

Overview Cybersecurity

College of Engineering and Computing

University of South Carolina

Jorge Crichigno
Department of Integrated Information Technology
jcrichigno@cec.sc.edu

SRNL Deputy/Associate Lab Directors Visit - Meeting
Swearingen 3A75
College of Engineering and Computing – University of South Carolina
January 25, 2023



College of Engineering and Computing

- The University of South Carolina is a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) for Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE), and a CAE for Research (CAE-R)
 - Designation made by the National Security Agency (NSA)
 - Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) is the primary unit
 - IIT is the main department supporting CSE
- The College of Engineering and Computing offers ABET Accredited Programs
 - B. Sc. Computer Science (CSE)
 - B. Sc. Information Technology (IIT)
 - Multiple minors; e.g., Cybersecurity Operations, Networks (IIT)

Enhance the Preparation of Cybersecurity Professionals
Support: Office of Naval Research (ONR)

Purpose: cybersecurity - workforce development (undergraduates)

2020 – 2022

Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships

- Supported by ONR, 2020 – 2022 (\$250,000)
- Goals:
 1. Develop a cybersecurity concentration within an academic minor in Information Technology.
 2. Establish an Undergraduate Research Program in Applied Cybersecurity.
 3. Deploy virtual equipment pods on a virtual platform, accessible over the Internet, to support and facilitate the research and teaching activities from anywhere, without compromising hands-on experiences.
 4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.

Project Overview

- **Goals:**

1. Develop a cybersecurity concentration within an academic minor in Information Technology. Minor in Cybersecurity Operations is now offered, starting Fall 2021. Learners can obtain DoD's 8570 approved certs (cyber, networks skills, 8/16-week course).

| Cybersecurity Operations, Minor | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| Degree Requirements (18 Hours) | | |
| Course | Title | Credits |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| ITEC 101 | Thriving in the Tech Age | |
| ITEC 204 | Program Design and Development | |
| ITEC 552 | Linux Programming and Administration | |
| ITEC 233 | Introduction to Computer Hardware and Software | 3 |
| ITEC 245 | Introduction to Networking | 3 |
| ITEC 293 | Cybersecurity Operations | 3 |
| ITEC 445 | Advanced Networking | 3 |
| ITEC 493 | Information Technology Security for Managers | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 18 |

<https://tinyurl.com/4mbj3z4k>

Project Overview

- **Goals:**

2. Establish an Undergraduate Research Program in Applied Cybersecurity (14 weeks).

The program has been established and supports between 10-12 students per semester.

| Cadet | Branch | Name | Semester | Project |
|-------|----------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | Navy | Christian S | Spring 2021 | Application ID |
| 2 | Army | Brendan C | Fall 2020 | Protection against Bruteforce Attacks with NGFW |
| 3 | Army | Jack S | Fall 2020 | Mitigating Routing Hijacking Attacks |
| 4 | Army | Matthew D | Fall 2020 | Mitigating Routing Hijacking Attacks |
| 5 | Army | Chris N | Fall 2020 | Protection against Reconnaissance and Scan Attacks |
| 6 | Army | Jack S | Spring 2021 | Policy-based Forwarding |
| 7 | Army | Matthew D | Spring 2021 | Policy-based Forwarding |
| 8 | Civilian | Keegan S | Fall 2020 | An open-source library for computer networks and cybersecurity |
| 9 | Civilian | Dakota M | Fall 2020 | Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Protection with Next Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) |
| 10 | Civilian | Lauren W | Fall 2020 | Protection against Bruteforce Attacks with NGFW |
| 11 | Civilian | Josue H | Fall 2020 | Site to site VPN with NGFWs |
| 12 | Civilian | Brian N | Fall 2020 | Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Protection with Next Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) |



Project Overview

- **Goals:**
- 2. Establish an Undergraduate Research Program in Applied Cybersecurity (14 weeks).
The program has been established and supports between 10-12 students per semester.

Chris Ngo



Jack Sadle



David Williams



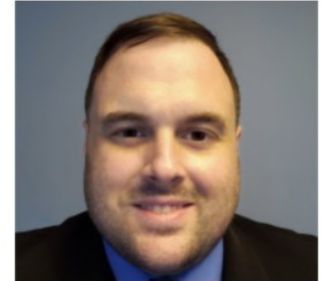
Matt Driver



Christian Tsirlis



Ryan Tallent



Project Overview

- **Goals:**

2. Establish an Undergraduate Research Program in Applied Cybersecurity (14 weeks).

The program has been established and supports between 10-12 students per semester.

Brad Wilson, IT student



“The skills I learned during my ONR project were very similar to those skills needed to become part of the Networking/Perimeter team at Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) ... My managers [at SRNL internship] were very pleased with my knowledge and experience with next generation firewalls. I was offered a full-time position contingent upon my graduation in May 2022”.

| Name | Position |
|-----------------|---|
| Ty Love-Baker | 2nd Lt. at United States Marine Corps, DC |
| Dakota McDaniel | Security Analyst at Lowe’s – COO Pluto (Los Angeles, CA) |
| Lauren Waddell | IT Specialist, SC Department of Insurance (Columbia, SC) |
| Josue Hernandez | Security Service Specialist at IBM (Chicago, IL) |
| Kyle Radzak | Info. Security Specialist at Lowe's (Charlotte, NC) |
| Nathan Bohmer | Project Coordinator at Black Box Networks (Southport, NC) |
| Brad Wilson | IT Intern at SRNL – Now FT at SRNL (Aiken, SC) |
| Zach Fowler | IT at Blue Cross Blue Shield (Columbia, SC) |
| Nathan Long | Technology Analyst at AIG (Charlotte, NC) |
| Sam Kelley | IT Infrastructure Engineering (Wells Fargo, Chandler, AZ) |



Project Overview

- **Goals:**
- 2. Establish an Undergraduate Research Program in Applied Cybersecurity (14 weeks).
The program has been established and supports between 10-12 students per semester.



