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# Revisiting PRIME



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Stacy Branham

Usable Security – CS 6204 – Fall, 2009 – Dennis Kafura – Virginia Tech

# Remember PRIME?

## Trust in PRIME

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**Fig. 1: PRIME Architecture Overview.**

The diagram illustrates the PRIME architecture, divided into a User Side and a Services Side. On the User Side, there is a PRIME Console, an Application (Web Browser), User-Side Identity Management Middleware, a Database, and an Anonymizing Proxy. On the Services Side, there is a Front-End Application (Web Server), a Back-End Application, Services-Side Identity Management Middleware, and a Database. The User Side and Services Side are connected via Application-Layer Protocols and Identity Management Protocols. The Internet (with an anonymizing overlay network) connects the User Side and Services Side.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

In our Information Society, users have lost effective control over their private spheres. For instance, when using e-commerce, various personal data about the customers are exposed to the merchants, and to the customers' credit card companies. This includes personal data, such as sex, credit card data, email address, as well as shopping habits and interests. Such data could be stored and aggregated in extensive databases for the purpose of consumer profiling and direct marketing, and can possibly be shared with other merchants. There are usually no effective means for users to control these data releases. Various surveys show that consumers are concerned about security and privacy breaches over the Internet and that those concerns affect their engagement in e-commerce applications.

Powerful tools for technically enforcing user and consumer control and informational self-determination as well as pseudonymity and anonymity can be provided by a privacy-enhanced Identity Management system, as currently developed within the EU FP6 integrated project PRIME.

The authors are listed in alphabetic order. The work reported in this paper was supported by the EU project PRIME which receives funding from the Community's Sixth Framework Program and the Swiss Federal Office for Education and Science. The Centre for HumanIT at Karlstad University supported the finalization of this paper.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.prime-project.eu.org/>

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# Outline

- Introduction
  - the Papers
  - the PRIME Project
- Summary & Critique of Bergmann et al.
- Summary & Critique of Pettersson et al.
- Discussion

# Introduction: the Papers

Pettersson



Bergmann



 Karlstad University  
Back to top  
Call for papers: Conf 2005  
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autonomy and thus to protect privacy and particularly the individual's right to informational self-determination. Powerful tools for technically enforcing user control and informational self-determination as well as pseudonymity and anonymity can be

supports the user to control what personal information about him is revealed to others.

Identity Management subsumes all functionalities that support the use of multiple identities by the identity owner (user-side IDM) and by those parties with whom the owner interact (services-side IDM). The PRIME project addresses privacy-enhancing IDM to support strong privacy by particularly avoiding or reducing

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Symposium On Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) 2005, July 6-8, 2005, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.prime-project.eu.org/>

# Introduction: the PRIME project

The image shows a screenshot of the PrimeLife website. The website has a blue header with the PrimeLife logo (a black cat on a globe) and the text "PrimeLife". Below the header is a navigation menu with items like "Home", "About PRIME", "PRIME Results", "Products", "Tutorials", "Prototypes", "Events", "Community", "Press Room", and "PRIME Ontologies". There is also a search bar and a "Feed Entries" section. The main content area features "Latest News" with several articles, including "First PrimeLife / IFIP Summer School successfully finished" and "W3C Workshop on Access Control Application Scenarios".

A callout box titled "PrimeLife" provides details about the project:

- Research project
- Project manager: [Simone Fischer Hübner](#)
- Project members:
  - [Simone Fischer Hübner](#)
  - [Hana Hedbom](#)
  - [Maria Lindström](#)
  - [Jenny Nilsson](#)
  - [John Sören Pettersson](#)
  - [Erik Wästlund](#)
- Link to project homepage: <http://www.primelife.eu>
- The project belong to the following grouping(s):
  - [Informatik](#)
  - [Centrum för HumanIT](#)
  - [Psykologi](#)
  - [Datavetenskap](#)
- Project dates: Start: 2008-04-01, End: 2011-03-31

Another callout box at the bottom provides details for a related project:

- [Centrum för HumanIT](#)
- [Informatik](#)
- Project dates: Start: 2004-03-01, End: 2008-03-31

# Paper 1

- *Exploring the Feasibility of a Spatial User Interface Paradigm for Privacy-Enhancing Technology*

