



*Cyber security cOmpeteNCe fOr Research and InnovAtion*

## Stakeholders' Newsletter

### Getting ready for COD2021!

Thanks to vaccines and less restrictions, the world can finally see a light at the end of this tunnel named pandemic. We never stopped connecting with you all but save the date for this October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Probably, we can meet physically but in any case COD2021 will be hybrid: all the contents will be anyway streamed online. Don't miss it!

Enjoy your reading, and don't hesitate to [provide feedback](#).

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### Financial Sector Cybersecurity Collaboration and Engagement of Stakeholders

In a data sharing ecosystem, it's not about "us versus them", but rather about "us and them" (as in the famous song of Pink Floyd). Competitors need to be working together, and it is even more so if data that needs to be shared is feeding cybersecurity threat intelligence.

In the two years of CONCORDIA project several data and information sharing related efforts have been done, including financial sector-specific platform implementation over an open-source MISP (Malware Information and threat Sharing Platform) instance. On May 21st, 2021, Webinar named "Financial Sector Cybersecurity Collaboration and Engagement of Stakeholders" was co-organised by CONCORDIA with the objective of "financial sector stakeholder engagement" and uptake of project results. More than 50 participants were watching CONCORDIA financial pilot demo presentation. Another event is planned to be organised by Caixabank in November 2021, so stay tuned for more details.

Watch the presentation  
at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-S0OudWRqE>

### Roadmap for the 1st CONCORDIA Cybersecurity Skills Certification Scheme

The subject of Cybersecurity skills and the relevant persisting gap has allowed a variety of cybersecurity courses and certification schemes to arise. In each case, the certification scheme owners have decided upon an implementation method based on their experience, practice and beliefs. But which one is the most suitable for evaluating and validating cybersecurity skills?

Read more at:

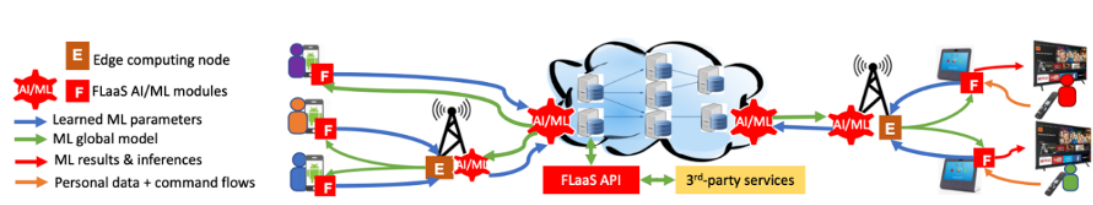
<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/roadmap-for-the-1st-concordia-cybersecurity-skills-certification-scheme/>

### Building Machine Learning Models with Privacy by Design in Mind

Machine Learning (ML) methods can identify patterns that describe humans' behaviors. This can only happen when the methods are given enough data to train on. Depending on the type of data at hand, these methods can model and be trained to detect distinct behaviors, properties or characteristics of users.

Read more at:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/building-machine-learning-models-with-privacy-by-design-in-mind/>



### US elections 2020: a retrospective analysis of the Twitter corpus

Social media plays a crucial role, especially during elections' period either for communication, administration and dissemination. Twitter constitutes one of the most popular social media with millions of active users, while a significant part of the online discourse is part of this network. The analysis of the content can shed light into the discussions and the main topics that prevail in the online discourse. However, the reliability of the content circulated is under dispute, if we consider that an important percentage of users posting are bots working towards specific malicious goals.

Read more at:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/us-elections-2020-a-retrospective-analysis-of-the-twitter-corpus/>

### Quo Vadis European Digital Sovereignty?

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Cyber security Competence for Research and Innovation

The Corona crisis has impressively demonstrated the dependence of our modern society on ICT (information and communication technology). The major challenges in climate protection and health, currently especially about the COVID-19 pandemic, can only be solved or supported with trustworthy IT. As digitalization is developing exponentially, it is changing the economic strength of entire nations. It will change the face of our economy, but also our culture, our civil society, politics, and the lives of every individual more permanently than any other technology before.

Read more at:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/quo-vadis-european-digital-sovereignty/>

### DNS Resolvers and DDoS: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

DNS is one of the core components of the Internet infrastructure, but like any other service on the Internet, DNS is also misused in a set of Cyber attacks, from DNS cache poisoning, to DNS hijacking, to Reflection and Amplification (R&A) DDoS attacks. In a DNS-based R&A DDoS attack, DNS resolvers are misused both to hide the source of the attack and to make the attack much stronger. This is usually done by sending DNS queries with a spoofed source address to open DNS resolvers. These resolvers then respond to a victim who has not issued even a single one of those DNS queries.

