Aalto University

Information Security Research and Education at Aalto

N. Asokan
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About me

Professor, Aalto University, from Aug 2013

Professor, University of Helsinki, 2012-2017

IEEE Fellow (2017), ACM Distinguished Scientist (2016)

Associate Editor-in-Chief, IEEE Security & Privacy (2017)

Previously

Nokia (14 y; built up Nokia security research team)

IBM Research (3 y)

https://asokan.org/asokan/ for more background

Secure Systems Group

Prof N. Asokan

Professor, Department of Computer Science

Director: Helsinki-Aalto Center for Information Security

http://asokan.org/asokan/

Prof Tuomas Aura

Professor, Department of Computer Science

Director: SECCLO joint degree program

https://people.aalto.fi/tuomas_aura

Dr Andrew Paverd

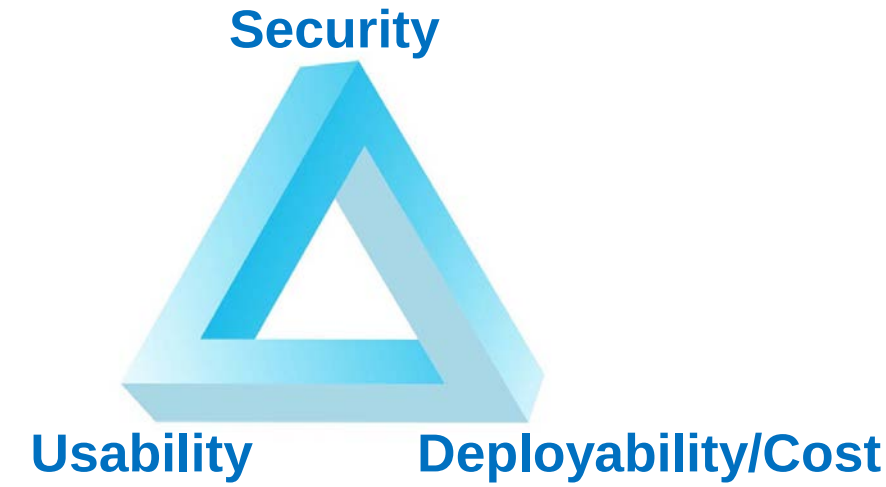
Research Fellow, Department of Computer Science

Deputy Director: Helsinki-Aalto Center for Information Security

https://ajpaverd.org

Secure Systems Group

How to make it possible to build systems that are simultaneously easy-to-use and inexpensive to deploy while still guaranteeing sufficient protection?



Research

Building systems that are secure, usable, and deployable

Current major themes

Platform Security

- How can we design/use pervasive hardware and OS security mechanisms to secure applications and services?

Machine Learning & Security

- Can we guarantee performance of machine-learning based systems even in the presence of adversaries?

Research: Platform Security

Platform security: overview

Applications of platform security

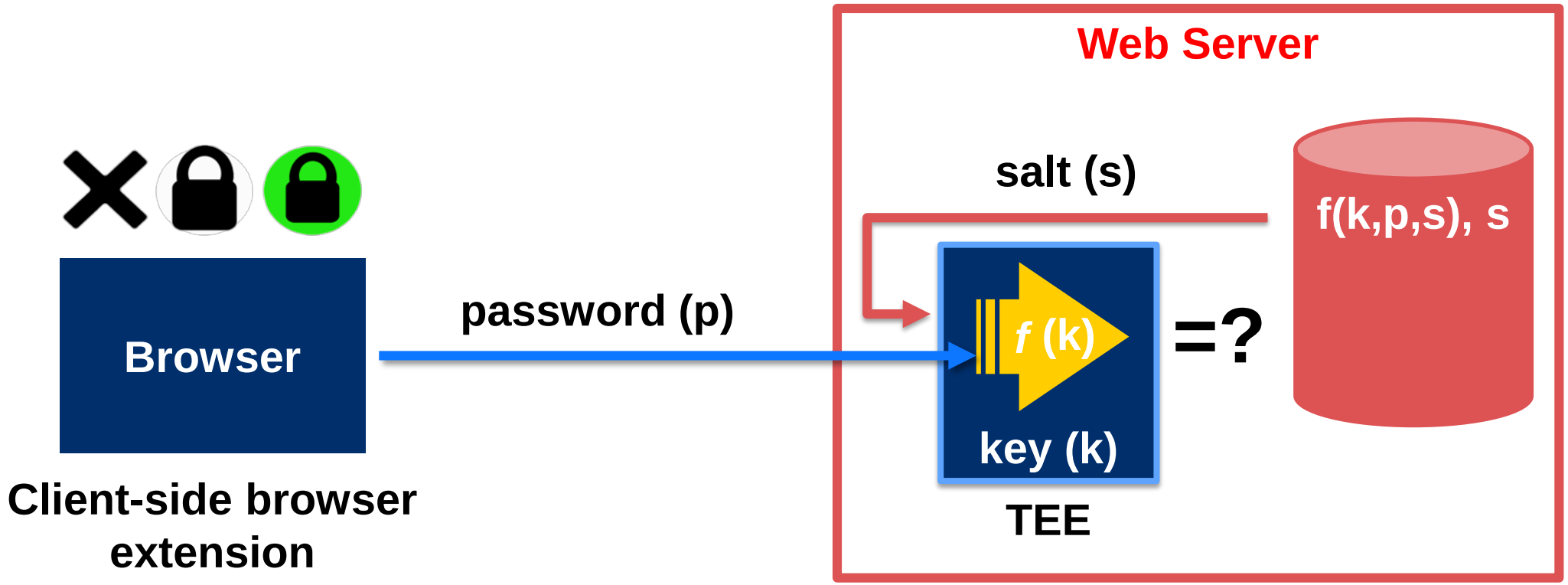
- **Example: protecting password-based web authentication systems**