Bergmann, Rost,  
Pettersson

- ISD 2005, 8 cites

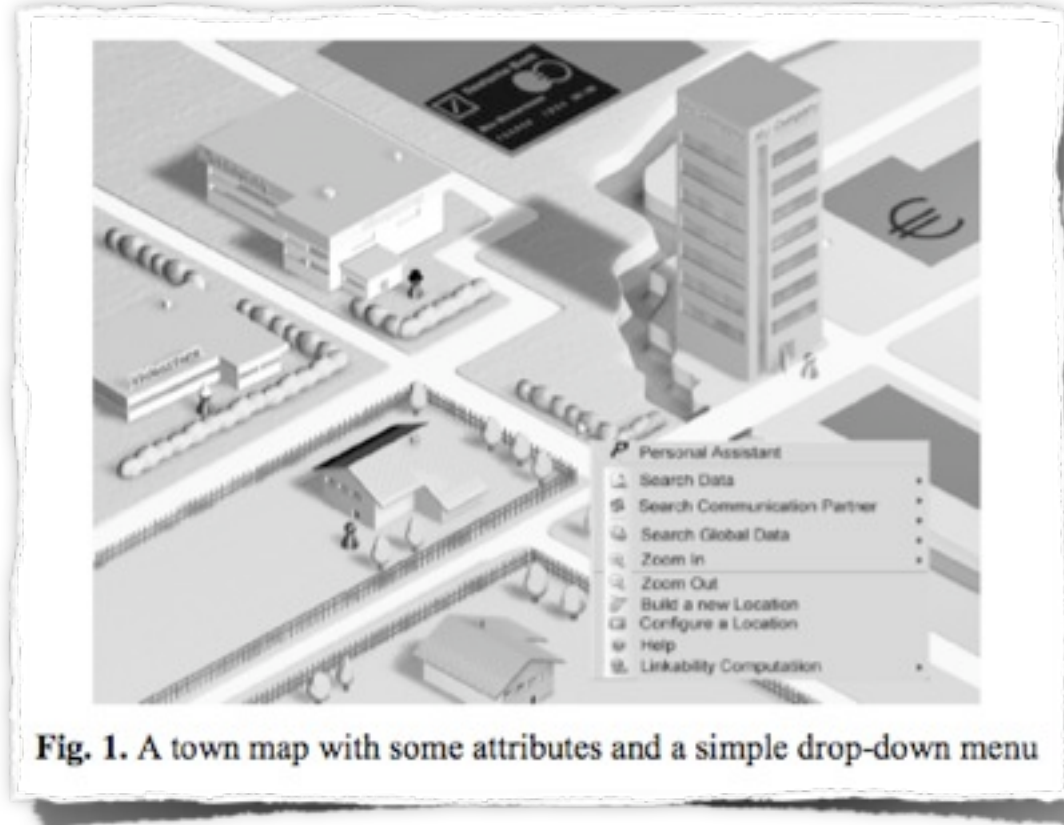


# Motivation/Overview

- electronic devices facilitate communication
  - hence, pose privacy & security risks
- users should control personal info disclosure (identity mgmt, info self-determination)
  - preference settings management
  - diff roles, diff communicators treated differently
  - not required to change settings in ordinary use
  - for users of various levels of education
- new paradigm, spatial interface, “Virtual City”
- study of PRIME UI

# The TownMap

- “hierarchical”
- richness of possible structure
- intuitive
- each space corresponds to a bundle of prefs.
- set several prefs. at once





# The Town Map, Cont'd

- different regions
  - bounded by “districts,” “walls,” “connectors”
  - objects arranged by “similarity”
  - predefined policy with at least 4 areas
    - public area = anonymous
    - business related area = employer knows more
    - my home area (inside private area) = personal
    - private area = specific close contacts have access
- entering new area will change privacy settings to those defined for that area

# User Study

- 34 undergraduates
- Lecture hall batches
- Pictures and animated narrative shown
- Use Cases:
  - opening up communication with a SP
  - user connected to two SP's
  - user connects to an unfamiliar SP
- 2 interfaces: 3D TownMap & 2D CrossRoad
  - TownMap was populated with more objects than the browser

# User Study

- Comparative study
- Scenario
- Questionnaire?