Read more at:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/blog-post/dns-resolvers-and-ddos-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>

## Suggested Articles from European Institutions

### EU member states agree on union-wide connectivity toolbox

Last week the European Commission announced that member states had reached an agreement on a Union-wide Connectivity Toolbox. The Toolbox comprises of best practices that the member states consider to be most effective for deploying fixed and mobile very high-capacity networks, including 5G.



While speaking about the recent announcement, Commissioner for the Internal market, Thierry Breton stated, "In the Digital Decade all Europeans should benefit from fast and secure connections. We must start today turning this ambition into a reality. The Connectivity Toolbox is the result of Member States' cooperation and commitment to remove obstacles and boost the deployment of very fast networks."

Read the press release at:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/connectivity-toolbox-member-states-agree-best-practices-boost-timely-deployment-5g-and-fibre-0>

### European Commission receives industry technology roadmap on cloud and edge

On May 7, a group of 27 companies recently submitted a Roadmap to the European Commission highlighting technology domains that require strategic investments to encourage the creation and adoption of competitive, secure, trusted, and climate-neutral cloud and edge services across the EU. The Roadmap focuses on three main pillars: 1) Becoming the leader in domains that will showcase European cloud and edge offerings on a global level 2) Fortifying and expanding infrastructure foundations across Europe and 3) Providing sovereign and sector-specific services to end-users. The recently published Roadmap is in line with the objectives set out in the European Industrial Strategy and the European Data Strategy.

Read the press release at:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/today-commission-receives-industry-technology-roadmap-cloud-and-edge>

## Suggested Articles from European Institutions

### EU member states conduct first exercise for rapid cyber crisis management

The recently established EU CyCLONE - Cyber Crises Liaison Organisation Network conducted its first EU exercise, CySOPEX 2021. The aim of the exercise was to evaluate the procedures implemented by Member States to respond to cyber crisis management. Moreover, the exercise aims at enhancing the overall competences of CyCLONE officers with regards to training on situation awareness and information sharing processes, improving their understanding their roles and responsibilities, to identify areas of improvements or potential gaps and the like.

Read the press release at:

<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/news/enisa-news/eu-member-states-test-rapid-cyber-crisis-management/>



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### European Commission & national stakeholders create digital skills and jobs platform

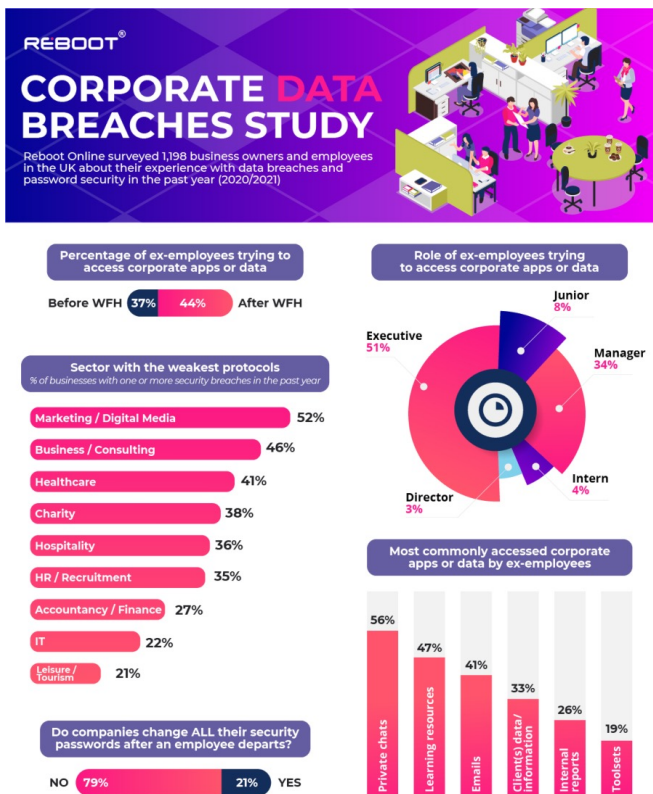
A 2020 survey revealed that 42% of Europeans do not possess basic digital skills and that 54% of SMEs that try to recruit digital experts experience major difficulties in filling up such vacancies. With that in mind, the European Commission joined forces with national stakeholders to launch the “Digital Skills and Jobs Platform” so as to speed up digital upskilling in Europe. The platform provides best practices in digital skills along with resources and the main stakeholders in the field which ultimately is expected to have a substantial impact on both basic and advanced digital skills.