Novel platform security mechanisms

- **Examples:**
  - Linux kernel hardening
  - Hardening embedded systems (C-Flat and HardScope)

SafeKeeper: Protecting Web Passwords

How can we use widely available trusted hardware to deter password database theft and server compromise?



https://ssg.aalto.fi/research/projects/passwords/

Linux kernel hardening

What vulnerabilities exist in the Linux kernel? How to mitigate them?

Randomization can’t stop BPF JIT spray

https://www.blackhat.com/eu-16/briefings.html# randomization-cant-stop-bpf-jit-spray

Preventing reference counter overflows and pointer bound violations

https://ssg.aalto.fi/projects/kernel-hardening/

Runtime Attacks

Run-time attacks still a major threat for PCs, mobile and embedded devices

Software written in memory unsafe languages such as C/C++

- Suffer from various memory-related errors

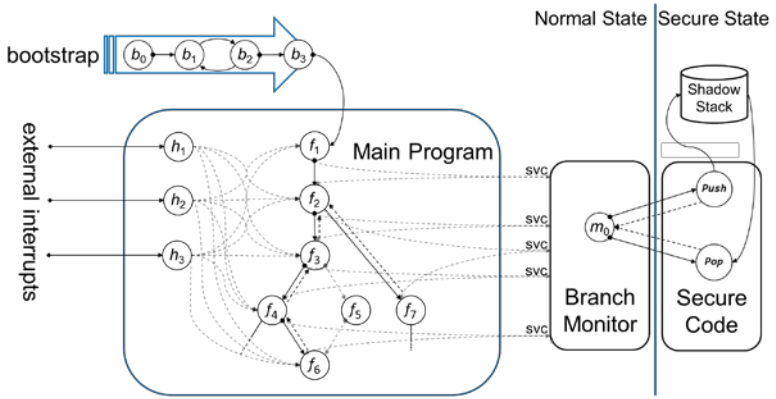
Memory errors may allow run-time attacks to compromise program behaviour

- *Control-flow hijacking* / *code injection*
- *Return-Oriented Programming* (ROP)
- *Non-control-data attacks*
- *Data-Oriented Programming* (DOP)

