



THE CYBER DEFENSE REVIEW

ARMY CYBER INSTITUTE

Special Issue Proposal

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Contact:

Patrick J. Davis, Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Carine Lallemant, Executive Editor

TheCyberDefenseReview@westpoint.edu

Proposing a CDR Special Issue

The Cyber Defense Review welcomes proposals for special issues that bring fresh perspectives and interdisciplinary insight to the evolving landscape of cyber defense. This template is intended to guide prospective guest editors in preparing a clear, well-structured proposal.

Please complete the sections below to help us assess the thematic relevance, editorial vision, and feasibility of your special issue. If you have any questions during the process, feel free to contact the editorial team.

Role of Guest Editors

Guest editors play a central role in shaping and coordinating the special issue. They are responsible for defining the theme, preparing a formal call for papers, and helping to solicit high-quality contributions aligned with the journal's scope. In coordination with the editorial team, they manage the peer review process, ensure the ethical integrity of all submissions, and uphold a clear and realistic timeline for each stage of the issue. While final publication decisions rest with the Editor-in-Chief, guest editors ensure the scholarly coherence, relevance, and quality of the special issue, and are expected to provide an introductory editorial framing the collection.

Expected Commitment and Coordination Guest editors are expected to play an active and sustained role throughout the entire lifecycle of the special issue. Guest editors are also responsible for keeping the issue on schedule and for maintaining clear and timely communication with the editorial office. A high level of coordination and professional conduct is essential to ensure the quality and cohesion of the special issue.

Evaluation Criteria

Special issue proposals will be reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial team based on several key criteria: the relevance and timeliness of the proposed theme in relation to the journal's scope; the originality and intellectual significance of the topic; the clarity and feasibility of the proposed timeline; the academic or professional diversity of the potential contributor pool; and the strength of the editorial vision. Proposals may be accepted as submitted or returned with feedback for revision before a final decision is made.

Special Issue Proposal

1 Scope and Focus of the Special Issue (max. 100 words)

Briefly summarize the central theme and objectives of the special issue. What is the core topic or question it addresses? Why is this important for the field of cyber defense?

2 Rationale and Timeliness (max. 500 words)

Explain why this special issue is timely and relevant. What current events, emerging technologies, policy shifts, or intellectual developments make this an opportune moment to address the proposed theme? How does it align with current debates in cyber defense and strategy?

3 Qualifications of the Guest Editors

Describe why the proposers are well-positioned to lead this special issue. Include a brief summary of relevant editorial experience, prior publications, and/or professional or academic expertise in the topic area. You may attach brief CVs or short bios if helpful.

4 List of Key Potential Contributors

Provide a preliminary list of scholars, practitioners, or experts who may be invited to submit to the special issue. This list is non-binding but should demonstrate the intellectual and professional network surrounding the topic.

Note that papers submitted to a special issue by the guest editor(s) themselves will be handled under an independent review process and should make up no more than 25% of the issue's total.

5 List of Potential Peer Reviewers

Submitted papers should be reviewed by at least two (ideally three) qualified, independent reviewers. They will be invited to provide a written report, which will be shared with the authors. Please include a preliminary list of potential peer-reviewers including their names and affiliations (they do not need to have been contacted or confirmed). This list will help us assess the strength of your professional network and the feasibility of securing qualified reviewers for the proposed topic.

6 Draft Call for Papers (max. 1000 words)

Include the draft of the call for papers that will be used to publicly solicit submissions. The call should clearly articulate the theme, scope, submission timeline, and relevance to the journal's readership. Ensure it is inclusive and intellectually inviting.

7 Schedule and Editorial Plan

Outline the key milestones for the special issue: planned release date, CFP launch timeline, abstract deadlines (if applicable), submission and review deadlines, and any relevant conferences or events where the CFP will be shared. Describe how the review process will be managed and coordinated with the journal's editorial team.

As a general guide for planning your timeline:

- *Allow time to recruit reviewers — initial invitations typically request a response within 7 days.*
- *Submitted papers should be reviewed by at least two qualified, independent reviewers. They provide a written report, which will be shared with the authors.*
- *Peer reviewers are typically given 3 weeks to complete their reviews*
- *For revised submissions, authors should be given at least 30 days for major revisions and 20 days for minor ones. Corrections can be requested within a week.*
- *Once a revised manuscript is received, reviewers are given 10 days to 2 weeks to confirm the revisions are satisfactory or to ask for further changes.*
- *Please anticipate occasional extension requests from both reviewers and authors, which the editorial team generally grants if reasonable.*

Envisioned timeline:

- Call for Papers publication:
- Abstract deadline (if applicable):
- Submissions due:
- Initial review period:
- Notification to authors:
- Revised version due:
- Special issue published:

Please note that while guest editors may propose a provisional timeline, the final schedule will be determined in coordination with and subject to approval by the journal's editorial team.