Alexandra Nisenoff

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University   **August 2022 — Present**
Ph.D. student, Societal Computing, School of Computer Science   Pittsburgh, PA
M.S. in Societal Computing May 2024
Advisors: Nicolas Christin and Lorrie Faith Cranor
GPA: 4.06

University of Chicago, Summa Cum Laude   **September 2017 — June 2021**
B.S. in Computer Science (specialization in computer security)   Chicago, IL
B.A. Astrophysics
GPS: 3.737

RESEARCH

Carnegie Mellon University, Software and Societal Systems Department   **August 2022 — Present**
Research Assistant for Prof. Nicolas Christin and Prof. Lorrie Faith Cranor   *Pittsburgh, PA*
University of Chicago, Department of Computer Science, SUPERgroup   **July 2019 — August 2022**
Research Assistant for Prof. Blase Ur   *Chicago, IL*
University of Chicago, Data Science Institute   **August 2020 — July 2022**
Research Assistant for Prof. Nick Feamster   *Chicago, IL*
Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy   **June 2021 — September 2021**
Human Factors in Security and Privacy Group   Remote
Research Assistant for Prof. Yasemin Acar
University of Chicago, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics   **October 2019 — December 2021**
Research Assistant for Prof. Vikram Dwarkadas   *Chicago, IL*
University of Chicago, Department of Geophysical Sciences   **June 2018 — March 2019**
Lab Technician for Prof. Elisabeth Moyer   *Chicago, IL*

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Conference Papers

[**CCS '25**] **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Deian Stefan, Nicolas Christin. *Exploiting the Shared Storage API.* In Proceedings of the 32nd ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security. Taipei, Taiwan. October 2025.

[**SOUPS '24**] Elijah Bouma-Sims, Hiba Hassan, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Nicolas Christin. *"It was honestly just gambling": Investigating the Experiences of Teenage Cryptocurrency Users on Reddit.* Proceedings of the 20th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security. Philadelphia, PA, August 2024.

[**USENIX '23**] **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Maximilian Golla, Miranda Wei, Juliette Hainline, Hayley Szymanek, Annika Braun, Annika Hildebrandt, Blair Christensen, David Langenberg, and Blase Ur. *A Two-Decade Retrospective Analysis of a University's Vulnerability to Attacks Exploiting Reused Passwords*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.
Distinguished Paper Award

[**USENIX '23**] **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Arthur Borem, Madison Pickering, Grant Nakanishi, Maya Thumpasery, and Blase Ur. *Defining "Broken": User Experiences and Remediation Tactics When Ad-Blocking or Tracking-Protection Tools Break a Website's User Experience*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.

[**USENIX '23**] **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Ranya Sharma, Nick Feamster. *User Awareness and Behaviors Concerning Encrypted DNS Settings in Web Browsers*. Proceedings of the 32nd USENIX Security Symposium. Anaheim, CA, August 2023.

[**CHI '23**] Elijah Bouma-Sims, Megan Li, Yanzi Lin, Adia Sakura-Lemessy, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Ellie Young, Eleanor Birrell, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Hana Habib. *A US-UK Usability Evaluation of Consent Management Platform Cookie Consent Interface Design on Desktop and Mobile.* Proceedings of the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). Hamburg, Germany. April 2023.

[USENIX '22] Collins Munyendo, Philipp Markert, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Miles Grant, Elena Korkes, Blase Ur, Adam Aviv. *"The Same PIN, Just Longer:" On the (In)Security of Upgrading PINs from 4 to 6 Digits.* Proceedings of the 31st USENIX Security Symposium. Boston, MA, August 2022.

Peer Reviewed Journal Papers

- Eman Alashwali, Andrea Miller, **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Kyerra Norton, Ellie Young, Prerna Bothra, Mandy Lanyon, and Lorrie Faith Cranor. *Interface Design to Support Informed Choices When Users Face Numerous Privacy Decisions,* in IEEE Transactions on Privacy, vol. 2, pp. 79-91, 2025.

Peer Reviewed Workshop Papers

- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Nick Feamster, Madeleine A Hoofnagle, Sydney Zink. *User Expectations and Understanding of Encrypted DNS Settings.* In Network and Distributed Security Symposium Workshop on DNS Privacy, pp. 1-8, Virtual. February 2021.

