

CS/ECE-6747 Advanced Topics in Malware Course Syllabus FALL 2025

OMS Computer Science, OMS Cybersecurity, OMS ECE
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering
School of Computer Science, College of Computing

Delivery: 100% Web-Based, Asynchronous

Dates course will run: August 18, 2025 -- December 11, 2025

Instructor Information

Brendan Saltaformaggio, PhD (brendan@ece.gatech.edu)

Teaching Assistants:

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Please always CC the entire teaching team.

Weekly Office Hours via Zoom in Canvas.

Disclaimer: We record all office hours. As such, videos may contain large portions of silence. Please try speeding up the playback to 2x speed to find discussion times.

General Course Information

This course covers advanced approaches for detecting the presence of vulnerabilities in binary software, the analysis of malicious software, and explores recent research and unsolved problems in software protection and forensics. The goal of this course is to engage in critical discussion around key research topics in software security and forensics. This course will cover: Binary Program Analysis Principles, Binary Software Security, Software Forensics and Cyber Attack Response. Students will be required to study published research papers from the top-tier academic venues in computer security and cyber forensics.

Why take this course? You are interested in learning the fundamental principles of dissecting malware, vulnerability finding/defense, and cyber-attack triage. You want to read cutting-edge research publications on these topics.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

There are no Prerequisites for this course. However, background knowledge in assembly will be helpful and programming experience in python or C is a must.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Statically reverse engineer malware samples in a disassembler
2. Build static analysis tools to automate control flow recovery and identify intractable indirect jumps

3. Design and implement static analysis routines to perform automated data dependency tracking
4. Instrument binary programs and malware to collect dynamic instruction traces
5. Implement dynamic analysis tools to perform online control dependence tracking
6. Read and present cutting-edge research publications relating to malware analysis, vulnerability finding/defense, and cyber-attack triage

Course Materials

Course Text

None. Instead, we will study published research papers from the top-tier academic venues in computer security and cyber forensics. We will use a slide show to keep track of the papers we read in this class. Each paper will get at least 1 slide, and the slides must cover: “What problem is the paper focused on?”, “What solutions/techniques are proposed?”, “How did they evaluate their work?”, and “What future research opportunities can you think of?” These slides will be turned in for a grade at the end of the semester. You can access the articles from the [Readings Lists Section](#) on the course navigation.

Additional Materials/Resources

The following books are recommended for additional background or more in-depth understanding of the topics discussed in class. Read these books only if you want to learn more! They will not be covered in lectures or on exams!

- **Practical Tools/Techniques For Malware Reverse Engineering:**
Michael Sikorski, Andrew Honig. Practical Malware Analysis: The Hands-On Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software. No Starch Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-1593272906
- **Practical Tools/Techniques for Memory Forensics:**
Michael Hale Ligh, Andrew Case, Jamie Levy, Aaron Walters. The Art of Memory Forensics: Detecting Malware and Threats in Windows, Linux, and Mac Memory. Wiley, 2014. ISBN: 978-1118825099
- **Background On Low-Level Computer Systems Programming:**
Randal E. Bryant, David R. O'Hallaron. Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective. Pearson (3rd Edition), 2015. Online: <http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu/>. ISBN: 978-0134092669

You may also need a copy of the Intel Developer's manuals. These are free and available via this link: <http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/processors/architectures-software-developer-manuals.html> It's large, but the best PDF to get is the combined set, downloadable via the first link on that page. If you have an iPad or other tablet, drop this PDF on it and read it whenever you have spare time.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

This class will use Canvas to deliver course materials to online students. ALL course materials and activities will take place on Canvas.

Course Requirements, Assignments & Grading

Assignment Distribution and Grading Scale

Assignment	Weight
Extra Credit Assignment #1	5 bonus points
Six Mini-Projects	90%
Lab #1: Intro to GHIDRA	15%
Lab #2: Static Malware Reverse Engineering	14%
Lab #2 Check-In	1%, required!
Lab #3: Basic Def Use GHIDRA Plugin	15%
Lab #4: Data Dependence GHIDRA Plugin	15%
Lab #5: Dynamic Control Flow Tracing	15%
Lab #6: Dynamic Control Dependence	15%
Reading Slides & Ed Discussion Participation	10%
Extra Credit – CLOS Bonus Points	10 points if 90% of class completed CLOS

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Extra Credit Points fill in lost points on your lowest scoring lab.

