



# 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 that automatically identifies and tracks malicious campaigns. In 2015, he changed the cloud security landscape with [CloudPiercer](#). Thomas holds a PhD in Computer Science. He publishes and presents at top-tier security conferences.

**Expertise:** *Cyber Security, Anti-abuse, Machine Learning, Data Science, Network Security*

**Technology:** *Spark, Spark ML, Python, SQL, sklearn, HDFS, Linux*

### Experience

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

2013–2018 **Security Researcher**, *imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven, Belgium.*

Worked on applied cyber security research projects with real-world deployments.

*Security analytics - Network, Web, Cloud and Email Security - Cyber crime*

**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 name server hijacking

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

Research on application-layer DDoS attacks and mitigation in cloud environments.

### Education

2014–2018 **Doctorate (Ph.D.)**, *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*

*Thomas Vissers – Antwerpen – Belgium*

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## Miscellaneous

- Spring 2015 **Data Mining**, *KU Leuven*.  
Spring 2014 **SecAppDev**, *secappdev.org*.

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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
- Nov 2017 **ACM CCS 2017**, *Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, Dallas, USA.  
Presenting research on DNS name server hijacking
- 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 on the cyber crime ecosystem within the .eu TLD
- 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 in round tables session for web security
- Oct 2015 **ACM CCS 2015**, *Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, Denver, USA.  
Presenting research paper on Cloud Security
- 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 on the security issues of parked domains
- Jul 2014 **HotPETS 2014**, *Hot Topics in Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, Amsterdam, NL.  
Presenting research paper on device fingerprinting

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## Languages

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