

Research Interests

My interests broadly include research in Security and Privacy, Human-centered Computing, and Emerging Technologies, with applications to smart systems (AI/ML) and public policy (law & policy).

Appointments

08/2025 - present	Assistant Professor , University of Alabama
09/2023 - 07/2025	Postdoctoral Scholar , University of California, Irvine
09/2022 - 08/2023	Graduate Research Assistant , University of California, Los Angeles
08/2018 - 09/2022	Graduate Research Assistant , University of Virginia

Education

08/2023	Ph.D. in Computer Science , University of Virginia Dissertation: Protecting User Privacy in the World of Internet of Things Advisor: Yuan Tian
06/2018	B.S. in Computer Science , Portland State University

Publications

Google Scholar profile: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=JS1jU8IAAAAJ&hl=en>

1. O. Figueira, P. Chamathi, **T. Le**, A. Markopoulou, “When Kids Mode Isn’t For Kids: Investigating TikTok’s “Under 13 Experience””, *under review (preprint available on arXiv)*, 2025.
2. J. Al Aaraj, O. Figueira, **T. Le**, I. Figueira, R. Trimnanda, A. Markopoulou, “VBIT: Towards Enhancing Privacy Control Over IoT Devices”, *under review (preprint available on arXiv)*, 2025.
3. **T. Le**, L. Baldesi, A. Markopoulou, C. Butts, Z. Shafiq, “From Voice to Ads: Auditing Commercial Smart Speakers for Targeted Advertising based on Voice Characteristics”, in *Proc. of ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)*, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, October 2025.
4. P. Mandal, **T. Le**, A. Ami, Y. Tian, A. Nadkarni, “‘Free WiFi is not ultimately free’: Privacy Perceptions of Users in the US regarding City-wide WiFi Services”, in *Proc. on Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS)*, Washington DC, USA, July 2025.
5. **T. Le**, D. Zhao, Z. Wang, X. Wang, Y. Tian, “Alexa, is the skill always safe? Uncover Lenient Skill Vetting Process and Protect User Privacy at Run Time”, in *Proc. of International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)*, Lisbon, Portugal, May 2024.
6. **T. Le**, Z. Wang, D. Huang, Y. Yao, Y. Tian, “Towards Real-time Voice Interaction Data Collection Monitoring and Ambient Light Privacy Notification for Voice-controlled Services”, in *Proc. of Symposium on Usable Security and Privacy (USEC)*, San Diego, CA, USA, February 2024.
7. **T. Le**, A. Wang, Y. Yao, Y. Feng, A. Heydarian, N. Sadeh, Y. Tian, “Exploring Smart Commercial Building Occupants’ Perceptions and Notification Preferences of IoT Data Collection”, in *Proc. of IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy (EuroS&P)*, Delft, Netherlands, July 2023.
8. P. Yang, J. Fan, Z. Wei, H. Li, **T. Le**, Y. Tian, “Towards Usable Parental Control for Voice Assistants”, in *Proc. of Cyber-Physical Systems and Internet of Things Week (CPS-IoT)*, San Antonio, TX, USA, May 2023.
9. **T. Le**, D. Huang, N. Apthorpe, Y. Tian, “SkillBot: Identifying Risky Content for Children in Alexa Skills”, in *ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT)*, July 2022.

10. W. Ahmad, J. Chi, **T. Le**, T. Norton, Y. Tian, KW. Chang, “Intent Classification and Slot Filling for Privacy Policies”, in *Proc. of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, Bangkok, Thailand, August 2021.
11. J. Stankovic, **T. Le**, A. Hendawi, Y. Tian, “Hardware/Software Security Patches for the Internet of Things”, in *Proc. of IEEE International Conference on Smart Computing (SMARTCOMP)*, Virtual, August 2021.
12. **T. Le**, I. Elsayed-Aly, W. Jin, S. Ryu, G. Verrier, T. Rahat, B. Park, Y. Tian, “Evaluating the Dedicated Short-Range Communication for Connected Vehicles against Network Security Attacks”, in *Proc. of International Conference on Vehicle Technology and Intelligent Transport Systems (VEHITS)*, Virtual, May 2020.
13. **T. Le**, I. Elsayed-Aly, W. Jin, S. Ryu, G. Verrier, T. Rahat, B. Park, Y. Tian, “Poster: Attack the Dedicated Short-Range Communication for Connected Vehicles”, in *Proc. of IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, San Francisco, CA, USA, May 2019.