Read the press release at:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/digital-skills-and-jobs-platform-one-stop-shop-close-europes-digital-skills-gap>



## News from Europe and beyond



### Hacker breach security cameras, access live feeds at jails and hospitals

A recent survey in the UK involving 1,198 business owners and employees across the UK revealed a drastic increase in security breaches especially those orchestrated by former employees. While speaking on the matter, the CEO of a digital marketing agency in the UK rightly advised, "The first step to ensure the adequate protection of your business is to train your staff to be aware of the importance of data security."

Read more at:

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94865-almost-20-increase-in-corporate-security-breaches-since-wfh>

### Cyber. Attack on top U.S. fuel pipeline forces a shut down

Colonial Pipeline, which is responsible for transporting almost 45% of the oil consumed on the east coast of the US, was recently hit by a cyber-attack which subsequently forced the company to shut its entire network. U.S. officials have said that investigators are looking into the notorious group called "DarkSide" which is infamous for deploying ransomware and extorting victims.

Read more at:

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/colonial-pipeline-halts-all-pipeline-operations-after-cybersecurity-attack-2021-05-08/>

### Facebook data breach impacts more than 500 MN users worldwide

As per recent reports, personal information of over 533 million Facebook users from 106 countries has been exposed in a data breach. The exposed data which is said to include names, phone numbers, birthdates and email addresses have been published on a hacking forum and can be accessed for free.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/stolen-data-of-533-million-facebook-users-leaked-online-2021-4?international=true&r=US&IR=T>



## Next Events

### CONCORDIA Open Door Event

**Pre-registrations  
are open!**



**October 20-21, 2021**

CONCORDIA Open Door (COD) is a chance for stakeholders of all backgrounds (such as IT, entrepreneurship, education, economy, and policy) to discuss societal and technological needs in the cybersecurity field and to discover others' competencies for potential collaborations.

CONCORDIA Open Door event 2021 is our third edition, and it'll apply a **hybrid model**: the main sessions will be in **Bucharest, Romania**, and a live stream will be available **online**. The participants attending online will have the occasion to get involved in the discussions through the event platform.

The event is free of charges.

More info and pre-registrations at <https://opendoor.concordia-h2020.eu/>



On the 1st of July, the third webinar of the Diversity & Cybersecurity series will take place. Following the CONCORDIA Women in Cyber Manifesto (<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/concordia-service-women-in-cybersecurity/>), this webinar series aims at discussing the gender gap from different angles: entrepreneurship, industry, education, research, legal, and investment. The new webinar is devoted to Women in Cybersecurity research. It aims to discuss the challenge women face in research in general and, more specifically, in cybersecurity, both in academics and in industry.

More info and registration at <https://hopin.com/events/diversity-cybersecurity-women-in-cybersecurity-research#schedule>



## Next Events

### The pilot Course “Becoming a Cybersecurity Consultant” just closed – What’s next?

Mid May we have successfully ran a 3 half-days webinar, the second part of the pilot course addressing the Cybersecurity Consultant role profile.

The Course “Becoming a Cybersecurity Consultant” was developed and deployed by applying elements of the CONCORDIA Methodology for creating courses for cybersecurity professionals

Read more at:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/news/the-pilot-course-becoming-a-cybersecurity-consultant-just-closed-whats-next/>



### Course “Becoming a Cybersecurity Consultant” Pre-registration for October session Opened!!

Let us know if you are interested:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/concordia-course-becoming-a-cybersecurity-consultant-pre-registration-for-the-session-october-2021/>

Check the details on the course:

<https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/becoming-a-cybersecurity-consultant/>

The **Cybersecurity Hands-On-Training (CyberHOT)** Summer School will take place on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th of September 2021 under the auspices of NMIOTC. The 5th NMIOTC Cyber Security Conference in the Maritime Domain will follow on 29th and 30th September 2021.

Join us in Chania at the beautiful island of Crete for a unique knowledge sharing experience!

More info at <https://www.cyberhot.eu/>



More cybersecurity research and innovation updates are available through CONCORDIA services <https://www.concordia-h2020.eu/concordia-service-catalog/> including the Pan-European Cybersecurity Start-Up Community (PECS-UP) newsletter.



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