



# 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 detecting, as well as preventing, attacks and abuse by leveraging big 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 recently finished his PhD, during which he published and presented at top-tier security conferences.

### Experience

2018–Curr. **Postdoctoral Security Researcher**, *imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven, Belgium*.

2013–2018 **Security Researcher (Ph.D.)**, *imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven, Belgium*.

Worked on applied industry research projects with real-world deployments. Research focused on internet security topics such as domain name abuse, denial-of-service attacks, cloud security and DNS vulnerabilities.

#### 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 reseacher**, *Stony Brook University, New York, USA*.

Research on DNS nameserver hijacking

Spring 2013 **Visiting reseacher**, *Anna University, Chennai, India*.

Research on application-layer denial-of-service attacks and mitigation in cloud environments.

### Education

2013–2018 **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

*Thomas Vissers – Antwerpen – Belgium*

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Spring 2014 **SecAppDev**, *secappdev.org*.  
One-week course on secure application development.

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## Professional activities

**Reviewer**, *Computer Communication Review (CCR)*, ACM SIGCOMM, 2018.

**External reviewer**, *ESORICS*, 2017.

**Program committee member**, *eCrime*, 2017.

**External reviewer**, *IEEE S&P*, 2017.

**External reviewer**, *IEEE Euro S&P*, 2016.

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## Talks and lectures

- Jul 2018 **Splunk**, *External Speaker Series*, San Jose, USA.  
Talk on data-driven cloud security research
- 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 on domain name abuse
- Sep 2017 **RAID 2017**, *Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrusions and Defenses*, Atlanta, USA.  
Presenting research paper
- Feb 2017 **SecAppDev**, *One-week course in secure application development*, 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

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## Languages

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