Curriculum Vitae

# Christian Grothoff February 20, 2024



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# **1** General Information

## 1.1 Contact

Bern University of Applied Sciences	christian@grothoff.org
Room N.474	http://grothoff.org/christian/
Höheweg 80	Phone (priv): +41-786926894
CH-2502 Biel-Bienne	Phone (work): +41-323216488

Born February 28, 1977 in Germany. Citizen of Germany.

## 1.2 Brief Biography

Christian Grothoff is a professor for computer network security at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, researching future Internet architectures. His research interests include compilers, programming languages, software engineering, networking, security and privacy.

Previously, he was on the faculty of the Technische Universität München leading an Emmy-Noether research group in the area of computer networks. He earned his PhD in computer science from UCLA, an M.S. in computer science from Purdue University, and both a Diplom II in mathematics and the first Staatsexamen in chemistry from the Bergische Universität Gesamthochschule (BUGH) Wuppertal.

#### **1.3** Education and Employment History

1996 - 2000	Diplom II ( $\approx$ M.S) in mathematics at BUGH Wuppertal
1996 - 2001	1. Staatsexamen ( $\approx$ B.S.) in chemistry at BUGH Wuppertal
2000 - 2003	M.S. in CS at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
2000 - 2005	PhD student in CS at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
2005 - 2006	PhD student in CS at UCLA, CA
2006 - 2009	Assistant Professor in CS at the University of Denver, CO
2009 - 2014	Emmy Noether research group leader at TU München
2014	Independent Journalist for Heise, The Intercept, Der Spiegel
2015	Independent Journalist for Heise, Le Monde
2014 - 2017	DÉCENTRALISÉ Research Team leader at Inria Rennes
2016 -	Founder at Taler Systems S.A.
2017	Habilitation (HDR) at Université de Rennes 1, FR
2017 -	Professor for Computer Network Security at BFH
2020 -	Founder at Anastasis SARL

#### 1.4 Honors and Awards

1998 - 2000	Kurt-Hansen Fellowship
2000	DAAD Fellowship
2000 - 2001	Barmenia Award for best graduates in mathematics
2002	Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society (Purdue)
2009 - 2014	DFG Emmy Noether Award
2015	Most Influential OOPSLA Paper Award (for 2005)
2016 -	Ashoka Fellow
2017 -	GNU Advisory Board Member

## 1.5 Professional Associations

Christian Grothoff an associate member of the Free Software Foundation, and maintainer of five GNU packages.

# 2 Research

## 2.1 Publications

*h*-index: 26 (according to Google Scholar, based on 64 publications).

# References

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- Christian Grothoff. "An Excess-Based Economic Model for Resource Allocation in Peer-to-Peer Networks". Wirtschaftsinformatik, 3-2003, pages 285–292, June 2003 (30% accepted).
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  (supercedes "Translation-based steganography" in Proceedings of the Information Hiding Workshop (IH 2005), pages 219–233. Springer-Verlag, 2005 (31% accepted) and "Lost in Just the Translation" in Proceedings of the 2006 ACM Symposium on Applied Computing, pages 338–345, ACM, 2006 (19% accepted)).
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- [10] Florian Dold and Christian Grothoff. "The 'payto' URI Scheme for Payments" In Internet Requests for Comments, RFC 8905, October 2020.
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- [12] David Chaum, Christian Grothoff and Thomas Moser. "Comment émettre une monnaie numérique de banque centrale" In SNB Working Papers, Swiss National Bank, March 2021.
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## 2.2 Software Systems

Christian Grothoff is the primary author of each of the applications and tools listed below. The systems are available from their respective Web pages which are all linked from http://grothoff.org/christian/.

#### The DUP System

DUP is a mini-language for writing distributed and parallel streaming applications using multi-stream pipelines. The DUP system includes the DUP runtime and a collection of supporting multi-stream stages or filters. It has been used in several research projects in groups from Technische Universität München, University of Denver and UCLA.

#### **GNU** Anastasis

GNU Anastasis is a key backup and recovery tool that allows users to distribute key shares to an open set of providers and to reconstruct the keys after passing authorization. Users can freely choose their providers and the authorization checks needed to recover the key material.

