

# ALIN TOMESCU

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

*email* [atom@alum.mit.edu](mailto:atom@alum.mit.edu)  
*website* <http://alinush.org>  
*github* <https://github.com/alinush>  
*twitter* <https://twitter.com/alinush407>

## SHORT BIO

I am interested in applied cryptography, mostly walking the fine line between theory and practice. In the past, I've worked on oblivious RAMs, public-key distribution, authenticated data structures, and threshold cryptography. I especially enjoy implementing and open-sourcing my work. I sometimes blog about my work and muse about other things on my website. For paper LaTeX and PDFs, slides, code artifacts and talk videos, please see [alinush.github.io/papers.html](http://alinush.github.io/papers.html).

## EDUCATION

<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	<i>2015-2019</i>	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY School: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Thesis: <i>How to Keep a Secret and Share a Public Key (Using Polynomial Commitments)</i> Advisor: Prof. Srinivas DEVADAS
<i>Masters of Science</i>	<i>2013-2015</i>	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GPA: 4.7 (out of 5) · Major: Computer Science Thesis: <i>PowMail: Want To Fork? Do Some Work.</i> Description: This thesis explored the idea of using cryptographic puzzles computed by email users to prevent equivocation in public key directories. Advisor: Prof. Srinivas DEVADAS
<i>Bachelors of Science</i>	<i>2008-2012</i>	STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY GPA: 3.98 (out of 4) · Major: Computer Science <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> · <i>Honors</i> Advisor: Associate Prof. Radu SION

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	<i>2020-present</i>	VMWARE RESEARCH GROUP Working on applied cryptography for public-key distribution and cryptocurrencies.
<i>Research Intern</i>	<i>Summer 2017 &amp; 2018</i>	VMWARE RESEARCH GROUP Worked on multi-party computation protocols via verifiable secret sharing. Worked on scaling byzantine fault tolerance protocols using threshold signatures. Implemented a fast C++ library for RSA and BLS threshold signatures. Designed efficient anonymous cryptocurrencies without zk-SNARKs.
<i>Research Assistant</i>	<i>2013-2020</i>	COMPUTATION STRUCTURES GROUP Focused on cryptocurrencies, public-key distribution, authenticated data structures, secure communication, anonymity and secure web applications.

Affiliations: MIT; CSAIL  
 Advisor: Prof. Srinivas DEVADAS

2011–2012 NETWORK SECURITY AND APPLIED CRYPTO LAB

*Research Assistant*

Worked on access pattern privacy research.  
 Developed PrivateFS, the first oblivious filesystem.  
 Affiliations: Stony Brook University  
 Advisor: Associate Prof. Radu SION

## WORK EXPERIENCE

2012–2013,  
 Summer 2014 PRIVATE MACHINES

*Head of Research  
 and Development*

Designed, implemented and deployed the first prototype of the CipherRack secure cloud infrastructure.  
 Designed and implemented cryptographic protocols for CipherLocker, a secure searchable cloud file storage engine, as well as other proprietary cryptographic protocols.

Summer 2011 MICROSOFT

*Software  
 Development  
 Engineer in Test  
 (Intern)*

Developed a flexible performance framework in C# for testing critical Microsoft SQL stored procedures used throughout their AdCenter Business Intelligence system.  
 Developed an ASP .NET user interface in C# for charting and graphing performance results across release cycles.  
 Developed an automated code deployment tool for running daily basic viability tests on the latest builds.