Description of Graded Components

Mini-Projects

There will be 6 mini-projects during the Binary Analysis Principles portion of the class. 4 of the projects will be static analysis with GHIDRA and 2 will be dynamic analysis with Pin. Each project will require careful time allocation to complete on time (1 or 2 week deadlines). Grades will be based on the results produced by your tool. For some mini-projects, we will schedule demos during office hours if needed.

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The mini-projects will cover the following topics:

1. Intro. to Software Disassembly
2. Manual Static Malware Reverse Engineering
3. Automated Static Malware Analysis
4. Static Data Dependence Detection
5. Dynamic Control Flow Analysis
6. Dynamic Control Dependence Detection

Reading Slides

Each week's lesson is accompanied by published research papers from the top-tier academic venues in computer security and cyber forensics. Please read these research papers as pre-readings to prepare for each class. Each student will use a slide show to keep track of these papers as they read them. Each paper must get at least 1 slide, and the slides must cover the following for each paper: "What problem is the paper focused on?", "What solutions/techniques are proposed?", "How did they evaluate their work?", and "What future research opportunities can you think of?" These slides will be turned in for a grade at the end of the semester. Please keep it simple! 1 or 2 sentences for each question is sufficient. The grade is based on having a slide for all the papers and your understanding of each paper. You can access the articles from the [Readings Lists Section](#) on the course navigation.

Ed Discussion Participation

Students need to post at least once on Ed Discussion for full participation credits.

Submitting Assignments

Mini projects will be available during the period described above. Each project will have details of the files/documents that need to be submitted. Again, these should be submitted by time they are due.

Sending assignments (projects etc.), whether early, on time, or late to the professors or TA is not permitted and will not be accepted. All projects must be completed and submitted by following the submission instructions in the assignment. If there are technical issues, please notify the help desk, as well as the professor immediately.

Assignment Due Dates

All assignments will be due at the times listed on Canvas. The professor may extend deadlines when necessary, so please check back often. Please convert from EST to your local time zone using a [Time Zone Converter](#).

Late and Make-up Work Policy

The Modules follow a logical sequence that includes knowledge-building and experience-building. Late submissions will only be accepted for extreme and documented unforeseen circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, via the professor's approval.

Grading and Feedback

Mini-projects will be graded and provided with explanation for mistakes in two weeks after the due date.

Grading Malware Analysis Projects Versus Gradescope Automation

The mini-projects are designed to teach the fundamental techniques used by malware analysts and researchers. We have carefully considered how to accurately mirror the workflow and tools of a malware investigation within the short time of a single semester. As a result, this course can be quite challenging, and we appreciate dedication and persistence you bring to the mini-projects.

Please note that we intentionally do not provide real-time “autograder” feedback on the mini-projects, and we do not use Gradescope's “check-as-you-go” features. The reason is simple but important: automatic feedback during the coding process encourages a “trial-and-error” approach, rather than careful reasoning and validation of your solutions. This is a dangerous habit in cybersecurity—one that often leads to insecure code. In fact, studies have shown that reliance on rapid feedback from autograders can reduce developers' ability to independently reason about correctness and security (e.g., see research on “autograder-induced dependency” and insecure development practices in software engineering education).

Instead, this course uses a human-in-the-loop grading process where the autograder is just one tool to check results, not the only judge of correctness. After assignments are submitted, we carefully review your submission and your reasoning to ensure the autograder results are accurate. In fact, for many assignments, the autograder does little more than check your submission for the correct formatting. We know this makes the learning process more challenging, but it also mirrors how reverse engineering and malware analysis work in the real world. Malware analysis is never “trial-and-error,” and correctness often cannot be confirmed until after an exhaustive investigation.

