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Privacy in Statistical Databases

CENEX-SDC Project International Conference, PSD 2006 Rome, Italy, December 13-15, 2006 Proceedings



Volume Editors

Josep Domingo-Ferrer Rovira i Virgili University of Tarragona Dept. of Computer Engineering and Mathematics Av. Països Catalans 26, 43007 Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain E-mail: josep.domingo@urv.cat

Luisa Franconi
ISTAT, Servizio Progettazione e Supporto Metodologico
nei Processi di Produzione Statistica
Via Cesare Balbo 16, 00184 Roma, Italy
E-mail: franconi@istat.it

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Preface

Privacy in statistical databases is a discipline whose purpose is to provide solutions to the conflict between the increasing social, political and economical demand of accurate information, and the legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of the individuals and enterprises to which statistical data refer. Beyond law and ethics, there are also practical reasons for statistical agencies and data collectors to invest in this topic: if individual and corporate respondents feel their privacy guaranteed, they are likely to provide more accurate responses.

There are at least two traditions in statistical database privacy: one stems from official statistics, where the discipline is also known as statistical disclosure control (SDC), and the other originates from computer science and database technology. Both started in the 1970s, but the 1980s and the early 1990s saw little privacy activity on the computer science side. The Internet era has strengthened the interest of both statisticians and computer scientists in this area. Along with the traditional topics of tabular and microdata protection, some research lines have revived and/or appeared, such as privacy in queryable databases and protocols for private data computation.

Privacy in Statistical Databases 2006 (PSD 2006) was the main conference of the CENEX-SDC project (Center of Excellence in SDC), funded by EUROSTAT (European Commission) and held in Rome, December 13–15, 2006. PSD 2006 is a successor of PSD 2004, the final conference of the CASC project (IST-2000-25069), held in Barcelona in 2004 and with proceedings published by Springer as LNCS vol. 3050. Those two PSD conferences follow a tradition of high-quality technical conferences on SDC which started with "Statistical Data Protection—SDP 1998", held in Lisbon in 1998 and with proceedings published by OPOCE, and continued with the AMRADS project SDC Workshop, held in Luxemburg in 2001 and with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 2316.

The Program Committee accepted 31 papers out of 45 submissions from 17 different countries in four different continents. Each submitted paper received at least two reviews. These proceedings contain the revised versions of the accepted papers, which are a fine blend of contributions from official statistics and computer science. Covered topics include methods for tabular data protection, methods for individual data (microdata) protection, assessments of analytical utility and disclosure risk, protocols for private computation, case studies and SDC software.

We are indebted to many people. First, to EUROSTAT for sponsoring the CENEX project and PSD 2006. Also, to those who made the conference and these proceedings possible: the Organization Committee (Xenia Caruso, Jordi Castellà-Roca, Maurizio Lucarelli, Jesús Manjón, Antoni Martínez-Ballesté and Micaela Paciello). In evaluating the papers we received the help of the Program

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We also wish to thank all the authors of submitted papers and apologize for possible omissions.

September 2006

Josep Domingo-Ferrer Luisa Franconi

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