

Álvaro Feal Fajardo

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Education

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid <i>PhD in Computer Science</i> Advised by Prof. Narseo Vallina-Rodriguez at IMDEA Networks Institute. Research focused on the analysis of privacy and security issues on mobile and the web using novel methodologies that combine static and dynamic analysis techniques.	Madrid 2018–2022
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid <i>Master in Software and Systems</i>	Madrid 2016–2017
Universidade da Coruña <i>Bachelor in Computer Engineering</i>	A Coruña 2012–2016

Short Bio

Current Role: Internet Measurements Researcher at Cisco ThousandEyes

Description: I leverage production data to deliver improvements to ThousandEyes products and develop proof-of-concepts to drive innovation for enterprise customers.

Recognition: My research on Android App's security and privacy has been published in venues such as USENIX Security, ACM IMC, PETS Symposium, with over 850 citations and 1 awarded US patent. It has been featured in international media outlets including Le Monde, El Pais, CNET and Business Insider and lead me to receive awards such as the Distinguished Paper Award at USENIX Security'19, the Personal Data Protection Research Award "Emilio Aced" from AEPD (2020, 2021), and the CNIL's Privacy Award (2021).

Work experience

Cisco ThousandEyes <i>Internet Measurements Researcher</i> Analyzing large-scale network and endpoint telemetry data to enhance product capabilities. Building innovative proof-of-concepts and data-driven solutions for enterprise monitoring and digital experience management.	Remote 2024–Present
Northeastern University <i>Senior Research Scientist</i> Working with Prof. David Choffnes' team on security and privacy research. Led the development of the Android app for the National Internet Observatory.	Boston, MA 2022–2024
Northeastern University <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i> Research on security and privacy topics with Prof. David Choffnes' team.	Boston, MA 2022–2022
IMDEA Networks Institute <i>PhD Student</i>	Madrid 2018–2022

Research under Prof. Narseo Vallina-Rodriguez's supervision on Android app privacy, web privacy, and network measurements.

IMDEA Software Institute

Madrid

Research Intern in Computer Security and Privacy

2017

Working under Prof. Carmela Troncoso's supervision on Android app privacy and anonymous voting schemes.

Publications

1. J. Gamba, A.F. Zanella, R. Morla, K. Schomp, **Á. Feal**, A.M. Kakhki. *Lost in Encryption: Monitoring Audio and Video Flows without Payload in Video-Conferencing Applications*. Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Next-Generation Network Observability, 2025.
2. A. Pradeep, J. Gunawan, **Á. Feal**, W. Hartzog, D. Choffnes. *Gig Work at What Cost? Exploring Privacy Risks of Gig Work Platform Participation in the US*. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETS), 2025.
3. **Á. Feal**, J. Gleason, P. Goel, J. Radford, K.C. Yang, J. Basl, M. Meyer, et al. *Introduction to National Internet Observatory*. Workshop Proceedings of the 18th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 2024.
4. J. Gamba, **Á. Feal**, E. Blazquez, V. Bandara, A. Razaghpanah, J. Tapiador, et al. *Mules and Permission Laundering in Android: Dissecting Custom Permissions in the Wild*. IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing, 2023.
5. K. Hageman, **Á. Feal**, J. Gamba, A. Girish, J. Bleier, M. Lindorfer, J. Tapiador, et al. *Mixed Signals: Analyzing Software Attribution Challenges in the Android Ecosystem*. IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, 2023.
6. A. Pradeep, **Á. Feal**, J. Gamba, A. Rao, M. Lindorfer, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, et al. *Not Your Average App: A Large-Scale Privacy Analysis of Android Browsers*. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETS), 2022.
7. E. Blázquez, S. Pastrana, **Á. Feal**, J. Gamba, P. Kotzias, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, et al. *Trouble Over-the-Air: An Analysis of FOTA Apps in the Android Ecosystem*. IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP), 2021.
8. **Á. Feal**, P. Vallina, J. Gamba, S. Pastrana, A. Nappa, O. Hohlfeld, et al. *Blocklist Babel: On the Transparency and Dynamics of Open Source Blocklisting*. IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management, 2021.
9. **Á. Feal**, J. Gamba, J. Tapiador, P. Wijesekera, J. Reardon, S. Egelman, et al. *Don't Accept Candy from Strangers: An Analysis of Third-Party Mobile SDKs*. Data Protection and Privacy: Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence, 2021.
10. P. Vallina, V. Le Pochat, **Á. Feal**, M. Paraschiv, J. Gamba, T. Burke, et al. *Mis-shapes, Mistakes, Misfits: An Analysis of Domain Classification Services*. ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), 2020.
11. S. Farooqi, **Á. Feal**, T. Lauinger, D. McCoy, Z. Shafiq, N. Vallina-Rodriguez. *Understanding Incentivized Mobile App Installs on Google Play Store*. ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), 2020.
12. **Á. Feal**, P. Calciati, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, C. Troncoso, A. Gorla. *Angel or Devil? A Privacy Study of Mobile Parental Control Apps*. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETS), 2020.
13. C. Han, I. Reyes, **Á. Feal**, J. Reardon, P. Wijesekera, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, et al. *The Price is (Not) Right: Comparing Privacy in Free and Paid Apps*. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing

Technologies (PoPETS), 2020.

14. E. Okoyomon, N. Samarin, P. Wijesekera, A. Elazari Bar On, **Á. Feal**, et al. *On The Ridiculousness of Notice and Consent: Contradictions in App Privacy Policies*. Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection (ConPro), 2019.
15. C. Han, I. Reyes, A. Elazari Bar On, J. Reardon, **Á. Feal**, S. Egelman, et al. *Do You Get What You Pay For? Comparing The Privacy Behaviors of Free vs. Paid Apps*. Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection (ConPro), 2019.
16. P. Vallina, **Á. Feal**, J. Gamba, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, A.F. Anta. *Tales from the Porn: A Comprehensive Privacy Analysis of the Web Porn Ecosystem*. ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), 2019.
17. J. Reardon, **Á. Feal**, P. Wijesekera, A.E.B. On, N. Vallina-Rodriguez, et al. *50 Ways to Leak Your Data: An Exploration of Apps' Circumvention of the Android Permissions System*. USENIX Security Symposium, 2019.