

Privacy as Restrictions on Personal Information Flow

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Privacy as Restrictions on Personal Information Flow

A covered entity may disclose an individual's protected health information (phi) to law-enforcement officials for the purpose of identifying an individual if the individual made a statement admitting participating in a violent crime that the covered entity believes may have caused serious physical harm to the victim

- Privacy is beyond simple data access control
- Privacy as Restrictions on Personal Information Flow
 - ▼ Restricting direct flow (direct disclosure)
 - ▼ Temporal restrictions
 - ▼ Restrictions backed by complex semantics
 - ▼ Purpose

■ Metric First-order Temporal Logic (MFOTL)

▼ Precise

- ▼ Temporal restrictions are encoded using temporal connectives

▼ Expressive

- ▼ Encoded all of GLBA and HIPAA disclosure related clauses

▼ Usable?

Challenges

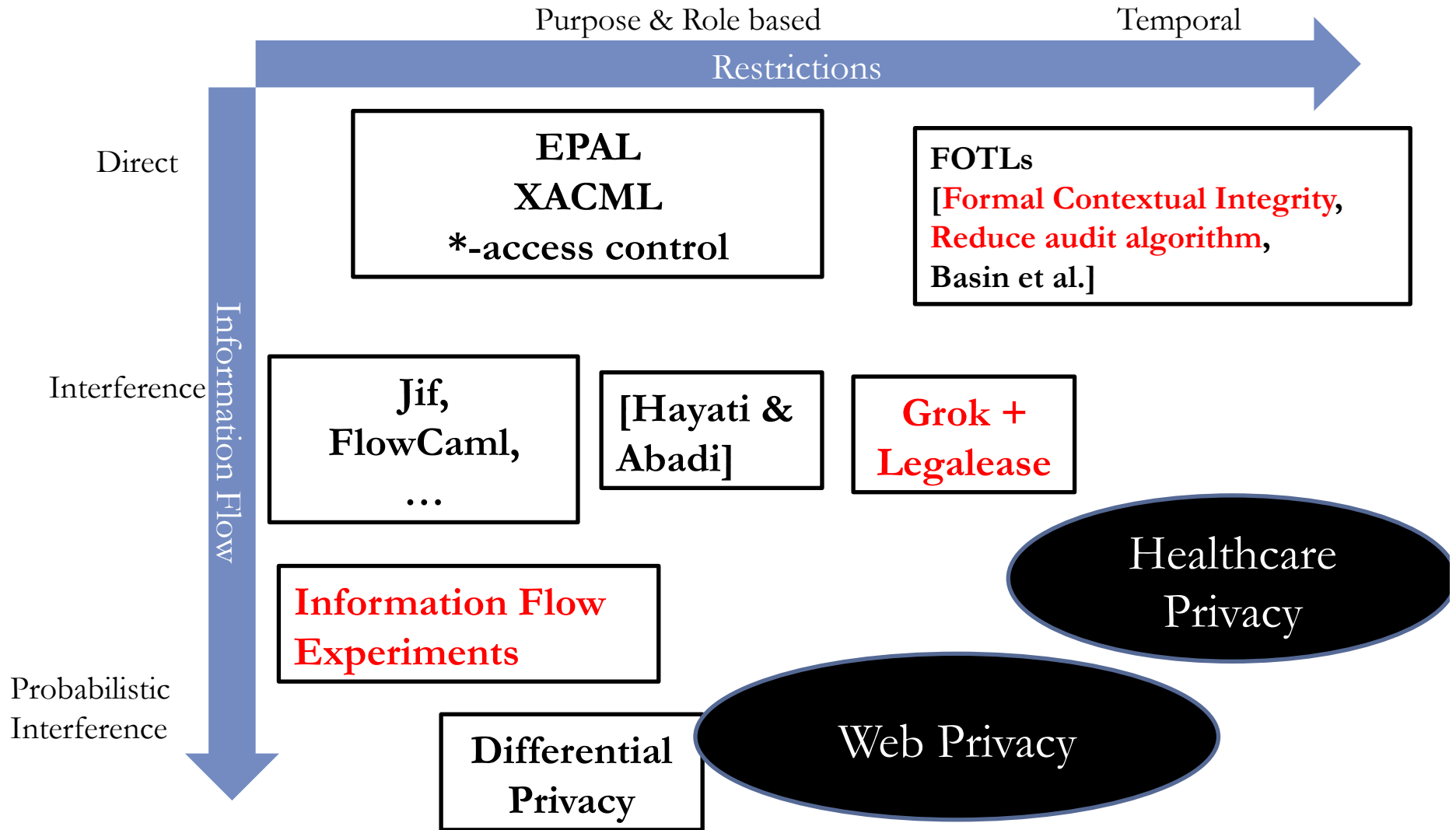
■ Precision

■ Expressiveness

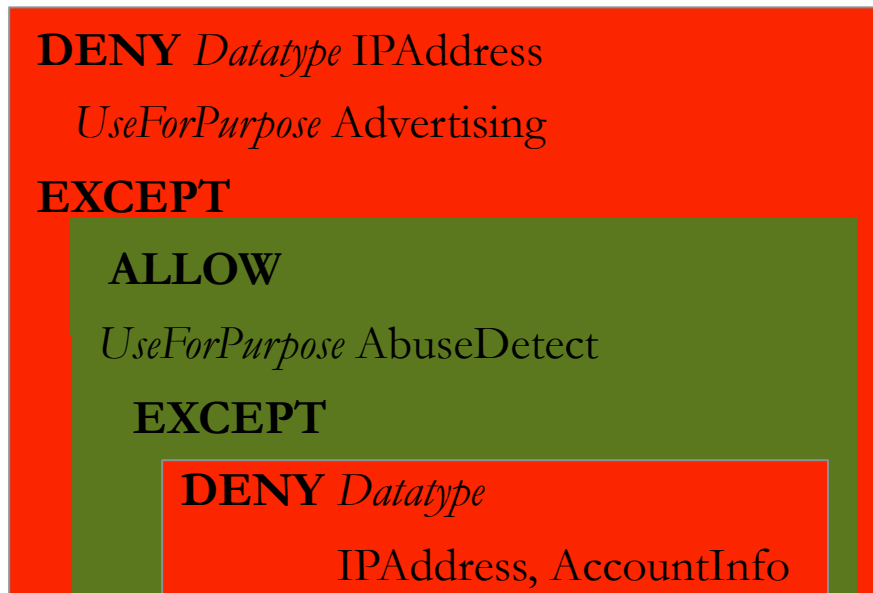
- ▼ Semantics behind privacy policies is complex
- ▼ Enforcement mechanisms need precise semantics

■ Usability

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Legalease: Example Policy [Oakland S&P 2014]



We will **not** use **full IP Address** for **Advertising**.

IP Address may be used for **detecting abuse**.

In such cases, it will not be combined with **account information**.

