

# David G. Andersen

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## Education

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Computer Science. February 2005.  
Thesis: "Improving End-to-End Availability using Overlay Networks"  
Minor: Computational Biology  
S.M. in Computer Science, 2001  
Advisor: Hari Balakrishnan

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH Salt Lake City, UT

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. *Cum Laude*, 1998  
Bachelor of Science in Biology. *Cum Laude*, 1998

## Research Interests

Computer networks and distributed systems.

## Professional Experience

2005– **Assistant Professor** Carnegie Mellon University Department of Computer Science

A summary of my research activities at CMU and elsewhere begins on page 6.

1999–2004 **Research Assistant** MIT

Research assistant at the Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS / CSAIL). Worked in cooperation with the University of Utah on the RON+Emulab testbed. Major projects at MIT include Resilient Overlay Networks (RON), Multihomed Overlay Networks (MONET), Mayday, and the Congestion Manager.

Summer 2001 **Intern** Compaq SRC

Summer internship working on the Secure Network Attached Disks project.

1997-1999 **Research Assistant / Research Associate** University of Utah

One year as an undergraduate and one year as a staff research associate in the Flux research group at the University of Utah.

1996-1997 **Research Assistant** Department of Biology, University of Utah

Undergraduate research assistantship in the Wayne Potts Laboratory in the Department of Biology.

1995-1997 **Co-founder and CTO, ArosNet, Inc.**

Acted in a directorial and technical capacity over technical operations: network design and topology planning, software development, consulting projects, and short-term research. During my three years with the company, ArosNet grew from its inception to become the third largest ISP in Utah.

1995– **Consultant** *Intel, Banner & Witcoff, LLC, IJNT, Inc., Sypherance Technologies, Ascensus, others.*

Provided network design, security, and intellectual property consulting services. Research consulting for Intel Research.

## Refereed Publications

- [1] David Sontag, Yang Zhang, Amar Phanishayee, David G. Andersen, and David Karger. Scaling all-pairs overlay routing to the thousands. In *Proc. CoNEXT*, December 2009. (to appear).

- [2] David G. Andersen, Jason Franklin, Michael Kaminsky, Amar Phanishayee, Lawrence Tan, and Vijay Vasudevan. FAWN: A fast array of wimpy nodes. In *Proc. 22nd ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP)*, Big Sky, MT, October 2009.
- [3] Vijay Vasudevan, Amar Phanishayee, Hiral Shah, Elie Krevat, David G. Andersen, Gregory R. Ganger, Garth A. Gibson, and Brian Mueller. Safe and effective fine-grained TCP retransmissions for datacenter communication. In *Proc. ACM SIGCOMM*, Barcelona, Spain, August 2009.
- [4] Bryan Parno, Jonathan M. McCune, Dan Wendlandt, David G. Andersen, and Adrian Perrig. CLAMP: Practical prevention of large-scale data leaks. In *Proc. IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*, Oakland, CA, May 2009.
- [5] Vijay Vasudevan, Jason Franklin, David Andersen, Amar Phanishayee, Lawrence Tan, Michael Kaminsky, and Iulian Moraru. FAWNdamentally power-efficient clusters. In *Proc. HotOS XII*, Monte Verita, Switzerland, May 2009.
- [6] Dongsu Han, David G. Andersen, Michael Kaminsky, Konstantina Papagiannaki, and Srinivasan Seshan. Access point localization using local signal strength gradient. In *Passive & Active Measurement (PAM)*, Seoul, South Korea, April 2009.
- [7] George Nychis, Vyas Sekar, David G. Andersen, Hyong Kim, and Hui Zhang. An empirical evaluation of entropy-based traffic anomaly detection. In *Proc. Internet Measurement Conference*, Vouliagmeni, Greece, October 2008.
- [8] Dongsu Han, Aditya Agarwala, David G. Andersen, Michael Kaminsky, Konstantina Papagiannaki, and Srinivasan Seshan. Mark-and-Sweep: Getting the “inside” scoop on neighborhood networks. In *Proc. Internet Measurement Conference*, Vouliagmeni, Greece, October 2008.
- [9] Fahad Dogar, Amar Phanishayee, Himabindu Pucha, Olatunji Ruwase, and David Andersen. Ditto - a system for opportunistic caching in multi-hop wireless mesh networks. In *Proc. ACM MobiCom*, San Francisco, CA, September 2008.
- [10] David G. Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, Nick Feamster, Teemu Koonen, Daekyeong Moon, and Scott Shenker. Accountable Internet Protocol (AIP). In *Proc. ACM SIGCOMM*, Seattle, WA, August 2008.
- [11] Dan Wendlandt, David Andersen, and Adrian Perrig. Perspectives: Improving SSH-style host authentication with multi-path probing. In *Proc. USENIX Annual Technical Conference*, Boston, MA, June 2008.
- [12] Himabindu Pucha, Michael Kaminsky, David G. Andersen, and Michael A. Kozuch. Adaptive file transfers for diverse environments. In *Proc. USENIX Annual Technical Conference*, Boston, MA, June 2008.
- [13] Vyas Sekar, Michael K. Reiter, Walter Willinger, Hui Zhang, Ramana Rao Kompella, and David G. Andersen. cSamp: A system for network-wide flow monitoring. In *Proc. 5th USENIX NSDI*, San Francisco, CA, April 2008.
- [14] Mikhail Afanasyev, David G. Andersen, and Alex C. Snoeren. Efficiency through eavesdropping: Link-layer packet caching. In *Proc. 5th USENIX NSDI*, San Francisco, CA, April 2008.
- [15] Bryan Parno, Adrian Perrig, and David G. Andersen. SNAPP: Stateless network-authenticated path pinning. In *Proc. ACM Symposium on Information, Computer, and Communications Security (ASIACCS)*, Tokyo, Japan, March 2008.
- [16] Amar Phanishayee, Elie Krevat, Vijay Vasudevan, David G. Andersen, Gregory R. Ganger, Garth A. Gibson, and Srinivasan Seshan. Measurement and analysis of TCP throughput collapse in cluster-based storage systems. In *Proc. USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, San Jose, CA, February 2008.
- [17] Elie Krevat, Vijay Vasudevan, Amar Phanishayee, David G. Andersen, Gregory R. Ganger, Garth A. Gibson, and Srinivasan Seshan. On application-level approaches to avoiding TCP throughput collapse in cluster-based storage systems. In *Proc. Petascale Data Storage Workshop at Supercomputing'07*, November 2007.

