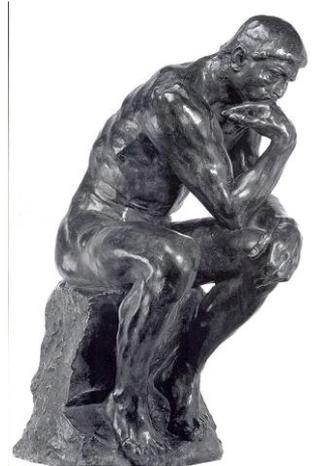


Building cybersecurity research capabilities: the European experiences of the SysSec and PROTASIS networks

Stefano Zanero
Politecnico di Milano





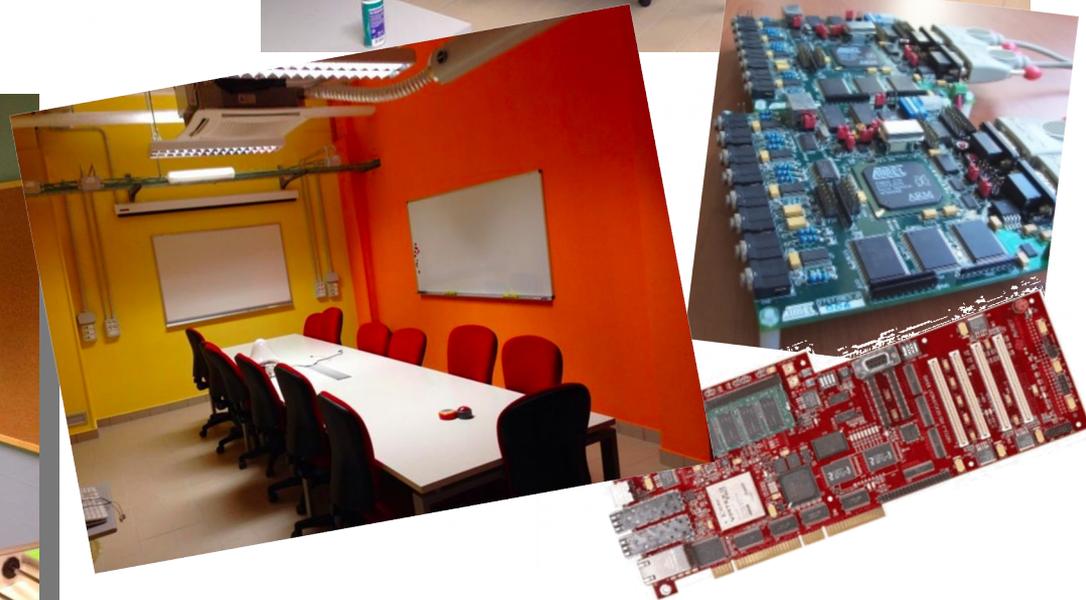
Professors and students 2014/15

	<u>STUDENTS</u>	<u>PROFESSORS</u>
ARCHITECTURE	8.329	342
DESIGN	3.853	97
ENGINEERING	27.739	858

	2015
QS World ranking Engineering & Technology	31
QS World ranking Engineering & Technology	4 (EE) 6 (CS)
Employer reputation	
Applications (BSc)	16.500
Foreign students (MSc)	23%
Funds on a competitive basis (millions €)	140+

NECSTLab @ Polimi

- ✓ Professors
 - Full: **4**
 - Associate: **8**
 - Assistant: **6**
- ✓ Thesis works: 50-60/year
- ✓ Class Projects: 80-100/year
- ✓ Post-Doc: **3**
- ✓ PhD Student: **12**
- ✓ Research Assistants: **9**



