

EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science
University of Maryland

Expected May 2026
College Park, MD

- Advised by Michelle Mazurek, focusing on human-centered security and privacy

B.A. in Computer Science and Science, Technology, and Society
Pomona College

May 2019
Claremont, CA

- *Magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

[in review] **Wentao Guo**, Alexander Yang, Nathan Malkin, Michelle L. Mazurek. How experts personalize security advice for at-risk users.

Wentao Guo, Paige Pepitone, Adam J. Aviv, Michelle L. Mazurek. How researchers de-identify data in practice. USENIX '25 (USENIX Security Symposium). August 2025.

Wentao Guo, Aditya Kishore, Adam Aviv, Michelle L. Mazurek. A qualitative analysis of practical de-identification guides. CCS '24 (ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security). October 2024.

Michael Coblenz, **Wentao Guo**, Kamatchi Voozhian, Jeffrey S. Foster. A qualitative study of REST API design and specification practices. VL/HCC '23 (IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing). October 2023.

Wentao Guo, Jason Walter, and Michelle L. Mazurek. The role of professional product reviewers in evaluating security and privacy. USENIX '23 (USENIX Security Symposium). August 2023.

Wentao Guo, Jay Rodolitz, and Eleanor Birrell. Poli-see: An interactive tool for visualizing privacy policies. WPES '20 (ACM CCS Workshop on Privacy in the Electronic Society). November 2020.

Zaina Aljallad, **Wentao Guo**, Chhaya Chouhan, Christy LaPerriere, Jess Kropczynski, Pamela Wisniewski, and Heather Lipford. Designing a mobile application to support social processes for privacy decisions. USEC '19 (NDSS Workshop on Usable Security). February 2019.

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

IoT Design Fellow
Consumer Reports

June 2023 – September 2023
New York, NY

- Designed, conducted, and analyzed four studies (surveys, focus groups, and user studies) on consumer perspectives on IoT security and privacy labels, in collaboration with two other fellows
- Interviewed IoT manufacturers to understand challenges regarding the process for companies to attest to their products' security and privacy

Software developer
Epic Systems

September 2019 – June 2021
Verona, WI

- Designed and developed features for Cosmos, a service that aggregates electronic health records of >100 million patients in a HIPAA-regulated limited dataset for research and data-driven healthcare

- Led a high-priority project creating software to convert Cosmos into a highly scalable form, in order to accommodate drastically increased research needs during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Organized company-wide voter registration efforts ahead of the November 2020 election, leading remote workshops that helped 110 employees register to vote

Research programmer

June 2019 – August 2019

Ecosystem Dynamics and Forecasting Lab

Virginia Tech

- Fixed bugs in the open-source General Lake Model (GLM) project: <https://github.com/AquaticEcoDynamics/GLM/pull/16>
- Wrote an R script to automatically format and validate data that is regularly uploaded by field sensors
- Prototyped a user interface for water quality forecasts using the Shiny R package

SELECTED RESEARCH PROPOSALS and INVITED TALKS

[talk] Incentives, expertise, and capacity: Unlocking the power of professionals to protect users' security and privacy. Virginia Polytechnic University. May 2024.

[talk] Understanding de-identification guidance and practices for researchers. NSF Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyber Infrastructure (CICI) PI meeting. March 2024.

[proposal] Richard Roberts, **Wentao Guo**, Omer Akgul, Michelle L. Mazurek, and Dave Levin. This proposal was brought to you by content creators' mental models of security & privacy products. IEEE S&P Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection (ConPro '23). May 2023.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Chair of Community Building

December 2023 – Present

Peer mentor

September 2023 – Present

Organizer

October 2021 – Present

Computer Science Graduate Student Committee

University of Maryland

- Managing the department's peer mentoring program, as well as biweekly student-organized community-building events including practical workshops and socials

Project mentor

October 2023, 2024

Tech + Research

University of Maryland

- Designed hackathon-style research projects in human-centered security and privacy, and mentored women undergraduates as they completed them over the course of a weekend

Committee member

June 2022 – Present

Committee for a Better Environment

College Park, MD

- Leading a group researching a climate action plan for the City of College Park
- Writing articles and planning events to communicate sustainability information to residents

Organizer

September 2021 – Present

Graduate Security Reading Group

University of Maryland

- Planning weekly research paper discussions, practice talks, invited speakers, and workshops

Project leader

January 2020 – June 2021

350 Madison

Madison, WI

- Led a team of six volunteers who successfully advocated for the City of Madison to implement a program to track and improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings

- Conducted policy research and interviewed local business leaders to inform the [Building Energy Savings Program](#), adopted in 2023
- Received one of two outstanding volunteer recognitions in 2020

Organizer

September 2017 – May 2019

Tech for Good

Pomona College

- Co-founded a student organization focused on (1) using student expertise in technology for good and (2) creating campus-wide discussions on the social, ethical, and legal aspects of technology
- Organized three talks by experts in technology, law, and ethics (median attendance of 80), as well as other discussions and events centered around similar themes
- Created a new website for a non-profit serving local low-income communities, in order to make their services more accessible and responsive

SELECTED AWARDS

MC2 Seed Grant

University of Maryland, Fall 2023

Awarded \$1,890 to fund a research proposal on perceptions of tracking and inference in VR

Paul B. Yale Computer Science Prize

Pomona College, Spring 2019

Awarded to three outstanding seniors majoring in Computer Science

Science, Technology and Society Prize

Pomona College, Spring 2019

Awarded to one outstanding senior majoring in STS

Distinction in the Senior Exercise: Computer Science

Pomona College, Spring 2019

“Privacy Poli-see: An interactive tool for visualizing privacy policies” (advised by Eleanor Birrell)

Distinction in the Senior Exercise: Science, Technology, and Society

Pomona College, Spring 2019

“Towards a critical understanding of deepfakes: Developing a teaching module and more” (advised by Laura Perini and Brian Keeley)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Introduction to Privacy (Spring 2025)

UMD (Computer Science)

Human Factors in Security and Privacy (Fall 2024)

UMD (Computer Science)

Computer Systems (Spring 2019)

Pomona College (Computer Science)

Computability and Logic (Spring 2018)

Pomona College (Computer Science)

HTML & CSS (Summer 2017)

Northwestern Center for Talent Development, grades 7 & 8

Literary Analysis (Summer 2017)

Northwestern Center for Talent Development, grades 7 & 8

GUEST LECTURES

Qualitative research methods

Fall 2024

Human Factors in Security and Privacy

UMD (Computer Science)

Intro to security

Spring 2024

Privacy, Security, and Ethics for Big Data

UMD (Information Studies)

AI and algorithms

Spring 2023

Privacy, Security, and Ethics for Big Data

UMD (Information Studies)

Buffer overflow

Spring 2022

Computer and Network Security

UMD (Computer Science)

Deepfakes

Philosophy of Technology

Spring 2019

Pomona College (Philosophy)

Intro to web development

Claremont Splash (student-led educational event for high schoolers)

Spring 2018

Deepfakes and deceptive technologies

Claremont Splash (student-led educational event for high schoolers)

Spring 2018

Intro to web development

5C Hackathon

Fall 2017

EXTERNAL REVIEWING

- CHI '25 (1 review)
- CHI '24 (1 review)
- SOUPS '24 (1 sub-review)
- CSCW '24 (2 reviews)
- International Journal of Human-Computer Studies '23 (1 review)
- IEEE S&P '23 (1 sub-review)