- [18] David Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, Nick Feamster, Teemu Koponen, Daekyeong Moon, and Scott Shenker. Holding the Internet accountable. In *Proc. 6th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (Hotnets-VI)*, Atlanta, GA, November 2007.
- [19] Matthew W. Dunlop, Ginger Perng, and David G. Andersen. SWAP: Shared wireless access protocol (using reciprocity). In *IEEE Workshop on Information Assurance*, June 2007.
- [20] Himabindu Pucha, David G. Andersen, and Michael Kaminsky. Exploiting similarity for multi-source downloads using file handprints. In *Proc. 4th USENIX NSDI*, Cambridge, MA, April 2007.
- [21] Dan Wendlandt, Ioannis Avramopoulos, David Andersen, and Jennifer Rexford. Don't Secure Routing Protocols, Secure Data Delivery. In *Proc. 5th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (Hotnets-V)*, Irvine, CA, November 2006.
- [22] Niraj Tolia, Michael Kaminsky, David G. Andersen, and Swapnil Patil. An architecture for Internet data transfer. In *Proc. 3rd Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)*, San Jose, CA, May 2006.
- [23] David G. Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, M. Frans Kaashoek, and Rohit Rao. Improving Web availability for clients with MONET. In *Proc. 2nd USENIX NSDI*, Boston, MA, May 2005.
- [24] David G. Andersen, Alex C. Snoeren, and Hari Balakrishnan. Best-path vs. multi-path overlay routing. In *Proc. ACM SIGCOMM Internet Measurement Conference*, Miami, FL, October 2003.
- [25] Nick Feamster, David Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, and M. Frans Kaashoek. Measuring the effects of Internet path faults on reactive routing. In *Proc. ACM SIGMETRICS*, San Diego, CA, June 2003.
- [26] Marcos K. Aguilera, Minwen Ji, Mark Lillibridge, John MacCormick, Erwin Oertli, David G. Andersen, Mike Burrows, Timothy Mann, and Chandramohan Thekkath. Block-Level Security for Network-Attached Disks. In *Proc. 2nd USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, March 2003.
- [27] David G. Andersen. Mayday: Distributed Filtering for Internet Services. In *Proc. 4th USENIX Symposium on Internet Technologies and Systems (USITS)*, Seattle, Washington, March 2003. PDF/ps updated 2008 to correct an unclear explanation.
- [28] David G. Andersen, Nick Feamster, Steve Bauer, and Hari Balakrishnan. Topology inference from BGP routing dynamics. In *Proc. ACM SIGCOMM Internet Measurement Workshop*, Marseille, France, November 2002.
- [29] David G. Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, M. Frans Kaashoek, and Robert Morris. Resilient Overlay Networks. In *Proc. 18th ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP)*, pages 131–145, Banff, Canada, October 2001.
- [30] David G. Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, M. Frans Kaashoek, and Robert Morris. The Case for Resilient Overlay Networks. In *Proc. HotOS VIII*, Schloss-Elmau, Germany, May 2001.
- [31] Alex Snoeren, David Andersen, and Hari Balakrishnan. Fine-Grained Failover Using Connection Migration. In *Proc. 3rd USENIX Symposium on Internet Technologies and Systems (USITS)*, San Francisco, CA, March 2001.
- [32] David Andersen, Deepak Bansal, Dorothy Curtis, Srinivasan Seshan, and Hari Balakrishnan. System support for bandwidth management and content adaptation in Internet applications. In *Proc. 4th USENIX OSDI*, pages 213 – 225, San Diego, CA, November 2000.
- [33] Ray Spencer, Stephen Smalley, Peter Loscocco, Mike Hibler, David Andersen, and Jay Lepreau. The Flask Security Architecture: System Support for Diverse Security Policies. In *Proc. 8th USENIX Security Symposium*, Washington, DC, August 1999.

