

Aastha Mehta

Assistant Professor (tenure-track)
Computer Science Department, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

✉ aasthakm@gmail.com
📁 [aasthakm.github.io](https://github.com/aasthakm)

Education

- 2012 – 2020 **Ph.D. in Computer Science (Summa Cum Laude)**
Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS), Saarbrücken, Germany
and Saarland University (UdS), Saarbrücken, Germany
Advisors: Peter Druschel, Deepak Garg
Thesis: Ensuring Compliance with Data Privacy and Usage Policies in Online Services
- 2007 – 2011 **B.E. (Hons.) in Computer Science**
Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, Pilani Campus, India

Work Experience

- 2021 – **Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**
Computer Science Department, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- 2020 – 2021 **Postdoctoral Researcher (Nov 2020 – Feb 2021)**
Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS), Saarbrücken, Germany
Advisor: Peter Druschel
Focus Area: Privacy-preserving digital contact tracing for epidemic risk mitigation
- 2015 **Research Intern (three months)**
Systems and Networking Group, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK
Mentor: Manuel Costa
Focus areas: Secure multiparty computation in the Cloud, and designing oblivious ML algorithms.
- 2011 – 2012 **Member of Technical Staff**
NetApp Inc., Bengaluru, India
Manager: Paramita Das
Focus areas: Optimizing performance of the WAFL (Write Anywhere File Layout) file system checker.
- 2011 **Intern (six months)**
Advanced Technology Group, NetApp Inc., Bengaluru, India
Mentor: Ajay Bakre and Priya Sehgal
Focus areas: Improving the capacity utilization in Hadoop storage clusters.
- 2010 **Summer Research Intern (three months)**
MPI-SWS, Saarbrücken, Germany
Mentor: Peter Druschel
Focus areas: Deterministic record and replay for multicore systems.

Grants

- 2023 – 2026 **NSERC Alliance, co-PI**
Transformative server architectures for next-generation AI systems
- 2022 – 2025 **Intel (Transformative Server Architectures), co-PI**
Blended systems: Building Efficient and Secure Next-Generation Datacenter Hardware and Software
- 2022 – 2025 **DND IDEaS Innovation Network, co-PI**
A Platform for Secure and Dependable Hierarchical Edge Processing on 5G
- 2022 – 2023 **UBC STAIR Grant, lead PI**
Serverless Should Not Be Privacy-Less
- 2021 – 2024 **DND/NSERC Discovery Grant Supplement, PI**
Mitigating Side-Channel Leaks in Next-Generation Cloud Systems

2021 – 2026 **NSERC Discovery Grant, PI**
Mitigating Side-Channel Leaks in Next-Generation Cloud Systems

Honors and Awards

2018 **Invited to Rising Stars Workshop in EECS**

One of 76 women researchers in Computer Science, and one out of only 3 from Europe selected to attend this academic career workshop.

2016 **Invited to the 4th Heidelberg Laureate Forum**

One of 200 young researchers selected to attend the forum. Also awarded Romberg travel grant fellowship, which covered the travel expenses.

