Yueqi Chen

Department of Computer Science
The University of Colorado Boulder
Email: yueqi.chen@colorado.edu
Homepage: http://yueqichen.org/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Lewis_Chen_

RESEARCH INTERESTS

In general, my research are is **system and software security**. I focus on revolutionizing **exploitation** techniques, formalizing **weird machine**, and using outcomes of these research to design **protections** in a quantitative approach for infrastructure cyber-systems (e.g., OS kernels and cryptography libraries). I am very happy that our works have received wide recognition in both academia and industry.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D in Information Sciences, Pennsylvania State University**, State College, PA, USA (Aug 2017 - June 2022)
  Advisor: Xinyu Xing
- **B.S. in Computer Science and Technology, Nanjing University**, Nanjing, China (Sept 2013 - June 2017)

EXPERIENCES

- **University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, USA (Aug 2022 - Present)
  Assistant Professor
- **Northwestern University**, Evanston, USA (Jan 2022 - June 2022)
  Visiting Scholar
  Advisor: Xinyu Xing
- **Pennsylvania State University**, State College, USA (Aug 2017 - June 2022)
  Research Assistant
  Advisor: Xinyu Xing
- **IBM Watson**, Yorktown Heights, USA (May 2021 - Aug 2021)
  Research Intern: worked on on-demand protection for kernel
  Mentor: Michael Le, Dan Williams
- **Baidu X-Lab**, Sunnyvale, USA (May 2019 - Aug 2019)
  Research Intern: worked on cache timing attack detection
  Mentor: Peng Li, Shengjian Guo, Yueqiang Cheng
- **JD.com Silicon Valley R&D Center**, Mountain View, USA (May 2018 - Aug 2018)
  Research Intern: worked on ARM ETM assisted kernel protection
  Mentor: Yueh-Hsun Lin

HONORS & AWARDS

- Pwn2Own 2022, winner, Vancouver, Canada, May. 2022
- The 7th place in DEFCON 29 CTF (Team Nu1L), Las Vegas, USA, Aug. 2021
- **IBM PhD Fellowship Award, 2020**
- BlackHat USA, Student Scholarship, 2021
- IST Graduate Student Travel Grant Award, 2020
- BlackHat USA, Student Scholarship, 2020
- IST Graduate Student Travel Grant Award, 2019
- The 28th USENIX Security Symposium, Student Travel Grant Award, 2019
- FUZE is awarded one of the ten technical events of JD.COM, 2018
- The 16th place in DEFCON 26 CTF (Team r3kapig), Las Vegas, USA, Aug. 2018
- BlackHat USA, Student Scholarship, 2018
- The 39th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, Student Travel Grant Award, 2018
- The 5th place in NSA codebreaker Challenge, Nov.2017

TALKS & LECTURES

- **Towards Exploitability Assessment for Linux Kernel Vulnerabilities**
  Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**,** Amsterdam, Netherlands, Nov. 2019
  University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, Nov. 2019
- **Vulnerability Exploitability Assessment and Mitigation Design Defects in Linux Kernel**
  CLK 2019, Hangzhou, China, Oct. 2019

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Playing for K-Heaps: Empirical Evaluation of Kernel Heap Exploitation Robustness Techniques**
   Y. Chen*, K. Zeng*, H. Cho, X. Xing, A. Doupé, T. Bao, and Y. Shoshitaishvili
   USENIX Security Symposium ***(Security)*** *2022*
   * indicates equal contribution
2. **An In-depth Analysis of Duplicated Linux Kernel Bug Reports**
   D. Mu, Y. Wu, ***Y. Chen***, Z. Lin, C. Yu, X. Xing, and G. Wang
   Network and Distributed System Security Symposium ***(NDSS)*** *2022*
3. **GREBE: Facilitating Security Assessment for Linux Kernel Bugs**
   Z. Lin, ***Y. Chen***, D. Mu, C. Yu, Y. Wu, X. Xing, and K. Li
   IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy ***(SP)*** *2022*
4. **A Systematic Study of Elastic Objects in Kernel Exploitation**
   Y. Chen, Z. Lin, and X. Xing
   ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security ***(CCS)*** *2020*
5. **Exposing Cache Timing Side-channel Leaks through Out-of-order Symbolic Execution**
   Y. Chen*, S. Guo*, J. Yu, M. Wu, Z. Zuo, P. Li, and Y. Cheng

*Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages, and Applications **(OOPSLA)** 2020*
* indicates equal contribution

6. **SpecuSym: Speculative Symbolic Execution for Cache Timing Leak Detection**
Y. Chen*, S. Guo*, P. Li, Y. Cheng, H. Wang, M. Wu, and Z. Zuo
*International Conference on Software Engineering **(ICSE)** 2020*
* indicates equal contribution

7. **SLAKE: Facilitating Slab Manipulation for Exploiting Vulnerabilities in the Linux Kernel**
Y. Chen, and X. Xing
*ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security **(CCS)** 2019*