## Other Articles

- [34] Elaine Shi, Ion Stoica, David Andersen, and Adrian Perrig. OverDoSe: A generic DDoS protection service using an overlay network. Technical Report CMU-CS-06-114, Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Department, February 2006.

- [35] Niraj Tolia, David G. Andersen, and M. Satyanarayanan. Quantifying interactive user experience on thin clients. *IEEE Computer*, 39(3), March 2006.
- [36] David G. Andersen and Nick Feamster. Challenges and opportunities in Internet data mining. Technical Report CMU-PDL-06-102, Carnegie Mellon University, January 2006.
- [37] David G. Andersen. Critical networking infrastructure in a suitcase. In *NSF Workshop on Research Challenges in Distributed Computer Systems*, September 2005. (position paper).
- [38] David G. Andersen. Overlay networks: Networking on top of the network. ACM Computing Reviews Hot Topics essay - [http://www.reviews.com/hottopic/hottopic\\_essay.cfm](http://www.reviews.com/hottopic/hottopic_essay.cfm), September 2004.
- [39] David G. Andersen, Hari Balakrishnan, M. Frans Kaashoek, and Robert Morris. Experience with an Evolving Overlay Network Testbed. *ACM Computer Communications Review*, 33(3):13–19, July 2003.

All papers are available online at: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dga/papers/>

**Patents**            “Method and system for securing block-based storage with capability data.” Marcos K. Aguilera, Minwen Ji, Mark Lillibridge, John MacCormick, Oerwin Oertli, Dave Andersen, Mike Burrows, Tim Mann, Chandu Thekkath. Pending, filed in May 2003, number 20040243828.

### Software Artifacts

Perspectives	The Firefox plugin and SSH patches for automatically authenticating self-signed certificates. This software has been installed by over 30,000 users.
DOT	The Data-Oriented Transfer service: End-host software that provides a flexible, modular data transfer service on behalf of other applications.
CM	The Congestion Manager: Congestion control software for end-hosts.
RON	Resilient Overlay Networks: End-host based overlay routing that routes around failures and poor performance.
MONET	A Web proxy derived from the Squid proxy that uses multiple local network providers and an overlay network of peer proxies to provide highly available and fast Web access.
The RON Testbed	A 36-site Internet testbed used by a dozen or so external researchers, in addition to several researchers within MIT and Carnegie Mellon.

### Selected Honors and Awards

2006–2007	Selected to serve on the DARPA Computer Science Study Panel
2006	NSF CAREER Award (Faculty Early Career Development)
2005	MIT EECS George M. Sprowls Award for outstanding Ph.D. thesis
2002–2004	Microsoft Research Graduate Fellowship
2001	Best Student Paper, 8th IEEE Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems
2001	MIT Joseph Levin award for best MasterWorks oral presentation
1999	MIT Vinton Hayes Fellowship (graduate)
1998	University of Utah Graduating Student Leadership Award
1993	Member, Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key academic honor societies
1993–1997	University of Utah Honors at Entrance Scholarship
1993	National Merit Scholar

