

Cătălin Hrițcu

Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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Research Interests

My research is primarily focused on *developing rigorous formal techniques for solving security problems*:

- formal methods for computer and network security: security protocols, privacy, anonymity, zero-knowledge, information flow control, access control, integrity protection
- programming-languages techniques: rigorous semantics, type systems, verification, automatic testing, formal metatheory, formally certified tools
- design and verification of security-critical systems: reference monitors, microkernel components, electronic voting systems, crypto devices, security-preserving compilers, mobile devices, etc.

Positions

10/2013–now Researcher (chargé de recherche) at Inria Paris in the Prosecco team

05/2011–09/2013 Research Associate at University of Pennsylvania; DARPA CRASH/SAFE project;
Supervisor: Benjamin C. Pierce

Education

06/2007–01/2012 Ph.D. in Computer Science from Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany,
Summa cum Laude, Advisors: Michael Backes, Matteo Maffei, and Andrew D. Gordon

10/2005–05/2007 M.Sc. in Computer Science from Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany,
Honors degree, Thesis advisors: Gert Smolka and Jan Schwinghammer

09/2001–06/2005 Licentiate (4 years undergrad degree) in Computer Science from “Alexandru Ioan
Cuza” University, Iași, Romania, Honors degree

Grants

10/2015–10/2018 Ph.D. grant co-financed by DGA and Inria on
“Micro-Policies: High-Assurance Hardware-Assisted Security Monitors”

Awards

02/2008 Günter Hotz Medal for outstanding CS graduates, Saarland University

Fellowships and Scholarships

06/2008–04/2011 Ph.D. fellowship from Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK) and the IMPRS-CS

10/2005–05/2008 M.Sc. and then Ph.D. fellowship from the International Max Planck Research School
for Computer Science (IMPRS-CS)

Internships

09/2009–11/2009 Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK), Semantic Subtyping with an SMT Solver

2005, 2006, 2007 Google Summer of Code participant with XWiki.org, Paris

Publications

Recent Drafts

- [1] Nikhil Swamy, Cătălin Hrițcu, Chantal Keller, Aseem Rastogi, Antoine Delignat-Lavaud, Simon Forest, Karthikeyan Bhargavan, Cédric Fournet, Pierre-Yves Strub, Markulf Kohlweiss, and Jean-Karim Zinzindohoue. Dependent types and multi-monadic effects in F^* . Draft, Submitted to POPL, July 2015.
- [2] Leonidas Lampropoulos, Benjamin C. Pierce, Cătălin Hrițcu, John Hughes, Zoe Paraskevopoulou, and Li-yao Xia. Making our own Luck: A language for random generators. Draft, Submitted to POPL, July 2015.
- [3] Cătălin Hrițcu, Leonidas Lampropoulos, Antal Spector-Zabusky, Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, Maxime Dénès, John Hughes, Benjamin C. Pierce, and Dimitrios Vytiniotis. Testing noninterference, quickly. arXiv:1409.0393; Submitted to Special Issue of Journal of Functional Programming for ICFP 2013, September 2014.
- [4] Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, Nathan Collins, André DeHon, Delphine Demange, Cătălin Hrițcu, David Pichardie, Benjamin C. Pierce, Randy Pollack, and Andrew Tolmach. A verified information-flow architecture. Submitted to special issue of the Journal of Computer Security on Verified Information Flow Security, September 2015.
- [5] Yannis Juglaret, Cătălin Hrițcu, Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, Benjamin C. Pierce, Antal Spector-Zabusky, and Andrew Tolmach. Towards a fully abstract compiler using Micro-Policies: Secure compilation for mutually distrustful components. Technical Report, arXiv:1510.00697, October 2015.

Journals

- [6] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Union, intersection, and refinement types and reasoning about type disjointness for secure protocol implementations. *Journal of Computer Security (JCS); Special Issue on Foundational Aspects of Security*, 22(2):301–353, February 2014.
- [7] Gavin M. Bierman, Andrew D. Gordon, Cătălin Hrițcu, and David Langworthy. Semantic subtyping with an SMT solver. *Journal of Functional Programming (JFP)*, 22(1):31–105, March 2012.
- [8] Cătălin Hrițcu and Jan Schwinghammer. A step-indexed semantics of imperative objects. *Logical Methods in Computer Science (LMCS)*, 5(4:2):1–48, December 2009.

