

Zhaohui Wang

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research addresses critical security and privacy challenges across the computing stack, ranging from low-level hardware vulnerabilities to high-level application interactions. I tackle these systemic challenges by designing formal models, building systematic analysis frameworks, and creating practical defensive systems that enhance trust and reliability.

- **CPS Security & Privacy:** Privacy Leakage Detection, Security Analysis, Threat Modeling and Risk Mitigation
- **System Security:** Memory Attacks, Integrity Protection, Firmware Hardening, and Vulnerability Analysis
- **Trustworthy AI/ML:** Adversarial Robustness, Secure and Interpretable LLMs, and End-to-End Auditing

EDUCATION

- **University of Kansas** Lawrence, KS, USA
Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science; Advisors: Prof. Fengjun Li & Prof. Bo Luo Aug. 2019 – Present
- **Harbin Institute of Technology** Harbin, Heilongjiang, P.R.China
M.Eng. in Information and Communication Engineering; Advisors: Prof. Yubin Xu & Prof. Lin Ma Aug. 2013 – Jul. 2015
- **University of Electronic Science and Technology of China** Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R.China
B.Eng. in Network Engineering Aug. 2008 – Jul. 2012

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Zhaohui Wang**, Bo Luo, and Fengjun Li. InteractionShield: Harnessing Event Relations for Interaction Threat Detection and Resolution in Smart Homes. (*Accepted to appear in the Proceedings of ACSAC 2025*).
[Acceptance rate: 18%, Artifact: Available, Functional, Reproduced]
- [2] **Zhaohui Wang**, Bo Luo, and Fengjun Li. PrivacyGuard: Exploring Hidden Cross-App Privacy Leakage Threats In IoT Apps. *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETS)*, 2025, 776-791.
[Acceptance rate: 21%, Artifact: Available, Functional, Reproduced]
- [3] Kevin Li, **Zhaohui Wang**, Ye Wang, Bo Luo, and Fengjun Li. Poster: Ethics of Computer Security and Privacy Research - Trends and Standards from a Data Perspective. *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2023, 3558-3560.
- [4] **Zhaohui Wang**, Bo Luo, and Fengjun Li. Poster: SmartAppZoo: a Repository of SmartThings Apps for IoT Benchmarking. *Proceedings of the 8th ACM/IEEE Conference on Internet of Things Design and Implementation (IoTDI)*, 2023, 448-449.
- [5] Xin Hao, Qiuyu Wu, **Zhaohui Wang**, Changxing Lin. Parallel Timing Synchronization Algorithm and Its Implementation in High Speed Wireless Communication Systems. *2019 International Conference on Electronics, Information, and Communication (ICEIC)*, 2019, 1-6.
- [6] Xin Hao, **Zhaohui Wang**, Qiuyu Wu, Changxing Lin. A refined phase estimation based parallel carrier recovery algorithm in high speed wireless communication systems. *2018 IEEE 18th International Conference on Communication Technology (ICCT)*, 2018, 732-735.
- [7] **Zhaohui Wang**, Xin Hao, Changxing Lin, Qiuyu Wu. An efficient hardware LDPC encoder based on partial parallel structure for CCSDS. *2018 IEEE 18th International Conference on Communication Technology (ICCT)*, 2018, 136-139.
- [8] Qiuyu Wu, Changxing Lin, Bin Lu, Li Miao, Xin Hao, **Zhaohui Wang**, Yi Jiang, Wenqiang Lei, Xianjing Den, Hongbin Chen, Jun Yao, Jian Zhan. A 21 km 5 Gbps real time wireless communication system at 0.14 THz. *2017 42nd International Conference on Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves (IRMMW-THz)*, 2017, 1-2.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **University of Kansas** Lawrence, KS, USA
Teaching Assistant
 - EECS 330: Data Structures and Algorithms Fall 2025
 - EECS 569: Computer Forensics Fall 2024
 - EECS 565: Introduction to Information and Computer Security Fall 2023, Fall 2024
 - EECS 447: Introduction to Database Systems Spring 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

• University of Kansas

Research Assistant

Lawrence, KS, USA

May. 2019 – Present

– Hardware Fault Attacks and Defenses for AI Infrastructure

- * Implemented a tool to reverse-engineer DRAM address mappings across diverse CPU microarchitectures
- * Exploited page-table walks to perform Rowhammer attacks, enabling controlled bit-flips for privilege escalation
- * Conducting research on kernel-level program exploitation, exploring cross-privilege boundary vulnerabilities
- * Investigating hardware-level fault injection methods to breach confidentiality and integrity of AI inference

– Rule Conflicts Detection and Resolution

- * Developed a comprehensive framework leveraging logic reasoning to detect and resolve rule conflicts
- * Formalized event relationships and systematically identified event interferences to categorize rule conflicts
- * Employed model checking and SMT solving techniques to identify potential rule conflicts
- * Implemented a genetic algorithm-based method to resolve detected rule conflicts efficiently
- * Provided a GUI integrating real-world environmental factors and physical constraints