“...the goal was not to see if a town map was better than a traditionally styled browser. Instead, the purpose was to get a basis for discussions within the PRIME project, and of course with interested parties in the rest of the research community, about the semiotic dimension one should venture to play on in more costly prototyping.”

“The user dragged a name icon and a credit card icon to a pay service; his own house and two icons representing the relevant service providers were visible in a tilted town map shown in Figure 4. Later the user also inquired about who had received his name by dropping his name icon on a symbol for his data transactions database (Figure 2).”



Fig. 2. User drags a shop's name to a track icon to get transmission history



Fig. 3. Cross Road consists of four areas; to the right the Public area is enlarged

# Results

“As expected, the traditional-styled browser got in general a positive response. More than half of the answers gave positive descriptions of it. The maps, on the other hand, were considered by many to be messy.”

“On the question about their impression of the display of data and money transaction, 19 answered that it facilitates while 11 regarded it as superfluous. Nine of these eleven persons also thought that it looked childish; fifteen thought it looked OK.”

“When ranking the alternatives, 24 persons put the traditional browser as their primary choice; they also seemed to prefer the simple CrossRoad as a secondary choice. Seven preferred the realistic TownMap and three preferred the simplified CrossRoad, but there was no tendency for the secondary choice.”

“Two fifths of the participants answered that they would like to be able to switch between designs.”

“One should further note that more than half of the participants answered that animation of transactions ‘facilitates.’”

*-Bergmann et al., 2005*

# Discussion

- there was “some interest” in the town map
- maps may have seemed messier because more objects were in the town map
- meaningful to use TownMap-like formats for informing the user of ongoing transactions or for getting user input on data releases

“...the question of visualizing with a town map may not only be thought of as replacing the old desktop but may be introduced via the back door of tutorials.” -*Bergmann et al., 2005*

# Criticism

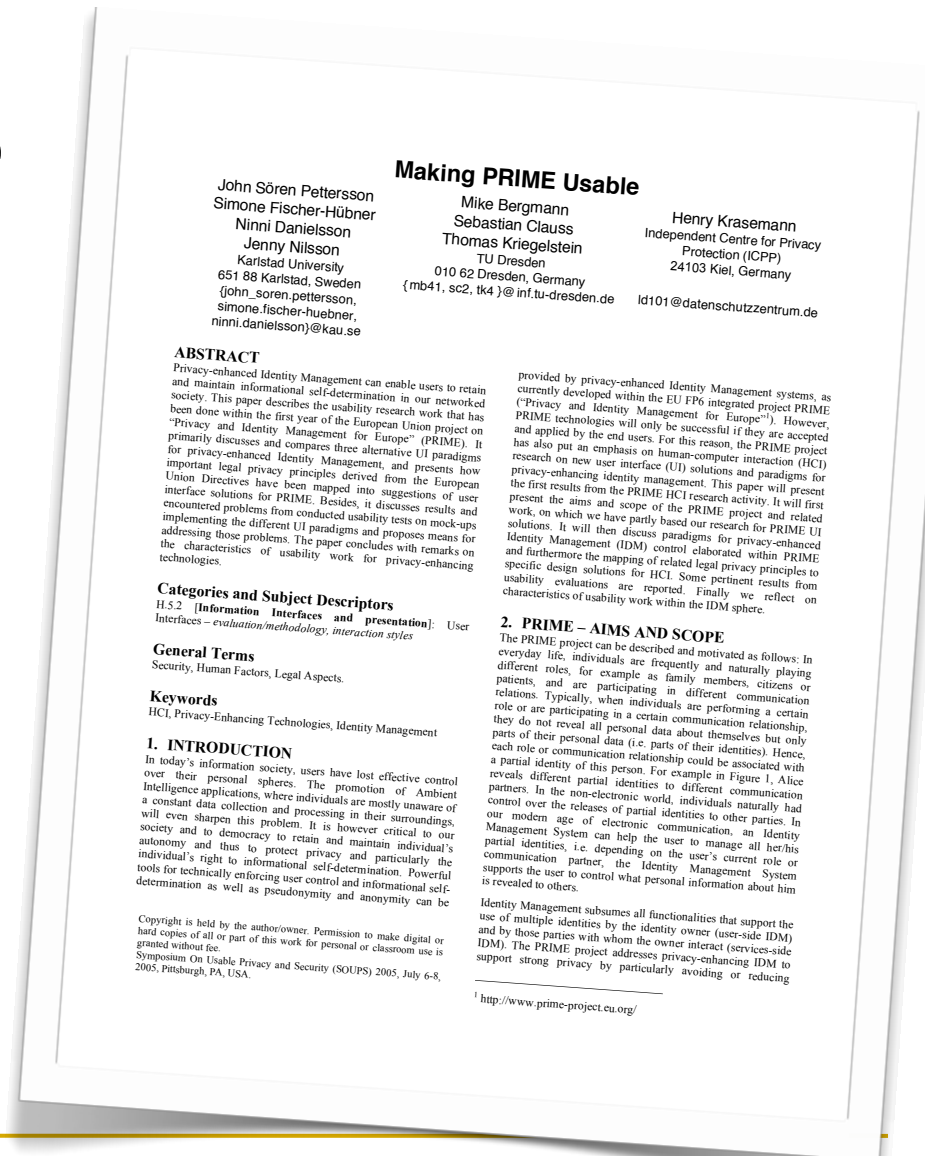
- unclear description of the system
- poor study design for the conclusions
- weak/unsubstantiated results

