

From Privacy Impact Assessment to Social Impact Assessment

Preserving trust in the Internet of Things

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horizon
DIGITAL ECONOMY RESEARCH



The problem space : trust in the IoT

- Consumer trust in the Internet of Things is at vulnerable place
 - e.g. Samsung smart TV “listening” to conversations
 - Hackable baby alarms (Houston “wake up you little slut!”); 9 models tested in 2015 still had major flaws)
 - Search engine for IoT devices, inc. private webcam streams (shodan.io)
- **Hypothesis:** SMEs creating IoT chips and systems are not privacy aware
- Why?
 - Not traditionally customer facing;
 - Privacy a bug not a feature;
 - Little awareness of legal DP regulation;
 - May be regarded as responsibility of retail chain;
 - Engineers don’t see themselves as responsible for ethical values
- Baseline questionnaire going out, via Digital Catapult , via IoTUK
- Also fits into general miasma of consumer distrust post-Snowden

The problem space: law

- IoT involving processing personal data (PD) is challenging for **European DP law (DPD/GDPR)**
- Is the law enough to reassure consumers?
- **Consent (free, informed, signified, unambiguous)** is problematic given “pervasive” environment ambition of ubicomp; esp for **public** systems eg smart transport, roads
 - In **private** systems, consent can be given by contract – but quality of consent?
- DP allows **other** grounds for collecting/processing PD eg “**legitimate interests**” of data controller if not harming fundamental rts of data subject
- BUT **ePrivacy Directive ONLY** accepts **prior, informed consent (opt in)** where **location or traffic** data collected (much confusion, and reform underway)
- Also increasingly hard to argue IoT systems only processing “**anonymous**” data (i.e. non-PD)
 - NB under GDPR “**pseudonymous**” data expressly considered to be PD

From *post factum* legal compliance to *a priori* privacy by design

- GDPR mandates “privacy by design” by 2018
- Also requires Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) where “**high risk**” processing
- DP by design to be embedded “**from the very early stage**”, “**within entire life cycle of technology**”
- How c/should DPIAs be used in IoT? By SMEs? To be useful for entire design process, and consumer trust - not box ticking exercise too late on?
 - e.g. a system to detect bus seat occupancy using anonymous sensors not CCTV
- One key idea: a wider **Social Impact Assessment** to cover impacts of data processing which are **not** confined to classic privacy intrusions (Responsible Innovation)
 - e.g. **discrimination** from profiling systems (Sweeney)
 - Other values we might want to embed from start – **data minimisation, interoperability, sustainability, transparency of algorithmic processing**
 - Ethical impact assessment prior work exists (SATORI, PULSE, PRIPARE, EDPS) – **but not so far aimed at private sector, IoT, and SMEs**

SIA: bridging the law–technology gap

- GDPR
- SMEs – awareness, fears, resources
- Opening the “black box”
- Different legal regimes
- **Petri Net visual model**
- Easily understood & technically robust
- Both technical and legal processes
- Formally provable
- Portable models; IDE integration
- Evidential basis for SIA?

