

Formally Verified Security @ MPI-SP



1. Security Goal



2. Enforcement



3. Formal Validation



- **Cătălin Hrițcu** (Tenured Faculty)
- **Cezar Andrici** (PhD student)
- **Jonathan Baumann** (PhD student)
- **Yonghyun Kim** (PostDoc)
- **Julay Leatherman-Brooks** (Intern)
- **Abigail Pribisova** (CS@max planck)
- **Jérémie Thibault** (visitor, graduated PhD)

Former group members now faculty or permanent researchers:

Roberto Blanco (Assoc. Prof., TU/e), **Lef Ioannidis** (Senior RSE, MSR), **Guido Martínez** (RSE, MSR),
Théo Winterhalter (Tenured Researcher, Inria), **Carmine Abate** (Senior Researcher, Barkhausen),
Adrien Durier (Assoc. Prof, Univ. Paris-Saclay), **Kenji Maillard** (Tenured Faculty, Inria),
Danel Ahman (Assoc. Prof, Univ. of Tartu), **Arthur Azevedo de Amorim** (Assist. Prof, RIT),
Marco Stronati (Research Scientist, Matter Labs), **Clément Pit-Claudel** (Assist. Prof, EPFL),
William Bowmann (Assist. Prof, UBC), **Diane Gallois-Wong** (RSE, Nomadic Labs),
Zoe Paraskevopoulou (Assist. Prof, NTU Athens), **Nick Giannarakis** (Senior Applied Scientist, AWS),
Thorsten Tarrach (Senior Applied Scientist, AWS)

Secure compilation of verified F* code



1. **Very strong guarantee**, stronger than full abstraction
2. **Reference monitoring and higher-order contracts**
3. **Machine-checked proofs in F***

[Cezar et al, TYPES'22, HOPE'22, POPL'24, ICFP'25]



Other interesting topics on F*

- Dijkstra monads and incorrectness logic
- Dijkstra Monad for Bounding Failure Probability (crypto proofs)
- Separation logic in F* (Pulse)
- F* foundations: demystifying ghost and divergence effects



Secure compilation of compartmentalized C code

1. Restricting scope of UB to compromised compartments
2. CompCert variant to CHERI RISC-V capability machine
3. Scalable machine-checked proofs in Rocq



[Jérémie et al, CCS'18, CSF'19, ESOP'20, CSF'22, CCS'24, ITP'25]



Stronger Security Goals

Preserve data confidentiality

for compartmentalized programs in F*, C, Rust, or Wasm



Realistic Enforcement

ARM Morello
capability machine



Better Proof Techniques

Capability passing Verify capability backend

FS-CASA: Formally Secure Compilation

Against Spectre Attacks



1. Relative security



- compiled program doesn't leak speculatively more than what (arbitrary!) source program leaks sequentially



2. Building on FSLH: Flexible Speculative Load Hardening [Jonathan et al, CSF'25]



- Extending this to all main Spectre variants
- Want to implement this defense in LLVM

3. Testing and proving relative security



- Building new Property-Based Testing framework for LLVM and x86 (HW/SW contracts)
- Constructing machine-checked proofs in Rocq for simplified models



Courses we teach in Bochum and Remote

1. **Functional Programming** (Winter 2025/26)
2. **Proofs are Programs** (Summer 2026)
3. **Foundations of Programming Languages, Verification, and Security** (Winter 2026/27?)



Clara Schneidewind, Cătălin Hrițcu, Jana Hofmann

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy (MPI-SP)

Introduction to Functional
Programming and the
Structure of Programming
Languages using OCaml

Gert Smolka