2008–2009 STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

*Information  
 Technology  
 Specialist*

Developed websites for various programs within the Outreach Division of Stony Brook's Professional Education Program.  
 Developed and maintained Microsoft Access databases.  
 Created and administered LISTSERV mailing lists.  
 Assisted staff with various computer-related issues.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Aggregatable Subvector Commitments for Stateless Cryptocurrencies* · SCN'20 · Alin TOMESCU, Ittai ABRAHAM, Vitalik BUTERIN, Justin DRAKE, Dankrad FEIST, Dmitry KHOVRATOVICH

*Towards Scalable Threshold Cryptosystems* · IEEE S&P'20 · Alin TOMESCU, Robert CHEN, Yiming ZEHNG, Ittai ABRAHAM, Benny PINKAS, Guy Golan GUETA, Srinivas DEVADAS

*Transparency Logs via Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries* · ACM CCS'19 · Alin TOMESCU, Vivek BHUPATIRAJU, Dimitrios PAPADOPOULOS, Charalampos PAPAMANTHOU, Nikos TRIANOPOULOS, Srinivas DEVADAS

*Efficient Verifiable Secret Sharing with Share Recovery in BFT Protocols* · ACM CCS'19 · Soumya BASU, Alin TOMESCU, Ittai ABRAHAM, Dahlia MALKHI, Michael K. REITER, Emin Gün SIRER

*SBFT: A Scalable and Decentralized Trust Infrastructure* · DSN'19 · Guy Golan GUETA, Ittai ABRAHAM, Shelly GROSSMAN, Dahlia MALKHI, Benny PINKAS, Michael K. REITER, Dragos-Adrian SEREDINSCHI, Orr TAMIR, Alin TOMESCU

*Catena: Efficient Non-equivocation via Bitcoin* · IEEE S&P'17 · Alin TOMESCU, Srinivas DEVADAS

*PriviPK: Certificate-less and secure email communication* · Computer & Security'17 · Mashael ALSABAH, Alin TOMESCU, Ilia LEBEDEV, Dimitrios SERPANOS, Srinivas DEVADAS

*PrivateFS: A Parallel Oblivious Filesystem* · ACM CCS'12 · Peter WILLIAMS,  
Radu SION, Alin TOMESCU

## PATENTS

*Byzantine fault tolerance with verifiable secret sharing at constant overhead* · US  
Patent US10572352B2 · Feb. 25th, 2020 · Soumya BASU, Alin TOMESCU, Dahlia  
MALKHI, Michael REITER, Adrian SEREDINSCHI, Ittai ABRAHAM, Guy Golan  
GUETA

## INVITED TALKS

*Towards Scalable Threshold Cryptosystems* · Cornell University · June, 2020

*Aggregatable Subvector Commitments* · zkStudyClub · May 13th, 2020

*Towards Scalable Threshold Cryptosystems* · BU Security Seminar · Boston  
University · January 29th, 2020

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · MIT Digital  
Currency Initiative · March 27th, 2019

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · Xi'an  
International Workshop on Blockchain 2018 · December 14th, 2018

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · Modular  
Approach to Cloud Security (MACS) Project Meeting · December 7th, 2018

*Bandwidth-efficient Transparency Logs via Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries* ·  
VISA Research · July 13th, 2018

*Bandwidth-efficient Transparency Logs via Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries* ·  
Stanford Security Seminar · Stanford University · June 26th, 2018

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · Oasis Labs · June  
21st, 2018

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · LPD · École  
Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) · January 31st, 2018

*Catena: Efficient Non-equivocation via Bitcoin* · Cambridge Blockchain Meetup ·  
December 13th, 2017

*Append-only Authenticated Dictionaries and Their Applications* · Security Reading  
Group · University of Maryland · October 27th, 2017

*Secure communication via proof-of-work* · CSAIL Advisory Board · MIT · May  
3rd, 2016

*Pulsar: A Space and Bandwidth Efficient, Trustworthy Public Key Directory* ·  
Digital Currency Initiative (DCI) · MIT · April 6th, 2016

## ACCEPTED TALKS

*Catena: Preventing Lies with Bitcoin* · New England Security Day (NESD) ·  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute · November 28th, 2016

## PANELS

*On "blockchains"* · TechConnect · Boston University · February 16th, 2018

## OPEN SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS

QEMU · Eucalyptus · RELIC · Concord BFT · libqfft

## PROGRAM COMMITTEES

ACM Cloud Computing Security Workshop (CCSW) · 2020

## EXTERNAL REVIEWER

ACM Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (ASPLOS) · 2017

ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security (CCS) · 2016

IACR ASIACRYPT · 2020

IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO) · 2017

IEEE Security and Privacy (S&P) · 2018 · 2019 · 2020

Network and Distributed Systems Symposium (NDSS) · 2019

Security and Cryptography for Networks (SCN) · 2016

Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS) · 2017 · 2019

## TEACHING &amp; MENTORING

*Guest Lectures*

MIT · Spring 2018 · MAS.S62 Cryptocurrency Engineering and Design ·  
Taught a lecture on Bitcoin-based non-equivocation schemes.