OPERATED BY SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

Home Search openings Search results Job details

Job details

Job 1 of 1

[Submit to job](#) [Send to friend](#) [Save to cart](#) [View similar jobs](#)

| | |
|--|--|
| Auto req ID | 4471BR |
| Job Abbreviation Title | SRNL Industrial Control Systems Security Intern |
| Job Description | Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program laboratory applying state of the art science and practical, high-Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS), the laboratory develops and deploys innovative technologies to address... Intern will participate in the development of a virtual network which simulates known environments to research vulnerabilities of through scanning and patching industrial controllers and generating documentation to ensure each system meets SRS cyber security environments and robotics systems. |
| Major | Computer Science Other |
| Other Major | Cyber Security, Industrial Systems, Virtual Reality, Industrial Controls/Robotics |
| Basic Qualifications (Quantifiable: e.g. Three Years Experience, Bachelors Degree) | Junior or Senior Knowledge and skill in basic computer applications and coding. Pursuing degree in Computer Science, Cyber Security, Industrial Systems, Virtual Reality, Industrial Controls/Robotics or related |
| Preferred Qualifications (e.g. Masters Degree) | Minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 GPA scale Preferred courses: Introduction to Computer Networks Advanced Computer Networks IT Security |
| Removal Date | 22-May-2019 |

[Submit to job](#) [Send to friend](#) [Save to cart](#) [View similar jobs](#)



Project Overview

- **Goals:**

3. Deploy virtual equipment pods on a virtual platform, accessible over the Internet, to support and facilitate the research and teaching activities from anywhere, without compromising hands-on.
 - The cloud system supports education and research
 - It was established by USC, Stanly Community College, and the Network Development Group (NDG) in 2019
 - It is currently used by colleges, universities, the National Guard, and multiple agencies

a netlab.ceec.sc.edu

netlab.ceec.sc.edu

Username

Password

Login

**Cyberinfrastructure
Lab @ UofSC**

b Reservations

| Date/Time | Description | Pod |
|--|--|----------------|
| 2022-10-14 17:27 2022-10-14 18:00 22 mins. | Class: PDP with P4 - ASU Fall 2022 Lab: Lab 2: Introduction to P4 Tofino Software Development Environment (SDE) Type: Instructor User: George Crichigno | Tofino_H2_pod4 |

Enter Lab

c Home Pod Reservation icrichigno

18 > Lab 2: Introduction to P4 Tofino Software Development Environment (SDE) Time Remaining 0 41 hrs. min.

Tofino Switch PC 1 PC 2 Tofino Model

Tofino Model 10.0.0.0/24

H1 eth0 ma1 eth1 H2 eth0 eth1

172.168.1.0/24

port 0 port 1

Tofino Switch 192.168.0.0/24

Management Network

d Status Tofino Switch PC 1 PC 2 Tofino Model

```
*** NETLAB: CONNECTING
*** NETLAB: CONNECTED

root@tofino-switch:~/P4_labs/lab1/p4src#
```

Project Overview

- **Goals:**

4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.
 - Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL)
 - National Guard – Cyber & Information Advantage Battalion (CIAB)
 - SANS institute (“girlsgocyber”)
 - Multiple higher-ed institutions
 - International Networks at Indiana
 - Texas’ Lonestart Education and Research (TX)
 - Florida Lambda Rail Research and Education Network (FL)
 - Front Range GigaPop (CO)
 - Great Plains Network (Midwest States)
 - Internet2 (National)
 - U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence (CCoE) (Signal School)

Project Overview

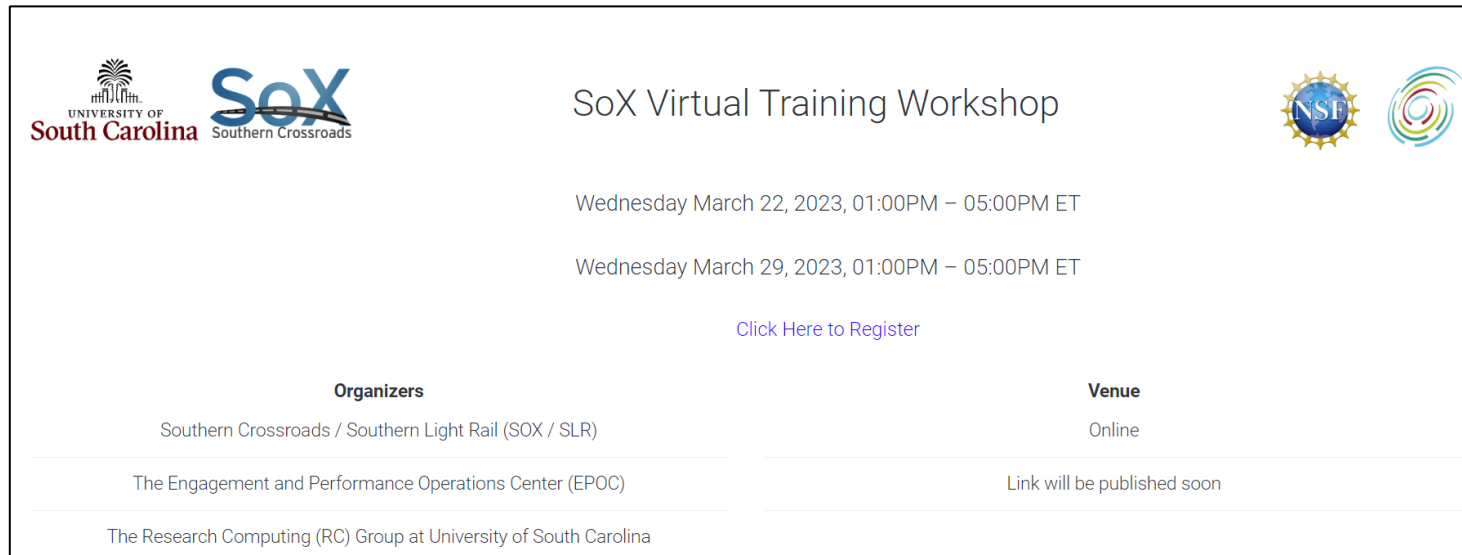
- **Goals:**

4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.
 - Intel
 - VMware
 - Palo Alto Networks
 - Juniper Networks
 - Cisco Systems

Project Overview

- **Goals:**

4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.



