



Thomas Vissers

Curriculum Vitae

Summary

Thomas is a goal-oriented security researcher and engineer. He sits right at the intersection of data science and security. Thomas loves hunting, analyzing, and detecting threats and abuse – preferably through automation. He works with massive datasets. For the .eu TLD registry, Thomas designed and deployed a machine-learning based anti-abuse system. In 2015, he changed the cloud security landscape with [CloudPiercer](#). Thomas is currently finishing his PhD, during which he published and presented at top-tier security conferences.

Experience

- 2013–Curr. **Security Researcher (Ph.D.)**, *imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven, Belgium*.
Research on internet security topics such as domain name abuse, denial-of-service attacks, cloud security and DNS vulnerabilities. With a special interest in machine learning, data mining and large-scale analyses.
Selected main-author publications:
- “*The Wolf of Name Street: Hijacking Domains Through Their Nameservers*”
Published at ACM CCS 2017, Dallas, USA.
 - “*Exploring the ecosystem of malicious domain registrations in the .eu TLD*”
Published at RAID 2017, Atlanta, USA.
 - “*Maneuvering around clouds: Bypassing cloud-based security providers*”
Published at ACM CCS 2015, Denver, USA.
 - “*Parking sensors: Analyzing and detecting parked domains*”
Published at NDSS 2015, San Diego, USA.
- Fall 2016 **Visiting researcher**, *Stony Brook University, New York, USA*.
Research on DNS nameserver hijacking
- Spring 2013 **Visiting researcher**, *Anna University, Chennai, India*.
Research on application-layer denial-of-service attacks and mitigation in cloud environments.

Education

- 2013–Curr. **Doctorate (Ph.D.)**, *imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium*.
Engineering: Computer Science. *Supervisor: Wouter Joosen*
- 2012–2013 **Master of Science (M.Sc.)**, *University of Antwerp (formerly Artesis), Belgium*.
Engineering: Electronics - ICT. *Magna cum laude*
- 2009–2012 **Bachelor of Science (B.S.)**, *University of Antwerp (formerly Artesis), Belgium*.
Engineering: Electronics - ICT. *Magna cum laude*

Miscellaneous

- Spring 2015 **Data Mining**, *KU Leuven*.
Course from the Master of Artificial Intelligence

- Spring 2014 **SecAppDev**, *secappdev.org*.
One-week course on secure application development.
- 2010–2012 **International Communication**, *SCVO Antwerpen*.
English and French language course, with a focus on business communication.

Professional activities

- External reviewer**, *ESORICS 2017*.
Program committee member, *eCrime 2017*.
External reviewer, *IEEE S&P 2017*.
External reviewer, *IEEE Euro S&P 2016*.
Reviewer, *IEEE Wireless Communications Letters*.
Reviewer, *Computer Communication Review (CCR)*, ACM SIGCOMM.

Talks and lectures

- Nov 2017 **ACM CCS 2017**, *Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, Dallas, USA.
Presenting research paper
- Oct 2017 **41th M3AAWG**, *Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group*, Toronto, CA.
Invited speaker
- Sep 2017 **RAID 2017**, *Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrusions and Defenses*, Atlanta, USA.
Presenting research paper
- Feb 2017 **SecAppDev**, Leuven, BE.
Lecture on “*Denial-of-Service Attacks: Solutions and Pitfalls*”
- Sep 2016 **OWASP Chapter Meeting**, Zaventem, BE.
Invited speaker “*CloudPiecer: Bypassing Cloud-based Security*”
- Apr 2016 **Google PhD Security Summit**, Munich, DE.
Invited participant
- Oct 2015 **ACM CCS 2015**, *Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, Denver, USA.
Presenting research paper
- Feb 2015 **ICCS 2015**, *International Cyber Security Strategy Congress*, Leuven, BE.
Invited speaker on browser fingerprinting
- Feb 2015 **NDSS 2015**, *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium*, San Diego, USA.
Presenting research paper
- Jul 2014 **HotPETS 2014**, *Hot Topics in Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, Amsterdam, NL.
Presenting research paper

Languages

- Dutch **Native speaker**
- English **Fluent**
- French **Good working knowledge**
- German **Working knowledge**