

# Breakout Participants

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**Breakout 1:**

# **Cryptocurrency**

**Elaine Shi**

University of Maryland

# “The Rise and Rise of Cryptocurrency”

- Bitcoin came around in 2009.
- Today, traded at \$284 per bitcoin.
- Total available bitcoins: billions of dollars.
- Cryptocurrency startups: 551
- Average evaluation: \$3.9M
- Numerous altcoins
  - Ethereum, dodgecoin, litecoin, ...
- Large online service providers have started accepting Bitcoin payments
  - Expedia, Reddit, and Overstock.com

# Usage of cryptocurrency outstrips our understanding

- Various attacks observed, e.g., Mt Gox failure
- Several altcoins flawed designs exploited
- Many research papers showing attacks
  - “Selfish mining”
  - Attacks against anonymity

Therefore, it is imperative to develop a  
**“science of cryptocurrency”**

# What is the “science of cryptocurrency”?

1

What are the main scientific challenges?

2

What makes this a science?

– Jeremy Epstein

# 1

## What are the main scientific challenges?

- What makes a cryptocurrency popular? How do we model user incentives?
- How do you design a **provably secure** cryptocurrency? How do you even **define security**?
- How do you design a cryptocurrency that accommodates **inspection and legal enforcement**?
- How can we design technologies to **help users protect themselves**, e.g., not commit money to a buggy contract?
- Can we have a **theoretical characterizations of possible tasks/ applications** atop a blockchain-based cryptocurrency?
- How can we formally model **adversarial behavior/incentives**?

2

## What makes this a science?

Demonstrate the generic applicability of an approach beyond a single embodiment of cryptocurrency.



# What areas of research are needed for the “science of cryptocurrency”?

- **Computer Science**
  - Cryptography/security, PL, data science, formal methods, hardware, game theory, mechanism design
- **Public policy**
- **Psychology**
- **Economics and finance**

# How can we bring communities together to make cryptocurrencies better?

Workshops that bring together researchers and the developer community

Cryptocurrency conferences/workshops with PC members from developer communities

# Message for NSF

**Digital money will be the way of the future:** it will enable rich smart contract applications, and enable new markets and eco-systems.

- It is imperative to develop a “science of cryptocurrency”
- Cryptocurrency in the broader form
  - Not just about Bitcoin or a single cryptocurrency.
  - Related to “why this is a science” question

# Breakout 2:

# **Social Networks and Crowdsourcing**

**Ben Zhao**

UC Santa Barbara

# The Challenge

- Security work in social networks / crowd systems has been very focused on small set of problems
  - Detection of Sybil (fake) identities
  - Detection of forged content, e.g. Yelp/Amazon reviews
- Challenge:
  - Can we formulate clear research challenges in the space for the near- and long-term

# 1. Leveraging/Managing the Crowd

- The crowd is a powerful resource for good...
  - Can go significantly beyond state of art ML/AI systems
  - e.g. reporting phishing sites (phishtank), Sybil profile detection
  - How to incentivize/how to separate wheat from chaff
  - Can we leverage it to solve harder security problems?
- But also powerful tool for attackers...
  - “Crowdturfing” observed in multiple countries/sites
  - Malicious crowds difficult to distinguish from normal users
    - Can generate “authentic-looking” original content
    - Can launch attacks against ML classifiers
    - Easily bypass existing tools that detect scripts/automation
  - Need to develop robust defenses (adversarial ML?)

# 2. The Content Curation Tussle

For user-generated content, curation is a necessity

Yet unclear how transparent providers should be in the process

e.g. server-side black box vs. user decisions on fully-transparent data

## Less Transparency

- Providers have established credibility
- Leverage access to variety of data, more powerful models, robust against Sybils/Turfing
- Simpler process addresses a need to reach broader, non-technical users

## More Transparency

- Complex black boxes, e.g. reputations, can be gamed
- Transparency reduces impact of “bandwagon heuristic”
- Providers have incentives mismatch
  - More content → more users → more content ...

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Is there a solution that addresses both need for transparency and does not exclude less-technical users?  
Perhaps solutions lie in the HCI space...

content ...



