

Allison McDonald

Contact

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Research

My interests are in the intersection of technology and society, particularly in the areas of privacy and security. I study problems such as Internet censorship, mass surveillance, and anonymity systems. My interests also include how to reduce the difference in expectations between developers and users, especially as it applies to privacy.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2016 – present

PhD, Computer Science

Advisor: J. Alex Halderman

Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany 2015 – 2016

Master of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LLM)

Two semester, non-degree seeking student

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2010 – 2015

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Computer Science

Bachelor of Science, German

Publications

Keeping a Low Profile? Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants

Tamy Guberek, Allison McDonald, Sylvia Simioni, Abraham H. Mhaidli, Kentaro Toyama, Florian Schaub

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), April 2018

An ISP-Scale Deployment of TapDance

Sergey Frolov, Fred Douglas, Will Scott, Allison McDonald, Benjamin VanderSloot, Rod Hynes, Adam Kruger, Michalis Kallitsis, David G. Robinson, Nikita Borisov, J. A. Halderman, and Eric Wustrow

Proc. 7th USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI), August 2017

Talks

Uncertain Concern: How Undocumented Immigrants in the US Navigate Technology
34th Chaos Communications Congress (34C3), Leipzig, Germany, December 30, 2017

Allison McDonald

Awards & Honors

Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2016

Provides funding for two years to incoming PhD students with outstanding academic background.

Roger M. Jones Fellowship, 2015

Awarded to one graduating engineer at the University of Michigan in order to broaden and deepen an engineering education through studying the humanities at a European University.

Baden-Württemberg Stipendium Recipient, 2012

Awarded for academic merit to fund international students enrolled in universities in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Employment

Expedia, Inc., Bellevue, WA

May 2014 – August 2014

Software Intern

Designed and implemented system to retry failed payments.

University of Michigan, College of Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI

January 2011 – May 2015

CAEN Hotline Consultant

Assisted students and faculty with managing and using their computing accounts.

Activities

Computer Security Workshops, 2016 – present

Organize and lead computer security workshops for community groups and university organizations. These workshops typically cover password managers, two-factor authentication, and the basics of encryption.

LSWE-SUCCESS, 2015

Participated in planning a leadership camp in Kakata, Liberia. The camp was organized as a cooperation between the Graduate Society of Women Engineers at the University of Michigan and Liberian women in engineering and science higher education programs.

GirlsEncoded Coordinator, 2014

Cofounded event to encourage high school girls to study computer science, which brought over 100 girls to the University of Michigan for a computer science day camp.

Science Camp in India, 2014

Designed and hosted a series of computer science activities in Walchandnagar, India, as part of a summer camp for secondary school students.