Steven Ngo

Software Engineering Ph.D. Student /
Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition Nationals '24 Finalist
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Research Interests

Software security, secure software development, developer-focused studies and education

Education

Ph.D. in Software Engineering   Sep. 2023 - Present
University of California, Irvine, Informatics Department
Advisor: Dr. Joshua Garcia

B.S. in Software Engineering, Minor in Psychology   Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2023
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Overall GPA: 3.9 (Summa Cum Laude)

Work Experiences

Samsung Research America   Jun. 2024 - Sep. 2024
Security Research Engineer Intern (Knox Security, MPS B2B)

Cal Poly Software Engineering Capstone   Sep. 2021 - Jun. 2022
Group Member (Team fEMR)

GoDaddy   Jun. 2021 - Sep. 2021
Product Security Intern - Software Development

County of San Luis Obispo   Oct. 2019 - Jun. 2021
HR Technology Student Intern

Papers

[P1] **A Deep Dive Into How Open-Source Project Maintainers Perceive, Review, and Resolve Bug Bounty Reports**
J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia
To appear at IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2025   *(~14.3% acceptance rate)*

Preprints

[A1] **ASCENT: Analysis-Specific Call Graphs for Scalable and Precise Android Intent Analysis**
Y. Tung, H. Chen, Y. He, J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, H. Mo, J. Garcia
Under Review, 2024

Workshop and Short Papers

[W3] **Towards Understanding the Underuse of Security Features in Open-source Repositories**
    J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia
    USENIX Security Symposium, 2024

[W2] **Modeling Human-Cyber Interactions in Safety-Critical Cyber-Physical/Industrial Control Systems**
    S. Ngo, D. DeAngelis, L. Garcia
    National Workshop for REU Research in Networking and Systems (REUNS)*, 2022*

[W1] **Software Security Analysis on Internet-of-Things Application**
    S. Ngo, P. Fang
    Cal Poly College of Engineering Undergrad Research Virtual Symposium (CENG SURP), 2020

Teaching Experiences

UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation   Mar. 2024
Course Design Essentials Program - Certificate in Course Design

UC Irvine Informatics Dept   Sep. 2023 - Dec. 2023
Teaching Assistant
   - INF43, Intro to Software Engineering

Cal Poly Comp Sci and Software Eng Dept   Jan. 2021 - Jun. 2023
Undergrad Teaching Assistant
   - CPE321, Intro to Computer Security
   - CSC421, Binary Exploitation
   - CSC305, Individual Software Design & Development

Service and Extracurricular Activities

Cal-Bridge Peer Mentorship Committee   May 2024 - Present
Committee Member, Peer Mentor

Cyber@UCI   Jan. 2024 - Present
President, Vice President

Cyber@UCI Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) Team   Sep. 2023 - Present
Team Member - Corporate Subteam

Cal-Bridge Research Symposium '24   Sep. 2024
Session Chair

Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS) Symposium '25 Jul. 2024 - Sep. 2024
Artifact Evaluation Committee - Summer Cycle

Cal Poly Noyce School of Applied Computing New Director Search
Computing Student Representative
Oct. 2022 - Jun. 2023

Cal Poly Security Education Club
President, Corporate Officer, Malware Tech. Team Member
Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2023

Cal Poly CSSE Dept Winter 2022 New Faculty Search
Student Feedback Group Member
Feb. 2022 - Mar. 2022

Talks

Teach a Man to Phish: Phishing Awareness
Cyber@UCI, Spring '24 Week 3 Workshop
Apr. 16, 2024

School of Hard Hacks: Experiences and Insights on College-Level Cybersecurity Education
Irvine Underground, February 2024 Meetup
Feb. 9, 2024

Honors, Awards, Prizes

Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship in Cybersecurity
Sep. 2024 - Present

Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC)
National CCDC Nationals '24 - 4th place / 10 teams
National CCDC Wildcards '24 - 1st place / 9 teams
Western Regional CCDC Regionals '24 - 2nd place / 8 teams
Western Regional CCDC Qualifiers '24 - 3rd place / 22 teams
Feb. 2024 - Present

Cal-Bridge University of California Doctoral Fellowship
Sep. 2023 - Sep. 2024

DARPA + Tools Competition's Building an Adaptive and Competitive Workforce - Catalyst Award
Proposal: Codesafe - $50k
Jul. 2024

UC Irvine Informatics Department Chair's Award
Sep. 2023

Cal-Bridge Computer Science and Engineering Scholarship
Jun. 2021 - Jun. 2023

Northrop Grumman Foundation Scholarship Endowment
May 2022

California Assembly Award of Recognition
Awarded by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, CA 44th District
Jul. 2019

Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Rank
Aug. 2018