Hardening Embedded Systems

C-FLAT

- Control-flow attestation for embedded devices



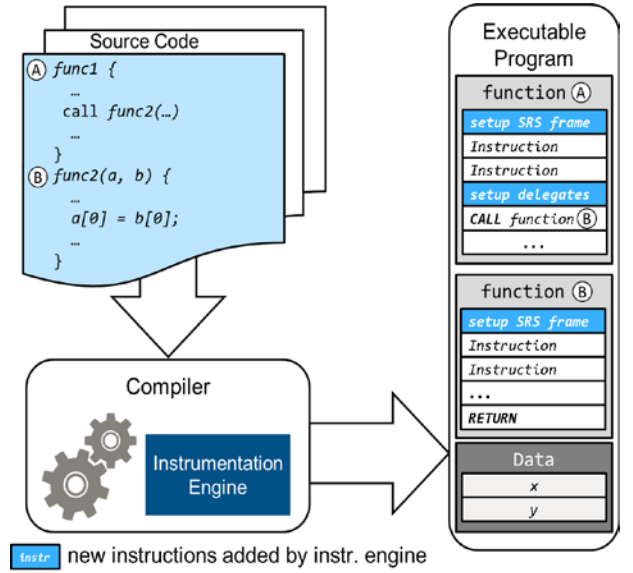
CaRE architecture overview

CFI CaRe

- Hardware-supported call and return enforcement on TrustZone-M

HardScope

- Thwarting DOP attacks with hardware-enforced scoping



https://ssg.aalto.fi/projects/embedded-systems-security/

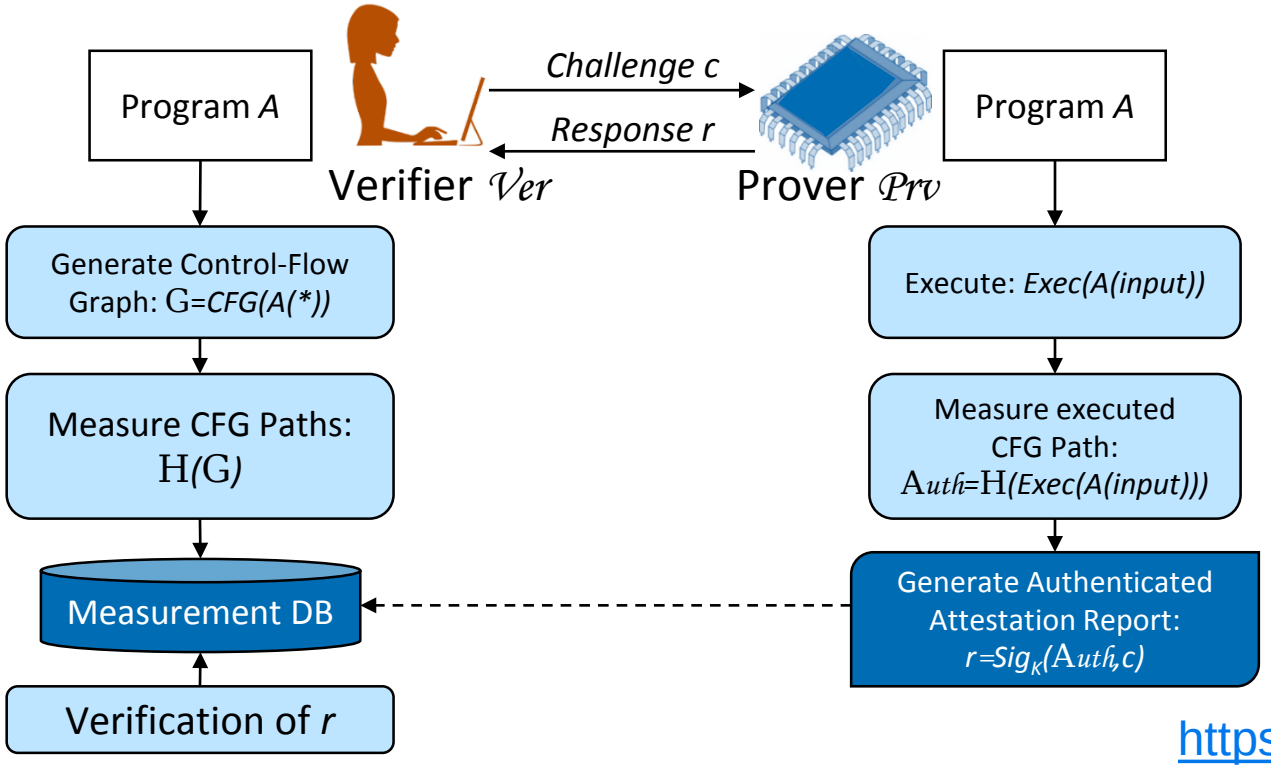
Control-Flow Attestation

How can a trusted verifier learn about run-time attacks and dynamic behavior of an embedded device?

- Current *remote attestation* schemes measure only integrity of program binary
- Control-flow and data-oriented attacks corrupt runtime state of program

C-FLAT: Attestation for Run-time Behavior (high-level idea)

Trace and record control flow of prover and aggregate measurement in *hash-chain*



https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.07763

Run-time Scope Enforcement (high-level idea)

Reduce effects of attacks that corrupt data by
enforcing variable visibility rules at run time

Challenges:

- *Lexical scope* of variables used only in static checks by compiler
  → **scope information not typically available at run time**
- *Granularity* of enforcement, module-level fault isolation not sufficient
  → **subjects functions, objects typed data in memory**
- *Context sensitive access*, distinct function invocations must operate with different rules
  → **pointers may be legitimately passed down (and up) call chain**
- *Pervasiveness*, ability to mediate all memory accesses
  → **enforcement must the efficient**

HardScope: Hardware-assisted Run-Time Scope Enforcement

Generic architectural extension enabling hardware-assisted
run-time scope enforcement

HardScope consists of:

- Hardware-component for managing run-time access rules
- 6 new instructions configure HardScope-hardware with access rules
- Rule-enforcement added to `load` / `store`
- Compiler-extension that instruments software to use HardScope hardware

Enables flexible adjustment of enforcement granularity at instrumentation time

- Module-level → Function-level → Block-level (e.g. for-loop, if-else-statement block)

Implementation

Prototype on *PULPino* SoC on *ZedBoard* FPGA

- Instruction set extension integrated into open-source RISC-V processor

Toolchain support:

- Automatic instrumentation via compiler plug-in integrated into RISC-V GCC toolchain
- Software simulation of RSE-enabled RISC-V processor integrated into Spike simulator

