

Michele Campobasso

PhD in Information Security @ Eindhoven University of Technology

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about me

Computer scientist with an unusual interest for social relations. I am often called optimistic, but I consider myself realistic. I believe that many problems need just a different approach to be solved. I am the kind of guy that wonders 'why' a thing has always been like that, often between 10PM and 3AM.

personal

pronouns: he/him
nationality: Italian

languages

Italian: mother tongue
English: professional proficiency

areas of specialization

Threat modeling, emerging threats, underground market investigation, threat quantification, penetration testing

interests

Biking, go-karts, hiking, organizing social events, on-the-road travels, fixing 'broken' electronics, cooking
Italian & exotic food, my nerdy YouTube feed

@alpha_centauri3
 michelecampobasso

EDUCATION

2019-2024

Doctorate in Information Security – Specialty in Cybercrime Ecosystem

Thesis title: Understanding and Characterizing the Cybercriminal Ecosystem Enabling Attack Innovation at Scale
Eindhoven University of Technology

2016-2019

Master in Computer Science and Engineering

Thesis title: CARONTE: a Crawler for Adversarial Resources Over Non-Trusted, high-profile Environments
Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

2011-2016

Bachelor in Computer Engineering

Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

RESEARCH OVERVIEW & IMPACT

- EXPERTISE IN: **underground forum marketplaces** and their **impact** in the threat landscape [2], **emerging threats** and **threat modeling** [5], underground community infiltration, **stealth** data collection [3], **attacker preferences** and **cyber threat quantification** [1]
- RESEARCH ON EMERGENT THREAT [5] instrumental to **international investigation led by the Dutch National Police, FBI & EUROPOL**, leading to hundreds of arrests worldwide & market shutdown in a massive law enforcement operation ([press release](#)).
- CONTRIBUTION ON ACCESS-AS-A-SERVICE [4] was **presented to the U.S. Department of Commerce**; NSO Group was included as a company threatening the US national security ([press release](#)).
- LARGE INDUSTRY & MEDIA ATTENTION ([Troy Hunt](#), [Recorded Future](#) on Genesis Market, local media)
- EXPLOIT PREDICTION SCORING SYSTEM (EPSS) special interest group member and contributor ([link](#)).

WORK EXPERIENCE

2019-2022

Head of lab activities for Offensive Computer Security

ORGANIZING HANDS-ON LAB SESSIONS AND MANAGING 150+ STUDENTS
Eindhoven University of Technology ↗

2019-2024

Supervisor and coordinator of scientific projects at the MSc level

9 GROUPS, 35 STUDENTS OA – THREAT INTEL EXTRACTION, MALWARE ANALYSIS
Eindhoven University of Technology ↗

2019-2023

Analyst of underground cybercriminal markets: infiltration, stealth monitoring, threat modeling, and activity estimation

OBTAIN ACCESS TO SEGREGATED MARKETS; AUTOMATED, STEALTH DATA EXTRACTION WITH TAILORED, CUSTOM CREATED CRAWLERS; EMPIRICAL AND STATISTICAL METHODS, UNDERGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

Eindhoven University of Technology ↗

2019-2024

Doctorate in Information Security - Specialty: Cybercrime Ecosystem

Eindhoven University of Technology ↗

Internship: Junior Web Developer and Beta Tester

GetConnected S.r.l. ↗

Internship: Junior Developer

AltaVia S.r.l. ↗

INVITED TALKS

May 2023

'Not all cybercrime is boring if you know what to look for' – UNDERGROUND THREAT SOURCES, CYBER THREAT QUANTIFICATION @ *INTERSCT 2023*, The Hague, NL

Mar 2023

"Do we have an agreement?": Exploiting Trust Mechanisms in Cybercriminal Underground Markets to Derive Attacker Preferences and Estimate Threat Levels – UNDERGROUND THREAT SOURCES, CYBER THREAT QUANTIFICATION @ *Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*, Bologna, IT

May 2022

'Impersonation-as-a-Service: Characterizing the Emerging Criminal Infrastructure for User Impersonation at Scale' – EMERGING THREATS, THREAT MODELING, CYBER THREAT QUANTIFICATION @ *INTERSCT 2022*, Enschede, NL