The banner features logos for the University of South Carolina, SoX Southern Crossroads, NSTL, and a colorful circular graphic. The text includes the event title, dates, a registration link, and a table of organizers and venue.

SoX Virtual Training Workshop

Wednesday March 22, 2023, 01:00PM – 05:00PM ET



Wednesday March 29, 2023, 01:00PM – 05:00PM ET

[Click Here to Register](#)




| Organizers | Venue |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Southern Crossroads / Southern Light Rail (SOX / SLR) | Online |
| The Engagement and Performance Operations Center (EPOC) | Link will be published soon |
| The Research Computing (RC) Group at University of South Carolina | |

Project Overview

- **Goals:**
- 4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.



UCF / FLR Workshop on Networking Topics



Thursday February 16, 2023, 08:00AM – 04:00PM ET




Friday February 17, 2023, 08:00AM – 01:00PM ET

[Click Here to Register](#)

| Organizers | Venue |
|---|--|
| University of Central Florida (UCF) | University of Central Florida (UCF) |
| Florida LambdaRail (FLR) | 12351 Research Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32826 |
| The Engagement and Performance Operations Center (EPOC) | |
| Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) | |
| University of South Carolina (USC) | |

Project Overview

- **Goals:**
- 4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | <h2>A Hands-on Tutorial on P4 Programmable Data Planes</h2> |   |
| Internet2 Technology Exchange | | |
| Monday December 5, 01:30-04:30pm | | |
| Organizers | | Venue |
| The Cyberinfrastructure Lab at UofSC | | Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel |
| Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) | | Denver, Colorado |

Project Overview


- **Goals:**
4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.

A Hands-on Workshop on P4 Programmable Data Planes

CENIC 2022 Annual Conference



Wednesday September 28, 01:30-03:00pm, Pacific Time

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Organizers | Venue |
| The Cyberinfrastructure Lab at UofSC | Hyatt Regency |
| | Monterey, California |



Project Overview

- **Goals:**
4. Establish meetings among industry, government, high schools, and higher-education institutions to enhance cybersecurity preparation.



Tutorial on Science DMZ

NSF CC* PI Workshop

Monday September 19, 01:00-03:00pm, Central Time

| Organizers | Venue |
|---|--|
| Engagement and Performance Operations Center (EPOC) | Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot |
| University of South Carolina (UofSC) | Minneapolis, Minnesota |

Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by
Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships
Support: Office of Naval Research (ONR)

Purpose: cyberwarfare - workforce development (undergraduates)

2023 - 2026

Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships

- Recommended for funding – ONR, 2023 – 2026 (\$600,000)
- USC will become the hub for Cyber Warfare preparation
- The project will have a national impact, targeting diverse audience
 - ROTC cadets
 - Veterans
 - STEM students
 - Communities of practice: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Internet2
 - Self-paced learning material

Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships

- Objective 1: Advance formal and informal cyber communities and connect relevant organizations

| Audience | Activity | Learning Setting | Partners | Subject | Outcome |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| ROTC cadets and midshipman at USC, UTSA, SCSU | a. Six 16-week academic courses embedded in academic programs at USC, SCSU, UTSA (formal learning); b. 12-week C4ISR research experience (formal learning) | Courses in CS, CI, and IT that will include virtual labs on topics relevant to the DoN and DoD | ROTC programs at USC, UTSA, SCSU | Cybersecurity, warfare, networks, communications, virtualization | ROTC graduates (BSc) with MOS, DoD credentials |
| Veterans at USC, UTSA, SCSC | | | Veteran Center at USC, UTSA, SCSU | | Veterans with MOS, DoD credentials |
| STEM students at USC, UTSA, SCSU | | | CS, CI, IT, Math, Engr. programs interested in a minor in cybers, IT, and topics relevant to DoN / DoD | | STEM graduates with skills relevant to DoN / DoD |
| CELL and Internet2 COPs | c. Workshops (informal learning) | Workshops + self-paced learning | EPOC / ESnet, Internet2 | Advanced communications, networks, warfare | IT professionals with skills on advanced technologies |
| Open to learners interested in intro., inter-mediate, and advanced IT | d. Self-paced learning (informal learning) for - National Guard - General Public | Self-paced; potential periodical meeting for general discussion | National Guard, NDG | Communications, cybersecurity, networks, virtualization | IT professionals, National Guard personnel at all levels, workforce with advanced skills, MOS, certificate credentials |

