Kevin Liao

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Research Interests

Security & privacy, programming languages, cryptography, distributed systems

Education

M.S. in Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Aug. 2017-May 2019

Advisor: Andrew Miller

B.S. in Computer Science with Honors, Arizona State University Aug. 2013-May 2017

Advisor: Adam Doupé

Honors & Awards

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2017

Outstanding Undergraduate in Computer Science, Arizona State University

May 2017

Moeur Award, Arizona State University

May 2017

Research Funding

SaUCy: Modular Testing and Verification for Distributed Cryptography 2018

Facebook, \$50,000

PI: Andrew Miller, Co-PI: Kevin Liao

Inductive Reverse Engineering of Web Applications 2016-2017

Fulton Undergraduate Research Initiative, \$3,000

Advisor: Adam Doupé

Publications

* = alphabetical authorship

Refereed Conferences

ILC: A Calculus for Composable, Computational Cryptography

Kevin Liao, Matthew A. Hammer, and Andrew Miller

Proceedings of the Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI), June 2019.

Behind Closed Doors: Measurement and Analysis of CryptoLocker Ransoms in Bitcoin

Kevin Liao, Ziming Zhao, Adam Doupé, and Gail-Joon Ahn

Proceedings of the Symposium on Electronic Crime Research (eCrime), June 2016.

Refereed Workshops

Incentivizing Blockchain Forks via Whale Transactions

Kevin Liao and Jonathan Katz

Proceedings of the Workshop on Bitcoin and Blockchain Research (BITCOIN), April 2017.

Books & Chapters

Ransomware and Cryptocurrency: Partners in Crime

Gail-Joon Ahn, Adam Doupé, Ziming Zhao, and Kevin Liao

Book chapter in Cybercrime Through an Interdisciplinary Lens ed. by Thomas J. Holt.

Manuscripts In Submission

A Probabilistic Separation Logic

Gilles Barthe, Justin Hsu, Kevin Liao*

Logging to the Danger Zone: In-Memory Attacks and Defenses on System Auditing Frameworks

Riccardo Paccagnella, Kevin Liao, Adam Bates, Dave (Jing) Tian

Black-Box Web Vulnerability Analysis Using White-Box Techniques

Kevin Liao, Connor Nelson, Zackary Crosley, and Adam Doupé

Experience

Max Planck Institute for Cyber Security & Privacy

Researcher

Bochum, Germany

Aug. 2019–Present

Advisor: Gilles Barthe

Inria Sophia Antipolis - Méditerranée Valbonne, France Visiting Researcher Aug. 2019-Present

Advisor: Gilles Barthe

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, IL, USA

Research Assistant

Aug. 2017–Aug. 2019

Advisor: Andrew Miller

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ, USA
Research Assistant

May 2017–Aug. 2017

Advisor: Adam Doupé

University of Maryland College Park, MD, USA
Undergraduate Research Assistant Jun. 2016–Aug. 2016

Undergraduate Research Assistant Advisor: Jonathan Katz

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ, USA
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Mar. 2015–May 2017

Advisors: Gail-Joon Ahn, Adam Doupé, Ziming Zhao

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CS498: Applied Cryptography Fall 2018

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University

CSE220: Programming for Computer Engineering Spring 2017
CSE240: Introduction to Programming Languages Fall 2016
CSE110: Introduction to Programming Fall 2014

Advising & Mentoring

Dhruv Bohra, Eunice Zhou (UIUC PURE program) Fall 2018

Talks

ILC: A Calculus for Composable, Computational Cryptography

Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation (Phoenix, AZ, USA)

Jun. 2019

Incentivizing Blockchain Forks via Whale Transactions

Workshop on Bitcoin and Blockchain Research (Sliema, Malta) Apr. 2017

Measurement and Analysis of CryptoLocker Ransoms in Bitcoin

Symposium on Electronic Crime Research (Toronto, Canada)

Jun. 2016

Service & Outreach

Program Committee, IEEE International Conference on Blockchain and Cryptocurrency (ICBC) 2019

Course Developer, First Gen Scientists Fall 2016