Other Publications

- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Maximilian Golla, Blase Ur. *Measuring the Risk Password Reuse Poses for a University.* USENIX ;login: Magazine, July 2023.
- **Alexandra Nisenoff**, Vikram V. Dwarkadas, Mathias C. Ross. *Supernova X-Ray Database (SNaX) Updated to Ensure Long-term Stability.* 2020 Res. Notes AAS 4 195.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Research Funding

CyLab Presidential Fellowship, a year of tuition given to high-achieving PhD students pursuing security/privacy research	2025
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2022
Dean's Fund Grant, $1,500 UChicago grant for research expenses	2020
Jeff Metcalf Fellowship Grant, $3,750 UChicago grant for summer internships	2020

Travel Grants

Student Grant to attend CCS	2025
Student Grant to attend USENIX Security	2023
Grant to attend GREPSEC	2023
Scholarship to CRA Grad Cohort Workshop	2023
Diversity Grant to attend USENIX Enigma	2020

Other

Pittsburgh Glass Center Summer Intensive Scholarship, funding to attend flameworking class	2025

AWARDS

PETS '25 Distinguished Artifact Reviewer	2025
USENIX '23 Distinguished Paper Award for "A Two-Decade Retrospective Analysis of a University's Vulnerability to …"	2023
Departmental Honors (Computer Science)	2021
Harper Award for Exceptional Performance in a Course, Engineering Interactive Electronics onto Printed Circuit Boards	2021
Enrico Fermi Scholar, GPA in top 5% of major over past 5 years (only eligible 3rd and 4th year of college)	2020 & 2021
Dean's List	2017 — 2020

SERVICE

Reviewing

CCS: Security Usability and Measurement Track Program Committee Member	2026
The Web Conference: Security and Privacy Track Program Committee Member	2025, 2026
MADWeb: Program Committee Member	2026
CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems: External Reviewer	2024, 2025, 2026
USENIX Security: Artifact Review Committee Member	2025

- **PoPETs:** Artifact Review Committee Member   **2023, 2024, 2025**
- **USENIX Security:** Poster Jury   **2025**
- **SOUPS:** Poster Jury   **2024, 2025**

Other

- **S3D PhD Admissions Committee:** Student Member   **2026**
- **S3D Societal Computing CyLab Student Rep**   **2025**
- **Cylab Faculty Hiring Committee:** Student Member   **2025**
- **Graduate Application Support Program – School of Computer Science**
  - Program Organizer   **2025**
  - Graduate Student Mentor   **2022, 2023, 2024**
- **REUSE (REU in Software Engineering)**: Admissions Committee Member   **2024, 2025**
- **SCS Gender Minority Lunch Social:** S3D Department Student Organizer   **2024 — 2025**

Teaching

- **Guest Lecture**, Carnegie Mellon University, Intro to Computer Security, **Making Security Usable**   **November 2025**
- **Guest Lecture**, Carnegie Mellon University, Intro to Computer Security, **Making Security Usable**   **April 2025**
- **Guest Lecture**, Carnegie Mellon University, Intro to Information Security, **Intro to Web Security**   **March 2025**
- **Guest Lecture**, Carnegie Mellon University, Browser Security   **February 2025**
  Advancements in Privacy Preserving Advertising *(and how things can go wrong)*
- **Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University, **Introduction to Computer Security** - Undergrad
  (Instructors: Riccardo Paccagnella & Riad Wahby; 99 students)   **Spring 2025**
  (Instructors: David Brumley & Riad Wahby; 110 students)   **Spring 2024**
- **Head Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University, **Usable Privacy & Security** - Undergrad/Master's/PhD
  (Instructor: Lorrie Cranor; 61 students)   **Spring 2023**
- **Teaching Assistant**, University of Chicago, **Introduction to Computer Security** - Undergrad/PhD
  (Instructors: David Cash & Blase Ur; 109 students)   **Winter 2022**
  (Instructors: David Cash & Blase Ur; 86 students)   **Winter 2021**
- **Computer Science Tutor**, University of Chicago, College Core Tutor Program   **Winter 2020**

Activities & Outreach

TechNights – Carnegie Mellon University   **October 2023 — May 2025**
Volunteer   *Pittsburgh, PA*

- Facilitated CS related activities for 20-30 middle school girls
- Spring '25 helped lead a session on ethical hacking and IoT security

OurCS – Carnegie Mellon University   **October 2022, 2024**
Graduate Student Mentor   *Pittsburgh, PA*

- Worked with another PhD student to run a two day mini research project for undergraduate students on cookie consent categories ('22) and anti-adblock banners ('24)

Expanding Your Horizons Chicago   **August 2019 — March 2022**
Organizing Committee Member   *Chicago, IL*

- Organized student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls

Skills

Programming	Python, C, LabVIEW, JavaScript, PHP, and R
Applications	Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics, and LaTeX
Hobbies	Flamework, Quilting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Knitting, Sewing, Photography (Film/Digital), Bobbin Lace Making