



Call for Papers

(PDF at <https://kernelcon.org/cfp/CFP-2023.pdf>)

The Kernelcon Crew is soliciting presentations for the fourth annual Kernelcon held at the Downtown Embassy Suites in Omaha, NE, April 12-15, 2023.

Create something fun in your homelab? Develop a new technique? Wish you could spare someone the horrors you faced? Impart your wisdom, start the difficult conversations, submit your work to our CFP!

Important Dates

(Up to date at <https://kernelcon.org/dates>)

CFP will close Feb 3, 2023

CFP submitters will be notified Feb 14, 2023

About Kernelcon

In 2017, local collectives of information security professionals gathered together to start sharing knowledge and experiences here in Omaha. Many beers were had and slides discussed before culminating in a mission to gather knowledge seekers in the Midwest to propagate their techniques and mastery. Enter Kernelcon.

In 2019, we exceeded our first-year targets with two speaking tracks, several conference events, and competitions for more than 350 attendees. In 2020 we were one of the first security conferences to pivot to a pure-virtual format, populating two speaker live-streams, offering pre-conference training, and innovative virtual activities for our more than 400 paid attendees. With the time to consider and plan for 2021 in a virtual context, we pioneered Hack Live, an online event that saw experts in various hacking disciplines hack challenges in their domain live. Kernelcon partnered with the Ultimate Hacking Championship and brought Hack Live to thousands of world-wide viewers.

In 2022, we were excited to return to an in-person event. We welcomed hackers from all around back to Omaha for sorely missed popcorn, networking, competitions, and of course world-class speakers.

For 2023, Kernelcon organizers are excited to continue the tradition into year five and hope you will join us in sharing your knowledge and love of Infosec with all our attendees.

Suggested topic areas

The theme for Kernelcon 2023, is “Science.” Accordingly, those that wish to tailor a talk to the theme or require a broad topic to start the creative engine toward a new talk, science is your starting point. Consider innovation, iteration, and the scientific method. Tie hacking back to any science-related discipline like biology, engineering, electronics, physics, mathematics, chemistry, or psychology. However, this is not a hard requirement. Do not let these directions limit your interpretation or the subject of your talk.

Kernelcon submissions should focus on topics that are of interest to the security and hacking communities. The list below is meant as a guideline, not an exhaustive list.

- Hacking of Software/Hardware
- Incident Response
- Operational Security
- Computing Hardware Security, Repurposing, Designing/Building
- Technology Policy and Politics (yep, we're willing to go there)
- Security Education
- Security and Hacking Capture-the-Flag Topics
- Security Automation
- Digital Forensics
- Bug Bounties
- Application Security
- Secure Development Practices / DevSecOps / SecDevOps
- Security Aspects of Cloud Computing
- Practical Security
- Machine Learning (securing, and using for security)
- War Stories, Histories, Scientific Advancement, Trade, etc. of Kernels
- Security Metrics (Inform Risk Analysis, Identify Priorities, Measure Progress, etc)
- Risk Management
- BeyondCorp / Zerotrust models in practice
- Privacy and Anonymity
- Identity & Access Management
- Focused Security Research (Visualization, IoT, Vehicles, Toys, Web apps, etc)

If your talk doesn't fit precisely into one of these areas, the theme, but you still think is a good fit, please submit it for consideration! The suggested topics are meant only to provide some direction, not as a strict pedantic gate through which all submissions must pass.

Conference format

Kernelcon 2023 will have two, concurrent main tracks, and talks should fit into a 60 (FULL) or 20 (SHORT) minute timeslot (meaning a 50 or 15 minute presentation is expected). As one might expect, presenters will be positioned at the front of a hotel conference area, and will present using typical conference equipment.

Speaker Benefits

Speakers receive complimentary admission to Kernelcon and will be recognized as a speaker via a special “SPEAKER” badge. Speakers also have the option of attending an exclusive speaker party preceding the conference. Details will be sent to accepted speakers following acceptance notification.

For each FULL talk, the speakers may additionally select one of:

- 2 additional “HACKER” registrations
- \$200 donation to the EFF or Hackers for Charity
- \$200 honorarium
- Please reinvest into making Kernelcon even better next year

We may also tentatively accept backup/alternate talks which will not be guaranteed a speaking slot, but will receive admission in order to be ready to present in the event they are needed.

Review process

Our review process is not as formal as some academic conferences. However, submissions are considered confidential and are not shared outside of the Technical Program Committee. Every submission is reviewed by multiple committee members and weighed for inclusion in the program. TPC Committee members are selected for the ability to provide valuable reviews, handle sensitive information, and remain fair, impartial, and consistent in the review process. Ultimately the committee informs the TPC Chair(s) who set the technical portion of the program that is married with the rest of Kernelcon agenda.

How to submit

Speakers should submit directly (e.g. no PR representatives are permitted).

Print this page for your convenience!

