Examining Human Perception of Generative Content Replacement (GCR) in Image Privacy Protection

Background:

Image obfuscation is critical as one of the direct approaches to privacy protection before image sharing. Existing methods, such as blurring, may significantly diminish both the usefulness of images and the willingness to share when they protect privacy threats in images. Therefore, we aimed to develop a novel method of image obfuscation, generative content replacement (GCR), that can preserve the usability of images and ensure the effectiveness of privacy protection.

Workflow:



Research Questions:

RQ1: To what extent can viewers detect the edits with GCR (**detectability**)?

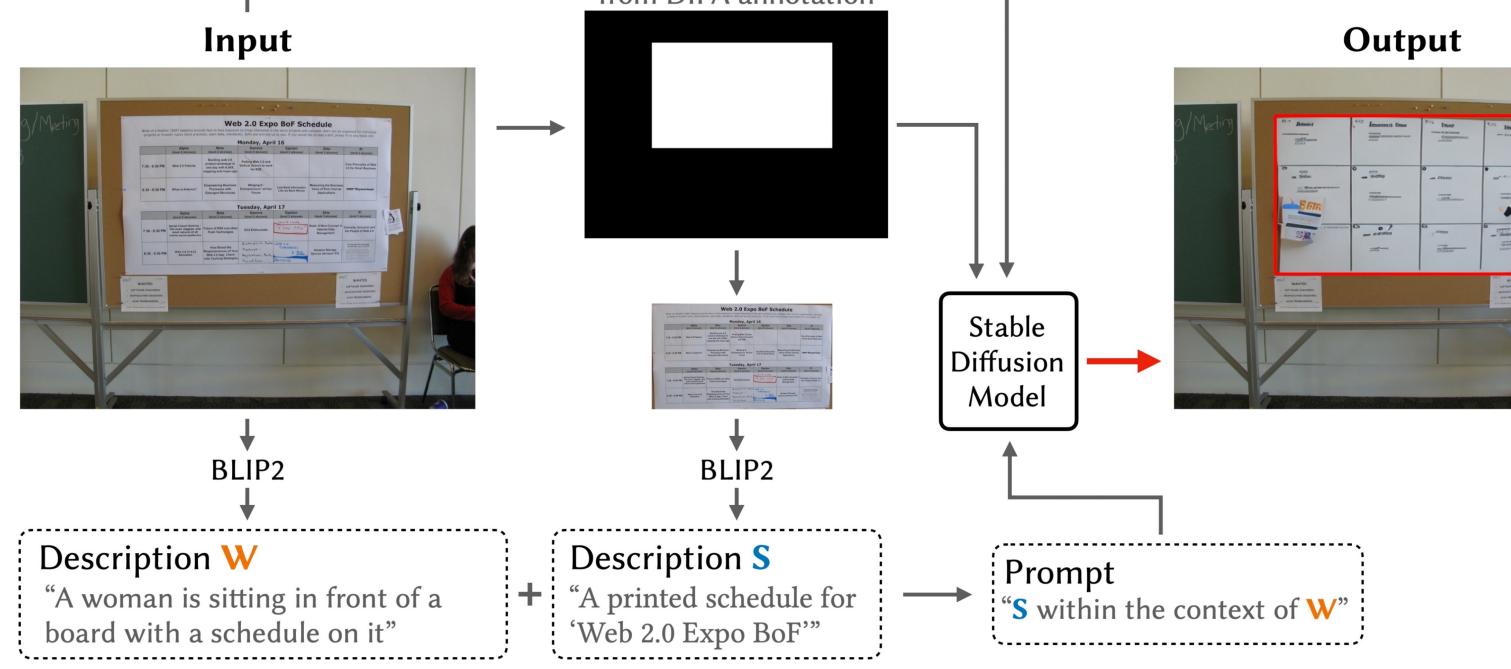
RQ2: To what extent can viewers identify original content from images edited with GCR (**vulnerability**)?

RQ3: How well do images processed by GCR perform using common evaluation metrics derived from related image protection research?