– Privacy Leakage Detection

- * Identified a novel cross-app privacy leakage risk in IoT apps and conducted a systematic study on inference threats
- * Formalized cross-app chaining problems and defined trigger-condition-action relations to model interactions between apps
- * Inferred device profiles based on usage context, ensuring accurate modeling for devices with varying sensitivity levels
- * Quantified privacy inference probabilities to assess both direct exposure and implicit inference risks
- * Developed a GUI to provide users with visual insights into privacy risks and enable better decision-making

– Large-Scale Real-World IoT App Dataset

- * Collected and cleaned a large-scale dataset of real-world open-source IoT apps from diverse sources
- * Filtered out invalid apps using regular-expression matching and symbolic execution techniques
- * Eliminated identical and near-duplicate apps by computing fuzzy hashes and applying clustering algorithms

• Normalyze, Inc.

Security Engineer Intern

Software Engineer Intern

Los Altos, CA, USA

May. 2022 – Aug. 2022

May. 2021 – Aug. 2021

– Intelligent Document Analytics and Scalable Cloud Deployment

- * Developed and implemented a document clustering system to automatically group similar documents
- * Designed and built a document classification pipeline for assigning documents to predefined categories
- * Devised algorithms to detect structural and semantic similarities among databases and tables
- * Deployed real-time prediction and clustering modules on AWS, enabling scalable data processing
- * Built and maintained database operations and REST APIs with comprehensive automated tests
- * Optimized Dockerfiles to containerize services and streamline CI/CD for reliable deployments

• Microsystem & Terahertz Research Center

Assistant Research Scientist

Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R.China

Jul. 2015 – Jul. 2019

– High-Throughput LDPC Encoder and Decoder

- * Proposed a fully parallel LDPC encoder based on the Richardson–Urbanke method for high-throughput coding
- * Designed novel partially parallel LDPC decode algorithms optimized for performance and hardware efficiency
- * Implemented LDPC encoders on Xilinx Virtex-7 FPGAs, achieving >10 Gbps via pipelined recursive coding
- * Developed an LDPC decoder with LUT-based layered decoding, sustaining 5 Gbps throughput

PRESENTATIONS

- InteractionShield: Harnessing Event Relations for Interaction Threat Detection and Resolution in Smart Homes, 18th Central Area Networking and Security Workshop (CANSec), Oct. 25, 2025, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO, USA
- PrivacyGuard: Exploring Hidden Cross-App Privacy Leakage Threats In IoT Apps, 25th Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS), Jul. 15, 2025, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA
- SmartAppZoo: a Repository of SmartThings Apps for IoT Benchmarking, I2S Student Organization (ISO) Meeting, Nov. 3, 2023, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA

SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Reviewer, Journal of Computer Security (JCS)
- Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC)
- External Reviewer, 2023 53rd Annual IEEE IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN)
- External Reviewer, 2022 52nd Annual IEEE IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN)
- Session Moderator, EAI SecureComm 2022, Oct. 17-19, 2022, Kansas City, MO, USA
- In-room Judge, Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, Feb. 11, 2022, Lawrence, KS, USA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Top 10% in Roo CTF 2025 Oct. 2025
University of Missouri-Kansas City
- ACSAC Student Conferenceship Award Oct. 2025
Applied Computer Security Associates
- Graduate Student Travel Fund Award Oct. 2025
University of Kansas
- CANSec Travel Grant Award Oct. 2025
Central Area Networking and Security Workshop
- GEA Travel Grant Jul. 2025
University of Kansas
- David D. and Mildred H. Robb Award Jun. 2025
University of Kansas
- First-Class Academic Scholarship Oct. 2013, Oct. 2014
Harbin Institute of Technology
- Outstanding Undergraduate Award Jul. 2012
University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
- National Encouragement Scholarship Sep. 2009, Sep. 2011
University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
- MediaTek First-Class Scholarship Sep. 2010
University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
- Second Prize in Chinese Mathematics Competition Oct. 2009
University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

SKILLS

- **Programming:** Python, C, C++, Java, SQL, Go, Assembly, Shell, MATLAB, R, Lua, Nix, Groovy, Javascript, Verilog, VHDL
- **Tools:** AWS, BeautifulSoup, Docker, Git, ~~TeX~~TeX, Matplotlib, NumPy, NuSMV, Pandas, PyTorch, scikit-learn, SciPy, Seaborn, Selenium, spaCy, SPIN, SymPy, TikZ, Z3

REFERENCES

- **Prof. Fengjun Li (Advisor)** *University of Kansas*
fli@ku.edu Deane E. Ackers Professor
- **Prof. Bo Luo (Co-advisor)** *University of Kansas*
bluo@ku.edu H.J. and Joan O. Wertz Professor
- **Dr. Yang Zhang** *Cyberhaven*
yangzhang.cs@gmail.com Senior Director of Engineering