

Zheng Yu

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science Department, Advised by Xinyu Xing

- Research Interests: AI Security, Software Security
- Focused on improving the security of software and AI systems.

Evanston, IL
Sep 2022 - Expected Early 2026 (Flexible)

Northwestern University

M.S. Student, Computer Science Department

Evanston, IL
Sep 2022 - Dec 2024

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Bachelor of Computer Science, Member of ACM Class

Shanghai, China
Sep 2018 - June 2022

Yali High School

High School Student, focused on Algorithmic Competition

Hunan, China
Sep 2015 - June 2018

EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Operating Systems (COMP_SCI 343), Northwestern University

Sep 2025 – Dec 2025
Instructor: Dr. Branden Ghena

Visiting Researcher

CrySp Lab, University of Waterloo

Jun 2025 – Sept 2025
Advised by: Meng Xu

Teaching Assistant

Introduction of Computer Security (COMP_SCI 350), Northwestern University

Sep 2024 – Dec 2024
Instructor: Prof. Xinyu Xing

Project Mentor

Summer of Code 2022, Google

Apr 2022 – Oct 2022
Qiling Project

Security Engineer

JD.com, Inc.

June 2021 – May 2022
Beijing, China

Research Assistant

RITAS Lab, Southern University of Science and Technology

Feb 2021 – April 2021
Advised by: Yingqian Zhang

Research Assistant

SAIL Lab, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

July 2020 – June 2022
Advised by: Chao Li

Website Operation

Network & Information Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Sep 2019 – Sep 2021
SJTU Online Judge

Teaching Assistant

Programming Design Course (CS151), Shanghai Jiao Tong University

June 2019 – Sep 2019
Instructor: Prof. Huiyu Weng

PUBLICATION

- PortGPT: Towards Automated Backporting Using Large Language Models - **Zheng Yu***; Zhaoyang Li*; Jingyi Song; Meng Xu; Yuxuan Luo; Dongliang Mu (IEEE S&P 2026)
- PatchAgent: A Practical Program Repair Agent Mimicking Human Expertise - **Zheng Yu**; Ziyi Guo; Yuhang Wu; Jiahao Yu; Meng Xu; Dongliang Mu; Yan Chen; Xinyu Xing (USENIX Security 2025)
- ShadowBound: Efficient Heap Memory Protection Through Advanced Metadata Management and Customized Compiler Optimization - **Zheng Yu**; Ganxiang Yang; Xinyu Xing (USENIX Security 2024)
- LLM-Fuzzer: Scaling Assessment of Large Language Model Jailbreaks - Jiahao Yu; Xinwei Lin; **Zheng Yu**; Xinyu Xing (USENIX Security 2024)
- CAMP: Compiler and Allocator-based Heap Memory Protection - Zhenpeng Lin; **Zheng Yu**; Ziyi Guo; Simone Campanoni; Peter Dinda; Xinyu Xing (USENIX Security 2024)

- **FIRST: Exploiting the Multi-Dimensional Attributes of Functions for Power-Aware Serverless Computing - Lu Zhang; Chao Li; Xinkai Wang; Weiqi Feng; **Zheng Yu**; Quan Chen; Jingwen Leng; Minyi Guo; Pu Yang; Shang Yue (IPDPS 2023)**

TALK & SPEECH

- Reversing MCU with Firmware Emulation - **Zheng Yu**; KAI JERN LAU; MuChen Su; Anh Quynh NGUYEN (BlackHat Europe 2022)

HONORS & AWARDS

CSAW Applied Research Competition Finalist <i>PatchAgent</i>	NYU Tandon School of Engineering 2025
USENIX Security Student Grant <i>USENIX Security Symposium</i>	USENIX 2024, 2025
Advanced Final Competition at AIXCC <i>42-b3yond-6ug</i>	DARPA 2024
CCS Student Grant <i>ACM CCS Conference</i>	ACM SIGSAC 2024
5th at Defcon 23 CTF Finals <i>StrawHat Team</i>	DEFCON 2023
7th at Defcon 22 CTF Finals <i>StrawHat Team</i>	DEFCON 2022
Outstanding Graduates <i>Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai Jiaotong University</i>	SJTU 2022
Zhiyuan Honor Scholarship <i>Top 2% in SJTU</i>	SJTU 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
The 35th China National Olympiad in Informatics <i>Silver Medal (top 100)</i>	CCF 2017

PROJECTS

PortGPT <i>AI, Python</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed PortGPT, an automated backporting tool leveraging large language models. • Implemented novel techniques to enhance the accuracy and reliability of patch backporting. 	
PatchAgent <i>Security, Python</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a program repair agent that mimics human expertise. • Implemented a novel program repair algorithm based on large language models. 	
ShadowBound <i>Security, C/C++</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a novel heap memory protection mechanism based on advanced metadata management. • Implemented a customized compiler optimization to reduce runtime overhead. 	
GPT-Fuzzer <i>AI, Python</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a fuzzer for large language models • Implemented a novel method to scale the assessment of language model jailbreaks. 	
CAMP <i>Security, C/C++</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a compiler and allocator-based heap memory protection mechanism. • Implemented a novel compiler optimization to reduce runtime overhead. 	
Qiling <i>MCU, Python</i>	[Link]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated an MCU emulation module, capable of emulating microcontrollers from three leading vendors. 	

- Extended support for Cortex-M and RISC-V architectures.

Pymx | *Compiler, Python*

[\[Link\]](#)

- Developed Pymx, a Python3-based compiler for a Java-like language.
- Compiles source code into RV32IM assembly language.

RV32-CPU | *FPGA, Verilog*

[\[Link\]](#)

- Designed a RISC-V CPU with the Tomasulo algorithm implemented in Verilog HDL.
- Implemented features such as out-of-order execution, instruction cache, and load buffer.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Program Committee Member <i>International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)</i>	2025, 2026
Program Committee Member <i>Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)</i>	2024, 2025
Program Committee Member <i>International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)</i>	2025
Program Committee Member <i>Artificial Intelligence and Statistics Conference (AISTATS)</i>	2025
Program Committee Member <i>The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Undergraduate Consortium (AAAI-UC)</i>	2025
Program Committee Member <i>International Conference on Edge Computing and IoT (ICECI)</i>	2024
Artifact Committee Member <i>ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)</i>	2023, 2024, 2025
Artifact Committee Member <i>USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)</i>	2024, 2025
Artifact Committee Member <i>Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS)</i>	2025
Artifact Committee Member <i>USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC)</i>	2024
Artifact Committee Member <i>USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI)</i>	2024
Artifact Committee Member <i>International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis (ISSTA)</i>	2024
Journal Reviewer <i>IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC)</i>	2024
Journal Reviewer <i>PeerJ Computer Science (PeerJ CS)</i>	2023, 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)

Programming Languages: C/C++, Python, Java, Javascript, Rust, Verilog, OCaml, Go

Frameworks: LLVM, LangChain, MySQL, Spark, Angr, Unicorn, IDA, Qiling, Ghidra

Developer Tools: Git, VSCode, Emacs, Docker, Vivado