

The "Cybersecurity" Specialization

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The course **instructor** is [Michael Hicks](#), a Professor in the [Computer Science department](#) and [UMIACS](#) at the [University of Maryland](#) and is the former Director of the [Maryland Cybersecurity Center \(MC2\)](#). His research focuses on using programming languages and analyses to improve the security, reliability, and availability of software, and co-directs [PLUM lab for programming languages research](#). He is perhaps best known for his work exploring dynamic software updating, which is a technique by which software can be updated without shutting it down, which can aid (among other things) timely deployment of security patches. He has explored the design of new programming languages and analysis tools for helping programmers find bugs and software vulnerabilities, and for identifying suspicious or incorrect program executions. He has recently been exploring new approaches to authenticated and privacy-preserving computation, combining techniques from cryptography and automated program analysis.

The course **teaching assistant** is [Andrew Ruef](#), a Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland. Andrew began his Ph.D. studies in 2014, but prior to that worked in the security industry for nearly a decade. He is currently a part-time staff member at [Trail of Bits](#). Andrew is the co-inventor the new [Build-it, Break-it, Fix-it security-oriented programming contest](#), along with Professor Hicks.

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