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**Computer Laboratory**

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Dear Professor Pollack,

**Reference for Stuart Schechter**

I am delighted to write a strong reference for Stuart Schechter.

One of the really exciting developments in information security over the past five years has been the emergence of information security economics as a discipline. We began to realise that most security failures did not happen as a result of technical errors, but because incentives were misaligned; often, the people guarding a system were not those who suffered when it failed. It turns out that microeconomic analysis is just as important to the security engineer as cryptanalysis.

Stuart has been a colleague in developing this field, and has contributed a number of important insights. He first came to attention with a suggestion that vulnerability markets might provide an efficient way of evaluating the quality of software; this now happens, with two firms buying vulnerability information on key software products and making it available to their customers early. Recently he has come up with another angle – extending security economics to dependability, in his now famous paper that asks whether software gets better with age. Is software more like milk, or more like wine?

I had no hesitation in inviting him to serve on the program committee of WEIS (the Workshop on the Economics of Information Security) and I have no hesitation recommending that you hire him. He is the man to complement the research line you've built over the last 15 years in the economics of systems and link it with your security research too.

Yours sincerely,

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