Message from the
USENIX Security '24 Program Co-Chairs

On behalf of USENIX, we welcome you to the proceedings of the 33rd USENIX Security Symposium.

It has been a great honor to serve as program chairs for the conference, and a privilege to work together with the amazing team that made the 2024 Symposium a great success.

This year set a new record for the number of submitted papers: 2176 valid submissions (not counting the 100 papers who did not follow the submission policies and that were therefore desk-rejected without reviews), divided in 488 submissions we received during the summer cycle, 946 in the fall, and 742 in the winter. Overall, this was a stunning 53% increase over the record number of submissions received by the conference in 2023.

To cope with the increased workload, we worked on two fronts. First, we increased the number of vice-chairs to six: Tiffany Bao (Arizona State University), Alexandra Dmitrienko (University of Wuerzburg), Qi Li (Tsinghua University), Giancarlo Pellegrino (CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security), Chen Yan (Zhejiang University), and Yupeng Zhang (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign). This conference would not be possible without their invaluable commitment, enthusiasm, and crucial role in supervising the review process and in guiding the online discussion.

Second, we increased the members of the technical program committee (TPC) to include 356 researchers from academia, industry, and government organizations. This number, reached after a progressive increase over the three submission cycles, reflects our substantial effort to maintain diversity across different aspects, including scientific background, experience, seniority, gender, and geographical location. TPC members were selected among those who served in previous years, those who were recommended to us by fellow researchers, and those who self-nominated by using the available online form. Our selection was driven by two goals: maximize review quality and align as much as possible the TPC expertise with the distribution of topics in the submitted papers.

The combined effort of this team resulted in 382 accepted papers and 35 papers still undergoing a major revision, and that might therefore be accepted by the reviewers to appear in the conference next year. This places the acceptance rate for the papers submitted in the three cycles of 2024 between 17.6% to 19.1%. The 382 already accepted papers, combined with 35 major revisions originally submitted in 2023, constitutes the 417 papers that are part of this proceedings and that are presented at the conference this year in Philadelphia.

The review process we followed this year is the result of the continuous improvements and refinements applied by the chairs that came before us. This starts with the three cycles of submissions, with deadlines in June 2023, October 2023, and February 2024. The authors were required to declare prior submissions and include previous reviews along with an explanation of how the different comments were addressed in the current document. To avoid introducing biases, this information was only revealed to the reviewers after they completed their review.

In each cycle, the double-blind review process was divided in two rounds. Papers that did not receive any positive support from the first two reviewers were rejected at the end of round one, thus giving the authors immediate feedback and the possibility to improve their work and submit elsewhere. At the end of the second round, the authors had the opportunity to first write a rebuttal to answer the comments of the reviewers, and then engage in an interactive (and anonymous) online discussion to further clarify additional aspects of their work and answer new questions from the reviewers.

In parallel to the regular reviews, those papers who raised potential ethical concerns were also reviewed by at least two members of a special Research Ethics Committee (REC) led by Rikke Bjerg Jensen. The feedback of these additional experts were then provided to the reviewers and everyone participated in the online discussion to make sure that the research followed proper ethical guidelines and that ethical aspects were included in the final feedback to the authors and/or in the revision criteria. The REC committee consisted of Anjo Vahldiek-Oberwagner, Hao Chen, Franziska Roesner, Thorsten Holz, Nathan Malkin, Tadayoshi Kohno, Giovanni Vigna, Zakir Durumeric, and Ruba Abu-Salma.

For the papers that received a revision decision we continued with the anonymous online shepherding process introduced in 2023. This allowed the authors to interact with their shepherds, discuss possible options to address the requirements, and eventually get the revised version of their paper accepted either within the same cycle or in one of the following cycles. Overall, after tens of thousands of hours of work from the TCP members the review process resulted in 6688 reviews and 23287 comments posted for the online discussion.

In addition to papers submitted to USENIX Security '24, as we mentioned above, this proceedings also contain 35 papers that were still under Major Revision from USENIX Security '23. With respect to them, we continued the practice of having these papers managed by the previous year's co-chairs, along with their shepherds and the original reviewers.

This year we decided to recognize roughly 5% of accepted papers with a Distinguished Paper Award. Since the number of candidate papers was high and the topics very diverse, we divided them into six separate groups according to their main topic (Network & Web, System Security, Privacy & Usability, Machine Learning, and Applied Cryptography) and asked a subset of the awards committee to rank the papers in each category. We then assembled the final list by aggregating the rankings and balancing the different areas. This year's Awards Committee included Dan Boneh, David Brumley, Yanjiao Chen, Kevin Fu, Guofei Gu, Xiaoyu Ji, Zhiqiang Lin, Catherine Meadows, Hamed Okhravi, Michel van Eeten, David Wagner, Qian Wang, Moti Yung, Daniel Zappala, and Yupeng Zhang. In addition, USENIX also assembled a separate Test of Time Awards Committee which is lead by Kevin Fu and consists of Dan Boneh, Joseph Calandrino, Srđan Čapkun, Lorrie Cranor, Nick Feamster, Fabian Monrose, David Wagner, and Wenyuan Xu to recognize papers that have had a lasting impact on the security field.

Since 2020, papers accepted at the USENIX Security Symposium had the option to get their artifact evaluated through a separate procedure, which this year was supervised by Phani Vadrevu and Anjo Vahldiek-Oberwagner. The 140 members of the artifact evaluation committee evaluated the artifacts of 141 papers, all of which received an 'Artifact Available' badge, 126 received an 'Artifact Functional' badge, and 98 received a 'Results Reproduced' badge. A special thanks also to the 2024 Poster Session Co-Chairs, Andrea Continella and Yuan Tian, who accepted 46 posters to be presented at the conference.

We could not have done all this, if not by standing on the shoulders of the giants who came before us. In particular, 2023 Program Co-Chairs Joseph Calandrino and Carmela Troncoso defined most of the process we followed this year and were always available to provide feedback and share their experience with us.

Last but not least, we want to share our immense gratitude to the fantastic USENIX team for their guidance and suggestions, for their availability and endless patience, and most of all for the invaluable help they provided in all phases of the organization. A special thanks to USENIX Executive Director Casey Henderson, to William Enck for serving as our USENIX Board liaison, and to USENIX Staff Kara Arias, Cathy Bergman, Arnold Gatilao, Jessica Kim, Mo Moreno, Camille Mulligan, Jasmine Murcia, Simone Richmond-Burden, Heidi Sherwood, Ginny Staubach, Sarah TerHune, and Karen Wong, who spent countless hours preparing these proceedings and guiding the authors in the preparation of their final presentations.

Our time as Program Co-Chairs is now over. We had an unforgettable experience, and we are deeply honored to be part of our community. We now pass the role to Lujo Bauer and Giancarlo Pellegrino, who will be responsible for the technical program of USENIX Security '25. We have no doubts the conference will continue to grow and improve under their guidance and we are looking forward to reading the 2025 proceedings.

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