

Alexandra Nisenoff

nisenoff@cmu.edu | anisenoff.github.io

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. student, Societal Computing, School of Computer Science
M.S. in Societal Computing May 2024
Advisors: Nicolas Christin and Lorrie Faith Cranor
GPA: 4.06

August 2022 — Present
Pittsburgh, PA

University of Chicago, Summa Cum Laude

B.S. in Computer Science (specialization in computer security)
B.A. Astrophysics
GPS: 3.737

September 2017 — June 2021
Chicago, IL

RESEARCH

Carnegie Mellon University, Software and Societal Systems Department

Research Assistant for Prof. Nicolas Christin and Prof. Lorrie Faith Cranor

August 2022 — Present
Pittsburgh, PA

University of Chicago, Department of Computer Science, SUPERgroup

Research Assistant for Prof. Blase Ur

July 2019 — August 2022
Chicago, IL

University of Chicago, Data Science Institute

Research Assistant for Prof. Nick Feamster

August 2020 — July 2022
Chicago, IL

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy

Human Factors in Security and Privacy Group

Research Assistant for Prof. Yasemin Acar

June 2021 — September 2021
Remote

University of Chicago, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Research Assistant for Prof. Vikram Dwarkadas

October 2019 — December 2021
Chicago, IL

University of Chicago, Department of Geophysical Sciences

Lab Technician for Prof. Elisabeth Moyer

June 2018 — March 2019
Chicago, IL

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Conference Papers

[CCS '25] Alexandra Nisenoff, Deian Stefan, Nicolas Christin. *Exploiting the Shared Storage API*. In Proceedings of the 32nd ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security. Taipei, Taiwan. October 2025.

[SOUPS '24] Elijah Bouma-Sims, Hiba Hassan, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Nicolas Christin. *"It was honestly just gambling": Investigating the Experiences of Teenage Cryptocurrency Users on Reddit*. Proceedings of the 20th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security. Philadelphia, PA, August 2024.

[USENIX '23] Alexandra Nisenoff, Maximilian Golla, Miranda Wei, Juliette Hainline, Hayley Szymanek, Annika Braun, Annika Hildebrandt, Blair Christensen, David Langenberg, and Blase Ur. *A Two-Decade Retrospective Analysis of a University's Vulnerability to Attacks Exploiting Reused Passwords*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.

Distinguished Paper Award

[USENIX '23] Alexandra Nisenoff, Arthur Borem, Madison Pickering, Grant Nakanishi, Maya Thumpasery, and Blase Ur. *Defining "Broken": User Experiences and Remediation Tactics When Ad-Blocking or Tracking-Protection Tools Break a Website's User Experience*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.

[USENIX '23] Alexandra Nisenoff, Ranya Sharma, Nick Feamster. *User Awareness and Behaviors Concerning Encrypted DNS Settings in Web Browsers*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.

[CHI '23] Elijah Bouma-Sims, Megan Li, Yanzi Lin, Adia Sakura-Lemessy, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Ellie Young, Eleanor Birrell, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Hana Habib. *A US-UK Usability Evaluation of Consent Management Platform Cookie Consent Interface Design on Desktop and Mobile*. Proceedings of the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). Hamburg, Germany. April 2023.

[USENIX '22] Collins Munyendo, Philipp Markert, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Miles Grant, Elena Korkes, Blase Ur, Adam Aviv. “*The Same PIN, Just Longer: On the (In)Security of Upgrading PINs from 4 to 6 Digits*. Proceedings of the 31st USENIX Security Symposium. Boston, MA, August 2022.

Peer Reviewed Journal Papers

- Eman Alashwali, Andrea Miller, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Kyerra Norton, Ellie Young, Prerna Bothra, Mandy Lanyon, and Lorrie Faith Cranor. *Interface Design to Support Informed Choices When Users Face Numerous Privacy Decisions*, in IEEE Transactions on Privacy, vol. 2, pp. 79-91, 2025.

Peer Reviewed Workshop Papers

- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Nick Feamster, Madeleine A Hoofnagle, Sydney Zink. *User Expectations and Understanding of Encrypted DNS Settings*. In Network and Distributed Security Symposium Workshop on DNS Privacy, pp. 1-8, Virtual. February 2021.

