Nicolas Alhaddad

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EDUCATION

Boston University

Boston, USA

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Advisor: Mayank Varia, GPA: 4.00/4.00

2018–Current

American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon 2016–2017

M.S. in Computer Science (transferred)

American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

B.S. in Computer Science

2012–2016

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] N. Alhaddad, S. Duan, M. Varia, and H. Zhang, Practical and improved byzantine reliable broadcast and asynchronous verifiable information dispersal from hash functions, Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2022/171, https://ia.cr/2022/171, 2022.
- [2] N. Alhaddad, S. Duan, M. Varia, and H. Zhang, Succinct erasure coding proof systems, Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2021/1500, https://ia.cr/2021/1500, 2021.
- [3] N. Alhaddad, M. Varia, and H. Zhang, *High-threshold avss with optimal communication complexity*, Financial Cryptography and Data Security, https://fc21.ifca.ai/papers/93.pdf, 2021.
- [4] R. Issa, N. Alhaddad, and M. Varia, *Hecate: Abuse reporting in secure messengers with sealed sender*, Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2021/1686, https://ia.cr/2021/1686, 2021.

EXPERIENCE

Clabs
Remote, USA
Internship in Cryptography
Sep-Nov 2021

- Odis++
- I designed and implemented ODIS++, an efficient oblivious message retrieval protocol on the Celo alfajores testnet. In particular, the protocol is used by senders to generate new stealth addresses for receivers. This enables senders to communicate or send funds privately to parties with public addresses. ODIS++ supports delegation; a receiver can delegate the task of detecting a message to a third party while still maintaining confidentiality of the message content.
- Auditable Mixer
- I designed a new distributed trust-less mixer that offers privacy while still being auditable.

Boston University

Boston, USA

Software Engineering Fellow/BU Software Application and Innovation Lab (SAIL)

2018

- Conclave
- Conclave is a query compiler that automatically accelerates analytical queries by transforming a relational query into a combination of scalable, local, cleartext processing and small, isolated Secure multi-party computation (MPC) steps. Working with Prof. Kfoury and Prof. Andrei Lapets, I formally defined the syntax and semantics of the domain specific query language of conclave. I also worked on static execution cost analysis for static reasoning about functional properties of conclave programs; with the goal of choosing the best conclave back-end based on message complexity performance.
- Conclave Web

Conclave Web allows multiple analysts/researchers to compute aggregate statistics over datasets uploaded to dataverse without revealing any private data to one another, except for what can be inferred from the output. Conclave web uses conclave to generate the appropriate mpc code and offload to it to containers that run the computation jointly. Conclave web uses openshift and kubernetes for that purpose. Conclave web is currently being deployed on the Massachusetts Open Cloud. I worked with Prof. Mayank Varia on designing and implementing the key management system of conclave web.

American University Of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

Research Assistant 2017

- High Performance Surgical Simulation
- I worked with Prof. George Turkiyyah on High Performance Surgical Simulation. This project was in collaboration with faculty members from North Carolina University at Chapel Hill and Qatar Robotic Surgery Center. I worked on the geometric model for cutting tetrahedral meshes efficiently. We created a mathematical framework for representing, analyzing, and evaluating different nonlinear cuts on the mesh. We brought those ideas to life by creating a C++ library for that purpose.

Interactive life

Beirut, Lebanon

Fullstack Software Engineer/Mobile Team Manager

2015-2017

- Instant generation of native mobile applications with backend support
- Interactivelife is a start-up based in Mercer Island, Washington with a team of developers located in Lebanon and India. I worked closely with the CTO on managing and designing the infrastructure of Interactive life. I transformed business ideas and requirements into viable code while integrating work between different local and remote members of the team. I helped design, scale, rewrite and automate interactivelife's mobile and web applications, we served more than 30+ apps using our system.

Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR)

Beirut, Lebanon

Software engineer/Content Creator

2014

- Cyber-Arabs browser and Cyber-Arabs mobile application
- I compiled a modified version of firefox that connects to IWPR servers as a way to circumvent goeverment censorship. I also created a cross platform mobile application for CyberArabs.

Teaching

• Teaching Fellow at Boston University	Spring 2020
$Applied\ Cryptography (CS568)$	
• Teaching Fellow at Boston University	Fall 2019
$Network\ Security (CS391/CS558)$	
• Teaching Fellow at Boston University	Spring 2019

 $Applied \ Cryptography (CS568)$

Fall 2018

• Teaching Fellow at Boston University
Introduction to Computing Systems (CS350)

SKILLS LANGUAGES

- Programming Languages: Bash, C/C++, Gallina(Coq), Java, Javascript, PHP, Python
- Web and Mobile Development: Android, Cordova, jQuery Mobile, Python-Flask, KnockoutJS, Jquery
- Cloud Computing: OpenStack, OpenShift, AWS

• English: Proficient

• French: Proficient

• Arabic: Native

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Moving Target Defense (MTD) in the cloud (Bash, Python, Open-Stack, 2018-present)

 Using proactive security to secure a secret in the cloud. I implemented my system on Open-Stack. The system can be used to actively compute functions over the shares of the secret (One use case would be threshold signatures on private keys.)
- Liquid voting (Coq, 2019)
 A project that encodes and proves some interesting liquid voting properties in Coq.

Interests

- Applied Cryptography(includes multi-party computation), Zero-knowledge proofs
- Distributed Systems/ Blockchains
- Formal Verification/ Model Checking