

GRANT HERNANDEZ

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Education

University of Florida

GPA: 3.80 • Ph.D. Computer Engineering

Gainesville, FL (2015 - Present)

Expected Spring 2020

University of Central Florida

GPA: 3.81, Magna Cum Laude • B.S. Computer Engineering

Orlando, FL (2011 - 2015)

Awarded August 2015

Research Experience

University of Florida, Research Assistant with FICS

Gainesville, FL – Fall 2015 - Present

- **Advisor:** Dr. Kevin R. B. Butler
- **Area:** Systems security
- Performing large-scale analysis of Android firmware to explore hidden USB interfaces and device security policies
- Analyzing USB firmware using symbolic execution to automatically reason about firmware functionality
- Employed Intel SGX to balance Secure Function Evaluation (SFE) security with performance
- Worked to improve TLS security and agility through server-side enhancements

University of Central Florida, Undergraduate Research Assistant

Orlando, FL – Summer 2013 - 2014

- **Advisor:** Dr. Yier Jin
- **Area:** Internet of Things security
- Discovered a USB entry point into Google's Nest Thermostat allowing full-root access
- Published findings at Black Hat USA 2014 entitled "Smart Nest Thermostat: A Smart Spy in your Home"

University of Central Florida, EXCEL Undergraduate Research

Orlando, FL – Spring 2013

- **Advisor:** Dr. Mingjie Lin
- **Area:** Reconfigurable Hardware
- Explored Verilog through working with a hardware JPEG decoder

Publications & Academic Work

Academic Conferences

1. D. Tian, **G. Hernandez**, J. Choi, V. Frost, C. Ruales, K. Butler, P. Traynor, H. Vijayakumar, L. Harrison, A. Rahmati, and M. Grace. ATtention Spanned: Comprehensive Vulnerability Analysis of AT Commands Within the Android Ecosystem. *USENIX Security*, 2018.
2. **G. Hernandez**, F. Fowze, D. Tian, T. Yavuz, and K. Butler. FirmUSB: Vetting USB Device Firmware using Domain Informed Symbolic Execution. *ACM CCS*, 2017.
3. S. Etigowni, D. Tian, **G. Hernandez**, S. Zonouz, and K. Butler. CPAC: Securing Critical Infrastructure with Cyber-Physical Access Control. *ACSAC*, 2016.

Industry Conferences

1. **G. Hernandez**, O. Arias, D. Buentello, and Y. Jin. Smart Nest Thermostat: A Smart Spy in your Home. *Black Hat USA*, 2014.

Journals

1. A. Bates, D. Tian, **G. Hernandez**, T. Moyer, K. Butler, and T. Jaeger. Taming the Costs of Trustworthy Provenance through Policy. *Transactions on Internet Technology (TOIT)*, 2016.

Posters

1. **G. Hernandez**, K. Butler. Android Escalation Paths: Building Attack-Graphs from SEAndroid Policies. *ACM Security & Privacy in Wireless and Mobile Networks (WiSec)*, 2018
2. **G. Hernandez**, D. Tian, J. Choi, V. Frost, C. Ruales, K. Butler, P. Traynor, H. Vijayakumar, L. Harrison, A. Rahmati, and M. Grace. ATtention Spanned: Comprehensive Vulnerability Analysis of AT Commands Within the Android Ecosystem. *SEC Academic Conference, Apr. 2018. (Best Poster)*

3. — . ATtention Spanned: Comprehensive Vulnerability Analysis of AT Commands Within the Android Ecosystem. *FICS Conference, Mar. 2018*.
4. **G. Hernandez**, F. Fowze, D. Tian, C. Metcalf, T. Yavuz, and K. Butler. FirmUSB: Vetting USB Device Firmware using Domain Informed Symbolic Execution. *FICS Conference, Mar. 2017. (Best Poster)*
5. **G. Hernandez**, A. Bates, and K. Butler. SSL Certificate Verification Enhancements for the Server. *FICS Conference, 2016*
6. **G. Hernandez** and Y. Jin. Smart Nest Thermostat: A Smart Spy in your Home. *UCF Showcase for Undergraduate Research, 2015*

Workshops

1. S. Deshmukh, H. Carter, **G. Hernandez**, P. Traynor, and K. Butler. Efficient and Secure Template Blinding for Biometric Authentication. *Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Security and Privacy in the Cloud (SPC), 2016*.

Academic Service

Program Chair Assistant

- *Network & Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)* – 2017
Assisted Ari Juels with recording HotCRP accept/reject decisions, limiting paper discussion time, and synchronizing dual-track PC meeting via custom spreadsheet.