We want you to succeed. The lectures and mini-project instructions include examples as baseline checks. Use these examples as test cases to verify that your implementation is working correctly. Create new test cases based on the knowledge you gain about the malware. Also, collaborate thoughtfully with your classmates (within the bounds of the academic honesty policy). Class discussion threads and office hours are great places to sanity-check your progress and share new test cases. Finally, please join office hours and ask any questions you have. We are here to help and point you in the right direction.

Malware analysis is tough—but it will make you a better, more thoughtful security engineer. Please don't hesitate to ask thoughtful questions and engage fully with these challenges!

Technology Requirements and Skills

Computer Hardware and Software

- High-speed Internet connection
- Laptop or desktop computer with a minimum of a 2 GHz processor and 4 GB of RAM
- Windows for PC computers OR Mac iOS for Apple computers
- Complete Microsoft Office Suite or comparable and ability to use Adobe PDF software (install, download, open and convert)
- Linux operating systems familiarity, including how system calls are used
- Software development, compiling and debugging tools as required

Technology Help Guidelines

30-Minute Rule: When you encounter struggles with technology, give yourself 30 minutes to ‘figure it out.’ If you cannot, then post a message to the discussion board; your peers may have suggestions to assist you. You are also directed to contact the Helpdesk 24/7.

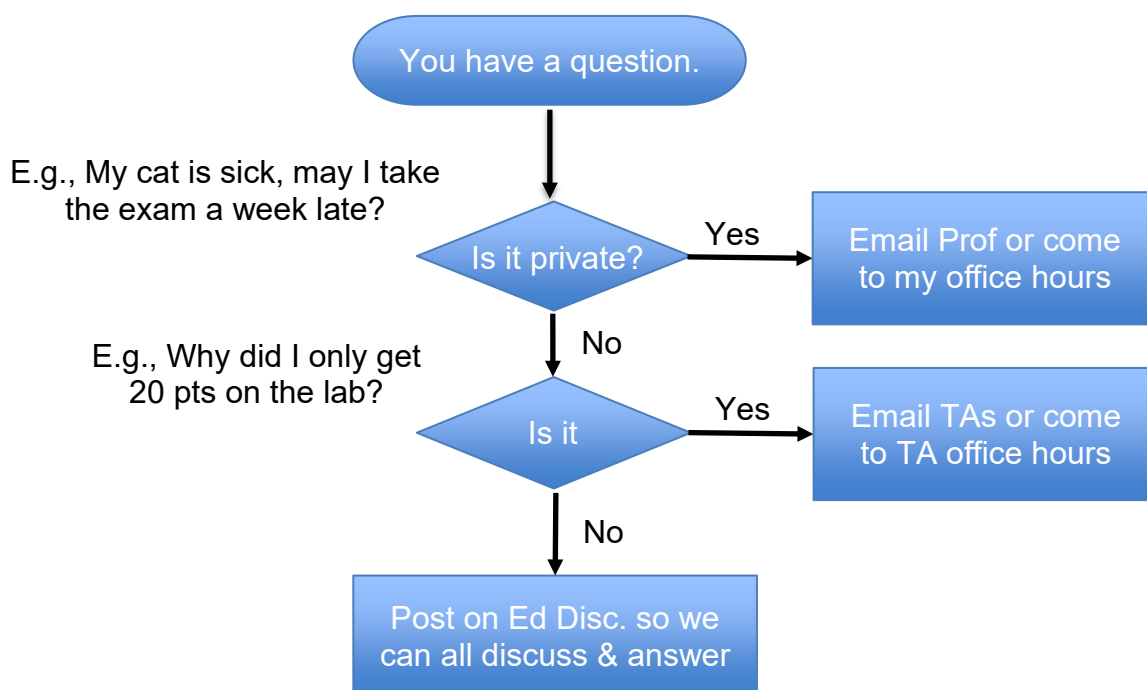
When posting or sending email requesting help with technology issues, whether to the Helpdesk, message board, or me use the following guidelines:

- Include a descriptive title for the subject field that includes 1) the name of course 2) the issue. Do NOT just simply type “Help” into the subject field or leave it blank.
- List the steps or describe the circumstance that preceded the technical issue or error. Include the exact wording of the error message.
- When possible, always include a screenshot(s) demonstrating the technical issue or error message.
- Also include what you have already tried to remedy the issue (rebooting, trying a different browser, etc.).

