



# Introduction to Scientific Writing

Advisor: **Secure Systems area**

## Motivation

Modern systems use many different building blocks and there are many interfaces between different components. In system security we look at systems in their entirety. This ranges from small **embedded** processors and **operating systems** to large **cloud** infrastructures with many connected servers. Our goal is to **analyze** the security of systems and discover potential **vulnerabilities** before they are exploited. At the same time, we **design defenses** to mitigate concrete attacks and to eliminate entire classes of vulnerabilities. We are an internationally recognized institution, not only constantly publishing **cutting-edge research** but our designs found their way into real-world products.

### Example Topics: CoreSec

- 💡 Exotic **Cache Designs** – Compare and contrast several new or old cache designs that aim for enhanced security, performance or both.  
[lukas.giner@iaik.tugraz.at](mailto:lukas.giner@iaik.tugraz.at)
- 💡 Give an overview of **Rowhammer** attacks and mitigations, **AMD SEV** (Secure Encrypted Virtualization) or **DRAM** and its timing parameters.  
[jonas.juffinger@iaik.tugraz.at](mailto:jonas.juffinger@iaik.tugraz.at)

### Example Topics: Secure Systems (SESYS)

- 💡 Exploitation techniques and countermeasures: Enhancing **Security in Kernel Softwares**  
[lukas.maar@iaik.tugraz.at](mailto:lukas.maar@iaik.tugraz.at)
- 💡 Give an overview of **Software-based Power Side-Channel Attacks** across different platforms and discuss different approaches using available interfaces.  
[mathias.oberhuber@iaik.tugraz.at](mailto:mathias.oberhuber@iaik.tugraz.at)
- 💡 Analyzing and comparing the state of the art in **DRAM Encryption & Integrity Protection** as used in Trusted Execution Environments like Intel SGX or Intel TDX.  
[lukas.lamster@iaik.tugraz.at](mailto:lukas.lamster@iaik.tugraz.at)
- 💡 The **CHERI Capability Architecture**: Analyze and extend CHERI for **memory safety** and **sandboxing**.  
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## Literature

- > **CoreSec**: Stefan Gast, Jonas Juffinger, Lukas Giner
- > **SESYS**: Lukas Lamster, Lukas Maar, Rishub Nagpal, Mathias Oberhuber, David Schrammel, Martin Unterguggenberger, Moritz Waser

## Courses & Deliverables

- Introduction to Scientific Working**  
Short report on background  
Short presentation

**Note:** You can select these topics *only* for the ISW course. If you are considering to combine ISW with a bachelor's thesis at IAIK (highly recommended), check the full list of topics:

<https://www.iaik.tugraz.at/bachelor-thesis>

## Recommended if you're studying

- CS
- ICE
- SEM

## Prerequisites

- > Interest in **secure systems** or **implementation security**
- > (Optional) *CON, SLP, OS, InfoSec*

## Advisor Contact

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