Peter W. Deutsch

Cambridge – Massachusetts
+1 (617) 230 1114 • pwd@mit.edu • pwdeutsch

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
PhD Student, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science *2022 – Present*
Doctoral Supervisor: Prof. Mengjia Yan

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Master of Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science *2020 – 2022*
Thesis: Mitigating Memory Controller Side-Channels
Masters Supervisor: Prof. Mengjia Yan

University of British Columbia
Bachelor of Applied Science, Computer Engineering *2014 – 2020*
Undergraduate Supervisors: Prof. Mieszko Lis & Prof. Prashant Nair

Research Interests

Processor Reliability: Improving chip design processes in light of emergent silent data corruption (SDC) failure modes.

Side-Channel Classification and Defense: Exploration of side-channel taxonomies, comparison schemes, and concrete leakage evaluations.

Memory Defenses: Making DRAM more resilient to timing side-channels and Rowhammer effects.

Publications

Peter W Deutsch, Weon Taek Na, Thomas Bourgeat, Joel S Emer, and Mengjia Yan. Metior: A comprehensive model to evaluate obfuscating side-channel defense schemes. In *Proceedings of the 50th Annual International Symposium on Computer Architecture*, pages 1–16, 2023.

Peter W Deutsch*, Yuheng Yang*, Thomas Bourgeat, Jules Drean, Joel S Emer, and Mengjia Yan. DAGguise: Mitigating memory controller side-channels. In *Proceedings of the 27th ACM International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems*, pages 329–343, 2022.

Oliver Willers, Christopher Huth, Jorge Guajardo, Helmut Seidel, and Peter Deutsch. On the feasibility of deriving cryptographic keys from mems sensors. *Journal of Cryptographic Engineering*, 10(1):67–83, 2020.

Academic Service

IEEE Transactions on Computers – Special Issue on Hardware Security **2022**
Reviewer

Work Experience

Research & Academic

Massachusetts Institute of Technology **Cambridge, MA**
TA/Lab Assignment Developer *2022 – 2023*
- Assisted in the development and testing of lab assignments for MIT's Secure Hardware Design course.
- Developed an assignment which guides students through performing and characterizing Rowhammer attacks on commodity hardware.

University of British Columbia **Vancouver, Canada**
Undergraduate Research Student *2019 – 2020*
- Investigated methods to detect and mitigate speculative execution attacks which utilize cache and DRAM side-channels (ex. Spectre/Meltdown).
- Replicated attacks, benchmarked prior work, and explored new mitigations using SPEC CPU 2017 and gem5.

Bosch Corporate Research **Stuttgart, Germany**
Microsystems Engineering Student *2017*
- Researched the use of MEMS gyroscopes as Physical Unclonable Functions (PUFs), facilitating reliable secret key generation in IoT devices.
- Helped to devise and evaluate entropy extraction schemes to generate cryptographically secure keys from highly correlated device features.

University of British Columbia **Vancouver, Canada**
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant *2016 – 2020*
- Conveyed Verilog-focused digital design content to hundreds of second and third-year undergraduate students.
- Taught CPEN 211 (Introduction to Microcomputers), CPEN 311 (Digital Systems Design), and CPEN 391 (Computer Engineering Design Studio II).

Industry

Intel Corporation **Vancouver, Canada**
Verification Engineer Intern *2018 – 2019*
- Verified system controller ASICs for Intel NAND devices using SystemVerilog and the Universal Verification Methodology (UVM 1.2).
- Designed end-to-end traffic tests to confirm compliance to internal architecture requirements and flash interface specifications, ensuring that comprehensive code coverage was achieved.

Microsemi (Microchip) **Vancouver, Canada**
Product Design Engineer Intern *2017*
- Designed and verified top-level RTL glue logic (SystemVerilog & VHDL) for SAS/SATA RAID controllers.
- Implemented appropriate pipelining and clock-domain-crossing synchronization strategies, ensuring that timing closure and MTBF thresholds were met.

Awards

Graduate

Google Research Scholar Grant **2023**
Topic: Leveraging Accessible Signals for the Efficient Discovery of Corrupt Execution Errors

Advanced Televison and Signal Processing Fellowship **2020**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Department Head of EECS

Undergraduate

Dean's Prize for Academic Excellence in Engineering **2020**
Awarded to the head of the graduating undergraduate class in Applied Science

ECE Capstone Faculty Award **2020**
Presented to the top ECE Capstone (final year) project teams in 2020

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award **2019**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Applied Science

Trek Excellence Scholarship for Continuing Students **2015, 2016, 2017, 2019**
Awarded to students in the top 5% of their program

PMC-Sierra Founders Award in Electrical and Computer Engineering **2019**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Department Head of Computer Engineering

Elizabeth and Leslie Gould Scholarship in Engineering **2019**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Applied Science

J Fred Muir Memorial Scholarship in Engineering **2017**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Applied Science

J K Zee Memorial Scholarship **2016**
Awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Applied Science

Volunteerism

MIT Graduate Application Assistance Program **Cambridge, MA**
Treasurer/Graduate Student Volunteer *2021-Present*
- Worked with underrepresented MIT PhD applicants, providing advice and detailed feedback on personal and research statements.
- Coordinated finances for the program, raising funds to provide fee waivers for underprivileged applicants.

BC COVID-19 3D Printing Group (BCC3D) **Vancouver, Canada**
Printing / Distribution Volunteer *2020*
- Personally manufactured 300+ 3D printed face shield visors and 'ear savers' for use at hospitals and clinics.
- Inspected, sanitized, and packed 10,000+ articles of PPE produced by local volunteers.

University of British Columbia **Vancouver, Canada**
Imagine Day Orientation Leader *2015, 2016, 2019*
- Conducted informative tours for first year orientation, helping to build community relationships and increase the comfort level of new students.