Course Policies, Expectations & Guidelines

Remember The Flow Chart From The Course Introduction:

Chain of Command



Communication Policy

- Email personal concerns, including grading questions, to the TAs or professor privately. Do NOT submit posts of a personal nature to the discussion board unless it is a private post on Ed Discussion.

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- Student Forum/Q&A discussion boards will be checked twice per day Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday, these discussion boards will be checked once per day. Ed Discussion is absolutely the best way to get answers!
- The professor or TAs may even “redirect” you to ask a question on Ed Discussion instead of email/office hours if it would benefit the entire class. We are all against the malware together!
- Email will be checked at least once per day, Monday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, email may be checked but there is no guarantee. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours; on weekends and holidays, allow up to 48 hours. If there are special circumstances that will delay my response, I will make an announcement to the class.
- The professor and TAs will hold virtual office hours using Zoom. Weekly office hour times are posted on Canvas. Weekly office hour times will not change unless an emergency comes up and we will make an announcement. Also, special office hours may be announced before exams. Such office hours will be announced in advance.

Online Student Conduct and (N)etiquette

Communicating appropriately in the online classroom can be challenging. In order to minimize this challenge, it is important to remember several points of “**internet etiquette**” that will smooth communication for both students and instructors:

1. *Read first, Write later.* Read the ENTIRE set of posts/comments on a discussion board before posting your reply, in order to prevent repeating commentary or asking questions that have already been answered.
2. *Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive.* Language can be easily misinterpreted in written electronic communication. Review email and discussion board posts BEFORE submitting. Humor and sarcasm may be easily misinterpreted by your reader(s). Try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.
3. *Follow the language rules of the Internet.* Do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Also, the use of emoticons can be helpful when used to convey nonverbal feelings. ☺
4. *Consider the privacy of others.* Ask permission prior to giving out a classmate's email address or other information.
5. *Keep attachments small.* If it is necessary to send pictures, change the size to an acceptable 250kb or less (one free, web-based tool to try is picesize.com).
6. *No inappropriate material.* Do not forward virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. to classmates or instructors. The sharing of pornographic material is forbidden.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are not collegial in nature and/or do not meet the Online Student Conduct and Etiquette guidelines listed above.

University Use of Electronic Email

A university-assigned student e-mail account is the official university means of communication with all students at Georgia Institute of Technology. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their university-assigned email account. If a student chooses to forward information in their university e-mail account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other email account. To stay current with university information, students are expected to check their official university e-mail account and other electronic communications on a frequent and consistent basis. Recognizing that some communications may be time-critical, the university recommends that electronic communications be checked minimally twice a week.

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Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All students enrolled at Georgia Tech, and all its campuses, are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the university; and cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Copyright

The course readings include research papers that are available in the public domain or via the Georgia Tech library. As specified by publishers' copyright notices, the papers will be for individual use only. Similarly, course materials such as quiz and exam questions and project descriptions are for your use only and should not be published or disseminated.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Collaboration & Group Work

You are encouraged to form virtual groups to discuss topics covered in class. Such discussion can enhance learning and could include clarifications of questions related to a topic or a project. However, individual work that you submit as part of an assessment and claim as yours must be yours. You have the option to complete most assignments individually or as a team of two, see the assignment document for details.

You are strongly urged to familiarize yourself with the [GT Honor Code](#) rules. **Specifically, the following is not allowed:**

- Copying, with or without modification, someone else's work when this work is not meant to be publicly accessible (e.g., a *classmate's* program or solution).
- Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (*plagiarism*).
- Putting your projects on public Github. If a student in the future copies your code/reports, the student obviously violates the honor code but you will also be responsible for the violation.

