

# **Appeal Letter**

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Dear Usenix Security Symposium Organizing Committee,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Yiling He, and I am writing to request an amendment to the author list of a recently accepted paper for the upcoming Usenix Security Symposium. I was an intern at Tencent Xuanwu Lab and made significant contributions to the paper titled "InfinityGauntlet: Expose Smartphone Fingerprint Authentication to Brute-force Attack", but unfortunately, my name has been omitted from the author list.

During my internship at Tencent Xuanwu Lab, I was actively involved in the research and development related to the aforementioned paper. My primary responsibilities encompassed drafting the preliminary version of the paper, crafting pivotal illustrations comprising the attack framework and vulnerability principle, executing pertinent experiments and codes associated with image processing, generation and experimenting, and collaborating on the experimental design and validation of the attack.

I have attached supporting documents that clearly indicate my involvement and contributions to this work, containing proof of my internship, submission records elucidating my pivotal role in Overleaf, along with a written testament by the first author endorsing my contributions. Please also refer to the appeal letter for more descriptions.

I kindly request that you review the provided evidence and consider adding my name to the author list of the paper titled "InfinityGauntlet: Expose Smartphone Fingerprint Authentication to Brute-force Attack", as it is essential for me to receive due recognition for my work. I understand that this might require some additional administrative steps, but I believe it is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the research community and ensuring fair attribution of work.

Please let me know if there are any further steps I should take or additional information you may require. I am eager to resolve this matter as soon as possible, and I appreciate your understanding and assistance in this regard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yiling He

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## **Proof of Internship**



## 实习证明

您好：

兹证明 贺弋玲（身份证号：                ）就读于 浙江大学 学校 网络安全 专业，从 2021 年 3 月 2 日到 2021 年 8 月 13 日在我公司实习，从事 智能安全研究组员工 岗位工作。



This is to certify that Yiling He is a student of the Network Security program at Zhejiang University, and that she interned with our company as a member of the Intelligent Security Research Group from March 2, 2021 to August 13, 2021, performing job duties.

Tencent Technology (Beijing) Limited Company  
August 13th, 2021

## Overleaf History & Preliminary Version

The `overleaf_history.pdf` contains all submission records copied from the history of two Overleaf projects, which are *CAFExp* (owner: Yiling He, June 3, 2021 to August 9, 2021, hereinafter referred to as *Project A*) and *Fingerprint Hack* (owner: Yu Chen, December 20, 2020 to June 20, 2021, hereinafter referred to as *Project B*). In these records, all submissions displayed as 'You' belong to Yiling He, and all submissions displayed as 'chenyudevelop' belong to Yu Chen.

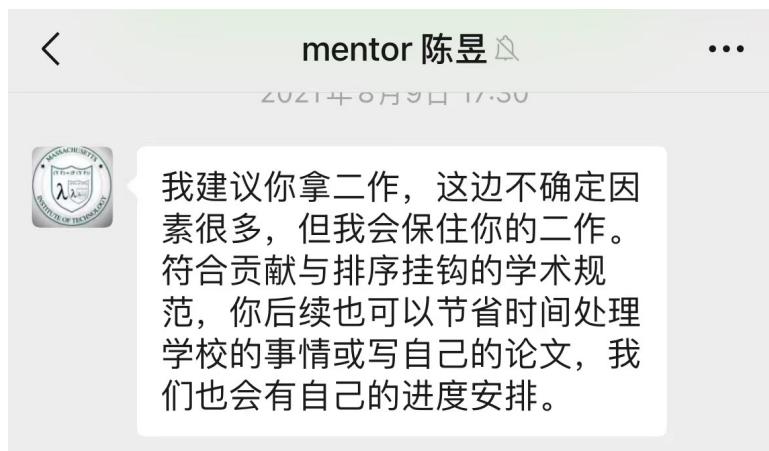
Regarding the special changes in the project: Project B did not receive any content updates until Yiling He joined, and this continued until June 3, 2021. Yu Chen informed Yiling He that the team leader Zhuo Ma (who had editing privileges for Project B) might be planning to quit and suggested protecting our work. As a result, Yiling He created Project A and has been making modifications on it ever since. Project B underwent a comprehensive update on June 21, because Zhuo Ma raised concerns about the project stagnation with Yu Chen. As a result, Yu Chen covered the previous content with the version of Project A available at that time on June 20, 2021.