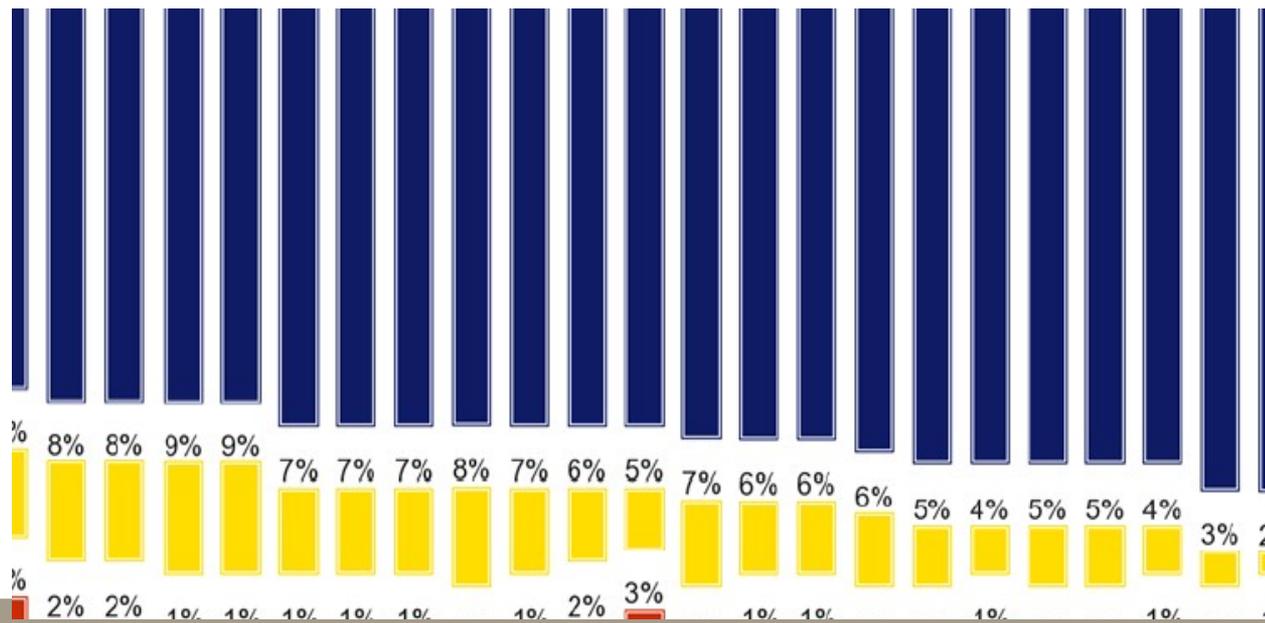
The problem we wished to address

- “Managing threats and vulnerabilities for the future Internet”
 - Attackers are getting more **sophisticated**
 - The **attack surface** is significantly increasing
 - Computers, smartphones, SCADA, Internet of Things
 - Adults, children, seniors
 - Users have started to feel the actual effects of the attacks
 - Fraud, ID theft, money loss



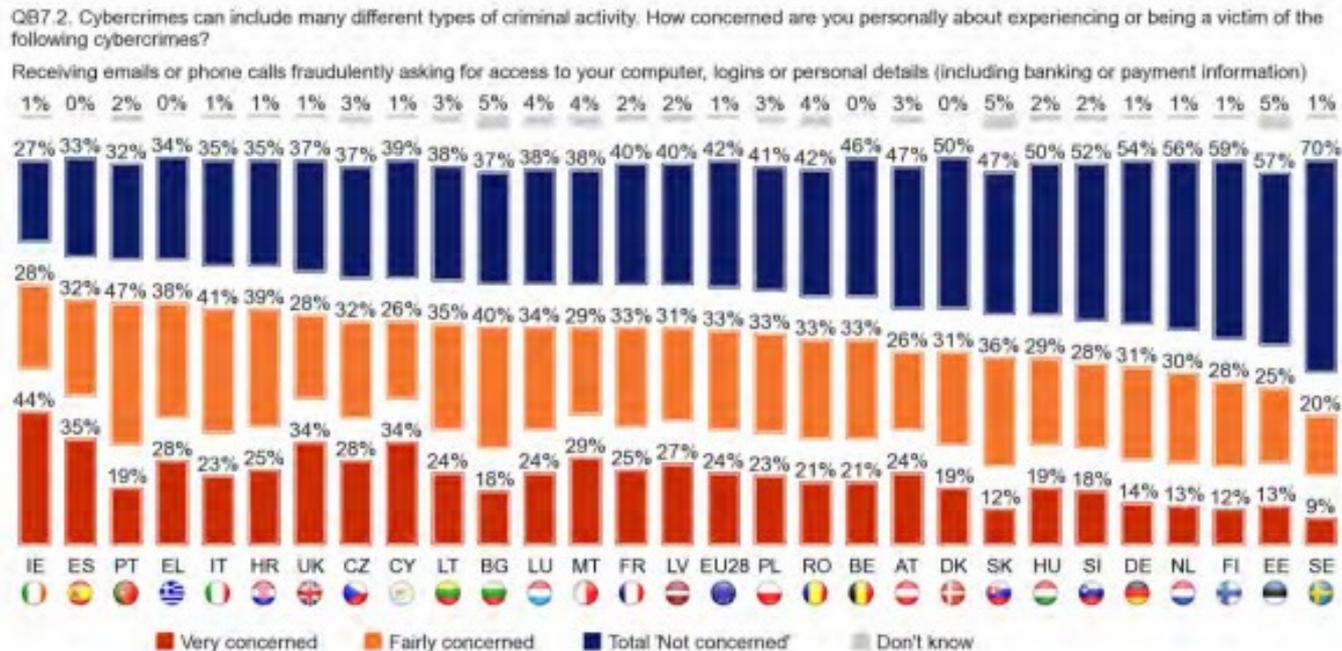
Cyberattacks are getting more prevalent

- Hackers are getting more effective
- Users are getting more concerned
 - 12% of Internet users has experienced fraud
 - 8% have been victims of ID theft
 - » (src: Eurobarometer 390)



