SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Information & Communication Technologies
Trustworthy ICT

NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE



A European Network of Excellence in Managing Threats and Vulnerabilities in the Future Internet: *Europe for the World*

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1 Executive Summary

This report summarizes the dissemination activities carried out by the *Sys-Sec* project in the September 2013–November 2014 period. Specifically, in the following pages we will list the papers presented by the consortium in conferences as well as the presentations related to the project made at various events and forums. Any additional coverage of the project by the press and online media is also presented in this document.

During this final year of *SysSec* the consortium published a total of 62 peer-reviewed papers, plus 34 presentations, talks and seminars.

Moreover, we organized an international school, we interacted with the international press, and with other projects and researchers.

The overall dissemination output of *SysSec* is an indication of the global excellence and recognition of the project partners.

2 Conference and journal papers

Following is the list of peer-reviewed papers that were presented or published in the period September 2013–November 2014.

[1] Thanasis Petsas, Antonis Papadogiannakis, Michalis Polychronakis, Evangelos P. Markatos, and Thomas Karagiannis. Rise of the Planet of the Apps: A Systematic Study of the Mobile App Ecosystem. In Proceedings of the ACM SIGCOMM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), Barcelona, Spain, October 2013.

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3 Conference and journal papers that will appear in the near future

Although they were not reported in our bimonthly reports, because by policy we reported only papers presented during the project, we would like to present a list of peer-reviewed papers that were prepared and submitted during the *SysSec* project, which are accepted and are going to appear in future conferences and journal issues. These, even if not technically claimed as project papers, are nevertheless positive results and impact of the project.

[1] Dennis Andriesse Herbert Bos Cristiano Giuffrida Xi Chen, Asia Slowinska. **StackArmor: Comprehensive protection from stack-based memory error vulnerabilities for binaries.** In *Proceedings of NDSS'15*, February 2015.

Local copy: papers/notyetavailable

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/nNa#notyetavailable

[2] Istvan Haller Matthias Neugschwandtner, Paolo Milani Comparetti and Herbert Bos. **The borg: Nanoprobing binaries for buffer overreads.** In *Proceedings of CODASPY*, San Antonio, Texas, March 2015.

Local copy: papers/notyetavailable

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/nNa#notyetavailable

[3] Herbert Bos Xi Chen, Asia Slowinska. On the detection of custom memory allocators in c binaries. Empirical Software Engineering, 2015.

Local copy: papers/notyetavailable

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/nNa#notyetavailable

[4] Valentin Tudor, Magnus Almgren, and Marina Papatriantafilou. Harnessing the unknown in advanced metering infrastructure traffic. In *Proceedings of the 30th ACM Symposium On Applied Computing*, SAC '15, New York, NY, USA, 2015. ACM.

16

Local copy: papers/notyetavailable

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/nNa#notyetavailable

4 Talks, seminars and presentations

[1] Zlatogor Minchev. Cyber Risks & Threats. State of the Art & Future trends (A Comprehensive Methodological Overview with Examples). At NATO Regional Summer School on Cyber Defence (RSSCD), Ohrid, FYROM, October 2013.

Local copy: talks/ZM_NATO_RSSCD_Ohrid_Talk.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#ZM_NATO_RSSCD_Ohrid_Talk.pdf

[2] Federico Maggi. AndroTotal: A Scalable Framework for Android Antimalware Testing. At Conference on Telecommunications and IT Security (SECURE), Warszawa, Poland, October 2013.

Local copy: talks/fm_andrototal_secure2013.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#fm_andrototal_secure2013.pdf

[3] Zlatogor Minchev Stiliyan Georgiev. An Evolutionary Prototyping for Smart Home Inhabitants Wearable Biomonitoring. At Conjoint Scientific Seminar Modelling & Control of Information Processes, Sofia, Bulgaria, November 2013.

Local copy: talks/sg_zm_talk_imi_19_nov_2013.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#sg_zm_talk_imi_19_nov_2013.pdf

[4] Zlatogor Minchev. Cybersecurity Research Experience and Development Perspectives in the Modern Security Environment. At International Conference Smart Defence, Cybersecurity and Open Doors Policy: The New Euro-Atlantic Security Synergies, PanEuropa - Bulgaria with NATO Public Diplomacy Division support, European Commission Residence, Sofia, Bulgaria, November 2013.

