

Privacy in Web Applications

Mustafa A. Mustafa

Research Fellow in Computer Science

OWASP top 10 security risks



OWASP top 10 security risks



Sensitive data exposure

Examples of sensitive data

- Banking information: account numbers, credit card numbers
- Health information
- Personal information: social security number, date of birth, address, ...
- User account/passwords



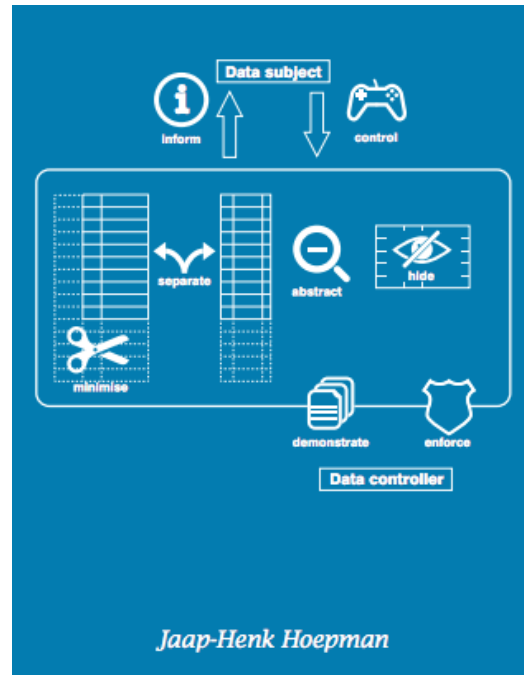
GDPR

What is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)?



Privacy design strategies

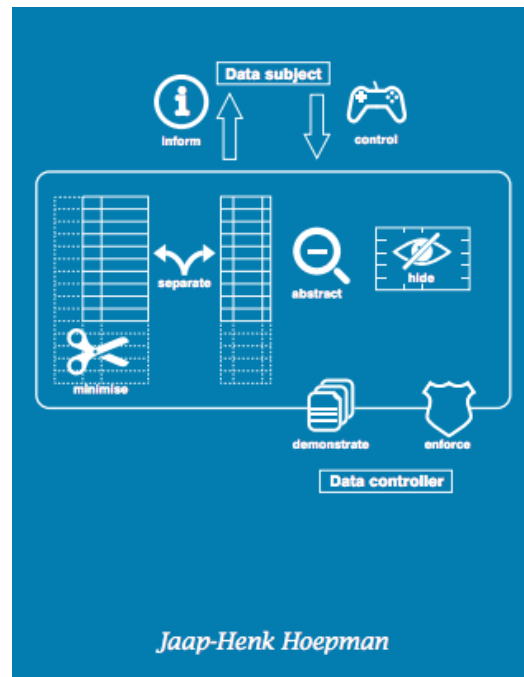
- There are many available strategies / guidelines
- Hoepman's eight privacy design strategies



Privacy Design Strategies (The Little Blue Book) by Hoepman, 2020
<https://www.cs.ru.nl/~jhh/publications/pds-booklet.pdf>

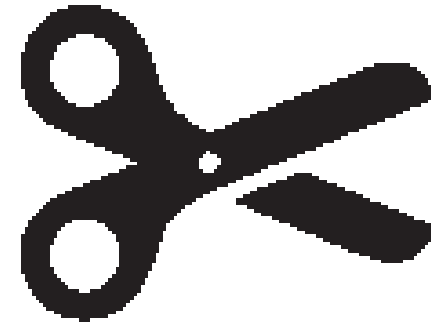
Privacy design strategies

- There are many available strategies / guidelines
- Hoepman's eight privacy design strategies
 1. Minimise
 2. Separate
 3. Abstract
 4. Hide
 5. Inform
 6. Control
 7. Enforce
 8. Demonstrate



1. Minimise

- Limit as much as possible the processing of personal data.
- Nothing can go wrong with data you do not collect; they cannot be abused, misused, or get leaked accidentally
- Tactics:
 - Select
 - Exclude
 - Strip
 - Destroy



2. Separate

- (Logically or physically) separate the processing of personal data as much as possible.
- This makes it harder to combine or correlate data.
- Tactics:
 - Isolate
 - Distribute



3. Abstract

- Limit as much as possible the detail in which personal data is processed.
- The less detailed a personal data item is, the lower the privacy risk is.
- Tactics:
 - Summarise
 - Group
 - Perturb



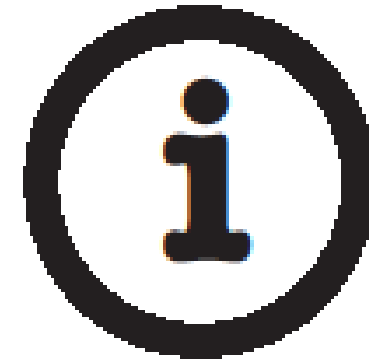
4. Hide

- Protect personal data, or make it unlinkable or unobservable.
- Make sure it does not become public or known.
- Tactics:
 - Restrict
 - Obfuscate
 - Dissociate
 - Mix



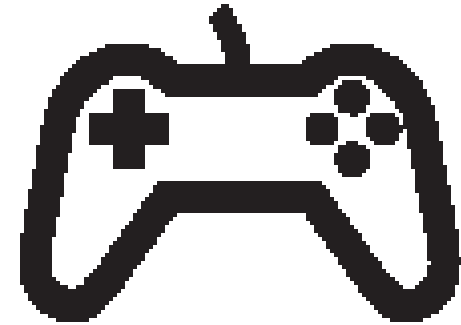
5. Inform

- Inform users about the processing of their personal data in a timely and adequate manner.
- Transparency about which personal data is being processed, how they are processed and for which purpose, is an essential for better privacy protection.
- Tactics:
 - Supply
 - Explain
 - Notify



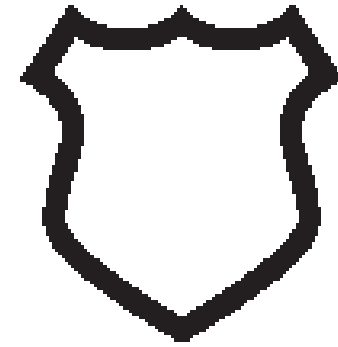
6. Control

- Provide users adequate control over the processing of their personal data.
- Users want to have control and have a say in how their personal data is processed and shared.
- Tactics:
 - Consent
 - Choose
 - Update
 - Retract



7. Enforce

- Commit to processing personal data in a privacy-friendly way, and adequately enforce this.
- Privacy should be part of the organisational culture and be propagated by higher management.
- Tactics:
 - Create
 - Maintain
 - Uphold



8. Demonstrate

- Demonstrate you are processing personal data in a privacy-friendly way
- This strategy addresses the new requirement that organisations need to demonstrate compliance to privacy regulations.
- Tactics:
 - Record
 - Audit
 - Report



Thank you!

Mustafa A. Mustafa
mustafa.mustafa@manchester.ac.uk