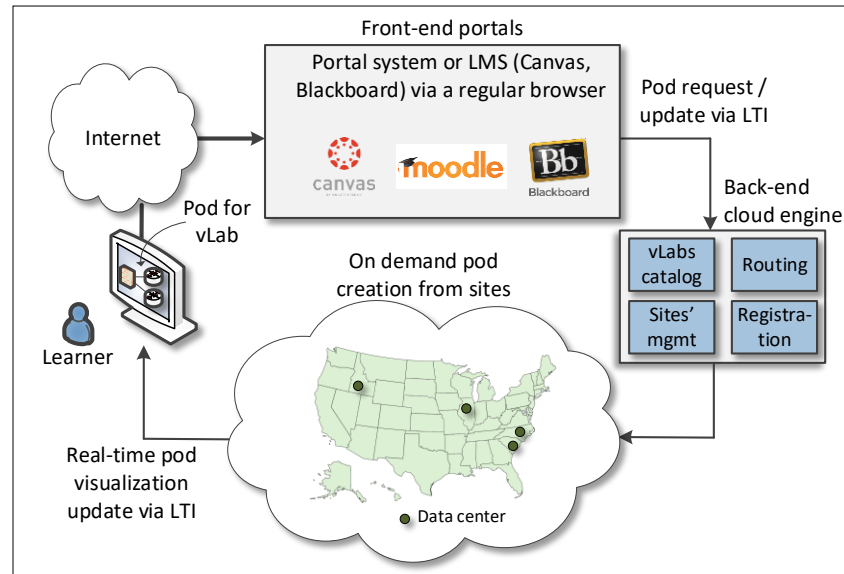
Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships

- Objective 2: Develop a multi-state internship program, leveraging and strengthening the Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP)
 - Common pre-internship seminars for USC, SCSU, and UTSA students (14-week long)
 - Internships to be conducted during the summer – 400 hours
 - Intel, Cisco, VMware, Palo Alto Networks will provide tools and platforms to prepare students for internships and full-time positions

Preparing Cyber Warfare Professionals by Integration of Curriculum, Experiences, and Internships

- Objective 3: Expand the Academic Cloud to support large-scale learning and research nationwide
 - The cloud system supports education and research
 - It was established by USC, Stanly Community College, and the Network Development Group (NDG) in 2019
 - It is currently used by colleges, universities, the National Guard, and multiple agencies

Academic Cloud



Cybertraining on P4 Programmable Devices using an Online Scalable Platform with
Physical and Virtual Switches and Real Protocol Stacks
Support: National Science Foundation

Purpose: advanced IT - workforce development (PhD students, IT professionals)

2021 - 2025

Cybertraining on P4 Programmable Devices

- Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$500,000)
- The project is developing hardware and software apps using P4 processors
- Intel provides tools to program the P4 processors
- The Cyberinfrastructure Lab at USC has unique capabilities on this technology: <http://ce.sc.edu/cyberinfra/>
- USC training platform and material on P4 are now used across the country (ESnet, ASU, Northeastern, small businesses, campus IT professionals, etc.)
- A DoD SBIR proposal has been recently submitted, to develop cybersecurity applications using P4 processors



P4 network processor

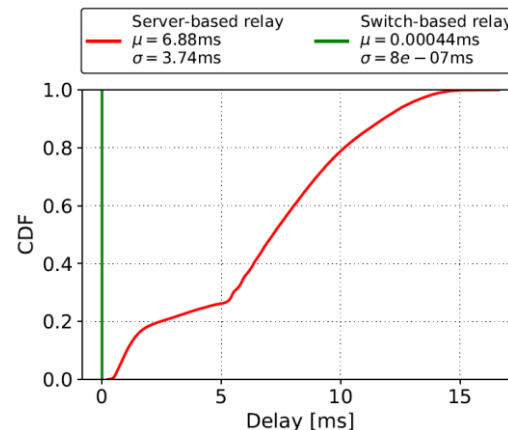
Cybertraining on P4 Programmable Devices

- Objective: Increase and facilitate the adoption of P4 programmable devices nationwide
 - Network processors provide granular visibility of events (nanosecond resolution)
 - They can detect /process events much faster than general-purpose CPUs
 - Collaboration / agreement with Intel



Application example: voice processing¹

| | Network Processor | General-purpose CPU |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost | \$6,000 | \$ 10,000 - 25,000 |
| Capacity | ~35M connections/chip | ~500 connections/core |
| Latency | 440 nanosec | Tens-hundreds of msec |



¹E. Kfoury, J. Crichigno, E. Bou-Harb, V. Gurevich, "Offloading Media Traffic to Programmable Data Plane Switches," IEEE ICC, June 2020.

Cybertraining on P4 Programmable Devices

- Objective: Increase and facilitate the adoption of P4 programmable devices nationwide

INC: In-Network Classification of Botnet Propagation at Line Rate

Kurt Friday¹, Elie Kfoury², Elias Bou-Harb¹, and Jorge Crichigno²

¹ The Cyber Center for Security and Analytics
The University of Texas at San Antonio, USA
{kurt.friday, elias.bouharb}@utsa.edu

² Integrated Information Technology
The University of South Carolina, USA
{jcrichigno@cec, ekfoury@email}.sc.edu

Abstract. The ever-increasing botnet presence has enabled attackers to compromise millions of nodes and launch a plethora of Internet-scale coordinated attacks within a very short period of time. While the challenge of identifying and patching the vulnerabilities that these botnets exploit

IoT Threat Detection Testbed Using Generative Adversarial Networks

Farooq Shaikh¹, Elias Bou-Harb², Aldin Vehabovic¹, Jorge Crichigno³, Aysegül Yayimli⁴, Nasir Ghani¹
¹Univ. of South Florida, ²Univ. of Texas San Antonio, ³Univ. of South Carolina, ⁴Valparaiso University

Abstract—The Internet of Things (IoT) paradigm provides persistent sensing and data collection capabilities and is becoming increasingly prevalent across many market sectors. However, the increased use of IoT devices and functions to malicious purposes has increased the threat to network security.

Although IoT-based solutions offer tremendous benefits in terms of productivity and efficiency, they also introduce a plethora of security challenges. Namely,

P4DDPI: Securing P4-Programmable Data Plane Networks via DNS Deep Packet Inspection

Ali AISabeh*, Elie Kfoury*, Jorge Crichigno*, Elias Bou-Harb†

*Integrated Information Technology Dept., University of South Carolina (USC), Columbia, South Carolina, USA

†The Cyber Center For Security and Analytics, Information Systems and Cyber Security Dept.

