

Yunming Xiao

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am broadly interested in computer systems and networks. My current research focuses on enhancing the security, privacy, and reliability of Internet services and infrastructure.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Computer Science Sep 2019 - Jun 2024
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Thesis: *Revising System Premises For a Secure and Private Web*
Advisor: Aleksandar Kuzmanovic

B.Eng., Computer Science Sep 2015 - Jun 2019
Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Jun 2024 - *Present*
Research Fellow, Advisor: *Prof. Ang Chen*

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Sep 2019 - May 2024
Research Assistant, Advisor: *Prof. Aleksandar Kuzmanovic*

Hewlett Packard Labs, Milpitas, CA May - Aug 2022 (Full time) & Jan 2023 - Jan 2024 (Part-time)
Research Intern, Networking and Distributed Systems Lab, Host: *Dr. Puneet Sharma*

Google, New York City, NY Sep - Dec 2022
Software Engineering Intern, Technical Systems & Infrastructure (TI)

Nokia Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ (Remote) Jun - Aug 2021
Networking Bell Labs Summer Intern, Host: *Dr. Matteo Varvello, Dr. T.V. Lakshman*

Bytedance, Beijing, China Mar - Jul 2019
Infrastructure R&D Intern

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China Mar 2018 - Mar 2019
Research Assistant, Host: *Prof. Wenfei Wu*

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Jeddah, KSA Jul - Oct 2018
Visiting Student, Host: *Prof. Marco Canini*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Co-lead the development of NSF grant CNS-2310927: “Privacy-Preserving and Censorship-Resistant Domain Name System” (\$750K, PI: Aleksandar Kuzmanovic, Co-PI: Xiao Wang).

Co-lead the development of NSF grant CNS-2226107: “Enabling Streaming Analytics at the Network Edge” (\$400K, PI: Aleksandar Kuzmanovic).

NSF Early Career Workshop Travel Grant, 2025
EuroSys Best Student Paper Award, 2024
Northwestern University PhD Terminal Year Fellowship, 2023
Travel Grant For ACM HotNets’23
HPE Best-in-Class Technical Competition Award, 2022
Distinguished Undergraduate Student in Beijing, 2019

PUBLICATIONS

(* Equal Contribution)

Conference Publications

- [C12] Shihan Lin, Suting Chen, **Yunming Xiao**, Yanqi Gu, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic, Xiaowei Yang:
PreAcher: Secure and Practical Password Pre-Authentication by Content Delivery Networks.
To appear in USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (*NSDI*'25).
(21 pages, acceptance rate: 55/401=13.7%)
- [C11] Y Liu*, **Y Xiao***, X Zhang, W Dang, H Liu, X Li, Z He, J Wang, A Kuzmanovic, A Chen, C Miao:
Unlocking ECMP Programmability for Precise Traffic Control.
To appear in USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (*NSDI*'25).
(19 pages, acceptance rate: 55/401=13.7%)
- [C10] J Lu, **Y Xiao**, S Chakraborty, S Fu, Y Ji, A Chen, M Chowdhury, N Rao, S Ratnasamy, X Wang
OpenInfra: A Co-simulation Framework for the Infrastructure Nexus.
In Workshop on Hot Topics in System Infrastructure (*HotInfra*'24). (5 pages)
- [C9] C Miao*, Z Zhong*, **Y Xiao***, F Yang*, S Zhang*, C Lu, J Geng, Y Wang, X Zhou, Y Jiang,
Z Bai, C Yang:
MegaTE: Extending WAN Traffic Engineering to Millions of Endpoints.
In Proceedings of ACM *SIGCOMM*'24. (14 pages, acceptance rate: 62/366=16.9%)
- [C8] **Y Xiao**, DZ Tootaghaj, A Dhakal, L Cao, P Sharma, A Kuzmanovic:
Conspirator: SmartNIC-Aided Control Plane for Distributed ML Workloads.
In Proceedings of USENIX Annual Technical Conference (*ATC*'24).
(19 pages, acceptance rate: 77/482=16.0%)
- [C7] **Yunming Xiao**, Yibo Zhao, Sen Lin, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
Snatch: Online Streaming Analytics at the Network Edge.
In Proceedings of the ACM European Conference on Computer Systems (*EuroSys*'24).
(21 pages, acceptance rate: 39/244=16.0%)
Best Student Paper Award! (selection rate: 1/244=0.4%)
- [C6] C Miao*, **Y Xiao***, M Canini, R Dai, S Zheng, J Wang, J Bu, A Kuzmanovic, Y Wang:
TENSOR: Lightweight BGP Non-Stop Routing.
In Proceedings of ACM *SIGCOMM*'23. (14 pages, acceptance rate: 73/325=22.5%)
- [C5] **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello:
FIAT: Frictionless Authentication of IoT Traffic.
In Proceedings of ACM Conference on Emerging Network Experiment and Technology (*CoNEXT*'22).
(15 pages, acceptance rate: 29/151=19.2%)
- [C4] **Yunming Xiao**, Sarit Markovich, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
Blockchain Mining: Optimal Resource Allocation.
In Proceedings of ACM Advances in Financial Technologies (*AFT*'22).
(14 pages, acceptance rate: 23/79=29.1%)
- [C3] **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
Monetizing Spare Bandwidth: the Case of Distributed VPNs.
In Proceedings of the ACM on Measurement and Analysis of Computing Systems (*SIGMETRICS*'22).
(27 pages, acceptance rate: 13/122=10.7%)

