

JURYREPORT

SURF Security & Privacy Award 2025

The Security & Privacy Award is a token of appreciation for contributions towards keeping education and research environments secure, open, accessible, privacy-friendly, and reliable. It is a tribute to the – often silent – forces working in the field of security and/or privacy in our sector.

The SURF Security & Privacy Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an exceptional effort to strengthen digital safety and privacy within education and research. These are people who, often behind the scenes, ensure a secure, open, and trustworthy digital environment in which students, lecturers, and researchers can function optimally.

About the nominations

The jury, composed of professionals from the field, carefully evaluated the submissions. Ultimately, the jury unanimously selected one winner, whose long-term commitment, unifying strength, and impact on the community did not go unnoticed. This award is not only a recognition from SURF, but especially a token of appreciation from peers who emphasise the importance of his work.

The eight nominees this year had one thing in common: the quality and impact of their work in the area of security and privacy within our community is impressive.

The Security & Privacy Award honours not only the winner, but the field as a whole. The work of the nominees demonstrates that privacy and security are not abstract ideals, but tangible, everyday responsibilities – upheld by passionate professionals committed to public values.

On behalf of the entire jury: congratulations to the winner, and praise to all the nominees. You make the difference.

Ewald Beekman

Amsterdam UMC – IT Security Officer

What the jury says:

Ewald has been a familiar and trusted face within the security community for many years. As the driving force behind SCIRT, the SURF Community of Incident Response Teams, he has not only kept the community together but also played a key role in its formation. The jury commends his impressive track record and broad impact, which extends beyond his own institution.

With a unique combination of technical depth and communication skills, he is able to make complex subjects accessible to a wide audience – from technicians to policymakers. That ability to translate between worlds is both rare and essential, especially within the domain of security and privacy.

He prefers to work behind the scenes, but his influence is anything but invisible. With contagious enthusiasm and impactful contributions – from policy papers to practical tools – he has for years contributed to a safer landscape for education and research. His efforts are the epitome of (partially voluntary) dedication and fully deserve this recognition.

What the community says:

According to his nominations, the winner was not only chair of SCIRT for many years, but also its figurehead and embodiment. He is the glue that connects people and an example of what it means to be a good community member: helpful, approachable, and always willing to share knowledge.

What makes him unique is his ability to contribute both strategically and practically. He co-authored policy documents, and also built hands-on tools and scripts that directly helped solve specific problems. This combination of vision and action, coupled with an always open, friendly, and enthusiastic attitude, makes him a key figure in the sector's security landscape.

His years of dedication, commitment, and ability to connect people make his contribution not only valuable but of immeasurable importance to the entire community.

Samen aanjagen van vernieuwing

The jury

Floor Jas (*chair of the jury*)

Manager Trust & Security, SURF

Martijn Bijleveld

Programme Manager Cybersecurity, MBO Digitaal

Winner Security & Privacy Award 2024

Gunes Acar

Professor Digital Security, Radboud University

Roland van Rijswijk-Deij

Professor Internet Security, University of Twente and Principal Scientist, NLnet Labs

Bert Hubert

Technologist and cybersecurity entrepreneur