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Financial Cryptography and Data Security

FC 2016 International Workshops BITCOIN, VOTING, and WAHC Christ Church, Barbados, February 26, 2016 Revised Selected Papers



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BITCOIN 2016: Third Workshop on Bitcoin and Blockchain Research

We were pleased to once again hold a Bitcoin Workshop at Financial Cryptography and Data Security 2016. In the year leading up to our third workshop, many financial institutes—including banks, insurance companies, and security exchanges—began demonstrating interest in adapting Bitcoin's blockchain data structure for applications relevant to them. To capitalize on this expanding focus, we tweaked the name of the workshop to include "Blockchain Research" that utilizes Bitcoin's flagship component for broader or competing applications.

After completing the peer-review process, with gratitude to our outstanding Program Committee (listed herein), we selected ten papers for the workshop out of the 25 submissions we received. In addition to our program, we note that Financial Cryptography itself accepted six papers on Bitcoin; thus our joint conference remains a strong venue with a high concentration of new academic research into Bitcoin. Our programs contained a range of subjects but particular attention was paid to scalability issues in Bitcoin, as well as to the Ethereum platform.

We were pleased to have an insightful keynote presentation from Nathaniel Popper of the *New York Times* and author of *Digital Gold* touching on the history of Bitcoin and the people involved early in its development. We also had a rich security exposition of the Ethereum protocol and client by Gustav Simonsson of the Ethereum project. Finally, we witnessed a small sliver of Bitcoin history when Sean Bowe from zcash received the first zero-knowledge contingent payment live on the Bitcoin network from Gregory Maxwell in California.

We again extend our gratitude to our Program Committee for doing the hard work of selecting a strong set of papers for the workshop. Thanks in particular to Nicolas Christin for setting us up with a HotCRP server that made all of our lives easier, and to Joseph Bonneau for being the first PC member to complete all their reviews (his award is to be chair next year). We thank each of our invited speakers for taking the time to attend, interact, and give compelling talks. We thank all the attendees for their interest, questions, and interactions during the reception and breaks. We thank the organizers of Financial Cryptography, in particular the general chair, Ray Hirschfeld, for guiding us through the process and executing a flawless conference in a beautiful location. Finally we thank all of the sponsors of Financial Cryptography and, by extension, ourselves.

July 2016

Sarah Meiklejohn Jeremy Clark

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VOTING 2016: First Workshop on Advances in Secure Electronic Voting Schemes

In the summer of 2015 we were approached by the organizers of Financial Crypto with the suggestion to submit a proposal for a workshop on secure voting systems to contribute to marking the 20th anniversary of FC. We took up the invitation and the resulting proposal was duly accepted. This led to a rather shorter lead time for advertisement etc. than we would ideally have liked, but nonetheless the workshop was a success in terms of the number and quality of submissions, attendance, and the quality of presentations and the discussions.

Voting forms the foundation of democracy and as such voting systems constitute part of a democratic nation's critical infrastructure, albeit one that is only deployed periodically. Moves to use digital technologies in voting introduce a whole raft of new, poorly understood threats, especially when it comes to voting over the Internet. This has prompted the security and crypto communities to address the challenges of making voting technologies and systems that are really secure, principally ensuring that the outcome is demonstrably correct while guaranteeing the secrecy of votes.

We received 13 submissions, all of which had at least three reviews and several of which provoked lively debate among the reviewers. Six paper were accepted, leaving space for a keynote talk and a panel. We invited Glen Weyl of Microsoft Research New England and the University of Chicago to present his idea of quadratic voting and discuss the security aspects. The panel was organized by Mark Ryan of the University of Birmingham: "On the Possibility of Ever Deploying Internet-Based Voting," a discussion of the challenges and obstructions to developing secure and usable Internet voting systems.

We should like to thank the organizers of FC for inviting us to organize the workshop in association with the conference and for all their support throughout the process. We also thank all the authors who submitted papers but especially those who came to present the accepted papers. We also thank the PC for their sterling efforts, especially those who performed shepherding duties.

April 2015

Peter Y.A. Ryan Dan Wallach

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WAHC 2016: 4th Workshop on Encrypted Computing and Applied Homomorphic Cryptography

Cloud hype and the recent leakage of private information show there is a demand for secure and practical computing technologies. The WAHC workshop addresses the challenge in safely outsourcing data processing onto remote computing resources by protecting programs and data even during processing. This allows users to outsource computation over confidential information independently from the trustworthiness or the security level of the remote delegate. The workshop serviced these research needs by collecting and bringing together some of the top researchers and practitioners from academia, government, and industry to present, discuss, and share the latest progress in the field relevant to real-world problems with practical approaches and solutions.

The workshop was uniformly attended by academia, government, and industry, with attendees both from prior years with experience in the domain and new attendees learning from the community. Specific encrypted computing technologies focused on homomorphic encryption and secure multiparty computation. The technologies and techniques discussed in this workshop are key to extending the range of applications that can be securely and practically outsourced.

Presentations and discussions at the workshop were of the high quality and deep insight we have come to expect from our community. Topics of conversation included insights and lessons learned from experience implementing encrypted computing schemes, and experience reports on applying these technologies. Special thanks to the invited speaker: Erman Ayday from Bilkent University, who shared experience from a recent encrypted computing projects applied to genetic testing.

This year we accepted demo papers for consideration. We had a strong inaugural demo paper presentation from Mamadou Diallo of SPAWAR System Center Pacific, who discussed applying homomorphic encryption technologies to support use cases for the US Navy.

All of the 11 submission contained unique and interesting results. Each was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members. While all the papers were of high quality, only five papers were accepted for the workshop. We thank the authors for their submissions, the members of the Program Committee for their effort, the workshop participants for attending, and the FC organizers for supporting us.

February 2016

Michael Brenner Kurt Rohloff

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