Minimal performance impact on CoreMark embedded benchmark

- Incurs only ~3% overhead

https://arxiv.org/abs/1705.10295

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Research: ML & Security

Machine learning and Security

Machine learning for security and privacy

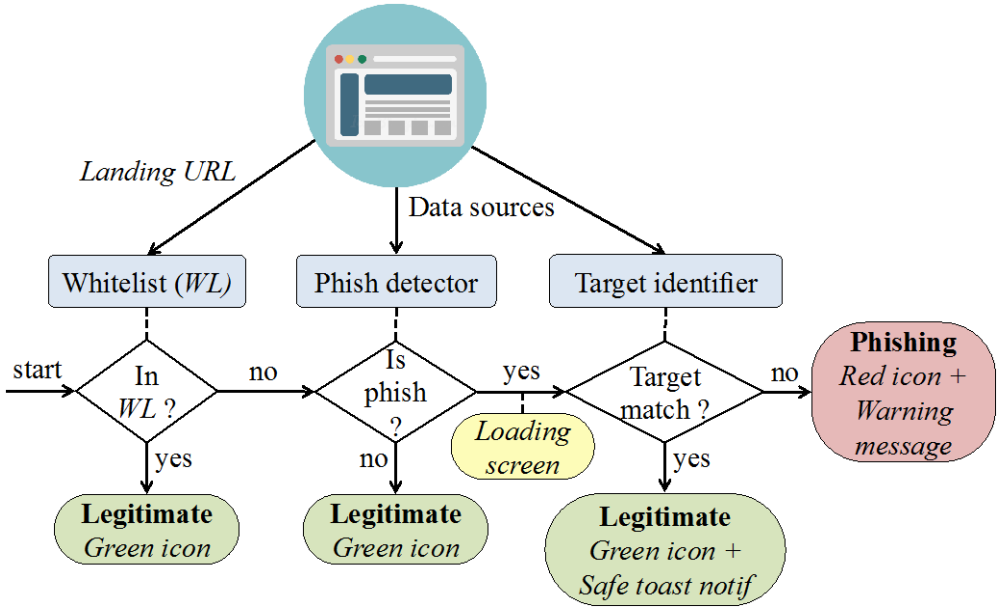
- **Examples:**
  - Fast client-side phishing detection (off-the-hook)
  - Detection of vulnerable/compromised IoT devices (IoT Sentinel and DÏoT

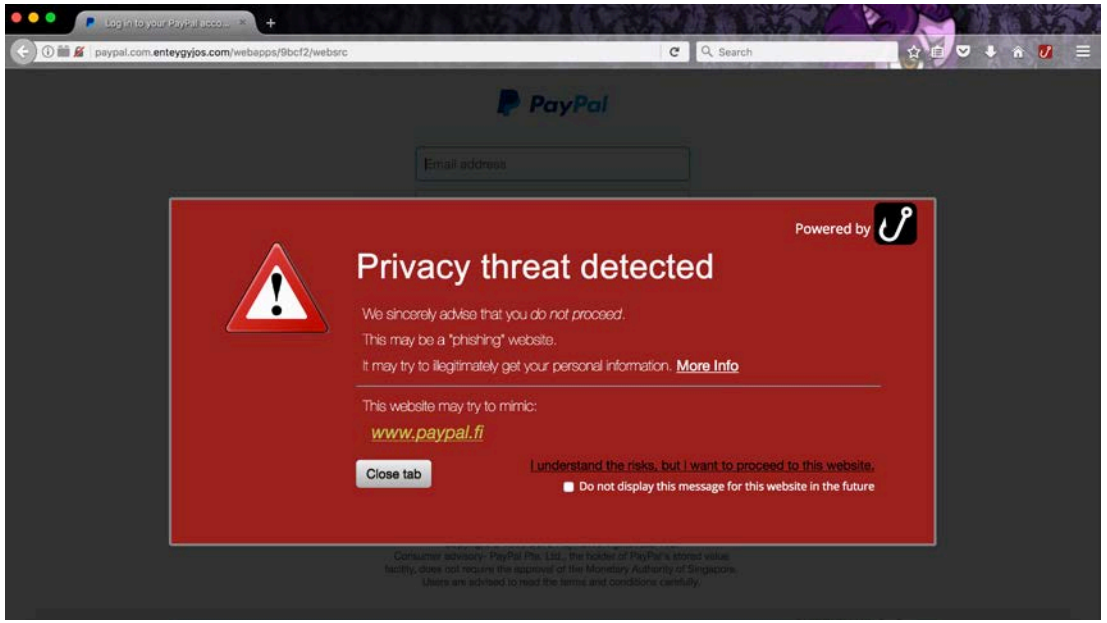
Security and privacy of machine-learning based systems

- **Examples:**
  - Privacy-preserving neural network predictions (MiniONN)
  - Model stealing: attacks and defenses

Fast client-side Phishing Protection

How to improve phish detection by modeling constraints on phishers?