Feb 2021

Not all threat (actors) are the same: a multidisciplinary take on cybercrime proliferation – EMERGING THREATS, THREAT MODELING @ *Dutch Police Cybercrime Team, Online*

Nov 2020

'Impersonation-as-a-Service: Characterizing the Emerging Criminal Infrastructure for User Impersonation at Scale' – EMERGING THREATS, THREAT MODELING @ *ASML, Eindhoven*, NL

Mar 2020

'Myth-busting the underground: a journey into the (often un)organized cybercrime' – UNDERGROUND ECOSYSTEM @ *Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*, Bologna, IT

TECHNICAL CYBERSECURITY EXPERIENCE

2019-2022	Head of lab activities for Offensive Computer Security at Eindhoven University of Technology ORGANIZING HANDS-ON LAB SESSIONS AND MANAGING 150+ STUDENTS
2019-2021	Malware analysis and reverse engineering EXPERIENCE WITH GHIDRA & GDB MATURED WITH CTFs AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH
2018-2023	Tool creation for stealth data extraction BROWSER INSTRUMENTATION, HUMAN BEHAVIOR MODELING, DATA PARSING ON THE FLY
2016-2020	HackTheBox CTFs BEST RANKING GLOBALLY ON THE PLATFORM: 187, COMPLETION SCORE OF 76%
2019-2020	HackTheBox write-ups blog CO-AUTHOR OF A BLOG CONTAINING DETAILED WRITE-UPS OF RETIRED BOXES FROM THE PLATFORM HACKTHEBOX
2017-2019	IO NetGarage REVERSE ENGINEERING & BINARY EXPLOITATION. BASIC EXPLOIT CRAFTING SKILLS
2018-2019	Various CTF challenges AS A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA'S HACKING TEAM ULISSELABBO

FULL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Aug 2023	[1] Know Your Cybercriminal: Evaluating Attacker Preferences by Measuring Profile Sales on an Active, Leading Criminal Market for User Impersonation at Scale (paper). MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI; <i>32nd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 2023), Los Angeles, USA</i> 
Jul 2023	[2] You Can Tell a Cybercriminal by the Company they Keep: A Framework to Infer the Relevance of Underground Communities to the Threat Landscape (paper). MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI; <i>The 22nd Workshop on the Economics of Information Security (WEIS 2023), Geneva, Switzerland</i> 
Nov 2022	[3] THREAT/crawl: a Trainable, Highly-Reusable, and Extensible Automated Method and Tool to Crawl Criminal Underground Forums (paper). MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI; <i>The 17th Symposium on Electronic Crime Research (APWG eCrime 2022), online</i>
Feb 2022	SAIBERSOC: A Methodology and Tool for Experimenting with Security Operation Centers (paper). MARTIN ROSSO, MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, GANDGUULGA GANKHUYAG, LUCA ALLODI; <i>Digital Threats: Research and Practice</i> .
Mar 2021	[4] A Primer on the Proliferation of Offensive Cyber Capabilities (paper). WINNONA DE SOMBRE, MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI, JAMES SHIRES, JD WORK, ROBERT MORGUS, PATRICK HOWELL O'NEILL, TREY HERR; <i>In-Depth Research & Reports, Atlantic Council</i>
Feb 2022	SAIBERSOC: Synthetic Attack Injection to Benchmark and Evaluate the Performance of Security Operation Centers (paper). MARTIN ROSSO, MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, GANDGUULGA GANKHUYAG, LUCA ALLODI; <i>The 36th Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC 2020), online</i> Distinguished Paper with Artifacts
Nov 2020	[5] Impersonation-as-a-Service: Characterizing the Emerging Criminal Infrastructure for User Impersonation at Scale (paper). MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI; <i>2020 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2020), online</i> Mentioned in ACM CCS 2020 Highlights
Jul 2019	CARONTE: a Crawler for Adversarial Resources Over Non-Trusted, high-profile Environments (paper). MICHELE CAMPOBASSO, LUCA ALLODI; <i>The 2019 IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy Workshops (EuroS&PW) - 1st Workshop on Attackers and Cyber-Crime Operations, Stockholm, Sweden</i> 