Local copy: talks/zm_paneuropa_conf_talk_27_nov_2013.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_paneuropa_conf_talk_27_nov_2013.pdf

[5] Stefano Zanero. **Tracking and Characterizing Botnets Using Automatically Generated Domain**. At *Stevens Institute of Technology, CS Department*, Hoboken, New Jersey, November 2013.

Local copy: talks/sz-talk-stevens-19-nov.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#sz-talk-stevens-19-nov.pdf

[6] Federico Maggi. Modern Botnets and the Rise of Automatically Generated Domains. At *INFOSEK*, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, November 2013.

Local copy: talks/fm_botnets_infosek2013.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#fm_botnets_infosek2013.pdf

[7] Federico Maggi. **AndroTotal: A Scalable Framework for Android Antivirus Testing**. At *INFOSEK*, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, November 2013.

 $Local\ copy:\ talks/fm_andrototal_infosek2013.pdf$

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#fm_andrototal_infosek2013.pdf

[8] Luben Boyanov Zlatogor Minchev. **Smart Homes Cyberthreats Identification Based on Interactive Training**. At *ICAICTSEE 2013, University of National and World Economy*, Sofia, Bulgaria, December 2013.

Local copy: talks/zm_lb_smart_home_unwe_icaictsee_2013_talk_6_dec_2013.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_lb_smart_home_unwe_icaictsee_2013_talk_6_dec_2013.pdf

[9] Federico Maggi. Malicious Android Apps: Overview, Status and Dilemmas. At *Qualcomm*, San Diego, USA, January 2014.

Local copy: talks/fm_android_malware_qualcomm.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#fm_android_malware_qualcomm.pdf

[10] Stefano Zanero. **Behavior-based Methods for Automated, Scalable Malware Analysis**. At *INRIA*, Rennes, France, February 2014.

Local copy: talks/Zanero-INRIA.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#Zanero-INRIA.pdf

[11] Evangelos Markatos. The rise of the Big Data era: The case for Network Monitoring. At SWITCH, Zurich, Switzerland, March 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-ETHZ-March31.pptx
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-ETHZ-March31.pptx

[12] Zlatogor Minchev and Suzan Feimova. Modern Social Networks Emerging Cyber Threats Identification: A Practical Methodological Framework with Examples. At 6th AFCEA Sixth Young Scientists Conference 'Future of ICT', Bucharest, Romania, March 2014.

Local copy: talks/ZM_SF_6_AFCEA_Conf_Bucharest_march_2014.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#ZM_SF_6_AFCEA_Conf_Bucharest_march_2014.pdf

pdf

[13] Magnus Almgren, Zhang Fu, Vincenzo Gulisano, Marina Papatriantafilou, and Valentin Tudor. **Cybersecurity and Data Management in the Smart Grid**. At *Big Data Area of Advance Initiative Seminar*, Gothenburg, Sweden, March 2014.

Local copy: talks/cybersecurity_big_data_seminar_poster_2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#cybersecurity_big_data_seminar_poster_2014.pdf

[14] Sotiris Ioannidis. **The Cost of Cyber-Insecurity**. At Safety & Security in Cyber Space: Building up Trust in the EU conference, Athens, Greece, March 2014.

Local copy: talks/sotiris-cost-of-cyber-insecurity.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#sotiris-cost-of-cyber-insecurity.pdf

[15] Evangelos Markatos. **Secure ICT Landscape Deliverable**. At *NIS WG3 3rd meeting*, Brussels, Belgium, April 2014.

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[16] Zlatogor Minchev. **Identification of Future Cyber Threats: Research Experience and Development Perspectives**. At Ninth Scientific Conference of the International Information Security Research Consortium, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, April 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_garmish_talk_april_24_2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_garmish_talk_april_24_2014.pdf

[17] Evangelos Markatos. **Secure ICT Landscape Deliverable**. At *Trust In The Digital World conference*, Vienna, Austria, April 2014.

Local copy: talks/INT_TrustInDigitalWorld_20140408_LandscapeDeliverable_Markatos. ppt

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#INT_TrustInDigitalWorld_20140408_LandscapeDeliverable_Markatos.ppt

[18] Zlatogor Minchev and Emil Kelevedjiev. **Multicriteria Assessment Scale of Future Cyber threats Identification**. At *International Conference 'Mathematics Days in Sofia'*, Sofia, Bulgaria, July 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_ek_mds_2014_talk_july_2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_ek_mds_2014_talk_july_2014.pdf

[19] Zlatogor Minchev. Virtual Assistants in Modern Cyber World . Challenges & Threats. At XIV Summer School on Mathematics and Informatics (LISH14), Varna, Bulgaria, August 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_lish14_course_talk_varna_aug_2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_lish14_course_talk_varna_aug_2014.pdf

[20] Evangelos Markatos. **Hot topics in Security Research - the Red Book**. At *ForToo Final Workshop*, Brussels, Belgium, August 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-fortoo-workshop-30-9-2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-fortoo-workshop-30-9-2014.pdf

[21] Sotiris Ioannidis. **Security and Privacy Research Challenges**. At *ERCIM Security and Privacy expert group*, Wroclaw, Poland, September 2014.