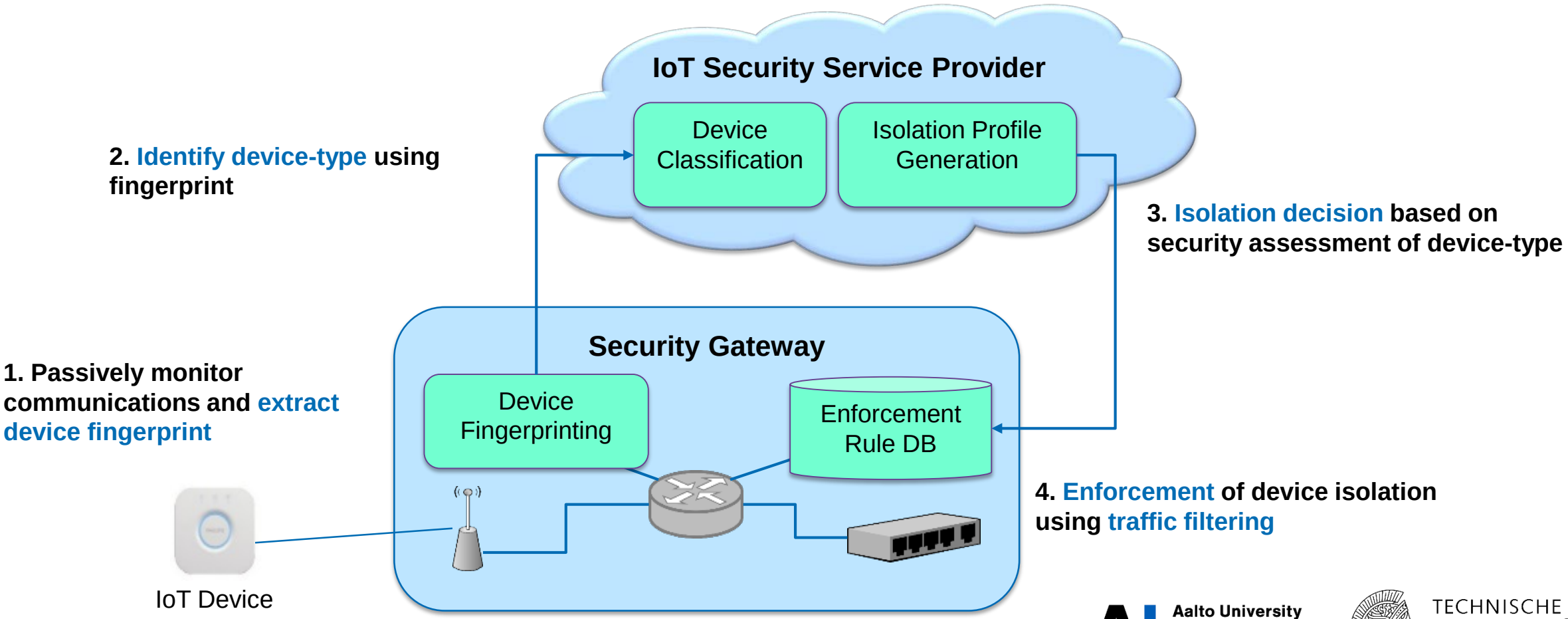




https://ssg.aalto.fi/projects/phishing/

IoT Sentinel: Automated device-type identification

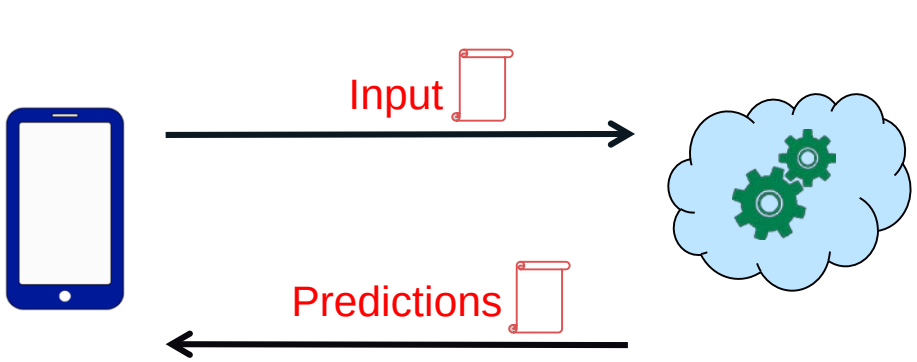
How to protect smart home networks from vulnerable IoT devices?



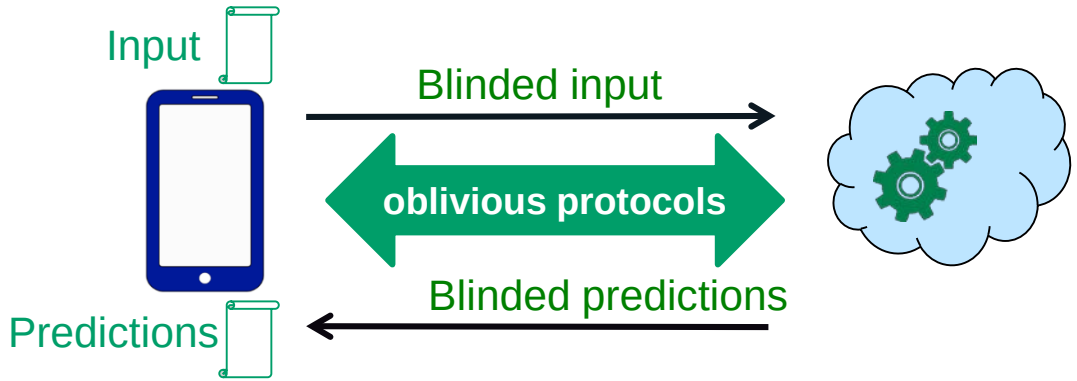
https://ssg.aalto.fi/projects/seliot

Privacy-preserving Neural Networks

How to make cloud-based prediction models preserve privacy?