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), San Antonio, Texas, USA

Email: *aalsabeh@email.sc.edu, *ekfoury@email.sc.edu, *jcrichigno@cec.sc.edu, †elias.bouharb@utsa.edu

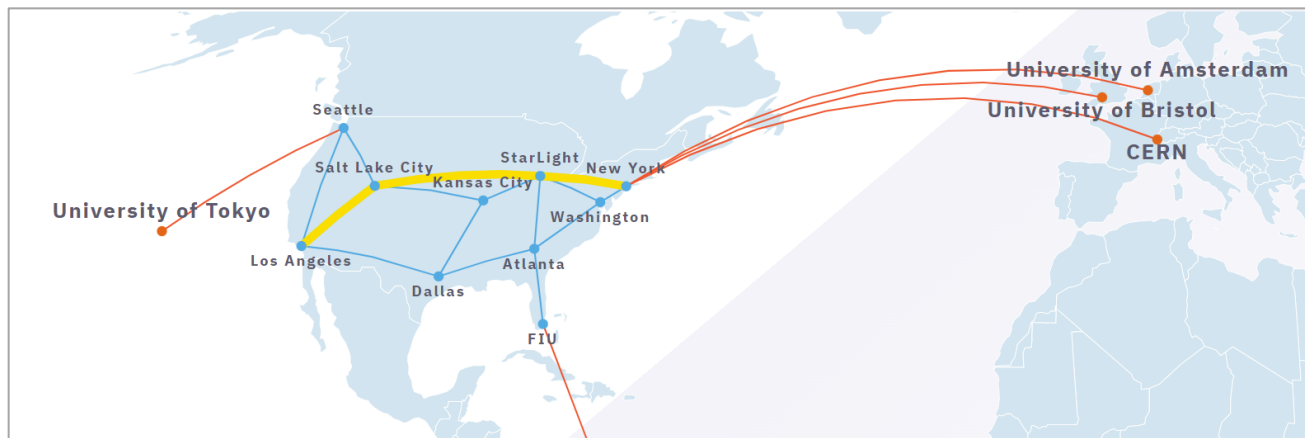
Abstract—One of the main roles of the Domain Name System (DNS) is to map domain names to IP addresses. Despite the importance of this function, DNS traffic often passes without being analyzed, thus making the DNS a center of attacks that keep evolving and growing. Software-based mitigation approaches and dedicated state-of-the-art firewalls can become a bottleneck and are subject to saturation attacks, especially in high-speed networks. The emerging P4-programmable data plane can implement a variety of network security mitigation approaches at high-speed rates without disrupting legitimate traffic.

The security gap incurred by the DNS can be attributed to its ability in handling DNS records transparently, i.e., DNS should not attempt to interpret nor understand the records it is serving. While such transparency is essential for a fast and smooth deployment of new technologies without altering the infrastructure, it leaves the Internet prone to a wide variety of attacks [4].

Traditional enterprise networks use a number of components and approaches to protect against security threats. For exam-

Cybertraining on P4 Programmable Devices

- Objective: Increase and facilitate the adoption of P4 programmable devices nationwide
 - Training material is used by the FABRIC community (FABRIC is a national infrastructure, >\$20M investment by NSF) (<https://whatisfabric.net/>):



FABRIC

Additional Slides

Building a Science DMZ for Data-intensive Research and Computation at the
University of South Carolina
Support: National Science Foundation

Purpose: deploy a high-speed network at USC, connected to Internet2

Institution: USC

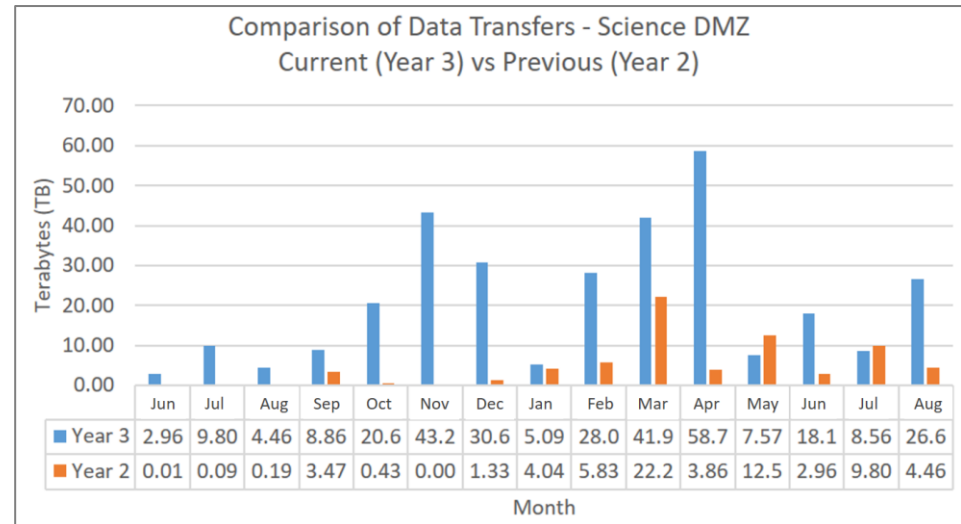
2019 - 2022

Building a Science DMZ

- Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$500,000)
- The project developed a 100Gbps high-speed network (Science DMZ) connected to Internet2
- The Science DMZ supports current research moving terabyte-scale data between USC and national labs (e.g., Argonne, Fermi, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, Los Alamos)
- In the last 15 months, the increase of data transfers was over 300% with respect to the previous 15-month period
- Peaks of up to 60TB per month

