

# Manaar Alam

Secured Embedded Architecture Laboratory  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal, India.

+91 9073202113 • alam.manaar@iitkgp.ac.in • manaaralam.github.io  
manaaralam • manaar.alam

## Current Position

### Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Ph. D. in Computer Science and Engineering,

I am working under the supervision of Dr. Debdeep Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Sourangshu Bhattacharya. My research interest mainly lies in the application of Machine Learning techniques in the field of security.

Kharagpur

July 2016–Present

## Education

### Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

M. Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, OGPA - 9.7/10

Received M. Tech. with *Distinction* and secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place from the department.

Dhanbad

July 2014–June 2016

### Institute of Engineering and Management (under WBUT)

B. Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, DGPA - 8.88/10

Kolkata

August 2009–May 2013

### Hindu School (under WBCHSE)

Higher Secondary Examination (10+2), Overall - 92.6%

Secured 13<sup>th</sup> place in all over West Bengal. Scored 100% in Mathematics.

Kolkata

July 2007–May 2009

### Modern School (under WBBSE)

Secondary Examination (10), Overall - 89.37%

Kolkata

May 2007

## Internship Experience

### Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.....

Title: *Lightweight Assessment of Malware for Embedded Architectures.*

Supervisor: Dr. Siew-Kei Lam.

Description: Worked in a team and developed a light-weight application to detect and prevent Malware for embedded platforms based on statistical  $t$  – test. The prototype of the application are implemented for both x86 and ARM processors.

Duration: August 2017 - January 2018.

## Academic Projects

### M. Tech. Thesis.....

Title: *A Novel Parallel Search Technique for Multi-Objective Optimization.*

Supervisor: Dr. Haider Banka.

Description: Developed a new Parallel Search Technique to deal with various Multi-Objective Optimization Problems. With binary encoding scheme this novel technique performs better than most of the existing multi-objective optimization algorithms like NSGA-II, and MOPS.

Duration: July 2015 - April 2016.

### B. Tech. Dissertation.....

Title: *Web Sentiment Analysis.*

Supervisor: Dr. Satyajit Chakraborty.

Description: Designed a web tool which allows visitors to assess the web sentiment on any subject. For each topic a pie chart expresses the current real-time sentiment along with a list of the latest news headlines associated with the subject. The pie chart and the headlines allow seeing what issues or events drive the sentiment in a positive or negative way.

Duration: August 2012 - July 2013.

## Other Projects

---

### Vocational Training.....

**Title:** *Online Job Portal using PHP and MySQL.*

**Organizer:** NIVT India.

**Description:** Designed an online job portal which helps both the job seekers and the recruiters to find the right organization and the employees respectively.

**Duration:** June 2012 - July 2012.

**Title:** *Online Photo Gallery using J2EE and MySQL*

**Organizer:** NIVT India.

**Description:** Developed an online photo gallery allowing every user to create online albums, organize digital photos and to share with other users.

**Duration:** December 2011 - January 2012.

## Competitions

---

### HOST: Hardware Demo

2018

*IEEE International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust (HOST)*

*Washington DC*

Designed a lightweight malware detection methodology for embedded platforms along with a fast ransomware detection techniques using Hardware Performance Counters. Reached Final round in the competition from all over the world.

### Cyber Security Awareness Week - Embedded Security Challenge in India

2016

*Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur*

*Kanpur*

Designed a novel hardware mitigation technique for memory corruption and control flow integrity attacks in embedded systems. Secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the competition from all over India.

### International Championship for Artificial Intelligence & Networking

2015

*Indian Institute of Technology Bombay*

*Mumbai*

Designed a cost effective prototype of a carom playing bot from scrap materials. Secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the competition from all over India. Demonstration can be found on the following link. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18lkxVzs\\_Zk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18lkxVzs_Zk)).

### National Round of Indo-US Robo League

2015

*Indian Institute of Technology Bombay*

*Mumbai*

Reached Pre-Final round for designing a cost effective Line Follower Robot.

## Invited Talks

---

- Workshop on Advanced Side Channel Evaluation of Hardware Security (ASCEHS), Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, July 2018.
- ACM Summer School on Fundamentals for Cryptology Research, Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, June 2018.

## Achievements

---

- Recipient of DSCI Excellence Award as a team - felicitated by Bharat Chamber of Commerce.
- 3rd Best Poster Award in Young Researcher's Forum at SPACE 2018.
- Finalist of Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship India 2017.
- National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship awarded by WBMDFC from 2009 to 2013.
- Certificate of Excellence on ERP – Essentials from Research Software Solutions (P) Ltd. (Microsoft Gold Certified Partner), April 2010.
- National Merit Scholarship awarded by Govt. of India for securing position among Top 20 in Higher Secondary Board Examination in 2009.

## Professional Services

---

- **Reviewer of Journals:** *IEEE TVLSI, ACM TECS, Springer Sādhanā*
- **Sub-Reviewer of Conferences:** *COSADE '18, DAC '18*
- **Sub-Reviewer of Workshops:** *TopinHES '18*

## Teaching Assistance

---

Computer Programming Lab: Autumn, 2015 and Spring, 2016	IIT(ISM) Dhanbad
Data Structures Lab: Autumn, 2015	IIT(ISM) Dhanbad
Algorithm Design & Analysis Lab: Spring, 2016	IIT(ISM) Dhanbad
Programming and Data Structures Lab: Spring, 2017	IIT Kharagpur
Foundation of Algorithm Design and Machine Learning: Spring, 2018	IIT Kharagpur
Cryptography and Network Security: Autumn, 2018	IIT Kharagpur
High Performance Computer Architecture: Spring, 2019	IIT Kharagpur

## Extra-Curricular Activities

---

- o Awards and Positions in inter-school sit-and-draw competitions.
- o Participated and secured 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in a Mathematics Competition at FESTRONIX 2011 held at Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, February 2011.

## Personal Details

---

**Date of Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1991.

**Gender:** Male.

**Languages Known:** English, Bengali, Hindi.

**Nationality:** Indian.

## Journals

---

- [j2] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Sayan Sinha, Chester Rebeiro, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. IPA: An Instruction Profiling based Micro-Architectural Side-Channel Attack on Block Ciphers In *Journal of Hardware and Systems Security (HASS)*, Online First Articles. DOI: 10.1007/s41635-018-0060-3
- [j1] Debapriya Basu Roy, **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Vidya Govindan, Francesco Regazzoni, Rajat Subhra Chakraborty, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. Customized Instructions for Protection Against Memory Integrity Attacks. In *IEEE Embedded Systems Letters (ESL)*, Volume: 10, Issue: 3, September 2018, pages 91–94. DOI: 10.1109/LES.2018.2828506.

## Submitted Journals

---

- [sj3] Sai Praveen Kadiyala, **Manaar Alam**, Yash Shrivastava, Sikhar Patranabis, Muhamed Fauzi Bin Abbas, Arnab Biswas, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Siew-Kei Lam, and Thambipillai Srikanthan. LAMBDA: Lightweight Assessment of Malware for emBedeD Architectures. In *ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (TECS)*. [Under Review]
- [sj2] **Manaar Alam**, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Sai Praveen Kadiyala, Siew-Kei Lam, and Thambipillai Srikanthan. Improving Accuracy of HPC-based Malware Classification for Embedded Platforms using Gradient Descent Optimization. In *Journal of Cryptographic Engineering (JCEN)*. [Under Review]
- [sj1] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Sourangshu Bhattacharya. Victims can be Saviors: A Machine Learning based detection for Micro-Architectural Side-Channel Attacks In *ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS)*. [First Revision Submitted]

## Conferences

---

- [c7] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Swastika Dutta, Sayan Sinha, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Anupam Chattopadhyay. RATAFIA: Ransomware Analysis using Time And Frequency Informed Autoencoders. In *IEEE International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust, HOST 2019, McLean, United States of America, May 6-10, 2019*. [Accepted]
- [c6] Nimesh Kirit Shah, **Manaar Alam**, Durga Prasad Sahoo, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Arindam Basu. A 0.16pJ/bit Recurrent Neural Network Based PUF for Enhanced Machine Learning Attack Resistance. In *24th Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference, ASP-DAC 2019, Tokyo, Japan, January 21-24, 2019*. DOI: 10.1145/3287624.3287696.

- [c5] **Manaar Alam**, Sayan Sinha, Sarani Bhattacharya, Swastika Dutta, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay and Anupam Chattopadhyay. RAPPER: Ransomware Prevention via Performance Counters. In *Australian Workshop on Offensive Cryptography, Kangacrypt 2018, Adelaide, Australia, December 7–8, 2018*.
- [c4] **Manaar Alam**, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Sai Praveen Kadiyala, Siew-Kei Lam, and Thambipillai Srikanthan. Side-Channel Assisted Malware Classifier with Gradient Descent Correction for Embedded Platforms. In *7th International Workshop on Security Proofs for Embedded Systems, PROOFS@CHES 2018, Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 13, 2018*, pages 1–15. DOI: 10.29007/5sdj.
- [c3] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. Tackling the Time-Defence: An Instruction Count Based Micro-architectural Side-Channel Attack on Block Ciphers. In *7th International Conference on Security, Privacy, and Applied Cryptography Engineering, SPACE 2017, Goa, India, December 13-17, 2017*, pages 30–52. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-71501-8\_3.
- [c2] **Manaar Alam**, Debapriya Basu Roy, Sarani Bhattacharya, Vidya Govindan, Rajat Subhra Chakraborty, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. SmashClean: A hardware level mitigation to stack smashing attacks in OpenRISC. In *ACM/IEEE International Conference on Formal Methods and Models for System Design, MEMOCODE 2016, Kanpur, India, November 18-20, 2016*, pages 1–4. DOI: 10.1109/MEMCOD.2016.7797764.
- [c1] **Manaar Alam**, Soumyajit Chatterjee, and Haider Banka. A novel parallel search technique for optimization. In *3rd International Conference on Recent Advances in Information Technology, RAIT 2016, Dhanbad, India, March 3-5, 2016*, pages 259–263. DOI: 10.1109/RAIT.2016.7507912.

## Patents

---

- [pt1] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Anupam Chattopadhyay. RAPPER: Ransomware Prevention via Performance Counters. **[Filed Indian Patent. Patent Application No.: 201831045833]**

## Poster Presentations

---

- [p5] **Manaar Alam**, Arnab Bag, Debapriya Basu Roy, Dirmanto Jap, Jakub Breier, Shivam Bhasin, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. Enhancing Fault Tolerance of Neural Networks for Security-Critical Applications. *POSTER: ACM/IEEE Design and Automation Conference (DAC)*, Las Vegas, United States of America, June 2019. **[Accepted]**
- [p4] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Anupam Chattopadhyay. Detecting Malware and Ransomware using Hardware Performance Counters. *POSTER: Security, Privacy, and Applied Cryptography Engineering (SPACE)*, Kanpur, India, December 2018. **[Third Best Poster Award]**
- [p3] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Anupam Chattopadhyay. Detecting Malware and Ransomware using Hardware Performance Counters. *POSTER: IEEE International Symposium on Hardware Oriented Security and Trust (HOST)*, Washington DC, United States of America, May 2018.
- [p2] Sai Praveen Kadiyala, Muhamed Fauzi Bin Abbas, Yash Shrivastava, Sikhar Patranabis, **Manaar Alam**, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Siew-Kei Lam, and Thambipillai Srikanthan. LAMBDA: Lightweight Assessment of Malware for emBeddeD Architectures. *POSTER: Singapore International Cyber Week (SICW)*, Singapore, September 2017.
- [p1] **Manaar Alam**, Debapriya Basu Roy, Sarani Bhattacharya, Vidya Govindan, Rajat Subhra Chakraborty, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. SmashClean: A Hardware level mitigation to stack smashing attacks in OpenRISC. *POSTER: Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW)*, Kanpur, India, November 2016.

## arXiv/ePrint Papers

---

- [w6] **Manaar Alam**, Arnab Bag, Debapriya Basu Roy, Dirmanto Jap, Jakub Breier, Shivam Bhasin, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. Enhancing Fault Tolerance of Neural Networks for Security-Critical Applications In *arXiv, CoRR, abs/1902.04560*, February 2019. **[Accepted as Work-in-Progress in DAC 2019]**
- [w5] Nimesh Shah, **Manaar Alam**, Durga Prasad Sahoo, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Arindam Basu. A 0.16pJ/bit Recurrent Neural Network Based PUF for Enhanced Machine Learning Attack Resistance In *arXiv, CoRR, abs/1812.05347*, December 2018. **[Accepted in ASP-DAC 2019]**
- [w4] **Manaar Alam** and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. How Secure are Deep Learning Algorithms from Side-Channel based Reverse Engineering? In *arXiv, CoRR, abs/1811.05259*, November 2018.

- [w3] Anirban Chakraborty, **Manaar Alam**, Vishal Dey, Anupam Chattopadhyay, and Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. Adversarial Attacks and Defences: A Survey. In *arXiv, CoRR, abs/1810.00069*, September 2018.
- [w2] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Anupam Chattopadhyay. RAPPER: Ransomware Prevention via Performance Counters. In *arXiv, CoRR, abs/1802.03909*, February 2018. **[Modified Version Accepted in Kangacrypt 2018]**
- [w1] **Manaar Alam**, Sarani Bhattacharya, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Sourangshu Bhattacharya. Performance Counters to Rescue: A Machine Learning based safeguard against Micro-architectural Side-Channel-Attacks. In *Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2017/564*, July 2017.

## References

---

- **Dr. Debdeep Mukhopadhyay**, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, debdeep@cse.iitkgp.ernet.in
- **Dr. Sourangshu Bhattacharya**, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, sourangshu@cse.iitkgp.ernet.in
- **Dr. Haider Banka**, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, banka.h.cse@ismdhanbad.ac.in