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- USENIX Security'24 **NetShaper: A Differentially Private Network Side-Channel Mitigation System**
Amir Sabzi, Rut Vora, Swati Goswami, Margo Seltzer, Mathias Lécuyer, **Aastha Mehta**
USENIX Security Symposium, Philadelphia, USA
- EdgeSys'24 **Stream Processing with Adaptive Edge-Enhanced Confidential Computing**
Yuqin Yan, Pritish Mishra, Wei Huang, **Aastha Mehta**, Oana Balmau, David Lie
Workshop on Edge Systems, Analytics and Networking (EdgeSys), Athens, Greece
- PriSC'24 **Microarchitectural Side-Channel Mitigations for Serverless Applications**
Yayu Wang, **Aastha Mehta**
Workshop on Principles of Secure Compilation (PriSC) 2024, London, UK
- PLAS'23 **Microarchitectural Side-Channel Mitigations for Serverless Applications**
Yayu Wang, **Aastha Mehta**
Workshop on Programming Languages and Analysis for Security (PLAS), Copenhagen, Denmark
- USENIX Security'22 **Pacer: Comprehensive Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
Aastha Mehta, Mohamed Alzayat, Roberta De Viti, Björn B. Brandenburg, Peter Druschel, Deepak Garg
USENIX Security Symposium, Boston, USA
- Scientific Reports, 2022 **Listening to Bluetooth Beacons for Epidemic Risk Mitigation***
Gilles Barthe, Roberta De Viti, Peter Druschel, Deepak Garg, Manuel Gomez-Rodriguez, Pierfrancesco Ingo, Heiner Kremer, Matthew Lentz, Lars Lorch, **Aastha Mehta**, Bernhard Schölkopf
(*Authors listed in alphabetical order)
- USENIX Security'17 **Qapla: Policy compliance in database-backed systems**
Aastha Mehta, Eslam Elnikety, Katura Harvey, Deepak Garg, Peter Druschel
USENIX Security Symposium, Vancouver, Canada
- USENIX Security'16 **Thoth: Comprehensive Policy Compliance in Data Retrieval Systems**
Eslam Elnikety, **Aastha Mehta**, Anjo Vahldiek-Oberwagner, Deepak Garg, Peter Druschel
USENIX Security Symposium, Austin, USA
- USENIX Security'16 **Oblivious Multi-Party Machine Learning on Trusted Processors**
Olga Ohrimenko, Felix Schuster, Cédric Fournet, **Aastha Mehta**, Sebastian Nowozin, Kapil Vaswani, Manuel Costa
USENIX Security Symposium, Austin, USA
- EuroSys'15 **Guardat: Enforcing data policies at storage layer**
Anjo Vahldiek-Oberwagner, Eslam Elnikety, **Aastha Mehta**, Deepak Garg, Peter Druschel, Ansley Post, Rodrigo Rodrigues, Johannes Gehrke
European Conference on Computer Systems (EuroSys), Bordeaux, France
- HiPC'11 **HDFS Space Consolidation**
Aastha Mehta, Deepti Banka, Kartheek Muthyala, Priya Sehgal, Ajay Bakre
Student Research Symposium, International Conference on High Performance Computing (HiPC)

Non-Peer Reviewed

- 2024 **PRIME: Privacy-preserving Reliable Inference via Model Extraction**
Kexin Li, Yang Xi, **Aastha Mehta**, David Lie
- 2024 **ICS-Sniper: A Targeted Blackhole Attack on Encrypted ICS Traffic**
Gargi Mitra, Pritam Dash, Elaine Yao, **Aastha Mehta**, Karthik Pattabiraman
- 2022 **Reconciling Security & Utility in Next-Generation Epidemic Risk Mitigation Systems**
Pierfrancesco Ingo, Nichole Boufford, Ming Cheng Jiang, Rowan Lindsay, Roberta De Viti, Matthew Lentz, Gilles Barthe, Manuel Gomez-Rodriguez, Bernhard Schölkopf, Deepak Garg, Peter Druschel, **Aastha Mehta**
arXiv: CoRR/abs/2011.08069

Invited Talks

- Mar 2024 **Microarchitectural Side Channel Mitigations for Serverless Applications**
Shonan seminar, “Web Application Security”, Japan
- Nov 2023 **Microarchitectural Side Channel Mitigations for Serverless Applications**
Dagstuhl seminar, “Microarchitectural Attacks and Defenses”, Germany
- Oct 2023 **NetShaper: A Differentially Private Network Side-Channel Mitigation System**
Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS), Germany
TU Darmstadt, Germany
- Aug 2023 **Mitigating Network Side Channels: From Internet to Interconnect**
Intel Transformative Server Architectures (TSA) Monthly Talk (virtual)
- Dec 2022 – Mar 2023 **Security by Design in Practical Systems**
Chalmers University, Sweden (virtual)
Dept. of Computer Science, University of Sydney, Australia (virtual)
Dept. of Computer Science, Boston University, USA
Dept. of Computer Science, TU Delft, Netherlands (virtual)
Dept. of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Canada
Dept. of ECE, University of Waterloo, Canada
Institute of Science and Technology, Austria
- Aug 2022 **PanCast: Listening to Bluetooth Beacons for Epidemic Risk Mitigation**
IIT Delhi, India
- Apr 2022 **Pacer: Comprehensive Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
McGill University, Canada
- Feb 2022 **Pacer: Comprehensive Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
University of Toronto, Canada
- Sep 2021 **Pacer: Comprehensive Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
ENS Lyon, France
- May 2021 **PanCast: Listening to Bluetooth Beacons for Epidemic Risk Mitigation**
UC San Diego, USA
- Mar 2021 **Pacer: Comprehensive Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
IIT Kharagpur, India