Local copy: talks/sotiris-ERCIM.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#sotiris-ERCIM.pdf

[22] Zlatogor Minchev. Audio-Visual Entrainment Influence on Postural Dynamics. At International Workshop on Posture, Balance & the Brain, Thessaloniki, Greece, September 2014.

Local copy: talks/ZM_Thessaloniki_Talk_13_09_2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#ZM_Thessaloniki_Talk_13_09_2014.pdf

[23] Evangelos Markatos. **Hot topics in Security Research - the Red Book**. At *FIRE Final Event*, Brussels, Belgium, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-FIRE-workshop-13-10-2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-FIRE-workshop-13-10-2014.pdf

[24] Evangelos Markatos. **Stream - Oriented Network Packet Capture. Hot topics in Security Research - The Red Book**. At *HIPEAC*, Athens, Greece, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-hipeac-athens-10-10-2014.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-hipeac-athens-10-10-2014.pdf

[25] Evangelos Markatos. **Secure ICT Landscape Deliverable**. At *NIS WG3 meeting*, Florence, Italy, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-NIS-WG3-meeting-Lanscape-Deliverable-October-8th.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-NIS-WG3-meeting-Lanscape-Deliverable-October-8th.pdf

[26] Zlatogor Minchev and Luben Boyanov. **Interactive Virtual Avatars. Design & Application Challenges for Future Smart Homes.** At *ICAICTSEE - 2014, University of National and World Economy*, Sofia, Bulgaria, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_lb_smart_home_unwe_ICAICTSEE_2014_talk.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_lb_smart_home_unwe_ICAICTSEE_2014_talk.pdf

[27] Milena Tulechka Luben Boyanov Zlatogor Minchev, Vladimir Dimitrov. Multimedia as an Emerging Cyberthreat in Modern Social Networks. At International Conference "Automatics & Informatics '14, Sofia, Bulgaria, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_vd_mt_lb_a_i_2014_talk.pdf
Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_vd_mt_lb_a_i_2014_talk.pdf

[28] Stefano Zanero. Automatic, unsupervised, scalable extraction and semantic tagging of (interesting) behaviors. At *Microsoft BlueHat Conference*, Seattle, WA, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zanero-bluehat-jackdaw.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zanero-bluehat-jackdaw.pdf

[29] Stefano Zanero. Automatic, unsupervised, scalable extraction and semantic tagging of (interesting) behaviors. At *Hack In The Box security conference*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zanero-jackdaw-HITB.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zanero-jackdaw-HITB.pdf

[30] Stefano Zanero. **PHOENIX & CERBERUS: We haz botnets!**. At *Microsoft BlueHat Conference*, Seattle, WA, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zanero-bluehat-phoenix.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zanero-bluehat-phoenix.pdf

[31] Stefano Zanero. Automatic, unsupervised, scalable extraction and semantic tagging of (interesting) behaviors. At *Invited talk, Waseda University*, Tokyo, Japan, October 2014.

Local copy: talks/zanero-waseda.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zanero-waseda.pdf

[32] Evangelos Markatos. **Privacy-Preserving Social Plugins**. At *MIT DB Group*, Cambridge, England, November 2014.

Local copy: talks/markatos-mit.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#markatos-mit.pdf

[33] Zlatogor Minchev. **Human Factor Dual Role in Modern Cyberspace Social Engineering**. At *NATO Advanced Training Course "Terrorist Use of Cyberspace"*, Ohrid, FYROM, December 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_talk_nato_atc_dec_9_2014.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_talk_nato_atc_dec_9_2014.pdf

[34] Zlatogor Minchev and Plamen Gatev. Audio-Visual Entrainment Application in Smart Environment for Users Psychophysiological Response Methodological Study. At Jubilee Scientific Conference "Neuroscience - from Theory to Experiment", Sofia, Bulgaria, December 2014.

