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Virtual Conference

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Association for Computing Machinery

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession



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General Chairs' Message

Chairing NSPW — particularly chairing NSPW this year — requires some study of the fundamentals of what comprises a productive, helpful workshop. Traditionally NSPW benefits from cloistering participants together, both professionally and socially, over the course of a week. There are formal discussions, of course, but also the digressions and excursions that are often the hallmark of valuable academic discourse.

That was not an option this year, so we met virtually, on an abbreviated schedule, with a laser-like focus on the research that brought us together.

And it worked.

The lesson we took away from this is not that proximity, excursions, and digressions don't matter; rather, we think that other elements of NSPW matter more.

NSPW 2020 worked because of the great efforts of the program committee, who reviewed 24 submissions from 55 authors and selected the papers best suited to NSPW discussions. It worked because of the scribes who took notes, and the volunteers who helped authors incorporate feedback. That work was all vitally necessary, but still not sufficient.

Equally crucial was the commitment of the NSPW community who helped guide the development of a virtual workshop, gave of their time to review papers in advance and participate, and provided constructive, thoughtful discussion and feedback. This workshop would not be successful without that vibrant, interdisciplinary extended community, and we are deeply grateful for the foundation laid over the past iterations of NSPW that enabled these discussions to be productive, interesting, and engaging.

It has been a pleasure to chair NSPW and we look forward to many future iterations.

Michael Locasto (General Chair) and Tom Walcott (Vice-Chair)

PC Chairs' Message

The New Security Paradigms Workshop aims to provide a home for works that challenge conventional wisdom and working models in the field of computer security. Since 1992, NSPW has accepted papers on a wide variety of topics. These papers have pushed boundaries and provided speculation and reflection in all areas of computer security. This year, we continued some traditions, such as theme submissions, and reworked others, such as streamlining the review process.

We received 24 paper submissions this year, and accepted 10 papers from a diverse range of fields. Nine distinct subfields of computer security were represented by the 10 papers accepted. These areas include two related to this year's theme of "automated reasoning for security," as well as privacy law, usable security, authentication design, memory design, social practice theory, and deconstructionist philosophy.

Encompassing and encouraging this wide diversity requires work and effort from an amazing group of authors, program committee members, and organizing committee members.

The workshop program is only as strong as the papers submitted. 55 authors were involved in writing our 24 submissions, and we would like to thank all of them for their participation in NSPW 2020. NSPW asks more engagement from its authors than many conferences, and we would particularly like to thank the authors of accepted papers for their dedicated engagement with the shepherding and revision processes.

In assembling this year's program, we were assisted by the hard work of the technical program committee. We had 18 program committee members, who brought their expertise on a wide variety of security topics to the review process. Each PC member reviewed between two and five submissions, and many of them also acted as shepherds. Their enthusiastic engagement with the submissions and "workshop" process characterizes much of the in-depth and thoughtful engagement that NSPW is known for.

A wonderful program is not much without a time and place to discuss it. We would like to thank the general chairs and other members of the organizing committee for creating this space. We valued their ongoing support in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

NSPW was held online this year, but as in past years, each paper was workshopped in an interactive 60-minute time slot. We were gratified to find the level of participation this year was comparable to that of our in-person sessions, and we know that the paper authors benefited from the detailed feedback.

Although we are sad that the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting in person, we are grateful to have been able to conduct a safe conference that still provided the NSPW interaction we expect. We are pleased to present this year's program.

Elizabeth Stobert and Jonathan Spring (Program Co-Chairs)

Table of Contents

Categorizing Uses of Communications Metadata: Systemizing Knowledge and Presenting a Path for Privacy1 Susan Landau
Towards In-Band Non-Cryptographic Authentication
Putting the Sec in DevSecOps: Using Social Practice Theory to Improve Secure Software Development
The Framework of Security-Enhancing Friction: How UX Can Help Users Behave More Securely
TrollHunter [Evader]: Automated Detection [Evasion] of Twitter Trolls During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Trust-Based Security; Or, Trust Considered Harmful
Transcending the Teetering Tower of Trust: Demonstrated with Virtual Memory Fuses for Software Enclaves
Deconstructing Cybersecurity: From Ontological Security to Ontological Insecurity
On Managing Vulnerabilities in AI/ML Systems
Out of Sight, Out of Mind: UI Design and the Inhibition of Mental Models of Security

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