

Reethika Ramesh

PhD Candidate, *University of Michigan*

August 2, 2021

Research Interests:
Security and Privacy
Internet Measurement

<https://reethika.info>

Education

- Ph.D in Computer Science, University of Michigan, 2018—Present

Advisor: Prof. Roya Ensafi

My research interests are network security, privacy, and Internet measurement. I am currently developing the *VPNalyzer* project, an academic research project that aims to analyze the VPN ecosystem through large-scale data-driven investigations and quantitative and qualitative studies. GPA – 3.90/4.0

- B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, VIT University, 2013—2017

Final semester spent abroad as a research intern at the University of Maryland. CGPA: 9.38/10

Publications and Broader Impact

[1] **Decentralized Control: A Case Study of Russia**

Reethika Ramesh, Ram Sundara Raman, Matthew Bernhard, Victor Ongkowitzaya, Leonid Evdokimov, Anne Edmundson, Steven Sprecher, Muhammad Ikram, and Roya Ensafi
In Proceedings of the 27th Network and Distributed Systems Symposium (NDSS'20), February 2020.

Finalist and among the Top 10 papers for the US–Canada region at the CSAW '20 Applied Research Competition. Our work was widely reported in over 85 news outlets globally during 6-8 November 2019, including Associated Press, NYT, and CPJ after we published a report about the work.

[2] **Measuring the Deployment of Network Censorship Filters at Global Scale**

Ram Sundara Raman, Adrian Stoll, Jakub Dalek, Reethika Ramesh, Will Scott, and Roya Ensafi
In Proceedings of the 27th Network and Distributed Systems Symposium (NDSS'20), February 2020.

Experience

- **Research Assistant, University of Michigan (2018–present)**

I am a graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Michigan where I work with my advisor Prof. Roya Ensafi. My research interests are digital security and privacy. I am currently developing the *VPNalyzer* project to empower users and conduct systematic, rigorous, data-driven investigations of the evolving ecosystem and bridge the gap between VPN users and providers through quantitative and qualitative studies, in collaboration with Consumer Reports and the Open Technology Fund.

- **Associate Consultant, Microsoft India (Jul 2017–May 2018)**

I was as an Associate Consultant in the Apps domain in Microsoft India Global Delivery. I worked on

developing applications for our clients that required integrating their business needs with the different technologies in the Microsoft Stack.

- **Research Intern, University Of Maryland** (Feb–Jul 2017)

Advisor: Prof. Neil Spring

While interning as an undergraduate researcher in the Systems and Networking Lab at the University of Maryland, College Park, I performed a longitudinal analysis of Internet outages using ThunderPing's data. ThunderPing uses active probing methods from remote vantage points to detect residential Internet connectivity failures during inclement weather conditions.

Presentations

Invited Talks

- **Panelist, Consumer Reports Workshop Exploring VPNs**

Virtual Webinar, March 2021. Served as a panelist alongside my advisor, Prof. Ensafi at the webinar with over 1,500 users in attendance

- **Decentralized Control: A Case Study of Russia**

CSAW'20 Applied Research Competition, November 2020. The paper was a finalist and was among the Top 10 papers for the US-Canada region at the CSAW'20 ARC

- **Decentralized Information Control in Russia and its Broader Impacts**

Next Generation Democracy Cafe, August 2020.

- **PhD Lightning Talk**

Mozilla Security Research Summit, May 2019.

- **Research in Ensafi Lab**

Research Process Workshop, November 2018. Presented at the Research Process Workshop about our work in the Ensafi Lab, and served as a panelist for research done in the software lab for an event organized by Girls Encoded.

Posters

- **Censored Planet**

Midwest Security Workshop, April 2019.

- **Measuring Last Mile Internet Reliability During Severe Weather** AMC Internet Measurement

Conference, November 2017.

Research Reports

- **Throttling of Twitter in Russia** —April 06, 2021

- **US Government and military websites are geoblocked from Hong Kong and China** —August 10, 2020

- **Censorship in Russia** —November 06, 2019

Teaching

- **Graduate Student Instructor, Computer and Network Security** (*Fall 2020*)
EECS 588, University of Michigan

My responsibilities included leading lectures and discussions, inviting and facilitating guest lectures, helping students with their projects, holding office hours, and grading.

Professional Service

Program Committee

- ACM SIGCOMM 2021 Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI'21)

Organizing USENIX Workshop FOCI'20

- **Student Organizer** (Aug 11, 2020)

I served as the Student Organizer for the 10th USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI'20) co-located with USENIX Security 20.

ECSEL+

- **Treasurer** (2019-20, 2020-21)

ECSEL+ is a group to support graduate women students and gender minorities in Computer Science at the University of Michigan. I was elected to the Treasurer position twice: 2019-20, 2020-21.

External Reviewer

- ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC'21)
- 30th USENIX Security Symposium (Sec'21)
- ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC'20)
- 20th Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS'20)

Explore Computer Science Research

- **Panelist** (Apr 21, 2021)

I served as panelist on an [ExploreCSR program](#) organized by Girls Encoded at the University of Michigan. This event helps undergraduate women students and students from underrepresented minorities explore a potential career path in research in computer science.

FEMMES Explore Event

- **Activity Leader** (Apr 10, 2021)

I served two weekend sessions as an activity leader for the FEMMES Explore Event organized by CSEG with FEMMES at the University of Michigan. This involved (virtually) interacting with and teaching middle-school students about CS and helping them design an algorithm for a computer game.

References

[Roya Ensafi](#), Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, ensafi@umich.edu