NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

School of Computing

I S S E M I N A R

Title: **News Censorship in Online Social Networks: A Study of Circumvention in the Commentsphere**

Speaker: Professor David G. Schwartz, Bar-Ilan University, Israel (PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SEMINAR START AT 9.30AM)

Date/Time: 4 July 2016, Monday, 09:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Venue: Executive Classroom, COM2-04-02

Chaired by: Dr Heng Cheng Suang, Associate Professor, School of Computing (hengcs@comp.nus.edu.sg)

ABSTRACT:

We investigates the interplay between online news, reader comments, and social networks, to detect and characterize comments leading to the revelation of censored information. Censorship of identity occurs in different contexts - for example, the military censors the identity of personnel and the judiciary censors the identity of minors and victims. We address three questions: (1) assessing the relevance of identity censorship in the presence of user-generated comments, (2) understanding the fashion of censorship circumvention - what people say and how, and (3) determining how comment analysis can aid in identifying de-censorship and information leakage through comments. Examining 3582 comments made on 48 articles containing censored identities, we find that a systematic examination of comments can seriously compromise identity censorship.

BIODATA:

Prof. David G. Schwartz's career spans both academia and business. David is professor of information systems, and former vice-chairman, at the Graduate School of Business Administration of Bar-Ilan University, Israel. His research has appeared in publications such as Information Systems Research, IEEE Intelligent Systems, International Journal of Human-Computer Studies, IEEE Transactions on Professional Communications, Review of Marketing Science, Kybernetes, and the Journal of Organizational Behavior. His books include Cooperating Heterogeneous Systems; Internet-Based Knowledge Management and Organizational Memory; and the Encyclopedia of Knowledge Management, now in its second edition. David has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University, Department of Biomedical Informatics (2004) and Monash University, Faculty of Information Technology (2007-8); and has been awarded a Visiting Erskine Fellowship at Canterbury University, New Zealand for 2016. From 1998 to 2011 he served as editor-in-chief of the journal Internet Research and is currently an Associate Editor of the European Journal of

Information Systems. His main research interests are Cybersecurity, mHealth, Knowledge Management, Social Network Analysis, and Computer-mediated Communications.

David has served on the Board of Directors of multiple public companies including Psagot Investment House, Israel's leading investment house with over $35B assets under management (Acquired by APAX Partners, 2010); Cham Foods Ltd. (TASE), a multinational producer of ingredients for the food and nutriceutical industries; C.I. Systems (TASE) a producer of electro-optic systems for the military and semiconductor industries; and Copernic (NASDAQ: CNIC), an Internet search innovator (Acquired by DecisionPoint Systems/DPNI, 2010). For the past two decades David has been active in Israel's world-class venture capital industry first identifying potential investments for a number of leading VC funds and then founding Apropos IT Ventures, an early-stage technology investment fund, serving as managing member of the partnership and chief investment officer. Prof. Schwartz received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Case Western Reserve University, USA; MBA from McMaster University, Canada; and B.Sc. from the University of Toronto, Canada.