
About Me

Summary I'm a security & cryptography engineer and researcher based in Berlin, leading [Cryspen](#), a company for custom high-assurance cryptography solutions.

Previously, I was leading the security engineering efforts at [Wire](#), heading the cryptography group at [Fraunhofer AISEC](#), and working on [Mozilla's](#) cryptography library [NSS](#) and [Firefox](#). I'm interested in everything around applied cryptography, in particular authentication and key exchange protocols, [formally verifiable specifications](#) and implementations of cryptographic primitives and protocols, and privacy preserving data collection and computation.

Experience

Industry

- Since 10/2022 **Co-Founder & CEO**, [Cryspen](#), Berlin and Paris
Building Custom High Assurance Cryptography Solutions.
- 09/2021 - 03/2022 **Software Engineer**, *Independent*, Berlin, Germany
Development and maintenance of the [OpenMLS](#) library and MLS standards work at IETF.
- 06/2020 - 08/2021 **Security Engineering Lead**, *Wire*, Berlin, Germany
Leading all security engineering efforts around Wire's end-to-end encrypted messaging platform. Establishing a security incidence process. And development and maintenance of the [OpenMLS](#) library and MLS standards work at IETF.
- 01/2020 - 05/2020 **Head of Cryptography Engineering**, *Fraunhofer AISEC*, Berlin, Germany
Applied cryptography research and development with a focus on post quantum cryptography. I was heading a small team of researchers working on public and industry projects.
- 10/2015 - 01/2020 **Senior Cryptography/Security Engineer**, *Mozilla Germany*, Berlin, Germany
NSS maintainer/developer (cryptography library), Formally verified cryptography using F*, Design & implementation of OS password storage integration for Firefox, Design & implementation of new extension signing mechanism, Design of authentication frameworks, Set up of NSS CI infrastructure, Fuzzing, Hardware-accelerated AES-GCM implementation
- 05/2015 - 07/2015 **Security Engineering Intern**, *Mozilla Inc*, San Francisco, USA
Security Engineering, Implementing referrer policies (<https://www.w3.org/TR/referrer-policy/>)
- 11/2009 - 10/2012 **Software Developer**, *FlexSecure GmbH*, Darmstadt, DE
Software development (PKI, JEE, Side channel resistant cryptography, Cryptographic protocols for German electronic identity cards, Smart card profiles), Software evaluation (Common Criteria).

Open Source & Research

- since 2018 **hacspecc**, *Formal specification language for specifications*
Designing a new formal language for cryptography algorithms in specifications (<https://hacspecc.org>)
- since 2017 **HACL***, *Formally verified cryptographic library*
Implementation of cryptographic primitives for HACL* (<https://github.com/project-everest/hacl-star>)

2009-2012 **FlexiProvider / Bouncy Castle**, *Java CSP*
Implementation of cryptographic primitives for Java Cryptographic Providers FlexiProvider and BouncyCastle (<https://github.com/project-everest/hacl-star>)

Education

01/2013-02/2016 **PhD in Applied Cryptography**, *University of Surrey, Department of Computing*, Guildford, UK

10/2010-10/2012 **M.Sc in Computer Science (with honours)**, *Technische Universität Darmstadt, Department of Computer Science*, Darmstadt, DE

10/2010-10/2012 **M.Sc in IT-Security (with honours)**, *Technische Universität Darmstadt, Department of Computer Science*, Darmstadt, DE

10/2007-09/2010 **B.Sc in Computer Science (with distinction)**, *Technische Universität Darmstadt, Department of Computer Science*, Darmstadt, DE

08/2006-04/2007 **Community Service**, *University Hospital Rechts der Isar of the Technischen Universität München*, Munich, DE

06/1998-05/2006 **Abitur (A-Level)**, *Gymnasium Marianum*, Warburg Westf., DE

PhD thesis

Title Advancements in Password-based Cryptography [9]
Supervisor Dr. Mark Manulis

Languages

German Native Language
English Fluent

Programming

Languages Rust, C, C++, Python, Bash, JavaScript, Java
Tools Docker, Git, Mercurial, AWS
Portfolio <https://github.com/franziskuskiefer>

Teaching & Community

2019 **Bachelor Thesis Supervision**, *TU Berlin*, Berlin, Germany
Beyond privacy-aware counting

2018 - 2019 **Guest Lectures**, *TU Berlin, TU Darmstadt*, Berlin, Darmstadt, Germany
Lectures on secure content transfer on the internet and practical aspects of the web public key infrastructure

2012 - 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, *University of Surrey*, Guildford, UK
Grading, Coursework supervision, lab supervision, lectures

Community Initiator and co-organiser of the Berlin Crypto meetup (<https://berlin-crypto.github.io>)

Talks & Presentations (selected)

RustVerify 2021 hacspecc: succinct, executable, verifiable specifications for high-assurance cryptography

RWC 2021 Asynchronous Remote Key Generation:
An Analysis of Yubico's Proposal for W3C WebAuthn

SSR 2018	hacspec - towards verifiable crypto standards
RWC 2018	HACL* in Mozilla Firefox
ISC 2016	Universally Composable Two-Server PAKE
ISC 2015	Oblivious PAKE – Efficient Handling of Password Trials
ESORICS 2014	Zero-Knowledge Password Policy Checks and Verifier-based PAKE
ACNS 2014	Distributed Smooth Projective Hashing and Two-Server PAKE
CryptoForma 2014	Distributed Smooth Projective Hashing and Two-Server PAKE
MFS Seminar 2014	Password-based Authentication for Mobile Browsers
CryptoForma 2013	Oblivious PAKE – Efficient Handling of Password Trials