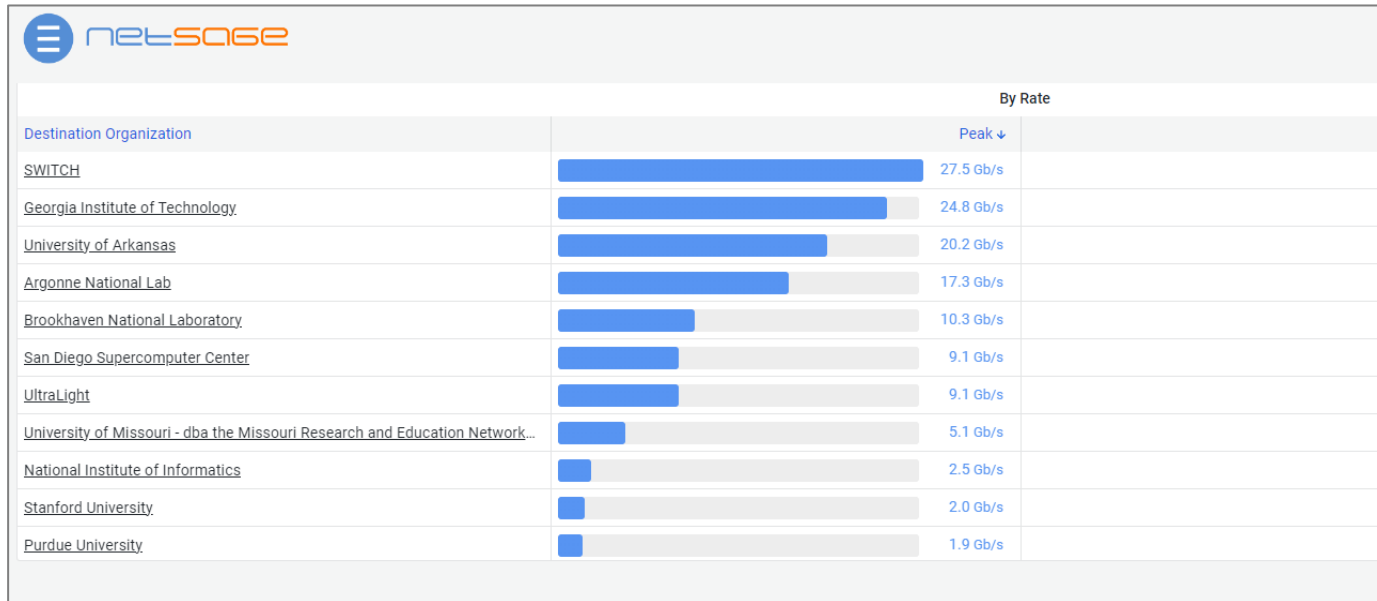
Year 3: 2021/2022

Year 2: 2021/2020



Building a Science DMZ

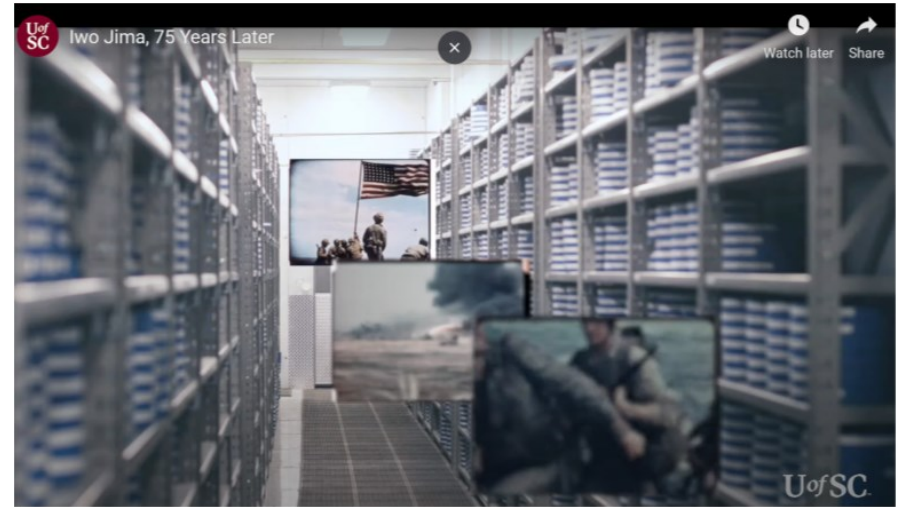
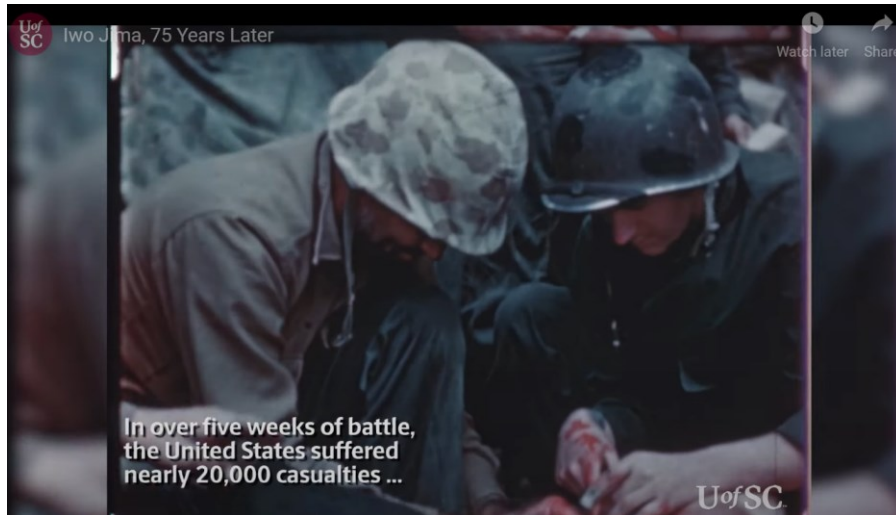
- Prior to this project, data transfers to/from USC were below 5Gbps
- High-speed data transfers enable new research on campus
- Multiple colleges and departments have benefited from the new infrastructure