Local copy: talks/zm_pg_inb_jub_conf_talk_dec_4_2014.pdf

Online: http://syssec-project.eu/jNa#zm_pg_inb_jub_conf_talk_dec_4_2014.pdf

5 2nd Summer School

The 2nd *SysSec* Summer School¹ took place at Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam, Thursday September 25 to Friday September 26, 2014. Its main topic was **Mobile Malware** with a special focus on **reverse-engineering** and analyzing Android malware.

¹ http://www.syssec-project.eu/events/summer-school-2014/

One of the goals of the 2014 SysSec Summer School was to be light in theory and rich in practical exercises. We wanted the students to **learn from the experts** and **develop skills** in analyzing mobile malware. The first day focused on general static and dynamic application analysis with lectures and practical exercises, while the second day focused on lectures highlighting more advanced techniques in dynamic analysis. Also, towards the end of the summerschool, a malware competition was held for the participants.

5.1 Attendance

The registration for the Summer School opened on July 23 with announcements through our social media channels and to our mailing lists in the following couple of days. In that period a total of about 55 participants expressed their interest to participate. The number of applications exceeded the capacity of the rooms available for the event, so we had to close the registration and create a waiting list. After changing the arrangements for the rooms, we managed to admit 42 of these to the Summer School.

The school was free for students affiliated with an academic institution. All participants had to cover their travel and local costs themselves. Having to pay for one's own costs didn't seem to bar any students from attending, which is an indication that they found the speakers and topics so interesting and useful for their future.

5.2 Organization Committee

The summer school organizing committee was the following.

- Program Chair: Sotiris Ioannidis, FORTH
- Local Arrangement Chair: Victor van der Veen, VU University Amsterdam
- Program Committee:
 - Magnus Almgren, Chalmers University of Technology
 - Davide Balzarotti, Institut Eurecom
 - Herbert Bos, VU University Amsterdam
 - Christian Platzer, Vienna University of Technology

5.3 Speakers & Programme

We had six different speakers. The list of speakers and their affiliations were as following:

• Elias Athanasopoulos, FORTH

Day 1: Introductory tutorial, tools, and static analysis

	<u> </u>	
Welcome and VM installation	45'	
Session I - Introduction and meta-data analysis	105'	
Elias Athanasopoulos	100	
Session II - Static analysis	105′	
Federico Maggi	109	
Session III - Dynamic analysis	75′	
Matthias Neugschwandtner	19	
Session IV - Current and future research	60/	
Herbert Bos	UU	

Day 2: Dynamic analysis, revision, and future directions

Session V - Advanced dynamic analysis	3h	
Victor van der Veen	3H	
Session VI - Evading dynamic analysis environments	100′	
Thanasis Petsas	100	
Session VII - CTF competition	105′	
Federico Maggi	100	

Table 1: Programme of the 2nd SysSec Summer School

- Federico Maggi, PoliMi
- Matthias Neugschwandtner, TUV
- Herbert Bos, VU University Amsterdam
- Victor van der Veen, VU University Amsterdam
- Thanasis Petsas, FORTH

The topics covered in the two days can be seen in Table 1.



Figure 1: Elias Athanasopoulos giving an introduction to the Android ecosystem.

5.3.1 Covered Topics

Day 1: The tutorials and lectures held during the first day of the summerschool, covered an introduction to the Android operating system and ways to analyze Android applications. Elias Athanasopoulos explained the Android ecosystem and presented the Android Emulator, as well as the required tools which were used throughout the summerschool (see Figure 1).

During the second session of the first day, Federico Maggi presented the Dalvik virtual machine (see Figure 2), a fundamental part of Android OS that executes the Android applications. Federico taught students how to disassemble, decompile, unpack and modify functionality of Dalvik bytecode of Android applications.

Finally, Matthias Neugschwandtner discussed about the importance of dynamic analysis in application malware analysis. Matthias also presented Andrubis, an extension for Anubis which is designed to analyze unknown Android applications (APKs) and AndroTotal, a free service that allows researchers to automatically scan Android apps against various Android AV products.



Figure 2: Federico Maggi is about to teach Android malware static analysis.

After each tutorial, the students were given various challenges, e.g., to reverse engineer and analyze a set of suspicious applications. There were also walkthroughs to explain how solutions should be implemented. During the exercises, tutors also walked around helping students with the fulfilment of the given exercises (see Figure 3).

