

Wassim M. El-Hajj

Tenured Professor

Computer Science Department

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Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=QidtvQgAAAAJ&hl=en>

Short Biography

Wassim El-Hajj is tenured Professor of Computer Science at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He received his BS degree from AUB in 2000, and the MS and Ph.D. degrees in 2002 and 2006, respectively, from Western Michigan University (WMU), all in Computer Science. Right after his graduation, he joined the Information Security department at UAE University as an assistant professor. He then joined the Electrical and Computer Engineering department at AUB as a visiting professor and then joined the Computer Science department as a full-time faculty member in 2011. In 2013, he was elected to Chair the department of Computer Science and served for two terms until 2019. He was promoted to Associate Professor in June 2014, and to Professor in June 2021. In 2019, he was appointed as the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at AUB leading the eLearning and entrepreneurship strategies, and attending to student concerns. His research interests are in the areas of Machine Learning, Wireless Communication, and Network Security. His research activities culminated with 18 research grants worth more than \$2M, two US patents, 27 journal publications, and 64 refereed conference publications published in reputable venues. He was a frequent speaker and a technical reviewer at leading international conferences.

Research Objectives

To prevent cyber-attackers from acquiring or damaging personal or private data by

- using Software Defined Networking (SDN) as a robust Firewall
- enhancing privacy on Mobile phones
- developing framework for securing information flow in web applications
- developing techniques for preventing network pre-attacks

To improve the techniques used in Machine Learning & Data Science with special focus on sentiment analysis in Arabic and emotion recognition by

- developing the Arabic resources needed for sentiment analysis
- improving the accuracy and robustness of sentiment analysis systems in Arabic
- developing accurate emotion recognition algorithms and devices in natural settings

To enhance the Quality of Service (QoS) in Wireless Network Protocols by

- developing scalable and energy efficient routing protocols
- developing optimal network layout for better QoS
- developing efficient and fair scheduling algorithms

Education

- *Western Michigan University, Michigan, USA*
Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, June 2006
Dissertation Title: *A Distributed Hierarchical Energy-Efficient Scheme for Large Scale Mobile Ad Hoc Networks.*
- *Western Michigan University, Michigan, USA*
Master of Science in Computer Science, June 2002.
- *American University of Beirut, Lebanon.*
BS in Computer Science, June 2000.

Career Synopsis

- **Research Activities:**
 - **27 refereed journal publications** in prestigious Journals such as **ACM Transactions, IEEE Transactions, IEEE Sensors, ComCom, JNCA, Computers & Security, and BMC Bioinformatics.**
 - **66 refereed conference publications** published in top IEEE conferences including **ICDM, IWCMC, NetSoft, Globecom, ICC, AINA, and WCNC.**
 - **Two U.S. patents accepted in 2019 and 2020 respectively,** on context aware sensing
 - **20 research grants, including one major fund from FORD Foundation for the amount of \$1,000,000 in 2021, and three major funds from Qatar Foundation in 2013, 2018, and 2021, for the amounts of \$600,000, \$1,050,000, and \$600,000 respectively.**
 - **Appointed in September 2019** to serve as an **Associate Editor** on **ACM Transactions** on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (**TALLIP**)
 - **General Chair** of the *4th Workshop on Arabic Natural Language Processing (WANLP 2019)*, a highly respected research venue for work related to Arabic NLP.
 - **Thesis Advisor** for **15 MS** students (11 in current rank) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), and **Co-Advisor and/or Committee member** for **12 MS** and **3 Ph.D.** students at AUB.
- **Teaching Activities:**
 - **Lead the eLearning strategy at FAS starting Sep. 2019**
 - **Introduced new courses,** such as **CMPS 101 - Introduction to Computer Science, CMPS 207: Programming for Digital Art, SECB 301 - Security Principles and Practice, SECB 351 - Access Control Models & Technologies, and SECB 430 - Secure Electronic Commerce.**
 - **Revamped** several Computer Science courses at AUB including: **CMPS 200 - Introduction to Programming, CMPS 212 - Intermediate Programming with Data Structures, CMPS 284 - Computer Networks, and CMPS 274/374 - Compiler Construction.**
 - The average **Instructor Course Evaluations (ICE)** scores of all AUB courses taught is **4.2 out of 5.0**, well above the faculty and university averages.
- **Services**
 - Appointed as Associate Dean for Students at the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, **Fall 2019-20-ongoing**
 - Associate Editor of The ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (**TALLIP**), **Fall 2019-20-ongoing**
 - Elected as department Chairperson, **Sep. 2013-Sep 2019.**
 - Elected as a member of the AUB Senate, **Sep. 2017-Sep. 2020.**
 - Elected as a member of the AUB Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA), **Sep. 2017-Sep. 2018**
 - Elected as a Chair of the AUB Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA), **Feb. 2020-Sep. 2020**
 - AUB Senate Secretary, **Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2019**
 - **Coordinator and curriculum developer** for the Tech for Food program funded by World Food Programme that aims to teach Syrian refugees and underserved Lebanese digital skills, **2016-ongoing.**
 - **Main Organizer** for many national events and contests such as: **2017 ArabWIC 5th Annual International conference on Arab Women in Computing, VEX Robotics Contest, the 5th and 6th ACM Lebanese Collegiate Programming Contest, and Computer Science for High School (CS4HS) tutorials.**
 - Initiated a **corporate sponsorship program** between the Computer Science department at AUB and local companies.
 - AUB **Title IX officer.** Acquired Civil Rights Investigator Level Two certificate.