## GNUnet

GNUnet is a framework for secure peer-to-peer networking that does not use any centralized or otherwise trusted services. The codebase consists of about 750,000 lines of C code, developed with contributions from over 50 developers worldwide.

#### **GNU** libextractor

GNU libextractor is a library used to extract meta-data from files of arbitrary type. It is designed to use plugins that perform the actual extraction. The goal is to provide developers of file-sharing networks and search tools with a universal library to obtain metadata and keywords to match against queries. *libextractor* consists of more than 35,000 lines of C and C++ code with bindings to Java, Perl, Python and PHP.

#### GNU libmicrohttpd

GNU libmicrohttpd is a library providing a simple, high-level abstraction for implementing HTTP servers. The focus of the project is to provide a compact, secure, reentrant, HTTP 1.1 compliant and easy to use implementation. In September 2012, GNU libmicrohttpd ranked in the top five out of over 500 "HTTP Server"-related projects in terms of popularity in the http://freecode.com database.

## GNU Taler

GNU Taler is an electronic payment system based on blind-signatures. Taler enables the customer to remain anonymous, while those receiving payments are identifiable and auditable, and thus effectively subjected to the law and in particular taxation. Taler provides an open standard for a micropayment platform suitable for Web payments.

#### Runabout

The Runabout is an extension of the Java libraries that adds two-argument multi-dispatch to Java without changing the language or the VM. Like the Walkabout, the Runabout uses reflection to find visit methods. But instead of invoking the visit methods with reflection, the Runabout uses dynamic code generation to create code at runtime that will invoke the appropriate visit method. This puts the Runabout closer to MultiJava, a Java source compiler that compiles Java with multi-methods to ordinary Java bytecode. Unlike MultiJava, the Runabout runs when the application is executed, and not at compile time. Writing code with the Runabout is very similar to writing visitors or multi methods with MultiJava.

The dispatch in the Runabout is only about a factor of 3 slower than ordinary uni- or double dispatch (on Sun's JDK 1.4.1 for 10 million invocations) while saving huge amounts of trivial code and adding extensibility to the dispatch that could not be achieved otherwise. The original proposal has since spawned various successor projects by other researchers, including the Sprintabout and Poly/J.

### 2.3 Talks and Panels

- 2002 DefCon 10, on "GNUnet"
- **2002** Midwest Society for Programming Languages and Systems, on "The Runabout"
- **2004** Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PET) Workshop, on "Mix Cascades vs. Peer-to-Peer: Is One Concept Superior?" (Panel)
- 2005 Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "libextractor and GNUnet"
- 2005 DefCon 13, on "Lost in Translation"
- 2005 Southern California Workshop on Programming Languages and Systems, on "A Type System for Distributed Arrays"
- **2006** Front Range Information Security Conference (FRISC), on "Lost in Translation"
- 2006 International Conference on Object Oriented Programming, Systems Languages and Applications (OOPSLA), on "Young Guns/OO: The Next Generation" (Panel)
- 2007 DefCon 14, on "Routing in the Dark: Pitch Black"
- 2008 Rocky Mountain IPv6 Summit, on "Migrating Code to IPv6"
- 2008 University of Helsinki, on "Secure File-Sharing in the GNUnet Peer-to-Peer Framework"
- 2008 DefCon 15, on "De-Tor-iorate Anonymity"
- 2008 University of Dortmund, on "Secure File-Sharing in the GNUnet Peer-to-Peer Framework"
- 2008 University of Darmstadt, on "Secure File-Sharing in the GNUnet Peer-to-Peer Framework"
- **2008** Information Technology Study Group (ITSG) Fall Workshop, on "Anonymity" (Panel)
- **2008** University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), on "The DUP System"
- **2009** University of Mainz, on "Towards Productive Parallel Programming"