Your submission email should include:

- ☐ Speaker name(s)
- ☐ Contact information (email, twitter, phone, etc - if we need to reach you and we can't, that's on you)*
- ☐ Speaker promotion information (twitter, facebook, etc) - if we want to promote your talk specifically, and
- ☐ you want us to tag you
- ☐ Presentation Title*
- ☐ Abstract*
- ☐ A note if you'd like your submission to be presented to the program committee anonymously for review
- ☐ The speaker "Grant of Copyright Use" and "Speaker Terms" copied and completed from below
- ☐ Optional supplementary files
- ☐ Optional scheduling preferences
- ☐ Optional opt-out of video recording
- ☐ Headshot if you have one you'd like to share (to be honest, we aren't sure if we'll use these, but if we
- ☐ need one, and you don't provide it, you will be depicted as a kernel of grain, nut, fruit, or corn)
- ☐ At least one attached file in TEXT or PDF format which contains the following information in this order:
 - ☐ Title of Presentation **
 - ☐ Speaker Name(s), Pseudonym(s), or handle(s) **
 - ☐ Timeslot (20 or 60 minutes)
 - ☐ Abstract of your presentation (200 words or less) **
 - ☐ Bio limited to 100 words or less (<=100 words encompassing all speakers) **
 - ☐ Technical Level of talk: on a 1-none to 5-all the way down the rabbit hole **
 - ☐ Detailed Description: the most important part of your submission. You need to provide detailed
 - ☐ information that demonstrates your knowledge of your topic and how you will present it to the
 - ☐ audience. Do not rely on your abstract to be enough for the reviewers. It isn't. If your talk will
 - ☐ include demos, new exploits, tool releases or audience interactions, please include details.
 - ☐ Why do you feel this submission is a good fit for Kernelcon?
 - ☐ List of other venues or where this work has been presented, published or derived from
 - ☐ Are you a potential first time conference speaker?
 - ☐ List of facilities requested beyond what is already provided (power, projector, podium, sound
 - ☐ projection, and internet connectivity).
 - ☐ Press can contact you: yes or no
 - ☐ For FULL talks, honorarium choice: Donate (EFF or HFC), Registrations (2), Cash, Reinvest

*These should be copied directly from your attached file.

**As intended for the conference program and website.

Incomplete or misformatted submissions greatly reduce the likelihood of your talk being accepted.

Novel, new, on-topic talks receive the most preference. Submissions by first-time presenters are not discounted in any way. Conversely, first-timers are whole-heartedly encouraged to submit. Blatant vendor pitches, recycled talks, presentations on well-known topics that are *not* depicted as 101 or intro, are unlikely to be accepted. We expect presentations that are considerate, planned, thought-out, and delivered well. All talks are considered on their merits. Everyone, including sponsors, internet legends, cultural icons, and Dave Kennedy must submit just like all other speakers.

A printable checklist for the submission can be found at <https://kernelcon.org/cfp/CFP-2023.pdf>

Templates are available in [plaintext](#), [markdown](#), [docx](#), [odt](#), and [LaTeX](#).

A sample submission can be found at <https://kernelcon.org/cfp/CFP-example.txt>

Submissions should be sent to cfp@kernelcon.org. You should receive an automated confirmation email immediately denoting that the system has received your submission, and a manual confirmation email within 36 hours. If you don't, you should inquire at cfp@kernelcon.org.

Again, your core submission should be in plain text or PDF. The PDF should contain the required information as text - the content will be extracted from the PDF. Supplementary files such as draft slides, extended outlines, and whitepapers may help your submission and may also be attached to the email.

Grant of Copyright Use

I warrant that the above work has not been previously published elsewhere, or if it has, that I have obtained permission for its publication by Kernelcon and that I will promptly supply Kernelcon with wording for crediting the original publication and copyright owner. If I am selected for presentation, I hereby give Kernelcon permission to duplicate, record, and redistribute this presentation, which includes, but is not limited to, any conference proceedings, conference CD, video, audio, and handouts to the conference attendees for educational, on-line, and all other purposes.

Terms of Speaking Requirements

1. I will submit a completed presentation, a copy of the tool(s) and/or code(s), and a reference to all of the tool(s), law(s), web sites and/or publications referenced at the end of my talk and as described in this CFP submission for publication by Kernelcon.
2. I will submit any revisions to the originally submitted Title, Abstract and Biography for the Kernelcon website and printed conference materials by March 3, 2023.
3. I will complete my presentation within the time allocated to me - not running over, or excessively under, the time allocation.
4. I understand that the Kernelcon venue will provide 1 projector feed, microphone(s), wired and/or wireless Internet. I understand that I am responsible for providing all other necessary equipment, including laptops and machines, to complete my presentation.
5. I understand that I will be responsible for my own hotel and travel expenses.

As detailed above, I, (insert primary speaker name), have read and agree to the Grant of Copyright Use.

I, (insert primary speaker name), have read and agree to the Terms of Speaking Requirements.