Honors and Awards

- **Elected in September 2018** to serve as the **General Chair** of the *4th Workshop Arabic Natural Language Processing (NLP)*, a highly respected research venue for work related to Arabic NLP.

- **Invited to present a tutorial on internet security** at the 9th international Wireless Communication and Mobile Computing Conference - **IWCMC 2013** (<http://iwcmc.org/2013/tutorials/>)
- **2nd best paper award** in the IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits, and Systems (**ICECS 2011**)
- **Invited by Google** to participate in the fourth Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Faculty Summit, Zurich, Switzerland, **2011**.
- Honorable mention for **Graduate Research and Creative Scholar** (2005)
- **Graduate Honor Roll Award** at WMU (2005).
- Recipient of the **Outstanding Graduate Student Award** (Ph.D. level) for two years in a row: 2004, 2005.
- Recipient of the **Excellence in Research Award** (Ph.D. level) for three years in a row: 2003, 2004, 2005.
- **Recipient of the Teaching Effectiveness Award (2002)** at Western Michigan University (WMU), USA.

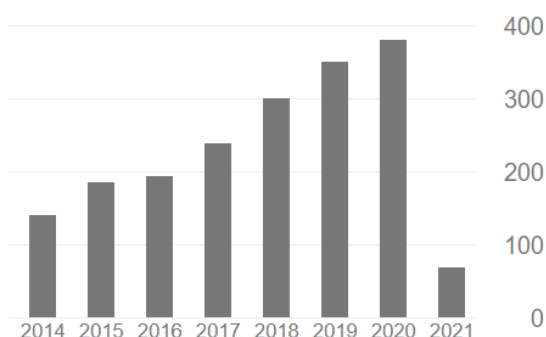
Academic Positions

- Associate Professor, Computer Science Department, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Sept. 2014-present – (was awarded tenure in June 2019)

Research Contributions: I conduct research in network protocols, cyber security, and machine learning (focusing on the Arabic language). In rank, I have published important works in Vehicular Communication, RFID anti-collision algorithms, securing web applications and Software-defined networking (SDN), and building resources and models to enhance key applications in Arabic such as emotion recognition, sentiment analysis, and language understanding.

Published 9 peer reviewed journal articles, all of which appeared in highly respected venues in the areas of networks, security, and machine learning: (1) Three in ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (TALLIP), (2) one in IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking (TON), (3) one in ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIC), (4) one in Computers & Security, (5) one in Computer Communications, (6) one in IEEE Transactions on Very Large Scale Integration Systems (TVLSI), and (7) one in the International Journal of Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering. Also published 34 peer reviewed conference articles in respected venues in the areas of networks, security, and machine learning, for instance, ACM SIGSEM, IEEE NetSoft, IEEE IWCMC, and WANLP workshop series. Received, as a PI, 6 research grants for a total amount of \$675,000: \$600,000 from Qatar Foundation; \$35,000 from industry (Computers & Communication Technology SAL and International Labour Organization (ILO)); \$25,000 from AUB’s Farouk Jabre Interfaculty Grants, and \$15,000 from AUB’s Research Board. The number of citations increased dramatically in this period (more than 1,500 citations), landing at 2242 citations, with an increasing trend as shown in this snapshot from Google Scholar (Captured in March 2021):

	All	Since 2016
Citations	2242	1536
h-index	26	21
i10-index	48	36



For Vehicular Communication, I led the work that proposes an efficient resource and context aware approach for deploying containerized micro-services on on-demand fogs. The work takes advantage of the evolvement of On-Board Units, Kubeadm Clustering, Docker Containerization, and micro-services technologies to overcome the use of traditional fog devices in processing vehicular requests.

For RFID, we proposed a new distributed multi-channel anti-collision algorithm, which solves all the three types of RFID collisions. My personal contributions included the design of the actual communication protocol, and helping in the experimental setup.

For cyber security, I lead the work on securing web applications, smart grid communication, and SDNs. I suggested an easy to use and efficient approach to implement error free web applications. I suggested a new architecture to secure communication in smart grid based on Ethereum blockchain and cloud services. I also lead the work on SDN, and suggested a mechanism that transforms the SDN into one big firewall, while optimizing the burden on the data plane and achieving correctness.

For machine learning, I am currently leading a project that aims to detect the emotions of individuals based on data collected from the individual's mobile phone and from on-body sensors. The project is in collaboration with Dr. Fadi Maalouf, from the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at AUB Medical Center. The project is ongoing, but if successful will have a great impact on the way psychiatrists evaluate the mental conditions of patients.

Also in Machine Learning, my main focus in rank was on building resources and models for Arabic NLP with focus on sentiment analysis, emotion recognition, and language understanding. We developed and made public all the needed Arabic resources to perform sentiment analysis, which otherwise were non-existent. We also developed and published the highest performing algorithms for sentiment analysis, outperforming all existing approaches.