2017-2019 MIT PRIMES

*Research Mentor*

Mentored 4 high school students in applied cryptography research.  
Planned reasonable research projects for students with deliverables.  
Met with students weekly to assess progress and discuss research topics.

*Student Awards:*

JOHN KUSZMAUL · 2017 Siemens semifinalist  
ROBERT CHEN · 2017 Siemens semifinalist  
YIMING ZHENG · 2017 Siemens semifinalist  
VIVEK BHUPATIRAJU · 2018 Regeneron STS scholar  
VIVEK BHUPATIRAJU · 2018 ISEF 3rd Special Award (from ACM)  
VIVEK BHUPATIRAJU · 2018 ISEF 1st Special Award (Science of Security, from NSA)  
ROBERT CHEN · 2019 Regeneron STS scholar

Spring 2014 INTRODUCTION TO ALGORITHMS (6.006)

*Teaching Assistant at MIT*

Taught four recitation sessions each week.  
Taught two review sessions before midterm exams.  
Developed programming assignments for the problem sets.  
Wrote recitation notes for students.  
Developed questions for the student exams.  
Helped students on the class discussion board and over email.  
Held biweekly office hours.  
Provided additional learning resources for my own section students.

Spring 2011 ADVANCED C/C++ PROGRAMMING (CSE230)

*Teaching Assistant at Stony Brook University*

Taught four CSE230 lectures on object oriented design in C++.  
Helped students with C and C++ programming questions during officer hours.

Fall 2009 INTRODUCTION TO JAVA (CSE114)

Teaching  
Assistant at Stony  
Brook University

Held biweekly, one-hour and twenty-minutes programming labs.  
Responsible for overseeing, teaching and grading thirty students in CSE114.  
Helped and advised students during office hours and over email.

2009–2012

#### STONY BROOK COMPUTING SOCIETY

Exam Reviewer

Taught review sessions for Java programming, discrete mathematics and data structures exams.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

Awards

Avery Ashdown Leadership Award · *Ashdown House, MIT* · 2015 & 2019  
Academic Excellence in Computer Science · *Computer Science Department at Stony Brook University* · 2012  
The SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence · *State University of New York (SUNY)* · 2012  
Undergraduate Recognition Award for Academic Excellence · *Stony Brook University* · 2012  
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award · *Stony Brook University* · 2009–2012  
University Scholars Senior Leadership Award · *Stony Brook University* · 2011  
February 2011 Student of the Month Award · *National Residence Hall Honorary Chapter at Stony Brook University* · 2011

Leadership

Graduate Student Leadership Initiative Fellow & Cambridge Fellow · *Massachusetts Institute of Technology* · Spring 2017  
Secretary of the Ashdown House Executive Committee · *Massachusetts Institute of Technology* · 2014–2015  
President of the Romanian Student Association · *Massachusetts Institute of Technology* · 2014–2019  
Student Ambassador for the Stony Brook Computer Science Department · *Stony Brook University* · 2011–2012  
Cofounder, Vice-President and President of the Stony Brook Game Developers Club · *Stony Brook University* · 2009–2010

Communication  
Skills

Best Computer Science Senior Honors Project Presentation Award · *Stony Brook University* · 2012

Languages

ROMANIAN · Native language  
ENGLISH · Fluent  
SPANISH · Basic (simple words and phrases only)  
FRENCH · Basic (simple words and phrases only)

Interests

Piano · Philosophy · Weightlifting · Dance

June 14, 2020