Anh V. Vu

♦ https://cst.cam.ac.uk/people/vv301 ♥ Cambridge, UK (Permanent Resident)
• +44 746 351 1312 ☑ anh.vu@cst.cam.ac.uk in anhvvcs ♥ anhvvcs ♥ Google Scholar

- Interdisciplinary researcher with over 5 years of experience working on cybersecurity, cybercrime, online abuse and harms.
- Led 6 research projects, resulting in 5 papers at top-tier A/A* computer science conferences and 1 at an A* workshop.
- Work featured in the news 11 times e.g., New Scientist, CoinDesk, Fast Company, Hacker News, Cambridge Research, The Register.

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge | PhD in Computer Science

Jan 2022 – Jan 2025

 $\textbf{Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology} \mid \textit{MSc in Information Science}$

Oct 2017 – Dec 2018

Vietnam National University | BSc in Information Technology (High Distinction)

Sep 2012 – Jun 2016

Work Experience

University of Cambridge | Visiting Researcher (Apr 2025 - Present) ← Research Assistant (2019 - Apr 2025) | Sep 2019 - Present

- Collected and shared 4 large-scale cybercrime datasets. Used data-driven analysis and statistics to study their evolving ecosystem.
- Led 4 papers accepted at A/A^* security conferences, 1 workshop paper at an A^* computational linguistics conference.
- \bullet Gave over 16 research talks, 2 guest lectures. Covered in the news 10 times. Authored 2 workshop papers, 1 book chapter.

TRM Labs, Blockchain Intelligence | Research Scientist

Apr 2025 – Present

• Worked in the Traceability Team to develop novel, promising methods for tracing Bitcoin transactions mixed by Wasabi Wallet.

$\textbf{Delft University of Technology} \hspace{0.1cm} | \hspace{0.1cm} \textit{Visiting Research Student}$

Jun 2024 - Jul 2024

- Collaborated on a project co-funded by the Dutch Police on the facilitators of financial cybercrime, particularly crypto mixers.
- Analysed on-chain mixer transactions to understand the dynamics of their ecosystem following law enforcement interventions.

National University of Singapore | Research Intern

Jan 2019 – Jul 2019

- Simulated multiple adversarial scenarios to discover a novel partitioning attack against the Bitcoin peer-to-peer network.
- Co-authored 1 research paper accepted at an A* computer security conference, which was later featured on CoinDesk.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Assessing the Aftermath | Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, DDoS Attacks, DDoS-for-hire, Takedowns

PDF | Aug 2025

- Collaborated with law enforcement to investigate the effects of a global police takedown against DDoS-for-hire services.
- Resulted in a paper @ USENIX Security Symposium, one of the best computer security conferences (Rank A*).

Yet Another Diminishing Spark | Security, Cybercrime, DDoS Attacks, Web Defacement, Cyberwar

PDF | Jun 2025

- Analysed 120k defacements and 1.4M DDoS attacks to measure the outbreak of cyberattacks in the Israel-Gaza conflict.
- Resulted in a paper @ IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy Workshops.
- \bullet Press coverage: Fast Company, Computer Weekly, Infosecurity.

No Easy Way Out | Online Harassment, Censorship, Deplatforming, Content Moderation

PDF | May 2024

- Analysed 15M posts and 525k Telegram chats to evaluate the impact of a concerted effort by a series of tech firms to deplatform an online hate and harassment forum. Press coverage: The Register.
- $\bullet \ \ Resulted \ in \ a \ paper \ @ \ IEEE \ Symposium \ on \ Security \ and \ Privacy, \ one \ of \ the \ top-tier \ security \ conferences \ (Rank \ A^*).$

 $\textbf{Getting Bored of Cyberwar} \hspace{0.1in} | \hspace{0.1in} \textit{Security, Cybercrime, DDoS Attacks, Web Defacement, Cyberwar}$

PDF | May 2024

- Analysed 358k defacements and 1.7M DDoS attacks to uncover the activity of hacktivists in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Resulted in a paper @ ACM World Wide Web Conference, one of the top computer science conferences (Rank A*).
- Press coverage: Associated Press, New Scientist, SC Magazine, The Record.

Turning Up the Dial | Cybersecurity, Cybercrime Marketplaces, Hacking Forum

PDF | Oct 2020

- $\bullet \ \ \text{Measured 200k contracts on the Hack Forums cybercrime market over two years to analyse its longitudinal evolution.}$
- Resulted in a paper @ ACM Internet Measurement Conference, one of the top conferences on measurement (Rank A).
- Press coverage: Hacker News, Cambridge University Research.

 $\textbf{Erebus Attack} \ (\text{co-author}) \ \mid \ \textit{Bitcoin}, \ \textit{Blockchain Security}, \ \textit{Network Security}, \ \textit{Partitioning Attack}$

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- Discovered a stealthy attack that partitions the Bitcoin network without victims' awareness. Press coverage: CoinDesk
- Resulted in a paper @ IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, one of the top-tier security conferences (Rank A*).

Corana Engine | Security, Malware Analysis, Formal Methods, Symbolic Execution

PDF | Sep 2019

PDF | May 2020

- Built a dynamic symbolic execution engine for six ARM variants, capable of tracing IoT malware under obfuscations.
- Resulted in a paper @ International Symposium on Formal Methods, one of the top formal methods conferences (Rank A).

Professional Skills

Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, Blockchain Intelligence, Blockchain Security, Data Science, Statistics, Databases, OSINT, Malware Analysis, Threat Intelligence, Applied Formal Methods, Reverse Engineering | **Programming Languages**: Python, Java, C++, SQL

Professional Activities

- Programme Committees: International Workshop on Cryptoasset Analytics (CAAW'25), Financial Cryptography and Data Security (FC'25), ACM World Wide Web Conference (WWW'24). Reviewers: Journal of Cybersecurity 2024.
- Research Talks: Presented over 16 research talks: 5 top-tier A/A* computer science conferences (USENIX SEC'25, S&P'24, WWW'24, IMC'20, FM'19), 3 specialised workshops (WACCO@EuroS&P'25, WOAH@ACL'23, WACCO@EuroS&P'22), 4 cybercrime conferences at Cambridge (CCC'25, CCC'24, CCC'23, CCC'22), 2 security workshop at Harvard University (SHB'24) and University of Cambridge (SHB'25), 2 security seminars at University of Cambridge, and guest lectures at several universities, see more.
- Teaching at Cambridge: Cybersecurity (9 students), Databases (15 students), Software and Security Engineering (45 students), Object-Oriented Programming (28 students), Algorithms @ the UK Sutton Trust Summer School (22 students).