My personal contribution to this work is many folds:

- (1) Leading the work on credibility analysis,
- (2) leading and in few cases co-leading the work on emotion recognition,
- (3) leading all the software architecture aspects of designing and conducting the experimental evaluations, which are among the most important aspects of the work, and
- (4) contributing to the development of the resources and the actual design of the machine learning algorithms.

Teaching and Supervision: Taught CMPS 200 - Introduction to Programming, CMPS 207 - Programming for Digital Arts, CMPS 212 - Intermediate Programming with Data Structures, CMPS 297Q/396Y – Computer Security, and CMPS 299 - Software Graduation Project, where I received an average Instructor Course Evaluations (ICE) score of 4.3 out of 5.0, well above the faculty and university averages.

Graduated 9 MS students and co-advised 9 other MS students, all from Computer Science. I also co-advised two Ph.D. and 8 MS students from Electrical and Computer Engineering at AUB.

Department Chairperson, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, & University Senator: Served as the Chairperson of the Computer Science department from 2013 to 2019, with many notable achievements such as, winning almost all computing related contests in Lebanon and competing very well internationally, increasing the department size to 373 students (243 before I took on this service) while notably increasing the admission score in order to get good students, quadrupling the graduate program (MS program), increasing the faculty size by one third, and collaborating closely with most departments within FAS and with all other faculties in AUB.

Served as the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences (FAS) since September 2019, with many notable achievements including handling all student concerns and issues at FAS, leading all eLearning and distance education initiatives at FAS, and introducing entrepreneurship strategy in FAS.

Serving as a University Senate member since September 2017, during which I served as the Senate secretary for one year, a member of the Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA) for one year, and the Chair of SCFA for 8 months. This is in addition to heading many departmental committees and being a member of many other committees in FAS and AUB.

- *Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Sept 2010-Sept 2014*

Research Contributions: Published 9 journal articles in the areas of networks and security, all of which are

refereed and in respected venues such as IEEE Sensors Journal and Journal of Network and Computer Applications (JNCA). Also published 14 peer reviewed conference articles in respected venues in the areas of networks and security, for instance, IEEE ICC, AINA, ISWTA, and IWCMC. Received 5 research grants, one of which was awarded by Qatar Foundation for the amount of \$1,050,000 for the aim of developing resources and tools, and study new problems relating to the extraction of opinions from primarily Arabic text.

In networking, specifically wireless networks (Sensor Networks, LTE, RFID, VANETs, and WiFi.), I developed:

- distributed solutions to address the scalability and energy efficiency challenges in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs), which resulted in doubling the network's lifetime in almost all scenarios.
- boolean Satisfiability (SAT) solvers to solve the clustering optimization problem in MANETs.
- new and advanced simulation tool for MANETs visualization.
- efficient approaches to solving the sink placement problem in wireless sensor networks.
- a novel uplink frequency domain scheduling algorithm in LTE that outperformed the state-of-the-art approaches and that takes into account network scalability, user mobility, and user QoS requirements
- efficient algorithms to solve the reader collision problems in dense RFID environments. The main target performance metric is minimizing the identification delay, collision probabilities, and network overheads.

In security, I developed accurate techniques for detecting & preventing popular network pre-attacks; specifically, I developed:

- rule-based and machine learning techniques to detect normal, slow, and distributed port scanning activities
- studies with critical evaluations and possible enhancements to the existing security measures in Cognitive Radio Networks, Smart Grid, and Transport Layer.

Also worked on developing methods for energy aware computing. The key idea revolves around identifying and measuring the energy consumption of frequently used operations in the algorithm. Optimizing these operations that we call "kernels" leads to major impact on the overall computational efficiency.

Teaching and Services: Taught CMPS 200 - Introduction to Programming, CMPS 207 - Programming for Digital Arts, CMPS 212 - Intermediate Programming with Data Structures, CMPS 284 - Computer Networks, CMPS 274/374 - Compiler Construction, and CMPS 299 - Software Graduation Project, where I received an average Instructor Course Evaluations (ICE) score of 4.06 out of 5.0, well above the faculty and university averages. Supervised 4 MS students, co-supervised 4 more MS students and one Ph.D. student with other professors.

Started serving as the department chairperson since Sep. 2013.

- *Visiting Assistant Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering Department, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Jan 2010-Sept 2010*

Worked on a project funded by Intel for the aim of developing energy aware algorithms with focus on compute intensive applications such as machine learning.

Taught EECE 433 - Data Bases Management Systems, and EECE 450 - Computer Networks, where I received 4.3 and 4.1 Instructor Course Evaluations (ICE) score respectively, well above the faculty and university averages.

- *Assistant Professor, Information Security Department, College of Information Technology, UAE University, Aug 2006-Jan 2010*

Research Contributions: Published 9 journal articles in the areas of networks and security, all of which are refereed and in respected venues such as IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology and Computer Communications. Also published 8 peer reviewed conference articles in respected venues in the areas of networks and security, for instance, IEEE Globecom, ICC, and IWCMC. Received 7 research grants for a total amount of \$150,000.

In networking, specifically wireless networks (Sensor Networks, LTE, RFID, VANETs, and WiFi.), I lead the work and developed:

- distributed solutions to address the scalability and energy efficiency challenges in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs), which resulted in doubling the network's lifetime in almost all scenarios.
- new software framework (FW) that aims for quick development of intelligent applications with networked vehicles.