Day 2: The second day, the lectures focused on highlighting more advanced techniques in dynamic analysis of mobile applications. Victor Van Der Veen introduced advanced malware tactics, such as dynamic code loading and permission circumvention. Victor also presented in detail the Trace-Droid platform, a dynamic analysis tool for Android applications (see Figure 4).

During the second session of the second day, Thanasis Petsas taught students techniques on evading dynamic-analysis environments (see Figure 5). After the tutorial, students were given a custom app with malicious functionality. The challenge was to hide this functionality by patching the bytecode of the app with a simple VM-evasion technique. At the end, students have to submit both the original and the repackaged application to an online analysis service (e.g., Andrubis) in order to draw conclusions.

Towards the end of the school, a malware competition was held for the participants. Students were divided in four teams. For each team, there was a team leader with experienced skills in Android/Java coding. A benign application with many permissions was given to the teams. The first challenge for the teams, was to hide a malicious functionality of their choice inside the application. All teams had to complete the challenge and put the malicious application in a USB stick within a specific time frame. After that, each



Figure 3: Tutors helping students during the hands-on exercises.

team exchanged applications with another team. By using reverse engineering techniques, teams had to identify the malicious functionality of the given applications and infer what the other team had done. At the end, each team leader presented the findings of his team and the committee announced the winner. The criteria were based on the creativity of the teams and the sophistication of techniques used for hiding the malicious functionality inside the applications.

5.3.2 Evaluation of the Summer School

After the end of the school we asked the students to fill an online evaluation survey to get a more accurate picture of what they thought about the event. Overall, the impression we got was that students liked the Summer School.

So far², the students have rated the Summer School with an average of 4.27/5. The lowest score, given by one students, was 3. By the given ratings (on individual days), students seemed to appreciate most the advanced topics of the second day. The second day had a malware competition before the closing of the summer school. All participants really enjoyed the challenge of the competition and were excitedly awaiting the results. The average score for the second day was 4.5/5. For the first day the average score was 4/5, with 6 people giving it a mark of 3.

²At the time of writing of this report we haven't yet received responses from all students.



Figure 4: Victor Van Der Veen presenting the TraceDroid platform.

6 Other Dissemination Activities

6.1 Cooperation with other research groups and institutions

• Cooperation with the European Internet Foundation: Stefano Zanero participated as a guest speaker and discussant in a

workshop organized at the European Parliament by the European Internet Foundation³ (EIF).

The mission of the EIF is to help provide European political leadership for the development of European multilateral public policies responsive to the political, economic and social challenges of the world-wide digital revolution.

The workshop was organized to kickstart the "Digital World in 2030" report preparation. We contributed to the Socio-political Dimension Workshop, bringing to the table insights from the SysSec roadmap and Red Book.

URL: http://bit.ly/ZvbwED

 Ali Rezaki (TUBITAK-BILGEM - SysSec member) elected as the Vice-Chair of the WPISP bureau for 2014:

OECD, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI), Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP) looks at cyber-

³European Internet Foundation: http://www.eifonline.org/



Figure 5: Thanasis Petsas is teaching techniques on how to evade dynamicanalysis on Android platform.

security and privacy matters from an economic and social perspective⁴.

The WPISP produces public policy strategies and recommendations on security and privacy for the digital economy. It comprises of OECD member country delegations as well as representatives from the business, civil society and Internet technical communities. The WPISP is supported by the OECD Secretariat and a bureau elected by the Working Party each year. Ali Rezaki has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the WPISP bureau for 2014. From the beginning of 2014 the name for WPISP has been changed as the Working Party on Security and Privacy in the Digital Economy (WPSPDE).

6.2 Co-organization and support of events

The *SysSec* consortium actively supported several key European events and conferences. In particular, this year we supported the **7**th **European Workshop on Systems Security**.

It was held on April 13, 2014 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The workshop (which is associated with the Annual ACM SIGOPS EuroSys conference⁵) focuses in discussion of novel, practical, systems-oriented work.

It is the **third consecutive year** that *SysSec* is contributing to the organization of the workshop. EuroSec 2014 is co-chaired by Davide Balzarotti

 $^{^{4}} http://www.oecd.org/sti/whatistheoecdworking partyon information security and privacy wp is party of the property of th$

⁵http://eurosys2014.vu.nl/



Figure 6: CTF competition



Figure 7: EuroSec 2014 promotional poster.

(Eurecom - *SysSec* member) and Juan Caballero (IMDEA Software Institute - *SysSec Associate Member*).