Book

- [9] Benjamin C. Pierce, Chris Casinghino, Marco Gaboardi, Michael Greenberg, Cătălin Hrițcu, Vilhelm Sjöberg, and Brent Yorgey. *Software Foundations*. Electronic textbook, Version 3.1, July 2014.

Conferences

- [10] Zoe Paraskevopoulou, Cătălin Hrițcu, Maxime Dénès, Leonidas Lampropoulos, and Benjamin C. Pierce. Foundational property-based testing. In Christian Urban and Xingyuan Zhang, editors, *6th International Conference on Interactive Theorem Proving (ITP)*, volume 9236 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 325–343. Springer, 2015. (Acceptance rate: $30/54=0.55$).
- [11] Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, Maxime Dénès, Nick Giannarakis, Cătălin Hrițcu, Benjamin C. Pierce, Antal Spector-Zabusky, and Andrew Tolmach. Micro-policies: Formally verified, tag-based security monitors. In *36th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland S&P)*, pages 813–830. IEEE Computer Society, May 2015. (Acceptance rate: $55/420=0.13$).
- [12] Udit Dhawan, Cătălin Hrițcu, Rafi Rubin, Nikos Vasilakis, Silviu Chiricescu, Jonathan M. Smith, Thomas F. Knight, Jr., Benjamin C. Pierce, and André DeHon. Architectural support for software-defined metadata processing. In

20th International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (ASPLOS), pages 487–502. ACM, March 2015. (Acceptance rate: 48/287=0.17).

- [13] Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, Nathan Collins, André DeHon, Delphine Demange, Cătălin Hrițcu, David Pichardie, Benjamin C. Pierce, Randy Pollock, and Andrew Tolmach. A verified information-flow architecture. In *41st ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL)*, pages 165–178. ACM, January 2014. (Acceptance rate: 51/220=0.23).
- [14] Cătălin Hrițcu, John Hughes, Benjamin C. Pierce, Antal Spector-Zabusky, Dimitrios Vytiniotis, Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, and Leonidas Lampropoulos. Testing noninterference, quickly. In *18th ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Functional Programming (ICFP)*, pages 455–468. ACM, September 2013. (Acceptance rate: 40/133=0.30).
- [15] Cătălin Hrițcu, Michael Greenberg, Ben Karel, Benjamin C. Pierce, and Greg Morrisett. All your IFCException are belong to us. In *34th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland S&P)*, pages 3–17. IEEE Computer Society Press, May 2013. (Acceptance rate: 38/315=0.12).
- [16] Michael Backes, Alex Busenius, and Cătălin Hrițcu. On the development and formalization of an extensible code generator for real life security protocols. In *4th NASA Formal Methods Symposium (NFM)*, pages 371–387. Springer, April 2012. (Acceptance rate: 36/93=0.39).
- [17] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Thorsten Tarrach. Automatically verifying typing constraints for a data processing language. In *First International Conference on Certified Programs and Proofs (CPP 2011)*, pages 296–313. Springer, December 2011. (Acceptance rate: 24/49=0.49).
- [18] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Union and intersection types for secure protocol implementations. In *Theory of Security and Applications (TOSCA 2011; part of ETAPS and the precursor of POST)*, pages 1–28. Springer, March 2011. Invited paper.
- [19] Gavin M. Bierman, Andrew D. Gordon, Cătălin Hrițcu, and David Langworthy. Semantic subtyping with an SMT solver. In *15th ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Functional programming (ICFP 2010)*, pages 105–116. ACM Press, September 2010. (Acceptance rate: 30/99=0.30).
- [20] Michael Backes, Martin P. Grochulla, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Achieving security despite compromise using zero-knowledge. In *22th IEEE Symposium on Computer Security Foundations (CSF 2009)*, pages 308–323. IEEE Computer Society Press, July 2009. (Acceptance rate: 22/93=0.24).
- [21] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Type-checking zero-knowledge. In *15th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2008)*, pages 357–370. ACM Press, October 2008. (Acceptance rate: 51/281=0.18).
- [22] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Automated verification of remote electronic voting protocols in the applied pi-calculus. In *21th IEEE Symposium on Computer Security Foundations (CSF 2008)*, pages 195–209. IEEE Computer Society Press, June 2008. (Acceptance rate: 21/115=0.18).
- [23] Udit Dhawan, Albert Kwon, Edin Kadric, Cătălin Hrițcu, Benjamin C. Pierce, Jonathan M. Smith, Gregory Malecha, Greg Morrisett, Thomas F. Knight, Jr., Andrew Sutherland, Tom Hawkins, Amanda Zyxnfryx, David Wittenberg, Peter

Workshops

Trei, Sumit Ray, Greg Sullivan, and André DeHon. Hardware support for safety interlocks and introspection. In *SASO Workshop on Adaptive Host and Network Security*, September 2012.