- an optimal WiMAX deployment strategy. The main target performance metric is minimizing the number of WiMAX stations required, minimizing in-building signal losses, and minimizing the effect of mountains obstructions, while maximizing the coverage and number of users able to connect.
- an algorithm that optimally assigns a particular frequency to each Access Point such that the throughput is maximized and the interference between Access Points is minimized.

In security, I lead the work and in few cases co-lead it to develop accurate techniques for detecting & preventing popular network pre-attacks, specifically developed:

- a stateful ARP cache with fuzzy logic controller to detect ARP spoofing attacks, which are often used as part of other serious attacks such as Man-in-the-Middle (MiM) and Denial of Service (DoS).
- two-factor authentication methods using mobile phones. Contributions include the implementation and testing of a mobile-based software token system that can replace existing hardware and computer-based software tokens. This work received high attention from the research community with 227 citations to date.

Also worked on developing a simple yet effective method to detect Protein-protein interaction (PPI) based on pairwise similarity and using only the primary structure of the protein, which lead to a prestigious publication in BMC Bioinformatics.

Teaching: Taught SECB 301 - Security Principles and Practice, SECB 351 - Access Control Models & Technologies, SECB 408 - Secure Mobile Code, SECB 405 - Security Protocols for the Internet and E-Commerce, SECB 430 - Secure Electronic Commerce

Research Grants

1. “*MURASALAT: Multi-dialect Arabic Understanding Models for Empathy-based Negotiating Chatbot and Question Answering*” (PI), grant offered by **Qatar Foundation** for the amount of **\$600,000, January 2021**. In this project, we propose to develop an Empathy-based negotiating chatbot and Question/Answer system with a platform called MURASALAT, in Arabic. The key benefit of the developed platform is that it can be configured for various applications and functionalities including but not limited to: 1) a company can use it to detect users’ satisfaction with services it provides and to conduct automated customer service, and 2) a user can pose a question related to a specific predefined topic, then receive the most relevant answer (QA). We aim to build one engine to serve these functionalities, make the engine fast, accurate and robust to respond to input, where the input can either be Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) text or DA with focus on Gulf, Egyptian, and Levantine dialects.
 - Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Khaled Bashir Shaban, Computer Science and Engineering, Qatar University
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Hazem Hajj, Electrical Engineering, AUB
2. “*Towards AUB as a Thought Leader in eLearning*” (PI), grant offered by **FORD Foundation** for the amount of **\$1,000,000, January 2021**. In this project, we aim to develop a unified vision and an organizational and governance structure for the online offerings at the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at AUB, and to invest in faculty training and preparedness, appropriate infrastructure, and support for student success. Through this grant, FAS is looking to innovate in online education and expand its digital footprint, while strengthening its commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity, which are integral to its educational mission.
3. “*Optimized and Secured Demand Response Using Smart Meters and Blockchain for the Qatari Grid*” (PI), grant offered by **Qatar Foundation** for the amount of **\$600,000, December 2018**. In this project, we address Smart Grid infrastructure and aim to develop an optimized demand side and demand response strategy while incorporating smart meter data and transformer loading condition. We also aim to develop a secured 2-way communication between smart meters and utilities using Blockchain technology and optimized outlier detection algorithms.
 - Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Khaled Bashir Shaban, Computer Science and Engineering, Qatar University
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Hazem Hajj, Electrical Engineering, AUB
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Rabih Jabr, Electrical Engineering, AUB