Example of flow rates from USC to collaborators using the new network (2022)

Building a Science DMZ

- The infrastructure is also used by non-STEM units
- Example: the USC's Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC) library is digitizing films, in partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps History Division
- The process requires high-speed data transfers and high-capacity storage (Science DMZ)



Multi-state Community College, University and Industry Collaboration to
Prepare Learners for 21st Century Information Technology Jobs
Support: National Science Foundation

Purpose: Workforce Development at High School, Community College, and
University Levels

Institution: USC

Collaborators: VMware, Palo Alto Networks, Cisco Systems, SRNL, Stanly
Community College, SC Gov. HS

2019 - 2023

Multi-state Community College, University and Industry Collaboration

- NSF-funded project (\$600,000 / \$300,000 for USC)
- The project developed a multi-state distributed cloud to support teaching, research
- The distributed cloud pools resources from SC and NC to serve institutions seamlessly
- A 2+2+2 program (HS + College + University) was initiated
- Stackable credentials are now available to students (A+, Cisco, Palo Alto, VMware)
- Weeklong summer workshops are offered to prepare instructors on new technologies



CUSTOMER STORY

vmware IT ACADEMY

USC South Carolina

INDUSTRY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTING

LOCATION
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

KEY CHALLENGES
• Needed to educate students who were located in multiple academic and military institutions for high-demand

The University of South Carolina partners with VMware IT Academy to help students learn digital technology skills to fill high-demand jobs



Academic Cloud and the Digital Skills Boom

March 2, 2022 · 9 min read

Northampton, MA --News Direct-- VMware

Rich Weeks
President, Network Development Group (NDG)

Kelly Caudle
Program Head, Instructor Training Center at Stanly Community College (SCC)

Dr. Jorge Crichigno
Associate Professor for the Integrated Information Technology Center at Stanly Community College (USC)

Jessamine Chin
Senior Director, Social Innovation at VMware

It's no surprise that high tech digital skills are in high demand. To keep up with the

Multi-state Community College, University and Industry Collaboration

- Impact

- Pedagogical material is now available for highly recognized certificates (networks, cyber, virtualization)
- The project has trained over 100 instructors who are now teaching the material at their institutions
- The material has helped over 300 soldiers from the U.S. Army Cyber Signal School, 40+ ROTC cadets, over 1,000 students
- The material is also used in undergraduate and graduate courses



CUSTOMER STORY

vmware IT ACADEMY

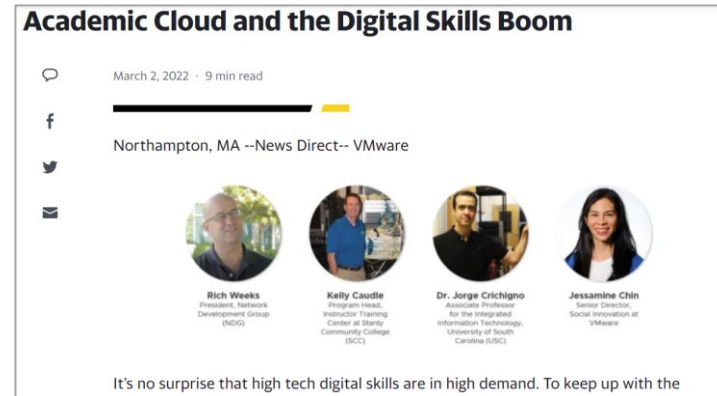
USC South Carolina

INDUSTRY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTING

LOCATION
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

KEY CHALLENGES
• Needed to educate students who were located in multiple academic and military institutions for high-demand

The University of South Carolina partners with VMware IT Academy to help students learn digital technology skills to fill high-demand jobs



Academic Cloud and the Digital Skills Boom

March 2, 2022 · 9 min read

Northampton, MA --News Direct-- VMware

Rich Weeks
President, Network Development Group (NDG)

Kelly Caudle
Program Head, Instructor Training Center at Stanly Community College (SCC)

Dr. Jorge Cricchigno
Associate Professor for the Integrated Information Technology Center at South Carolina (USC)

Jessamine Chin
Senior Director, Social Innovation at VMware

It's no surprise that high tech digital skills are in high demand. To keep up with the

Summary – Collaborators

Summary

| Collaborators | Purpose | Audience |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Intel | Advanced training; technology used for DoD (Pronto project https://prontoproject.org/), NSF FABRIC project (https://whatisfabric.net/), PhD research | PhD level / advanced IT professional level |
| Cisco, VMware, Palo Alto Networks | Workforce development (industry certificates in cyber / networks). Certificates can be completed after one or more 8/16-week course | Undergraduates, veterans, STEM students, IT professionals |
| Cisco, VMware, Palo Alto Networks | USC trains military personnel who may want to obtain a DoD recognized credential – cybersecurity and networks | National Guard, ROTC, Fort Gordon |
| LBNL, ESnet, Internet2 | Advanced training in IT topics – networks and cybersecurity | IT professionals working on high-performance environments |
| Amazon | This is a new partnership. USC has access to training material on cloud computing (AWS). This trainings are in high demand | IT professionals, students at all level |
| SRNL, private companies, NIWC | Internships | Undergraduate students |
| Network Development Group | NDG is the leading organization in virtual training platforms. USC and NDG collaborate in multiple projects, such as deploying the Academic Cloud | Learners at all levels |
| Opex Systems | Business partner – DoD proposal has been recently submitted with this organization, to develop advanced applications for DoD | DoD |

