Wentao Guo

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EDUCATION

Aug '21 – May '26 (expected)	**PhD in *Computer Science***, University of Maryland (UMD) Dissertation: *Supporting data de-identification in an era of open science* (advised by Dr. Michelle Mazurek)
Aug '15 – May '19	**B.A. in *Computer Science* and *Science, Technology, and Society***, Pomona College *Magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Distinction in the Senior Exercise (x2) • Computer Science thesis: *Poli-see: An interactive tool for visualizing privacy policies* (advised by Dr. Eleanor Birrell) • Science, Technology, and Society thesis: *Towards a critical understanding of deepfakes: Developing a teaching module and more* (advised by Drs. Laura Perini and Brian Keeley)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

* indicates mentored undergraduate student

PETS '26	**Wentao Guo**, Alexander Yang,* Nathan Malkin, Michelle L. Mazurek. How experts personalize privacy & security advice for at-risk users. Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium. https://wentaoguo.com/publications/at-risk-advice/
CCS '25	Yunze Zhao, **Wentao Guo**, Harrison Goldstein, Daniel Votipka, Kelsey Fulton, Michelle L. Mazurek. A qualitative analysis of fuzzer usability and challenges. ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security. https://wentaoguo.com/publications/fuzzing-usability/
USENIX '25	**Wentao Guo**, Paige Pepitone, Adam J. Aviv, Michelle L. Mazurek. How researchers de-identify data in practice. USENIX Security Symposium. https://www.usenix.org/conference/usenixsecurity25/presentation/guo-wentao
CCS '24	**Wentao Guo**, Aditya Kishore,* Adam J. Aviv, Michelle L. Mazurek. A qualitative analysis of practical de-identification guides. ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security. https://doi.org/10.1145/3658644.3690270
VL/HCC '23	Michael Coblenz, **Wentao Guo**, Kamatchi Voozhian, Jeffrey S. Foster. A qualitative study of REST API design and specification practices. IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing. https://doi.org/10.1109/VL-HCC57772.2023.00025
USENIX '23	**Wentao Guo**, Jason Walter,* and Michelle L. Mazurek. The role of professional product reviewers in evaluating security and privacy. USENIX Security Symposium. https://www.usenix.org/conference/usenixsecurity23/presentation/guo-wentao

WORKSHOP PAPERS

WPES '20	**Wentao Guo**, Jay Rodolitz, and Eleanor Birrell. Poli-see: An interactive tool for visualizing privacy policies. ACM CCS Workshop on Privacy in the Electronic Society. https://doi.org/10.1145/3411497.3420221
USEC '19	Zaina Aljallad, **Wentao Guo**, Chhaya Chouhan, Christy LaPerriere, Jess Kropczynski, Pamela Wisnewski, and Heather Lipford. Designing a mobile application to support social processes for privacy decisions. NDSS Workshop on Usable Security. https://www.ndss-symposium.org/ndss-paper/auto-draft-25/

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

ConPro '23	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 '22	**Wentao Guo**, Jason Walter, and Michelle L. Mazurek. The role of product reviewers in evaluating security and privacy. IEEE S&P Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection.

SELECTED TALKS

May '24	Incentives, expertise, and capacity: Unlocking the power of professionals to protect users' security and privacy. Virginia Polytechnic University.
Mar '24	Understanding de-identification guidance and practices for researchers. NSF Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyber Infrastructure (CICI) PI meeting.
Dec '23	Scientists are users too! Understanding de-identification practices, mental models, and challenges. Capital-Area Colloquium on Trustworthy and Usable Security/Privacy.
Aug '23	De-identification in practice: professionals as end users. Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security.
Dec '22	The role of professional product reviewers in evaluating security and privacy. Capital-Area Colloquium on Trustworthy and Usable Security/Privacy *(co-presented with Jason Walter)*.

POSTERS

SOUPS '24	Understanding de-identification guidance and practices for research data. Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security.
SOUPS '21	Poli-see: An interactive tool for visualizing privacy policies. Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Spring '25	**Introduction to Privacy**, UMD CS
Fall '24	**Human Factors in Security and Privacy**, UMD CS
Spring '19	**Computer Systems**, Pomona College CS
Spring '18	**Computability and Logic**, Pomona College CS

GUEST LECTURES

Spring '25	**Privacy for at-risk individuals**; Introduction to Privacy; UMD CS
Spring '25	**Modern privacy enforcement**; Introduction to Privacy; UMD CS
Fall '24	**Qualitative research methods**; Human Factors in Security and Privacy; UMD CS
Spring '24	**Intro to security**; Privacy, Security, and Ethics for Big Data; UMD Info Studies
Spring '23	**AI and algorithms**; Privacy, Security, and Ethics for Big Data; UMD Info Studies
Spring '22	**Buffer overflow attacks**; Computer and Network Security; UMD CS
Spring '19	**Deepfakes**; Philosophy of Technology; Pomona College Philosophy
Spring '18	**Intro to web development**; Claremont Splash *(student-led workshops for high schoolers)*
Spring '18	**Deepfakes and deceptive technologies**; Claremont Splash

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Jun – Sep '23   **IoT Design Fellow**, Consumer Reports
Conducted four studies (surveys, focus groups, and user studies) to understand consumer perspectives on IoT security and privacy labels, with two other fellows.