- Principal Investigator (PI): Ahmed Massoud, Qatar University (QU)
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Ayman El-Hag, University of Waterloo (UW)
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Ramadan El-Shatshat, University of Waterloo (UW)
4. “Automated Emotion Recognition for Better Mental and Medical States of Being” (PI), grant offered by **Farouk Jabre Interfaculty Grants** at the American University of Beirut for the amount of **\$25,000, July 2018**. Since emotions play a central role in our lives as seen from different perspectives, the aim of this project is to build a large collection of resources for research and applications on emotion recognition, and to develop automated deep learning neural network models for emotion recognition.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI): Fadi Maalouf, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical School
 - Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI): Hazem Hajj, Electrical Engineering, AUB
 5. “ILO software/toolkit on Labour Force Surveys sampling designs” (PI), grant offered by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** for the amount of **\$15,000, July 2018**. The aim of the project is to create a new state-of-the-art software/toolkit for Labour statistician for the objective of maximizing their productivity and reducing the labour survey errors. The software will include appropriate UI and UX on the front end and algorithms’ optimization on the backend.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 6. “Mining for Credible Opinions in Arabic Blog Posts” (PI), grant offered by the **American University of Beirut Research Board (URB)** for the amount of **\$8,500, July 2016**. The aim of this project is to build a tool that automatically rates the credibility of Arabic blog posts in real-time; adopting the Merriam Webster credibility definition: *credibility is the quality of being believed or accepted as true, real or honest*. We focus on Arabic blog posts due to their recent popularity fueled by the recent uprisings in the Arab world, and due to the scarcity of tools for assessing credibility of Arabic blog posts.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 7. “White Space Management in Plants Industry 2D Piping Drawing” (PI), one-year grant offered by **Computers & Communication Technology SAL - Offshore (CCT)**, for the amount of **\$20,000, July 2015**. In this project, we aim to build a tool for Oil/Gas Plants Industry that accepts as input, a 2D piping isometrics (extracted from 3D model representation) and produces a new cleanly annotated drawing with all annotations occupying the available white space without having any intersection. Annotations include pipes’ dimensions, weld types/numbers, routing “offsets”, comments, symbols to represent different fittings (valves, flanges, tees, instruments, supports, welds, etc.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Mohamad Jaber**, Computer Science, AUB
 8. “Efficient Detection of Information Leaks in Web Applications” (PI), grant offered by the **American University of Beirut Research Board (URB)** for the amount of **\$6,000, July 2014**. In this proposal, we propose a framework that enforces security-by-construction in web applications, where any violation in the data’s confidentiality or integrity policies is reported at its source. Minimal developer effort is required, in a sense that the developer only needs to annotate database attributes by a security class.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 9. “Opinion Mining for Arabic with Models of Semantics and Credibility” (PI), grant offered by **Qatar Foundation** for the amount of **\$1,050,000, May 2013**. In this project, we aim to develop resources and tools, and study new problems relating to the extraction of opinions from primarily Arabic text.
 - Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Hazem Hajj, Electrical Engineering, AUB
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Khaled Bashir Shaban, Computer Science and Engineering, Qatar University
 - Principal Investigator (PI): Nizar Habash, Center for Computational Learning Systems, Columbia University
 10. “Optimizing OLSR using Mobile Agents” (PI), grant offered by the **American University of Beirut Research Board (URB)** for the amount of **\$6,000, July 2013**. In this project, we propose an approach that uses mobile agents (MA) to maintain MANET topology information.

- Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
11. “*Slow-Distributed Port Scanning Detection*” (PI), grant offered by the **American University of Beirut Research Board (URB)** for the amount of **\$5,200, June 2012**. In this project, we aim to provide a mechanism to detect and consequently prevent port scans that are both, slow and distributed. The real challenge is to develop an accurate approach that has low false positive and false negative alarms.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 12. “*Google CS4HS 2012*” (PI), grant offered by **Google** for the amount of **\$8,000** to promote Computer Science and Computational Thinking in high school and middle school curriculum. The proposal aims to gather a large group of high school teachers and train them on specific computer science principles and tools. In turn, the teachers will transmit this knowledge to their students throughout the academic year. A competition will then be held, in a fun and encouraging atmosphere, between students to assess their newly acquired knowledge in computer science. **Event website:** <http://www.cs.aub.edu.lb/blossoms/>
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **George Turkiyyah**, Computer Science, AUB
 13. “*Google’s 2011 EMEA AndroidEDU grant*” (PI), grant offered by **Google** for an approximate amount of **\$5,000**. Received **8 latest generation Samsung Galaxy S Plus** phones from Google to be used by Computer Science students and faculty for research and development.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, Computer Science, AUB
 14. “*Arabic Semantic Analysis as a novel way to predict protein interaction*” (Co-PI), research grant funded by **Emirates Foundation** for the amount of **\$55,000, March 2010**. In this project, we propose to develop a novel method to predict protein-protein interaction based on Arabic semantic analysis model. The semantic meaning will most likely give us a hint on how or why two proteins interact.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Nazar Zaki**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University
 15. “*Protecting Communication Networks from Dangerous Subliminal Channels*” (PI), research grant funded by **Emirates Foundation** for the amount of **\$55,000, March 2009**. The objective of this research/development project is to design and implement a system (Hardware and Software), called Covert Channel Detection System (CCDS), that will detect covert channels that carry secret messages within network traffic.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Zouheir Trabelsi**, College of IT, UAE University
 16. “*Protecting UAE University Network from Port Scanning*” (PI), research grant funded by **UAE University** for the amount of **\$6,000, November 2008**. In this research project, we investigate a novel approach, based on fuzzy logic, to detect port scanning attacks.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Zouheir Trabelsi**, College of IT, UAE University
 17. “*Securing Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) through Usage Control Model*” (Co-PI), research grant funded by **UAE University** for the amount of **\$5,500, November 2008**. In this research project, we investigate the shortcoming of the principle security facilities defined in SNMPv3: authentication, privacy, and access control. We also introduce new architecture that implements a new type of access control, called Usage Access control (U-Con), to control the access to the SNMP-based environment at: pre-connection, during connection, and post connection
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Ezedin Barka**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University
 18. “*An Efficient Hierarchical Scheme for MANETs that can Potentially Cover the whole UAE*” (Co-PI), research grant funded by **UAE University** for the amount of **\$8,000, January 2007**. The objective of this project is to design an efficient large scale network, composed of cell phones, laptops, sensors, and other wireless devices, spanning a country like UAE.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Mohsen Guizani**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University

