

COMMUNIQUE

SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES ISSUE: RESEARCH

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Entries from Ontario (CA), Mexico, UK, USA and Canada

Research entries

Research comprises ‘creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.’ It is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories.

- Wikipedia entry on research

International conferences have always been a place to disseminate knowledge gleaned from new research. Who can forget the opportunity at last year’s closed session in Marrakesh to hear key insights from leading researchers into robotics and artificial intelligence? In previous years’ closed session we heard of the results of



researches into profiling, apps, Internet of Things and biometrics (in addition to the many excellent research-oriented presentations at the various public conferences and side events).

Privacy and data protection offer fertile ground for useful research. What do people value in privacy? What do individuals understand or want? What are the impacts of company and personal choices in relation to data? What impact

will technologies have? What are the risks and opportunities of regulation? And a thousand other questions to be answered and asked again.

Research is carried out across the world in many ways and forms. Privacy research may draw upon many disciplines from behavioural economics and law to computer sciences and marketing. Relevant research may be carried out in universities, governments and companies and, of course, even within data protection authorities.

The research category in the ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards provided an opportunity for DPAs to share the results of significant research undertaken in 2016 or to highlight other endeavours to encourage or support the research efforts of others. The Awards programme contributes to the Conferences 2015-18 Strategic Priority to “develop new and better ways to collaborate to develop, and share results of, education and research efforts”.

We received 6 entries, making it the smallest of the 4 awards category. Nonetheless the entries usefully illustrate a representative sample of the variety of roles that DPAs can perform in this area including as:

- Researcher: e.g. De-identification guidelines, Big Data paper and research into consent.
- Provider of research tools: e.g. Corpus Iuris.
- Funder: e.g. Privacy Good Research Fund.
- General promotion: e.g. Privacy Research Week.
- Disseminator of results: e.g. PrivacyCon 2017.

This year’s entries, though few in number, demonstrate that DPAs are actively working on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

Blair Stewart – ICDPPC Secretariat

SPECIAL AWARDS ENTRIES ISSUE: RESEARCH

This is the [first] of 4 special issues of the ICDPPC Secretariat newsletter outlining more than 90 entries to the inaugural ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards. This issue focuses upon [research]. The others will variously feature [compliance and enforcement, education and advocacy and the use of online tools].

In each special issue you can read summaries of initiatives taken by member authorities that have been entered into competition. The ICDPPC Executive Committee Chair will be judging the entries over the coming months with the results being available in time for this year's annual meeting in Hong Kong in September.

You too can be involved as we are making arrangements to enable staff at member authorities to cast online votes for the 'people's choice awards'. Details of how to cast votes will be released in June so watch this space! Use these special newsletters to identify your favourite entries.



Category 1 Research	During 2016 or 2017 has your DPA:		
	Undertaken or collaborated in new research? Or done something else interesting or innovative in research?	Funded or encouraged privacy research?	Applied the results of research?
	If the answer is yes: you should enter the ICDPPC awards ...		
Open to ICDPPC member authorities Deadline: 21 April 2017			

AWARD ENTRIES: RESEARCH

A1: Privacy Research Fund + Privacy Research Symposium (New Zealand)

[non-competitive entry]



Privacy Research Fund + Privacy Research Symposium: The Privacy Commissioner established a contestable fund of NZ\$75,000 to support privacy research projects under which 4 projects were funded with the results presented publicly in a Privacy Research Symposium held as the centrepiece of a special Privacy Research Week.

A2: De-identification guidelines for structured data (OIPC Ontario, Canada)



De-identification Guidelines for Structured Data



The OIPC's guidance document, De-identification Guidelines for Structured Data, introduces government institutions to the basic concepts and techniques of de-identification, and provides a step-by-step process for de-identifying data sets that contain personal information. It offers direction on a risk-based approach to de-identification and discusses key issues, including:

- direct and indirect identifiers
- public, non-public and semi-public release models
- different re-identification attacks
- measuring and calculating re-identification risks
- common de-identification techniques
- de-identification governance

OIPC's De-identification Guidelines for Structured Data, introduces government institutions to the basic concepts and techniques of de-identification

A3: "Corpus Iuris" (INAI, Mexico)

The "Corpus Iuris" on personal data protection is an electronic tool based on a search engine which allows the identification of:



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- International instruments on personal data protection, privacy, intimacy, and habeas data in the different human rights systems: American, European, African, the United Nations, as well as in specialized bodies, such as the Special Rapporteur on the right to Privacy of the UN.
- Jurisprudential criteria that international jurisdictional bodies have issued regarding these rights.

