



C8 Attitudes of Citizens of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Turkey in Permits Requested by Mobile Apps

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to understand the relationship between risk, privacy, and mobile risk attitudes of citizens of different countries and interpret this in terms of mobile application permissions.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by informing attendees about the difference between attitudes in daily life and the actual situations that occur according to the data security risks that may arise.

How to secure information has become an important problem as application-maker firms have increased their access to personal data. In this context, this research aims to establish the relationship between risk, privacy, and mobile risk attitudes of people living in different countries. For this purpose, a survey of 26 questions was conducted for citizens living in the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey, provided that there were 150 people from each country (in total 450 people). Surveys of their native languages were conducted for participants in all countries. The survey consists of multiple-choice questions with questions consisting of a Likert scale of 5s.

Hypotheses in the study are “H_{0a}: there is no relationship between the risk attitude and the privacy attitude”; “H_{0b}: there is no relationship between the privacy attitude and mobile risk attitude”; and “H_{0c}: there is no relationship between risk attitude and mobile risk attitude.”

Within the scope of this research, “H_{0a}” and “H_{0b}” were rejected and a strong positive relationship in the United States, a weak positive relationship in the United Kingdom, and a moderate positive relationship in Turkey were identified. “H_{0c}” was also rejected and a moderate positive relationship in the United States and United Kingdom and a weak positive relationship in Turkey were found. Participants were asked which of the nine different types of mobile application permission request options they would not want to grant access to. As a result of the research, the most unwanted permission given in the United States was “location information,” “access to SMS records” in the United Kingdom, and “phone call records” in Turkey.

According to the results of the research, 55.33%, 48%, and 87.39% of respondents in the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey stated that they are using an Instagram™ app, while, respectively, 54.21%, 68.05%, and 46.56% of users have declared that they will not allow downloads for the application if they see the permissions requested by the application without specifying the application name.

Respectively, 19.33%, 70%, and 95.30% of respondents in the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey stated that they are using the WhatsApp app, while, respectively, 34.48%, 63.80%, and 46.85% declared that they would not download the app with current permissions.

Respectively, 28.67%, 39.33%, and 22% of respondents in the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey stated that they are using the Spotify® app, while, respectively, 55.81%, 55.93%, and 42.42% declared that they would not download the app with current permissions. Although the real estate app is different in each country, respectively, 12%, 10%, and 16% of the respondents in the United States, United Kingdom, and Turkey said they are using the real estate application, while, respectively, 50%, 80%, and 70.80% of these users have declared that they will not download the current permissions.

When the results are examined, all hypotheses are rejected for all countries and this means that there was a positive relationship between “risk, privacy, and mobile risk attitude.” In addition, the permissions that the participants do not want to allow are different between the countries. In comparison to the already downloaded applications and declarations against the permits requested without naming the application, it is understood that citizens living in the United Kingdom are more likely to avoid taking risks than citizens living in the United States and Turkey. This has also emerged as an important finding of denial of application permit request at a high rate seen in all countries. Because people avoid reading individual permissions, and because the requested permissions become routine after a certain period of time, differences can arise during the course of the activities with the risk attitudes of people in daily life. This can lead to questions about the sharing and protection of personal information.

Mobile Application Permission, Risk Attitude, Data Security