19. “Using Fuzzy-Logic to Detect and Prevent Data Link Layer Attacks on UAEU Networks” (PI), research grant funded by **UAE University** for the amount of **\$8,000, January 2007**. In this research project, we propose a solution to the ARP poisoning problem based on extending the ARP protocol.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Zouheir Trabelsi**, College of IT, UAE University
20. “Biometrics Fingerprint Time Attendance Recorders for UAEU Students” (Co-PI), research grant funded by **UAE University** for the amount of **\$5,500, January 2007**. In this project we design and implement a friendly GUI tool, an AntiSniffer, for detecting malicious sniffing hosts in the UAEU Wireless networks.
 - Principal Investigator (PI): **Zouheir Trabelsi**, College of IT, UAE University
 - Co- Principal Investigator (Co-PI): **Wassim El-Hajj**, College of IT, UAE University

Publications

• **Patents**

1. Inventors: H. Hajj, **W. El-Hajj**, S. Eid (S), M. Ben Saleh, Abdul Fattah Obeid, Syed Mansoor Qazim, “Context-Aware Mobile Personalization System and Methods of Use,” **U.S. Patent No. 10,659,594 May 19, 2020**.
2. Inventors: H. Hajj, **Wassim El-Hajj**, Saeid Eid (S), Mohammed Bensaleh, Abdulfattah Mohammad Obeid, Syed Manzoor Qasim, “System and Method for Multi-Device Continuum and Seamless Sensing Platform for Context Aware Analytics,” **U.S. Patent No. 10,397,355, August 27, 2019**.

• **Journal Publications***

Under Review

1. R. Akhras (S), **W. El-Hajj**, M. Majdalani(S), H. Hajj, R. Jabr, K. Shaban, “Securing Communication in Smart Grids via Ethereum Smart Contracts and Cloud Services,” **submitted to IEEE Transaction on Smart Grid**, 2020. Under Review. (**Impact Factor: 11.18 – Quartile 1**)
2. **W. El-Hajj** and H. Hajj, “An Optimal Approach for Text Feature Selection,” **submitted to Computer Speech and Language**, Under Review, 2020. (**Impact Factor: 2.1 – Quartile 1**)
3. G. Ben Brahim, N. Mohammad, **W. El-Hajj**, G. Parr, B. Scotney, “Performance Evaluation and Comparison Study of Adaptive MANET Service Location & Discovery Protocols for Highly Dynamic Environments,” **submitted to EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking**, 2020, Under Review. (**Impact Factor: 1.83 – Quartile 2**)

ACCEPTED

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- C2. M. Moukalled (S), **W. El-Hajj**, and Mohamad Jaber, “*Automated Stock Price Prediction Using Machine Learning*,” Proceedings of the Second Financial Narrative Processing Workshop (**FNP 2019**), Turku Finland. No. 165. Linköping University Electronic Press, September 30, 2019.
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- C57. **Wasim El-Hajj** and Mohsen Guizani, “*A Fast Distributed and Efficient Virtual Backbone Election in Large Scale MANETs*,” Proc. of **IEEE Globecom** Conference, San Francisco, California, USA, 27 November-1 December 2006, pages 1-6.

- C58. Loay Abusalah (S), Ashfaq A. Khokhar, Ghassen Ben Brahim, and **Wassim El-Hajj**, “TARP: Trust-Aware Routing Protocol,” International Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Conference (**IWCMC 2006**), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6, 2006, pages 135-140.
- C59. **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), Dionysios Kountanis, Ala Al-Fuqaha, and Hani Harbi (S), “Optimal Hierarchical Energy Efficient Design for MANETs,” International Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Conference (**IWCMC 2006**), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6, , 2006, pages 287-292.
- C60. **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), Dionysios Kountanis, Ala Al-Fuqaha, and Mohsen Guizani, “A fuzzy-based Hierarchical Energy Efficient Routing Protocol for Large Scale Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (FEER),” Proc. of IEEE International Conference on Communications (**ICC 2006**), Istanbul, Turkey, June 10-15, 2006.
- C61. **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), Ghassen Ben Brahim (S), Chandra Achalla (S), and Dionysios Kountanis, “A New Algorithm That Improves Network Performance by Maximizing The Number Of Disjoint Paths,” **Congressus Numerantium**, vol. 177, pp 15-24, March 7-11, 2005.
- C62. Dionysios Kountanis, Vatsal S. Gandhi (S), **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), and Ghassen Ben Brahim (S), “A Network Topology With Efficient Balanced Routing,” **Congressus Numerantium**, vol. 177, pp 201-215, March 7-11, 2005.
- C63. **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), Shujun Li (S), Elise De Doncker, and Karlis Kaugars, “Data Format Support for Parallel Numerical Integration,” Proc. of Parallel and Distributed Computing and Systems (**PDCS 2004**), MIT Cambridge, USA November 9-11 2004, pp. 737-742.
- C64. **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), Dionysios Kountanis, and Anupama Raju (S), “Network Congestion Measurement and Control,” **Congressus Numerantium**, vol. 171, pp 105-122, March 8-12, 2004.
- C65. Anupama Raju (S), **Wasim El-Hajj** (S), and Dionysios Kountanis, “Computational Complexity of k-stratified Graph Construction,” **Congressus Numerantium**, vol. 171, pp 207-222, March 8-12, 2004.
- C66. Dionysios Kountanis, Vatsal S. Gandhi (S), **Wasim El-Hajj**, and Anupama Raju (S), “Minimum Steiner Tree Approximation using Binary Image Skeletons,” **Congressus Numerantium**, vol. 168, pp 3-11, March 8-12, 2004.

