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**Supporting the IEEE Secure Development Conference
to Bridge the Gap Between Theory and Practice**

Conference grant under ONR award 450730 “Data Driven Vulnerability Repair in Programs with a Cloud Analytics Architecture for Practical Deployment”

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The 2020 IEEE Secure Development (SecDev) Conference was successfully held virtually from September 28, 2020 to September 30, 2020, consisting of tutorials, talks from academic, industry, and government researchers. The \$5,000 grant substantially helped the conference organizers defray the conference operational costs, registration costs of invited speakers, and some of the publication costs. We greatly appreciate ONR’s support for SecDev and have properly recognized ONR’s donation at the conference during the opening remarks and on the website (<https://secdev.ieee.org/2020/home>).

This 2020 installment of the conference helped establish SecDev as a venue for promoting constructive and in-depth defense solutions. The scope of the conference is extremely broad. It is a platform for any work that “builds security in” to systems. The strong emphasis that SecDev places on “building security in” means that—unlike most other security conferences—it is not enough for a paper to simply describe an attack or discover a novel vulnerability. Rather, work at SecDev builds systems that have strong security guarantees.

Virginia Tech has kindly made an exception for this request and did not charge any indirect costs to the grant. Therefore, the entirety of the fund, if received, was used on SecDev expenses.

Despite the challenging times under the COVID pandemic, SecDev was held smoothly and successfully, providing a lively virtual forum for cybersecurity researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government. We sincerely thank ONR’s strong support for our work bridging the gap between security research and practices. Currently, the organizers have started planning the 2021 SecDev in Georgia Tech Conference Center.