

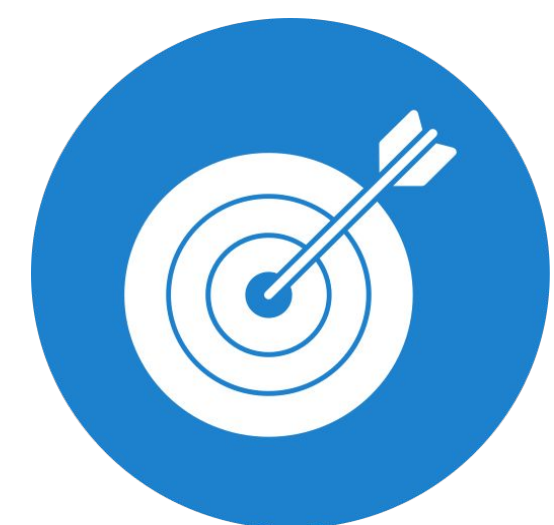
Why is Accessibility So Hard? Insights From the History of Privacy

Xinru Tang, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA



Despite decades of efforts on developing technological solutions, accessibility remains a hard problem in practice. What can we learn from the history of privacy?

How are Privacy and Accessibility Similar?



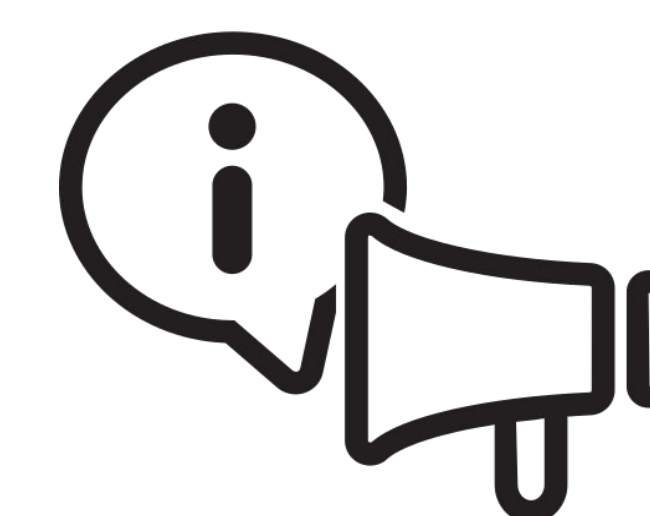
Driven by a Complex Goal



The Wide Scope of User Needs



Lack of Developer Support



Lack of Pushback

What Can We Learn from Privacy?

- “...the most substantive lever for improving privacy has been **comprehensive legislation and regulation** such as GDPR and California Online Privacy Protection Act (CalOPPA)... Nowadays, companies and developers have to care about privacy, due to the potential for massive fines.” (Hong, 2019)
- “The next most effective lever for privacy has been **smartphone app stores**. The centralized nature of app stores and their dominant position for distributing apps made it possible for Apple and Google to dictate certain standards for privacy.” (Hong, 2019)

GDPR



Accessibility as an Infrastructure

Direction 1: Centralized Support

- Without consistent enforcement of standards and developer support, users will have to spend significant time navigating different systems.
- How can we strike a balance between diverse user needs and centralization?

Direction 2: Policymaking

- WCAG, Section 508, and ADA are only the beginning. What would accessibility policies look like in the context of generative AI, and AR/VR/MR?
- How can policies balance conflicting interests and values, like privacy and accessibility?

FATE is Similar, Too!

- Algorithmic FATE (Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics) is also ill-defined, lacking developer support and pushback (Hong, 2023).
- A joint force will be beneficial and even necessary due to the shared concerns and potential conflicting requirements.

References

- [1] Hong, Jason. “Why is Privacy So Hard?” Communications of the ACM, 19 March 2019, <https://cacm.acm.org/blogcacm/why-is-privacy-so-hard/>
- [2] Hong, Jason. "Teaching the fate community about privacy." Communications of the ACM 66.8 (2023): 10-11.



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