8. **Towards the Detection of Inconsistencies in Public Security Vulnerability Reports**
Y. Dong, W. Guo, ***Y. Chen***, X. Xing, Y. Zhang, and G. Wang
*USENIX Security Symposium **(Security)** 2019*

9. **RENN: Efficient Reverse Execution with Neural-Network Alias Analysis**
D. Mu, W. Guo, A. Cuevas, ***Y. Chen***, J. Gai, X. Xing, and B. Mao
I*nternational Conference on Automated Software Engineering **(ASE)** 2019*

10. **KEPLER: Facilitating Control-flow Hijacking Primitive Evaluation for Linux Kernel Vulnerabilities**
W. Wu, ***Y. Chen***, X. Xing, and W. Zou
*USENIX Security Symposium **(Security)** 2019*

11. **FUZE: Towards Facilitating Exploit Generation for Kernel Use-After-Free Vulnerabilities**
W. Wu, ***Y. Chen***, J. Xu, X. Xing, W. Zou, and X. Gong
*USENIX Security Symposium **(Security)** 2018*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

12. **Comp4Exp: A Compiler Framework for Exploit Generation**
Y. Chen, Z. Lin, K. Huang, X. Xing, T. Jaeger, and S. Jha
*IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy **(SP)** to be submitted to 2023*

13. **HOTBPF: On-demand Kernel Object Isolation**
Y. Chen, Z. Lin, X. Xing, M. Le, D. Williams, and H. T. Jamjoon
*USENIX Security Symposium **(Security)** in submission 2022*

14. **Linux Kernel Hardening: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly**
Y. Chen, Z. Lin, D. Mu, X. Xing
*USENIX Security Symposium **(Security)** in submission 2022*

15. **HotBPF - An On-demand and On-the-fly Memory Protection for the Linux Kernel**
Y. Chen, Z. Lin
Linux Security Summit Europe 2022

16. **A General Approach to Bypassing Many Kernel Protections and Its Mitigation**
Y. Chen, Z. Lin, and X. Xing
BlackHat Asia 2021

17. **Your Trash Kernel Bug, My Precious 0-day**
    Z. Lin, ***Y. Chen***, X. Xing, and K. Li
    BlackHat Europe 2021

18. **Finding Multiple Bug Effects for More Precise Exploitability Estimation**
    Z. Lin, and ***Y. Chen***
    Linux Security Summit North America 2021

19. **Bypassing Many Kernel Protections Using Elastic Objects**
    Y. Chen, Z. Lin, and X. Xing
    Linux Security Summit Europe 2020

20. **Facilitate Linux Kernel Exploitation Step by Step**
    Y. Chen
    BlueHat IL 2020

21. **Hands Off and Putting SLAB/SLUB Feng Shui in a Blackbox**
    Y. Chen, X. Xing, and J. Su
    Black Hat Europe 2019

OPEN SOURCE CONTRIBUTION

- **w2l**: Transfer a limited overwriting to sensitive data leaking. Lead author.
  https://github.com/chenyueqi/w2l
- **SLAKE**: Discover sensitive object and automate layout manipulation. Lead author.
  https://github.com/chenyueqi/SLAKE
- **afl-pt**: Intel PT assisted AFL. Contributor
  https://github.com/junxzm1990/afl-pt
- **KEPLER**: Code gadgets analysis and chaining tool. Contributor.
  https://github.com/ww9210/kepler-cfhp
- **FUZE**: Primitive exploration and analysis tool. Contributor.
  https://github.com/ww9210/Linux_kernel_exploits
- **Symo3**: Cache timing attack detection tool. Lead author.
  https://github.com/chenyueqi/symo3
- **VIEM**: Vulnerability report analysis tool. Contributor.
  https://github.com/pinkymm/inconsistency_detection
- **RENN**: Deep-learning assisted alias analysis. Contributor.
  https://github.com/mudongliang/RENN
- **HotBPF**: On-demand protection for Linux kernel. Lead author.
  https://github.com/chenyueqi/hotBPF

TEACHING

- **At CU Boulder**

  Fall 2022: CSCI 7000-007 Advanced System Security, Instructor

- **At Penn State**

  Fall 2019 : Cyber Analysis Studio (CYBER 362), Teaching Assistant

  Spring 2019 : Information Security Management (IST 456), Teaching Assistant

  Fall 2018 : Overview of Information Security (SRA 221), Teaching Assistant

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **Session Chair**

  IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2022

- **Reviewer**

  International Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrutions and Defenses (RAID), 2022

  IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P) Poster, 2022

  ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security, 2021

- **Shadow PC**

  IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2021

- **External reviewer**

  IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2023

  IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2022

  USENIX Security, 2021

  USENIX Security, 2020

  ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security (CCS), 2020

  Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC), 2020

  ACM Conference on Computer and Communication Security (CCS), 2019

  European Symposium on Research on Computer Security (ESORICS), 2019

  Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC), 2019

  Information Security Conference (ISC), 2019

  ACM Asia Conference on Information, Computer and Communication Security (ASIACCS), 2018

  IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS), 2019

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