# Cheng XU Ph.D.

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# Research Interests

I am interested in Databases, Blockchain, Cryptography, Information Security, and Privacy-Aware Computing. My current focuses include:

- Authenticated query processing for outsourcing cloud computing.
- Searchable blockchain with integrity assurance.
- Privacy preserving query processing and access control.

# Professional Experience

# Simon Fraser University Visiting Scholar

Burnaby, BC, Canada Mar 2020 – Present

- Advisor: Prof. Jian Pei
- Designed novel techniques to build future generation high performance blockchain systems.
- Developed a prototype to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed system.

### Hong Kong Baptist University Ph.D. Candidate Senior Research Assistant / Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Hong Kong Nov 2014 – Feb 2019 Dec 2018 – Present

- Advisor: Prof. Jianliang Xu
- Designed novel algorithms and indexes for cloud-based query services to support efficient verifiable query processing in a wide range of enterprise systems.
- Developed novel techniques to enable integrity assured search in blockchain databases.
- Resulted to several research papers published in top-tier journals and conferences.

# Syracuse University Visiting Scholar

Syracuse, NY, USA Sep 2017 – Dec 2017

- Advisor: Dr. Yuzhe Tang
- Designed and implemented a memory-access pattern secure software system on Intel SGX.
- Developed a dynamic program partitioning framework to support implementing a variety of external oblivious algorithms and achieving cache-miss obliviousness.

# Homebrew | https://brew.sh Core Maintainer

Hong Kong Feb 2015 – Feb 2017

- Acted as one of the core maintainers for the open source project Homebrew, which is the most popular package manager on macOS.
- Implemented several major features and improvements including better tap system, core/formulae split, sandbox system, portable Ruby, and many bug fixes.

#### **EDUCATION**

### Hong Kong Baptist University

Hong Kong

Ph.D. in Computer Science

*Nov* 2014 – *May* 2019

Dissertation: Authenticated Query Processing in the Cloud

Advisor: Prof. Jianliang Xu

# **Huazhong University of Science and Technology**

Wuhan, China

Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics & Information Engineering

Sep 2009 - Jun 2014

### Skills

**Programming** C/C++, Rust, Java, Python, Ruby, Matlab, LaTeX, Bash, Javascript **Tools** Vim, Tmux, Git, macOS, Linux **Languages** English, Mandarin

# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Complete List: Google Scholar [DKG\_JaAAAAAJ] · DBLP [Xu\_0004:Cheng]

- 1. C. Zhang<sup>†</sup>, **C. Xu**<sup>†</sup>, H. Wang, J. Xu, and B. Choi, "Authenticated keyword search in scalable hybrid-storage blockchains," in *Proceedings of the 37th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE '21)*, Chania, Crete, Greece, Apr. 2021, Full Paper.
- 2. K. Li, Y. Tang, J. Chen, Z. Yuan, C. Xu, and J. Xu, "Cost-effective data feeds to blockchains via workload-adaptive data replication," in *Proceedings of the 21st International Middleware Conference* (*Middleware '20*), Delft, Netherlands, Dec. 2020, pp. 371–385, Full Paper.
- 3. H. Wang, C. Xu, C. Zhang, and J. Xu, "vChain: A blockchain system ensuring query integrity," in *Proceedings of the 2020 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD '20)*, Portland, OR, USA, Jun. 2020, pp. 2693–2696, Demo Paper.
- 4. S. Guo, Y. Ji, C. Zhang, C. Xu, and J. Xu, "vCBIR: A verifiable search engine for content-based image retrieval," in *Proceedings of the 36th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE '20)*, Dallas, TX, USA, Apr. 2020, pp. 1730–1733, Demo Paper.
- 5. **C. Xu**, C. Zhang, and J. Xu, "vChain: Enabling verifiable boolean range queries over blockchain databases," in *Proceedings of the 2019 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD '19)*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jun. 2019, pp. 141–158, Full Paper.
- 6. C. Zhang, C. Xu, J. Xu, Y. Tang, and B. Choi, "GEM<sup>2</sup>-Tree: A gas-efficient structure for authenticated range queries in blockchain," in *Proceedings of the 35th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE '19)*, Macau SAR, China, Apr. 2019, pp. 842–853, Full Paper.
- 7. S. Guo, J. Xu, C. Zhang, C. Xu, and T. Xiang, "ImageProof: Enabling authentication for large-scale image retrieval," in *Proceedings of the 35th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering* (*ICDE '19*), Macau SAR, China, Apr. 2019, pp. 1070–1081, Full Paper.
- 8. Y. Ji, C. Xu, J. Xu, and H. Hu, "vABS: Towards verifiable attribute-based search over shared cloud data," in *Proceedings of the 35th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE '19)*, Macau SAR, China, Apr. 2019, pp. 2028–2031, Demo Paper.
- 9. C. Zhang, C. Xu, J. Xu, and B. Choi, "Distributed kNN query authentication," in *Proceedings* of the 19th IEEE International Conference on Mobile Data Management (MDM '18), Aalborg, Denmark, Jun. 2018, pp. 167–176, Full Paper.
- 10. **C. Xu**, J. Xu, H. Hu, and M. H. Au, "When query authentication meets fine-grained access control: A zero-knowledge approach," in *Proceedings of the 2018 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD '18)*, Houston, TX, USA, Jun. 2018, pp. 147–162, Full Paper.
- 11. **C. Xu**, Q. Chen, H. Hu, J. Xu, and X. Hei, "Authenticating aggregate queries over set-valued data with confidentiality," *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)*, vol. 30, no. 4, pp. 630–644, Apr. 2018, Full Paper.
- 12. Q. Zhu, H. Hu, **C. Xu**, J. Xu, and W.-C. Lee, "Geo-social group queries with minimum acquaintance constraints," *The VLDB Journal (VLDBJ)*, vol. 26, no. 5, pp. 709–727, Jul. 2017, Full Paper.

#### **TALKS**

- 1. Blockchain Privacy Preserving Techniques, *The 36th CCF National Database Conference*, Jinan, China, Oct. 2019.
- 2. Towards Searchable and Verifiable Blockchain, 1st Workshop on Blockchain and Data Management at 35th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering, Macau, Apr. 2019.
- 3. When Query Authentication Meets Fine-Grained Access Control: A Zero-Knowledge Approach, 2018 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data, Houston, USA, Jun. 2018.

### **AWARDS**

- SIGMOD Travel Award, ACM
- Department RPg Performance Award, Hong Kong Baptist University 2018, 2019
- Postgraduate Research Symposium Best Research Performance Award & Best Poster Award, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Yakun Scholarship Scheme for Mainland Postgraduate Students, Hong Kong Baptist University 2018
- Excellent Teaching Assistant Performance Award, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Teaching Assistant Performance Award, Hong Kong Baptist University 2015, 2016

2018

2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>These authors contributed equally.