SysSec provided hosting and support for the workshop website and paper submission facility. Additionally, the communication channels of the project (*SysSec Constituency* mailing list and Twitter community) have been used to promote the event and all partners were encouraged to submit their work to the venue.

The event was held on April 13, 2014 in Amsterdam. During the workshop, two invited talks were given by Ahmad-Reza Sadeghi (Technische Universität Darmstadt) and Angelo Dell'Aera (Honeynet Project). Overall, the feedback received from the attendees was positive. After the end of the workshop the chairs acknowledged and thanked SysSec members for their continued support to the workshop.

URL: http://www.syssec-project.eu/eurosec-2014/

6.3 Presence at international events

The *SysSec* consortium was invited to present in multiple large international events, among which:

• Participation to the High level conference on the EU Cybersecurity Strategy:

Antonis Krithinakis, Meltini Christodoulaki and Magnus Almgren participated on behalf of the project to the High level conference on the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, held in Brussels on 28th February, 2014. The conference discussed the progress achieved in the year after the publication of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy.

The event took place in the main hall of the Charlemagne building where a large foyer at the entrance was used for stands and posters. We organized a booth to present the progress and outcomes of the *SysSec* project.

During the conference, the participants had the opportunity to learn about *SysSec* research activities and practice on how to use our Andro-Total web service for evaluating antivirus solutions in Android Market. Additionally, hard copies of the Red Book were distributed at the conference while we also gave the opportunity to anyone interested to provide a postal address for receiving a copy of the book in the future.

• SysSec mention at the Cyberspace Security - High-level Visit of Key Opinion Leaders:

In the period 7-9 July, 2014, Dr. Zlatogor Minchev was invited to take part in 'Cyberspace Security - High-level Visit of Key Opinion Leaders' as Bulgarian representative in the international delegation. The





Figure 8: The *SysSec* booth at the High level conference on the EU Cybersecurity Strategy.



Figure 9: SysSec poster.

event was organized by NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Engagement Section and includes eight nations' key experts' visits to NATO HQs, Brussels and SHAPE, Mons, both in Belgium, together with NATO Cyberspace Security Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia. During the event, Dr. Minchev shared his experience in the field of cyber security, accentuating on computer assisted strategic concepts validation and human factor analysis role in the cyber space. The visits were in the context of the Alliance cyber space security and defence progressive plans and the upcoming NATO Summit in Wales for September, 2014.

6.4 Presence in the media

SysSec appeared in the following traditional and online media.

• January 2014 issue of ERCIM News had a special theme on Smart Energy Systems (see Figure 10). *SysSec* contributed to the edition with an article titled "*Cybersecurity in the Smart Grid*" authored by Magnus Almgren (Chalmers), Davide Balzarotti (Eurécom), Marina Papatriantafilou (Chalmers) and Valentin Tudor (Chalmers). The article argues on the importance of transferring knowledge from the domain of ICT security to the domain of Smart Grids. It points that efforts like *SysSec* and CRISALIS⁶ could play an important role in developing cross-domain expertise in ICT security and power engineering.

URL: http://ercim-news.ercim.eu/en92/special/cybersecurity-in-the-smart-grid

• July 2014 issue of ERCIM News had a special theme on Smart Cities (see Figure 10). *SysSec* contributed to the edition with an article titled "When Smart Cities meet Big Data" authored by Vincenzo Gulisano (Chalmers), Magnus Almgren (Chalmers) and Marina Papatriantafilou (Chalmers).

The article argues that sharing information is a key enabler in the transition of a city becoming smart. Information, generated by the ICT backbone of a city, and maintained by distinct public and private entities, comes with processing challenges that must be addressed in order to increase citizens' quality of life and make their cities sustainable.

The article points that efforts like *SysSec* and CRISALIS⁷ investigate such challenges from a security perspective in order to protect and enhance smart cities' sensitive infrastructures.

