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To Whom It May Concern

I would like to nominate the paper, “Flawed, but like democracy we don’t have a better system: The Experts’ Insights on the Peer Review Process of Evaluating Security Papers” for the NSA’s Best Scientific Cybersecurity Paper Competition. This paper offers a valuable investigation into the ecosystem of the cybersecurity research community from the perspective of the peer-review process. The authors provide insightful recommendations on how to improve the peer-review process, ensuring that high-merit papers are recognized in a rapidly growing cybersecurity community. I believe that it is an excellent candidate for the competition due to its significant contribution to boosting the science of cybersecurity. This paper was published in the 2022 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy.

Unlike most cybersecurity papers that focus on technological advancements, this paper investigates the cybersecurity research community and studies how to advance the science of cybersecurity by improving the peer-review process at top-tier cybersecurity conferences. The paper examines how the “Science of Security” is evaluated in the current peer-review process of top cybersecurity conferences, which is crucial in publishing and disseminating scientific research, as it ensures that the research is of high quality, reliable, and credible. The paper’s suggestions to the community are uniquely valuable to the science of cybersecurity.

This paper had a high impact on the community, as has attracted a considerable number of audiences, perhaps making it the most popular talk at the 2022 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy. The authors offer concrete solutions based on a rigorous scientific study, addressing the challenges faced by the community, including the fact that “cybersecurity is the most negative community.”

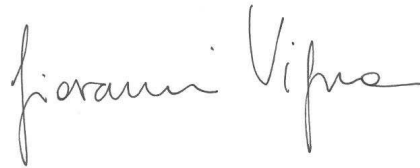
The paper effectively addresses multiple attributes of scientific research and reporting, and it is methodologically sound and well-written. The authors overcame the significant time constraints faced by the target population for this qualitative study, demonstrating grit and determination in communicating with potential participants and adapting the interview protocol to meet their

demands while not compromising on the quality of collected data. The authors' interview protocol covers a full spectrum to carry out a comprehensive study investigating the cybersecurity peer-review process and suggest academic recommendations. This research has the potential to inspire future investigative studies aimed at measuring and evaluating the quality and health of the peer-review process. The thorough explanation of the research method lays the ground for researchers to reproduce the study in other research fields to understand the status quo.

In conclusion, I believe that the paper "Flawed, but like democracy, we don't have a better system: The Experts' Insights on the Peer Review Process of Evaluating Security Papers" is an excellent candidate for the competition due to its significant contribution to the science of cybersecurity. I highly recommend this paper for the NSA's Best Scientific Cybersecurity Paper Competition.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Vigna

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giovanni Vigna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'V'.