

# 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

June 2021 — September 2021

Remote

Research Assistant for Prof. Yasemin Acar

### 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

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### 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 frameworKing class 2025

## AWARDS

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- 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

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### 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 CyLab 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** November 2025
- **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

<b>Programming</b>	Python, C, LabVIEW, JavaScript, PHP, and R
<b>Applications</b>	Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics, and $\text{\LaTeX}$
<b>Hobbies</b>	Flamework, Quilting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Knitting, Sewing, Photography (Film/Digital), Bobbin Lace Making