Call for Participation: Learning from Authoritative Security Experiment Results (LASER) Workshop 2026

The Learning from Authoritative Security Experiment Results (LASER) Workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, in conjunction with the IEEE Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (IEEE ACSAC).

The LASER workshop series focuses on learning from and improving cybersecurity experiment results. The workshop strives to provide a highly interactive, collegial environment for discussing and learning from experimental methodologies, execution, and results. Ultimately, the workshop seeks to foster a dramatic change in the experimental paradigm for cybersecurity research, improving the overall quality and reporting of practiced science.

The LASER workshop invites broad participation by the community, including (1) authors of accepted IEEE ACSAC papers to present and discuss the experimental aspects of their work, and (2) others interested in contributing to and learning from such discussions and interaction.

Conference papers often emphasize results over experimentation details. LASER provides a forum to dig into approaches, design decisions, tools, datasets, and lessons learned, including what didn't work on the way to success.

The workshop will feature approximately nine papers and a keynote. Sessions will be highly interactive, with authors guiding discussion around their experimental methodology, execution, and results.

Workshop Format

The workshop will be structured as a true "workshop," emphasizing discussion and interaction on experimental methodologies, execution, and results, with the goal of improving experimental science in cybersecurity research. Authors will guide participants in exploring the experimental aspects of their work.

Topics of interest include (but aren't limited to):

- Research questions and/or hypotheses
- Experimental methodologies and design
- Simulation, emulation, virtualization, and/or physical testbeds
- Specialized hardware (e.g., CPS, IoT)
- Modeling human behavior
- Tools used/developed for experimentation
- Validation, monitoring, and data collection
- Datasets used/developed
- Measurements, metrics, and analysis techniques

Discussion prompts include:

- Did you use artifacts borrowed from the community?
- Did you attempt to replicate or reproduce prior results?
- What can others learn from your methodology and experience?
- What approaches failed before the results you presented?
- Did you generate intermediate or negative results?

Presentations are expected to be interactive with a substantial amount of time devoted to questions and discussion.

How to Participate

Authors of accepted IEEE ACSAC papers will be invited to present at the LASER workshop. Authors should email balenson@isi.edu by the deadline provided in the invitation if they're interested, and include a brief (2–3 sentence) summary of the experimental methodology you would present. Notifications will be sent by the end of October.

All workshop participants should be aware of the IEEE ACSAC "AI Policy on Usage of LLMs" at https://www.acsac.org/2026/submissions/ai/. Although LASER does not solicit separate workshop papers, presenters are expected to follow the spirit of the policy in preparing their presentations.

All LASER participants, including selected authors and non-presenting attendees, must register for the workshop through the IEEE ACSAC registration site.

Organizers

David Balenson (USC Information Sciences Institute)
Eric Pauley (Virginia Tech)

Further Information

Please see www.laser-workshop.org for information about past LASER Workshops. Send questions to balenson@isi.edu.