- [C2] Marc Anthony Warrior, **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
De-Kodi: Understanding the Kodi Ecosystem.
In Proceedings of The Web Conference 2020 (*WWW'20*).
(11 pages, acceptance rate: 357/1736=20.6%)
- [C1] **Yunming Xiao**, Haifeng Sun, Zirui Zhuang, Jingyu Wang, Qi Qi:
Common Knowledge Based Transfer Learning for Traffic Classification.
IEEE 43rd Conference on Local Computer Networks (*LCN'18*). (4 pages)

Journal Publications

- [J5] **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello, Marc Anthony Warrior, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
Decoding the Kodi Ecosystem.
ACM Transactions on the Web (*TWEB*), 17(1), pp.1-36. 2023.
- [J4] P Wang, Z Wei, H Qi, S Wan, **Y Xiao**, G Sun, Q Zhang:
Mitigating Poor Data Quality Impact with Federated Unlearning for Human-Centric Metaverse.
IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (*JSAC*), 42(4), pp. 832-849. 2023.
- [J3] Aritra Dutta, El Houcine Bergou, **Yunming Xiao**, Marco Canini, Peter Richtárik:
Direct Nonlinear Acceleration.
EURO Journal on Computational Optimization, 10, 100047 (26 pages). 2022.
- [J2] P Wang, Y Zhao, MS Obaidat, Z Wei, H Qi, C Lin, **Y Xiao**, Q Zhang:
Blockchain-Enhanced Federated Learning Market with Social Internet of Things.
IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (*JSAC*), 40(12), pp. 3405-3421. 2022.
- [J1] **Yunming Xiao**, Bin Wu:
Close spatial arrangement of mutants favors and disfavors fixation.
PLoS Computational Biology, 15(9), e1007212 (20 pages). 2019.

Refereed Demos/Posters

- [D4] **Yunming Xiao**, Mushtari Sadia, Ang Chen:
Multi-modal Swarm Intelligence for Secure UAV Missions.
GENZERO 2024 Workshop.
- [D3] **Yunming Xiao**, Chenkai Weng, Ruijie Yu, Peizhi Liu, Matteo Varvello, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
Demo: PDNS: A Fully Privacy-Preserving DNS.
In Proceedings of *SIGCOMM'23*.
- [D2] **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello:
FIAT: Frictionless Authentication of IoT Traffic.
In Proceedings of ACM *CoNEXT'21*.
- [D1] **Yunming Xiao**, Matteo Varvello, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
A First Look Into Distributed VPNs.
In the 21st ACM Internet Measurement Conference (*IMC'21*).

Un-refereed & Working Papers

- [W4] **Y Xiao**, Y Yang, X Li, Y Jiang, A Wang, H Chen, Z Zhou, Y Chen, C Miao:
DDoS Detection at the Scale of Hundreds of Tbps.
In Submission.
- [W4] **Y Xiao**, Y Yang, X Li, D Gu, M Wan, C Pei, L Kong, A Chen, C Miao:
Microscopic Network Tracing for Modern Cloud Gateways.
In Submission.

- [W3] C Miao*, **Y Xiao***, D Gu, J Wang, Y Yang, M Wan, C Pei, A Kuzmanovic, Z Liu:
Seamless Migration of Stateful Gateway in Large-Scale Cloud.
In Submission.
- [W2] **Yunming Xiao**, Yiwei Du, Matteo Varvello, Pengfei Wang, Linghe Kong:
Third-Party Frictionless Authentication For Home IoT Traffic.
In Submission.
- [W1] **Yunming Xiao**, Chenkai Weng, Ruijie Yu, Peizhi Liu, Matteo Varvello, Aleksandar Kuzmanovic:
PDNS: Collusion Resistant DNS With Private Information Retrieval.
In Submission.

