Stefan Achleitner

Director & Lead Researcher for Cloud Native Security
Dynatrace

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Experience

Director/Principal & Lead Researcher - Cloud Native Security

Dynatrace, Vienna, Austria / *March 2022 - present*
- Leading the research team for Cloud Native Security
- Developing new leading-edge security technologies
- Defining the strategic research road map focused on cyber security topics

Principal Security Researcher - Threat Prevention

Palo Alto Networks, Santa Clara, CA/Reston, VA, USA / *January 2018 - February 2022*
- Tech-lead for network threat detection with machine learning
  - Leading multiple researchers and engineers
  - Project management and resource planning
  - Communication about project milestones with higher management
- Performing security research to detect and prevent threats in the following areas
  - Malware command and control traffic
  - Command injection attacks to exploit vulnerabilities
  - Analysis of post-exploitation tools and collection of IOCs
  - Application behavior analytics on the network
  - Research featured in *Forbes, ZDNet, DarkReading, Security Boulevard, etc.*
- Presenting at conferences and contributing blog posts (e.g. Palo Alto Networks Unit42)
- 6 US patents pending in the area of ML based network analytics (3 as lead inventor)

Research Assistant – Institute for Networking and Security Research

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA / *2013 - 2017*
- Analyzing and researching novel attack strategies on Software Defined Networks
- Developed a system to deceive insider attackers in computer networks
- Analyzing security issues of virtual machine migration on the network

Founder

Actynos, Vienna, Austria / *2003 - 2011*

- Web and software development projects for various companies in Austria and Germany

Internships in cybersecurity, software- and systems-engineering at the following companies:
Ericsson, Accenture, Siemens, Sony Pictures, Peraton Labs

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA / *2013 - 2018*
Institute for Networking and Security Research
Publications in international conferences and journals such as INFOCOM, CCS, ACM SOSR, etc.
Thesis: Security in Software Defined Networking: An Analysis of new Attack and Defense Vectors

Dual M.S. in Computer Science and Business Engineering

Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria / *2008 - 2010*
Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA (visiting student during masters program)

B.S. in Computer Science

Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria / *2005 - 2008*

Awards (selected)

Palo Alto Networks Innovation Award – For machine learning based exploit detection / *2021*
Graduate Scholarship for Excellence in Engineering – Penn State University / *2018*
Best Student Paper Award – ACM Symposium on SDN Research (SOSR) / *2017*