violates clients' privacy



Use inexpensive cryptographic tools

MiniONN (ACM CCS 2017)

https://eprint.iacr.org/2017/452

Research: Other

Building systems that are secure, usable, and deployable

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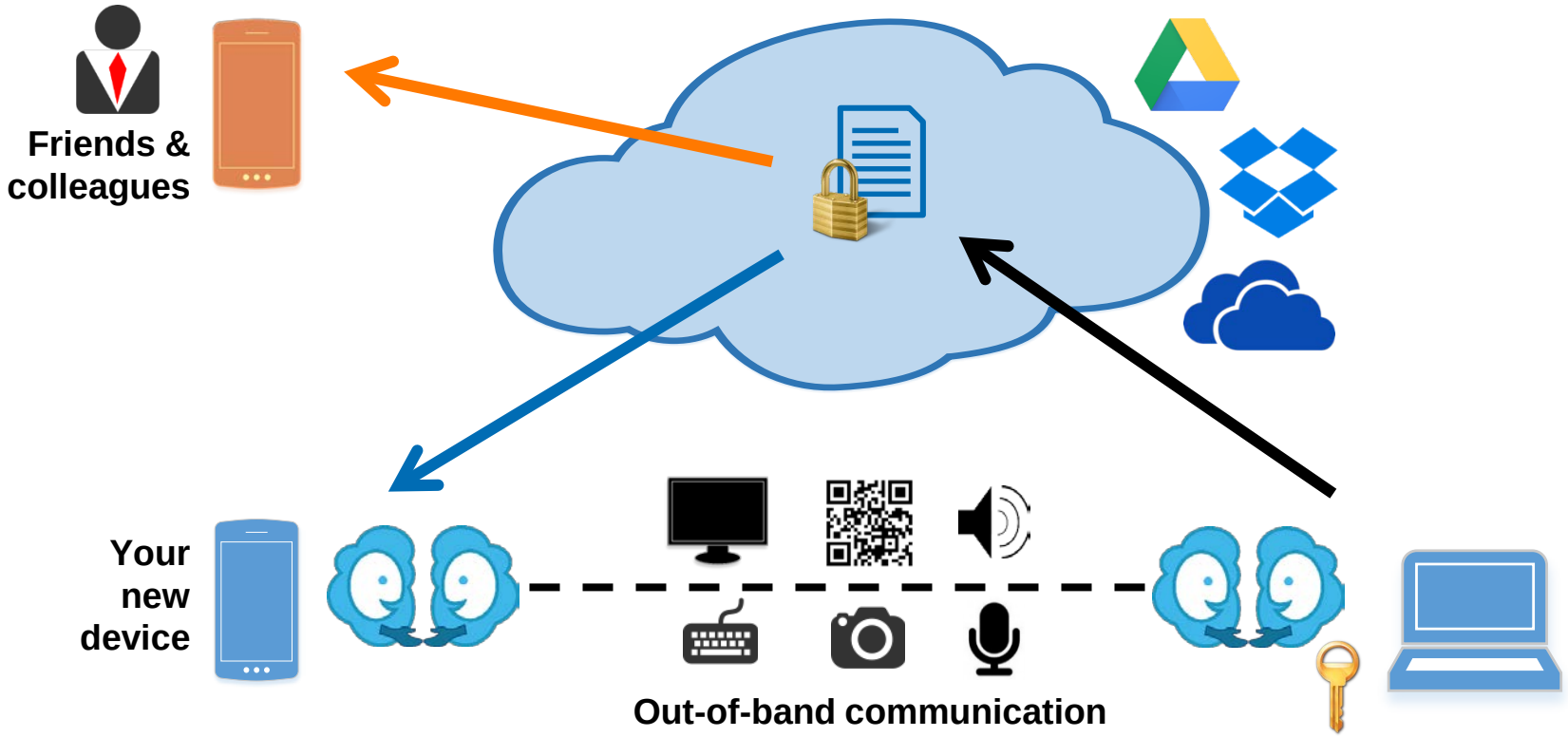
OmniShare: Secure Cloud Storage

How can you share your data securely
with anyone you like, anywhere you like?



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ACADEMY OF FINLAND

intel Collaborative Research Institute for Secure Computing

https://ssg.aalto.fi/projects/omnishare

Current themes: Emerging topics

Distributed consensus and blockchains (theory, applications) [AoF BCon, ICRI-CARS]

- Can hardware security mechanisms help design scalable consensus schemes?