URL: http://ercim-news.ercim.eu/en98/special/when-smart-cities-meet-big-data

⁶http://www.crisalis-project.eu/

⁷http://www.crisalis-project.eu/

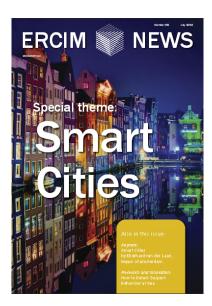


Figure 10: ERCIM News 98 July 2014, Special theme: Smart Cities

- 06/09/2013. **Erland Jonsson (Chalmers)** had an interview on Swedish national radio, where he commented on the leaks about NSA. You can listen to the interview or read the transcript online.
- 12/09/2013. **Herbert Bos (VU Amsterdam)** had an Interview on Business News Radio (BNR) about **hackers**. You can listen to the interview online.
- 21/09/2013. **Herbert Bos (VU Amsterdam)** had an interview in NRC.next, a Dutch language newspaper.
- 18/10/2013. **Herbert Bos (VU Amsterdam)** had a long interview on national radio Hoe? Zo! Radio (NTR), in which he commented about **cybercrime** and **cybercriminals**. You can listen to the interview or read the transcript online.
- SysSec mention at the PanEuropa International Conference:
 - The efforts of SysSec consortium were also noted by *Computerworld Bulgaria* concerning NATO, EU and collective cyberdefence problems posted by Dr. Zlatogor Minchev and marking the *Red Book* publication trends together with national cybersecurity strategy preparation and regional cooperation efforts. The discussion was organized from PanEuropa Bulgaria during the international conference "Smart Defence, Cybersecurity and Open Doors Policy: The New Euro-Atlantic Security Synergies" welcomed by EC vice-president Neelie KROES.

7 Community-building activities

7.1 SysSec Constituency

During the final year, we kept expanding our dissemination base (which we call the SysSec "Constituency"). This is not just a mailing list, but a list of people with which we have direct connections, and who specifically wished to be informed of our activities.

At the end of this reporting period, we had a total of **240 people subscribed**⁸.

So far, the dissemination list has a pivotal role in the promotion of both *SysSec* scientific output as well as the promotion of events and activities. Some of the ocassions where we used the list include, the kickstarting our associate members program (see Section 7.2), the promotion of our workshops and hosted events and most important the announcment of the *SysSec* Red Book.

7.2 SysSec Associate Members

At the end of the second year of *SysSec*, we had announced our *Associate Members* (AMs) initiative with the goal to strengthen and expand our community. We saw this initiative as an opportunity which would allow *SysSec* to evolve from a community of loosely related members to a *scientific association of affiliated members*.

Applications for new *SysSec Associate Members* were received through our website. In order to strengthen our ties with the Associate Members and encourage people to apply, we came up with several incentives for them:

- Being eligible for *SysSec* scholarships.
- Access to the *SysSec* course repository and will be able to contribute course material as well.
- First to receive hard copies of the *SysSec* Red Book.
- Invitations to online consultations related to SysSec roadmapping efforts.
- Invitations to meetings (such as workshops and summer schools) and the travel expenses of some of them may be covered by the project.

Applications to become an AM were evaluated on a bimonthly basis. After the final round of evaluation, **our AM community currently lists 85**

⁸This figure excludes the *SysSec* partners and Working Group members.

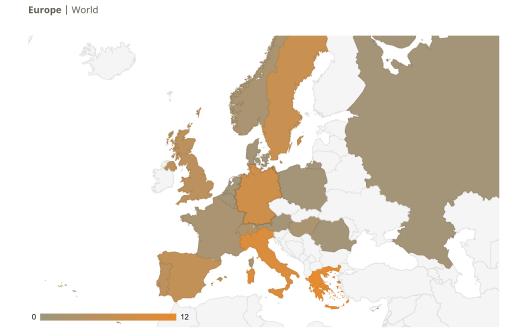


Figure 11: *SysSec Associate Members* across Europe. We have covered the major part of the continent and we hope to be able to expand further in the next year.

members from around the world. Figure 11 shows the number of members we have across Europe⁹.

8 SysSec website and social media

8.1 Website management

We kept updating the project website, adding also event-specific websites for events we supported such as EuroSec 2014 and EuroSec 2015. One of our contributions was the design, hosting and support of their websites. The websites are hosted under the main *SysSec* websites, but use a different theme

Responding to comments received during conferences, we decided we should make our website more friendly to mobile devices such as tablets and phones. Towards this end we replaced the *960.gs* framework which we had initially used with the *Bootstrap* framework. Both frameworks layout the website content on a *grid*, so transition was straightforward. However Bootstrap comes loaded with a lot more components for common use cases.

⁹A world map which also includes AMs from outside Europe is featured on our website: http://www.syssec-project.eu/community/members/.





Figure 12: Default iPhone view of the *SysSec* website news section when using the *960.gs* (left) and *Bootstrap* (right) frameworks. We can see that with Bootstrap the contents are automatically scaled to a size comfortable for reading without the user having to zoom-in manually.