- [24] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Thorsten Tarrach. Automatically verifying typing constraints for a data processing language. In *First First International Workshop On Intermediate Verification Languages (BOOGIE 2011)*, July 2011.
 - [25] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, Matteo Maffei, and Thorsten Tarrach. Type-checking implementations of protocols based on zero-knowledge proofs – work in progress. In *Workshop on Foundations of Computer Security (FCS 2009)*, August 2009.
 - [26] Michael Backes, Martin P. Grochulla, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Achieving security despite compromise using zero-knowledge. In *Joint Workshop on Automated Reasoning for Security Protocol Analysis and Issues in the Theory of Security (ARSPA-WITS'09)*, March 2009.
 - [27] Michael Backes, Cătălin Hrițcu, and Matteo Maffei. Type-checking zero-knowledge. In *Joint Workshop on Foundations of Computer Security, Automated Reasoning for Security Protocol Analysis and Issues in the Theory of Security (FCS-ARSPA-WITS'08)*, June 2008.
 - [28] Cătălin Hrițcu and Jan Schwinghammer. A step-indexed semantics of imperative objects. In *International Workshop on Foundations of Object-Oriented Languages (FOOL'08)*, January 2008.
- Theses
- [29] Cătălin Hrițcu. *Union, Intersection, and Refinement Types and Reasoning About Type Disjointness for Security Protocol Analysis*. PhD thesis, Saarland University, January 2012.
 - [30] Cătălin Hrițcu. A step-indexed semantic model of types for the functional object calculus. Master's thesis, Saarland University, May 2007.

Selected Talks

F tutorial*

- 09/2015 Commercial Users of Functional Programming (CUFP)
- 01/2015 Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL)
- 11/2014 The Joint EasyCrypt-F*-CryptoVerif School 2014
- 09/2015 *Full dependency and user-defined effects in F** at ML Workshop 2015
- Micro-Policies: Formally Verified, Tag-Based Security Monitors*
- 08/2015 Microsoft Research Redmond
- 07/2015 **Invited talk** at ACM SIGPLAN Tenth Workshop on Programming Languages and Analysis for Security (PLAS)
- 06/2015 Inria Rennes – DGA Seminar on Formal Methods and Security
- 05/2015 HP Labs - Inria seminar
- 03/2015 Inria Prosecco team evaluation
- 07/2014 Joint Workshop on Foundations of Computer Security and Formal and Computational Cryptography (FCS-FCC)
- 03/2014 Grande Region Security and Reliability Day in Saarbrücken

Foundational Property-Based Testing

- 08/2015 PLSE seminar at University of Washington
- 01/2015 CoqPL Workshop
- 10/2014 GT LTP of GDR GPL
- 03/2014 *QuickChick: Property-based testing for Coq.* Coq Working Group at PPS, Paris 7.
Testing Noninterference, Quickly
- 06/2013 Short talk at IEEE 26th Computer Security Foundations Symposium (CFP)
- 05/2013 Stanford Security Lunch
- 05/2013 *Formally Verified Privacy-Preserving Distributed Applications.*
Inria Paris.
All Your IFCEException Are Belong To Us:
- 05/2013 IEEE Symposium on Security & Privacy (Oakland)
- 11/2012 New Jersey Programming Languages and Systems Seminar
- 11/2012 IFIP WG 2.8 – Functional Programming
- 10/2012 PL Group, Harvard University
- CRASH/SAFE: Clean-slate Co-design of a Secure Host Architecture:*
- 03/2013 Microsoft Research Cambridge
- 01/2013 Prosecco team at Inria Paris
- 12/2012 CASED / EC SPRIDE at TU Darmstadt
- 12/2012 Information Security and Cryptography group at Saarland University
- 10/2012 *Poison-pills and dynamic information flow control.* PLClub, UPenn.
- 04/2012 *On the Development and Formalization of an Extensible Code Generator for Real Life Security Protocols.* 4th NASA Formal Methods Symposium (NFM 2012).
- 11/2011 *Breeze: A Language For Writing Secure Software.* Stevens Institute of Technology.
Union, Intersection, and Refinement Types and Reasoning about Type Disjointness for Analyzing Protocol Implementations:
- 07/2011 PLClub, University of Pennsylvania
- 12/2010 MSR-Inria Joint Centre, Orsay
- Semantic Subtyping with an SMT Solver:*
- 09/2010 15th ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Functional Programming (ICFP 2010)
- 05/2010 Workshop on Relations and Data Integrity Constraints and Languages (RADICAL 2010), Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK).
- 08/2009 *Type-checking Implementations of Protocols Based on Zero-knowledge Proofs – Work in Progress.* Workshop on Foundations of Computer Security (FCS 2009).
Achieving Security Despite Compromise Using Zero-knowledge:
- 07/2009 22th IEEE Symposium on Computer Security Foundations (CSF 2009)

