

Song Liao

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- IoT Security and Privacy
- Policy and Privacy Compliance on Open Platforms
- Abuse Detection on Online Social Platforms

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor 08/2024 - Present
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

EDUCATION

Clemson University, Clemson, SC 08/2019 - 08/2024

- Ph.D. in Computer Science
- Advisor: Dr. Long Cheng

Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China 09/2015 - 06/2018

- M.E. in Software Engineering
- Advisor: Dr. Yuehu Liu

Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China 09/2011 - 06/2015

- B.E. in Software Engineering

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Jingwen Yan*, **Song Liao***, Mohammed Aldeen, Luyi Xing, Danfeng (Daphne) Yao, Long Cheng, "SkillPoV: Towards Accessible and Effective Privacy Notice for Amazon Alexa skills", *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)*, 2025, Acceptance rate: $211/311 = 16\%$.
- [2] Yichen Liu, Jingwen Yan, **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Luyi Xing, "WIP: Towards Privacy Compliance by Design in the Matter Protocol", NDSS Workshop on Security and Privacy in Standardized IoT (SDIoTSec), 2025.
- [3] Shuhao Zhang, Mohammed Aldeen, **Song Liao**, Jeffery Young, Long Cheng, "AcousticScope: Understanding Biases in Voice Interaction via Automated Acoustic Testing", *2nd EAI International Conference on Security and Privacy in Cyber-Physical Systems and Smart Vehicles (SmartSP)*, 2024. (Best Demo Award)
- [4] Mohammed Aldeen, Jeffrey Young, **Song Liao**, Tsu-Yao Chang, Long Cheng, Haipeng Cai, Xiapu Luo, Hongxin Hu, "End-Users Know Best: Identifying Undesired Behavior of Alexa Skills Through User Review Analysis", *ACM Interactive, Mobile, Wearable, and Ubiquitous Technologies (UbiComp)*, 2024.
- [5] **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Xiapu Luo, Zheng Song, Haipeng Cai, Danfeng (Daphne) Yao, Hongxin Hu, "A First Look at Security and Privacy Risks in the RapidAPI Ecosystem", *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2024, Acceptance rate: $331/1964 = 17\%$.
- [6] **Song Liao**, Mohammed Aldeen, Jingwen Yan, Long Cheng, Xiapu Luo, Haipeng Cai, Hongxin Hu, "Understanding GDPR Non-Compliance in Privacy Policies of Alexa Skills in European Marketplaces", *The Web Conference (WWW)*, 2024, Acceptance rate: $406/2008 = 20\%$.
- [7] Wenbo Ding, **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Ziming Zhao, and Hongxin Hu, "Command Hijacking on Voice-Controlled IoT in Amazon Alexa Platform", *ACM ASIA Conference on Computer and Communications Security (ASIACCS)*, 2024, Acceptance rate: $55/284 = 19\%$.
- [8] **Song Liao**, Jingwen Yan, Long Cheng, "WIP: Hidden Hub Eavesdropping Attack in Matter-enabled Smart Home Systems", The NDSS Workshop on Security and Privacy in Standardized IoT (SDIoTSec), 2024.
- [9] **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Haipeng Cai, Linke Guo, and Hongxin Hu, "SkillScanner: Detecting Policy-Violating Voice Applications Through Static Analysis at the Development Phase", In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2023, Acceptance rate: $235/1222 = 19\%$.
- [10] **Song Liao**, Ebuka Okpala, Long Cheng, Nishant Vishwamitra, Mingqi Li, Hongxin Hu, Feng Luo, and Matthew Costello, "Characterizing Offensive Tweets in the Era of COVID-19", In *Proceedings of the 29th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*, 2023, Acceptance rate: $184/725 = 25\%$.
- [11] Wenbo Ding, **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Ziming Zhao, Keyan Guo, and Hongxin Hu, "Exploring Vulnerabilities in Voice Command Skills for Connected Vehicles", *EAI International Conference on Security and Privacy in Cyber-Physical Systems and Smart Vehicles (SmartSP)*, 2023.

- [12] Nishant Vishwamitra, Keyan Guo, **Song Liao**, Jaden Mu, Zheyuan Ma, Long Cheng, Ziming Zhao and Hongxin Hu, “Understanding and Analyzing COVID-19-related Online Hate Propagation Through Hateful Memes Shared on Twitter”, *The 2023 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM)*, 2023
- [13] Matthew Costello, Nishant Vishwamitra, **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, Feng Luo, and Hongxin Hu, “COVID-19 and Sinophobia: Detecting Warning Signs of Radicalization on Twitter and Reddit”, *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 2023.
- [14] Jeffrey Young*, **Song Liao***, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, and Huixing Deng, “SkillDetective: Automated Policy-Violation Detection of Voice Assistant Applications in the Wild”, In *31st USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, 2022, Acceptance rate: $256/1414 = 18\%$.
- [15] **Song Liao**, Christin Wilson, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, and Huixing Deng, “Problematic Privacy Policies of Voice Assistant Applications”, *IEEE Security & Privacy Magazine*, 2021.
- [16] Mingqi Li, **Song Liao**, Ebuka Okpala, Max Tong, Matthew Costello, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, and Feng Luo, “COVID-HateBERT: a Pre-trained Language Model for COVID-19 related Hate Speech Detection”, In *2021 20th IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2021.
- [17] Matthew Costello, Long Cheng, Feng Luo, Hongxin Hu, **Song Liao**, Nishant Vishwamitra, Mingqi Li, and Ebuka Okpala, “COVID-19: a pandemic of Anti-Asian cyberhate”, *Journal of Hate Studies*, 17(1), 2021.
- [18] **Song Liao***, Christin Wilson*, Long Cheng, Hongxin Hu, and Huixing Deng, “Measuring the effectiveness of privacy policies for voice assistant applications”, In *Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)*, 2020, Acceptance rate: $70/302 = 23\%$, **Distinguish Paper Award**.
- [19] Long Cheng, Christin Wilson, **Song Liao**, Jeffrey Young, Daniel Dong, and Hongxin Hu, “Dangerous skills got certified: Measuring the trust-worthiness of skill certification in voice personal assistant platforms”, In *Proceedings of the 2020 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2020, Acceptance rate: $121/715 = 17\%$.