- **Refereed Book Chapter’s contribution**

1. Nazar Zaki, **Wassim El-Hajj**, Hisham Kamel, Fadi Sibai, “*STRIKE: a protein-protein interaction classification approach*,” in Software Tools and Algorithms for Biological Systems, in the book series: Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology (AEMB), Springer, 2010, 8 pages. (15% acceptance rate).
2. Authored a telecommunication chapter entitled “*Transmission Media*” in a book entitled “Computer Networks and Data Communications with the Internet” by Prof. Mohsen Guizani published by John Wiley and Sons Ltd on September 30, 2005.

Services to AUB and Community

- **University/Department**
 - Appointed as Associate Dean for Students at the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, **Fall 2019-20-ongoing**
 - Elected to serve as the **Computer Science Department Chair** at AUB starting **Sep. 2013-ongoing**
 - Elected as a member of the AUB Senate, **Sep. 2017-Sep. 2020**.
 - Elected as a member of the AUB Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA), **Sep. 2017-Sep. 2018**
 - Elected as a Chair of the AUB Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA), **Feb. 2020-Sep. 2020**
 - AUB Senate Secretary, **Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2019**
 - AUB **Title IX officer**. Acquired Civil Rights Investigator Level Two certificate, 2017-ongoing
 - Chair of the department’s assessment committee, **September 2013-ongoing**
 - Member in the AUB-wide academic assessment committee. **2017-2018**.
 - **Main organizer** of the **2017 ArabWIC 5th Annual International conference** on Arab Women in Computing,

Aug. 2017

- **Main Organizer** of the National VEX Robotics Contest. *March 2016*. https://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/fas_home/Pages/news-vex-robotics-competition-march2016.aspx
 - Initiated a **corporate sponsorship program** between the Computer Science department at AUB and local companies. *2016*
 - **Main Organizer** of a three-days workshop on “Computer Modeling and Simulation” held at AUB in *January 2016*
 - Main Organizer of a three-days workshop on “Enterprise Architecture” held at AUB in *January 2016*
 - Main Organizer of a three-days workshop on “Project Management” held at AUB in *August 2016*
 - Main Organizer of a seminar series entitled “The Practical Challenges of Managing Big Data in the Cloud” held at AUB in *November 2016*
 - Main Organizer of the 5th and 6th ACM Lebanese Collegiate Programming Contest (LCPC 2013: <http://www.cs.aub.edu.lb/lcpc13/> and LCPC 2014: <http://www.cs.aub.edu.lb/lcpc14/>)
 - **Member** of the Computer Science Department **Self-Study Committee** at AUB, *2012-13*.
 - **Member** of the university wide **General Education Committee** at AUB, *2012 - 2013*.
 - **Chair** of the **Book Adoption Committee** at the Computer Science Department, American University of Beirut, *2010 - 2013*.
 - Freshman and Computer Science student **advisor** at AUB, 2011 - ongoing
 - **Member** of the **Undergraduate and Academic Committee** at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, American University of Beirut, *2010*.
 - **Member** of various committees at the college of IT, UAE Universities including: **Outreach Committee**, **Honor Committee**, and **Student Link Committee**, *2006 – 2009*.
 - **Lead programming coach** for 15 Computer Science students at AUB to participate in the Local, Regional, and International ACM Collegiate Programming Contest.
 - **Lead programming coach** for three teams in UAE University that participated in the UAE National Programming Contest 2008 (NPC'08).
 - **Lead organizer** in the UAE National Programming Contest 2008 (NPC'08).
- **Community**
 - Associate Editor of The ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (TALLIP), *Fall 2019-20-ongoing*
 - **Coordinator and curriculum developer** for the Tech for Food program funded by World Food Programme that aims to teach Syrian refugees and underserved Lebanese digital skills *2016-ongoing*.
 - **Design and development of Future Developer Summer Program for students with ages ranging from 10 to 17 years (2016, 2017, and 2018)** - conducted REP-AUB.
 - **Curriculum development for the Faculty of Information & Communication Technology at MUDUN University (2016)** - conducted REP-AUB.
 - **Design and development of Certification Programs for Building Modern Business Applications (2015)** - conducted REP-AUB.
 - **Assessment of the Computer Science department and the Humanities and Social Science electives at Rafic Hariri University, Lebanon (2014)** - conducted REP-AUB.
 - **Computer Science curriculum development for the American University of Abu Dhabi, UAE (2013)** - conducted REP-AUB.
 - **Main Organizer** of the Computer Science for High School (**CS4HS**) workshops conducted in AUB on December 1 and 8, *2012* (<http://www.cs.aub.edu.lb/blossoms/>).
 - **Conference Organization**
 - **General Chair** of the *4th Workshop on Arabic Natural Language Processing (WANLP 2019)*
 - **Program Chair** of The Third Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop (**WANLP-2017**) co-located with EACL 2017, Valencia, Spain. <https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/wanlp2017/>
 - **Co-Chair of the Wireless Sensor Networks Technical Track** in the fourth International Conference on Energy Aware Computing (**ICEAC 2013**).
 - **Publication Chair** in the 3rd International Conference on Communications and Information Technology (**ICCIT 2013**), Beirut, Lebanon 19-21 June, 2013
 - **Publication Chair** in the third International Conference on Energy Aware Computing (**ICEAC 2012**)
 - **Co-chair** of a workshop entitled “*High Performance and Energy-Aware Solutions with Data Mining and Wireless/Mobile Applications*” in conjunction with the 7th international Wireless Communication and Mobile Computing Conference (**IWCMC – 2011**)