03/2009	Joint Workshop on Automated Reasoning for Security Protocol Analysis and Issues in the Theory of Security (ARSPA-WITS'09) <i>Type-checking Zero-knowledge:</i>
10/2008	15th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2008)
07/2008	Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK) <i>Automatic Verification of Remote Electronic Voting Protocols:</i>
07/2008	Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK)
06/2008	21th IEEE Symposium on Computer Security Foundations (CSF 2008)
01/2008	<i>Step-indexed Semantics of Imperative Objects</i> . Workshop on Foundations of Object-Oriented Languages (FOOL'08).

Teaching

March 2015	F* Course: Type Systems for Security Verification (main lecturer) Advanced Block Lecture, Saarland University, together with Matteo Maffei
Fall 2012	<i>Advanced Martial Arts in Coq</i> (guest lecturer for 2 lectures) CIS 670, University of Pennsylvania, instructor: Benjamin C. Pierce
Spring 2012	<i>Software Foundations</i> (TA; guest lecturer for 6 lectures; book co-author) CIS 500, University of Pennsylvania, instructor: Benjamin C. Pierce
Fall 2011	<i>Advanced Topics in Programming Languages</i> (guest lecturer for 2 lectures) CIS 670, University of Pennsylvania, instructor: Benjamin C. Pierce
Winter 2010/11	<i>Security</i> (guest lecturer for 1 lecture) Core Lecture, Saarland University, instructor: Michael Backes
Summer 2009	<i>Practical Aspects of Security</i> (teaching assistant; guest lecturer for 3 lectures) Advanced Lecture, Saarland University, instructor: Michael Backes (best course award)
Winter 2008/09	<i>Observational Equivalence for Security Protocols</i> (organizer; advised students) Seminar, Saarland University, instructor: Michael Backes
Winter 2007/08	<i>The Analysis of Electronic Voting Protocols</i> and (organizer; advised students) <i>The Secure Implementation of Cryptographic Protocols</i> Seminar, Saarland University, instructor: Michael Backes
Summer 2007	<i>Introduction to Computational Logic</i> (teaching assistant) Core Lecture, Saarland University, instructor: Gert Smolka
Winter 2006/07	<i>Language-based Security</i> (teaching assistant; conducted weekly recitation sections) Advanced Lecture, Saarland University, instructor: Matteo Maffei

Advised Students

12/2015–05/2016	Guido Martínez . <i>Towards F* as a Proof Assistant</i> (Research Internship funded by MSR-Inria Joint Centre)
03/2015–08/2015	Yannis Juglaret . <i>Towards a Fully Abstract Compiler Using Micro-Policies – Secure Compilation for Mutually Distrustful Components</i> (Inria Research Internship; Master's student at Paris 7 and MPRI; starting a PhD with me on DGA/Inria grant in October 2015)