A4: Big data, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and data protection (UK)

In 2014, the ICO was one of the first data protection authorities to publish a paper detailing its thinking on data protection and big data. The paper was well received and ICO staff were invited to, and attended, numerous big data conferences, forums and



workshops to present our thoughts and contribute to the wider discussion on data protection and privacy in this context.

However, the world doesn't stand still on the publication of a paper. The pace of technological advancement is ever increasing and this is no different when it comes to big data. Recognising the growing use of big data across all sectors, made possible by technologies such as AI and machine learning, the ICO made plans to update its paper on big data.

The primary aim was to provide an up-to-date discussion of the data protection implications of big data, AI and machine learning. However, a further objective was to increase the utility of the paper by providing practical guidance on how to achieve and go beyond data protection compliance in a big data world.

As well as extensive desk research and discussions with stakeholders, the ICO also directly engaged with industry in order to help inform its thinking and shape the devel-

opment of the new paper. For instance, workshops were arranged with several different business sectors in order to listen to the issues and challenges that were encountered by practitioners when conducting privacy impact assessments for big data projects. It was a combination of these different research approaches that contributed to the writing of the updated paper and influenced its tone, structure and content.

The paper's publication was announced by Rob Luke, the ICO's Deputy Commissioner for Policy, in his speech at the ICO's annual Data Protection Practitioner Conference in Manchester on 6 March 2017. As well as fulfilling the aims and objectives mentioned above, the paper also serves as a solid basis from which the ICO will continue to build, with work on AI and machine learning set to comprise one of our information rights policy priorities.

A5: PrivacyCon 2017 (USA)

Following the success of its first PrivacyCon event, the Federal Trade Commission published a call for presentations in April of 2016, announcing the 2017 event ([https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/04/ftc-announces-second-privacycon-publishes-call-presentations)



[releases/2016/04/ftc-announces-second-privacycon-publishes-call-presentations](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/04/ftc-announces-second-privacycon-publishes-call-presentations)).

The call for presentations (<https://www.ftc.gov/privacycon-call-for-presentations>) asked a number of specific questions to stimulate further research. In addition to expanding upon the previous research presented, the FTC hoped to explore areas that it was not able to focus on at the previous event, such as:

- the harms caused by privacy violations;
- attack vectors and trends by which attackers may compromise privacy;
- how often consumers are using ad blocker tools, and;
- the costs of malware to consumers and businesses.

The FTC received 74 Research papers, and selected 18 for presentations. During the event, researchers presented their research findings and engaged in moderated Q&A

“Corpus juris” on personal data protection is an electronic tool based on a search engine which allows the identification of International instruments on personal data protection etc.



ICDPPC

International Conference of Data
Protection & Privacy Commissioners

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with the audience. The event also included a poster session and networking reception.

The two-day event was well attended with a combination of over 300 physical attendees (76 attending Wednesday's PrivacyCon Poster Session event and on Thursday's Conference over 235 attending in the main auditorium and overflow rooms) and over 900 unique viewers watching the event through webcast.

A6: Discussion paper on potential enhancements to consent under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) (Canada)

The discussion paper on potential enhancements to consent under the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) forms the basis of consultations held by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada to consider challenges to PIPEDA's consent model arising



from new technologies and business models. It supports the development of solutions that would enable individuals to exercise control over their personal information where it is meaningful, while addressing situations where consent is impracticable.

The discussion paper on potential enhancements to consent under the PIPEDA forms the basis of consultations held by the OPC to consider challenges to PIPEDA's consent model arising from new technologies and business models.