# Paper 2

## ■ Making Prime Usable

Pettersson, Hübner,  
Danielsson, Nilsson,  
Bergmann, Clauss,  
Kriegelstein,  
Krasemann

## ■ SOUPS 2005, 16 cites



# Motivation/Overview

- Users have lost control of personal info
- Ambient intelligence apps exacerbate this
- Critical to democracy to maintain autonomy and right to *information self-determination*
- PRIME is an Identity Management (IDM) system that addresses this need
- Three design paradigms for IDM PRIME
- Legal requirements inform PRIME usability
- HCI studies of PRIME IDM paradigms



# PRIME

- roles, partial identities
- user/services-side IDM
- design must start from max privacy
- user-controlled pseudonyms
- user-controlled linkability

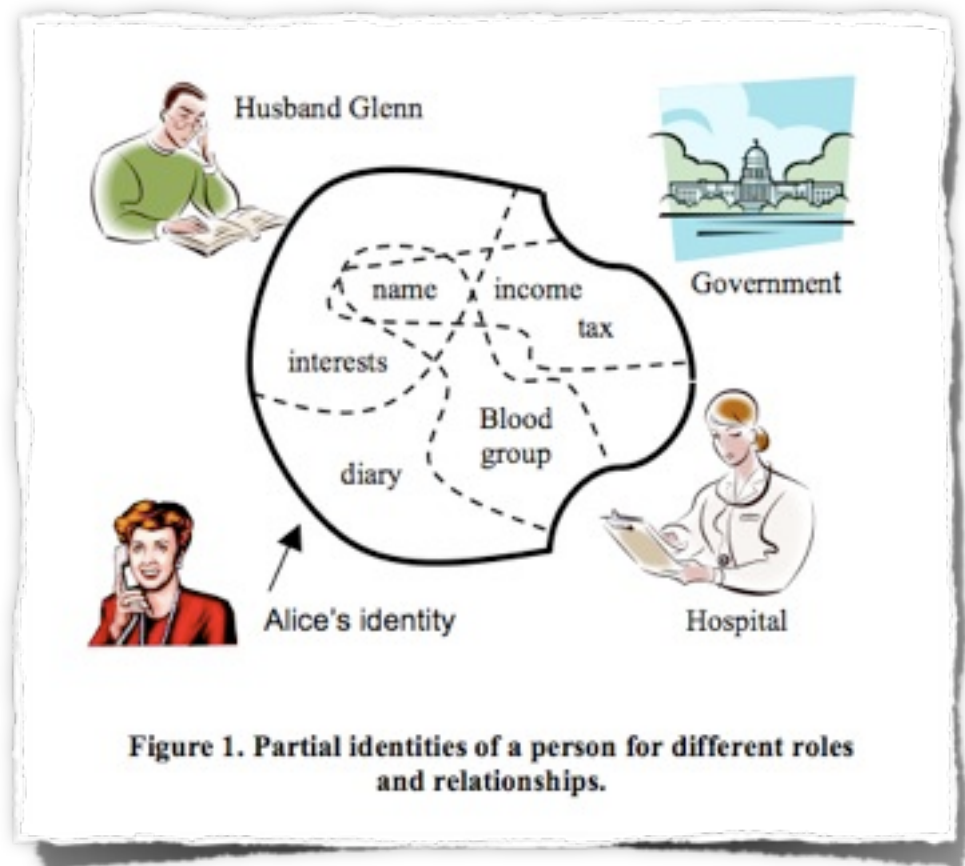


Figure 1. Partial identities of a person for different roles and relationships.