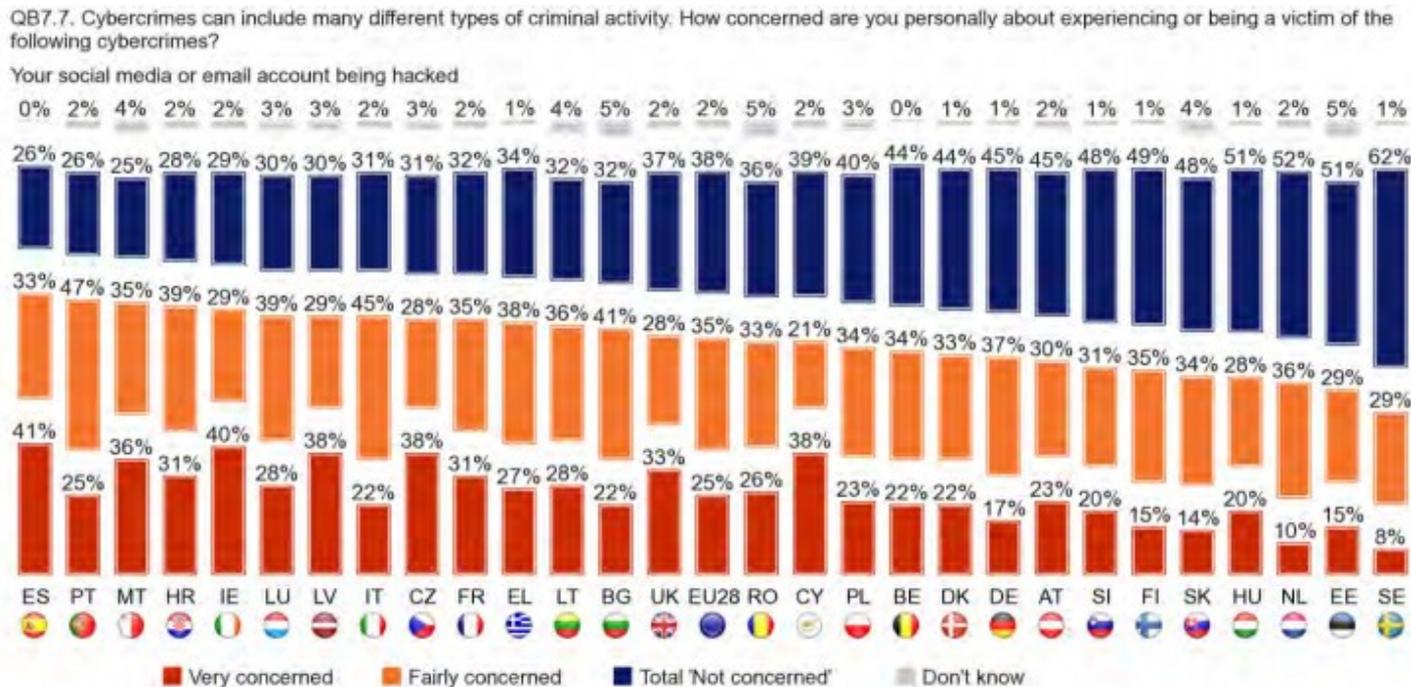
Cyberattacks are getting more prevalent

- 56% of Europeans are concerned
 - About on-line banking fraud
 - | src: Eurobarometer 423 (October 2014)



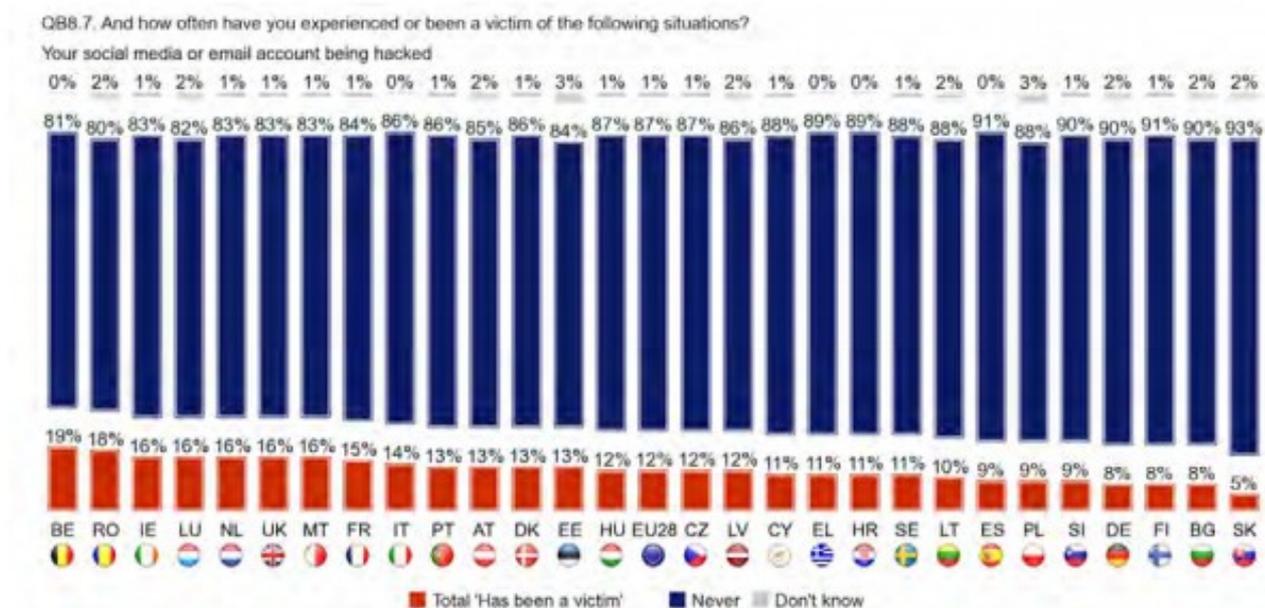
Cyberattacks are getting more prevalent

- 60% of Europeans are concerned
 - About their email account getting hacked
 - src: Eurobarometer 423 (October 2014)



