

Alexandra Nisenoff

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. student, Societal Computing

Advisors: Nicolas Christin and Lorrie Faith Cranor

August 2022 — Present

Pittsburgh, PA

University of Chicago, Summa Cum Laude

B.S. in Computer Science (specialization in computer security)

B.A. Astrophysics

GPA: 3.737

September 2017 — June 2021

Chicago, IL

RESEARCH

Carnegie Mellon University

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

August 2022 — Present

Pittsburgh, PA

- Designing an interview study to understand methods of bundling consent decisions in collaboration with researchers at Meta
- Assisted with completing a paper submission on the usability of cookie consent interfaces

University of Chicago, Department of Computer Science, SUPERgroup

Research Assistant for Prof. Blase Ur

July 2019 — August 2022

Chicago, IL

- Lead project investigating the different ways that tracking protection tools can cause websites to function incorrectly through a user study and qualitative coding of user reviews
- Parsed over 1TB of data breaches, performed password transformations, and analyzed data for a study on password reuse
- Created a targeted guessing algorithm to guess a user's 6-digit PIN after "upgrading" from a 4-digit PIN
- Oversaw three undergrads on various research projects

University of Chicago, Data Science Institute

Research Assistant for Prof. Nick Feamster

August 2020 — July 2022

Chicago, IL

- Designing and coordinating user study on encrypted DNS settings on mobile devices and in browsers
- Providing training on LaTeX and Qualtrics to high school research assistant

University of Chicago, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Research Assistant for Prof. Vikram Dwarkadas

October 2019 — December 2021

Chicago, IL

- Designing and building an online database for radio supernova data (PHP, MySQL, and JavaScript)
- Updated Supernova X-Ray Database to be compatible with a newer version of PHP and fixed preexisting XSS vulnerabilities

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

- Created a selenium testing framework for a large scale internet measurement study on the issues that occur when password managers interact with websites

University of Chicago Department of Geophysical Sciences

Lab Technician for Prof. Elisabeth Moyer

June 2018 — March 2019

Chicago, IL

- Optimized data reduction program in IDL, decreasing runtimes by over 95% on typical output files
- Operated laser spectrometer to gather water isotopologue ratios in the atmosphere Implemented additional software capabilities for the spectrometer into existing LabVIEW code

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- 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*. 2022. USENIX Security.
- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Nick Feamster, Madeleine A Hoofnagle, Sydney Zink. *User Expectations and Understanding of Encrypted DNS Settings*. 2021. NDSS DNS Privacy Workshop.

Under Review

- **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*
- **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*.
- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Ranya Sharma, Nick Feamster. *User Awareness and Behaviors Concerning Encrypted DNS Settings in Web Browsers*.
- Elijah Robert 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*.

Other

- **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

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
Diversity Grant to USENIX Enigma	2020

AWARDS

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

ACTIVITIES

University of Chicago Department of Computer Science	January — March 2021 & 2022
<i>Course Staff for Introduction to Computer Security ('21: 86 students, '22: 109 students)</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted with the development of computer security focused assignments• Responded to student questions on class discussion board about computer security concepts, ran office hours, and graded assignments	
Expanding Your Horizons Chicago	August 2019 — March 2022
<i>Organizing Committee Member</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organized student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls	
UChicago Maroon Newspaper	September 2017 — June 2021
<i>Photo Section Editor and Staff Photographer</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ran staff meetings, photo critiques, and handled various logistical tasks for the photo section• Took photos at protests, guest lectures, concerts, sports events, and art exhibits• 2019 ICPA Award for Excellence in IL College Newspapers: General News Photo 2nd place	
College Core Tutor Program	January 2020 — March 2020
<i>Peer Tutor</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted 5-10 students per session with introductory computer science classes in Python, C, and Typed Racket	

SKILLS

Programming	Proficient: Python, C, LabVIEW, and IDL Experienced: JavaScript, PHP, HTML/CSS, and R
Applications	Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics, and \LaTeX