- 2009 Front Range Architecture Compilers Tools And Languages (FRAC-TAL) Workshop, on "Productive Parallel Programming for the Masses"
- **2009** Fórum Internacional do Software Livre, on "Free Software for Privacy" (Keynote)
- **2009** Fórum Internacional do Software Livre, on "The GNUnet Peer-to-Peer Framework"
- **2009** Fórum Internacional do Software Livre, on "Tor and GNUnet: The Future of Internet Privacy" (Panel)
- **2010** GI-Beirat der Universitätsprofessoren, on "Fast Primer Search with DUP"
- **2010** Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "Spass mit paralleler und verteilter Programmierung"
- 2010 Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "ARM statt INIT"
- 2010 University of Wuppertal, on "Distributed Stream Processing with the DUP System"
- **2010** GNU Hacker Meeting (GHM), on "The GNUnet Peer-to-Peer framework"
- 2012 Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "tlsdate"
- **2012** GNU Hacker Meeting (GHM), on "A Quick Introduction to GNU libmicrohttpd"
- 2013 Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "GNU libmicrohttpd"
- 2013 Gulasch Programmier Nacht (GPN), on "GNU libmicrohttpd"
- **2013** University of Amsterdam, on "PRISM and an Agenda for European Network Security Research"
- 2013 IETF 87, on "A Benchmark for HTTP 2.0 Header Compression"
- 2013 Piratenpartei Berlin, on "Tools for Breaking out of PRISM"
- **2013** GNU Hacker Meeting (GHM), on "The GNU Name System and the Future of Social Networking with GNUnet"
- **2013** IRILL Paris, on "PRISM and an Agenda for European Network Security Research"
- **2013** IRISA Rennes, on "Components for Building Secure Decentralized Networks"

- **2013** 30c3, on "The GNU Name System"
- **2013** 30c3 YBTI Assembly, on "Secure Name Systems" (Panel)
- **2014** DAAD Alumni Meeting, on "A Public Key Infrastructure for Social Movements in the Age of Universal Surveillance"
- 2014 MPI SWS, on "Components for Building Secure Decentralized Networks"
- 2014 Council of Europe, on "After Snowden: using law and technology to counter snooping" (Panel)
- **2014** University of Oxford, on "A Public Key Infrastructure for Social Movements in the Age of Universal Surveillance"
- 2014 GNU Hacker Meeting (GHM), on "The GNU Name System (updated)"
- **2014** Daghstuhl (Privacy and Security in an Age of Surveillance), on "We fix the Net!"
- **2014** Free Open Source Software for Academia (fOSSa 2014), on "Taler: Taxable Anonymous Libre Electronic Reserves"
- 2014 Inria/DGA Formal methods and security seminar, on "Décentralisé NOW!"
- **2014** WeFixTheNet Workshop (2014), on "Taler: Taxable Anonymous Libre Electronic Reserves"
- 2015 ACTUX Meeting, on "Résistance des GNUs"
- 2015 Security in Times of Surveillance (TU Eindhoven), on "Knocking down the HACIENDA with TCP Stealth"
- 2015 Linux User Group (LUG) Camp, on "Résistance des GNUs"
- 2015 IETF 93, on "Special Use Domain Names of P2P Systems"
- 2015 IETF 93, on "Knocking down the HACIENDA with TCP Stealth"
- **2015** Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V., on "State Surveillance: Benefits and Risks"
- **2015** 19th Workshop on Elliptic Curve Cryptography, on "Cryptography in GNUnet: Protocols for a Future Internet for Libre Societies"
- **2015** Invest in Cyber Convention, on "La protection de la vie privée et sécurité des objets connectés" (Panel)

- **2015** Post Snowden Cryptography, on "The GNUnet: 45 Subsystems in 45 Minutes"
- **2016** Saarland University, on "A glimpse of the emerging GNUnet: GNU Taler"
- 2016 CubaConf, on "GNU Taler: A privacy-preserving online payment system for libre society"
- 2016 Journée du Conseil scientifique de l'Afnic, on "The GNU Name System: A clean-slate solution to the DNS security and privacy nightmare"
- **2016** Free Software Foundation Europe Fellowship Meeting (Düsseldorf), on "GNU Taler"
- **2016** Johns Hopkins University, on "The GNU Name System: A Public Key Infrastructure for Social Movements in the Age of Universal Surveillance"
- 2016 NPO Kongress, on "Netzwerksicherheit: Probleme und Lösungsansätze"
- **2016** MAPPING Second General Assembly, on "Anonymous Payment Systems"
- **2016** MAPPING Second General Assembly, on "Innovation, Complexity, Risk and Trust" (Panel)
- **2016** EIT Digital International Security Symposium, on "Enabling secure Web payments with Taler"
- ${\bf 2016}\,$ iX Payment 2016, on "GNU Taler: Ein neues elektronisches Bezahlsystem"
- **2016** 50p, Bangalore, 2016, on "GNU Taler: A Technological Option to Save our Democracy and Economy from 'Cashless' Totalitarianism"
- **2016** Sixth International Conference on Security, Privacy and Applied Cryptographic Engineering (SPACE 2016), on "Enabling Secure Web Payments with GNU Taler" (invited)
- 2017 Bern University of Applied Sciences, on "Social Networks versus Security and Privacy"
- 2017 TU Munich, on "Big Data, Little Data, No More Data"
- 2017 University of Luxemburg, on "Decentralizing Privacy-Preserving Network Applications"