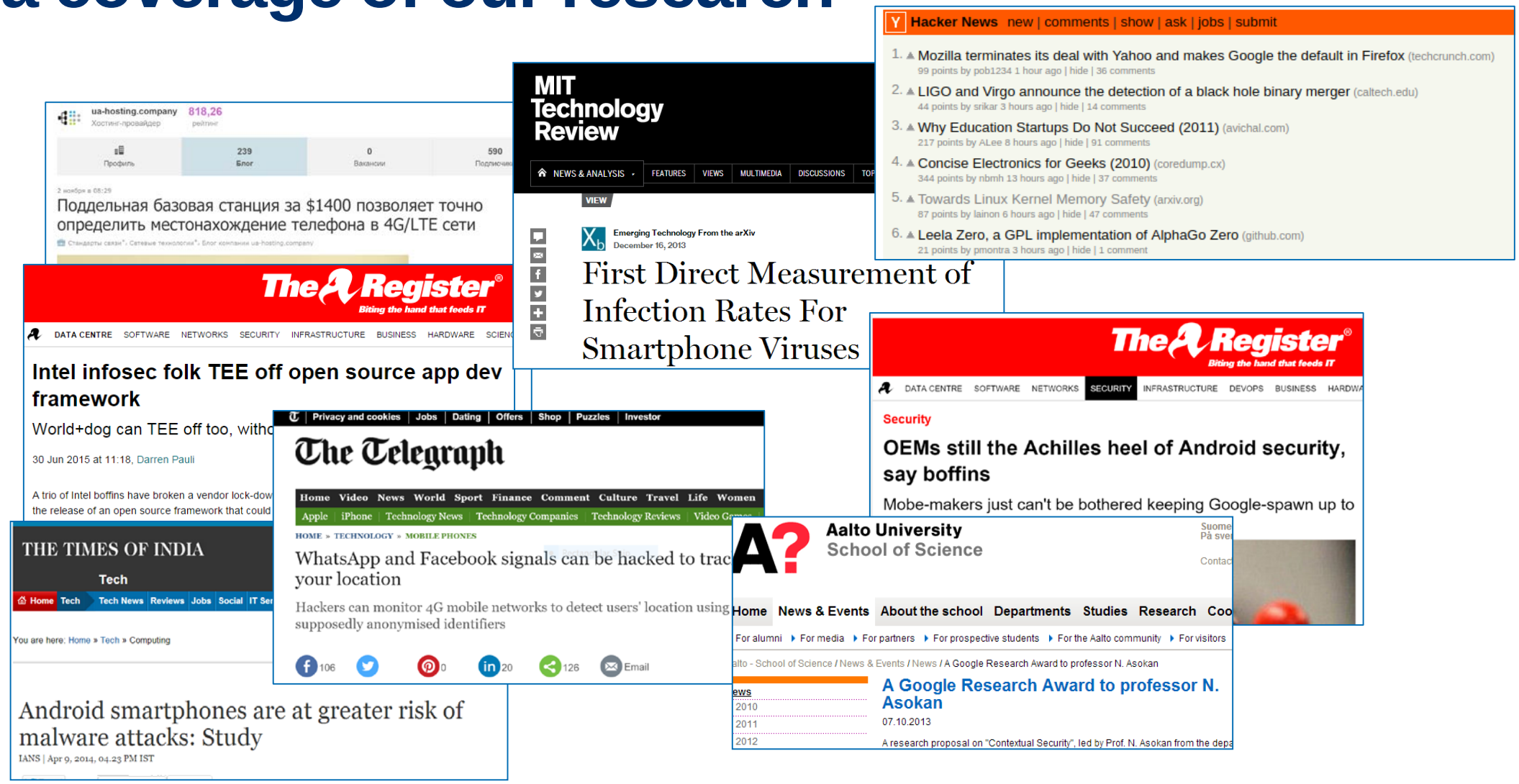
Securing IoT (scalability, usability) [AoF SELIoT]

- How do we secure IoT devices from birth to death?

Stylometry and security [HICT scholarship]

- Can text analysis help detect deception?

Media coverage of our research



Research Funding (Summary)

Cloud Security Services (CloSer 2016 - 2018)

- Funded by Business Finland (formerly Tekes)

Securing Lifecycles of IoT devices (SELIoT 2017 - 2019)

- Funded by NSF and Academy of Finland (WiFiUS program)
- Aalto (Asokan), UC Irvine (Tsudik), U Florida (Traynor)

Intel Collaborative Research Institute (ICRI-SC 2014 – 2017 & ICRI-CARS 2017 - 2020)

- Secure Computing
- Collaborative, Autonomous and Resilient Systems

Blockchain Consensus and Beyond (Bcon 2017 - 2020)

- Funded by Academy of Finland

Education

Training the next generation of information security researchers and professionals

Skip to summary

Studies

- Study options
- Bachelor´s degree programmes
- Master´s degree programmes
- International double degree programmes
- Open university
- Exchange, JOO and Non-degree studies
- MBA studies
- Show all
- Bachelor's Admissions
- Master's Admissions
- Doctoral Admissions
- Scholarships and Fees
- Studying at Aalto
- About Finland
- Admission results
- Statistics

Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences - Security and Cloud Computing

Programme description | Get to know us

- Study programme
- Admission requirements
- Career opportunities
- Application documents
- Tuition fees and scholarships
- Contact information

Acquire a world-class education in information security at Aalto University!

Studies in *Security and Cloud Computing* give students a broad understanding of the latest and future technologies for secure mobile and cloud computing systems. Students will gain both practical engineering knowledge and theoretical insights into

- secure systems engineering,
- distributed application development

Degree:
Master of Science (Technology).
More information.

ECTS:
120 ECTS

Field of Study:
Technology and Engineering

Duration:
2 years, full-time

Eligibility:
An appropriate Bachelor´s degree or an equivalent qualification.

Tuition fees & scholarships:
Yes, for non-EU citizens.
More information

Language of Instruction:
English
More information.

