

# Alexandru G. Bardas

## Curriculum Vitae

(last update: January 2018)

EECS Department | ITTC  
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## Education

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**Kansas State University**, Manhattan, KS 2010 – 2016

*PhD* in Computer Science

– Co-Major Professors: Xinming Ou, Scott A. DeLoach

– Area of Study: Cybersecurity (Systems and Network Security)

– GPA: 4.0

– Dissertation Title: *Evaluating and Quantifying the Feasibility and Effectiveness of Whole IT System Moving Target Defenses*

**James Madison University**, Harrisonburg, VA

*M.S.* - Computer Science (Secure Software Systems) 2008 – 2010

Undergraduate Exchange Student 2007 – 2008

**Romanian-American University**, Bucharest, Romania 2005 – 2008

*Diploma* - Computer Science for Business Management

*Diploma* - Domestic and International Business, Banking and Finance  
(“Bachelor’s Thesis” Presentation July 2009)

## Appointments

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- **The University of Kansas**, Lawrence, KS

- *Assistant Professor*, July 2017 – present

- **Kansas State University**, Manhattan, KS

- *Visiting Assistant Professor*, June 2016 – June 2017

- Coordinated (co-PI role) the research activities in the following projects: “Moving Target Defenses”, “Analyzing Security-Relevant Network Data”; and I was involved in “Bringing Anthropology Into Cybersecurity”. I was also teaching the following classes: “Computer and Information Security” class (regular three credit-hours course) and “Cyber Defense Basics” (one credit-hour course).

- *Graduate Research Assistant and Instructor*, May 2011 – May 2016

- Worked on different research projects that resulted in various peer-reviewed publications. One of the projects required working daily in a production environment (Jan. 2013 - May 2013) with the campus IT personnel. Designed and taught the “Cyber Defense Basics” class together with Xinming Ou.

- *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, August 2010 – May 2011  
Taught the practical laboratory for an introductory programming class. During the lab sessions I summarized the materials covered in class and helped students with their assignments.

- **Hewlett Packard Labs**, Princeton, NJ

*Research Associate Intern*, May 2014 – August 2014

Mentors: Pratyusa Manadhata, William Horne

Worked on and enhanced an existing prototype for processing large amounts of Domain Name System (DNS) traffic in real-time. The project was transitioned to the product team and was recently converted into a commercial solution.

- **Arbor Networks**, Ann Arbor, MI

*ASERT Engineer Intern*, May 2013 – August 2013

Mentor: Marc R. Eisenbarth

Worked on developing techniques for mitigating DNS amplification abuses (resulted in a granted patent) and on clustering malware using fuzzy hashing (resulted in a poster at USENIX Sec. 2013).

- **James Madison University**, Harrisonburg, VA

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*, August 2008 – May 2010

Mentor: Ramon Mata-Toledo

Responsible for grading assignments and exams, holding office hours, and for organizing exam preparation sessions for various courses in computer science and mathematics.

## Grants

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1. Understanding and Quantifying the Impact of Moving Target Defenses on Computer Networks. PI: S. A. DeLoach and co-PIs: X. Ou, A. G. Bardas (starting summer 2016). Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). \$1,000,311; April 2012 - September 2017.

## Publications

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1. Chandan Chowdhury, Dalton A. Hahn, Matthew R. French, Eugene Y. Vassermann, Pratyusa K. Manadhata, Alexandru G. Bardas. “eyeDNS: Monitoring a University Campus Network”. In *IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC) – Communications and Information System Security Symposium (CISE)*, Kansas City, MO, USA, May, 2018.
2. Alexandru G. Bardas, Sathya C. Sundaramurthy, Xinming Ou, Scott A. DeLoach. “MTD CBITS: Moving Target Defense for Cloud-Based IT Systems”. In *22nd European Symposium on Research in Computer Security (ESORICS)*, Oslo, Norway, September, 2017.
3. Sathya C. Sundaramurthy, Michael Wesch, Xinming Ou, John McHugh, Siva Raj Rajagopalan, Alexandru G. Bardas. “Humans are dynamic. Our tools should be too. Innovations from the Anthropological Study of Security Operations Centers”. In *IEEE Internet Computing*, May/June, 2017.

