



# दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)

## INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS APPROVAL AND DECLARATION



DTU/R&D/2026/3609

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

19.8.2026

Re: "The Transport, Not the Tool: Mapping the Boundary of Header-Only Obfuscated-Proxy Detection"

1. This declaration is issued by the Office of the Dean (Research & Development), Delhi Technological University, in respect of the research study underlying the above manuscript, carried out in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of this University under the supervision of Dr. Rajeev Kumar.

2. Ethical oversight of research conducted in this University vests in the Office of the Dean (Research & Development), which is the competent authority designated by the Vice-Chancellor for the review and approval of research involving human participants. This declaration is issued in that capacity.

3. The undersigned have reviewed the study protocol, the Participant Information Sheet, the Informed Consent Form, and the investigators' account of the procedures followed. On that review, and on the record placed before this Office, the following is certified:

(a) The study is an observational network-measurement study. It involves no clinical, physical, biological or psychological intervention, no biological samples, and no health data.

(b) Written informed consent was obtained from every participant before any data was recorded from that participant's device. All participants were adults aged 18 years or above, competent to give independent consent. No minor and no vulnerable population was enrolled, and no waiver of consent was sought or granted.

(c) Every device from which data was recorded is owned by the participant who consented in respect of it. Shared, public and institutional devices were excluded, so that traffic belonging to persons who had not consented was not recorded.

(d) Data capture was restricted to the first 96 bytes of each packet, being the routing envelope. The remainder of each packet was discarded at the point of capture. No application payload, message content, page content or credential has at any point been written to storage. No communication was decrypted, and no attempt was made to decrypt or otherwise circumvent the encryption of any communication.

(e) No health, biometric, financial, governmental-identifier or other sensitive personal data was collected.

(f) Participation was voluntary and unpaid. Participants were entitled to withdraw at any time without reason and without consequence, and withdrawal results in deletion of that participant's recordings and their removal from subsequent versions of the dataset.

(g) The research corpus carries opaque participant codes only. The mapping between code and identity is held offline, is not uploaded, and is not released. Prefix-preserving address anonymisation is applied before any public release of the data.

(h) No third-party system, service or network was accessed, probed, disrupted or degraded in the course of the study. The use of virtual private network and proxy software is lawful in India, and no unlawful act was performed, procured or facilitated.

(i) The dual-use implications of the work have been considered by the investigators and are addressed in the manuscript. No new detection technique is introduced and no previously undisclosed vulnerability in any deployed system is revealed.

4. Having regard to the foregoing, this Office is satisfied that the study has been conducted in accordance with recognised principles of research ethics, in particular those of informed consent, voluntariness, data minimisation, confidentiality, and the avoidance of harm to participants and to third parties. Ethical approval is accordingly accorded to the study on behalf of Delhi Technological University.

5. Any query in respect of this declaration may be addressed to the Office of the Dean (Research & Development), Delhi Technological University, Shahbad Daulatpur, Main Bawana Road, Delhi - 110042.

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Prof. Girish Kumar  
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