Allison McDonald

Contact

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Research

My interests are in the intersection of technology and society, particularly in the areas of privacy and security. I study problems such as Internet censorship, mass surveillance, and anonymity systems. My interests also include how to reduce the difference in expectations between developers and users, especially as it applies to privacy.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI   2016 – present
PhD, Computer Science
Advisor: J. Alex Halderman

Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany   2015 – 2016
Master of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LLM)
Two semester, non-degree seeking student

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI   2010 – 2015
Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Computer Science
Bachelor of Science, German

Awards & Honors

Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2016
Provides funding for two years to incoming PhD students with outstanding academic background.

Roger M. Jones Fellowship, 2015
Awarded to one graduating engineer at the University of Michigan in order to broaden and deepen an engineering education through studying the humanities at a European University.

Baden-Württemberg Stipendium Recipient, 2012
Awarded for academic merit to fund international students enrolled in universities in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Employment

Expedia, Inc., Bellevue, WA   May 2014 – August 2014
Software Intern
Designed and implemented system to retry failed payments.

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University of Michigan, College of Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI   January 2011 – May 2015
CAEN Hotline Consultant
Assisted students and faculty with managing and using their computing accounts.

Activities

Computer Security Workshops, 2016 – present
Organize and lead computer security workshops for community groups and university organizations. These workshops typically cover password managers, two-factor authentication, and the basics of encryption.

LSWE-SUCCESS, 2015
Participated in planning a leadership camp in Kakata, Liberia. The camp was organized as a cooperation between the Graduate Society of Women Engineers at the University of Michigan and Liberian women in engineering and science higher education programs.

GirlsEncoded Coordinator, 2014
Cofounded event to encourage high school girls to study computer science, which brought over 100 girls to the University of Michigan for a computer science day camp.

Science Camp in India, 2014
Designed and hosted a series of computer science activities in Walchandnagar, India, as part of a summer camp for secondary school students.