In fact, Yuchen's submission records only involve modifications to the Chinese description of hardware equipment and some experimental data, while Yiling He is the sole contributor to the initial draft writing.

The `preliminary_version.pdf` is exported from Project A. There are no major changes between the two versions of the paper, and there is significant overlap in the narrative of Background, Method, Experiments, Mitigation, and Discussion. In particular, some paper figures independently drawn by Yiling He are still included in the current version of the paper, e.g., Figure 2/3/8(b).

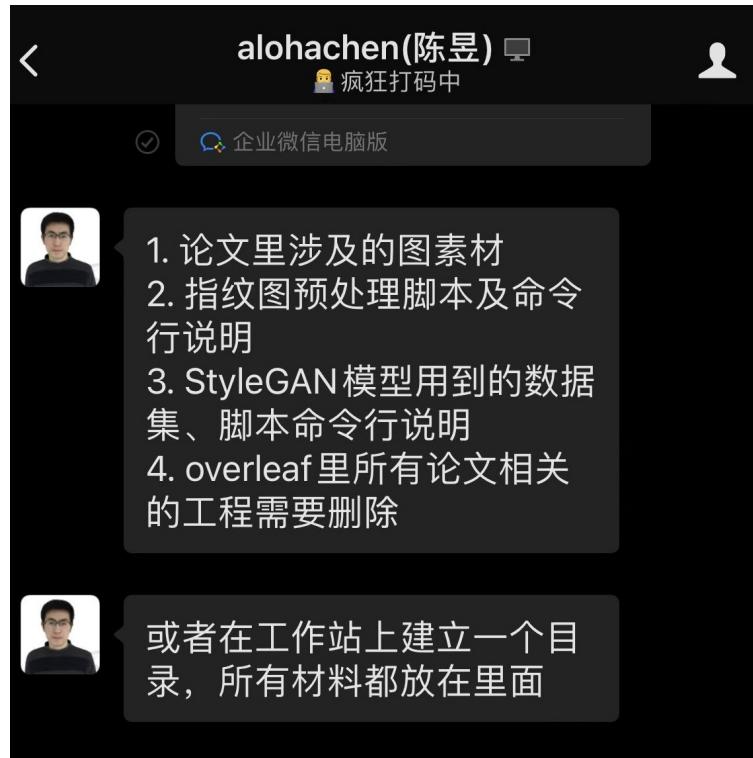
## The first author's commitment

During my internship, I wanted to negotiate with Yu Chen for co-first authorship of this paper. He had no problem with this personally, but said that we needed to negotiate with the team leader, Zhuo Ma, and the head of the laboratory (corresponding author) for approval. Two weeks before we planned to submit to S&P conference on September 3, 2021, Yu Chen came to me and said that due to the new national vulnerability disclosure regulations, it might not be possible to submit the paper, and he needed to discuss co-first authorship with Zhuo Ma and me. During the meeting, they presented me with two options: 1. Co-first authorship: Remove the part about Harmony in the existing experiments, submit this paper to S&P conference, and have it accepted; 2. Second authorship: They would handle the submission once the vulnerability issue has been fixed, and I would not be required to participate in additional modifications. Due to some previous unpleasantness and the fact that I had already completed a semester of internship and needed to return to school, I chose the second option. Here are Yu Chen's suggestions and promises he made to me at the time.



I suggest that you take your second authorship. There are many uncertain factors here, but I will ensure that your second authorship is saved. This is in compliance with academic norms that link paper contributions and author ranking. You will also be able to save time dealing with school matters or writing your own paper later on. We also have our own schedule to keep.

The handover materials listed by Yu Chen at the time of my departure can also reflect my contribution to the paper and other aspects.



1. Graphic materials involved in the paper.
2. Fingerprint image preprocessing scripts and command-line instructions.
3. The dataset and script command-line instructions used in the StyleGAN model.
4. All engineering related to the paper on Overleaf needs to be deleted.