## Service and Other Activities

2010	Program Committee, OSDI 2010 (“Heavy”)
2010	Program Committee, 1st International Conference on Energy-Efficient Computing and Networking
2009	Program Committee, SOSP 2009 (“Heavy”)
2009	Program Committee, SIGCOMM 2009 (“Heavy”)
2008	Program co-chair, Workshop on Hot Topics in Networking (HotNets)
2008	Program Committee (“Heavy”), SIGCOMM 2008
2007	Program Committee, Workshop on Hot Topics in Networking (HotNets)
2006	Consulting: Intel Research, Pittsburgh.
2003–2006	Consulting: Banner & Witcoff, attorneys at law.
2006	Program Committee, Internet Measurement Conference.
2006	Program co-chair, WORLDS 2006.
2006	Program Committee, 2nd Workshop on Hot Topics in Systems Dependability (HotDep).
2006	Program Committee, Network Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI) 2006.
2005	Editor (one of twelve), “Report of the NSF Workshop on Research Challenges in Distributed Computer Systems”
2005	Program Committee and Works-in-progress chair, USENIX 2005
2004–2005	Program Committee, Workshop on Real, Large, Distributed Systems (WORLDS). Reviewer for OSDI, SOSP, SIGCOMM, NSDI, CCR, HotOS, ToN, IEEE TDSC, Infocom, HotNets.
1999–2003	Secretary, board member, and rock climbing instructor for the MIT Outing Club.
1999–2000	Secretary, Utah Regional Exchange Point Member, IEEE, ACM, USENIX.

## Research - Network Architecture, Analysis, and Resilience

- 2007– **FAWN: A Fast Array of Wimpy Nodes** CMU Through the FAWN project, I am exploring the design of highly energy efficient clusters for data-intensive computing. FAWN constructs clusters from large numbers of relatively “wimpy” embedded systems. It exploits fundamental efficiencies of using slower processors, and is designing algorithmic and systems techniques to mask the complexity of programming and managing systems that operate at increased scale with decreased per-node capability.
- 2007– **The Accountable Internet Protocol** CMU Together with my collaborators at MIT, Berkeley, and Georgia Tech, I am developing a novel framework for building a more secure Internet. The AIP project is based upon the notion of using self-certifying addresses instead of IP addresses (a self-certifying address is the hash of a public key). We have thus far shown that using this foundation can greatly simplify many aspects of providing network security, including reducing the potential for Denial-of-Service attacks and enabling simpler, self-configuring secure routing.
- Under AIP, we have also explored pragmatic alternatives to conventional routing security. Instead of using central authorities to cryptographically authenticate routing information, we explored the use of purely end-to-end authentication (which AIP facilitates) together with multi-path routing, showing that this approach is more robust to route hijacking than conventional approaches such as S-BGP, without requiring cryptographic authentication of routing announcements.
- 2006– **Perspectives** CMU Perspectives takes ideas from overlays and multi-path networking to and applies them to authenticating remote computers. The system has two goals: First, to materially improve network (particularly Web) security for ordinary users by enabling the easy and safe use of self-signed certificates. Second, to explore the utility of creating an “automatic” public key infrastructure based upon long-term observations. Perspectives is currently available as a Firefox browser plugin and as a patch to SSH. These plugins use a simple method to authenticate a self-signed certificate received from a server: They contact a set of “notary” servers scattered around the network. These servers inform the client what key they observe the server using, and for how long they have observed it. As a result, for an attacker to successfully deceive the client into accepting a false certificate, the attacker must have controlled all paths to the server for a long period of time. The Firefox plugin has been downloaded by over 30,000 users, and the availability of the technique has presented a new answer to the debate about how browsers should handle self-signed certificates.
- 2005– **Data-Oriented Transfer** CMU The Data-Oriented Transfer project is exploring a new architecture for applications that perform bulk data transfers. This architecture, called DOT (for *data-oriented transfer*), cleanly separates two functions that are co-mingled in today’s applications. Using DOT, applications perform content *negotiation* to determine what content to send. They then pass that data object to the transfer service to perform the actual data transmission. This separation increases application flexibility, enables the rapid development of innovative transfer mechanisms, reduces developer effort, and allows increased efficiency through cross-application sharing of cached data.
- In addition to the core architecture, the DOT project has developed a number of new transfer techniques. *SET*, or Similarity-Enhanced Transfer, is a peer-to-peer system that uses a scalable algorithmic approach to locate not only sources of the exact file a client wishes to download, but also similar copies, such as a truncated or slightly modified version. *Dsync* is a file synchronization tool that provides the benefits of two-node file synchronization tools such as rsync and the multiple-node efficiency of peer-to-peer transfers.
- Finally, we have examined extensively the use of content addressability to increase the efficiency and robustness of networks, particularly wireless networks. *RTS-id* is a simple, fully backwards-compatible addition to 802.11 wireless that enables nodes to suppress transmissions of packets they have overheard (e.g., in a previous hop in a multi-hop mesh network). *Ditto* uses DOT’s content-centric transfers to allow wireless mesh nodes to cache data that they overhear being transferred

between other nodes. In scenarios where all clients eventually want the same data, such as disseminating popular software upgrades, Ditto can improve mesh network throughput by up to 10x.