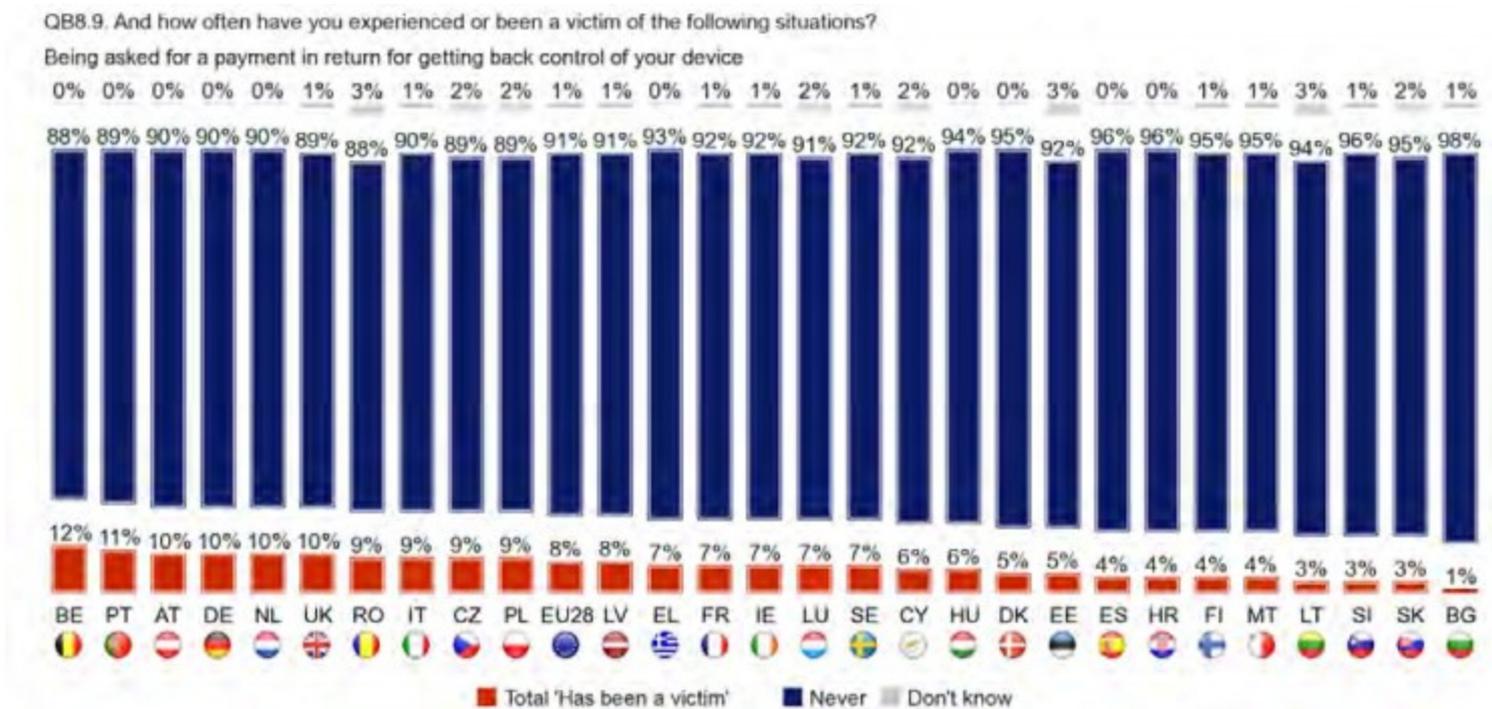
Cyberattacks are getting more prevalent

- 12% of Europeans reported that they
 - had their social accounts hacked
 - src: Eurobarometer 423 (October 2014)



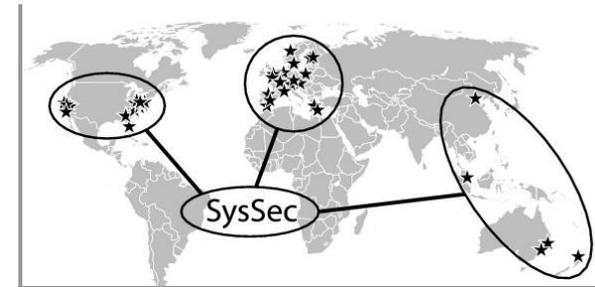
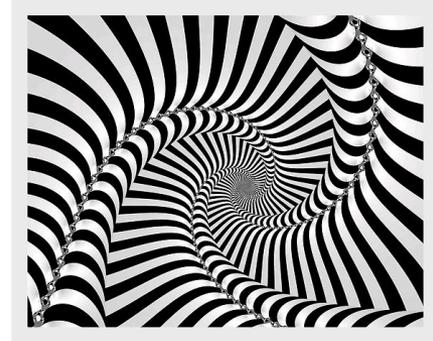
Cyberattacks are getting more prevalent

- 8% of Europeans have been blackmailed
 - Asked for payment to get back control of their device
 - src: Eurobarometer 423 (October 2014)



What we proposed with SysSec

- A Network of Excellence to implement a *game-changing* approach to cybersecurity:
 - Traditionally Researchers were mostly reactive:
 - they usually track cyberattackers *after* an attack has been launched
 - thus, researchers are always one step behind attackers
 - SysSec aimed **to break this vicious cycle**
 - Researchers should become more *proactive*:
 - Anticipate attacks and vulnerabilities
 - Predict and prepare for future threats
 - Work on defenses *before* attacks materialize.



