

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2015-12-07

Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska

Time: 1400 - 1500

Place: Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Patrick Bours (Gjøvik University College), Audun Jøsang (University of Oslo), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø), Ijlal Loutfi (Student), Andrii Shalaginov (Student), Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office).

Apologies:

- Stig Frode Mjølunes (NTNU).



Agenda

1. New student representative: Andrii Shalaginov (+Ijlal Loutfi re-elected)
2. Agenda
3. Meeting minutes of SC Skype meeting 2015-10-05
4. Status, goals and milestones
 - a. Tasks from previous meetings
 - b. Admission of students
 - c. coinsrs.no: Upcoming events on front page
5. Students+events
 - a. Past Ph.D. student seminar in Stockholm
 - b. Input from advisory board meeting
 - c. Finse winter school 24/4 - 29/4 2016
 - d. Metochi summer school 30/7 - 6/8 2016
Include a real defence as part of Metochi?
 - e. 20+ new Ph.D. students in COINS in 2016 (thanks to IKTPLUSS) and new supervisors
6. Budget
 - a. Budget proposal for 2016
 - b. Missing reports of in-kind contributions:
 - i. 2013: HiG ok, NTNU ok, UiA ok, UiB ok, UiT ok; missing: 0 from UiO, 0 from UiS
 - ii. 2014: HiG ok, NTNU ok, UiB ok, UiT ok; missing: 0 from UiA, 0 from UiO (invoice 188 TNOK without credit note), 0 from UiS

- iii. 2015: 400 TNOK required in in-kind contributions (e.g. student/supervisor time)
 - iv. Little in-kind contributions => reduced funding from NFR => reduced possibilities for Ph.D. students
7. Underused potential
 - a. ECTS/course recognition; limits on how many ECTS can be provided by courses under non-local course codes even though university is part of COINS
 - b. Supervisor seminar
 - c. Internship opportunities
8. Beyond 2016
 - a. Mid-term evaluation of COINS in 2016
 - b. SWITS@COINS in 2017
9. Miscellaneous

Welcome

Welcome extended to Andrii Shalaginov as the new student representative. Andrii is a 3rd year student, 2 years with COINS and would like to contribute to the COINS research school. Welcome to Ijlal Loutfi re-elected for the 2nd year.

Agenda

No modification or any changes to the agenda. Gjøvik University of College will become part of NTNU from the 1st of January 2016. The structure of the new NTNU is not completed yet; there will be probably some changes that will be implemented by the 1st of August 2016.

No changes to the agenda.

Meeting minutes 2015-01-22

Previous meeting minutes accepted without objection.

Status, goals, and milestones

Tasks from previous meetings

No tasks left from previous meetings except the doodle pool sent by Hanno, which was completed.

Admission of students

- Several students were admitted to COINS: Xiaojie Zhu (UiO), Kyrre Wahl Kongsgaard (UiO) and Herman Galteland (NTNU). More students expected to join. Please feel free to encourage all eligible PhD students to become members of COINS.

coinsrs.no

- News of events are on the front page of COINS website. Two defenses are scheduled for this year. Mohsen Toorani and Martin Aastrup Olsen will become new alumni in a couple of days.

- Security Divas conference organized by NorSIS - no applications for funding so far, although we have dozen female PhD students that could benefit from it. The event is mostly in Norwegian thus the language could be a barrier for some students.
- Group of students are recruited that work for free, they get ECTS units for that to look if the self-services could be developed and also how the COINS website could be transformed for plugin useful for other research schools.
- No comments about the website.

Students+events

PhD seminar in Stockholm

- Ijlal Loutfi: Three collocated events. First two days at the PhD student's seminars. Students liked the smaller number of students because they have enough time to understand each other's research. Then, there was a NordSec, where the posters and papers were presented. The attendance at the lecture was very low but it gave a very good room for discussion. It was quite broad. The event was closed with 3 days in CySep. The lectures were quite different in length and focus to NordSec. Students liked the form of delivery of the lectures and the fact that they could interact with the speakers.
- Andrii Shalaginov: At the seminar there were working groups on different topics, very interesting experience. We tried to find a common topic or abstract that we could produce. Maybe for the future we can have a part of the course; the abstract that we produce is the common point of interest for different students. There was very nice poster session for PhD students at NordSec. It was nice to have a chance to talk to the fellow students from Norway and other countries. Overall, it was very nice experience.
- Several supervisors attended: Stewart Kowalski, Stefan Axelsson, Slobodan Petrovic and Hanno Langweg. We also had two COINS alumni as participants of the PhD seminar: Ebenezer Paintsil and Oleksandr Kazymyrov. It was very useful to have some supervisors at the PhD seminar, talking about how to write a thesis, all technicalities, future perspectives etc. It would be nice to see more of them. However, supervisors have difficulties to attend just the seminar, it takes lots of time and needs to be combined with another event.

Input from the advisory board meeting

- Advisory board members met in Stockholm: we had Gene Spafford and Armin Cremers.
- Main topic: upcoming mid-term evaluation. Research Council gives us funding for 4+4 years and we will have mid-term evaluation of COINS next year. The details of the mid-evaluation are not released yet. It will be a seminar for all research schools sometimes early next year. From the experience of last year it will be probably one or

several committees send questionnaires for the people at research school, administration, consortium members and student representatives. They will request a report from the research school and they will have meetings with representatives from the schools. After that, they will compile reports, give recommendations for the next 4 years and hopefully extend the funding for the research schools for the remaining 4 years of the period. Last time the evaluation took place, it was in 2012. The advisory boards were not involved in mid-term evaluation, but it could be different this year, since recommendation from the Research Council was that all research schools should have advisory boards.

