shoppers' privacy concerns. However, few users read or understand them. Iconic privacy indicators in search engines or on websites may make privacy policies more accessible and easier for users to understand. In a series of research studies, we first examined whether privacy indicators impact users' browsing and purchasing decisions for both everyday and privacy-sensitive items, and later also examined whether the placement and timing of indicators makes a difference. We faced a number of challenges conducting ecologically valid, ethical, controlled experimental studies and we didn't get it completely right the first time. In this talk I'll give a behind-the-scenes account of how we conducted these studies and how we addressed the challenges we faced along the way.

Speaker Biography

Lorrie Faith Cranor is the Director and Bosch Distinguished Professor in Security and Privacy Technologies of CyLab and the FORE Systems University Professor of Computer Science and of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. She directs the CyLab Usable Privacy and Security Laboratory (CUPS) and co-directs the Privacy Engineering masters program. In 2016 she served as Chief Technologist at the US Federal Trade Commission. She is also a co-founder of Wombat Security, a security awareness training company that was acquired by Proofpoint. She founded the Symposium On Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) and co-founded the Conference on Privacy Engineering Practice and Respect (PEPR). She serves on the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) Board of Directors, the Aspen Institute Cybersecurity Group, the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF) advisory board, and the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) advisory board. In 2003 she was honored as one of the top 100 innovators 35 or younger by Technology Review magazine. More recently she was elected to the ACM CHI Academy and named a fellow of ACM, IEEE, and AAAS. She has also received the ACM CHI Social Impact Award, the International Association of Privacy Professionals Privacy Leadership Award, and (with colleagues) the IEEE Cybersecurity Award for Practice. She was previously a researcher at AT&T-Labs Research. She holds a doctorate in Engineering and Policy from Washington University in St. Louis. She plays soccer, walks to work, sews her own clothing with pockets, and tries not to embarrass her three young adult children.

To arrange a meeting with the speaker, please contact Prof. McKenna McCall <mckenna.mccall@colostate.edu>.