Week 5: “Threat modeling” and everyday privacy

Real time lecture: July 3, 8:30 am Pacific/11:30 am Eastern

Overview

A great deal of the conversation about privacy focuses on protecting people like journalists, whistleblowers, activists, and others whose adversaries might include powerful law enforcement or intelligence entities. But those are hardly the people at serious risk of having their privacy violated. This week, Eva Galperin of EFF will join us to talk about privacy threats that come from more personal relationships -- our classmates, family, bosses, and others who might be members of our communities. We’ll also introduce the concept of threat modeling -- a method of determining how a person should protect themselves based on who they are and who their adversaries might be.

Readings

- EFF’s guide to threat modeling: https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/assessing-your-risks
- Surveillance begins at home (domestic violence and privacy): https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahjeong/2014/10/28/surveillance-begins-at-home/#1e809a2b7f41
- Browse through EPIC’s resources on domestic violence and privacy: https://www.epic.org/privacy/dv/
- That time the NSA used their surveillance tools to spy on their romantic partners: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2013/08/24/loveint-when-nsa-officers-use-their-spying-power-on-love-interests/
- Companies are using big data to predict worker illness, and other dystopian horrors: https://www.wsj.com/articles/bosses-harness-big-data-to-predict-which-workers-might-get-sick-1455664940?mod=e2tw

Guest lecturer

Eva Galperin, Director of Cybersecurity at Electronic Frontier Foundation (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eva_Galperin)

Discussion

- Discuss threat modeling and its application in libraries
- Discuss the threat models we talked about this week. How do they apply to our communities?

Assignment

- Create an example threat model/user persona
- Write up a strategy for incorporating threat modeling in library instruction (either as a couple of slides or a plan to incorporate it into other instruction)