Example:







Comparative Studies on Edit Methods:

- 270 Images from DIPA2
 - Each contains one of the 23 privacy threats defined in DIPA2, an image privacy dataset.
- Four Reference Methods (Blurring, Cartooning, Colorfilling, and Removal) to be compared









Questionnaire:

Q1-1: If the edits can be detected. Response: Yes / No

Q1-2: Click the edited parts.

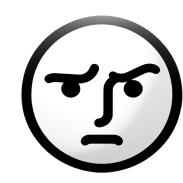
Q1-3: Perceived difficulty of edit detection.

- 1350 edited images in total
- Recruited participants in Prolific
 - Each participant reviewed 10 random edited images per participant.

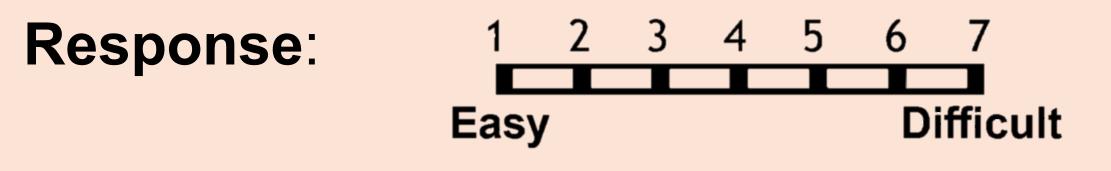
Highlighted Results:



60% of GCR edited images **could not be detected**.



Participants think it was the **most difficult** to detect to rest of GCR-edited images.



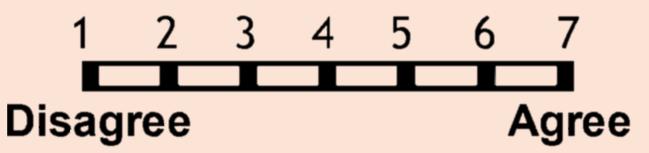
Q2-1: Perceived Confidence in Edit Vulnerability.

Q2-2: Perceived Confidence in Maintaining Narrative Coherence.

Q2-3: Perceived Visual Harmony with Original Images.

Q2-4: Perceived **Overall Satisfaction** on Edited Images.

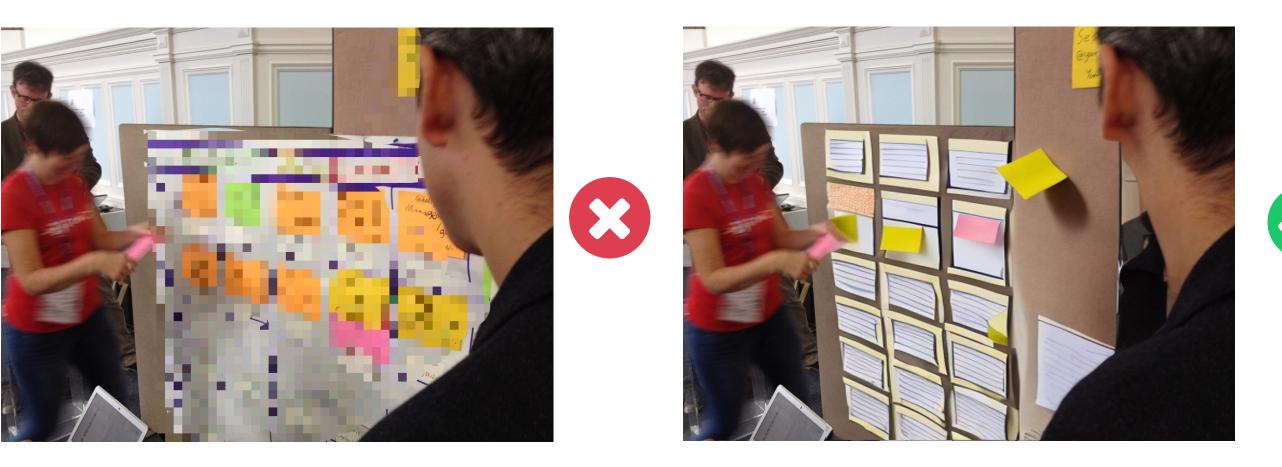
Responses above:





GCR gained the highest score of visual harmony and overall satisfaction.

Future Directions:



Comparative Studies on SNS Sharing Scenarios

More About This Research:

