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Cyber security cOmpeteNCe fOr Research anD InnovAtion

Stakeholders' Newsletter

Merry holidays to all!

This pre-holiday issue wraps up this peculiar year.

Next year will mark the establishment of the European Cybersecurity Competence Center in Romania.

We covered it in the dedicated page "Update on the ECCC".

Also, help teachers to address cybersecurity in high-school replying to our survey at the end of this issue.

Enjoy your reading, and don't hesitate to provide feedback.

This issue

CONCORDIA News

Open-source Cyber Range Platform

Suggested Articles from European Institutions

Update on the ECCC

News from Europe and beyond

Next Events and Call for Feedback

www.concordia-h2020.eu

CONCORDIA opened the door in cyberspace

CONCORDIA Open Door 2020 (COD2020) was the second edition of this recurring meeting among academia, industries, policymakers, and public administrations. These two days' objectives are to create synergy between different stakeholders from different domains and collect feedback for the future European cybersecurity landscape.

Read more at:
https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/concordia-opened-the-door-in-cyberspace/

(Emerging) digital identity models and their impact on user-centric security

According to previous Chief Architecture of Identity at Microsoft, the Internet – as we know it today, was built without an identity layer. Moreover, the World Wide Web inventor, Tim Berners-Lee, recently started a new project named Solid to introduce a new digital identity layer. In this post, we will briefly review and present currently available digital identity models with a goal to better (try to) understand why the identity layer is so important.

Read the report at:
https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/emerging-digital-identity-models-and-their-impact-on-user-centric-security/

Cybersecurity in the financial sector: knowing your enemy

This document contains the results of the analysis of the current situation regarding the certification of cybersecurity skills and the conclusions regarding the gaps derived by the project team.

Document at: https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/cybersecurity-in-the-financial-sector-knowing-your-enemy/

Work in Progress: the CONCORDIA Platform for Threat Intelligence

Our first steps to improve Europe's information position in cybersecurity We present CONCORDIA's vision for a cross-sector, pan-European platform for collecting, analyzing, and sharing threat intelligence, which combines datasets built up in different parts of the project.

Read more at:
https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/a-concordia-platform-for-threat-intelligence/

Open-source Cyber Range Platform

Do you need a cyber range? The KYPO Cyber Range Platform is now available for free

Read more at:
https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/do-you-need-a-cyber-range-the-kypo-cyber-range-platform-is-now-available-for-free/

Suggested Articles from European Institutions

Cybersecurity of connected devices – Council adopts conclusions

European Council. On December 2, the Council of the European Union approved and adopted conclusions on the cybersecurity of connected devices. The Council acknowledged that connected devices would play a fundamental role in transforming Europe's digital future and hence ensuring their security was paramount.

Read the press release at:
https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/02/cybersecurity-of-connected-devices-council-adopts-conclusions/

EU'S highest court rules against pre-ticked box consent

Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The CJEU published a judgment where it held that consent in the form of pre-ticked boxes is invalid. In order for consent to be valid and as rightly pointed out the CJEU, the individual user's consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous. That said, inactivity, silence or pre-ticked boxes cannot be construed as valid consent given by the individual users.

Read the press release at:
https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-11/cp200137en.pdf

eGovernment Benchmark 2020: eGovernment that works for the people

European Commission. A study published by the European Commission on September 23 reveals that during the last two years the digital delivery of public services in Europe has improved. Residents in the EU largely benefit from these assessments as they highlight existing practices, areas where countries are excelling and also aspects that need to be further worked upon

Read the press release at:
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/egovernment-benchmark-2020-egovernment-works-people

European Cybersecurity Atlas

The European Commission has created the European Cybersecurity Atlas, a digital knowledge management platform to map, categorise and stimulate collaboration between European cybersecurity experts in support of the EU Digital Strategy. The Atlas is a first of its kind and will be an important support to the forthcoming European cybersecurity competence centre.

Read the press release at:
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-cybersecurity-atlas

The new European Cybersecurity Competence Centre to be located in Bucharest, Romania