Encoded the entirety of Google's privacy policies and Bing's privacy

Designed for Usability

DENY *Datatype* **IPAddress**
UseForPurpose **Advertising**
EXCEPT

ALLOW
Datatype **IPAddress:Truncated**

ALLOW
UseForPurpose **AbuseDetect**
EXCEPT

DENY *Datatype*
IPAddress, AccountInfo

Exceptions

How legal texts are structured
One-to one correspondence

Local Reasoning

Each exception refines its
immediate parent
Formally proven property

Independent of Code

Legalease

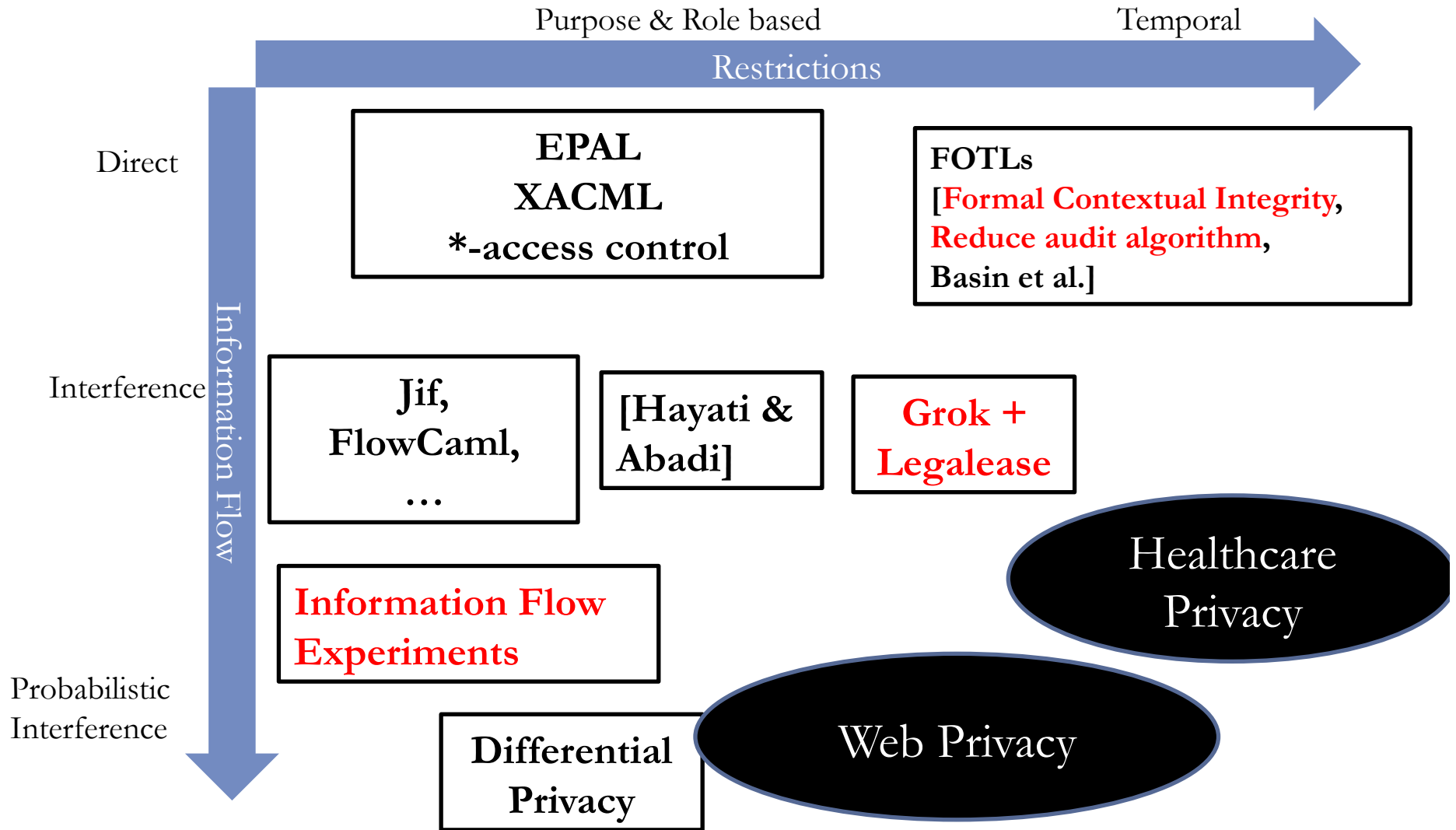
Usable.
Expressive.
Precise.

Usable by
lawyers and
privacy
champs.

Expressive
enough for
real-world
policies.

Precise
semantics
for local
reasoning.

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References

- Experiences in the Logical Specification of the HIPAA and GLBA Privacy Laws. In *WPES 2010*.
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- Temporal Mode-Checking for Runtime Monitoring of Privacy Policies. In *CAV 2014*.
- Bootstrapping Privacy Compliance in Big Data Systems. In *Oakland S&P 2014*.
- Equivalence-based Security for Querying Encrypted Databases: Theory and Application to Privacy Policy Audits. In *CCS 2015*.
- <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/danupam/privacy.html>