

Travel Report

Event: CyberCamp, Madrid Arena

Date: 5-8th December 2014

I am writing here my travel experience to Madrid on 5-8th December 2014 to participate in the CyberCamp event (<https://cybercamp.es/main>) held in the Madrid Arena. The COINS research group funded my participation and presented me a beautiful opportunity to explore the world of hacking and cyber security.

One could not imagine anything better than traveling to Madrid at the beginning of December month. When Norway is covered under white snow, Madrid is still shining with the bright and intense sunlight and having a pleasant weather. I reached Madrid on Friday, 5th December in the evening. There were many events taking place at the same time at different locations in the Madrid arena. However, most of the events (workshop and conference) held in the Spanish language without any English translation. I managed to find many keynote speeches in English language and in Spanish language with live English translation. I will present a brief summary of the events that I attended in CyberCamp.

The first event that I attended in CyberCamp was a keynote lecture ‘Free Software and privacy’ delivered by Mr. Richard Stallman. Mr. Stallman is a well-known personality in the world of a computer programmer. He is best known for his contribution towards free software campaign. He had launched [GNU project](#) in 1983, founded the Free software foundation, developed the GNU compiler collection and GNU Emacs. The keynote lecture of Mr. Stallman was focused on the Digital freedom, copyright issues, etc.... He raised very important questions e.g. ‘whether computing respects our freedom, or it oppresses us?’, ‘Do we control our own computer activities or is it controlled by various companies?’ Most of the times, computers are running non-free software that is delivered by some companies. A free software is a software that respects the freedom of the user and a community. A free software should not be analyzed/understood in the financial terms i.e. if a software is free of cost or paid. The credibility of any software must be measured in terms of how does it treat the user once the user achieved it.

The second event was a keynote lecture ‘This makes you a successful hacker’ delivered by the well-known hacker Mr. Marc "Van Hauser" Heuse. He is popular for his substantial contribution towards security project and hacking area. He has developed many notable tools, e.g. Hydra: a network password tester, THC: toolkit for security testing ipv6 networks (Linux), AMAP: tool for service fingerprinting, etc. He covered various topics in his keynote that is related not only to hacking projects but also relevant to any topics/project. He also pointed out the challenge associated with most of the conferences or events taking place currently. As the scope of any topic is so vast, each participant can have a different background and area of study. It makes very difficult to communicate on a particular topic as the participants may not have enough knowledge about the subject. According to Mr. Heuse, a successful project needs more than two strong founders, deep passion from the founders and members associated with

it. Having any sort of ego will certainly not lead towards any benefit. It is also important to articulate and communication your visions properly to the other members.

The third event was also a keynote lecture by Marion Marschalek. The title of the lecture was 'If you have 3 wishes...' Marion is a malware analyst and threat investigator at Cyphort inc. in Santa Clara, California. Her keynote lecture was mainly based on the Advanced Persistent Threat (APT), Threat detection, security, and privacy. She also discusses various malware e.g. BlackEnergy, Havex, BlackPOS, EvilBunny and about ineffectiveness of the anti-malware model. She concluded her talk by starting her 3 wishes: a) Everyone would have unbiased choices, b) We would all be free to think whatever we want, c) We would have secure systems which would assure integrated safety and privacy.

Stefano Di Paola gave the next talk, '(In)Security implication in Javascript Universe'. Stefano Di Paola is the CTO and cofounder of Minded Security, where he is Director of R&D. His talk was about the birth and evolution of computer programming language. He demonstrated various issues related to security and real world through the JavaScript phenomenon. According to Mr. Paola, there is nothing like an 'insecure language'. The inclusion of JavaScript in the browser provided many new possibilities, as a browser without JavaScript was just an HTML parser. However, these new features can be abused as a malicious site could try to access disk files, or a malicious website can abuse the content of the victim's browser. He also discussed various ways to abuse functionalities and user data at the server side, on Users PC, on Mobile. AngularJS and siblings have been introduced recently to mitigate the security issues. The present research effort in this area is going to introduce various new approaches to deal with different issues. For instance, QuakeJs might be helpful to make web as gaming platform without any plugins, FireFox OS is being created for mobile applications in HTML5+JS, etc. The slides of the presentation are available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/Wisec/insecurity-implication-in-the-js-universe>

After from attending events in CyberCamp, I was fortunate enough to meet members from other institutions and have a discussion on various issues related to information security. I met students from University of Valencia, business representatives and discussed both academic and industrial aspects of hacking and information security. I also explained them about the COINS research group and told them about the past activities (Tromsø, Finse, Mitochi) of the research group. We exchanged our business cards/email ID to keep in contact in the future. I also had a healthy discussion with Mr. Deepak Daswani (twitter link: <https://twitter.com/dipudaswani>) in this event. He is a well-known figure in hacking and computer security.