

CSAW 2025 Applied Research Competition (MENA)

Rules & Submission Guidelines

APPLIED RESEARCH COMPETITION

This competition assesses the top scholarly applied security research from the previous year. With eligibility limited to previously published papers, CSAW's "**best paper award**" has a reputation for drawing some of the best security research worldwide. Student authors whose papers are selected via the Preliminary Review are invited to present at CSAW Finals. For 2025, final events will be held **in person** at NYU Abu Dhabi. <https://www.csaw.io/mena>

ELIGIBLE SUBMISSIONS

Eligible submissions include papers that meet the following four conditions:

1. The paper's topic is related to the design, application, implementation, or exploitation of security technologies.
2. The research is already being used in practice or has the potential to be used in practice.
3. The paper is published or camera-ready between **1 September 2024 and 31 July 2025** at a high-impact venue. Both conference papers and journal papers are eligible.
4. At least one of the paper's authors was a student (PhD student/undergraduate student, Research Assistant/Research Engineer) or PostDoc enrolled at a university or research institute located in the MENA region in one of the following countries (below) between 1 September 2024 and 31 July 2025, and this student is available to present the paper in person during the CSAW Finals at New York University Abu Dhabi between 6 - 8 November 2025. Papers are eligible for submission to CSAW if the student graduated after 31 July 2025.

Middle East North Africa (MENA): Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission Portal

Papers are to be submitted via EasyChair. First-time users will be asked to create an easychair account. (<https://easychair.org/account/signup>)

Paper Format

Papers should be submitted as a PDF file, maintaining the original template that was required by the publication venue. Reviews will be single-blind; reviewers can see the names of the authors, but the authors do not have visibility of the reviewers' names.

Submission Link

Follow this link to submit your paper via EasyChair:

[Easychair submission page](#)

Submission Deadline

Submissions will be accepted through **30 September 2025**. Any optional extensions will be posted on the CSAW website (if any).

PRELIMINARY REVIEW PROCESS

After the submission phase closes, papers are reviewed and assessed by practitioners, academics, and industry experts.

Papers are assessed on the following dimensions:

- Novelty of Research
- Importance of Problem
- Potential Impact in Practice
- Current Application in Practice

- Overall Evaluation

We anticipate that [10 papers](#) will be selected to be the finalists. The finalists will be invited to fly into Abu Dhabi and present their posters, all expenses paid for by NYU Abu Dhabi.

FINALIST NOTIFICATION

Submission authors — finalists and non-finalists — will be notified of their status via email no later than **5 October 2025**.

Finalist teams will be asked to confirm the student author (“finalist”) who will present their team’s research at CSAW Finals. Typically, the first student author of the paper presents, but this is up to the finalist team to decide.

Following notification, and with the authors’ permission, a list of published papers will be posted on the CSAW website.

CSAW FINAL EVENT & LOCATIONS

CSAW ’25 Finals will be held **Friday 7 November 2025** in person at NYU Abu Dhabi. A [1st and 2nd](#) place winner will be identified.

PRIZES

Prizes vary by region. Please check the appropriate CSAW regional webpage for details.

USE OF PERSONAL DATA

Personal data (ie, name, school, email) that is collected through the registration process is accessible only by the competition organizers and is used for the following purposes:

- Reminding registrants of competition timelines, rules, and updates
- Determining and contacting finalist teams and team members
- Announcing the names of finalist and winning team members on csaw.io/research
- Examining multi-year participation of teams and individual player
- Determining and reporting total number of teams and total estimated individual participation
- Determining and reporting demographic trends related to participation, such as what countries have the highest number of teams participating
- Sending occasional updates regarding future CSAW events

Aside from announcing finalist and winners' names, CSAW will not rent, sell, or share personal data with anyone other than the competition organizers.

CONTACT

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