Sep '19 – Jun '21   **Software developer**, Epic Systems
Developed backend infrastructure and data ingestion for [Cosmos](#), a HIPAA-regulated dataset of >100 million patients' electronic health records that supports research and data-driven healthcare.

Jun – Aug '19   **Programmer**, Virginia Tech Ecosystem Dynamics and Forecasting Lab
Contributed [bug fixes](#) to the open-source General Lake Model project. Created a QA/QC script for ecological data from field sensors.

May – Jul '18   **Researcher**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte REU in Socially Relevant Computing
Co-led research in usable security and privacy leading to a publication in 2019; won first place in the REU research poster competition. Assisted in data analysis for a [publication by Alqhatani and Lipford in SOUPS '19](#), for which I am named in the acknowledgments.

Jun – Aug '17   **Teaching assistant**, Northwestern University Center for Talent Development
Co-designed and co-taught *HTML & CSS Honors*; served as teaching assistant for *Literary Analysis Honors: The Turing Test, Artificial Intelligence, & the Human Program*.

SELECTED SERVICE

Dec '23 – Present   **Chair of Community Building**, UMD CS Graduate Student Committee
Managing the department's peer mentoring program, as well as regular student-organized community-building events including practical workshops and socials. Personally mentored eight new graduate students.

Oct '23 – Present   **Project mentor**, UMD Tech + Research workshop
Designed two sprint-style (~13 hours for teams of 8) research projects in security and privacy, and mentored women undergraduates as they completed them over the course of a weekend (Oct '23 and '24).

Jun '22 – Present   **Committee member**, College Park Committee for a Better Environment
Leading a team of three committee members (appointed by City Council) in drafting a climate action plan for College Park; to this end, meeting with the mayor, city councilors, city staff, and conducting participatory info sessions at local civic associations. Planning sustainability-oriented community events and advising the city government on energy efficiency, road de-icing practices, etc.

Sep '21 – Present   **Coordinator**, Maryland Cybersecurity Center reading group
Planning weekly research paper discussions, practice talks, invited talks, and workshops for a group of 20+; facilitating discussion.

Jan '20 – Jun '21   **Team leader**, 350 Madison
Led a team of six volunteers that successfully advocated for the City of Madison to implement the [Building Energy Savings Program](#) to improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings. Awarded one of two 2020 Outstanding Volunteer Recognitions.

Sep '17 – May '19   **Organizer**, Pomona College Tech for Good *(student organization)*
Organized three talks by experts in technology, law, and ethics (median attendance of 80), as well as related discussion groups. As part of a project team, worked with a nonprofit serving local low-income communities to improve online access to services.

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW (including both reviews and sub-reviews)

- **CHI '26/'25/'24** (ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems)
- **SOUPS '25/'24** (Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security)
- **ESORICS '25** (European Symposium on Research in Computer Security)
- **CSCW '24** (ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing)
- **IEEE S&P '23** (IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy)
- **International Journal of Human-Computer Studies '23**

SELECTED AWARDS

Fall '23   **Maryland Cybersecurity Center Seed Grant**, UMD
Awarded $1,890 to fund a research proposal on perceptions of tracking and inference in VR.

Spring '19   **Paul B. Yale Computer Science Prize**, Pomona College
Awarded to three outstanding seniors majoring in CS.

Spring '19   **Science, Technology, and Society Prize**, Pomona College
Awarded to one outstanding senior majoring in Science, Technology, and Society.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

Spring '25 – Present   Azwa Bajwah

Spring '23 – Fall '24   Aditya Kishore

Fall '23 – Spring '24   Samuel Wiggins

Fall '23 – Spring '24   Alexander Yang

Fall '21 – Spring '23   Jason Walter

GRADUATE PEER MENTORSHIP

2025 – Present   Will Russo, PhD student

2025 – Present   Pranav Asthana, PhD student

2024 – 2025   Shayan Shabihi, PhD student

2024 – 2025   Daniel Ekpo, PhD student

2024   Annie Dai, PhD student

2023 – 2024   Sadia Nourin, MS student

2023 – 2024   Hillary Owusu, PhD student

2023 – 2024   Olivia Taylor, MS student

REFERENCES

Michelle Mazurek	**Adam Aviv**
University of Maryland	George Washington University
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Jessica Vitak	**Eleanor Birrell**
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