Publications

- [1] Karthikeyan Bhargavan, Franziskus Kiefer, and Pierre-Yves Strub. hacspec: towards verifiable crypto standards. In *SSR 2018: Security Standardisation Research*, 2018.
- [2] Johannes Braun, Franziskus Kiefer, and Andreas Hülsing. Revocation and Non-repudiation: When the First Destroys the Latter. In *EuroPKI*, volume 8341 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 31–46. Springer-Verlag, 2013.
- [3] Johannes Buchmann, Johannes Braun, Moritz Horsch, Detlef Hühnlein, Franziskus Kiefer, Falko Strenzke, and Alexander Wiesmaier. Towards a mobile eCard Client. In *13. Kryptotag*, page 4, December 2010.
- [4] Changyu Dong and Franziskus Kiefer. Secure set-based policy checking and its application to password registration. In *Cryptology and Network Security - 14th International Conference, CANS 2015, Marrakesh, Morocco, December 10-12, 2015, Proceedings*, pages 59–74, 2015.
- [5] Nils Fleischhacker, Felix Günther, Franziskus Kiefer, Mark Manulis, and Bertram Poettering. Pseudorandom Signatures. Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2011/673, 2011. <http://eprint.iacr.org/>.
- [6] Nils Fleischhacker, Felix Günther, Franziskus Kiefer, Mark Manulis, and Bertram Poettering. Pseudorandom Signatures. In *Proceedings of the 8th ACM SIGSAC symposium on Information, computer and communications security, ASIA CCS '13*, pages 107–118, New York, NY, USA, 2013. ACM.
- [7] Nick Frymann, Daniel Gardham, Franziskus Kiefer, Emil Lundberg, Mark Manulis, and Dain Nilsson. Asynchronous remote key generation: An analysis of yubico’s proposal for W3C webauthn. In Jay Ligatti, Xinming Ou, Jonathan Katz, and Giovanni Vigna, editors, *CCS '20: 2020 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security, Virtual Event, USA, November 9-13, 2020*, pages 939–954. ACM, 2020.
- [8] Franziskus Kiefer. Effiziente Implementierung des PACE- und EAC Protokolls für mobile Geräte. Bachelor thesis, TU Darmstadt, July 2010.
- [9] Franziskus Kiefer. *Advancements in Password-based Cryptography*. PhD thesis, University of Surrey, 2016.

- [10] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Distributed smooth projective hashing and its application to two-server password authenticated key exchange. In *ACNS'14*, volume 8479 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 199–216. Springer-Verlag, 2014.
- [11] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Zero-knowledge password policy checks and verifier-based PAKE. In *ESORICS'14*, volume 8713 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 295–312. Springer-Verlag, 2014.
- [12] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Oblivious PAKE: efficient handling of password trials. In *Information Security - 18th International Conference, ISC 2015, Trondheim, Norway, September 9-11, 2015, Proceedings*, pages 191–208, 2015.
- [13] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Blind password registration for two-server password authenticated key exchange and secret sharing protocols. In *Information Security - 19th International Conference, ISC 2016, Honolulu, HI, USA, September 3-6, 2016, Proceedings*, pages 95–114, 2016.
- [14] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Blind password registration for verifier-based PAKE. In *Proceedings of the 3rd ACM International Workshop on ASIA Public-Key Cryptography, AsiaPKC@AsiaCCS, Xi'an, China, May 30 - June 03, 2016*, pages 39–48, 2016.
- [15] Franziskus Kiefer and Mark Manulis. Universally composable two-server PAKE. In *Information Security - 19th International Conference, ISC 2016, Honolulu, HI, USA, September 3-6, 2016, Proceedings*, pages 147–166, 2016.
- [16] Franziskus Kiefer, Alexander Wiesmaier, and Christian Fritz. Practical Security in E-Mail Applications. In *The 2012 International Conference on Security and Management*, pages 138–144, July 2012.
- [17] Mark Manulis, Nils Fleischhacker, Felix Günther, Franziskus Kiefer, and Bertram Poettering. Group Signatures - Authentication with Privacy. German Information Security Agency (GISA), 2012. <https://www.bsi.bund.de/EN/>.
- [18] Mark Manulis, Douglas Stebila, Franziskus Kiefer, and Nick Denham. Secure modular password authentication for the web using channel bindings. *Int. J. Inf. Sec.*, 15(6):597–620, 2016.
- [19] Denis Merigoux, Franziskus Kiefer, and Karthikeyan Bhargavan. hacspecc: succinct, executable, verifiable specifications for high-assurance cryptography embedded in Rust. Technical report, Inria, March 2021.
- [20] Alex Wiesmaier, Moritz Horsch, Johannes Braun, Franziskus Kiefer, Detlef Hühnlein, Falko Strenzke, and Johannes Buchmann. An efficient mobile PACE implementation. In *Proceedings of the 6th ACM Symposium on Information, Computer and Communications Security, ASIA CCS '11*, pages 176–185, New York, NY, USA, 2011. ACM.