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**IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of
Integrated Circuits and Systems**

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Dear Professor Narayanan,

My name is Nicholas Houghton, I have just completed my Masters of Applied Science at the University of Victoria in British Columbia Canada. I have focused my efforts on the discipline of hardware security and have been studying the vulnerabilities of modern Field Programmable Gate-Arrays. Please find attached our manuscript "Automated Hardware Trojan Detection in FPGAs" which we wish to submit for publication as an original research article in your journal *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems*.

This work provides a new methodology for automatically detecting and describing hardware trojans. Several new techniques presented have allowed this effort to be the first to employ direct bitstream analysis. This success has allowed for the development of a powerful and reliable software application. Its efficacy is proven by test of a series of known trojan benchmarks. In our manuscript we describe how our application was able to successfully detect and describe all trojan benchmarks tested.

We hope this submission will be a valuable contribution to the field of integrated circuit design. We wish to express our deepest gratitude for your consideration of this work.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Houghton