# PISA

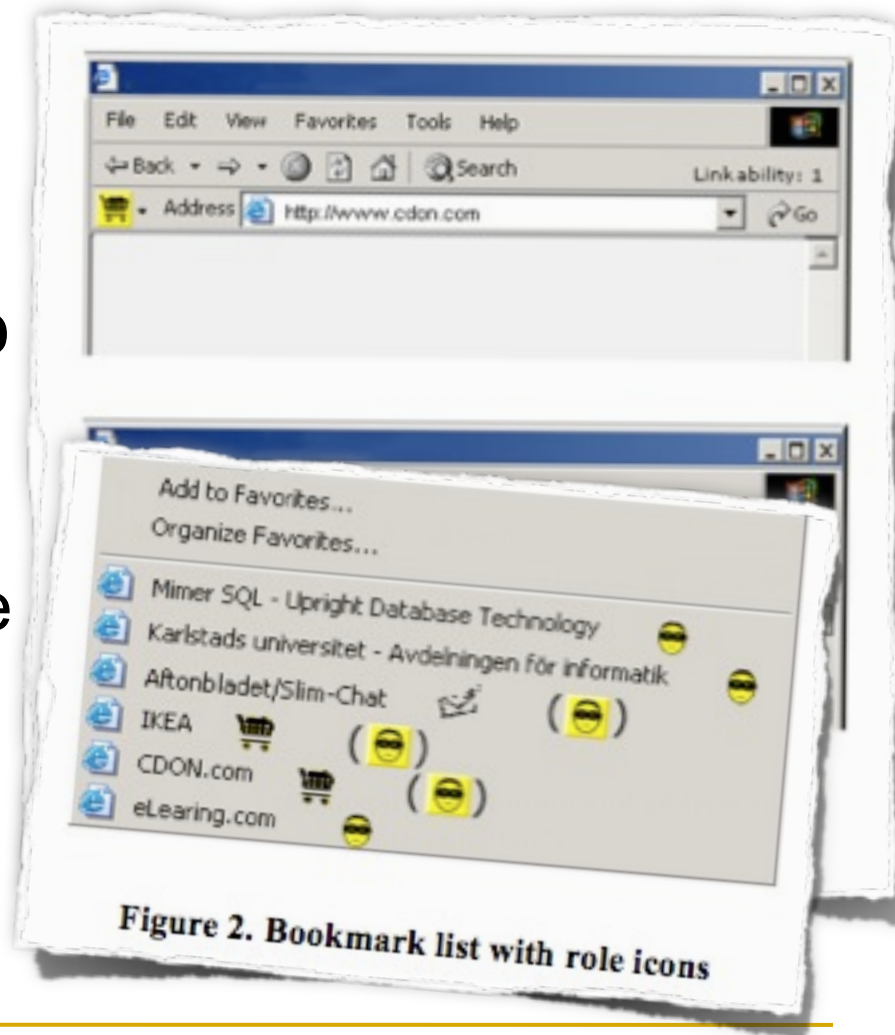
- derived HCI guidelines from privacy law
- Just-In-Time-Click-Through Agreements (JITCTAs)
- Drag-And-Drop Agreements (DADAs)
- PRIME seeks to build off PISA

# Role-centered Paradigm

- control of data dictated by roles
- each role has different disclosure prefs. for diff. data types
- icon bar that fits into browser
- user has to click role before transaction, has to switch role when is no longer appropriate
- didn't user test these mockups

# Relationship-centered Paradigm

- user defines diff. privacy prefs. for each service provider
- bookmarks are used to store service providers
  - default relationship is “anonymous” but can be overridden
- no extra steps introduced during browsing



