

*CAIDP Update 2.43 (Dec. 9, 2021) – US and UK to Promote Privacy Enhancing Technologies*

This week the United States and the United Kingdom announced plans to promote Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs). According to the White House [statement](#), “the prize challenges will build on the extensive innovation in these technologies that is already taking place in both countries across academia, industry, and government.” Privacy Enhancing Technologies include [low-data Artificial Intelligence](#), [deleting unnecessary data](#), and techniques for robust anonymity.

“Privacy-enhancing technologies are a critical component of the suite of democracy-affirming capabilities that can support our shared democratic values in the face of authoritarian exploitation of emerging technologies” said Dr. Eric Lander, the President’s Science Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. “It is imperative that we come together as democracies to develop approaches to unlock the economic, scientific, and societal benefits of emerging technologies while protecting shared values such as privacy, accountability, and transparency.”

“Privacy-enhancing technologies can help our democracies to harness the power of data and AI to support our citizens and businesses – in a way that reinforces our shared values” said Nadine Dorries, UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

The announcement came in the context of the [Summit for Democracy](#) as one of the Grand Challenges on Democracy-Affirming Technologies. Genuine Privacy Enhancing Technologies would protect fundamental rights in the context of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. The White House said the joint project will also reinforce the democratic principles enshrined in the [New Atlantic Charter](#). US and UK agencies, including NIST, NSF, and CDEI, will collaborate.

[Privacy experts](#) have long favored [genuine Privacy Enhancing Techniques](#) that minimize or eliminate the collection of personally identifiable information. AI experts have also said that the call for Big Data may be misguided and unnecessary as better data management techniques could produce better outcomes. At the 2020 Summit in Riyadh, the G20 Digital Ministers [endorsed](#) PETs in the context of Data Free Flows with Trust. And the G7 Technology Ministers [supported](#) PETs for COVID at the 2021 summit in the UK.

The United States and the United Kingdom anticipate launching the prize challenges in the spring of 2022, with initial results ready to be shared at the second Summit for Democracy.