

# WOOT '26: 20th USENIX WOOT Conference on Offensive Technologies

August 10–11, 2026, Baltimore, MD, USA

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association



The 20th USENIX WOOT Conference on Offensive Technologies (WOOT '26) will be co-located with the 35th USENIX Security Symposium and will take place August 10–11, 2026 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, MD, USA.

## Important Dates

### Cycle 1

- Academic track paper submissions due: **Friday, December 12, 2025, 11:59 pm AoE**
- Notification to authors: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

### Cycle 2

- Up-and-coming track paper submissions due: **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 11:59 pm AoE**
- Academic track paper submissions due: **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 11:59 pm AoE**
- Notification to authors: **Thursday, April 9, 2026**

### Both Cycles

- Artifact submission deadline: **Thursday, May 7, 2026, 11:59 pm AoE**
- All tracks final papers due: **Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 11:59 pm AoE**

## Overview

The USENIX WOOT Conference on Offensive Technologies brings together both academics and practitioners in the field of offensive security research. Occurring annually since 2007, when it was first founded as the Workshop on Offensive Technologies, WOOT has become the top venue for collaboration between academia, independent hackers, and industry participants on offensive research. As offensive security has changed over the years to become a large-scale operation managed by well-capitalized actors, WOOT has consistently attracted a range of high-quality, peer-reviewed work from academia and industry on novel attacks, state-of-the-art tools, and offensive techniques.

WOOT '26 welcomes submissions from academia, independent researchers, students, hackers, and industry. Two different submission tracks are available—an academic “classic” track for those intending to submit complete formal academic papers and an “up-and-coming” track for new or non-academic researchers who may be less familiar with academic procedures and may desire assistance writing a paper or just additional feedback and reviews.

Papers that have been formally reviewed and accepted will be presented during the WOOT conference and published in the formal proceedings. Authors are also expected to plan to publish research artifacts (such as source code and data sets) wherever possible; see further details below. By submitting a paper, you agree that, if the paper is accepted, at least one of the authors will register to attend the conference at full price (i.e., not the student rate) and to present the paper; USENIX members at the Sustainer level and higher may apply their membership discounts to their registrations. If an author plans to present more than one paper, one full-price registration will still be required for each paper. If the conference registration fee will pose a hardship for the presenter of an accepted paper, please contact [conference@usenix.org](mailto:conference@usenix.org).

## Up-and-Coming Track

Are you planning to give a cool talk on cutting-edge offensive security research at Black Hat, DEF CON, or another non-academic venue in 2026? Been working on amazing new academic offensive research but not quite confident enough about writing a complete formal academic paper on it? Or do you have existing work that you think deserves publication in a more formal and complete form? Consider submitting to WOOT '26!

The “up-and-coming” track is intended for early researchers, or researchers with non-academic backgrounds, and aims to provide more detailed feedback—typically including one-to-one assistance from a “shepherd”—to help researchers transform their research into a complete paper that will be part of the scientific record. Just as with the “classic” academic track, all these papers will go through the peer-review process, and accepted papers will be published in WOOT’s formal conference proceedings. To ensure that we can meet the deadlines for this process, we expect researchers to respond to feedback quickly and be willing and able to submit an updated, complete paper (with the assistance of a shepherd, if needed) within weeks of receiving feedback. Acceptance of final papers may be subject to shepherd approval.

We expect submissions to this track to describe finished research and provide as much detail as possible. Submissions should be in the form of a draft paper, but can also be in any reasonable form (e.g., plain text, Markdown, Word, or LaTeX). The peer review process is double-blind, so submissions should be anonymous; i.e., you should avoid any mention of author/group names and avoid obvious indications of who the authors are (e.g., references to previous work should be in the third person).

Authors of accepted papers are expected to continue to work with their shepherds (where relevant) to improve their papers. We expect final papers (after shepherd approval) to adhere to the same requirements as the academic track

