

# Abdullah Al Ishtiaq

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Systems Security, Wireless Communication Protocol Security, Natural Language Processing

## EDUCATION

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- Pennsylvania State University** University Park, PA  
Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering August 2021 – Present  
*Advisor:* Dr. Syed Rafiul Hussain
- Pennsylvania State University** University Park, PA  
M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering August 2021 – May 2024  
*Thesis:* Towards Automating the Generation of Finite State Machines from Natural Language Specifications: A Focus on Cellular Network Security  
*Advisor:* Dr. Syed Rafiul Hussain
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology** Dhaka, Bangladesh  
B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering February 2016 – February 2021  
*Thesis:* Towards Bridging the Gap between Natural Language and Source Codes  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Rifat Shahriyar

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- Pennsylvania State University** University Park, PA  
- Research Assistant January 2022 – Present  
- Teaching Assistant August 2021 – December 2021
- AT&T Services, Inc.** Bedminster, NJ  
- Sr Associate Student Intern Technical II June 2024 – August 2024
- Dynamic Solution Innovators Limited** Dhaka, Bangladesh  
- Junior Software Engineer December 2020 – May 2021
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology** Dhaka, Bangladesh  
- Research Assistant, Applied Machine Learning Lab September 2019 – November 2020

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- AT&T Graduate Fellowship for 2025-2026 academic year to conduct research in wireless data applications 2025
- “Logic Gone Astray: A Security Analysis Framework for the Control Plane Protocols of 5G Basebands” received distinguished paper award at the 33rd USENIX Security Symposium [C5] 2024
- Samsung Bug Bounty Reward of \$2,800 for reporting moderate severity vulnerabilities in BLE [C6] 2024
- Inducted in the Samsung Product Security Update (6 times), and Unisoc Product Security Acknowledgements (2 times) for identifying security issues in 5G Implementations [C5] 2024

- Google Bug Bounty Reward of \$3,000 for reporting a high severity vulnerability in 4G implementation 2024
- Samsung Bug Bounty Reward of \$5,700 for reporting several vulnerabilities in 5G implementation [C5] 2024
- Google Bug Bounty Reward of \$14,250 for high severity vulnerabilities in 5G implementation [C5] 2024
- Inducted 3 times in the GSMA Mobile Security Research Acknowledgements (formerly known as Hall of Fame) for identifying security and privacy issues in 4G and 5G networks [C5, C4, C2] 2023-2021
- Google Bug Bounty Reward of \$10,000 for reporting a high severity issue in BLE implementation [C3] 2023
- Google Bug Bounty Reward of \$5,000 for reporting a high severity vulnerability in 4G protocol implementation [C2] 2022
- Samsung Bug Bounty Reward for reporting a high impact and a medium impact vulnerability in 4G protocol implementation [C2] 2022
- Inducted in the Qualcomm Product Security (3 times), Samsung Mobile Security, and MediaTek Product Security Acknowledgements for identifying high and moderate severity security issues [C2] 2021-2022

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Conference

- [C7] Y. Dong, T. Yang, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, S. M. M. Rashid, A. Ranjbar, K. Tu, T. Wu, M. S. Mahmud, and S. R. Hussain, “CoreCrisis: Threat-Guided Context-Aware Black-Box Testing Framework for 5G Core Network Implementations,” *accepted at the 34th USENIX Security Symposium*, 2025.
- [C6] S. M. M. Rashid, T. Wu, K. Tu, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, R. H. Hasan, Y. Dong, O. Chowdhury, and S. R. Hussain, “State Machine Mutation-based Testing Framework for Wireless Communication Protocols,” in *Proceedings of the 2024 on ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2024.
- [C5] K. Tu, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, S. M. M. Rashid, Y. Dong, W. Wang, T. Wu, and S. R. Hussain, “Logic Gone Astray: A Security Analysis Framework for the Control Plane Protocols of 5G Basebands,” in *Proceedings of the 33rd USENIX Security Symposium*, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2024.  
*Distinguished paper award*
- [C4] **A. A. Ishtiaq**, S. S. S. Das, S. M. M. Rashid, A. Ranjbar, K. Tu, T. Wu, Z. Song, W. Wang, M. Akon, R. Zhang, and S. R. Hussain, “Hermes: Unlocking Security Analysis of Cellular Network Protocols by Synthesizing Finite State Machines from Natural Language Specifications,” in *Proceedings of the 33rd USENIX Security Symposium*, Philadelphia, PA, US, 2024.
- [C3] I. Karim, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, S. R. Hussain, and E. Bertino, “BLEDiff: Scalable and Property-Agnostic Noncompliance Checking for BLE Implementations,” in *Proceedings of the 2023 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP)*, San Francisco, CA, US, 2023.
- [C2] S. R. Hussain, I. Karim, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, O. Chowdhury, and E. Bertino, “Noncompliance as Deviant Behavior: An Automated Black-Box Noncompliance Checker for 4G LTE Cellular Devices,” in *Proceedings of the 2021 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, Virtual Event, Republic of Korea, 2021.
- [C1] M. Hasan, T. Muttaqueen, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, K. S. Mehrab, M. M. A. Haque, T. Hasan, W. Ahmad, A. Iqbal, and R. Shahriyar, “CoDesc: A large code-description parallel dataset,” in the *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL-IJCNLP 2021*, (Online), Association for Computational Linguistics, Aug. 2021.