- **Co-Chair** of the *Computing Systems track* in the 6th International Conference on Innovations in Information Technology (**Innovations'09**).
- **WEB & IT Chair** in the fourth International Conference on Innovations in Information Technology (**Innovations'07**).
- **Technical Program Committee (TPC)** in WANLP, ICEAC, IWCMC, ISWTA, IEEE WCNC, and WiMAX Technology Workshop.
- **Reviewer** of research proposals submitted to Lebanese National Council of Scientific Research (NCSR), American University of Beirut, University Research Board.
- **Reviewer** of technical papers for IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, IEEE Communications Magazine, International Journal of Vehicular Technology, IEEE Wireless Communication, Security and Communication Networks Journal, Information Sciences, Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Journal, Journal of Computer Systems, Networks, and Communications, IEEE INFOCOM, ICC - International Communications Conference, IEEE Globecom, IEEE WirelessCOM, WANLP, IWCMC, ICCIT, SIECP, IEEE Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering, Optical Networking and wireless communication symposium.
- **President of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE)**, the International Honor Society for the Computing Sciences, at Western Michigan University.
- **IEEE Senior Member** and **ACM Senior Member**.

Industry Experience

- **Western Michigan University (WMU):** January 2001 – July 2006:
Research Doctorate Associate: August 2002 – July 2006:
 - **Distributed Language design and implementation (BOEING research project):** This project consists of the design, analysis, and implementation using C++ of a user friendly language (Predicate Constraint Language (PCL)), which interacts with a proprietary database and uses artificial intelligence tools and procedures. In this project, my task consists of: the design of the grammar using BNF (Backus Naur Form), language types design and implementation, database design and implementation, grammar implementation and integration using **LEX** and **YACC**, and testing the grammar as well as performing performance analysis. PCL is currently being used by Boeing R&D department.
 - **Computer Networks & Telecommunications Lab** setup: Designing, installing, and configuring the telecommunication Lab equipment at WMU. The Computer Networks & Telecommunications lab uses a variety of Cisco **firewalls**, Cisco **routers**, Cisco Aironet **Access Points**, **Hubs**, and **Switches** including: Cisco PIX 515E/501 firewalls, Cisco 1760 and 2620 series routers, Cisco Aironet 1300 Wireless Access Points, Cisco FastHub 424, and Cisco Catalyst 1900 switches. Configuring the Lab equipment was done using IOS commands and Cisco ConfigMaker.
 - **Trust Aware Routing Protocols (TARP)** design: a suite of scalable secure protocols for unicast, multicast and broadcast communication primitives providing “secure” on-demand **wireless ad-hoc routing** service from a source to a destination with desired confidence level.
 - **ParInt** research project: Team member; Design and implementation of an effective interface for ParInt. ParInt is a software package that solves integration problems numerically. It is implemented in a **distributed environment** composed of a cluster of 64 processors operating in parallel. A library called MPI is used to run the ParInt code on many clusters (distributed memory). My task consisted of designing a user friendly interface using XML to facilitate running the ParInt software. Efficient C functions were written to parse and extract the needed information from the XML files.
- **Ten Strategic Consulting Co.:** June 2001 – August 2001:

- Development of a **management information system**. In this project, I developed a system that analyses customer behavior and rates them according to many factors using complex equations. Security was added on top of the system to prevent duplication and misuse of the product.
- **American University of Beirut (AUB):** January 1998 – July 2000:
 - Network Lab administrator.

Software and Hardware Expertise

- **Software:**
 - Mobile Development (Android, iOS, Windows)
 - Programming Languages & Frameworks: .NET Framework, C, C++, JAVA, Python, VB, HTML, CSS, ASP, JavaScript, JQuery, Web Services and Service Oriented Architectures.
 - Network Programming: Socket Programming.
 - Networking Protocols: TCP/IP, IEEE 802.11, WiFi, and WiMax.
 - Networks: UNIX, TCP/IP, VPN configuration.
 - Network Security Protocols: SSH, SSL, Kerberos, ARP, IPSEC, SET, PGP.
 - Performance Evaluation of Telecommunication Systems: NS3, OPNET, LP solver, MATLAB, EXCEL optimization tools.
 - Operating Systems: UNIX (HP, Solaris, AIX), Linux, DOS, Windows NT Server and Workstation.
 - Database Management Systems: Oracle, Microsoft Access.
 - Compiler Tools: Lex, Bison, and Yacc.
 - Parallel Computations: MPI (for distributed memory), and CILK (for shred memory).
- **Hardware:**
 - MICA2/DOT Professional Kit: MOTE-KIT5040 Wireless Sensor Network Kit; a sensor kit used for Monitoring Applications.
 - Cisco equipment: Cisco PIX 515E/501 firewalls, Cisco Aironet 1300 Wireless Access Points, Cisco FastHub 424 hub, Cisco Catalyst 1900 switches, and Cisco 1760 and 2620 series routers.