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors

2023	ACM SIGBED Student Grant
2019	IEEE S&P Student Grant
2018	UVA Computer Science Fellowship
2017 - 2018	SRC Education Alliance (Award 2009-UR-2032G)
2016 - 2018	Portland State University’s International Achievement Scholarship
2016	Portland State University’s Vietnam Scholars Program Award
2014 - 2016	Vietnam National University’s Advanced Program in Computer Science

Teaching

Instructor

- CS 691: Human-Centered Security and Privacy (University of Alabama - Spring 2026)
- [Privacy, IoT, & AI Summer Program](#) (University of California, Irvine - Summer 2024)

Guest Lecturer

- EECS 232: Data Privacy (University of California, Irvine - Spring 2024)
- CS 8501: IoT Security and Privacy (University of Virginia - Spring 2022)

Outreach

06/2024	Curriculum Lead for the 2024 Privacy, IoT, & AI Summer Program . Designed and taught hands-on lectures on voice authentication, deepfakes, and threats from generative AI for 26 underrepresented high school students.
10/2021	Instructor for a Raspberry Pi workshop hosted by Girls Who Code at the University of Virginia.

Mentoring

University of Alabama

- Kofi Ampomah (PhD student)

University of California, Irvine

- Ismat Jarin (PhD student)
- Olivia Figueira (PhD student)
- Jad Al Aaraj (PhD student)

University of California, Los Angeles

- Jerry Xu (Undergrad student), Laura Ness (Undergrad student), Huan Xu (Master's student).
Project: "Robust Captcha Design: DisCaptcha".

University of Virginia

- Peiyi Yang, Jie Fan, Zice Wei, Haoqian Li (Master's students). *Research Paper: "Towards Usable Parental Control for Voice Assistants".*
- Hongyi Li, Minjie Tang, Leizhen Shi (Master's students). *Project: "Finding Safe Wake Words for Voice Devices using Distinctive Features".*
- Matthew Hancock (Undergrad student). *Undergrad Thesis: "The Struggle for Control of Personal Data".*
- Gabriel Simmons (Undergrad student). *Undergrad Thesis: "Voice Privacy: Analyzing Trends and Patterns in Amazon Alexa Voice History".*
- Chase Lemley (Undergrad student). *Undergrad Thesis: "Alexa Data Monitoring: Virtual Personal Assistants and Information Privacy Protection".*
- Amanda Nguyen (Undergrad student). *Project: "Alexa Parental Permissions: Virtual Personal Assistants and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)".*
- Yilin Huang (Undergrad student). *Project: "How much does my data worth? A user study about people's perceived value of different types of personal data".*
- Yilin Guo (Visiting Undergrad from ShanghaiTech). *Project: "A Study on Developers' Perceptions of Privacy Regulations in China and the USA".*

Professional Service

Organizing Committee:

2024	HotNets (Web Chair)
2019	SafeThings at IEEE S&P (Web Chair)

Reviewer/Technical Program Committee:

2025	WWW, CCS, ConPro, S&P (Poster)
2024	CCS, NDSS (Artifact), WWW, USENIX Sec (Artifact), CHI, S&P (Poster)
2023	S&P (Poster)
2018, 2019	The Global Undergraduate Awards

External Reviewer:

2023	AutoSec, NDSS, S&P, USENIX Sec, WiSec, WWW
2022	CCS, DAC, EuroS&P, NDSS, PETS, Sensys, S&P, USENIX Sec
2021	ACSAC, CCS, CSF, DAC, EuroS&P, NDSS, Sensys, S&P, Ubicomp, USENIX Sec
2020	AsiaCCS, EuroS&P, NDSS, Sensys, S&P, USENIX Sec
2019	AAAI, CCS, NDSS
2018	CCS, NDSS, Ubicomp, USENIX Sec