- 2017 University of Luxemburg, on "GNU Taler"
- 2017 Chaos Singularity, on "GNU Taler"
- 2017 Rencontre Mondial du Logiciel Libre, on "GNU Taler: Payments for the Common Good"
- 2017 Still Hacking Anyway (SHA 2017), on "GNU Taler"
- **2018** First Values of Internet Technologies Workshop (VIT 2018), on "Escaping the Ossification Trap with GNUnet"
- **2018** 20th European Financial Institutes Information Sharing Analysis Center (FI-ISAC), on "GNU Taler"
- **2018** Politikforum Bern im Käfigturm, on "The Internet: We deserve a GNU one!"
- **2018** Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung (FiFFKon 2018), on "Netzwerkdienste für sozial-liberale Gesellschaften"
- **2019** Internet Research Task Force (IETF 104), on "GNU Name System: 2019 Edition"
- **2019** Bankademia, on "Surviving Private Key Compromise in Electronic Payment Systems"
- 2019 Network of Networks (Internet Society, University of Zurich), on "Privacy at the Edge"
- **2020** About and Beyond PKI, on "Use-Cases for Private Information Retrieval and Secure Multiparty Computation in Modern Network Architecture"
- **2020** NGI projects' contribution to technological developments of DNS and naming systems, on "The GNU Name System & NGI"
- **2022** Netzpolitischer Abend der Digitalen Gesellschaft in Zürich, on "Datenschutzfreundliches digitales Bezahlen"
- 2022 IPEN Webinar on "Central Bank Digital Currency" (Panel)
- 2023 MozTW Lab, on "Introduction to GNU Taler"
- 2023 Academica Sineca, on "The GNU Name System"
- 2024 Swiss Cyber Security Days, on "Bezahlbestätigungen für Offline-Händler"

#### 2.4 Funding

- NSF 0416969 "Curriculum Development Initiative in Cyber Trust at the University of Denver" (co-PI, \$296,831). The primary goal of this grant was to establish a computer security center at the University of Denver. As part of his work on the grant, Christian Grothoff helped establish the Colorado Research Institute for Security and Privacy and obtain an NSA designation as a Center for Excellence in Information Assurance for the University of Denver. He also organized several regional conferences and workshops in the area of computer security. The award duration was from September 2004 to August 2009; I became a co-PI on this grant in August 2007.
- WIRED "Innovative Partnership for Job Creation and Employment" (co-PI, \$405,000). The goal of the computer science part of the grant was to establish a new course and certificate program in mainframe administration at the University of Denver and to provide scholarships for underemployed IT administrators and programmers to help them obtain a certification as mainframe administrators. Christian Grothoff was responsible for the computer science portion, which is also supported by IBM with software and equipment valued at approximately \$5,000,000. The program started July 2008 and ended December 2009. In January 2010 IBM announced that one of the scholarship recipients who participated in Grothoff's Mainframe course won IBM's Master of the Mainframe Contest (1st out of over 3,000 contestants).
- nlnet "Fast and Resillient Routing for GNUnet" (PI, \$33,901). The goal of the proposed work was to design and implement a secure P2P routing protocol that will achieve availability and scalability without infringing on the openness of the network. The design targets fully-decentralized, restricted-route networks with malicious participants. The project started January 2009 and ended December 2009 culminating in the GNUnet 0.8.1 release which contains a prototype of such an algorithm.
- United States Department of Defense (DoD) Information Assurance Scholarship Program (IASP) Grant (PI, \$2,280 plus option for up to \$354,352). Under this grant, the DoD will fund up to 10 graduate students from the National Defense University to study information security at the University of Denver. The program started July 2009 and ends June 2010. Funding started after Grothoff left the US for Technische Universität München; the project was handed over to a co-PI.
- NSF "Collaborative-Research: A Partnership for Developing the IA Workforce". The goal of this grant is to help the University of the

District of Columbia build a quality program in information assurance (co-PI, \$299,978). Funding started after Grothoff left the US for Technische Universität München; the project was handed over to another co-PI.

- Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft "Secure Randomized Peer-to-Peer Routing Protocols" (PI, €1,305,200). This project is about the design, analysis and implementation of new secure and efficient routing protocols for open heterogeneous networks. Funded from September 2009 until August 2014.
- Cloudmark Inc. (\$5,000). Unrestricted gift to lab in appreciation of our work on GNU libmicrohttpd (2010).
- FP7 "OpenLab-Eclectic" (PI, €123,334). This project was about improving tools for resource allocation, execution and observation of experiments in network testbeds (2013-2014, 9 months).
- The Renewable Freedom Foundation "GNUnet" (PI, € 300,000). The goal of the proposed research and development effort was to use cryptography, network protocol design and secure software engineering to build the GNUnet, a fully decentralized secure global network that respects user freedoms, providing users with a free networking platform that protects their privacy in both economic and social contexts and provides them with a neutral, censorship-resistant news distribution mechanism to facilitate informed democratic decision-making processes. Various subsystems of GNUnet were developed or improved, and GNU Taler was formally launched as a sub-project and startup (2014-2017).
- Brittany Region (ARED 9174) for three years to develop GNU Taler (PI, € 52,000).
- The Renewable Freedom Foundation "GNU Taler for Saleor" (PI, €10,000). The goal of this project was to develop a payment plugin to pay using GNU Taler for Saleor (2018).
- NLnet NGI DISCOVERY: "Standardizing the GNU Name System" (PI, € 50,000). The goal of this project is to create a second implementation of the GNU Name System as well as an IETF draft documenting the protocol. Furthermore, we will package the resulting software for various distributions (2019-2020).
- NLnet NGI ZERO: "GNU Taler" (co-PI, € 50,000). The goal of this project is to perform an independent security audit of the Taler exchange codebase, address discovered vulnerabilities, and to establish

the knowledge foundation to operate an independent Taler auditor. (2020-2021).

- NGI TRUST: "Decentralized Identities for Self-Sovereign End-Users" (co-PI, €134,000). The goal of this project is to integrate the self-sovereign Reclaim:ID identity management and GNU Taler payments into a holistic, privacy-preserving one-click checkout user experience and to evaluate its usability (2020-2021).
- NGI LEDGER: "Anastasis" (PI, €125,000). The goal of this project was the implementation of the Anastasis key backup and recovery solution and the creation of a startup to drive the further adoption and operation of the service.
- NGI Fed4Fire+: "Taler Scalability" (PI, €10,000). The goal of this project is to demonstrate the scalability of the GNU Taler payment system in the Grid5000 (2021).
- NGI POINTER: "AP<sup>3</sup>: Advanced privacy-preserving protocol extensions for the GNU Taler system" (€ 200,000). The goal of this project is to extend the core Taler payment protocol with privacy-preserving age restrictions, peer-to-peer payments and privacy-preserving auctions (2021-2022).
- NLnet NGI ZERO ENTRUST: "KYC for GNU Taler" (PI, € 31,525). The goal of this project is to implement Know-Your-Customer support in GNU Taler, including integration of proprietary KYC providers as well as KYC providers supporting the OAuth2 standard and the implementation of a simple attestation service based on OAuth2 (2023-2024).
- NGI TALER (co-PI, €4,508,355). The goal of this project is to deploy GNU Taler across Europe and ensure its adoption across various verticals (2023-2026).