The team

- Politecnico di Milano (IT)
- Vrije Universiteit (NL)
- Institute Eurecom (FR)
- IICT-BAS (Bulgaria)
- TU Vienna (Austria)
- Chalmers Univ. (Sweden)
- TUBITAK (Turkey)
- FORTH – ICS (Greece)



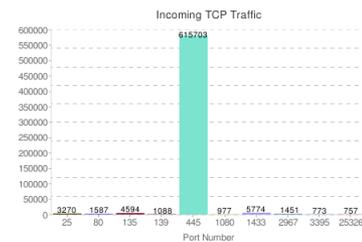
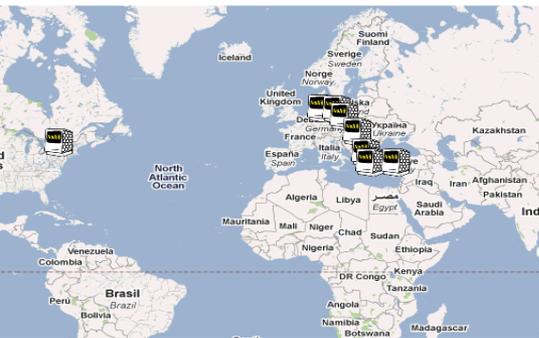
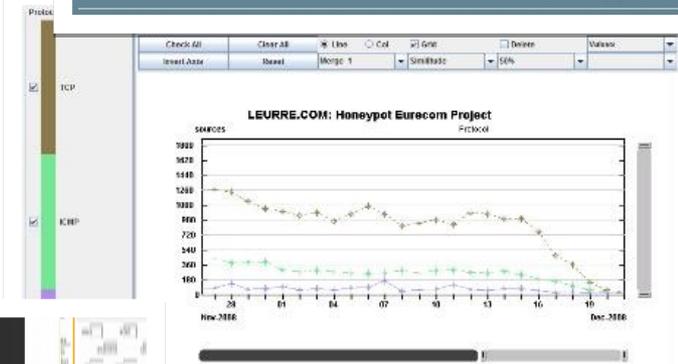
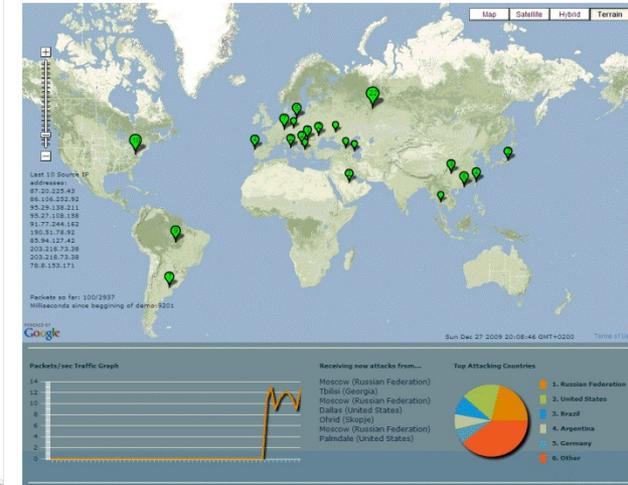
The partners: aggregating experiences

- ▮ Installed the **largest honeypot infrastructure** in Europe - among the leading in the World
 - ▮ Leurre com, SGNET, NoAH
 - ▮ >40 sensors in five continents, > 200.000 src IP addresses, >60.000 code injection attacks
- ▮ Built Argos: a pioneering emulator for capturing **zero-day attacks**
- ▮ Contribute to the development of WOMBAT: the first **European cyberattack DataBase**
- ▮ Mobilized FORWARD: the prominent European-led **International think-tank** on emerging threats
- ▮ Founded/Drive some of the largest European Systems Security Venues: ACM EuroSEC, DIMVA, RAID, etc.



... and resources

- Existing sensors and honeypot infrastructures that collect cyberattack information
 - SGNET, leurre.com, NoAH, etc.
 - >40 sensors in five continents, > 200.000 src IP addresses, >60.000 code injection attacks
- Incident data from these sources have been integrated within the WOMBAT ICT project database along with:
 - Honeyspider, wepawet, etc.
- Public-domain sources and through SysSec's world-wide constituency:
 - SANS.org, SPAMhaus, Offensive Computing, etc.