# 3. Educating Users on OSNs

- Many users still unaware of security risks on social networks, or the tools to mitigate them
- Can we develop more effective tools that leverage the social systems themselves?
  - Can we apply tools / lessons from social psychology?
    - Challenge: establishing credibility in absence of visible pedigree
  - Tap into power of first-hand stories, or folk models
  - Can we make stories about cybersecurity *go viral*?

# Breakout 3: Cryptographic Assumptions and the Real World

Tal Malkin

Columbia University

# Matching Crypto Models to the Physical World

- Side Channel Attacks
  - Theoretical leakage and tamper resilience models vs practical attacks and countermeasures
- Theoretical Modeling and Building Secure Crypto over Vulnerable Hardware (e.g., Trojans)
- Underlying Physics: How do we model/ define/ verify what we physically need / have? and what can be done with it? E.g., :
  - Physical assumptions like Wyner wiretap model, noisy key agreement, etc
  - Physical Unclonable Functions (PUF)
  - Understanding Randomness

# Basic Crypto Research (for the Real World)

- **Cryptographic Complexity Assumptions**
  - How do we validate assumptions / avoid working with inappropriate assumptions?
- **Foundations of Symmetric Cryptography**
  - Better understanding of primitives like block ciphers, hash functions, ROM
  - Weaker assumptions while maintaining efficiency
- **Secure MPC**
  - Why isn't it used in the real world? (are we solving the wrong problems? Wrong models? Economic considerations?)
- **Power-aware cryptography**
  - Minimize communication complexity, though computation also relevant.

# Employing Crypto in the Real World

- **IoT Key Management (e.g, medical, cars,...)**
  - Issue: complex usage environment (many parties / life cycle / removing and replacing and adding devices out in the field)
- **Proving Security for large systems like TLS**
  - Issue: complex system / many cryptographic components

# New Dimensions Beyond Current Crypto

- Security problems often due to **poor implementation**, **misuse**, and other **software engineering** issues, not crypto
  - where is the boundary?
- **Simplicity** of implementation and use
  - Often more important than just efficiency

Can Crypto help? Can we design rigorous models to address these (traditionally non-crypto) issues?

- Questioning Kerckoffs' law / Asymptotic Approach
  - Security by obscurity / increased reverse engineering
  - Better concrete security models / metrics for time/work to break a system

# Meta Issues

How to incentivize researchers to do the right thing?

- More interdisciplinary research
  - Help bridge the gap to the “real world”
- More long-term research
  - E.g., work on appropriate, well studied assumptions

Possible problems:

- Do we over publish? (expect fast/many publications, quality less important?)
- Interdisciplinary research difficult (e.g., find common language), may or may not be hard to publish?
  - Suggestion: submit real-world crypto proposals to AITF
- Crypto Education

