"I'm not convinced that they don't collect more than is necessary": User-Controlled Data Minimization Design in Search Engines

Tanusree SharmaAssistant Professor, Penn State University | Ph.D., UIUC



Tanusree Sharma Penn State



Lin Kyi MPI-SP



Yang Wang UIUC



Asia J. Biega MPI-SP











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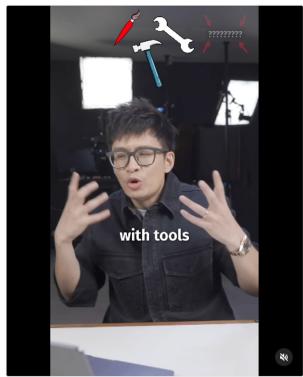


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Probably Fine!!!









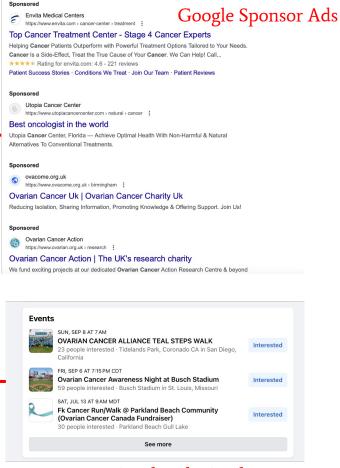




Is it Fine?! Google



"I live in Hungary and have had a same government for 10-15 years. I live in a non-democratic country. I don't want my health condition to be known it can be dangerous for my benefits when the whole control to the government."



Facebook Feed

Data Minimization - A Legal Perspective

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) outlines the principle of <u>data minimization</u> in Article 5(1)(c), requiring that <u>data should be adequate</u>, <u>relevant</u> and <u>limited</u> to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.

On device policy enforcement "Stakeholders only access the data they need"

Data Minimization During Collection

Computational Approach

Performance-Based Data Minimization

User Centered Approach

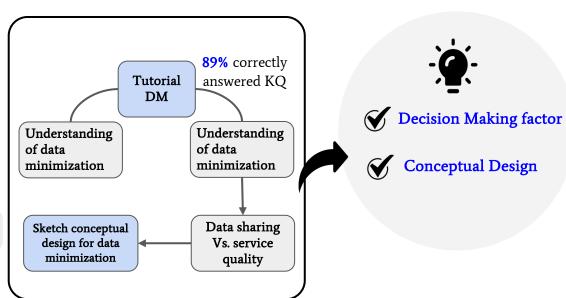
User Interview + Experts Evaluation

01

RQ1: What <u>factors influence user</u> <u>decisions</u> on what data is **necessary** for search engines to collect in the context of data minimization?

RQ2: How do users think <u>data</u> minimization ought to work in search engines? ?





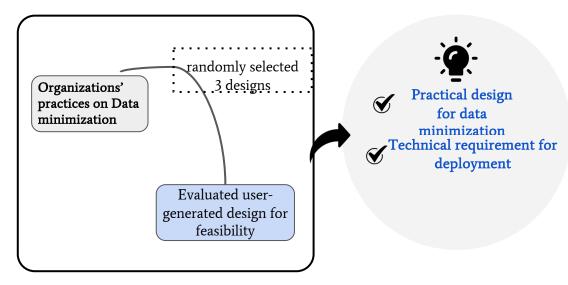
02

RQ3: How do experts evaluate the **feasibility** of user generated designs of data minimization in search engines?



Expert Interview

Privacy Experts(n = 10)



RQ1: Factors Influencing Data Minimization Decisions



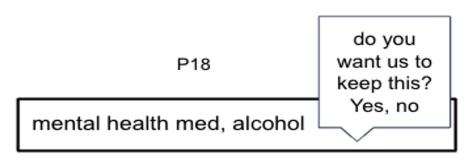
Volume of Search Data needs to provide good service/good search result

"Top 3-5 result match the search keyword and if see those results are from popular site of what i was search is a better result for me"

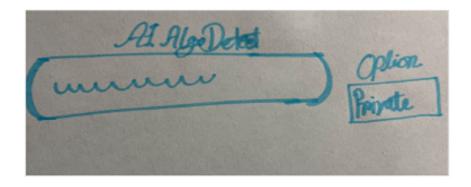
RQ2/RQ3: Conceptual Design & Feasibility

Profile Customization for Data Types and Data Volume GDPR Alerts for Data Minimization
Separating Searching Sessions for Oneself and Others
Sensitivity-Based Search Customization
Data Donations & Incentives

Conceptual Design & Feasibility- Sensitivity-Based Search



P22



Current engineering or algorithm teams could anonymize or apply access control, adding noise after data collection at the query stage, triggering sensitive search alerts or options. This prevents data from reaching the server, with execution done on the client's search engine. It requires UX design and existing tech stacks in the backend to instantly discard sensitive searches made locally. It's akin to using Trusted Execution Environments (TEEs) for search queries. Cryptography could even be employed for private local execution. From a technical standpoint, this is very feasible."

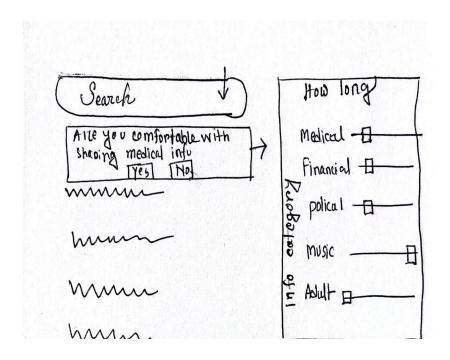
- -Feasible (Experts in Data Minimization)

Conceptual Design & Feasibility: Separating Search Session



This is unnecessary data collection. Specifying search queries about another person means reidentification, you are giving another datapoint "other person", violating privacy of uninvolved parties. Keeping all searches together maintains privacy due to the noise. I wouldn't recommend this approach." like your child, essentially you provide the search engine with annotated data to create a shadow profile, detailed footprint of behavior and possibly medical issues of your child under the 'others' search option. This creates a binary flag from your IP. This 'shadow' profile, built over let's say 20 years, could be misused. _" — Not Feasible (Experts in privacy engineering)

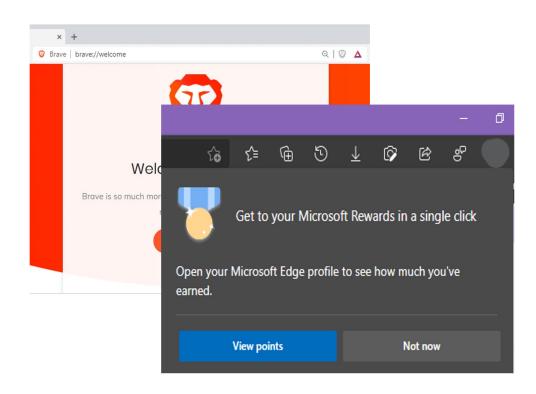
Conceptual Design & Feasibility- Profile Customization



"we ensure secure and efficient data storage. This involves clients' and their users' consent, especially in cloud computing. We deal with a variety of rental agreements. At times, we encounter users who prefer to keep their information private, due to the nature of our services spanning multiple countries and continents, and require a certain level of confidentiality for certain types of data. We have a consent-like form design for the product pipelined with db instances to cater to these various requirements efficiently, adding certain noise, adding gibberish for unique identifiers, and setting limits to the data life."

- -Feasible (Experts in Data Minimization)

Conceptual Design & Feasibility: Data Donations & Incentives



Experts: Not Relevant to Data Minimization

Thank you!

Contact:



tfs5747@psu.edu





