

Einladung zum öffentlichen Vortrag

“Computers and Privacy”



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The issue of privacy has been a hot button topic for some time now - not only since we have started carrying high powered, wirelessly networked sensor platforms (i.e., smart phones) with us day in day out. Modern technology has developed to a point where personal devices not only have the “potential” to continuously and often intimately monitor us, but are also actively used to do such monitoring. Interestingly enough, the public at large seems strangely ambivalent about such trends: While novel technology developments such as RFID or wearable computing are often accompanied by highly critical press coverage, consumers seem equally eager to disclose ever more parts of their lives in exchange for lower prices, better service, and more security. What is it about privacy that we can be both highly emotional and almost indifferent about? In this talk, I want to discuss the principle of “privacy”: where it comes from, what it means, and how computers in general - and networked sensing systems in particular - affect it. I will thus not only try to briefly explain the most common technical approaches and challenges to privacy protection, but also attempt to offer a view of the larger picture of privacy: the social values behind it, the public policy strategies surrounding it, and the legal realities governing our privacy today.

About Marc Langheinrich

Marc Langheinrich is an assistant professor for Computer Science at the University of Lugano (USI) in Switzerland, where he heads the Research Group for Ubiquitous Computing since September 2008. Marc received his PhD (Dr. sc.) on the topic “Privacy in Ubiquitous Computing” from the ETH Zurich, Switzerland, in 2005. Marc is one of the authors of P3P, a W3C-standard for privacy on the Web, and has published extensively on privacy aspects of ubiquitous and pervasive computing systems (3000+ citations in Google Scholar). Marc is a regular program committee member of various conferences and workshops in the areas of pervasive computing, security and privacy, and usability. Marc is a Steering Committee member of many major conferences in the area of ubiquitous and pervasive computing, such as INSS, Pervasive & UbiComp, and PerCom. Marc also currently serves as the Steering Committee Chair for the Internet of Things (IoT) conference series.

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