

# Kentrell Owens

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## EDUCATION

### University of Washington

*Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering*

*M.S., Computer Science and Engineering*

Seattle, WA

September 2020 - present

June 2022

### Carnegie Mellon University

*M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering with a concentration in Computer Security*

Pittsburgh, PA

December 2019

### Rice University

*B.S., Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

Houston, TX

May 2016

## AWARDS

### Paper Awards

- Best Paper Honorable Mention (top 5%), ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2021
- Best Student Paper, Colloquium for Information System Security Education (CISSE), 2019

### Research Awards

- New England Computing & Data Science Rising Star (at Boston University; October 2024)
- Seattle Chapter ARCS Foundation Scholar Award (2020)
- UW College of Engineering Dean's Fellowship (2020)
- GEM Fellowship (2018, 2020)

### Travel Grants

- SOUPS Grants for Black Computer Science Students (2021, 2024)
- USENIX Security Grants for Black Computer Science Students (2022, 2023)
- USENIX Security Grants for Black Computer Science Students (2020)
- CRA Grad Cohort for IDEALS (2019, 2020)
- SOUPS Student Grant (2019)
- GREPSEC (2019)

### Scholarships

- QuestBridge National College Match Fellowship (2012)

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Pratyusha Ria Kalluri\*, William Agnew\*, Myra Cheng\*, **Kentrell Owens\***, Luca Soldaini\*, and Abeba Birhane\*. The Surveillance AI Pipeline. *Nature* (*forthcoming*). 2025.

\* co-first authors

- Collins W. Munyendo\*, **Kentrell Owens\***, Faith Strong, Shaoqi Wang, Adam J. Aviv, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Franziska Roesner. "You Have to Ignore the Dangers": User Perceptions of the Security and Privacy Benefits of WhatsApp Mods. 46th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (**IEEE S&P**). May 2025.
- **Kentrell Owens\***, Erin Freiburger\*, Ryan Hutchings\*, Mattea Sim, Kurt Hugenberg, Franziska Roesner, Tadayoshi Kohno. Face the Facts: Using Face Averaging to Visualize Gender-by-Race Bias in Facial Analysis Algorithms. 7th AAAI Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (**AIES**). October 2024.

- **Kentrell Owens**, Johanna Gunawan, David Choffnes, Pardis Emami-Naeini, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Franziska Roesner. Exploring Deceptive Design Patterns in Voice Interfaces. European Symposium on Usable Security (**EuroUSEC**), September 2022.
- **Kentrell Owens**, Anita Alem, Franziska Roesner, Tadayoshi Kohno. Electronic Monitoring Smartphone Apps: An Analysis of Risks from Technical, Human-Centered, and Legal Perspectives. 31st **USENIX Security** Symposium. August 2022.  
Press: [EFF](#), [NewScientist](#)
- **Kentrell Owens**, Olabode Anise, Amanda Krauss, Blase Ur. User Perceptions of the Usability and Security of Smartphones as FIDO2 Roaming Authenticators. Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (**SOUPS**), August 2021.
- **Kentrell Owens**, Camille Cobb, Lorrie Cranor. “You Gotta Watch What You Say”: Surveillance of Communication with Incarcerated People. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**), May 2021.  
*Award: Best Paper Honorable Mention (top 5%)*  
Press: [Tech Xplore](#), [CyLab News](#)
- **Kentrell Owens**, Blase Ur, Olabode Anise. A Framework For Evaluating the Usability and Security of Smartphones as FIDO2 Roaming Authenticators. Who Are You?! Adventures in Authentication 2020 Workshop (**WAY**), August 2020.
- **Kentrell Owens**, Alexander Fulton, Luke Jones, Martin Carlisle. pico-Boo: How to avoid scaring students away in a CTF competition. Colloquium for Information System Security Education (**CISSE**), June 2019.  
*Award: Best Student Paper*

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

- “Technology and Power: Examining Imbalances Through Usable Security & Privacy Research”
  - February 2025 at the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, hosted by Sven Bugiel
  - February 2025 at the Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, hosted by Yixin Zou
- “Towards Consumer Protection on the Margins”
  - December 2024 at ICSI at UC Berkeley, hosted by Serge Egelman
- “‘You Gotta Watch What You Say’: Surveillance of Communication with Incarcerated People.”
  - October 2024 at Georgetown University, hosted by the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Fourth Amendment Center and Georgetown Law’s Center on Privacy and Technology. Washington, D.C.
  - February 2022 at Boston University series “Confronting Surveillance,” hosted by Gabe Kaptchuk. Virtual.
  - November 2021 at Brown University *Seminar on Community-Driven Cryptography*, hosted by Seny Kamara. Virtual.
  - July 2021 at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), hosted by Joseph Calandrino. Virtual.
  - April 2021 at NYU Privacy Seminar, hosted by Rachel Greenstadt. Virtual.

