

Alexandra Nisenoff

nisenoff@cmu.edu | anisenoff.github.io

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. student, Societal Computing, School of Computer Science
Advisors: Nicolas Christin and Lorrie Faith Cranor
GPA: 4.08

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

Conference

- **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
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

Workshops & Other

- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Maximilian Golla, Blase Ur. *Measuring the Risk Password Reuse Poses for a University*. USENIX ;login: Magazine, July 2023.

- **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.
- **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.

Under Review

- 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*
- Eman Alashwali, Andrea Miller, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Kyerra Norton, Ellie Young, Perna Bothra, Mandy Lanyon, and Lorrie Faith Cranor. *Obtaining Meaningful and Informed Consent When Users Have 17 Privacy Choices to Make*.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Student Grant to attend USENIX Security	2023
Grant to attend GREPSEC	2023
Scholarship to CRA Grad Cohort Workshop	2023
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 attend USENIX Enigma	2020

AWARDS

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

PoPETs Artifact Review Committee Member	2023 & 2024
CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems External Reviewer	2024
SOUPS Poster Jury	2024
REUSE (REU in Software Engineering) Admissions Committee Member	2024

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University 15-330/18-330: Introduction to Computer Security ('24: 110 students)	Spring 2024
Head Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University 05-436/05-836/17-334/17-734/19-534/19-734: Usable Privacy & Security ('23: 61 students)	Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago CMSC 23200/CMSC 33250: Introduction to Computer Security ('21: 86 students, '22: 109 students)	Winter 2021 & 2022

ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH

TechNights – Carnegie Mellon University Volunteer	October 2023 — Present Pittsburgh, PA
• Facilitate CS related activities for 20-30 female students in grades 6–8 per event	
OurCS – Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Mentor	October 2022 Pittsburgh, PA
• Worked with another PhD student to run a two day mini research project for female undergrads on cookie consent categories	

Graduate Application Support (GASP) Program – CMU School of Computer Science**November 2022, 2023***Graduate Student Mentor**Pittsburgh, PA*

- Provided feedback on grad school application materials and answered questions about the grad school application process

Expanding Your Horizons Chicago**August 2019 — March 2022***Organizing Committee Member**Chicago, IL*

- Organized student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls

College Core Tutor Program – University of Chicago**January 2020 — March 2020***Peer Tutor**Chicago, IL*

- 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**Applications****Experienced:** JavaScript, PHP, HTML/CSS, and R
Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics, and \LaTeX