Draft for Discussion

Proposal for International ICT Security R&D Conference

Proposal: To convene an international conference for the private sector, academia, and policy makers, with the objective to:
- o promote information sharing and collaboration in the area of ICT security research and technology development,
- o better assess and mitigate the cyber risk to the global information infrastructure,
- o address the long-term hard problems[1] that face the maturing Internet and the systems that comprise it or otherwise dependent on it.

What: Annual meetings of representatives of the private sector, academia, and government from the EU and the USA. Some representatives of other regions of the world may also be invited to attend and participate, in anticipation of possibly later expanding the conference to have full international scope.

The main Conference topics will be structured around two major themes:
1. **Fighting against cyber threats:** Methods and practices for protecting the Internet and other Internet-based Critical Infrastructures against security incidents and emerging security threats;
2. **Building secure networks and systems:** Architectures, methods and practices for developing secure networks and service systems, and for assuring security and integrity of information, applications and services they provide, incl. software assurance and trusted computing.

The event will serve as a platform to:
- share information about past, current, and planned legal regimes, policy initiatives and R&D efforts;
- network, and coordinate the multiple policy and research efforts that are underway in the two areas of the conference;
- agree on common norms and standards; foster the exchange of good practices and sharing of progress, results, and lessons learned
- promote a closer collaboration, partnership and mutual assistance between the relevant public and private R&D actors in the EU and the USA
- enable collaboration on prioritization and execution of research challenges.

Components of the partnership -- for example, government officials -- will be encouraged to use the occasion of the conference to schedule

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[1] See report on Internet Hard Problems prepared by the InfoSec Resource Council, 2005.

government-only meetings before and/or after the conference to promote collaboration and information sharing. In addition, arrangements can be made to organize workshops before and after the conference.

Who: The effort will be based on a partnership between policy makers, public and private users, and private sector and academia active in technology and product research and development. Appropriate actors to organize such events will be sought.

When: The first conference might be planned for sometime in the late Fall 2008 with subsequent conferences likely to be held annually or biannually. Conference venues will be rotating between the EU and the US.

How: Stakeholder organizations playing an important role in the two main Conference topics will be invited to partner in the planning and execution of the conference series. Prominent persons from both continents will be invited to serve as conference co-chairs, and to head planning committees to identify issues, prepare agendas, and target speakers and funding sources for the conference.

Discussion: **The US Context**

In the United States, a Federal interagency committee has the responsibility for coordinating among the Federal agencies for the creation of a Federal Cyber R&D plan, building on a draft plan they released in 2006. The committee is co-chaired by Annabelle Lee, representing the National Cyber Security Division of the Department of Homeland Security, and Bill Newhouse of the Department of Defense, representing the Office of Science and Technology Policy based in the White House. The committee may soon launch work with the private sector and academia to create a national cyber R&D framework.

An important Presidential Advisory Group, NSTAC (National Security Telecommunications Advisory Council), comprised of important corporate CEOs, is very interested in cyber R&D and recognizes the value of international collaboration. They have launched a nascent, international R&D exchange (see www.nist.gov, link to NSTAC, R&D exchange), that recently had a meeting in Canada in the fall of 2007, and will have its next meeting in September of 2008 in Illinois.

The EU Context

In the last few years, the European Commission (EC) has initiated a combination of different actions, including research, policy, legislation, and awareness initiatives involving all key stakeholders to address the security of the Internet and of information and communication networks:

- On the policy and regulatory side, examples of representative EC activities include a series of policy documents specifically addressing: a new, overarching strategy for the EU for the development of a more secure Information Society; fighting spam, spyware and malware; fighting against cybercrime; promoting Privacy Enhancing Technologies; and, the launch of the European Program for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP), which comprises a component on protection of critical information infrastructures (incl. the Internet).
- The establishment of ENISA in 2005, the European Network and Information Security Agency (www.enisa.europa.eu) for promoting a culture of security in Europe and stimulating collaboration among the main European stakeholders in fighting security incidents and threats. In November 2007, under the new regulatory package for electronic communications, the EC has communicated its intentions to intensify the fight against cyber-incidents and threats through the creation of a new Agency in this area.
- On the Research side, under the EU's Framework Programs (FP) for RTD, the EC stimulates the development of knowledge and technologies that would provide the required ICT security and trust for society and the citizen, while respecting human values and supporting privacy. Under FP6 (2002-2006), the EC has funded more than 35 research projects in ICT Security Research for about €145 million. Moreover, 110 M€ have already been earmarked for the first 2 years of FP7 covering the period 2007-2013. EU-funded research highlights emerging trends in cyber-crime and threats to the protection of critical information and communication infrastructures against any kind of failure or deliberate attack. It also supports the timely development of appropriate and effective responses for ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of personal data and digital business assets, and the delivery of secure applications and services.

The International Context

Internet security and trust challenges are common to industrialized countries, as the problems span beyond individual borders and players. International organizations like the OECD, ITU and others have set up dedicated working groups and organize dedicated events spanning many ICT trust and security issues related to the Internet and its evolution. Representative examples include:
- The OECD's ICCP committee, its working party on Information Security and privacy (WPISP, www.oecd.org/sti/security-privacy) and their efforts in organizing an Inter-ministerial meeting on the future of the Internet economy (Seoul, June 2008, www.oecd.org/FutureInternet).
- ITU's Global cyber-security agenda (http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/cybersecurity/),

- WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF, http://www.intgovforum.org/)

Examples of other international private initiatives relevant to this Conference include:
- *Safecode*, the Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code (www.safecode.org).
- ***Trusted Computing Group,*** developing and promoting open, vendor-neutral, industry standard specifications for trusted computing building blocks and software interfaces across multiple platforms (https://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/home)

Funding: Funding for the conference will have to come from private sources (whether sponsorships and/or registration fees), foundations or other nonprofits. It is possible that the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) or some other nonprofit may be willing to fund the expenses of some U.S. speakers to come to the conference, and perhaps the per diem costs of some non-U.S. participants.

It is estimated that the conference would cost between 100,000 to 150,000 Euros and that registration fees could bring in approximately 40,000 to 65,000 Euros; corporate sponsorships could bring in approximately 30,000 to 45,000 Euros, leaving a balance to be covered from other sources of between of approximately 30,000 to 40,000 Euros.