

## Multimedia Communications



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- PhD in Psychology and Computer Science in 2000 from University College of London (UCL)
- Research areas - Social impacts of technology, CSCW, Research Methods, Digital Libraries

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## Central theme of these papers

- Perceived invasions of privacy can cause breakdowns in technologically mediated interactions, leading to user rejection of the technology
- Understanding users' perception of privacy will prevent resentment and rejection of multimedia systems

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## Paper 1

### Users' perception of privacy in multimedia communication

Anne Adams

CHI '99 Extended Abstracts

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## Motivation

- Multimedia communication systems such as videoconferencing are becoming ubiquitous
- Accessing and using such systems increases privacy risks
- The aim of this research is to identify the mismatch between perceived and actual privacy risks

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## 3 key privacy factors

- Information sensitivity
- Information receiver
- Information usage

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## Information sensitivity

- 2 levels of information
  - *Primary information* relates to the topic of discussion
  - *Secondary information* relays other characteristics about the user via visual, auditory or textural mediums
- When users discover data has a secondary level and it's being used in a way they did not anticipate, they feel that their privacy has been invaded

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## Information receiver

- Privacy can be invaded without users being aware of it
- Brings up the issue of whether it is *what is known* about a person that is invasive or *who knows it*

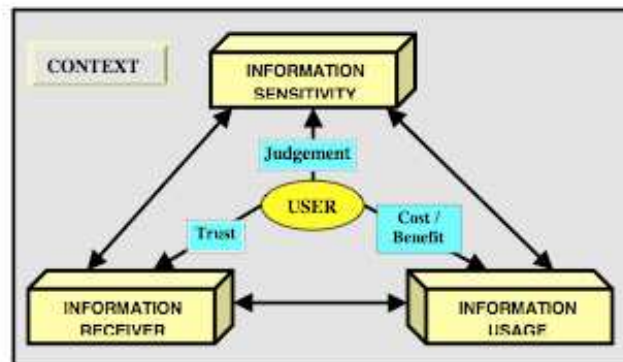
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## Information usage

- Users' fears of technology relate to the how their information is/will be used
- There is a relationship between the perceived information sensitivity and its potential receiver

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## Privacy model



**Figure 1:** Privacy model factors and issues.

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## Method

1. 9 Ph.D. students at universities in the UK appraised a prototype virtual reality system through a focus group
2. 35 undergraduate at UCL used a videoconferencing system throughout an 8-week network communications course

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## Method

3. 46 UCL staff responded to a quantitative/qualitative questionnaire about a video surveillance device positioned in a common room
4. 28 attendees at a conference that was multicast were interviewed in-depth

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## Results

- Information sensitivity
  - Potential privacy invasions were produced by unaccounted-for privacy risks associated with secondary information
- Information receiver
  - There are connections between the type of information released and the privacy risks associated with the person receiving it

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## Results

- Information usage
  - The major issue to surface is the lack of awareness of potential privacy risks regarding later information usage

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## Take away message

- There is a mismatch between users' perceptions of privacy risks and the actual privacy risks

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## Paper 2

### Privacy in Multimedia Communications: Protecting Users, Not Just Data

Anne Adams and Martina Angela Sasse  
Joint Proceedings of HCI2001 and ICM2001

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## Motivation

- Most invasions of privacy are not intentional but due to designers inability to anticipate how this data could be used, by whom, and how this might affect users
- To address this problem a model of the user perspective on privacy in multimedia environments has been identified

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## Method

- Used grounded theory to analyze previous privacy literature and studies of the phenomenon within multimedia communications
- The analysis produced:
  - A privacy model of the factors involved in privacy invasions
  - The privacy invasion cycle which details how these factors lead to privacy invasions

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## Privacy model

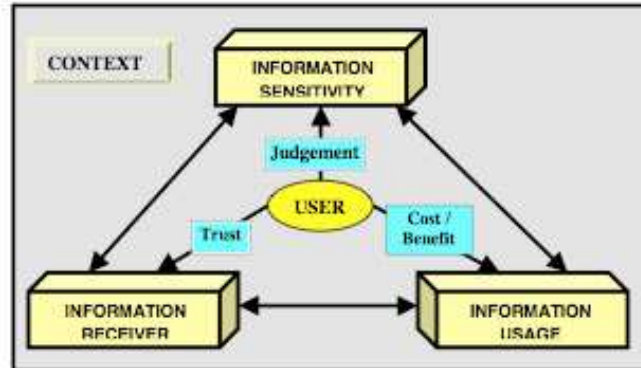


Figure 1: Privacy model factors and issues.