The most important of these is the *responsive layout* component, which automatically reflows the page contents to fit the display of the visitor's device (see Figure 12).

8.2 Visitors & Trends

The visits to the *SysSec* website per month can be seen in Figure 13. We can see that a total of *44,713 visits* were recorded for the whole duration of the project. This means that we had an approximate of *more than 28 visits per day*.

The pages viewed by the visitors of our website appear in Figure 14. Naturally enough, the front page of the website dominate the page views. It also seems that there is a considerable interest in our *Publications* and *Presentations* section. These pages were the most frequently updated, so it was expected to rank high in views.

8.3 Documents downloads

Perhaps more important than the statistics about the visits to the pages of our website is how much material was downloaded from it. This is because most of the output of the project is published online as pdf documents and not html pages.

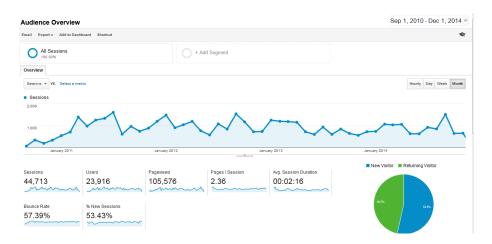


Figure 13: Visits to the *SysSec* website.

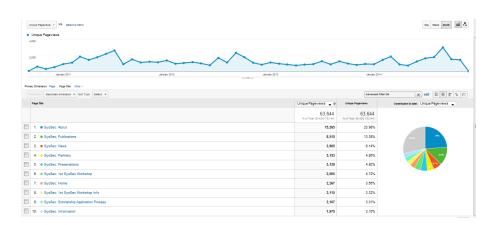


Figure 14: Unique pageviews of the website content.

The first year of the project a total of 7,937 copies of documents were downloaded from the SysSec website, out of the 116 published documents.

The second year of the project a total of 18,324 copies of documents were downloaded from the SysSec website, out of a total of 200 published documents. This means that the number of downloads increased by 130% compared to the first project year or that each unique visitor downloaded approximately 3 documents.

The third year of the project a total of 42,708 copies of documents were downloaded from the SysSec website, out of a total of 265 published documents. This represents more than twice (133%) the number of downloads we had in the second year of the project and three times the number of downloads we had in the first year.

The fourth year of the project and the three months of the project extension a total of 100,547 copies of documents were downloaded from the SysSec website, out of a total of 406 published documents. The number of downloads is increased by 135% compared to the third year.

8.3.1 Downloads per document category

To gain some insight on the preferences of our website visitors we categorized the documents we made available to the following categories:

- *Publications*: *SysSec* sponsored papers published by the consortium in peer reviewed conferences and journals.
- *Presentations*: Presentations made by the consortium in events related to the project.
- *Deliverables*: The deliverables produced by the project, as outlined in the description of work document.
- Other: Everything else. This includes material from hosted events (EuroSec, DIMVA 2012, etc.), clippings from SysSec related articles in magazines, and papers, presentations as well as organization information from events organized by SysSec. This includes the SysSec summer schools and workshops.

Figure 15 shows how many documents were downloaded from each category. We can see that the publications are dominant, which is indicative of the quality research conducted by the SysSec consortium.

In deliverable D2.2¹⁰ we provide more details on document downloads per category we had throughout the duration of the project and we present web statistics for the RedBook website and the number of downloads of the book.

¹⁰http://syssec-project.eu/d2.2

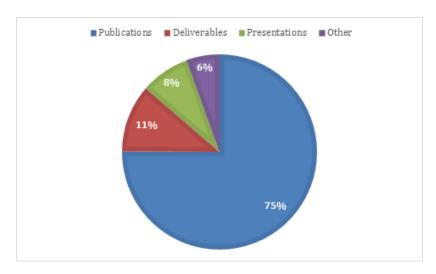


Figure 15: Downloads per document category.

8.4 Twitter and Facebook

We proceeded to create a social circle around our project and its web page, by using both a Facebook page and a Twitter account ¹¹ linked to each other. Both were intensively used to disseminate events participations, published papers and news about SysSec. The SysSec Facebook page has 270 followers, whereas the Twitter feed is followed by 462 followers.

The number of followers indicates a considerable interest for *SysSec* from the community, as we didn't push to gather followers, but rather let the social network effect build a community. We pushed *274 tweets* through these channels.

¹¹ http://twitter.com/#!/syssecproject