

Maryam Rostamipoor

System Security Researcher
Port Jefferson, NY

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EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Computer Science** 2021-2026
Stony Brook University, NY GPA: 3.91/4.0
- **M.S. in Computer Science** 2021-2023
Stony Brook University, NY GPA: 3.91/4.0
- **M.E. in Information Security Engineering** 2011-2013
Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran GPA: 17.73/20
- **B.E. in Computer Engineering** 2007-2011
Shiraz University of Technology, Iran GPA: 16.64/20

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Rust (1 year), Go (1 year), Python (5 years), Java (2 years), C (1 year).
- **Cloud & DevOps Tools:** Docker (3 years), Kubernetes (1 year), AWS (1 year).
- **Security Tools:** Burp Suite (11 years), Nessus (5 years), sqlmap (5 years), Acunetix (5 years), AppScan (5 years).
- **Security Concepts & Technologies:** Penetration Testing (8 years), Cryptography, Authentication, Authorization, VPN, DDoS/DoS Mitigation, Malware Protection, SSL/TLS, Firewall, WAF.
- **Version Control & Collaboration:** Git.
- **Web Development:** Python (Django, Flask), REST APIs, HTML, CSS, JavaScript.
- **Operating Systems:** Linux, Windows.
- **Soft Skills:** Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, Self-Learning, Presentation, Adaptability.

EXPERIENCE

- **Research Assistant at Hexlab** Feb 2021 - now
Stony Brook University, Advisor: Dr. Michalis Polychronakis
 - *KubeKeeper*: Designed and developed a solution to protect Kubernetes Secrets from leakage due to excessive permissions. The system automatically encrypts Secrets and ensures only explicitly authorized Pods can access decrypted secrets. It operates transparently, requiring no changes to existing infrastructure or application code.
 - *LeakLess*: Designed and developed a practical approach to mitigate memory disclosure vulnerabilities—including transient execution attacks—in serverless environments. LeakLess uses selective in-memory encryption for developer-annotated sensitive data and is implemented in Rust for safety and performance.
 - *Confine*: Developed a Linux binary analysis tool that automatically extracts system call argument values and generates Seccomp profiles. The tool was implemented in Python using the Angr platform.
- **Sadad Electronic Payment Company** May 2018 - Feb 2021
Head of Software Security Team Tehran, Iran
 - Led a team of 3 security engineers, providing mentorship and training while ensuring thorough verification of findings and effective prioritization of remediations.
 - Identified and remediated critical vulnerabilities through penetration testing, improved server security via hardening and HSM configuration.
 - Guided development team on secure coding standards, audited WAF configurations to enhance security.
- **APA Research Center of Amirkabir University of Technology** Feb 2017 - May 2018
Researcher and Senior Web Application Security Engineer Tehran, Iran
 - Performed black-box and gray-box penetration testing on customers' web applications, mobile applications, and APIs, following OWASP guidelines and industry-standard methodologies to identify and report vulnerabilities.
 - Conducted research and assessment of security benchmarks (CIS) for web servers and operating systems, developing a set of well-documented best practices that improved security posture for multiple organizations.
 - Collaborated on research into Pure-Call Oriented Programming (PCOP) and co-authored a published paper.
- **Stock Exchange Organization** Dec 2015 - Feb 2017
Senior Web Application Security Engineer Tehran, Iran
 - Performed black/gray box penetration testing on web applications and APIs for the organization and its dependent companies, following OWASP guidelines. This work resulted in a significant reduction in the risk of security breaches for sensitive trading data.
 - Hardened 54 CentOS Linux servers within one month by developing and implementing a comprehensive security hardening program. Created a custom script to automatically detect and audit security configurations.

PHD COURSE PROJECTS

- **System Security (C Programming)** Fall 2021
 - Developed a multi-threaded version of ROP-defender using Intel Pin to defend against Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) attacks.
 - Created a tool for transparent application functionality extension, ensuring seamless functionality augmentation.
 - Developed real-world scenario exploits, including stack-based overflow, data-only, return-2-libc, and ROP exploits.
- **Network Security (Go Programming)** Spring 2021
 - Designed and implemented a passive Network Monitoring tool (Source code).
 - Developed a specialized detection tool to identify and counteract passive DNS poisoning attacks (Source code).
 - Implemented a plugboard proxy to fortify the security of publicly accessible network services, adding an extra layer of encryption (Source code).
- **Operating Systems (C Programming)** Spring 2021
 - Implemented a file system, a customized CPU profiler, and a distributed shared memory mechanism.
 - Developed a special cryptographic system call for Linux security.
- **Visualization (Python and JavaScript Programming)** Spring 2022
 - Developed an interactive dashboard comparing democracy levels across countries using global datasets, selected as a star project (Source code | Video).

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (**GAANN**) Fellowship Award. Aug. 2023
- Graduate Students in **STEM** Leadership & Life Design Fellowship Award. Aug. 2023
- **3rd** Place in Presentation on Innovative Techniques, SU-CTF. Nov. 2016
- **1st** among all M.Sc. students at Amirkabir University of Technology. Sep. 2013
- Ranked **35th** in the National University Entrance Examination for Graduate Schools. May 2011
- Top **0.8%** Nation-wide entrance exam of Iranian Universities. Jul. 2007

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Maryam Rostamipoor**, Aliakbar Sadeghi, and Michalis Polychronakis, “*KubeKeeper: Protecting Kubernetes Secrets Against Excessive Permission*”, Under submission to USENIX 2025.
- **Maryam Rostamipoor**, Seyedhamed Ghavamnia, and Michalis Polychronakis, “*LeakLess: Selective Data Protection against Memory Leakage Attacks for Serverless Environments*”, In Proceedings of the Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS), February 2025, San Diego, CA.
- **Maryam Rostamipoor**, Seyedhamed Ghavamnia, and Michalis Polychronakis, “*Confine: Fine-grained System Call Filtering for Container Attack Surface Reduction*”, Published in the *Computers & Security Journal*, 2023.
- AliAkbar Sadeghi, Salman Niksefat, **Maryam Rostamipoor**, “*Pure-Call Oriented Programming (PCOP): chaining the gadgets using call instructions*”, Published in the *Journal of Computer Virology and Hacking Techniques*, May 2017.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- **Teaching Assistant, Operating Systems** Instructor: Dr. Erez Zadok
Stony Brook University Spring 2022
- **Workshop Instructor, Web Application Penetration Testing**
Mazandaran University, Mazandaran, Iran Summer 2018
- **Workshop Instructor, Web Application Penetration Testing**
Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran Fall 2017

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCES

- **Mentor, Undergraduate Research Projects** Spring 2023 - Fall 2024
Stony Brook University
 - Mentored Daniel Kogan in applying LeakLess to enhance security on Cloudflare Workerd (open-sourced Cloudflare Workers).
 - Mentored Jie Chen in working with Kubernetes third-party applications, focusing on learning how to identify and mitigate excessive RBAC permissions to follow the principle of least privilege.