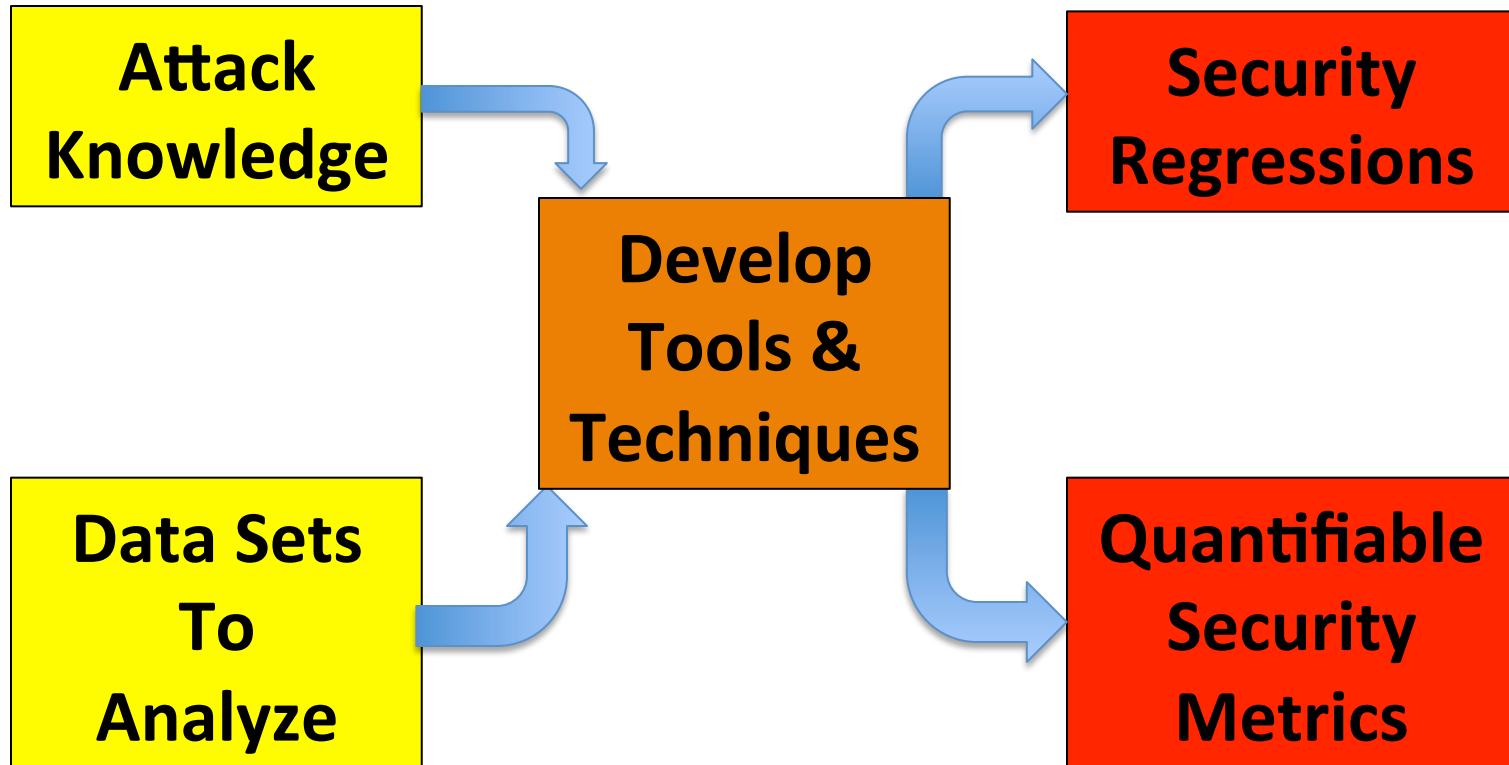
# Breakout 4: Benchmarks for Security Research

**Erez Zadok**

Stony Brook University



# Security Benchmarking Needs



# Attack Knowledge

- Need:
  - Understand basic principles
  - Comprehensive list of attacks, updated
  - Companies to disclose attack details and internals
- Understand complex interactions
  - Hardware, software, networks, people

# Data Sets to Analyze

- Have:
  - WINE, CAIDA, DNS/Farsight, CRAWDDAD
  - Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG)
- Problems:
  - Old, synthetic, small
  - Overly sanitized: nearly “useless”
- Need:
  - Lots of new data
  - Minimal/configurable anonymization
  - Incentives for companies to share data
    - NSF I/UCRC model?

# Security Regressions

- Have:
  - “Red” teams
  - Static code analysis (e.g., Coverity)
- Need:
  - Security vulnerability tools
    - Automated
  - Domain-specific suites
    - e.g., network routing, Web, SQL, etc.
  - Comprehensive, continually updated
  - Community effort, open/free access

# Quantifiable Security Metrics

- Have:
  - Metrics for performance, energy
  - Coarse security classifications/regs (EAL1-7, SOX, HIPAA, PCI, ...)
- Need metrics such as:
  - TCB size; code complexity metrics, correlate with safety
  - Time needed to break security; time to recover
  - Resources needed to break security (#machines, CPUs, etc.)
  - Number of infected systems; amount of lost data
  - \$cost:
    - Price of buying attacks, cost of ransomware
    - Cost of insurance, lost revenue
- Useful combination metrics (cost functions)