# TownMap-based Paradigm

- roles map to areas
  - Neighborhood (rel. pseudonymity, default)
  - Public (trans. pseudonymity, default)
  - Work (rel., role pseudonymity)
- houses
  - user's house
  - bookmarked service providers



Figure 4. TownMap with building tools visible



Figure 5. Tilted TownMap visible

# Legal Privacy Requirements to PRIME

Legal policy	Info to be provided to user	user right to access / rectify / block / erase data & object	obtaining consent from user	data minimization
PISA HCI Guidelines	users must know who is controlling data and for what purpose	user is conscious of, understand, and can exercise rights	“unambiguous,” “explicit,” or “informed” user consent	n/a
PRIME HCI Guidelines	machine-readable policy, displayed by PRIME UI, link to full policy,	info about data subject’s rights has to appear in the policy, obvious tools for exercising rights	automatic disclosure; dialogue box; mobile phone informed consent; consent by DnD	possible conflict: predefined roles and defaults

# Obtaining User Consent

- auto disclosure: certain for specified purpose
  - user can change/disable
  - user should be reminded
- dialogue box: inform
- mobile phone IC
  - linked or scrollable form
  - bandwidth limits, “Send”
- consent by DnD
  - avoid automatic behavior
  - can be used for confirmation

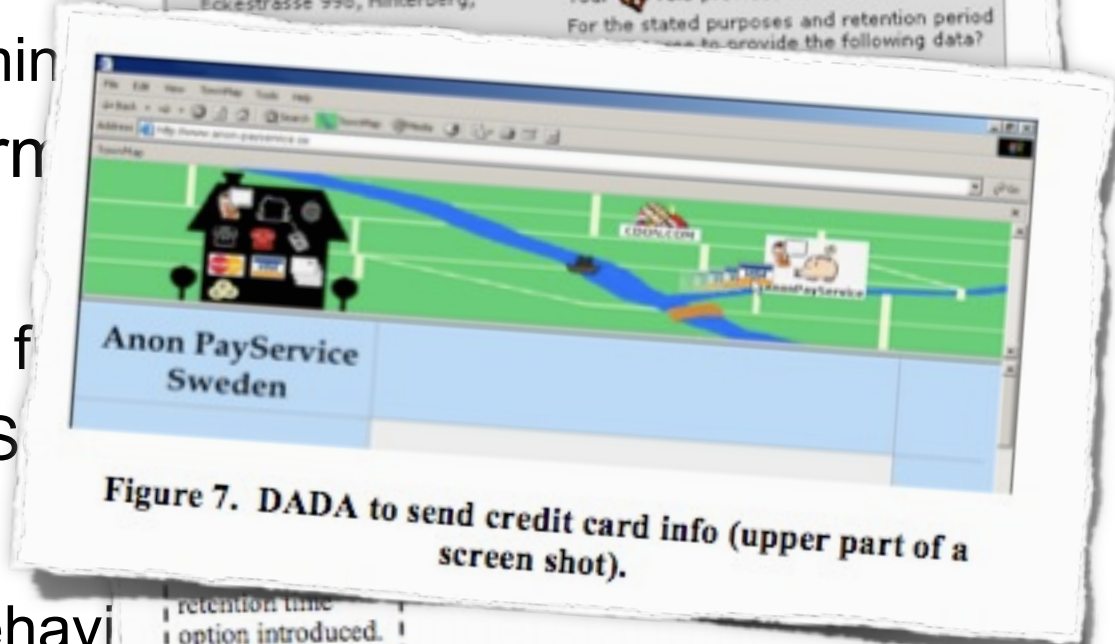
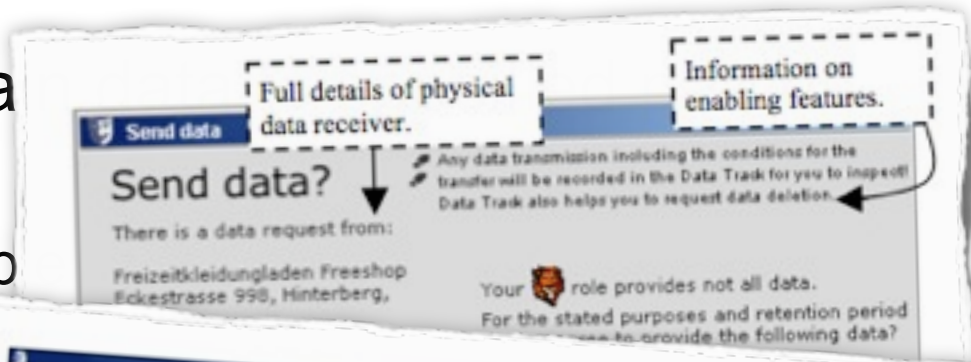


Figure 7. DADA to send credit card info (upper part of a screen shot).