### Preprints

- [Pr1] **A. A. Ishtiaq**, M. Hasan, M. M. A. Haque, K. S. Mehrab, T. Muttaqueen, T. Hasan, A. Iqbal, and R. Shahriyar, “BERT2Code: Can Pretrained Language Models be Leveraged for Code Search?” in *arXiv:2104.08017* (2021)

### Conference Briefings

- [B1] K. Tu, Y. Dong, **A. A. Ishtiaq**, S. M. M. Rashid, W. Wang, T. Wu, and S. R. Hussain, “Cracking the 5G Fortress: Peering Into 5G’s Vulnerability Abyss” in the *Briefings of Blackhat USA 2024*, Las Vegas, NV, US, 2024

## Poster

- [P1] **A. A. Ishtiaq**, T. B. Faruk, and M. S. Hossain, “TCP Reset Attack on Video Streaming” at 2019 International Conference on Networking, Systems and Security (NSysS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2019.

## REPORTED VULNERABILITIES

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- **GSMA CVDs:** CVD-2023-0081, CVD-2023-0071, CVD-2021-0050
- **4G LTE vulnerabilities:** CVE-2024-32911, CVE-2021-40148, CVE-2021-30344, CVE-2021-25480, CVE-2021-25471, SVE-2021-22327, SVE-2021-22324
- **5G NR vulnerabilities:** CVE-2024-29152, CVE-2024-28818, CVE-2023-52534, CVE-2023-52533, CVE-2023-52344, CVE-2023-52343, CVE-2023-52342, CVE-2023-52341, CVE-2023-50804, CVE-2023-50803, CVE-2023-49928, CVE-2023-49927
- **BLE vulnerabilities:** CVE-2024-29155, CVE-2024-20890, CVE-2024-20889, CVE-2022-45192, CVE-2022-45191, CVE-2022-45190, CVE-2022-45189, CVE-2022-41768, CVE-2022-40480, TN1436-ST-PSIRT, HWPSIRT-2022-96208, HWPSIRT-2022-56262, HWPSIRT-2022-13244

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- **Journal Review**
  - Applied AI Letters (AAIL)
- **Artifact Evaluation Committee**
  - USENIX Security Symposium 2025.

## SOFTWARE ARTIFACTS

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| • <b>Proteus:</b> <a href="https://github.com/SyNSec-den/Proteus">https://github.com/SyNSec-den/Proteus</a>                      | 2024 |
| • <b>5GBaseChecker:</b> <a href="https://github.com/SyNSec-den/5GBaseChecker">https://github.com/SyNSec-den/5GBaseChecker</a>    | 2024 |
| • <b>Hermes:</b> <a href="https://github.com/SyNSec-den/hermes-spec-to-fsm">https://github.com/SyNSec-den/hermes-spec-to-fsm</a> | 2024 |
| • <b>BLEDiff:</b> <a href="https://github.com/BLEDiff/BLEDiff">https://github.com/BLEDiff/BLEDiff</a>                            | 2023 |
| • <b>DIKEUE:</b> <a href="https://github.com/SyNSec-den/DIKEUE">https://github.com/SyNSec-den/DIKEUE</a>                         | 2021 |
| • <b>CoDesc:</b> <a href="https://github.com/csebuetnlp/CoDesc">https://github.com/csebuetnlp/CoDesc</a>                         | 2021 |

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Language:** C, C++, Rust, Java, Python, MATLAB, Assembly
- **Web Technology:** HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Spring, React.js, Next.js
- **Tool/Framework:** nuXmv, ProVerif, libFuzzer, libAFL, srsRAN

## RESEARCH MENTORING

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| • <b>Ziping Ye</b> , B.Sc. & M.S. Student, Pennsylvania State University<br>Research: Intrusion Detection, Deep Learning | Fall 2021 – Spring 2023 |
| • <b>Jill Haffner</b> , B.Sc. & M.S. Student, Pennsylvania State University<br>Research: Censorship Circumvention        | Fall 2022 – Spring 2023 |
| • <b>Jishnu Chatterjee</b> , M.S. Student, Pennsylvania State University<br>Research: Censorship Circumvention           | Fall 2022 – Spring 2023 |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- **Guest Lecturer**, Pennsylvania State University Fall 2022  
CMPSC 443: Introduction to Computer Security
- **Teaching Assistant**, Pennsylvania State University Fall 2021  
CMPSC 221: Object-Oriented Programming with Web-Based Applications

## PRESENTATIONS

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- **Hermes: Unlocking Security Analysis of Cellular Network Protocols by Synthesizing Finite State Machines from Natural Language Specifications**, Paper presentation at the 2024 USENIX Security Symposium August 2024
- **BLEDiff: Scalable and Property-Agnostic Noncompliance Checking for BLE Implementations**, Poster presentation at the 2023 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP) May 2023
- **TCP Reset Attack on Video Streaming**, Poster presentation at the 6th International Conference on Networking, Systems and Security (NSysS 2019) December 2019

## REFERENCES

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| • <b>Dr. Syed Rafiul Hussain</b><br>Assistant Professor<br>Department of Computer Science and Engineering<br>Pennsylvania State University<br>Email: <a href="mailto:hussain1@psu.edu">hussain1@psu.edu</a> | • <b>Dr. Rui Zhang</b><br>Assistant Professor<br>Department of Computer Science and Engineering<br>Pennsylvania State University<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rmz5227@psu.edu">rmz5227@psu.edu</a> |
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