Proceedings

EthiCS 2023

The 2nd International Workshop on Ethics in Computer Security

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Message from the Workshop Co-Chairs

Ethics in computer security research are increasingly critical. Security research may not only involve human subjects and user data, thus is subject to ethics considerations, but also assess the security of computer systems by breaking them (i.e., offensive security research), which often raises ethical concerns. Unethical security research would cause significant harms to the society and in turn hurt the community. “Ethics in Computer Security Research” is still an under-studied area. Researchers may lack clear guidelines and resources. For instance, many research institutions still do not have IRB or the ethics-review board, and researchers are expected to properly handle ethical concerns on their own. Consequently, ethical concerns are not uncommon in security research. It is thus urgent for the community to provide ethical guidelines for international researchers and enforce ethics as a discipline.

This workshop aims to provide an international forum for researchers, practitioners, and administrators, from security and other areas, to bring and exchange perspectives, lessons learned, and new insights into the guidelines and practices of ethical computer security research. As a result, it expects to help generate new guidelines for future ethical security research, to call for resources assisting security researchers, and to raise awareness of even implicit ethical concerns.

This second iteration of the International Workshop on Ethics in Computer Security (EthiCS 2023) is co-located with NDSS 2023 and held on Monday, February 27th at the Catamaran Resort in San Diego, CA, USA. In this workshop, we are proud to offer presentations from the computer security community that provide unique insights into the ethical challenges that researchers face when conducting computer security research. More specific details about the workshop program include:

- 4 papers were accepted and will be presented at the workshop.
- 13 program committee members participated in the evaluation of paper submissions, including members from both academia and government.
- 1 paper was selected for the best paper award.
- 3 invited keynote talks will be presented from computer security leaders.
- 7 student workshop attendees were offered financial support to attend and participate in the workshop.

The workshop covers a range of important ethics topics including ethical frameworks for internet measurement, safe and ethical Tor research, ethical challenges in blockchain measurement, principles and guidelines for ethical computer security research, responsible disclosure of vulnerabilities, ethical cybersecurity education, and trust in language models. This wide range of topics demonstrates the broad importance of ethics across the computer security field and we hope that every attendee will be able to learn something valuable and relevant to their own work from the workshop.

Financial support for student workshop attendees was possible thanks to generous sponsorship from the National Science Foundation.

Kangjie Lu, Yang Zhang, Rob Jansen
Workshop Co-Chairs, EthiCS 2023

Program Co-Chairs

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