External Reviewer

- *IEEE Symposium on Security & Privacy (Oakland, S&P)* – 2017
- *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)* – 2017, 2018
- *ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)* – 2016, 2017
- *ACM Asia Conference on Computer and Communications Security (AsiaCCS)* – 2017, 2018
- *Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)* – 2017
- *Network & Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)* – 2017, 2018
- *USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI)* – 2016
- *USENIX Workshop on Offensive Technologies Workshop on Offensive Technologies (WOOT)* – 2016, 2017

Professional Services

- System Administrator for the Florida Institute of Cyber Security (FICS). Responsible for user management, patching, hardening, and monitoring 9 business-critical servers. (2015 – present)
- Helped develop, organize and run SwampCTF, a 48 hour international Capture the Flag competition, for the Student InfoSec Team (UFSIT). Built infrastructure using Ansible, Docker, AWS, and Netdata. Over 1,200 registered teams enjoyed our 28 hand-crafted cyber security challenges (March 2018).
- Founded, advised and trained the University of Florida's Collegiate Cyber Defense Team (UFCCDC) under UF's Registered Student Organization (RSO) the Student InfoSec Team (UFSIT) (2016 – 2017).
Reference: Dr. Joseph Wilson (jnw@cise.ufl.edu)

Honors & Awards

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL (2015 - Present)

- **Best poster:** "ATtention Spanned: Comprehensive Vulnerability Analysis of AT Commands Within the Android Ecosystem." (*SEC Academic Conference, Apr. 2018*.)
- CISE Graduate Scholarship (2017)
- 3rd place at the Southeast Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (SECCDC) (2017)
- **Best poster:** "FirmUSB: Vetting USB Device Firmware using Domain Informed Symbolic Execution." (*FICS Conference, Mar. 2017*.)
- Harris Communication Fellowship (2015)
- Appointed as Florida Institute of National Security (FINS) Fellow (2015)
- Graduate School Fellowship Award (2015 - 2019)

University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL (2011 - 2015)

- ICubed (I^3) Fellow - presented Nest security research to an Advanced Painting class, inspiring their work (2015)
- Winner of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC) out of 180 schools (April 2014)
- 1st place at the Southeast Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (SECCDC) (2013 and 2014)
- 2nd place at the UCONN CyberSEED Buffer Overflow competition (2014)
- 6th place and 5th place at CSAW CTF finals (2013 and 2014 respectively)
- UCF President's Honor Role, 4.0 GPA (Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012)
- EXCEL Student - NSF STEM only education program with guaranteed Sophomore year research (2011 - 2013)
- 1st place at UCF's 25th annual High School Programming Tournament (2010)

Speaking

1. FirmUSB: Vetting USB Device Firmware using Domain Informed Symbolic Execution. *ACM CCS, 2017.*
2. A Journey into Fuzzing with American Fuzzy Lop. *Hack@UCF, 2015.*
3. Smart Nest Thermostat: Smart Spy in your Home. *Black Hat USA, 2015.*

Press

1. "Smartphone security risk compared to 'having a ghost user on your phone' " — University of Florida News (Quoted, August 22nd, 2018)
2. "University Alabama Wins 2018 SEC Student Cyber Challenge Competition" — SECU News, Auburn, AL (Mentioned for poster competition, April 9th, 2018)
3. "Students Place Third in Cyber Defense Competition" — Computer & Information Science & Engineering News, University of Florida (Quoted, April 10th, 2017)
4. "CISE Students Win at 2017 FICS Research Conference on Cybersecurity" — Computer & Information Science & Engineering News, University of Florida (Quoted, April 3rd, 2017)
5. "17 ways the Internet of Things can go horribly wrong" — ZDNet (Mentioned, March 21st, 2016)
6. "UCF Cyber Defense Turns Smart Thermostat Into Potential Spy" — UCF Today (Mentioned, August 11th, 2014)
7. "A used thermostat could hack your house" — CNN Money (Interviewed (video), August 7th, 2014)
8. "Is your Watch or Thermostat a Spy? Cybersecurity Firms are on it" — NPR - All Things Considered (Interviewed (voice), August 6th, 2014)
9. "Nest Hackers Will Offer Tool To Keep The Google-Owned Company From Getting Users' Data" — Forbes Tech (Interviewed, July 16th, 2014)
10. "UCF wins Raytheon cyber defense contest" — Orlando Sentinel (Mentioned, April 28th, 2014)

Bonus

- I'm a licensed amateur radio operator - KK4QIS