

RCN: Applied Privacy Research Coordination Network: An Industry-Academic Network to Transition Promising Privacy Research to Practice



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The Applied Privacy Research Coordination Network (RCN) is an opportunity to translate cutting-edge privacy research into practical, real-world solutions through a series of direct presentations by researchers to industry practitioners in a variety of high-profile settings, along with new and expanded engagement with FPF EIF-led industry working groups, discussion forums, and the FPF Advisory Board. This project builds on the foundation laid through Award 1654085.

Challenges

- Sub-optimal communication between academic creators of privacy-enhancing technologies and companies seeking to implement technologies that protect privacy
- A need to transition promising privacy projects from the university research lab to real-world applications

Scientific Impact

- Provides opportunities for cross-industry academic learning
- Helps academic researchers understand data protection challenges that have a practical impact on consumers
- Assists researchers in better understanding companies' privacy needs and desires
- Strengthens relationships between academics, chief privacy officers, regulators, and lawyers

Solution

- Introduction of the Applied Privacy Research Showcase at the IAPP Global Privacy Summit
 - Allowed privacy researchers to present to and interact with thousands of privacy professionals from around the world
- Establishment of the Applied Privacy RCN Portal to connect academics with companies looking for solutions to real-world problems
- Multiple opportunities organized for leading de-identification researchers to present to over 100 chief privacy officers
- One-on-one meetings and phone calls arranged with key industry data protection experts to disseminate information about the work of the RCN's academic participants
- Coordinated meetings allowing leading academic researchers to deliver presentations to privacy technology companies

Impact

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| - Nearly fifty researchers from across academia have been provided with high-level exposure opportunities since the establishment of the Applied Privacy RCN | - Through introductions and presentations, academic researchers are provided with opportunities they rarely receive to present directly to industry and commercial practitioners | - Bring industry practitioners and academic researchers together to collaboratively develop best practices and practical tools to make data privacy a priority |
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Interested in joining or learning more? Email rcn@fpf.org.