On 9 December 2020, Bucharest, Romania was selected by representatives of the governments of the EU member states as the prospective seat of the new European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre.
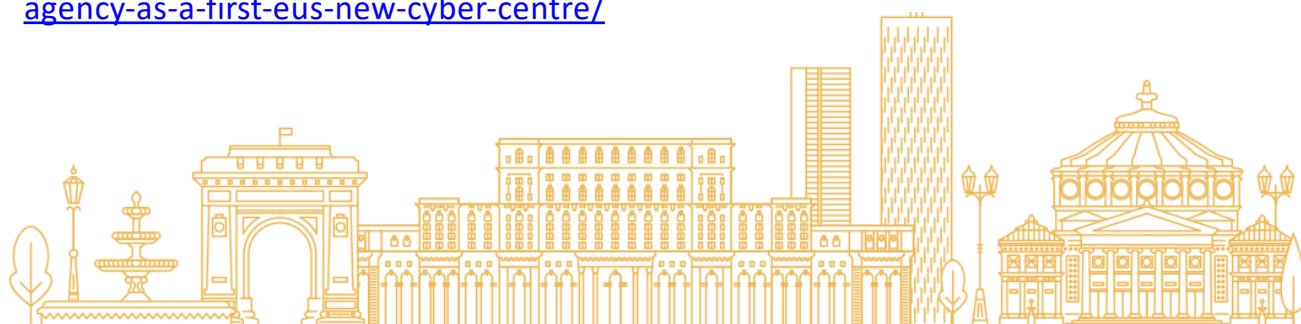
The Cybersecurity Competence Centre will improve the coordination of research and innovation in cybersecurity in the EU. It will also be the EU's main instrument for pooling investment in cybersecurity research, technology and industrial development.

Press Release at: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/10/the-new-european-cybersecurity-competence-centre-to-be-located-in-bucharest-romania/

Read more at: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/11/new-cybersecurity-competence-centre-and-network-informal-agreement-with-the-european-parliament/

Read more at: https://emerging-europe.com/news/bucharest-to-host-eu-cybersecurity-centre/

Read more at: https://www.romaniajournal.ro/politics/romania-to-host-a-european-agency-as-a-first-eus-new-cyber-centre/

Facebook sued for its role in Cambridge Analytica data scandal

After being fined £500,000 by the UK's data protection watchdog for its involvement in the Cambridge Analytica scandal, the social media giant is now facing mass legal action in England and Wales. The scandal involved the data of 87 million Facebook users which was used for advertising purposes during elections. The action is being led by the group Facebook You Owe Us, which argues that Facebook used the data of its users without obtaining their consent, thereby infringing data protection rules.

Read more at: https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-54722362

H&M fined record €35 MN for snooping on staff

German Data Protection watchdog (DPA) fined clothing brand Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M) 35.3 million euros for violating the privacy of its staff. The violations which began in 2014 included storing information about the staff's private situation such as symptoms and medical findings for certain illnesses. In many cases, some managers of the company even obtained additional information from employees through informal chats including family issues or religious beliefs, which were also then stored in the system.

Read more at: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-01/h-m-german-unit-fined-41-4-million-for-snooping-on-staff

State of the Union address by president von der Leyen

On September 16, president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen outlined the priorities of the European Commission while speaking about a diverse range of topics such as the EU green deal, migration, minimum wage work and the like. The need to have a common plan for digital Europe with clearly defined goals for 2030 was highlighted that would also require clear principles such as "the right to privacy, freedom of expression, free flow of data and cybersecurity".

Find the speech at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_1655

European Commissioner for internal market highlights keys to sovereignty

European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton stated that Europe must leverage on the "technological war" between the United States and China by laying the foundations of its sovereignty for the next 20 years.

Read more at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/breton/announcements/europe-keys-sovereignty_en

More cybersecurity research and innovation updates are available through CONCORDIA services https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/concordia-service-catalog/

COMING SOON…
Becoming Cybersecurity Consultant
Read more at https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/news/becoming-cybersecurity-consultant/

COMING SOON…
Diversity & Cybersecurity Webinars
Read more at https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/news/diversity-cybersecurity-women-entrepreneurship-webinar/

DEF CON New Year's Eve
Online – 31 December 2020
https://www.defcon.org/html/links/dc-news.html#dcnyestd

RSAC 365 Virtual Summit
Online – 27 January 2021
https://www.rsaconference.com/virtual-series/fds1-summit

IEEE S&P 2021 – conference
To be defined – 23 to 27 May 2021
https://www.ieee-security.org/TC/SP2021/

WTMC 2021 - workshop
Co-located with IEEE S&P – 27 May 2021
https://wtmc.info/index.html
Paper submission deadline: January 15, 2021

USENIX 2021 – conference
Vancouver, B.C., Canada – 7 to 11 June 2021
https://www.usenix.org/conference/usenixsecurity21
Paper submission deadlines: February 4, 2021

PETS 2020 – conference
Online – 12 to 16 July 2021
https://petsymposium.org/
Paper submission deadline: February 28, 2021

CHES 2021 – conference
Beijing, China – 12 to 16 July 2021
https://ches.iacr.org/2021/
Paper submission deadline: January 15, 2021

ACM CCS 2021 – conference
Seoul, South Korea – 14 to 19 November 2021
https://www.sigsac.org/ccs/CCS2021
Paper submission deadline: January 20, 2021

Get Involved!

Help us suggest teachers teaching methodologies and materials to address cybersecurity in high-school. More info at:
https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/news/cybersecurity-in-high-school-a-survey/

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This is the CONCORDIA stakeholders' newsletter. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you are interested to receive it directly, you can subscribe here. You may unsubscribe here. For any questions, please contact us at:

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