Preface

FC 2014, the 18th Conference on Financial Cryptography and Data Security, was held during March 3–7, at Accra Beach Hotel & Spa, Barbados.

We received 165 abstract registrations, 138 full paper submissions, out of which 31 were accepted, 12 as short papers and 19 as full papers, resulting in an overall acceptance rate of 22.5%, and 13.8% acceptance rate for full papers. These proceedings contain the revised version of all the papers. The keynote address, entitled "EMV: Why Payment Systems Fail," was given by Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering at the Computer Laboratory, Cambridge University.

The Program Committee consisted of 42 members with diverse research interests and experience. Papers were reviewed double-blind, with each paper assigned to at least three reviewers. Submissions by Program Committee members received at least four reviews each. During the discussion phase, when necessary, additional reviews were solicited. We ensured that all papers received fair and objective evaluation by experts and also a broader group of PC members, with particular attention paid to highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of papers. The final decisions were made based on the reviews and discussion. The task of paper selection was especially challenging given the high number of strong submissions. In the end, a sizable number of strong papers could not be included in the program for lack of space.

We would like to sincerely thank the authors of all submissions—those whose papers made it to the program and those whose papers did not. We, and the Program Committee as a whole, were impressed by the quality of submissions contributed from all around the world. Although this made the task of selecting the final list of accepted papers very challenging, it gave us the opportunity to have a strong and diverse program.

Our sincere gratitude also goes out to the Program Committee. We were extremely fortunate that so many brilliant people put such an inordinate amount of time not only in writing reviews, but also actively participating in discussions for a period of nearly three weeks, and finally during the shepherding process. They responded promptly to our requests for additional reviews, opinions, comments, comparisons, and inputs. We were extremely impressed by the knowledge, dedication, and integrity of our Program Committee. We are also indebted to the many external reviewers who significantly contributed to the comprehensive evaluation of papers. A list of Program Committee members and external reviewers appears after this note.

We would like to thank Tyler Moore, the conference General Chair, for working closely with us throughout the whole process, and providing much needed support in every step.

We benefited from advice and feedback of Rafael Hirschfeld, and of the Board of Directors of International Financial Cryptography Association. Alfred Hofmann and his colleagues at Springer provided a meticulous service for the timely production of this volume.

April 2014   Nicolas Christin
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