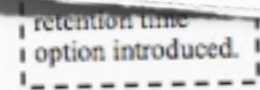


Figure 6. Send data?

# Evaluation

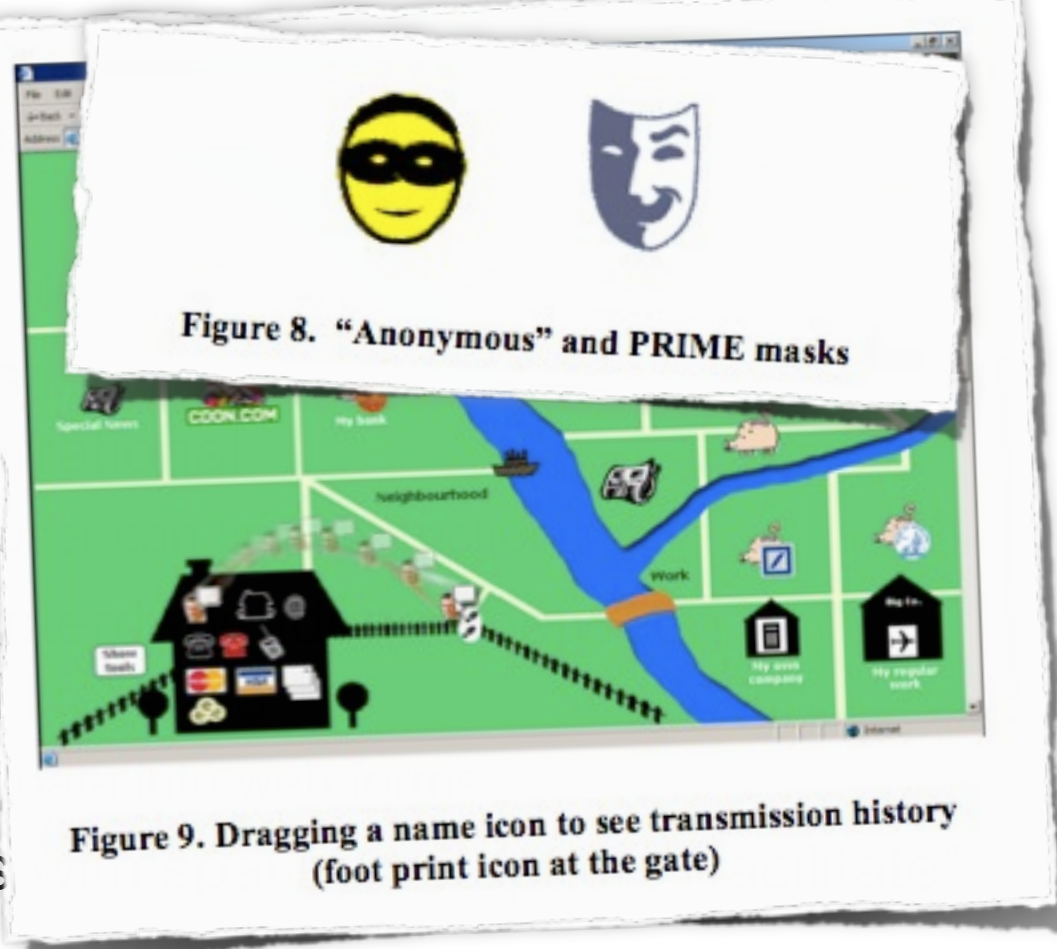
- 8 usability tests, 71 participants
- 2 sets questionnaires, 34 participants
- 1 comparison, 66 participants
- pilots, interactive mockups, 1-on-1 post-interviews