Other Publications

- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Maximilian Golla, Blase Ur. *Measuring the Risk Password Reuse Poses for a University*. USENIX ;login: Magazine, July 2023.
- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Vikram V. Dwarkadas, Mathias C. Ross. *Supernova X-Ray Database (SNaX) Updated to Ensure Long-term Stability*. 2020 Res. Notes AAS 4 195.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Research Funding

- **CyLab Presidential Fellowship**, a year of tuition given to high-achieving PhD students pursuing security/privacy research 2025
- **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** 2022
- **Dean's Fund Grant**, \$1,500 UChicago grant for research expenses 2020
- **Jeff Metcalf Fellowship Grant**, \$3,750 UChicago grant for summer internships 2020

Travel Grants

- **Student Grant to attend CCS** 2025
- **Student Grant to attend USENIX Security** 2023
- **Grant to attend GREPSEC** 2023
- **Scholarship to CRA Grad Cohort Workshop** 2023
- **Diversity Grant to attend USENIX Enigma** 2020

Other

- **Pittsburgh Glass Center Summer Intensive Scholarship**, funding to attend flameworking class 2025

AWARDS

- **PETS '25 Distinguished Artifact Reviewer** 2025
- **USENIX '23 Distinguished Paper Award** for “A Two-Decade Retrospective Analysis of a University’s Vulnerability to …” 2023
- **Departmental Honors (Computer Science)** 2021
- **Harper Award for Exceptional Performance in a Course**, Engineering Interactive Electronics onto Printed Circuit Boards 2021
- **Enrico Fermi Scholar**, GPA in top 5% of major over past 5 years (only eligible 3rd and 4th year of college) 2020 & 2021
- **Dean’s List** 2017 – 2020

SERVICE

Reviewing

- **CCS**: Security Usability and Measurement Track Program Committee Member 2026
- **The Web Conference**: Security and Privacy Track Program Committee Member 2025, 2026
- **MADWeb**: Program Committee Member 2026
- **CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems**: External Reviewer 2024, 2025, 2026
- **USENIX Security**: Artifact Review Committee Member 2025
- **PoPETs**: Artifact Review Committee Member 2023, 2024, 2025
- **USENIX Security**: Poster Jury 2025
- **SOUPS**: Poster Jury 2024, 2025

Other

- S3D Societal Computing Student Rep 2025
- Cylab Faculty Hiring Committee: Student Member 2025
- Graduate Application Support Program – School of Computer Science
 - Program Organizer 2025
 - Graduate Student Mentor 2022, 2023, 2024
- REUSE (REU in Software Engineering): Admissions Committee Member 2024, 2025
- SCS Gender Minority Lunch Social: S3D Department Student Organizer 2024 – 2025

TEACHING

- Guest Lecture, Carnegie Mellon University, Intro to Computer Security, **Making Security Usable** April 2025
- Guest Lecture, Carnegie Mellon University, Intro to Information Security, **Intro to Web Security** March 2025
- Guest Lecture, Carnegie Mellon University, Browser Security February 2025
Advancements in Privacy Preserving Advertising (and how things can go wrong)
- Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University, **Introduction to Computer Security** - Undergrad (Instructors: Riccardo Paccagnella & Riad Wahby; 99 students) Spring 2025
(Instructors: David Brumley & Riad Wahby; 110 students) Spring 2024
- Head Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University, **Usable Privacy & Security** - Undergrad/Master's/PhD (Instructor: Lorrie Cranor; 61 students) Spring 2023
- Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago, **Introduction to Computer Security** - Undergrad/PhD (Instructors: David Cash & Blase Ur; 109 students) Winter 2022
(Instructors: David Cash & Blase Ur; 86 students) Winter 2021
- Computer Science Tutor, University of Chicago, College Core Tutor Program Winter 2020

ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH

- TechNights – Carnegie Mellon University** October 2023 — May 2025
Volunteer Pittsburgh, PA
- Facilitated CS related activities for 20-30 middle school girls
 - Spring '25 helped lead a session on ethical hacking and IoT security
- OurCS – Carnegie Mellon University** October 2022, 2024
Graduate Student Mentor Pittsburgh, PA
- Worked with another PhD student to run a two day mini research project for undergraduate students on cookie consent categories ('22) and anti-adblock banners ('24)
- Expanding Your Horizons Chicago** August 2019 — March 2022
Organizing Committee Member Chicago, IL
- Organized student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls

SKILLS

- Programming** Python, C, LabVIEW, JavaScript, PHP, and R
Applications Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics, and \LaTeX
Hobbies Flamework, Quilting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Knitting, Sewing, Photography (Film/Digital), Bobbin Lace Making