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Editors' Introduction

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It is our great pleasure to introduce the first issue of PoPETs, an open access journal that publishes articles accepted to the annual Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS). Articles submitted to this issue were reviewed by an Editorial Board of 63 members, who are internationally recognized researchers in the field of computer security and privacy.

Starting with PETS 2015, the PET Board, which oversees PETS, decided to follow a hybrid conference-journal model following in the footsteps of PVLDB.[1] A hybrid model brings journal-style reviewing to conferences to improve the quality of papers as well as to provide more predictable, but rigorously peer-reviewed, paths to acceptance for authors. Authors are able to submit papers to multiple deadlines per year, when their work has matured to the point of submission, and decisions are provided at predictable schedules. Furthermore, papers that are rejected in one round are eligible for resubmission in subsequent rounds. Recognizing the need to increase the availability of the publication, PoPETs is now being published open-access under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs license.

To avoid conflicts of interest, the editorial board membership was published before submissions were opened and authors were asked to identify members who should not review their paper. In addition editorial board members were asked to identify any conflicts of interest that authors did not list, and the editorial board chairs also checked for any missed conflicts. Editorial board members were welcome to submit papers, but the board chairs were not.

There were 46 submissions to the first issue of PoPETs, each of which was assigned for review by 4 members of the editorial board. Where necessary external experts were recruited to review certain papers. Following the double-blind review, there was intensive discussion among the reviewers, other members of the editorial board and the chairs, and a consensus decision was reached. One reviewer was then selected to write a meta-review which summarised the conclusion of the discussion and justification for the decision.

Of the 46 submissions, 6 were conditionally accepted subject to minor revisions. One editorial board member was assigned as a shepherd and asked to ensure that during the 3 weeks allowed for the production of the camera-ready version the important points from the meta-review were addressed. All 6 such papers were ultimately accepted and are published here. We owe special thanks to to Claudia Diaz, Radu Sion, Adam J. Lee, Mohamed Ali (Dali) Kaafar, Paul Syverson, and Yang Wang for the effort they've put into ensuring that these important changes were made.

A further 11 submissions were invited to resubmit to a future issue of PoPETs after having made major revisions in order to address issues identified in the meta-review which the reviewers considered would take longer than the available time for making minor revisions would allow. Provided these papers are submitted to either of the next two PoPETs submission deadlines these papers will be reviewed by the same editorial board members if possible and judged against how well the authors have addressed the points raised in the meta-review.

The remaining 29 papers were not accepted due to them not being considered sufficiently close to the topics listed in the call for papers or due to there being issues which it was unclear could be addressed within the 3 months allowed for a resubmission. In this case the meta-review endeavoured to provide constructive comments to the authors to allow them to improve their paper. Authors would still be permitted to resubmit to PoPETs but in which case they would be reviewed as new submissions by new members of the editorial board.

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1 http://www.vldb.org/pvldb/index.html

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Sincerely,

Apu Kapadia and Steven Murdoch

Program Chairs of PETS 2015 and Co-Editors-in-Chief of PoPETs.