Any public material that you use (*open-source software, help from a text, or substantial help from a friend, etc...*) should be acknowledged explicitly in anything you submit. If you have any doubt about whether something is allowed or not, please do check with the class Instructor or the TA.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Subject to Change Statement

The syllabus and course schedule may be subject to change. Changes will be communicated via the Canvas announcement tool and/edX bulk email and or the class Ed Discussion forum. It is the responsibility of students to stay current.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Deliverables
			<i>All assignments are due at 11:59 PM EST on the indicated dates.</i>
Week 1	Aug 18	Module 1: Getting Started: Course Introduction, Assembly Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Slides & Ed Discuss Participation Released Extra Credit #1 Released
Week 2	Aug 25	Module 2: Welcome to GHIDRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra Credit #1 Due on Aug 24 Lab #1 Released
Week 3	Sept 1	Module 3: Static Malware Analysis Tools and Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #1 Due on Aug 31 Lab #2 Released Lab #2 Check-In Released
Week 4	Sept 8	Module 4: High Level Language Constructs in Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #2 Check-In Due Sept 7
Week 5	Sept 15	Module 5: Software Representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #2 Continues
Week 6	Sept 22	Module 6: How to Build and run GHIDRA Plug-ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab#2 Due Sept 21 Lab #3 Released
Week 7	Sept 29	No Module (Cont. Lab #3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #3 Continues
Week 8	Oct 6	Module 7: Dynamic Analysis Tools and Techniques Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #3 Due Oct 5 Lab #4 Released
Week 9	Oct 13	Module 8: Dynamic Malware Analysis Tools and Techniques Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #4 Continues
Week 10	Oct 20	Module 9: Execution Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #4 Continues
Week 11	Oct 27	Module 10: How to Access Malware Analysis Sandbox VM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #4 Due Oct 26 Lab #5 Released
Week 12	Nov 3	No Module (Cont. Lab #5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #5 Continues
Week 13	Nov 10	Module 11: Program Slicing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #5 Due Nov 9 Lab #6 Released
Week 14	Nov 17	No Module (Cont. Lab #6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #6 Continues
Week 15	Nov 24	Module 12: Symbolic Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra Credit - CIOS Released Lab #6 Continues
Week 16	Dec 1	No Module (Finish Up Readings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab #6 Due Nov 30 Extra Credit – CIOS Released
Week 17	Dec 8	No Module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Slides & Ed Discuss Participation Due Extra Credit - CIOS Due

Reading List

You can access the articles from the [Readings Lists Section](#) on the course navigation.

Module 1 Pre-Readings:

- None

Module 2 Pre-Readings:

- Wressnegger, C., Yamaguchi, F., Maier, A., & Rieck, K. (2016, October). Twice the bits, twice the trouble: Vulnerabilities induced by migrating to 64-bit platforms. In Proceedings of the 2016 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS). 10.1145/2976749.2978403.
- Thompson, Ken. (2007). Reflections on trusting trust. 1983. 10.1145/1283920.1283940.
- Caballero, J., Grier, C., Kreibich, C., & Paxson, V. (2011, August). Measuring pay-per-install: the commoditization of malware distribution. In Proceedings of the 2011 Usenix Security Symposium.

Module 3 Pre-Readings:

- Ge, Xinyang & Payer, Mathias & Jaeger, Trent. (2017). An Evil Copy: How the Loader Betrays You. 10.14722/ndss.2017.23199.
- Garcia, Luis & Brasser, Ferdinand & Cintuglu, Mehmet & Sadeghi, Ahmad-Reza & Mohammed, Osama & Zonouz, Saman. (2017). Hey, My Malware Knows Physics! Attacking PLCs with Physical Model Aware Rootkit. 10.14722/ndss.2017.23313.
- Snow, Kevin & Rogowski, Roman & Werner, Jan & Koo, Hyungjoon & Monroe, Fabian & Polychronakis, Michalis. (2016). Return to the Zombie Gadgets: Undermining Destructive Code Reads via Code Inference Attacks. 10.1109/SP.2016.61.