- Initial tests of DRIM: three tests each with 5 test participants, and a fourth test in Germany and in German by the (German) developers with 6 test participants.
- Questionnaires on PRIME-related words: on linkability (use of pseudonyms), 12 participants; on other PRIME-related words (nine words and phrases), 12 participants; joint questionnaire on both PRIME-related words and linkability, however participants were reluctant to do the second half on linkability which contained several texts, 36 participants (a class of psychology students). Joint questionnaire to 6 German participants.
- Disclosure icons short test: 18 participants (high school students) tested on two triplets for setting disclosure options for personal data.
- Usability test of redesigned role-setting in DRIM: 5 + 5 test participants (the latter half was confronted to new symbols for disclosure options for personal data, but did not have to do the whole test).
- Usability of browsing of the re-designed DRIM: 5 test participants.
- Relationship-centred e-shopping in the mock-ups: one whole-scenarios usability test with 7 test participants; a test including 10 test participants seeing a user interface animation and then answering questions or performing mouse movements on realistic screen-dumps on a laptop (the laptop solution made it possible to visit participants in their homes).
- TownMap preference test (briefly described in 6.2.5): 34 test participants.



# Discussion

- users had diverse preferences for icons to symbolize roles
  - so, let users define icons
- users had problem meeting needs of services-side IDM
  - HCI principle: UI should be self-explanatory
- users have trouble trusting system although reasoning is sound
  - visible assurances that system is trustworthy
- unclear perception of impact of pseudonyms and “real” identities
  - prevent manual entry of real names
- transaction animations



# Criticism

- contributions
  - 3 paradigms
  - law-derived PRIME usability guidelines
- study findings are weakest
  - not enough methodological description
  - not enough raw data presented

# Class Discussion

- informational self-determination?



*Dan Ariely, "Are We In Control of Our Own Decisions?" 2008 TED Talk*

- what does this mean for us? research? ethics?

# Class Discussion

“Int  
info  
app  
afte

## Current Research

### Supporting Trust Decisions

Internet users are increasingly being asked to make trust decisions, and the consequences of a wrong decision can lead to viruses, spyware, and identity theft. Our goal is to understand how people make trust decisions, currently in the context of phishing scams, and to develop user interfaces, algorithms, and other support tools to help people make better decisions. This work is funded by National Science Foundation CCF-0524189

See older projects here...



Learn how to protect yourself from phishing attacks.

- Getting Users to Pay Attention to Anti-Phishing Education: Evaluation of Retention and Transfer (APWG eCrime 2007)
- User Interfaces and Algorithms for Fighting Phishing, a talk in August 2007 summarizing our work to date. An older version of this talk is available as a Google TechTalk.
- Anti-Phishing Phil: The Design and Evaluation of a Game That Teaches People Not to Fall for Phish (SOUPS2007)
- Anti-Phishing Phil game
- CANTINA: A Content-Based Approach to Detecting Phishing Web Sites (WWW2007)
- Protecting People from Phishing: The Design and Evaluation of an Embedded Training Email System (CHI 2007)
- Phinding Phish: An Evaluation of Anti-Phishing Toolbars (NDSS 2007)

- Does education have a role?

# Class Discussion

- Is TownMap *a priori* better than a slider bar?

TownMap	Slider Bar
- difficult metaphor	+ standard metaphor
+ may increase awareness of how many institutions have their information	+ probably faster
<add your own>	<add your own>

# Class Discussion

- how do we know that we can trust these user studies if we are missing methodology, results in the papers?

"I believe that all research ultimately depends on trust, whether it is qualitative or quantitative" -*Deborah Tatar, in a meeting 11/18/09*

- What counts as evidence?
- What counts as substantial contribution?

"As Allan Cooper explained about targeting a product to a receptive user group: "80% of people in focus groups hated the new Dodge Ram pickup. [Chrysler] went ahead with production, and made it into a bestseller because the other 20% loved it. Having people love your product, even if it is only a minority, is how you succeed." -*Bergmann et al., 2005*

# Goals/Values

- important to limit up-front customization while providing for variety of customization
- should help the user enforce his rights of informational self-determinism
- should avoid PET jargon
- should be “comfortable” for both novice & expert users
- should not require explicit learning process
- should not demand extra clicks/key-presses
- should err on the side of anonymity