# 3 Teaching

## 3.1 Teaching at the University of Denver

- Instructor for "Compilers" (graduate level)
- Instructor for "Computer Security" (graduate level, 2x)
- Instructor for "Computer Security from a Free Software Perspective" (freshmen seminar, non-majors)
- Instructor for "Distributed Stream Processing" (graduate level)

- Instructor for "Introduction to Systems Programming" (undergraduate level)
- Instructor for "Mainframe Administration" (undergraduate, graduate and non-traditional students)
- Instructor for "Programming Languages" (both undergraduate and graduate students, 3x)
- Instructor for "UNIX tools" (undergraduate level)

## 3.2 Teaching at Technische Universität München

- Co-Instructor for "Masterkurs Rechnernetze" (graduate level)
- Instructor for "Peer-to-Peer Systems and Security" (graduate level)

#### 3.3 Teaching at BFH

- Instructor for "Grundlagen der Informatik" (undergraduate)
- Instructor for "CS Basics" (undergraduate)
- Co-Instructor for "Secure IT Infrastructure" (undergraduate)
- Co-Instructor for "Management of Mobile Applications and Systems (undergraduate)
- Instructor for "Telematik" (undergraduate)
- Instructor for "Network Design and Services" (undergraduate)
- Instructor for "Networking" (undergraduate)
- Co-Instructor for "Seminar" (undergraduate)

## 3.4 Theses supervision

I was the primary advisor for the following theses:

- Nathan Evans: "Routing in the Dark: Pitch Black" (MS, 2009)
- Michael Herrmann: "Privacy-Implications of Performance-Based Peer Selection by Onion-Routers: A Real-World Case Study using I2P" (MS, 2011)
- Nathan Evans: "Methods for Secure Decentralized Routing in Open Networks" (PhD, 2011)

- Safey A. Halim: "Monkey: Automated debugging of deployed distributed systems" (MS, 2012)
- Martin Schanzenbach: "Design and Implementation of a Censorship Resistant and Fully Decentralized Naming System" (MS, 2012)
- Maximilian Szengel: "Distributed Evaluation of Policies for Group Management in Mesh Networks" (MS, 2012)
- Kai C. Bader: "High-performance approaches to the comprehensive computation and evaluation of signatures in bacterial sequence datasets" (PhD, 2013)
- Markus Teich: "Monkey Generating Useful Bug Reports Automatically" (BS, 2013)
- Gabor X. Toth: "Design of a Social Messaging System Using Stateful Multicast" (MS, 2013)
- Andrey Uzunov: "Speeding up Tor with SPDY" (MS, 2013)
- Alejandra Morales Ruiz: "Cryogenic: Enabling Power-Aware Applications on Linux" (MS, 2014)
- Julian Kirsch: "Improved Kernel-Based Port-Knocking in Linux" (MS, 2014)
- Florian Dold: "Cryptographically Secure, Distributed Electronic Voting" (BS, 2014)
- Supriti Singh: "Comparison of Byzantine fault-tolerant Distributed Hash Tables" (MS, 2014)
- Nicolas Benes: "An Approach for Home Routers to Securely Delete Sensitive Data" (BS, 2014)
- Matthias Wachs: "A Secure Communication Infrastructure for Decentralized Networking Applications" (PhD, 2015)
- Florian Dold: "Byzantine Fault Tolerant Set Consensus with Efficient Set Reconciliation" (MS, 2015)
- Neal Walfield: "Location Prediction for Context-aware Applications" (PhD, 2016)
- Markus Teich: "Implementing Privacy Preserving Auction Protocols" (MS, 2017)
- Florian Dold: "The GNU Taler System" (PhD, 2019)

- Patrick Gerber: "Packaging Ascension for Debian: Automatic migration from DNS to GNS" (BS, 2019)
- Dennis Neufeld, Dominik Meister: "Anastasis: Password-less key recovery via multi-factor multi-party authentication" (BS, 2020)
- Amin Schaller, Antonio Musardo: "Comparison of PLT optimized HTTP/2 vs. HTTP/3 setups" (BS, 2021)
- Elias Summermatter: "Byzantine Fault Tolerant Set Reconciliation" (BS, 2021)
- Marco Boss: "GNU Taler Scalability" (BS, 2022)
- Joel Urech: "Frosix: FROST Multiparty Signatures on the Network" (BS, 2023)
- Kevin Schrag: "Fog of Trust" (BS, 2023)