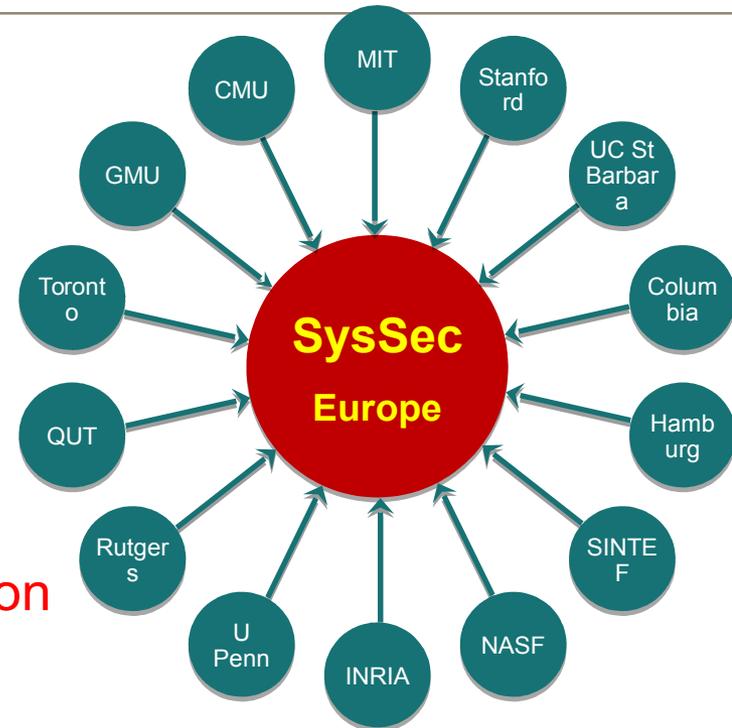
SysSec Aim and Objectives (I)

- Create an active, vibrant, and collaborating **community of Researchers**
- SysSec aims
 - to create a **sense of ``community''** among those researchers,
 - to **mobilize** this community,
 - to **consolidate** its efforts,
 - to **expand their collaboration** internationally, and
 - become **the single point of reference** for Systems Security research in Europe.



Community building efforts

- Associated partners:
 - The broader Community of SysSec
- Selection:
 - “**Call for Associated Partners**”
 - Selection by the project’s “Evaluation Committee”
- Financial Support for Associated Partners:
 - Cover **trips to visit core partners**
 - Provide **scholarships for research collaboration** with core partners



- l Budget:
 - 100.000 euros for short-term scholarships
 - 100.000 euros for travel support



First SysSec Workshop

- By the numbers:
 - 23 **position** papers
 - i.e. where is the security research going?
 - 6 (longer) **Student/Research** papers
 - 95 authors
 - 36 organizations



Associated Partners

Associate Members of SysSec

Map of Associate Members

SysSec currently lists **85 Associate Members** around the world. The dis

Europe | World



Want to join our community? Just fill our application form.

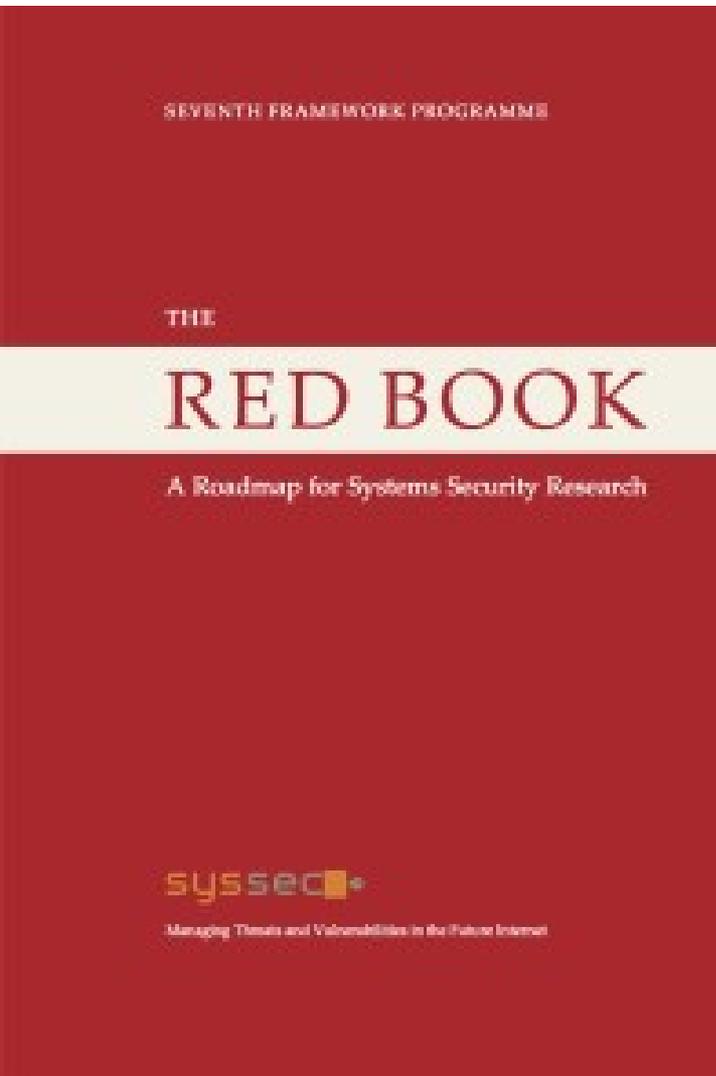
Associate Members by Country

SysSec Aim and Objectives (II)

- Advance European Security Research well beyond the state of the art
 - research efforts are fragmented
 - SysSec aims to **provide a research agenda** and
 - **align their research activities** with the agenda
 - make SysSec **a leading player** in the international arena.