- Feb – Mar 2020 **Policy Compliance in Online Services**
 IMDEA Software Institute, Spain
 CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, Germany
 Microsoft Research Redmond, USA
 Dept. of Computer Science, Washington University in St. Louis, USA
 Dept. of Computer Science, University of British Columbia, Canada
 David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Canada
 Dept. of Computer Science, George Mason University, USA
 Dept. of Computer Science, Duke University, USA
 Dept. of Computer Science, Northwestern University, USA
 Dept. of EECS, Oregon State University, USA
 School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University, Canada
- May 2019 **Pacer: Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
 University of Maryland, USA, Host: Bobby Bhattacharjee
- Nov 2018 **Pacer: Network Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
 Systems lunch at Cornell University, USA, Host: Lorenzo Alvisi
- Jul 2018 **Pacer: Efficient I/O Side-Channel Mitigation in the Cloud**
 First Workshop on Speculative Side Channel Analysis (WoSSCA), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Aug 2017 **Qapla: Policy Compliance in Database-Backed Systems**
 USENIX Security Symposium, Vancouver, Canada

Professional Activities

Organizer

- SysDW Panelist at SOSP Doctoral Workshop, 2023
 SOSP Poster Session Chair at Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, 2023
 SRC Chair of ACM Student Research Competition at SOSP 2023
 OSDI Mentorship OSDI Mentorship Scheme (co-organizer), 2020

Other events

- Shonan Invited to NII Shonan seminar “Web Application Security”, 2024
 Dagstuhl Invited to Dagstuhl seminar “MAD: Microarchitectural Attacks and Defenses”, 2023

Program Committee

- ASPLOS Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (2025)
 SysTex Workshop on System Software for Trusted Execution (2023)
 S&P IEEE Oakland S&P (2023)
 USENIX Security USENIX Security Symposium (2022, 2023)
Noteworthy Reviewer Award, USENIX Security 2023
 EuroSys European Conference on Computer Systems (2021, 2022)
 SYSTOR Systems and Storage Conference (2021)
 PriSC Workshop on Principles of Secure Compilation (2021)
 EuroDW EuroSys Doctoral Workshop (2021)
 MiddlewareDW Middleware Doctoral Symposium (2020)

Editorial Board

- JSys Journal of Systems Research, Systems Security track (2022, 2023)

External Reviewer

- ASPLOS Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (2022)
 HotOS Hot Topics in Operating Systems (2017)
 OSDI Operating Systems Design and Principles (2016)

- FC Financial Cryptography (2016)
- ASPLOS Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (2015)
- MobiSys Mobile Symposium (2015)
- EuroSys European Conference on Computer Systems (2014)

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2024 **Instructor**, CPSC 317, Internet Computing (undergraduate course)
- Spring 2023 **Instructor**, CPSC 317, Internet Computing (undergraduate course)
- Fall 2022 **Instructor**, CPSC 538M, Systems Security (grad course)
- Fall 2021 **Instructor**, CPSC 538M, Security & Privacy in the Era of Side Channels (grad course)
- Winter 2019 **Co-instructor**, Operating Systems (core course), MPI-SWS/UdS
Lectures on storage subsystem.
- Summer 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Secure Information Flow Control in Systems (seminar), MPI-SWS/UdS
Assisted in seminar design, teaching, and evaluation
- Summer 2013 **Teaching Assistant**, Operating Systems (core course), MPI-SWS/UdS
Assisted in designing and evaluating assignments and exams.

Advising

- 2023 – 2024 Devam Sisodraker, UG Hons. thesis, UBC
- 2022 – Arshia Moghimi, MSc, UBC (co-supervised with Mohammad Shahrads, ECE)
- 2022 – Praveen Gupta, MSc, UBC (co-supervised with Mohammad Shahrads, ECE)
- 2022 – Yayu Wang, MSc, UBC
- 2022 – Rut Vora, MSc, UBC
- 2022 – 2023 Tanya Prasad, UG thesis, BITS Pilani
- 2021 – 2023 Amir Sabzi, MSc, UBC (co-supervised with Mathias Lécuyer)
- 2021 – 2022 Kasra Kamal, UG Hons. thesis, UBC, (Received Rick Sample Memorial Award)
- 2021 – 2022 Nichole Boufford, MSc, UBC
- 2021 – 2021 Ming Cheng Jiang, USRA, UBC, (Work Learn International Undergraduate Research Award)
- 2021 – 2021 Rowan Lindsay, USRA, UBC, (Science Undergraduate Research Experience Award)
- 2021 – 2021 Nichole Boufford, USRA, UBC, (Science Undergraduate Research Experience Award)

Mentoring

- 2021 – Pierfrancesco Ingo (Ph.D. student, MPI-SWS)
- 2017 – 2022 Roberta De Viti (Ph.D. student, MPI-SWS)
- 2016 – 2019 Mohamed Alzayat (Ph.D. student, MPI-SWS)
- 2016 Katura Harvey (Graduate Intern, MPI-SWS)