POSTERS

- [1] **Song Liao**, Mohammed Aldeen, Jingwen Yan and Long Cheng, “Poster: On GDPR Compliance of Amazon Alexa’s Privacy Policies in European Marketplaces”, *IEEE Secure Development Conference (SecDev)*, 2023
- [2] **Song Liao**, Long Cheng, “Poster: Understanding the Policy-Compliance Practices of Voice Application Developers”, *IEEE Secure Development Conference (SecDev)*, 2022
- [3] Long Cheng, Ebuka Okpala, **Song Liao**, and Danfeng(Daphne) Yao, “BranchCorr: Detecting Incompatible Branch Behavior by Enforcing Branch Correlation Integrity”, *IEEE Secure Development Conference (SecDev)*, 2019.

AWARDS

- Clemson Outstanding Ph.D. Student in Computer Science, 2024
- Distinguished Paper Award, Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC), 2020
- Google awarded us \$5,000 bug bounty for discovering vulnerabilities in Google Actions.
- Travel grant from CCS (2023), SmartSP (2023), IEEE SecDev (2022)
- Talford Endowed Fellowship Award, 2023
- Talford Endowed Fellowship Award, 2022

MEDIA AND NEWS

- We presented our work on Policy Violation Detection of Voice Assistant Applications at the FTC’s PrivacyCon 2021.
- Google awarded us two bug bounties for reporting various policy-violating Google Actions (2021).
- We presented our work on Trustworthiness of Skill Certification in Voice Personal Assistant Platforms at the FTC’s PrivacyCon 2020.
- The Register, Washington Internet Daily, ZDNet and some other media reported our work on measuring the trust-worthiness of Alexa’s skills certification (2020).
- The Register and VentureBeat reported our work on Alexa skill privacy policy analysis (2020).

TEACHING

Lecturer

- CS-4392 Computer Networks, Spring 2025 (Texas Tech)
- CS-5331 Special Problems in Computer Science: Applied Data Science, Fall 2024 (Texas Tech)
- CPSC-6200/4200 Computer Security Principles, Summer 2024 (Clemson)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA)

- CPSC-6200/4200 Computer Security Principles, Fall 2023
- CPSC-8570 Network Technologies Security, Spring 2023
- CPSC-6200/4200 Computer Security Principles, Fall 2022
- CPSC-6200/4200 Computer Security Principles, Summer 2022
- CPSC-6200/4200 Computer Security Principles, Spring 2021

PAPER REVIEW

- ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS), 2024
- The Web Conference (WWW), 2025, 2024
- Transactions on Information Forensics & Security (TIFS), 2025, 2024
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking (ToN), 2024, 2023
- Computers & Security, 2024
- IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC), 2025, 2023
- IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE), 2023
- International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction (IJHCI), 2023
- Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC), 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020
- IEEE Transactions on Reliability, 2023
- International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), 2025, 2023
- International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks (ICCCN), 2023
- International Conference on Information and Communications Security (ICICS), 2023
- International Conference on Security and Privacy in Communication Networks (SecureComm), 2023
- Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking, 2023
- IEEE International Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM), 2022, 2021
- IEEE International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems (ICPADS), 2022
- IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS), 2021, 2020
- International Performance Computing and Communications Conference (IPCCC), 2021, 2020
- IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM), 2020, 2019
- IEEE International Conference on Internet of Things (iThings), 2019

TALKS

- “A First Look at Security and Privacy Risks in the RapidAPI Ecosystem”, CCS, Salt Lake City, 2024
- “SkillScanner: Detecting Policy-Violating Voice Applications Through Static Analysis at the Development Phase”, CCS, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2023
- “Exploring Vulnerabilities in Voice Command Skills for Connected Vehicles”, SmartSP, Chicago, 2023
- “Measuring the effectiveness of privacy policies for voice assistant applications”, ACSAC, Virtual, 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Technical Program Committee Member:

- The Web Conference (WWW) 2025

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Department Committees:

- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee
- Member, Graduate Program Committee

COLLABORATORS

- Hongxin Hu, Professor at the University at Buffalo
- Haipeng Cai, Associate Professor at Washington State University
- Xiapu Luo, Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Danfeng (Daphne) Yao, Professor at Virginia Tech
- Feng Luo, Professor at Clemson University
- Nishant Vishwamitra, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio
- Matthew Costello, Associate Professor at Clemson University