4. Sathya Chandran Sundaramurthy, John McHugh, Xinming Ou, Michael Wesch, Alexandru G. Bardas, Siva Raj Rajagopalan. Turning contradictions into innovations or: how we learned to stop whining and improve security operations. In *12th on Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2016) in-cooperation with USENIX*, Denver, CO, USA, June, 2016.
5. Sathya Chandran Sundaramurthy, Alexandru G. Bardas, Jacob Case, Xinming Ou, Michael Wesch, John McHugh, Siva Raj Rajagopalan. A human capital model for mitigating security analyst burnout. In *2015 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2015) in-cooperation with USENIX*, Ottawa, Canada, July, 2015. **Distinguished Paper Award**
6. Rui Zhuang, Alexandru G. Bardas, Scott A. DeLoach, Xinming Ou. A theory of cyber attacks – a step towards analyzing MTD systems. In *2nd ACM Workshop on Moving Target Defense (MTD)*, Denver, CO, USA, October, 2015.
7. Yuping Li, Sathya Chandran Sundaramurthy, Alexandru G. Bardas, Xinming Ou, Doina Caragea, Xin Hu, Jiyong Jang. Experimental study of fuzzy hashing in malware clustering analysis. In *8th USENIX Workshop on Cyber Security Experimentation and Test (CSET)*, Washington D.C., USA, August, 2015.
8. Ian Unruh, Alexandru G. Bardas, Rui Zhuang, Xinming Ou, Scott A. DeLoach. Compiling abstract specifications into concrete systems – bringing order to the cloud. In *28th USENIX Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA)*, Seattle, WA, USA, November, 2014.
9. Rui Zhuang, Su Zhang, Alexandru G. Bardas, Scott A. DeLoach, Xinming Ou, Anoop Singhal. Investigating the application of moving target defenses to network security. In *6th International Symposium on Resilient Control Systems (ISRCS)*, San Francisco, CA, USA, August, 2013.
10. Alexandru G. Bardas and Xinming Ou. Setting up and using a cyber security lab for education purposes. In *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges*, Vol. 28, Issue 5, May, 2013.
11. Alexandru G. Bardas, Loai Zomlot, Sathya Chandran Sundaramurthy, Xinming Ou, S. Raj Rajagopalan, Marc R. Eisenbarth. Classification of UDP traffic for DDoS detection. In *5th USENIX Workshop on Large-Scale Exploits and Emergent Threats (LEET)*, San Jose, CA, USA, April, 2012.

## Works in Progress / Under Review

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1. Rui Zhuang, Scott A. DeLoach, A. G. Bardas, Xinming Ou. A Theory of Moving Target Defenses.

## Refereed Posters

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1. Alexandru G. Bardas, Ian Unruh, Rui Zhuang, Xinming Ou, Scott A. DeLoach. Compiling abstract specifications into concrete systems – bringing order to the cloud. In *USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC)*, Philadelphia, PA, USA, June, 2014.
2. Jason Jones, Marc R. Eisenbarth, Michael Barr, Alexandru G. Bardas. A survey of fuzzy hashing algorithms for malware clustering. In *USENIX Security*, Washington D.C., USA, August, 2013.
3. Alexandru G. Bardas, Loai Zomlot, Sathya Chandran Sundaramurthy, Xinming Ou, Siva Raj Rajagopalan, Marc R. Eisenbarth. Classification of UDP traffic for DDoS detection. In *USENIX Security*, Seattle, WA, USA, August, 2012.

## Awards

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- Distinguished Paper Award in USENIX SOUPS 2015.
- Member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi ( $\Phi\text{K}\Phi$ ), 2011.
- PhD Fellowship, Department of Computing and Information Sciences Kansas State University, 2010.
- Undergraduate Exchange Program Scholarship to study at James Madison University (2007 - 2008).
- Romanian National Olympiad in Logic, Argumentation and Communication, awarded finalist, 2005.

## Patents

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- *Protecting Computing Assets from Resource Intensive Querying Attacks*. US Patent 20150312272 A1. Roland E. Dobbins, Alexandru G. Bardas and Marc R. Eisenbarth. October 29, 2015.