04/2015–08/2015	Li-yao Xia. <i>Integrating Functional Logic Programming with Constraint Solving for Random Generation of Structured Data</i> (Inria Research Internship; Master’s student at ENS Paris and MPRI)
03/2015–08/2015	Simon Forest. <i>Micro-F* in F*</i> (Inria Research Internship; Master’s student at ENS Paris and MPRI)
03/2014–08/2014	Arthur Azevedo de Amorim. <i>Micro-Policies: Formally Verified, Hardware-Assisted Security Monitors</i> (Inria Research Internship; PhD student at UPenn)
04/2014–09/2014	Zoe Paraskevopoulou. <i>A Coq Framework For Verified Property-Based Testing</i> (Inria Research Internship; now PhD student at Princeton University)
04/2014–09/2014	Nick Giannarakis. <i>Formally Verified Tag-Based Enforcement of Control Flow Integrity</i> (Inria Research Internship; now PhD student at Princeton University)
finished 04/2011	Alex Busenius. <i>Mechanized Formalization of a Transformation from an Extensible Spi Calculus to Java.</i> (Master’s thesis at Saarland University)
finished 08/2010	Thorsten Tarrach. <i>Automatically Verifying “M” Modeling Language Constraints.</i> (Master’s thesis at Saarland University; now PhD student at IST Austria)
finished 01/2009	Martin Grochulla. <i>Security Despite System Compromise with Zero-Knowledge Proofs.</i> (Master’s thesis at Saarland University; now PhD student at MPI-INF)

Recent Software Projects

2014 – now	F*: Functional programming language & Automatic verification system & Proof assistant (with Nikhil Swamy, Chantal Keller, Aseem Rastogi, Antoine Delignat-Lavaud, Simon Forest, Karthik Bhargavan, Cédric Fournet, and others)
2014 – now	Luck: A Domain Specific Language For Property-Based Generators (with Leonidas Lampropoulos, Li-yao Xia, Benjamin C. Pierce, John Hughes, and Zoe Paraskevopoulou)
2013 – now	QuickChick: Property-based testing plugin for Coq, including a foundational verification framework for testing code (with Maxime Dénès, Leonidas Lampropoulos, Zoe Paraskevopoulou, and Benjamin C. Pierce)
2013 – now	Micro-Policies: Formally verified, tag-based security monitors (with Arthur Azevedo de Amorim, André deHon, Maxime Dénès, Udit Dhawan, Nick Giannarakis, Yannis Juglaret, Benjamin C. Pierce, Antal Spector-Zabusky, and Andrew Tolmach)
2011 – 2013	CRASH/SAFE: participated in the clean-slate co-design of a secure architecture, including novel hardware, OS, and programming language (≈ 40 people team)
2011 – 2012	Breeze: a programming language with dynamic information flow control and label-based access control (with Michael Greenberg, Ben Karel, Benoît Montagu, Greg Morrisett, Benjamin C. Pierce, Jesse A. Tov, and others)
2010	DVerify a verification tool for Microsoft’s codename “M” language (by Thorsten Tarrach, coordinated only)
2009 – 2010	Dminor: a type-checker for “M” using semantic subtyping and an SMT solver (with Gavin Bierman and Andy Gordon)
2009 – 2011	F5: a type-checker and toolchain for an extension of Refined Concurrent FPC (RCF) with union, intersection and polymorphic types (with Thorsten Tarrach)
2008 – 2011	Expi2Java: code generator that converts verifiable protocol models into interoperable Java implementations (by Alex Busenius, coordinated only)
2008 – 2011	zk-typechecker: the first type-checker for automatically analyzing protocols that use zero-knowledge proofs (with Stefan Lorenz, Kim Pecina and Thorsten Tarrach)

Community Service

PC member: CSF 2016, CPP 2016, FCS-FCC 2014, ACNS 2014, FCS 2013

Reviewer for journals:

JACM (×1), JCS (×3), TOPLAS (×2), HOSC (×1), JFP (×1), JLAMP (×1)

External reviewer for conferences:

PLAS 2014 (×1), POST 2014 (×1), POPL 2014 (×2), CPP 2013 (×1), CSF 2013 (×1), POPL 2013 (×2), CSF 2012 (×1), POST 2012 (×1), ICFP 2011 (×1), CSF 2009 (×4), ISC 2008 (×1), PETS 2008 (×2), ICALP 2008 (×1)

Organization

- 2014 Main organizer of the Joint EasyCrypt-F*-CryptoVerif School in Paris (over 80 participants)
- 2012 – 2013 Organizer of the TOS reading group at UPenn on the interplay between security, programming languages, verification, operating systems, and hardware architecture

References

Benjamin C. Pierce, Professor at University of Pennsylvania
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Michael Backes, Professor at Saarland University, Max Planck Fellow at MPI-SWS, Director of CISP, and Vice-coordinator of MMCI
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Andrew D. Gordon, Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research Cambridge and Manager of the PPT Group; Professor at University of Edinburgh
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