Preface

Crypto '97, the Seventeenth Annual Crypto conference organized by the International Association for Cryptologic Research (IACR) in cooperation with the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Security and Privacy and the Computer Science Department of the University of California, Santa Barbara, represents another step forward in the steady progression of the science of cryptology. There is both a tremendous need for and a great amount of work on securing information with cryptologic technology. As one of the two annual meetings held by the IACR, the Crypto conference provides a focal point for presentation and discussion of research on all aspects of this science.

It is thus a privilege to coordinate the efforts of this community in focusing on its steps forward. Crypto '97 is a conference for its community, and to the researchers who have contributed to it — those whose papers appear in the proceedings, those whose submissions were not accepted, and those who have laid the foundation for the work — the community owes a debt of gratitude.

The process of developing a conference program is a challenging one, and this year's committee made the process both enjoyable and effective. My thanks go to Antoon Bosselaers, Gilles Brassard, Johannes Buchmann, Ivan Damgård, Donald Davies, Alfredo de Santis, Susan Langford, James L. Massey, Moni Naor, David Naccache, Tatsuaki Okamoto, Douglas Stinson, Michael J. Wiener, Rebecca Wright, and Yuliang Zheng for many hours of reviewing submissions and presenting their comments to the committee.

My thanks also to the committee's two advisory members, Neal Koblitz and Hugo Krawcyzk, the program chairs of Crypto '96 and '98. Neal's experience from a year ago and Hugo's perspective on the year ahead have helped to make this year's conference what it is, and should provide continuity to the next one.

Continuing a recent tradition, the review process for Crypto '97 was conducted entirely by e-mail and fax, without a program committee meeting. Each submission was assigned anonymously to three committee members (though many submissions were reviewed by more than three people), and decisions were made through several rounds of e-mail discussions. Of the 160 submissions received, the committee accepted 36, of which 35 appear in final form in these proceedings. Except for the papers themselves, nearly all correspondence with authors was also conducted by e-mail.

Gilles Brassard and Oded Goldreich complete this year's program with their invited lectures on quantum information processing and the theoretical foundations of cryptology. My appreciation to both of them, as well as to Stuart Haber, who chairs the conference's informal rump session (whose papers, due to logistics, cannot be included in these proceedings).

The program committee benefited from the expertise of many colleagues: Carlisle Adams, Carlo Blundo, Dan Boneh, Jørgen Brandt, Ran Canetti, Don Coppersmith, Erik De Win, Giovanni Di Crescenzo, Matthew Franklin, Atsushi Fujioka, Eiichiro Fujisaki, Rosario Gennaro, Helena Handschuh, Michael Jacobson Jr., Markus Jakobsson, Joe Kilian, Lars Knudsen, Tetsutaro Kobayashi, Françoise Levy-dit-Vehel, Keith Martin, Markus Maurer, Andreas Meyer, David M'raïhi, Volker Mueller, Stefan Neis, Kobbi Nissim, Kazuo Ohta, Pascal Paillier, Sachar Paulus, Giuseppe Persiano, Erez Petrank, Benny Pinkas, Bart Preneel, Tal Rabin, Omer Reingold, Mike Reiter, Pankaj Rohatgi, Taiichi Saitoh, Berry Schoenmakers, Martin Strauss, Edlyn Teske, Shigenori Uchiyama, Paul Van Oorschot, Susanne Wetzel, and Hugh Williams. My thanks to each one, as well as to any others whom I have inadvertently omitted.

The successful organization of this year's conference is due to its general chair, Bruce Schneier. The functions of general chair and program chair are for the most part independent, but at those times where collaboration was required, Bruce was very helpful, and I appreciate the opportunity to have worked with him. On behalf of Bruce, I would also like to extend my thanks to Raphael Carter and Karen Cooper for their assistance in the organization of Crypto '97.

My work was also not without assistance, and I would like to thank Ari Juels and Gerri Sireen for their participation in administrative aspects of the program.

In the Proverbs, it is written, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." The search for knowledge about cryptology — itself the science of secrets — is an essential part of protecting information in today's increasingly open world. Another step in this search is expressed in these proceedings. May the search of such matters, and the search for knowledge about cryptology, continue for many years to come.

Burt Kaliski

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