## Courses Taught (Instructor)

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- EECS 448: Software Engineering I (Spring 2018)  
Course website: <http://www.alexbardas.com/eecs448/>
- EECS 765: Introduction to Cryptography and Computer Security (Fall 2017)  
Course website: <http://www.alexbardas.com/sec/>
- CIS 751/551: Computer and Information Security (Fall 2016)
- CIS 490/798: Cyber Defense Basics (Fall 2015, 2016; Spring 2016, 2017)
- CIS 490K: Cyber Defense Basics (South Korean Summer Institute - Summer 2015)
- CIS 490/798: Cyber Defense Basics  
(co-taught with Xinming Ou, Fall 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014; Spring 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

## Courses as a Graduate Teaching Assistant

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- Kansas State University
  - Spring 2011: CIS200 - Fundamentals of Software Design
  - Fall 2010: CIS200 - Fundamentals of Software Design
- James Madison University
  - Spring 2010: CS 228 - Discrete Structures II
  - Spring 2010: CS 227 - Discrete Structures I
  - Fall 2009: MATH 155- College Algebra
  - Fall 2009: CS 227 - Discrete Structures I
  - Spring 2009: MATH 205 - Introductory Calculus I
  - Spring 2009: CS 228 - Discrete Structures II
  - Fall 2008: MATH 205 - Introductory Calculus I
  - Fall 2008: CS 228 - Discrete Structures II

## Invited Talks

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- Panelist at the Global Headline Series event “Has Our Democracy Been Hacked? Russian Interference, Cybersecurity, Micro-Targeting & the 2016 Election”, Center for Global and International Studies at the University of Kansas, Lawrence KS, November 2017.
- Cybersecurity at the Intersection of Science, Engineering, and Human Behavior. Central Area Networking and Security Workshop (CANSec 2017), Rolla MO, October 2017.
- Invited Speaker at James Madison University, Cybersecurity at the Intersection of Science, Engineering, and Human Behavior, Harrisonburg VA, November 2016.
- Moving Target Defenses Quantification Workshop at George Mason University, A Security Metric Tailored for an MTD Platform, Fairfax VA, June 2016.
- Kansas Linux Fest, ANCOR – next gen. framework for cloud automation, Lawrence KS, March 2015.
- Hewlett Packard Labs - Princeton NJ, Compiling Abstract Specifications into Concrete Systems – Bringing Order to the Cloud through ANCOR, July 2014.

## Professional Services

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- Organizing Committees
  - Co-chair for the CANSec 2017 Cyber Defense Competition
  - Member of the “Faculty Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities” committee
  - Member of the “Student Awards” committee
  - Member on the “Advisory Board” of the Computer Science Dept. at Kansas State University
- External reviewer for journals and conferences
  - ACM Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems Security & Privacy (CPS-SPC 2017)
  - IEEE Transactions on Internet Technology (2017)
  - IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (2017)
  - ACM Workshop on Moving Target Defense (MTD 2016)
  - European Symposium on Research in Computer Security (ESORICS 2016)
  - ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2015)
  - ACM Symposium on Information, Computer and Communications Security (ASIACCS 2015)
  - Conference on Network and System Security (NSS 2015)
  - ACM Workshop on Moving Target Defense (MTD 2015)
  - ACM Symposium on Information, Computer and Communications Security (ASIACCS 2014)
  - ACM Workshop on Moving Target Defense (MTD 2014)
- Cyber Defense Club at Kansas State University
  - Founded the club and coordinated club activities (2011 – 2014)
  - Built and managed the Cyber Defense Laboratory (approx. \$500,000 worth of equipment)
- Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC), Fall 2014 – Spring 2016
  - E-Seminars Committee, Fall 2015

## **Competitive Events, Trainings and Certifications**

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- Cyber Defense Competitions (coached and/or participated):
  - National Cyber Defense Competition (NCDC) organized and hosted by Iowa State University: 2015 (3rd place), 2014 (2nd place)
  - Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (RMCCDC) at Regis University: 2013 (2nd place), 2012 (5th place)
- Inquiry-based Cyber Defense Competition (CDC) Workshop, Iowa State University, March 2014
- Black Hat USA 2012 – Hacking by Numbers: BlackOps
- Certification for Information Systems Security Professionals (NSTISSI No. 4011), May 2010

## **Professional Affiliations**

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- Member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (ΦΚΦ)
- Member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Member of the USENIX Association

## **Language Certifications**

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- German Language Certification (Deutsches Sprachdiplom – Zweite Stufe), 2005
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE), 2004