Yi Cai

RESEARCH INTERESTS I am committed to advancing trustworthy foundational software, encompassing a broad spectrum from programming languages and compilers to secure computing systems, leveraging formal methods, logics, and types.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, PA

M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Aug. 2022 - Present

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, Canada

M.E. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sept. 2020 - Aug. 2021

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

Chengdu, China

B.E. (First Class Honors) in Electronics and Electrical Engineering Aug. 2016 - June 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Hedwig: Automatically Compiling Security Protocols to Verified, High Assurance, Performant Implementations

Pratap Singh, Joshua Gancher, Yi Cai, and Bryan Parno. *In preparation*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Secure Foundations Lab, Carnegie Mellon University

Advised by Prof. Bryan Parno

May 2023 – Present

- Designed and implemented a verified, performant, and secure library for parser and serializer combinators in Rust that supports cryptographic constant-time parsing.
- Constructed a compiler that translates data format specifications to formally verified, performant parsers and serializers.

CyLab, Carnegie Mellon University

Advised by Prof. Limin Jia

Sept. 2023 - Dec. 2023

• Implemented a type-driven, hybrid approach for secure information-flow control in WebAssembly, with a controlled declassification mechanism.

Institute of Image Processing, UESTC

Advised by Prof. Shuaicheng Liu

Dec. 2019 - June 2020

• Implemented an encoder-decoder-based deep learning tool for video deburring.

Vision and Learning Lab, UAlberta

Advised by Prof. Li Cheng

July 2019 - Spet. 2019

• Conducted experiments on state-of-the-art human action detection algorithms.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant - Introduction to Computer Security

Fall 2023

Prof. Bryan Parno, CMU

 Revised assignments for software, cryptography, and web exploits, held weekly office hours, and upgraded course auto-grader infrastructure.

Teaching assistant – Introduction to Computer Systems Spring & Summer 2023 Prof. Swarun Kumar & Prof. Greg Kesden, CMU

• Held weekly recitations and office hours on topics including x86 assembly, caching, virtual memory, signals and exceptions, network and concurrent programming.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oregon Programming Languages Summer School

Eugene, OR

Participant

Summer 2023

• Studied topics from proof theory, logical relations, dependent type theory to program synthesis, program analysis, and verified compilation.

Cyphercor Inc.

Ottawa, Canada

Software Engineer

Spet. 2021 - Spet. 2022

• Led the development of secure multi-factor authentication services for Windows Remote Desktop, Local Windows Logon, and iframe-based web integration.

HONORS

| OPLSS Fellowship (Oregon Programming Languages Summer School) | June 2023 |
|---|-----------|
| James Watt Scholarship for Research Overseas | Apr. 2019 |
| Outstanding Undergraduate Students Award (UESTC, top 5%) | Aug. 2018 |
| Excellent Student Award (UESTC, top 10%) | 2017-2019 |

SKILLS

Programming Languages

Multilingual, ranked with personal preference: Rust, Standard ML, Haskell, OCaml, λ -calculus, Typed Racket, Typescript, C0, Zig, C, C#, Go, python, Java, C++, JavaScript, MATLAB

Proof Assistants & Verification Languages

Dafny, Verus, Coq, Isabelle/HOL

Architectures

x86-64, WebAssembly, MSP430

Miscellaneous

Tree-sitter, Language Server Protocol (LSP), Yacc, Pest, Nvim, Bash, Git, Language Server Protocol (LSP), Yacc, Pest, Nvim, Pest, Nvi