Proceedings

MADWeb 2020

Workshop on Measurements, Attacks, and Defenses for the Web

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Program Committee Chairs' Message

The web connects billions of devices, running a plethora of clients, and serves billions of users every single day. To cope with this widespread adoption, the web constantly changes, with a constant stream of new technologies to develop web applications and ever-more complicated web browsers to render them. These rapid changes of the web's ecosystem are not always studied from a security perspective, resulting in new attack vectors that were never observed before.

The proposed workshop aims to attract researchers that work on the intersection of browser evolution, web security, and large-scale measurements. Our goal is to create and sustain a new venue for discussing the rapid changes to web technologies from a security perspective, how we can protect users, and how can we make future browsers more secure without hindering the evolution of the web.

To this end, we invited researchers to contribute to the second Workshop on Measurements, Attack, and Defenses for the Web (MADWeb), co-located with NDSS Symposium 2020 in San Diego. This year the workshop received 60% more submissions than last year, which indicates the excellent growth and confirms our intuition that the research community wants a security and privacy workshop dedicated to the web. More specifically:

- 17 Program Committee members supported the reviewing process, including prominent representatives of academic and industrial research
- 16 papers were submitted to the workshop, out of which the Program Committee selected 10
- 1 paper was selected for the best paper award based on its outstanding reviewing scores
- 3 student authors were granted travel support
- 2 invited talks were scheduled (from academia and from industry) on the crucial topics of web and browser security

The wide range of topics covered by the accepted papers is remarkable, as it indeed covers all the three thrusts of the workshop, i.e. measurements, attacks, and defenses. In fact, we see that in addition to securing browsers and browser policies, researchers work on improving core infrastructures like DNS, proposing new technologies to combat web vulnerabilities, applying machine learning techniques for efficient malware and phishing detection, protecting against bots, and improving web crawlers. We are looking forward to having a great and productive discussion at the workshop, and we expect that the number and diversity of web-related research topics will keep growing in future editions of MADWeb.

Oleksii Starov, Alexandros Kapravelos, and Nick Nikiforakis
General Chair, NDSS 2020

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