

# Privacy Violations in Crowd Work

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# Crowd Work

**Crowdsourcing** obtains contributions to tasks from an undefined pool of people (crowd workers)



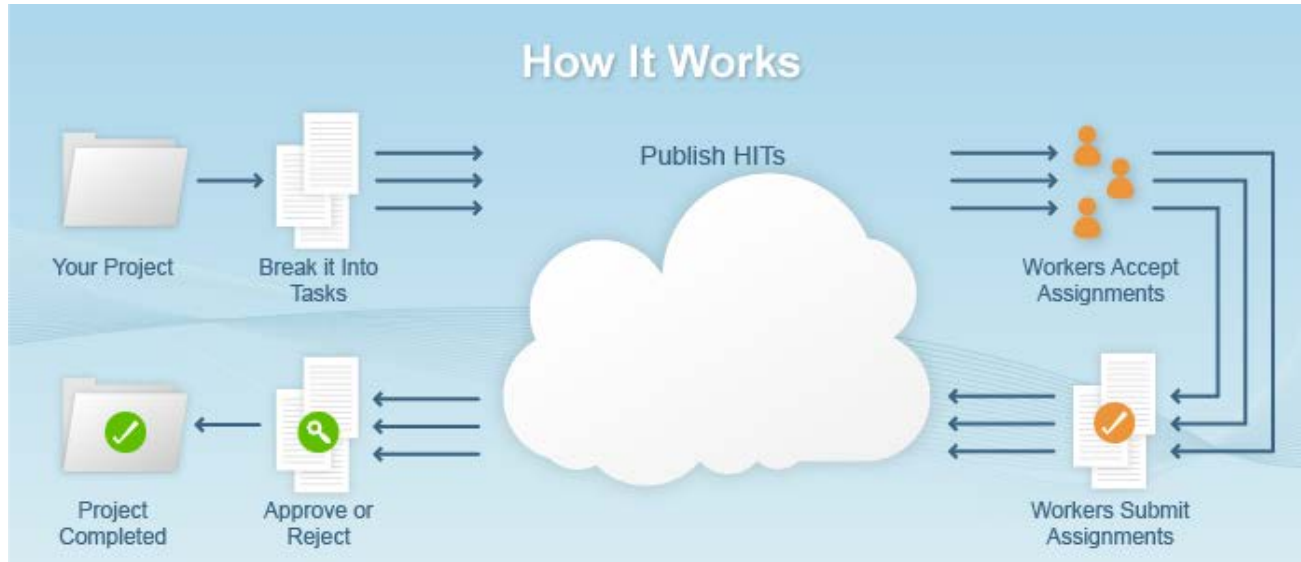
# Our Research

What are people's privacy experiences in crowd work?

We chose Mechanical Turk (MTurk) as a case study

We surveyed 435 MTurk workers around the world

# Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)



source: mturk.com

# Privacy Violations

Information collection

Information processing

Information dissemination

Invasion

Deceptive practices

# Information Collection

“To participate in the task, I had to upload a picture of my health insurance card. The purpose of the study was to find out what people hated about having or getting a health insurance. But I feel like I had to give up very sensitive information.”

# Information Processing

“The requester asked you to take a series of photos of yourself doing different tasks, like smoking a cigarette, sweeping etc. I did not think too much about it and completed the task. Six months later, I heard that the requester was using these photos in some type of art exhibit. I felt violated and lied to. I hated having my picture out there.”

# Information Dissemination

“It’s very usual they ask you too for your e-mail. Maybe they will never use it, but I don’t know...they are a company, and we know company can earn money sharing private information, as the emails are.”



# Invasion

“I regretted when I started to realize it was probably some creep who wanted pictures of women. Not knowing who got my picture and my address is very scary. They could be stalking me or trying to find me.”

# Deceptive Practices

“Requesters will put up jobs that are actually phishing. So when workers click, they get to a fake log-in screen and end up having their account and linked payment account compromised.”