- 2005– **The Datapository** CMU
- The datapository is a shared network measurement storage and analysis infrastructure, designed to unite network data collection and analysis efforts at CMU and elsewhere. The datapository consists of a set of hardware resources (storage and computation), along with schema definitions, standard interfaces for analysis tools, and a set of tools for manipulating stored data (e.g., end-to-end probing data, routing information, topology snapshots). We are building the datapository in collaboration with researchers at MIT, Georgia Tech, and the University of Utah’s network experimentation testbed, Emulab.
- 1999–2005 **Resilient Overlay Networks and MONET** MIT
- My dissertation research investigated host-based techniques that improve the end-to-end fault resilience of communication on the Internet. RON creates dynamic overlay networks between participating hosts or applications. The overlay networks use a combination of active probing and passive measurements to find more reliable and better performing routes by sending packets through the other participating nodes in the overlay. Results from this research showed that RON-like approaches can avoid up to half of the failures that interrupt communication and can significantly improve latency for poorly-performing paths. A set of Internet-based experiments in 2001 showed that RON can avoid up to half of the failures that interrupt communication, and can offer significant latency improvements for poorly-performing paths. MONET extends this by including multiple physical paths from sites and by moving from a host-centric view to a server-centric view (in which clients could be connected to one of several server replicas). MONET’s combination of techniques can improve availability by an order of magnitude compared to current approaches such as BGP multi-homing.
- 1999–2000 **Congestion Manager** MIT
- The Congestion Manager provides a unified congestion controller for ensembles of TCP and UDP flows that eliminates adverse interactions and extends the benefits of congestion control to non-TCP applications. To help evaluate the CM, I co-implemented a congestion-controlled version of `v.a.t.`, an internet audio tool, which used the Congestion Manager to behave in a TCP-friendly manner with low overhead. I helped design and implement the kernel to user API for the CM, and performed extensive performance measurements of the CM for both in-kernel and userspace applications.
- 1998– **Emulab + RON Testbed** University of Utah / MIT
- Systems and networking researchers frequently use home-grown testbeds to evaluate prototypes and perform Internet measurements. To reduce the burden of creating these testbeds and to help provide a framework with better experimental repeatability, I played a part in the conception and design of a large-scale network testbed, Emulab, and a portion of its management databases, algorithms, and software. I deployed (and still manage) the 36-node RON Internet testbed, one of the first successful “overlay” network tesbeds.

## Research - Network Security

- 2003 **Mayday: Distributed Filtering for Internet Services** MIT
- Mayday presents an incrementally deployable Denial of Service *prevention* service that acts primarily as an overlay service, minimizing the network changes required for its deployment. Unlike tactics such as spoofing prevention, Mayday provides immediate protection to its deployers instead of requiring upgrades on the part of third parties. Mayday generalizes earlier work on Secure Overlay Services by separating overlay routing from filtering and by providing a larger set of choices for each, allowing the implementer to choose a high-performance deployment such as proximity routing, or a slower system that can withstand more capable attackers.
- As part of the evaluation of Mayday and earlier work, I developed several practical attacks, two of them novel, that are effective against filtering-based systems like Mayday and SOS.

Summer 2001

**Secure Network Attached Disks**

Compaq SRC

Traditional disk architectures interpose a fileserver between clients and disks to provide access control. *Network Attached Disk* efforts aim to place the disks directly on the network, eliminating the bottleneck presented by the file server. The capability-based approach we examined permits the disks to export a familiar block-based interface; compared to earlier NAD efforts, this eliminates disk layout changes and simplifies the on-disk implementation. I created a filesystem simulator for our proposed architecture and created a benchmark suite from measurements of SRC's fileserver traffic to drive the simulator.

1997-1999

**Flask: A secure microkernel**

University of Utah

Users' requirements for operating systems vary considerably, from the MLS policies favored in military applications, to RBAC-like policies more common in large enterprises, to type enforcement policies favored for providing least privilege to local processes. The Flask security architecture provides fine-grained access rights and permits for their revocation to permit a single OS implementation to support a wide range of security policies. As an undergraduate, and continuing as research staff, I implemented and benchmarked parts of the Flask architecture, improved the reliability of the underlying Fluke microkernel, and implemented several of the example applications used in its evaluation. The technology developed for Flask later became an integral component of the SELinux secure operating system.