Impact of the Cyberinfrastructure Lab (2018 – 2022)

| Audience | Purpose | # Learners |
|-------------------------------|--|------------|
| Military personnel | U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence (Fort Gordon). Training on cyber and IT (2019-2022) (approximately 150 per year) | 600 |
| ROTC Cadets and Veterans | USC ROTC – USC Students. Training and research on cyber and IT for the military (approximately 20 per year) (2020-2022) (this number only included funded students) | 60 |
| National Guard | National Guard – Training on cyber and IT (approximately 75 per year) (2021-2022) | 150 |
| Undergraduate Students at USC | Undergraduate students who have used the Academic Cloud platform for course work (approximately 500 per year) (2018-2022) | 2,500 |
| IT Professionals Nationally | Advanced training on IT. The audience includes high-skilled IT professionals working on national laboratories, campus networks, research and education networks (approx. 800 per year) (2019-2022) | 3,200 |
| Learners* | Learners who access the Academic Cloud platform and pedagogical material (national impact): high school students, community college students, four-year undergraduate students, graduate students, IT professionals (approximately 100,000 per year) (2020-2022) | 300,000 |

* Platform deployed with the Network Development Group (NDG), Stanly Community College (SCC), and Idaho National Laboratory (INL). USC is the leading organization of the NSF-supported project

Impact of Additional Support

| Organizations | Outcomes |
|---|---|
| Middle and High Schools | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Enhance middle and high school instruction by providing them access to the Academic Cloud (virtual laboratory platform for hands-on activities) and pedagogical material for IT, cybersecurity(2) Pipeline: align pedagogical material for high-school students to 100- and 200-level college courses / dual credit(3) Prepare middle-school and high-school students for state and national cyber competitions(4) Prepare students with entry-level IT credentials for the workforce |
| Technology Workers | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Disseminate IT knowledge developed by USC by creating effective advanced hands-on training material(2) Create partnerships to reskill workers: AWS, Cisco, VMware, Palo Alto Networks, Intel, Apple(3) Coordinate with industry to reskill workers using professional tools and platforms be deployed in USC's Academic Cloud(4) Strengthen partnerships with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab / ESnet, Internet2, Research and Education Networks(5) Prepare IT professionals with new skills on state-of-the-art technology |
| National Guard, U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE) | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Enhance the training and education of soldiers by providing them access to the Academic Cloud(2) Train soldiers on Military Occupation Specialties (MOS)(3) Improve CCOE, Cyber & Information Advantage Battalion (National Guard) curriculum on MOS(4) Enable soldiers to attain MOS and advanced degrees |
| SBIR - DoD | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Produce prototypes for cybersecurity, network apps that are easy to operate by soldiers(2) Develop apps exploiting P4 network processors running on Pronto (DoD's large-scale infrastructure, https://prontoproject.org/)(3) Promote and support startups interested in developing P4 network processor applications |

Impact of Additional Support

| Organizations | Outcomes |
|----------------------------|---|
| Technical Colleges | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Enhance instruction at technical colleges by providing them access to the Academic Cloud (virtual laboratory platform for hands-on activities) and pedagogical material for IT, cybersecurity(2) Align pedagogical material to facilitate transition from 2-year to 4-year programs(3) Enable students to attain industry stackable credentials while completing their degrees |
| Universities | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Enhance instruction at universities by providing them access to the Academic Cloud(2) Enable students to conduct advanced research on high-speed networks, cybersecurity, and other IT areas(3) Strengthen partnership with federal agencies to continue accessing facilities (e.g., FABRIC national infrastructure (https://whatisfabric.net/))(4) Enable students to attain degrees with high-market demand(5) Enable student to attain stackable credentials and DoD's approved certificates (relevant to ROC, veteran students, students applying to federal agencies and national laboratories) |
| SC Industry, state workers | <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Upskill and reskill state workers to reduce the widening supply-demand needs of cybersecurity / IT professionals(2) Extend the agreements between USC and industry partners (Intel, Cisco System, Palo Alto Networks, VMware) to permit state workers to conduct self-paced training towards stackable credentials, using the Academic Cloud(3) Promote innovation and build infrastructure capacity to attract IT talent(4) Reduce the skills gap in IT and provide businesses with IT talent |

Funding Cyberinfrastructure Lab (1 FT Faculty Member)

- Total amount for the period Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 22, 2022 (USC share only: \$3.4M; total: > \$4M)

| Support | Purpose | Amount |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| ONR | (1) Research on applications of P4 network processors for the military (command and control); (2) Training military personal: Veterans, National Guard, ROTC, STEM undergraduates | \$600,000 |
| DoD | (1) Accelerating expertise in critical cyber operational skills for future military and civilian leaders | \$250,000 |
| NSF | (1) Research on applications of P4 network processors for high-speed networks; (2) Train undergraduate and graduate students, IT professionals | \$500,000 |
| NDG | (1) Develop training material for IT and cybersecurity | \$20,000 |
| ONR | (1) Develop a minor in cybersecurity to enhance the preparation of ROTC cadets on cyber | \$250,000 |
| NSF | (1) Build a high-speed network at USC to move big science data across to collaborators' institutions | \$500,000 |
| NSF | (1) Build a virtual platform for training, research, and education | \$300,000 |
| NSF | (1) Research on IoT cybersecurity | \$500,000 |
| NSF | (1) Research on high-speed networks, protocol development; (2) Training material on high-speed networks | \$500,000 |
| NSF | (1) Research on cybersecurity; (2) Training undergraduate and graduate students on cybersecurity | \$420,000 |
| | | \$3,840,000 |

Funding Cyberinfrastructure Lab (1 FT Faculty Member)

- Expectation for the next 3-4 years is to bring > \$3,000,000, by applying to larger programs
- Additional FT faculty with expertise on practical cyberinfrastructure (high-speed networks, network security) may help increase the above amount