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## Privacy model - User

- Users are those who have data transmitted either directly (primary information or indirectly (secondary) about themselves
- Designers must understand that the user may well not be actively using the system and may actually be unaware that their data (their image, voice etc.) is being transmitted

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## Privacy model – Context

- Feedback of *what is being transmitted*, and control on *when information is being transmitted is required*
- Users need to have feedback about how they are being represented e.g. in videoconferencing
- What data is captured can affect how invasive the information is perceived to be

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## Privacy invasion cycle

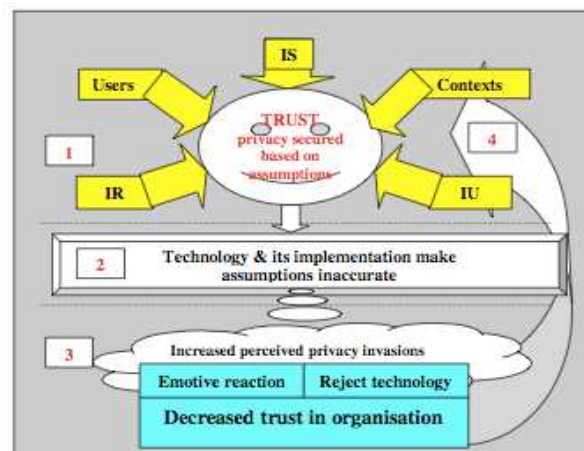


Figure 2: The privacy invasion cycle.

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## Privacy invasion cycle – Stage 1

- **Trust:** Users do not go into every situation ready to assess the privacy benefits and risks of that information exchange

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## Privacy invasion cycle – Stage 1

- **Assumptions:** The trust felt by the user in that information exchange relies on assumptions surrounding that interaction
  1. Users previous knowledge and experiences and their role in the interaction.
  2. Perceived *Information Sensitivity (IS)*.
  3. Perceived *Information Receiver (IR)*.
  4. Perceived *Information Usage (IU)*.
  5. Perceived Context of interaction.

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## Privacy invasion cycle

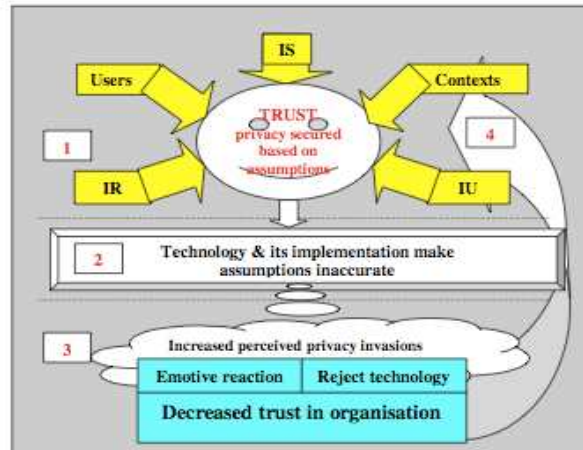


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## Privacy invasion cycle – Stage 3

- **Realization and Response:** When users realize that their assumptions were inaccurate, they experience an invasion of privacy

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## Privacy invasion cycle – Stage 4

- **Decreasing Cycle:** The next time the user encounters what they perceive to be a similar scenario their initial trust levels will be lowered

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## Privacy invasion cycle

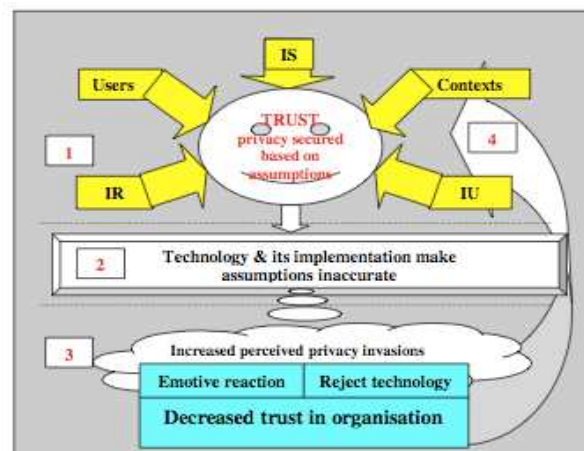


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## Privacy evaluation scenario

- Videoconferencing seminar was given from London to a local and remote (Glasgow) audience
- Both audiences had similar room setups
- Audience ranged from novices to experts in multimedia communication
  - Did not know remote audience or speaker
- All screens displayed 4 tiled windows
  - London audience, Glasgow audience, presenter, seminar slides/video

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## Privacy Recommendations

1. Briefing session
  - System details
  - Interaction details
  - Recording details
2. Information broadcaster
  - Data transmission
  - Interaction feedback
  - Recording feedback

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## Privacy recommendations

### 3. Information receiver

- Contextual feedback
- Edited data
- Information handling

### 4. Policy procedures

- Recording permission
- Changed usage
- Editing
- Continued privacy evaluation

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## Take away message

- These models detail what guides users' perceptions of privacy and provides a theory of the processes behind privacy invasions
- There is a need to counteract privacy problems before they arise thus solving them before people lose their trust and emotively reject the technology

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## Central theme of these papers

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## Conclusion and Critique

- Provided two models for understanding users' perception of privacy
  - Privacy model
  - Privacy invasion cycle
- Critique:
  - Did not interview or observe users to understand their view of privacy
  - Model was built using grounded theory to analyze data from privacy research

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## Discussion

- Do these models sufficiently address all facets of privacy in multimedia systems?
- What other facets of privacy should be considered?
- How can we as researchers and designers increase users' trust in multimedia systems?