PATENTS

- [P4] Diman Zad Tootaghaj, **Yunming Xiao**, Aditya Dhakal, Puneet Sharma:
Job Allocations to Fractions of Parallel Processing Units.
Filed on June 2024.
- [P3] Diman Zad Tootaghaj, **Yunming Xiao**, Aditya Dhakal, Puneet Sharma:
DMA Transfers of Job Data From an Adapter to Parallel Processing Unit Fractions.
Filed on June 2024.
- [P2] **Yunming Xiao**, Diman Zad Tootaghaj, Aditya Dhakal, Puneet Sharma:
Conspirator: A SmartNIC Aided Control Plane for Distributed Machine Learning Workloads.
Filed on September 2023.
- [P1] Diman Zad Tootaghaj, **Yunming Xiao**, Aditya Dhakal, Puneet Sharma:
Job Allocations To Graphics Processing Units With Tenant Isolation.
US 18/299,855. October 2024.

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University

- COMP_SCI 397/497: Selected Topics in Computer Networks – Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- COMP_SCI 340: Intro to Computer Networking – Winter 2022
- COMP_SCI 110: Intro to Computer Programming – Fall 2020

Mentoring

- Mushtari Sadia (PhD student @ UMich): co-authored [D4], working on the extension
- Archit Bhatnagar (PhD student @ UMich): working on a privacy-preserving advertisement system project
- Jiaheng Lu (undergraduate @ UMich): co-authored [C10], working on the extension
- Suting Chen (undergraduate @ ShanghaiTech → PhD student @ Northwestern): co-authored [W6]
- Yibo Zhao (undergraduate @ ShanghaiTech → PhD student @ UMD): co-authored [C7]
- Yiwei Du (master student @ Rice University): co-authored [W2]
- Peizhi Liu (undergraduate → PhD student @ Northwestern) co-authored [D3] and [W1]
- Ruijie Yu (master student @ Northwestern → software engineer @ Alibaba): co-authored [D3] and [W1]
- Grayson Donnelly (undergraduate @ Northwestern): worked on extension of the Snatch project [C7]. He won the McCormick Summer Undergraduate Research Award in 2022.

INVITED & CONFERENCE TALKS

“Snatch: Online Streaming Analytics at the Network Edge”

Duke University, Remote, November 2024.

ACM EuroSys, Athens, Greece (Remote), April 2024.

“Conspirator: SmartNIC-Aided Control Plane for Distributed ML Workloads”

USENIX ATC'24, Santa Clara, CA, July 2024.
Hewlett Packard Labs, Milpitas, CA (Remote), July 2024.
“Renovating Internet Services: Towards a Secure, Private, and Reliable Web”
University of Texas at Arlington, March 2024.
The University of Houston, February 2024.
HKUST-GZ, Guangzhou, China (Remote), January 2024.
Rice University, Houston, TX, November 2023.
“TENSOR: Lightweight BGP Non-Stop Routing”
Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL, October 2023.
ACM SIGCOMM'23, New York City, NY, September 2023.
“FIAT: Frictionless Authentication of IoT Traffic”
ACM CoNEXT'22, Rome, Italy (Remote), December 2022.
Nokia Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ, November 2022.
“Monetizing Spare Bandwidth: The Case of Distributed VPNs”
ACM SIGMETRICS'22, Mumbai, India (Remote), June 2022.

SERVICE

Program Committee Member

ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS): 2025
Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS/PoPETs): 2025
Asia-Pacific Workshop on Networking (APNet): 2025
USENIX Security, Artifact Evaluation: 2025
ACM SIGCOMM, Artifact Evaluation: 2022, 2023
ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP), Artifact Evaluation: 2023

External Review Committee Member

ACM ASPLOS: 2025

Reviewer

ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review (CCR)
IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (JSAC)
Journal of Systems Architecture (JSA)
IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Computing

REFERENCES

- Aleksandar Kuzmanovic (Doctoral Advisor)
Professor, Northwestern University
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- Ang Chen
Associate Professor, University of Michigan
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- Marco Canini
Associate Professor, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
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- Xiaowei Yang
Professor, Duke University
✉ xwy@cs.duke.edu
- Matteo Varvello
Networking Researcher, Nokia Bell Labs
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- Puneet Sharma

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