Module 4 Pre-Readings:

- Wang, Ruoyu & Shoshitaishvili, Yan & Bianchi, Antonio & Machiry, Aravind & Grosen, John & Grosen, Paul & Kruegel, Christopher & Vigna, Giovanni. (2017). Ramblr: Making Reassembly Great Again. 10.14722/ndss.2017.23225.
- R. Pai Kasturi, Y. Sun, R. Duan, O. Alrawi, E. Asdar, V. Zhu, Y. Kwon, B. Saltaformaggio. (2020). TARDIS: Rolling Back The Clock On CMS-Targeting Cyber Attacks. In Proc. 41st IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P '20), Virtual Conference, 2020.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SP_20.pdf

- Deaconescu, Razvan & Chiroiu, Mihai & Davi, Lucas & Enck, William & Sadeghi, Ahmad-Reza. (2016). SandScout: Automatic Detection of Flaws in iOS Sandbox Profiles. 704-716. 10.1145/2976749.2978336.

Module 5 Pre-Readings:

- Abadi, M., Budiu, M., Erlingsson, U., & Ligatti, J. (2009). Control-flow integrity principles, implementations, and applications. ACM Transactions on Information and System Security (TISSEC), 13(1), 1-40. 10.1145/1609956.1609960.
- Backes, Michael & Bugiel, Sven & Derr, Erik. (2016). Reliable Third-Party Library Detection in Android and its Security Applications. 10.1145/2976749.2978333.
- Sun, M., Wei, T., & Lui, J. C. (2016, October). Taintart: A practical multi-level information-flow tracking system for android runtime. In Proceedings of the 2016 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS). 10.1145/2976749.2978343.

Module 6 Pre-Readings:

- Lee, J. & Avgerinos, T. & Brumley, D. (2011). Tie: Principled reverse engineering of types in binary programs. In Proc. 18th Annual Network and Distributed System Security Symposium.
- Pawlowski, Andre & Contag, Moritz & van der Veen, Victor & Ouwehand, Chris & Holz, Thorsten & Bos, Herbert & Athanasopoulos, Elias & Giuffrida, Cristiano. (2017). MARX: Uncovering Class Hierarchies in C++ Programs. 10.14722/ndss.2017.23096.
- R. Duan, O. Alrawi, R. Pai Kasturi, R. Elder, B. Saltaformaggio, W. Lee. (2021). Towards Measuring Supply Chain Attacks on Package Managers for Interpreted Languages. In Proc. 28th Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS '21), Virtual Conference, 2021.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/NDSS_21.pdf

Module 7 Pre-Readings:

- Sharif, Monirul & Lanzi, Andrea & Giffin, Jonathon & Lee, Wenke. (2009). Automatic Reverse Engineering of Malware Emulators. In Proceedings of the IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy. 10.1109/SP.2009.27.
- Coogan, Kevin & Lu, Gen & Debray, Saumya. (2011). Deobfuscation of Virtualization-Obfuscated Software A Semantics-Based Approach. 10.1145/2046707.2046739.
- R. Pai Kasturi, J. Fuller, Y. Sun, O. Chabklo, A. Rodriguez, J. Park, B. Saltaformaggio. (2022). Mistrust Plugins You Must: A Large-Scale Study Of Malicious Plugins In WordPress Marketplaces. In Proc. 31st USENIX Security Symposium (Security '22), Boston, MA, 2022.

- URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SEC_22.pdf

Module 8 Pre-Readings:

- Shao, Y., Ott, J., Jia, Y. J., Qian, Z., & Mao, Z. M. (2016, October). The misuse of android unix domain sockets and security implications. In Proceedings of the 2016 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS). 10.1145/2976749.2978297.
- O. Alrawi, C. Zuo, R. Duan, R. Pai Kasturi, Z. Lin, B. Saltaformaggio. The Betrayal At Cloud City: An Empirical Analysis Of Cloud-Based Mobile Backends. In Proc. 28th USENIX Security Symposium (Security '19), Santa Clara, CA, 2019.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SEC_19.pdf
- Pan, Xiaorui & Wang, Xueqiang & Duan, Yue & Wang, XiaoFeng & Yin, Heng. (2017). Dark Hazard: Learning-based, Large-Scale Discovery of Hidden Sensitive Operations in Android Apps. 10.14722/ndss.2017.23265.

