

CRAIG SCHMUGAR

A McAfee Fellow, 20x patented inventor, and technology generalist reporting to the CTO. I leverage deep research to solve high-stakes business challenges. By triangulating hundred-billion record datasets across product, marketing, threat intelligence, payments, web analytics, support, and more, I uncover ecosystem-wide insights that single-discipline roles often miss. I am the primary resource for cross-functional teams to resolve critical technical bottlenecks and accurately forecast the ROI of complex initiatives, consistently turning "unsolvable" data problems into actionable growth strategies.

EXPERIENCE

FELLOW

(VICE PRESIDENT)

McAfee | Remote, TN

2024 – Present

- Served as a Strategic Technical Advisor to the C-Suite, providing the analytical rigor and 'healthy skepticism' required to resolve high-stakes security and operational issues.
- Leveraged large-scale data synthesis to pinpoint AI model weaknesses, guiding engineering teams to optimize detection logic and achieve double-digit gains in recall without sacrificing precision across the most critical threat surfaces.
- Orchestrated a cross-functional initiative across Engineering, Marketing, and Finance to capture \$25M in annual ROI through targeted UX optimizations and technical refinements.
- Quantified and qualified dozens of product, security, and privacy enhancements; advised executives, legal, marketing, support, and engineering on necessary changes.

SR PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

(SENIOR DIRECTOR)

McAfee | Remote, TN

2021 – 2024

- Led high-stakes investigations into rogue affiliate networks impacting 10M+ consumers; provided the technical intelligence that enabled Marketing and Litigation teams to slash cybercrime support volume by 46% and affiliate spam by 66%.
- Architected protection and performance enhancements for flagship products, consistently securing top-tier rankings in independent 3rd-party security audits and benchmarks.
- Served as the technical authority for Sales and Marketing, validating whitepapers and competitive claims to ensure technical accuracy and market credibility.

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

(DIRECTOR)

McAfee | Remote, OR

2017 – 2021

- Co-led working group researching, analyzing, driving, and delivering threat detection effectiveness improvements, across product, scanner, and content teams, to 100M endpoints
- Defined best practices for internal efficacy assessments; improved automation efficiency by 4x
- Steered distributed teams to achieve critical 2020 product effectiveness goals, successfully navigating resource constraints to maintain high-velocity delivery.
- Cultivated a high-performance culture by mentoring and elevating junior talent into senior leadership and principal technical roles.

RESEARCH ARCHITECT

McAfee | Beaverton, OR

2010 – 2017

- McAfee Labs IRT (Innovation & Research Team): research and development of next generation malware defense solutions, named inventor on multiple issued patents
- Led content design and development of DeepSAFE, industry's first hardware-assisted behavioral rootkit identification and prevention solution
- Led content design and development of industry's first real-time memory scanner leveraging the GPU for superior throughput

SR THREAT RESEARCHER

McAfee | Beaverton, OR

2007 – 2010

- PR spokesperson
- Threat analysis and defense
- Innovated proactive signature detection approaches
- Authored dozens of whitepapers on various threat topics
- DARPA project bid contributor under TS/SCI clearance

MALWARE RESEARCH MANAGER

McAfee | Beaverton, OR

2004 – 2007

- PR spokesperson
- Malware analysis and defense, crossed the 1,000 malware descriptions authored milestone
- Discovered and named numerous threats including Mydoom and Sasser
- Managed a dozen malware researchers spanning NA, LTAM, and APAC

MALWARE RESEARCHER

McAfee | Beaverton, OR

2000 – 2004

- Malware analysis and anti-malware content (hundreds of signatures, descriptions, and blogs)
- Developed internal malware analysis and threat monitoring tools

NETWORK ADMIN

Northwestern Univ. | Evanston, IL

1996 – 2000

- NT 4 and NetWare 4 administrator
- Self-taught malware research, authored Happy99, NewApt, and PrettyPark cleaners
- Supported and maintained over 350 MacOS and Windows end points across multiple local sites and one remote

EDUCATION

MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ PEDAGOGY

Northwestern University

1995 – 1996

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

University of North Florida

1990 – 1994

SKILLS

- Cybersecurity Leadership (Threat Research, Ecosystem Defense, and AI-Era Protection)
 - Large-Scale Data Synthesis (Databricks, Python/Pandas, SQL, and Predictive Modeling)
 - Strategic Threat Intelligence & Adversary Tracking
 - Executive & External Influence (PR Spokesperson, Technical Author, and C-Level Communication)
 - Cultivating High-Performance Technical Cultures
 - M&A Technical Due Diligence & Risk Assessment
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