# Develop Tools & Techniques

- Need:
  - Inventory of existing tools & techniques
  - Identify gaps
  - Timeliness of tools/techniques key
  - Rich set of tools & techniques
  - Apply or “port” existing techniques to new threats
  - Reduce false alarms
  - Collaborate with other fields
    - e.g., ML, Prog. Lang., Verification, Viz. Analytics
    - e.g., Economics, Business, Sociology, Psychology, Medicine

# To Funding Agencies

- Benchmarking is bigger Broader Impact than SaTC
- Incentives to develop/release software
- More “Transition to Practice” (TTP)
- Greater access to events (e.g., Black Hat)
- Incentives for community efforts
- Encourage in GPG/CFPs
  - NSF BRAP: Benchmarks of Realistic Scientific Application Performance(?)

**Breakout 5:**  
**Cybersecurity and**  
**the Social Sciences**

**Robert Axelrod**  
University of Michigan



# Advice for Collaboration between Computer Scientists and Social Scientists

- 1. Include both sides from the start.**
- 2. Explicitly discuss goals and expectations**  
including publications and fundraising.
- 3. Organize brown bags** across departments.
- 4. Beware that joint PhD's have limited job prospects.**
- 5. Avoid joint appointments** for Assistant Professors.

[No classified material will be shown in this breakout summary]

Breakout 6:

**Responding to the**

**NSA Revelations**

**Wendy Seltzer**

**W3C/MIT**

# Responding to the NSA Revelations

- Should our research change post-Snowden?
  - New or expanded topics of research
  - Changing research methods
  - Participation in public discourse

# Research: Defending privacy

- Definitions and policy
- Technology and systems
- Institutions

# Topics: definitions and policy

- Threat modeling: Identifying and scaling up the adversary
- Contribute to ongoing public discussion, challenge false and misleading statements
  - Demonstrate the importance of context data – it's not “just metadata”
    - Push-back on the third-party doctrine
  - Develop and publicize the more privacy-protective analytic methods we have
    - Shift the burden of proof to the information-gatherers
  - Utility-modeling
    - Small data – what we can learn from it; old-fashioned gumshoe work
- Quantifying privacy harms and risks
  - Quantifying vs. contextual?
  - Does quantifying force particular personal or policy responses? Backlash?
- Incentive alignment.
  - Not storing data might be in a business's interest
  - Industrial privacy; business trade secrecy
- User convenience, role of usability
  - Evaluation of privacy/security
  - Could there be a security label?
  - FDA (gov't) or UL (industry) model?

# Topics: technology and systems

- Systems resilient against coercion/legal intervention
  - Eliminating central points of control/infiltration
    - Multi-party access control
  - “Warrant canary” transparency: “we have not yet received a request to turn over data”
    - Jurisdictional diversity?
  - Provable security
  - Secure randomness
  - Search on encrypted data
  - Exfiltration-resilient cryptography
  - Threshold crypto
  - Alternative approaches to crypto
  - Secure Multi-party computation

# Topics: Institutions

- Governance: Research on norms of organizations, communication and its break-downs
  - Understanding the interactions between norms, laws, technology
  - How do new mechanisms interact with oversight?
  - Building systems to enable transparent citizen control
- Systems to enable individuals to choose/change privacy parameters (as individuals and as democratic citizens)
  - Make the costs and benefits more transparent
  - Provide meaningful choice
  - Designing good defaults

# Methods

- Build in security from the beginning
  - With appropriate threat modeling, risk analysis
- Don't say “stop cryptanalysis”
- Think about protecting research subjects
  - Destroy data that's not needed
  - Secure “dark archiving” of identifying data needed for reproducible research
  - Don't expose subjects to new surveillance risks



# Public involvement

- Interaction between research community and gov't agencies in setting security standards
  - Choosing experts
  - Transparent process
- Fund basic research, whatever its political valence.
  - Protection of privacy is in the national interest

# Public engagement

- Public dissemination, communication, and translation of research, methodology and results
  - Demonstration of transparency best practices
  - Discussion with policy-makers
  - Interaction with tech companies
  - Participation in standards-setting
- Long-term research response