Chapter 52

Information Privacy and Emerging Technologies in the UAE:
Current State and Research Directions

Dimitrios Xanthidis
 https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1349-5749
Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

Christos Manolas
 https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0057-8374
Ravensbourne University, UK

Ourania Koutzampasopoulou Xanthidou
 https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2659-7138
University of Malaya, Greece

Han-I Wang
 https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3521-993X
University of York, UK

ABSTRACT

The rapid developments of emerging technologies, including Big Data, Cloud Computing, and Internet of Things, are causing many societies to struggle whilst trying to keep up with, and adopt them. As a consequence, serious concerns and issues are being raised. The threat to personal information privacy is one of these issues. This review paper briefly introduces the aforementioned technologies and explores concepts related to concerns on information privacy and disclosure in the U.A.E. in the context of these technologies. In addition, related research themes that could be interesting to explore are identified, with a focus on the local environment.

INTRODUCTION

In Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issued by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, the right to personal privacy is recognized in the following statement:

"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks" (National Commissions for UNESCO, 2010, Jan. 4).

In addition to the, easier to identify, implications of the above in a broader ethical and social context, the advent of information technology and digital communications has added new concerns and issues, specifically related to information privacy. This, relatively new, concept has attracted widespread attention in the recent years, partially due to the rapid increase of the amount of information being gathered and published over the Internet.

Although the term *information privacy* may be difficult to define explicitly, according to Son and Kim, it *"refers to an individual's ability to control when, how, and to what extent his or her personal information is communicated to others"* (Son & Kim, 2008). This is also echoed on Such and Criado's view that *"privacy is not just about what you reveal about yourself; it is also about what others reveal about you"* (Such & Criado, 2018). At the same time, Hong and Thong (2013) approach information privacy from a more pragmatic angle by stating that it is *"the privacy of personal information and usually related to personal data stored on a computer"*. Irrespectively of the perspective one adopts to define it, what is important to note in the context of this study is that most definitions underline the individual's right to keep personal information outside the public domain. As such, it can be claimed that this right is expected to be protected by law from unauthorized access, irrespectively of whether this relates to the physical or digital domain. In this context, it may be useful to attempt a brief distinction between the two definitions of privacy:

- Physical Privacy: The perspective that deals with the physical access to a person's property and its surroundings (H. J. Smith, Dinev, & Xu, 2011).
- Information Privacy: The perspective that addresses the access to information that can specifically identify a particular individual and may, or may not, be available online.

Between the two, it appears that most researchers and scholars are currently concerned with *information privacy*. An apparent reason for this is the mass collection of user data through online media and electronic sources. Such data collection includes, but is not limited to, customer data, student data, or public records. More specifically, while millions of users share personal information online on a daily basis, they are largely unaware of the level of access third parties have to their data, and what they do with it (Zaeem, German, & Barber, 2018). It must be noted here that most companies nowadays have rather transparent privacy policies that can be easily accessed online. However, the question of how far they are willing, or allowed, to go to collect personal data without informing their customers remains largely unanswered. Indeed, research shows an increasing public concern about how companies and authorities handle the personal data they gather (Ipsos, 2019, Jan. 25). Such concerns are also reflected in relevant statements the United Nations General Assembly Resolution and the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which on 18 December 2013 reaffirmed the right to privacy in the digital age, and

17 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may
be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:
www.igi-global.com/chapter/information-privacy-and-emerging-technologies-in-the-uae/280220

Related Content

Information Sharing
(2021). *Establishing Cyber Security Programs Through the Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM) (pp. 104-130).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/information-sharing/256438

Health Care Information Systems and the Risk of Privacy Issues for the Disabled
John Beswetherick (2011). *Ethical Issues and Security Monitoring Trends in Global Healthcare: Technological Advancements (pp. 22-42).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/health-care-information-systems-risk/52357

Information Security Awareness at Saudi Arabians' Organizations: An Information Technology Employee's Perspective
Zakarya A. Alzamil (2012). *International Journal of Information Security and Privacy (pp. 38-55).*
www.irma-international.org/article/information-security-awareness-saudi-arabians/72723

Achieving Reconciliation Between Privacy Preservation and Auditability in Zero-Trust Cloud Storage Using Intel SGX
Liangshun Wu, Hengjin Caiand Han Li (2022). *International Journal of Information Security and Privacy (pp. 1-20).*
www.irma-international.org/article/achieving-reconciliation-between-privacy-preservation-and-auditability-in-zero-trust-cloud-storage-using-intel-sgx/284055

Fractals for Internet of Things Network Structure Planning
Alexander Paramonov, Evgeny Tonkikh, Ammar Muthanna, Ibrahim A. Elgendyand Andrey Koucheryavy (2022). *International Journal of Information Security and Privacy (pp. 1-12).*
www.irma-international.org/article/fractals-for-internet-of-things-network-structure-planning/305223