

Call for Participation

Workshop on Societal Impact for Usable Privacy and Security Research (Impact@SOUPS)

How can we, as usable privacy and security researchers, conduct work that meaningfully improves people's lives? Can we define and measure societal impact? And can we identify pathways to strengthen the impact of our research?

The Workshop on Societal Impact for Usable Privacy and Security Research will bring together a community of researchers interested in identifying ways to create significant, sustained impact that tangibly improves people's security, privacy, and safety. This remains a critical challenge for our research community, as we continue to struggle to translate research insights into action. Too often, projects conclude with published papers without follow-through toward real-world change—whether through technology design, policy development, sustained community programs, or other efforts that meaningfully impact people's lives.

Creating societal impact requires time, labor, and expertise, often demanding new skills that can be difficult to develop and sustain within current academic structures. Furthermore, our community lacks established methods for understanding and reporting the downstream effects of research, including the adoption of recommendations and the sustainability of proposed interventions. Without such methods, it is difficult to assess whether our work leads to long-term improvements for the populations we aim to serve, or to determine which strategies for driving impact are most effective across different contexts.

Our workshop will be highly interactive, featuring a panel discussion and breakout sessions. It aims to generate ideas, guidelines, and actionable next steps for strengthening societal impact. We plan to synthesize these outcomes into a post-workshop report.

More details on the workshop can be found at <https://impact-soups.github.io/>

Submission Instructions

We invite participation from researchers of all backgrounds, including faculty, early-stage PhD students, and those working in industry or government. We ask that participants submit a short reflection essay (~500 words) that includes: (1) an overview

of your past, current, and aspirational work in usable privacy and security; (2) any real-world impact of your work, or aspirations for future impact; and (3) challenges you have faced or anticipate facing in achieving such impact. As part of the workshop, you will engage in discussions of your reflections with other attendees.

We encourage submission by the preferred deadline shown below so that we can better plan workshop activities. We will accept reflections until the final deadline because we want to encourage broad participation.

Submissions should be submitted as a PDF via the Impact@SOUPS 2026 HotCRP:
<https://impact2026.usenix.hotcrp.com>

Dates

- **Preferred reflection deadline:** June 25, 2026
- **Final reflection deadline:** August 22, 2026
- **Workshop:** August 23, 2026