

Alexandra Nisenoff

nisenoff@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

September 2017 - June 2021

B.S. in Computer Science with a specialization in computer security

Chicago, IL

B.A. in Astrophysics

Overall GPA: 3.737

Relevant Classes: (Graduate level) “Intro to Computer Security,” (Graduate level) “Topics in Computer Security: Tracking, Surveillance, and Inferences,” “Usable Privacy & Security,” “Cryptography,” “Ethics, Fairness, Responsibility, and Privacy in Data Science,” and “Foundations of Computer Networks”

RESEARCH

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy

June 2021 - Present

Human Factors in Security and Privacy Group

Virtual

Research Assistant for Prof. Yasemin Acar

- Building a selenium testing framework for investigating the problems with interactions between websites and password managers

University of Chicago Center for Data and Computing

August 2020 - Present

Research Assistant for Prof. Nick Feamster

Chicago, IL

- Designing and coordinating user study on encrypted DNS settings on mobile devices and in browsers
- Providing training LaTeX and Qualtrics training to high school research assistant

University of Chicago Department of Computer Science, SUPERgroup

July 2019 - Present

Research Assistant for Prof. Blase Ur

Chicago, IL

- Developing code to automate the detection of website breakage due to tracking protection tools using Python, JavaScript, Puppeteer, and Selenium
- Parsed over 1TB of data breaches and performed password transformations for study on password reuse
- Creating a Qualtrics survey and app (React Native and Expo) to understand users’ mobile device PIN modification strategies

University of Chicago Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics

October 2019 - June 2021

Research Assistant for Prof. Vikram Dwarkadas

Chicago, IL

- Designing and building an online database for radio supernova data (PHP, MySQL, and JavaScript)
- Updated Supernova X-Ray Database to be compatible with a newer version of PHP and fixed preexisting XSS vulnerabilities

University of Chicago Department of Geophysical Sciences

June 2018 - March 2019

Lab Technician for Prof. Elisabeth Moyer

Chicago, IL

- Optimized data reduction program in IDL, decreasing runtimes by 90% on typical output files
- Operated laser spectrometer to gather water isotopologue ratios in the atmosphere
- Implemented additional software capabilities for the spectrometer into existing LabVIEW code

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Summa Cum Laude, GPA in top 8% of major (over past 5 years) and broad engagement with the college curriculum, 2021
- Departmental Honors (Computer Science), 2021

- Harper Award for Exceptional Performance in a Course, *Engineering Interactive Electronics onto Printed Circuit Boards*, 2021
- Dean's List, 2017-2020
- Enrico Fermi Scholar, *GPA in top 5% of major (over past 5 years) at end of 3rd year*, 2019-2020
- Dean's Fund Grant, *\$1,500 UChicago grant for research expenses*, Fall 2020
- Jeff Metcalf Fellowship Grant, *\$3,750 UChicago grant for summer internships*, Summer 2020
- Diversity Grant to USENIX Enigma, January 2020

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Alexandra Nisenoff, Nick Feamster, Madeleine A Hoofnagle, Sydney Zink. *User Expectations and Understanding of Encrypted DNS Settings*. 2021. NDSS DNS Privacy Workshop.

Other Publications

- Alexandra Nisenoff, Vikram V. Dwarkadas, Mathias C. Ross. *Supernova X-Ray Database (SNaX) Updated to Ensure Long-term Stability*. 2020 Res. Notes AAS 4 195.

ACTIVITIES

Expanding Your Horizons Chicago

August 2019 - Present

Organizing Committee Member

Chicago, IL

- Organizing student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls

UChicago Maroon Newspaper

September 2017 - June 2021

Photo Section Editor and Staff Photographer

Chicago, IL

- Ran staff meetings, photo critiques, and handled various logistical tasks for the photo section
- Took photos at protests, guest lectures, concerts, sports events, and art exhibits
- 2019 ICPA Award for Excellence in IL College Newspapers: General News Photo 2nd place

University of Chicago Department of Computer Science

January 2021 - March 2021

Course Staff for Introduction to Computer Security (86 students)

Chicago, IL

- Assisted with the development of computer security focused assignments
- Responded to student questions on class discussion board about computer security concepts and student specific debugging

College Core Tutor Program

January 2020 - March 2020

Peer Tutor

Chicago, IL

- Assisted 5-10 students per session with introductory computer science classes in Python, C, and Typed Racket

SKILLS

Programming:

- Proficient: Python, C, LabVIEW, and IDL
- Experienced: JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, HTML/CSS, R, React Native, and Expo

Applications:

- Proficient: Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics
- Experienced: LaTeX, Wireshark