Module 9 Pre-Readings:

- Koppe, P., Kollenda, B., Fyrbiak, M., Kison, C., Gawlik, R., Paar, C., & Holz, T. (2017, August). Reverse Engineering x86 Processor Microcode. In Proceedings of the 2017 USENIX Security Symposium.
- Shin, E.C.R. & Song, D. & Moazzezi, R. (2015). Recognizing functions in binaries with neural networks. In Proceedings of the 2015 USENIX Security Symposium.
- M. Yao, J. Fuller, R. Pai Kasturi, S. Agarwal, A. Sikder, B. Saltaformaggio. (2023). Hiding in Plain Sight: An Empirical Study of Web Application Abuse in Malware. In Proc. 32nd USENIX Security Symposium (Security '23), Anaheim, CA, 2023.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SEC_23_MARSEA.pdf

Module 10 Pre-Readings:

- Xu, Jun & Mu, Dongliang & Chen, Ping & Xing, Xinyu & Wang, Pei & Liu, Peng. (2016). CREDAL: Towards Locating a Memory Corruption Vulnerability with Your Core Dump. 10.1145/2976749.2978340.
- Cui, Weidong & Peinado, Marcus & Cha, Sang & Fratantonio, Yanick & Kemerlis, Vasileios. (2016). RETracer: triaging crashes by reverse execution from partial memory dumps. 10.1145/2884781.2884844.
- He, L., Cai, Y., Hu, H., Su, P., Liang, Z., Yang, Y., Huang, H., Yan, J., Jia, X. and Feng, D. (2017, October). Automatically assessing crashes from heap overflows. In 2017 32nd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE).

Module 11 Pre-Readings:

- Halderman, J. Alex, Seth D. Schoen, Nadia Heninger, William Clarkson, William Paul, Joseph A. Calandrino, Ariel J. Feldman, Jacob Appelbaum, and Edward W. Felten. "Lest we remember: cold-boot attacks on encryption keys." Communications of the ACM 52, no. 5 (2009): 91-98. 10.1145/1506409.1506429
- B. Saltaformaggio, Z. Gu, X. Zhang, D. Xu. (2014). DSCRETE: Automatic Rendering of Forensic Information from Memory Images via Application Logic Reuse. In Proc. 23rd USENIX Security Symposium (Security'14), San Diego, CA, 2014.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SEC_14.pdf
- O. Alrawi, M. Ike, M. Pruet, R. Pai Kasturi, S. Barua, T. Hirani, B. Hill, B. Saltaformaggio. (2021). Forecasting Malware Capabilities From Cyber Attack Memory Images. In Proc. 30th USENIX Security Symposium (Security '21), Virtual Conference, 2021.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/SEC_21.pdf

Module 12 Pre-Readings:

- Peng, F., Deng, Z., Zhang, X., Xu, D., Lin, Z., & Su, Z. (2014). X-Force: Force-executing binary programs for security applications. In 23rd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 14).
 - URL: <https://www.usenix.org/system/files/conference/usenixsecurity14/sec14-paper-peng.pdf>
- J. Fuller, R. Pai Kasturi, A. Sikder, B. Arik, H. Xu, V. Verma, E. Asdar, B. Saltaformaggio. (2021). C3PO: Large-Scale Study Of Covert Monitoring of C&C Servers via Over-Permissioned Protocol Infiltration. In Proc. 28th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS'21), Virtual Conference, 2021.
 - URL: https://saltaformaggio.ece.gatech.edu/publications/CCS_21_C3PO.pdf
- Stephens, Nick & Grosen, John & Salls, Christopher & Dutcher, Andrew & Wang, Ruoyu & Corbetta, Jacopo & Shoshitaishvili, Yan & Kruegel, Christopher & Vigna, Giovanni. (2016). Driller: Augmenting Fuzzing Through Selective Symbolic Execution. 10.14722/ndss.2016.23368.