# Human Flesh Search

Worker ID: A36ZHE0MUDRGXW

amazon **mturk** HITs Dashboard Skip Accept

HIT Details Reward: \$0.06 Time Allotted: 01:00:00

Back to results

Download You must accept this Requester's HIT before working on it. Learn more

**Find contact information of Founder or CEO**

Person name: [Arsham H](#)

Job Title: [VP](#)

Company name: [Corp Strategy](#)

Location: [Universal Electronics Inc., Santa Ana, CA](#)

First name\*:  Last Name\*:  Company Name\*:

Email \*:

Company Website \*:

Location\*:

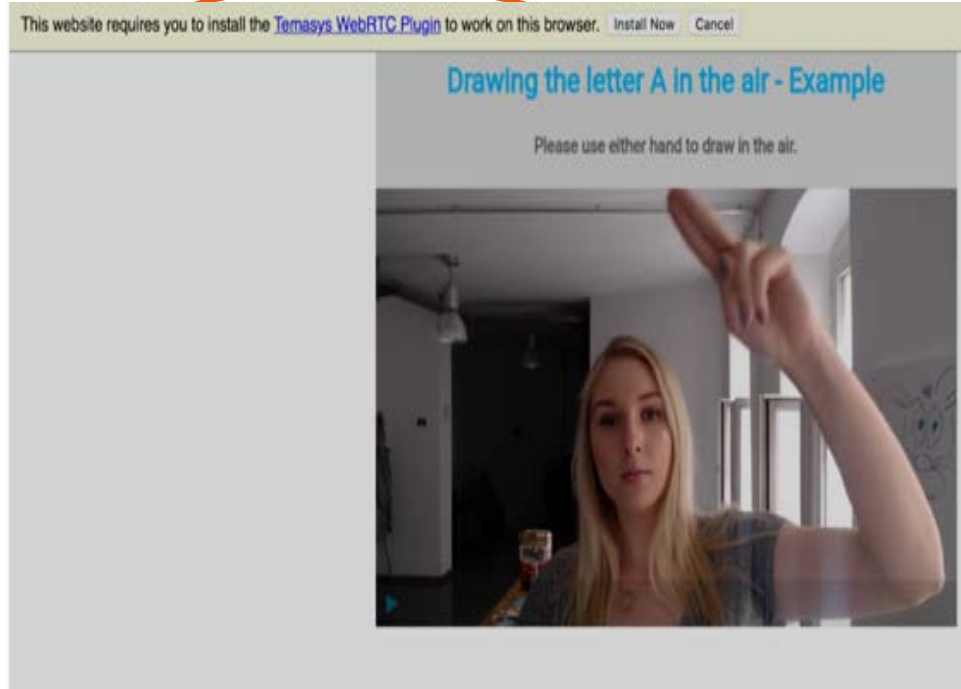
\*All fields are required. .

**Tips for Finding all information**

1. Typically you can go to linkedin and search the Person based on Job title and company name and get email address ;
2. Go to the company website and they have email address

Report this HIT | Why Report Skip Accept

# Install Software



# Transcribe Sensitive Information

The screenshot shows an Amazon Mechanical Turk HIT page. At the top, the browser address bar shows 'worker.mturk.com'. The page header includes the Amazon Mechanical Turk logo, 'HITs', and 'Dashboard' buttons. The HIT details section shows a reward of '\$0.10' and a time allowed of '00:20:00'. A green 'Download' button is visible on the left. The main content area displays a document titled 'Data Table Transcription Instructions (Click to expand)'. The document is a membership list from the 'CENTRO SPORTIVO EDUCATIVO NAZIONALE' (CSEN) for the 'ASSOCIATION SPORTIVA GIMMICA'. The document includes the address 'VIA BOLOGNA - TORINO DI SANBRO' and 'VARE'. A table titled 'ELENCO TESSERATI' lists members with columns for 'COGNOME - NOME', 'LIMPOSSICAZIONE', 'ESPOSIZIONE', and 'VIGENZA DEL TESSERATO'. A red circle highlights the header of this table, which contains the text '\*Cognome-Nome\* and \*Codice Fiscale\*'. At the bottom of the page, there are buttons for 'Report this HIT', 'Why Report', 'Skip', and 'Accept'.

Worker ID: A3E3HEDMURDQKW  
Requester Boardroom  
marshmello Syracuse - Google Search  
Amazon Mechanical Turk  
Per Diem Rates Lock-Up  
Syracuse University Writing Center  
screenshot.mac.scrolling.window - Google...  
Amazon Mechanical Turk  
Hello, Huihuan Xia | Sign Out

HIT Details  
Reward: \$0.10  
Time Allowed: 00:20:00

Download

You must accept this Requester's HIT before working on it. Learn more

Data Table Transcription Instructions (Click to expand)

\*Cognome-Nome\* and \*Codice Fiscale\*

Report this HIT | Why Report

Skip Accept

# Implications for Design & Policy

Tools to help workers detect privacy threats

Tools to help requesters convey data practices

Best practices or rules

# Acknowledgements

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“Our Privacy Needs to be Protected at All Costs”:  
Crowd Workers’ Privacy Experiences on Amazon  
Mechanical Turk. CSCW 2018.