

Laboratory Assignment: Privacy is dead

Daniel Bosk*

~~–sourcefile–~~ ~~–revision–~~ ~~–time–~~ ~~–owner–~~

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Scope and Aim	2
3	Theory	2
4	Assignment	2
5	Examination	2

1 Introduction

Since our world becomes more connected and information becomes more accessible, easier to publish, copy and save in different databases, the need for protection increases. There are several examples of how “innocently looking” data are published which yield that disastrous information can be derived.

One example is the Norwegian royal family. One of the children in the family published photographs from their vacation to Instagram. These photographs happened to contain geotagging information, which per se is not that dangerous. The problem was that the rate and time of publication gave the information about their position in almost real-time [1].

The same problem can arise for ordinary people, i.e. not-high-security targets. For instance, a proof of concept service, WeKnowYourHouse.com, parsed Twitter feeds for data and derived where people lives and if they were at home [2].

The final example is by Samy Kamkar. In his talk “How I Met Your Girlfriend” [3] he shows how to use the easy accessibility of personal information and technical vulnerabilities to set up a date with Anna Faris.

*This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported license. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>.

2 Scope and Aim

The aim of this assignment is to illustrate unintentional spreading of personal information and how many small pieces of information can be combined to derive new information and the possibilities for being misused.

As such, after the completion of this assignment you should be able to:

- Reflect on the security aspects of different types of social behaviour.

3 Theory

The theoretical support for this assignment will be given during the time of the course. Since the assignment starts at the beginning of the course and ends in the end, you will successively get more and more tools at your disposal.

4 Assignment

The assignment is to collect as much information as possible about the principal lecturer of the course. In the end of the course all students in the class will present their findings in a seminar, thus together mapping all collected information.

The information collected may vary from hobbies, food preferences, phone numbers, addresses for summer houses, etc. to working habits, e.g. office hours, email response times, and so on. After this assignment you should know more about the teacher than the teacher himself.

However, there are some requirements:

1. The target of the information gathering *must not* suspect anything, e.g. by excessively asking around – then colleagues might bring it to the target's attention. If the target becomes aware of this, you will get a “booh” from the entire class during the presentation – this is of course very awkward.
2. You must be able to provide a source of the information (leak). E.g. “the target mentioned during the lecture on 1/4 2013 that he does skiing” or “a colleague mentioned that he usually comes in around 9 o'clock”.
3. You must also provide an estimate of how trustworthy the information is. The reason for this is that you might find information which is plainly wrong or just misinterpreted. There is also the risk that some information presented will contradict other information, then you need the estimate of trustworthiness to resolve the conflict.

5 Examination

All collected information will be presented orally, from all participants, during the presentation. You can find the time for this in the course schedule, it will be in the end of the course.

References

- [1] Paul Roberts. Wayward Instagram account creates security scare for Norwegian royal family, 8 2012. URL <http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2012/08/23/instagram-norway-royals/>.
- [2] Anna Brading. Twitter + location = WeKnowYourHouse, 8 2012. URL <http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2012/08/15/twitter-location-weknowyourhouse/>.
- [3] Samy Kamkar. How I met your girlfriend, 2010. Föreläsning, Def-Con18. URL: del 1 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEm07wQKCMw>, del 2 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ctRfWnisSk>, del 3 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJtmZZGcR54>.