Organising school/s:
School of Science

Application period:
2017-12-15 - 2018-01-24

http://www.aalto.fi/en/studies/education/programme/security_and_cloud_computing/

SECCLO

Master's Programme in Security and Cloud Computing

(Erasmus Mundus)

Applications: 4.12.2017 – 17.01.2018

Scholarships available

secclo.aalto.fi **secclo@aalto.fi** **facebook.com/secclo**

Aalto University

DTU Technical University of Denmark

EURECOM

KTH

NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Tartu Ülikool

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Helsinki-Aalto Center for Information Security (HAIC)

Joint initiative: Aalto University and University of Helsinki https://haic.aalto.fi/

Mission: attract/train top students in information security

- Offers financial aid to top students in both CCIS Security and Cloud Computing & SECCLO
- Three scholars in 2017; Up to five (expected) in 2018

Call for donors and supporters

- Supported by donations from F-Secure, Intel, Nixu, Huawei, and Aalto University School of Science

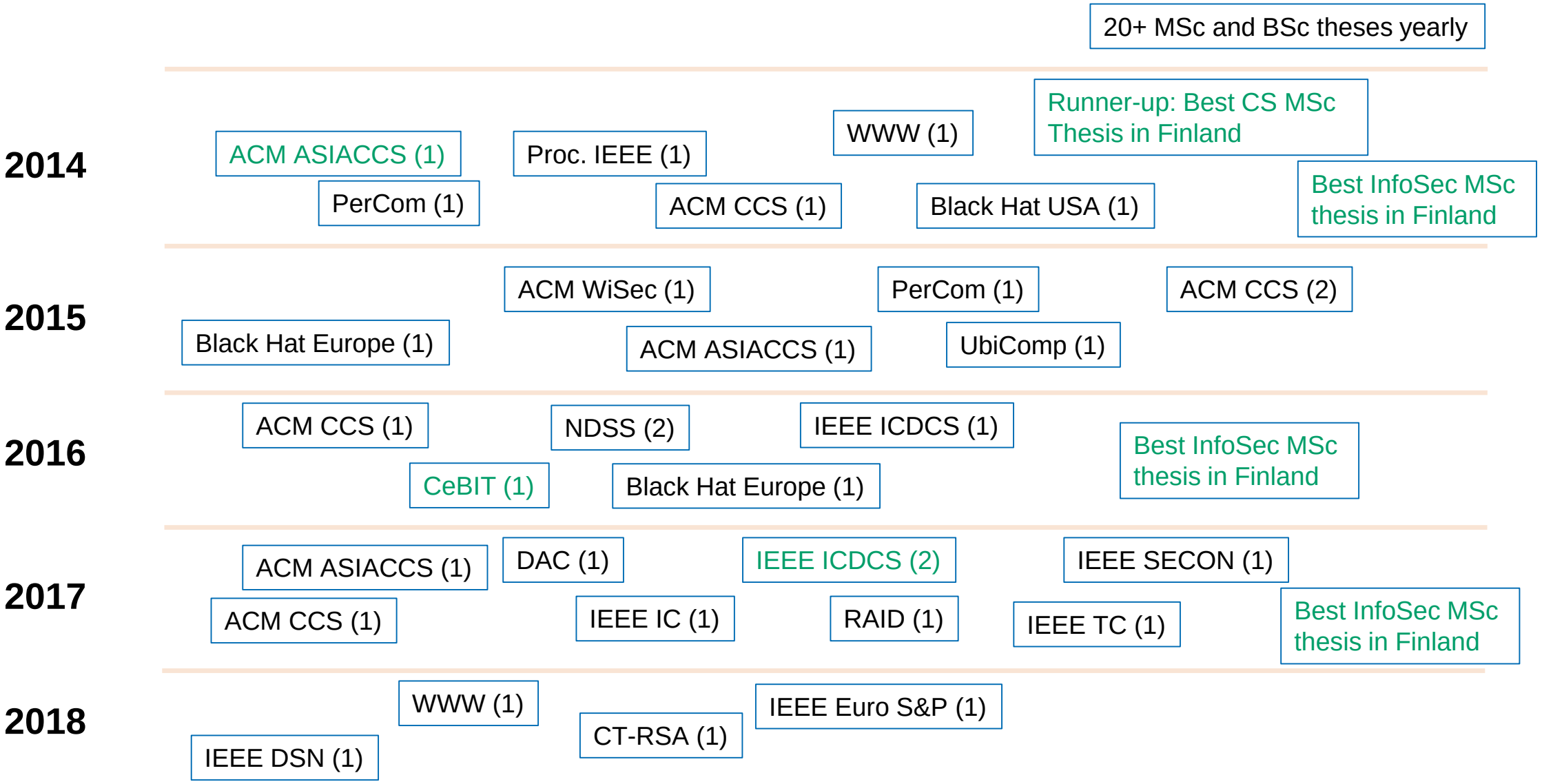
2018

F-Secure HUAWEI

2017

F-Secure intel nixu cybersecurity.

InfoSec Research and Education @ Aalto



(awards in green)

https://ssg.aalto.fi/about-us/

Information Security Research and Education at Aalto

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