### Invited Panels

- May 2024, University of Washington Libraries’ “Choose Privacy Week” panel. Virtual.
- May 2023, “Challenging Carceral Surveillance” workshop at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Organizer:
  - Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) Junior Co-Chair for Posters, 2023
- Program Committee Member:
  - Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection (ConPro), 2024, 2025

- Conference on Privacy Engineering Practice and Respect (PEPR), 2022, 2023
- Usable Security and Privacy (USEC) Symposium, 2023
- Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security (WIPS), 2021, 2022
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS) Artifact Evaluation Committee, 2021, 2022
- Who Are You?! Adventures in Authentication Workshop (WAY), 2021
- Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS) Poster Jury, 2020, 2021
- Invited External Reviewer:
  - ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2023, 2024, 2025
  - Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS), 2023
  - ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), 2021, 2023
  - ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) Case Studies, 2021

## **OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Department Service**

- New Graduate Student Mentor, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Graduate Student Volunteer Coordinator, 2023-2024
- LEAP Alliance Mentor, 2024, 2025
- Faculty Recruiting Liaison, 2022-2023
- Pre-application Mentoring Service (PAMS) mentor, Fall 2021, 2022
- LEAP Alliance Panelist, March 2022, September 2024
- Co-organizer of New Graduate Student Orientation, Fall 2021
- Department steward for the UW Academic Student Employee union (UAW 4121), May 2021-current
- Panelist for Admitted Students' Day, March 2021

### **Computing Outreach**

- Volunteer for Computer Science Education Week, December 7, 2024
- Panelist at Rainier Beach High School's Career Day, May 22, 2024
- Panelist for Black Researchers @ Microsoft Research's "Thriving During a PhD Program" panel, August 2021
- Panelist for CV/ML Graduate School Prep Workshop, April 2021
- Panelist for UW National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Graduate Student Panel, February 2021

### **Other**

- Presentation at HOPE Seminar at UW on "Surveillance at the margins of the U.S. carceral system", March 8, 2024
- Graduate Student Mentor at UW Gabriel E. Gallardo Symposium, April 2023 & 2024
- Guest Speaker at UW's Fall Welcome for First-Gen Graduate Students, November 2, 2022
- Co-founder of Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) at the University of Washington, Fall 2020
- President of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Rice University Chapter, 2015-2016

## **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Academic Research Experience**

- Graduate Student Researcher in UW CSE's Security and Privacy Lab September 2020 - present
- Graduate Student Researcher in CMU's CyLab September 2018 - Dec 2019
- Scientific Computing Summer Intern at Simula Research Laboratory (Oslo, Norway) Summer 2018

### **Industry Work Experience**

- CyTRICS Intern at Idaho National Lab Summer 2020

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Covered by the **EFF**'s DeepLinks Blog, "Study of Electronic Monitoring Smartphone Apps Confirms Advocates' Concerns of Privacy Harms," <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2022/09/study-electronic-monitoring-smartphone-apps-confirms-advocates-concerns-privacy>
- Covered by **Truthout**, "We Need a New Paradigm to Halt the Unprecedented Growth of Electronic Monitoring," <https://truthout.org/articles/we-need-a-new-paradigm-to-halt-the-unprecedented-growth-of-electronic-monitoring/>
- Interviewed and quoted by **NewScientist**, "Apps used as alternatives to prison in US found to have privacy flaws," <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2336473-apps-used-as-alternatives-to-prison-in-us-found-to-have-privacy-flaws/>
- Interviewed and quoted by **Reuters**, "U.S. prisons mull AI to analyze inmate phone calls," <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-tech-prison-idUSKBN2FA000>