The Red Book



- Please download it!
- www.red-book.eu



The making of the Red Book

- “Rank the threats” workshop
 - Which are the important threats?
 - Rank them
- “What if” questions
 - What if there is no more malware?
 - What if 50% of the computers are compromised?
 - What if there is no death? (for our data)
 - What if there is no Internet? (for a day or two)



SysSec Aim and Objectives (III)

- Create a **virtual distributed Center of Excellence** in the area of emerging threats and vulnerabilities.
 - By forming a **critical mass** of European Researchers and by aligning their activities,
- Create a **Center of Academic Excellence** in the area
 - create an education and training program targeting young researchers and the industry.
 - lay the foundations for a common graduate degree in the area with emphasis on Systems Security.



Educational results

Courses designed/redesigned	11
Participating Universities	31
Scholarships awarded	22
Graduated Ph.Ds	10
Graduated Masters	40



Summer schools



About ▾

Community ▾

Events ▾

Scholarships ▾

Publications

Publicity

2nd SysSec Summer School



SysSec organises a School on **Mobile Malware (Theory and Practice)**. It will be held on **September 25-26, 2014** in Amsterdam. Visit our related page for more information.

Registration is now open!

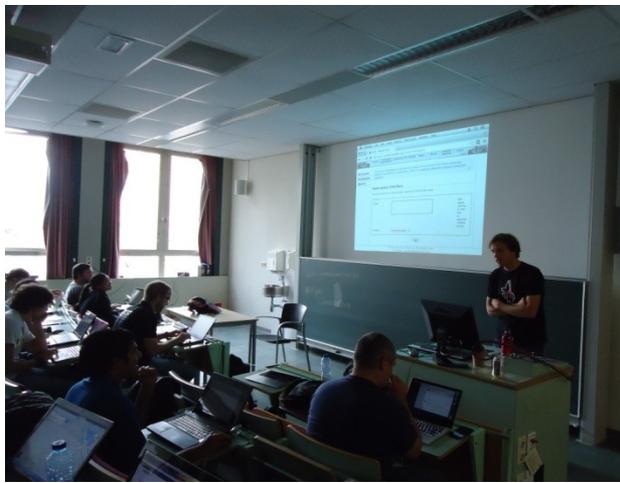


SysSec organises a School on **System Security and malware reverse engineering with a special focus on infrastructure protection**. It will be held on October 2012 in Amsterdam. Read our [related page](#) for more information.

Update (11/9/2012): Registration for the SysSec Summer School is now closed! The interest school has been very significant and all the available places have been filled. People that have registered their interest will be sent out to either confirm their participation, or if they register late, inform them that they are in a queue pending cancellations of students.



Summer schools



10K students challenge

- Educate 10,000 students in buffer overflows



[About](#) [Participants](#) [Material](#) [Join Us](#)

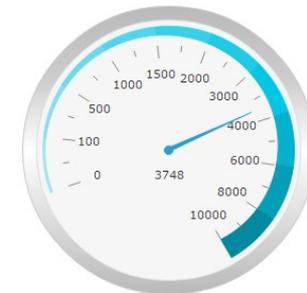
What is the 10KStudents Challenge?

The goal of the 10KStudents challenge is to improve cyber security by teaching **Ten Thousand University Students** the basic concepts of software vulnerabilities and secure programming. The challenge will teach students that security is inherent to all steps of building an IT system – not a property that can be added in the last step of the development cycle.

We reach out to all faculty members teaching programming and/or system design courses to participate in our challenge to increase cyber security. The challenge consists of three parts/lectures of increasing difficulty, all centered around the notorious **buffer overflow** bug:

- **General Introduction**
- Part I - **Basic Buffer Overflows** (Everyone)
- Part II - **Real Buffer Overflows** (Computer Scientists)
- Part III - **Countermeasures** (Students in Security courses)

If you would like to be part of the challenge that in the academic year of 2014-2015 will educate more than ten thousand students in cyber security join us [here](#).



*"...because several is not a number and later is not a time
The time is **now** and the number is **10,000**..."*

Who joined the 10K Challenge?

- More than 50 University Courses
- Most European Member States
- USA, Canada



About Participants Material Join Us

List of Participating Courses

Austria - Technical University of Vienna

- Internet Security (Instructor: Christian Platzer, Semester: Spring)
- Advanced Internet Security (Instructor: Matthias Neugschwandner, Semester: Fall)

Austria - SBA Research

- Introduction to Security (Instructor: Edgar Weippl, Semester: Fall, Spring)

Bosnia and Herzegovina - University of Sarajevo

- Security Technologies (Instructor: Sasa Mrdovic, Semester: Spring)

Bulgaria - IICT-BAS & Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

- Security Foundations in Cyberspace (Instructor: Zlatogor Minchev, Semester: Spring)

Cyprus - University of Nicosia

- Computer Security (Instructor: Ioanna Dionysiou, Semester: Spring)
- Cryptography and Network Security (Instructor: Ioanna Dionysiou, Semester: Fall)

France - Institut Eurecom

- System and Network Security (Instructor: Aurelien Francillon, Semester: Fall)

France - University Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée

- Operating systems (Instructor: Christophe Morvan, Semester: Spring)

Germany - Ruhr University Bochum

- OS Security (Instructor: Thorsten Holz, Semester: Fall)

Germany - University of Bonn

- Reaktive Sicherheit (Instructor: Michael Meier, Semester: Spring)
- IT Security (Instructor: Michael Meier, Semester: Spring)

Germany - University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

- Applied IT-Security (Instructor: Felix Freiling, Semester: Spring)
- Software Reverse Engineering (Instructor: Tilo Müller, Semester: Spring)

Greece - University of Crete

Map of Participating Courses



How?

