# Fabio Pagani

AFFILIATION Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)

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Віо

I am a postdoctoral researcher working with Giovanni Vigna and Christopher Kruegel in the SecLab at UC Santa Barbara. My current research interests focus on different aspects of systems security: automated vulnerability discovery, human-assisted cyber reasoning systems, and malware analysis are all topics that spark my curiosity.

I earned a Ph.D at EURECOM, where I was advised by Davide Balzarotti. Among other things, we investigated how non-atomic acquisitions impact the consistency of memory dumps, how to discover and to assess the quality of memory forensics heuristics, and how to automatically generate profiles for memory forensics.

When I am away from keyboard, I enjoy hiking, rock climbing, surfing, and playing chess.

**EDUCATION** 

#### **Postdoctoral Researcher**

Jan 2020-Current

University of California, Santa Barbara, US

### **Doctor in Philosophy (PhD)**

Jan 2016-Sept 2019

Eurecom, France

Thesis: Advances in Memory Forensics

### **MSc in Computer Science**

Feb 2013-Oct 2015

Universitá degli Studi di Milano. Italy

Thesis: Defeating Return Oriented Programming Attacks Using Program Analysis Techniques Graduated with a final grade of 110/110 cum laude

Internship Feb 2015-May 2015

Eurecom, France

Erasmus Jan 2014-Jun 2014

Uppsala University, Sweden

#### **BSc in Computer Science**

Sep 2009-Feb 2013

Universitá degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Thesis: When Hardware Meets Software: A Bulletproof Solution to Forensic Memory Acquisition Graduated with a final grade of 107/110

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- [12] Kevin Burk, **Fabio Pagani**, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna. Decomperson: How Humans Decompile and What We Can Learn From It. In Proceedings of the 31st USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 22)
- [11] Nicola Ruaro, **Fabio Pagani**, Stefano Ortolani, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna. Symbexcel: Automated Analysis and Understanding of Malicious Excel 4.0 Macros . In Proceedings of the 43rd IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (IEEE S&P 2022)
- [10] Fabio Gritti, **Fabio Pagani**, Ilya Grishchenko, Lukas Dresel, Nilo Redini, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna. HEAPSTER: Analyzing the Security of Dynamic Allocators for Monolithic Firmware Images. In Proceedings of the 43rd IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (IEEE S&P 2022)

- [9] **Fabio Pagani**, Davide Balzarotti. AutoProfile: Towards Automated Profile Generation For Memory Analysis. ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS) 25, no. 1 (2022)
- [8] Robert McLaughlin, **Fabio Pagani**, Noah Spahn, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna. Regulator: Dynamic Analysis To Detect ReDoS. In Proceedings of the 31st USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 22)
- [7] Fabio Gritti, Lorenzo Fontana, Eric Gustafson, **Fabio Pagani**, Andrea Continella, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna. SYMBION: Interleaving Symbolic With Concrete Execution. In Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS) 2020
- [6] **Fabio Pagani**, Davide Balzarotti. Back to the Whiteboard: a Principled Approach for the Assessment and Design of Memory Forensic Techniques. In Proceedings of the 28th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 19) 2019
- [5] **Fabio Pagani**, Oleksii Fedorov, Davide Balzarotti. Introducing the Temporal Dimension to Memory Forensics. ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS) 22, no. 2 (2019)
- [4] **Fabio Pagani**, Matteo Dell'Amico, Davide Balzarotti. Beyond Precision and Recall: Understanding Uses (and Misuses) of Similarity Hashes in Binary Analysis. In Proceedings of the Eighth ACM Conference on Data and Application Security and Privacy (CODASPY) 2018
- [3] Marius Muench, **Fabio Pagani**, Yan Shoshitaishvili, Christopher Kruegel, Giovanni Vigna, Davide Balzarotti. Taming Transactions: Towards Hardware-Assisted Control Flow Integrity Using Transactional Memory. In International Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrusions, and Defenses (RAID) 2016
- [2] **Fabio Pagani**, Matteo De Astis, Mariano Graziano, Andrea Lanzi, Davide Balzarotti. Measuring the Role of Greylisting and Nolisting in Fighting Spam. In Proceedings of the 46th Annual IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN) 2016
- [1] Alessandro Reina, Aristide Fattori, **Fabio Pagani**, Lorenzo Cavallaro, Danilo Bruschi. When Hardware Meets Software: a Bulletproof Solution to Forensic Memory Acquisition. In Proceedings of the 28th Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC) 2012

**TALKS** 

- [2] Nicola Ruaro, **Fabio Pagani**, Stefano Ortolani, Giovanni Vigna. Symbexcel: Bringing the Power of Symbolic Execution to the Fight Against Malicious Excel 4 Macros. Black Hat USA 2021
- [1] Fabio Pagani. Memory Smearing: Myth Or Reality?. SANS DFIR Europe Summit 2019

**AWARDS** 

- [3] Distinguished Reviewer Award DIMVA 2021
- [2] Volatility Plugin Contest 2019, 5th place
- [1] Black Hat Europe 2016 Student Scholarship

SERVICE

IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P) 2023

Detection of Intrusions and Malware & Vulnerability Assessment (DIMVA) 2022

Digital Forensics Research Workshop (DFRWS) USA 2022

IEEE Workshop on Offensive Technologies (WOOT) 2022

Workshop on Binary Analysis Research (BAR) 2022

Detection of Intrusions and Malware & Vulnerability Assessment (DIMVA) 2021

Computers & Security (COSE)

Teaching Experience	<b>Lecture on Memory Forensics (Cybercrime and Computer Forensics)</b> Eurecom, France	<b>s)</b> Apr. 2019		
	<b>Lecture on Python Optimization and Integration (Software Developm</b> Eurecom, France	nent)	Dec. 2018	
	<b>Lecture on Memory Forensics (Cybercrime and Computer Forensics)</b> Eurecom, France	)	May 2018	
	<b>Lecture on Python Optimization and Integration (Software Developm</b> Eurecom, France	nent)	Dec. 2017	
	<b>Lecture on Python Optimization and Integration (Software Developm</b> Eurecom, France	nent)	Dec. 2016	
	Computer Programming - Teaching Assistant Universitá degli Studi di Milano, Italy	Sept. 2014	- Feb. 2015	
Hacking Competitions	I am a core member of the NOPS team. Along with my teammates, I cCSAW Europe Finals (in 2017 we got 2nd place) and <b>won</b> hxp CTF 2018	core member of the NOPS team. Along with my teammates, I qualified twice for the Europe Finals (in 2017 we got 2nd place) and <b>won</b> hxp CTF 2018.		