Job vacancy #2023-06774

Post-Doctoral Research Visit F/M Detecting Privacy Violations and/or Dark Patterns in Web/mobile/IoT applications

**Contract type:** Fixed-term contract  
**Renewable contract:** Yes  
**Level of qualifications required:** PhD or equivalent  
**Fonction:** Post-Doctoral Research Visit

**About the research centre or Inria department**

The Inria Grenoble research center groups together almost 600 people in 23 research teams and 7 research support departments.

Staff is present on three campuses in Grenoble, in close collaboration with other research and higher education institutions (University Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, CEA, INRAE, ...), but also with key economic players in the area.

Inria Grenoble is active in the fields of high-performance computing, verification and embedded systems, modeling of the environment at multiple levels, and data science and artificial intelligence. The center is a top-level scientific institute with an extensive network of international collaborations in Europe and the rest of the world.

*Position located on the sophia antipolis site

**Context**

This position is funded directly by Inria within the project DATA4US and will be hosted in the Privatics team at Sophia Antipolis and led by Nataliia Bielova.

The Privatics team is an Inria research group based in Grenoble, Lyon and Sophia Antipolis. Privatics follows a multidisciplinary approach in considering the scientific and technical issues, but also economic, legal and social aspects of privacy. The team has expertise in the identification of privacy issues, anonymization techniques and sanitization database and design of Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs). Privatics has a long history of contributing to Standards Developing Organisations (IETF and IEEE), to the public consultations of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and EU authorities (such as Data Protection and Consumer Protection) and has a strategic partnership with the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL).

**Assignment**

The main responsibility of the postdoctoral researcher will be to lead and contribute to the research projects focusing on the detection of privacy violations and/or dark patterns and identifying potential violations of Data Protection and Consumer laws in a collaboration with the law scholar Cristiana Santos (Assist.Prof. at Utrecht University, NL) and/or design/HCI scholar Colin M. Gray (Assoc.Prof. at Indiana University Bloomington). The postdoctoral researcher, if interested, can also make short-term research visits to the existign and new collaborators within the research agenda.

The candidate should be motivated to publish the research results at relevant top-tier conferences (such as USENIX Security, IEEE Security and Privacy, Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PoPETs), The Web Conference, Internet Measurement Conference, and ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), ...). Additionally, an ideal candidate will be interested in transdisciplinary collaborations and contributing to conference and journal publications in other fields.

**Main activities**

Current topics of interest include:

- Analysis and operalisation of GDPR concepts in concrete digital systems (on the Web [4], mobile
but also, if interested, in IoT and augmented/virtual reality). Such concepts may include: consent [1], transparency [3], data subject access requests [2].

- Legal and/or technical analysis of the requirements [5] set by the upcoming EU Digital Service Act (DSA) and the Digital Market Act (DMA) in the context of concrete digital contexts (social networks, general purpose websites, gaming services etc.) and on concrete devices (Web, mobile, IoT, etc.)
- Building upon the dark patterns ontology [6] and expanding it to new contexts, practices and applicable legal regimes.

Within each of those thematic areas, we are open to a variety of methodological approaches, including:

- Large-scale Web and mobile measurements to detect potential violations with the legal requirements [1,4] (GDPR, DSA, DMA).
- Qualitative analysis of digital systems to identify misalignments between legal requirements and practice [8], identify new dark patterns instances or new types of privacy invasion.
- Crowdsourcing and quantitative user studies [7).

The postdoctoral researcher will have an opportunity to engage in other relevant activities if so desired in preparation for future professional roles (mentorship of students, teaching, application for competitive awards and other recognitions).

References


Skills

Required:

- PhD (or close to completion) in Computer Science, Information Science, or a related field. PhD in Data Protection or Consumer Protection law may also be eligible if the candidate is interested in transdisciplinary collaboration with Computer Scientists.
- Strong publication record in top-tier international conferences.
- Experience in at least one of:
  * Large-scale Web and/or mobile and/or IoT measurements,
  * Data science,
  * Designing, conducting and analyzing results of quantitative user studies; crowdsourcing.
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to respectfully engage in discussions with people of different backgrounds.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English (French is not required).
- Self-motivation, attention to detail, and a drive to produce high-quality work.

Desired:

- Interest in research literature from outside of Computer Science and in transdisciplinary collaborations.

Benefits package
• Subsidized meals
• Partial reimbursement of public transport costs
• Leave: 7 weeks of annual leave + 10 extra days off due to RTT (statutory reduction in working hours) + possibility of exceptional leave (sick children, moving home, etc.)
• Possibility of teleworking (90 days / year) and flexible organization of working hours
• Professional equipment available (videoconferencing, loan of computer equipment, etc.)
• Social, cultural and sports events and activities
• Access to vocational training
• Social security coverage under conditions

Remuneration
2788€ gross salary / month

General Information

• Theme/Domain: Security and Confidentiality
  System & Networks (BAP E)
• Town/city: Sophia Antipolis
• Inria Center: Centre Inria de l'Université Grenoble Alpes
• Starting date: 2023-12-01
• Duration of contract: 1 year
• Deadline to apply: 2023-11-12

Contacts

• Inria Team: PRIVATICS
• Recruiter: Bielova Nataliia / Nataliia.Bielova@inria.fr

About Inria

Inria is the French national research institute dedicated to digital science and technology. It employs 2,600 people. Its 200 agile project teams, generally run jointly with academic partners, include more than 3,500 scientists and engineers working to meet the challenges of digital technology, often at the interface with other disciplines. The Institute also employs numerous talents in over forty different professions. 900 research support staff contribute to the preparation and development of scientific and entrepreneurial projects that have a worldwide impact.

Warning: you must enter your e-mail address in order to save your application to Inria. Applications must be submitted online on the Inria website. Processing of applications sent from other channels is not guaranteed.

Instruction to apply

Applications must be submitted online on the Inria website.

Processing of applications sent by other channels is not guaranteed.

Defence Security:
This position is likely to be situated in a restricted area (ZRR), as defined in Decree No. 2011-1425 relating to the protection of national scientific and technical potential (PPST). Authorisation to enter an area is granted by the director of the unit, following a favourable Ministerial decision, as defined in the decree of 3 July 2012 relating to the PPST. An unfavourable Ministerial decision in respect of a position situated in a ZRR would result in the cancellation of the appointment.

Recruitment Policy:
As part of its diversity policy, all Inria positions are accessible to people with disabilities.