

Voice Privacy: Analyzing Trends and Patterns in Amazon Alexa Voice
History
(Technical Report)

The Struggle for Control of Personal Data
(STS Research Paper)

An Undergraduate Thesis Portfolio
Presented to the Faculty of the
School of Engineering and Applied Science
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
Bachelor of Science in Major

by

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May 8, 2021

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Preface

Internet connected voice assistants like Alexa, Google Assistant, and Siri sometimes record unwanted conversations. Deleting them is complicated and preventing them is even more difficult.

How can trends and patterns in Amazon Alexa voice history aid owners in tracking recorded conversations and deleting unwanted voice data? The research team developed a Google Chrome extension to download transcripts and audio recordings from Alexa voice history, while another research team developed a system to quickly identify unintended recordings. Future researchers will combine projects from both teams to analyze voice data and find methods to minimize unintentional Alexa recordings.

In the U.S. since 2010, how have privacy advocates attempted to limit data collection by smart home devices? Privacy advocates believe tech companies have too much control over personal data. They fear how it is used by corporations, the government, and hackers. As the market for smart home devices grows, tech companies face rising pressure from privacy advocates to secure their products and better manage user data. Because privacy can impair functionality, tech companies are reluctant to adapt.