Educational material

- General Introduction  [pptx][pdf][YouTube]
- Part I - Basic Buffer Overflows (Everyone) 
- Part II - Real Buffer Overflows (Computer Scientists)  [pptx][pdf][YouTube][Questions]
- Part III - Countermeasures (Students in Security Courses)  [pptx][pdf][YouTube][Questions]
- Notes about compiling the code examples in the slides  [pdf]

- First: general idea
 - How does a computer work?
 - Function calls, stack, etc.
 - Stylized buffer overflow
 - Toy processor
- Next: for real
 - real code and real CPU
 - Real buffer overflows
- Finally: counter-measures
 - Canaries
 - DEP
 - ASLR

for everyone
for computer scientists
for students in security courses

Instructors will receive the answers to the questions above during the registration process.

Also, visit our common curriculum [here](#) to find educational material on other aspects of system security.

SysSec Aim and Objectives (IV)

- Maximize the impact of the project by proactive **dissemination** to the appropriate stakeholders.
 - disseminate its results to international stakeholders so as to form the needed **strategic partnerships** to play a major role in the area.
- Create Partnerships and **transfer technology to the European Security Industry**.
 - create a close partnership with Security Industry
 - facilitate technology transfer wherever possible to further strengthen the European Market.

Publications

- Extensive publication track
- 153 peer-reviewed papers
- 20% in top tier venues
- 114 additional presentations and seminars

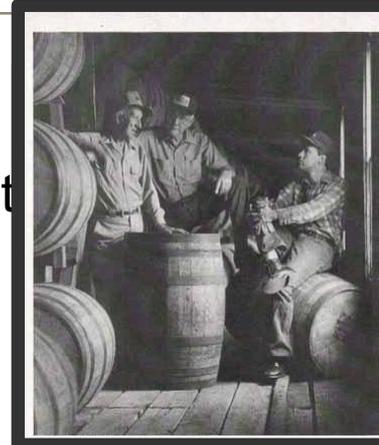
Where are our students now?

- Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Ericsson Research, Ericsson, Secure Network Srl, Anaplan, Acquire, CEFRIEL, Amadeus, Gaisler Aeroflex, IBM Research, TrendMicro, LastLine, etc.



Key insight: appropriate duration

- Research feedback loop is 4 (plus) -years long:
 - Predict threats → address them → seen in the wild → get feedback
 - Tried to have at least one entire loop (**i.e. seen in the wild predicted threats**) before the end of the project
- Education loop is 4 (plus) years-long
 - Get associated-partners (users) on board: one-two years
 - Design of the curriculum: one year
 - Implementation/evaluation of the courses: two years+
- Consolidate the Systems Security Research Community in Europe (1-2 years) and establish the framework for a joint work programme (1 year) + implementation (1+ years)



What's next?

- Give back
 - Give back our expertise to the **research** community
 - Give back our expertise to the **innovation** community
 - Give back our expertise to **policy** makers



Give back to Research

- We put Europe in the map of Systems Security and Privacy
 - We need to strengthen our position
 - Train more researchers
 - Staff more Universities
 - Make Europe not a player but a **leader** in the area
 - We have the know-how
 - We have the expertise
 - We have the policy support (esp. for privacy)



Give back to policy

- Give back to policy makers
- How can we help Security Research Policy?
- Contribute
 - to roadmaps
 - to policy decisions
 - To prioritize alternatives
 - Map the future



Give back to innovation

- Help innovators
- Identify gaps
- Offer solutions
- Train innovators
- We have the **know how**
- We have the **necessary culture**
- We have the **youthful minds**



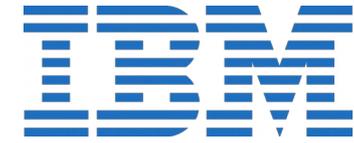
Next step in education and training

- We were excited by the success of mobility grants and joint research
- We built the project PROTASIS
- A Marie Curie RISE project
- Mobility funds for young researchers

Telefonica



RISE: intersectoral and international



Conclusions

- What we achieved
 - Put EU “back on the map” in cybersecurity research
 - Trained excellent professionals and researchers
 - Gave back to policy and public sector

Our next objective:

Create opportunities for young researchers and talented leaders to connect with the world, but remain rooted in the European Union

Thank you!

- Questions and feedback
 - Now!
 - Via e-mail stefano.zanero@polimi.it
 - Via twitter :-) [@raistolo](https://twitter.com/raistolo)