- Students should have the opportunity to attend COINS events for credits. There should be no difficulties with recognition of courses taken under the course code of another consortium member. Some students cannot attend the events because they do not belong to the course codes of their institutions. It will be easier next year when GUC will become NTNU. Proxy course descriptions should be introduced to circumvent limitations of non-local course codes.
- Compliance with reporting requirements, document in-kind contribution. The amount and the quality of the documentation has been varied among the consortium members and it would be very beneficial to have good documentation from all consortium members. The form for the documentation will be sent by Urszula Nowostawska within a week with the names of students attending the COINS events and with the estimate of numbers of hours. It would be nice if we could get all the forms before Christmas. It would be good for the evaluation next year.
- Sponsor membership in professional societies for PhD students to get more values out of COINS. We could sponsor PhD student one year of free ACM membership or ISSA etc. Student membership of ACM should be around \$50 in the first year, which means that for all our 40 students it would be \$2000, equivalent of the amount we pay for one student attending one-week seminars in Stockholm. In addition, to get membership in the society of your choice student has to publish a paper with the acknowledgement section for COINS research school. Some students already do this and we offer them PhD comic book.
- No feedback to the advisory board members.

Finse winter school 24/4 – 29/4 2016

- Finse winter school next year will run for the 9th time. For the first time it will be COINS event.
- Tor Helleseth – Invitation letter will be sent in January. Working on the programme and have suggestions for the speakers. Britta Hale has been in the programme committee. Everything is scheduled, just waiting for answers. More things will happen in January 2016. The deadline for applying will be in the middle of March 2016. 32 rooms are reserved at Finse, the same as last year for about 25 participants and 6-7 speakers. If we will have more people, some people will need to share a

double room. Organization of Finse is pretty much under control. Some minor, practical issues still need to be discussed. For COINS PhD students everything will be as usual. There is a question about the PhD students who are not COINS students, but it will be discussed closer to the event.

- Some of the speakers at the Finse:
 1. Nasir Memon, Professor at the Computer Science and Engineering Department, NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering.
 2. Gene Tsudik, Chancellor's Professor at Department of Computer Science, University of California.
 3. Kenny Paterson, Professor of Information Security at University of London (not confirmed yet).
 4. Ed Dawson, Emeritus Professor at University of Queensland.

Metochi summer school 30/7 – 6/8 2016

- The school may take place one day later, since there are negotiations with airlines for packages for inexpensive flights, so the school might start on Sunday instead of Saturday.
- There is proposal for the Metochi summer school working title: Authentication Ecosystems. At the ISF meeting there was a chance, especially for those involved in IKTPLUSS projects, of discussing COINS and topics for the summer school. Audun Jøsang who attended the meeting described it as an interesting topic, which can relate to almost all IKTPLUSS projects. Lectures under this umbrella will be of interest to all PhD students. The name "Ecosystems" does not mean anything, we will give a meaning to it. It could be a security research, but the name is trendy and catchy. When we set up the programme committee for the Metochi summer school next year, should we continue to work under the working title Authentication Ecosystems? - 4 votes for yes.
- Mohamed Abomhara is supposed to finish his PhD at the end of August next year. He probably will not be ready for a defense at the beginning of August at Metochi.

COINS students in 2016

More than 20 new students should join COINS next year, thanks to IKTPLUSS program.

Budget

Budget proposal for 2016

Hanno Langweg has emailed the budget proposal.

There is money allocated for the Finse winter school, Metochi summer school based on the expenses from this year, PhD seminar in 2016 and 2017. In 2017 there is more money allocated than usual due to the joint PhD student seminar where we will have students from COINS and students from SWITS attending. The annual SWITS seminar will take place in

Norway instead of Sweden. At SWITS seminar they usually have between 60-70 people attending from Sweden. We may not get all 70 people from Sweden but traveling to Oslo should not be difficult. A detailed discussion has to take place in SWITS. Audun Jøsang has agreed to be a local host in Oslo. There is a conference centre in Oslo, which has the goal to foster cooperation between Norway and Sweden that is Voksenåsen. There is a chance of getting free seminar rooms at the Oslo University but it does not solve the problem with accommodation. If we book hotel rooms at Voksenåsen they will give us seminar rooms for free. It is more convenient to be located at the same building with the seminar rooms and hotel.

Other item on the budget is a post for mobility, where we pay students to attend conferences, seminars or winter schools outside of COINS such as SWITS seminars, ArcticCrypt in Svalbard, NISK conference, NordSec or Security Divas. There is also a budget for PhD students for short research stay, up to two weeks, at the facilities of COINS research partners. Each research institution can become a partner of COINS. The allocated money have not been used for the last three years. We have several applications for people wanting to attend SECENTIS winter school, 3 applications for people wanting to attend ArcticCrypt and one post for participation in a Capture the flag competition. We promised in the funding application that we will host the Capture the flag competition within COINS so we have to demonstrate to the Research Council that we are trying to do that and work on it in 2016. Last item on the budget is management: students work, travel to the meetings, website, T-shirts and hoodies.

No comments to budget proposal.

Missing reports of in-kind contributions.

The issue was discussed earlier. Everybody has promised in best effort to return the forms before Christmas.

Underused potential

- Talked about the local course codes.
- There was the idea of a seminar for supervisors but it does not need to be discussed today.
- Ijlal Loutfi raised a point for internship opportunities with non-COINS partners, but the conclusion cannot be reached today.

Beyond 2016

All the issues were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Miscellaneous

When we support students in attending events, sometimes we are asked how we can support more students with the same amount of money. One way to do it is to have

students sharing a room. For some students this could be a big problem. Should we have a general rule on that or just say, that in the case of having shortage of money, those who accept to share a room will do that and the ones who want to have a single room, their wish will be fulfilled. At Finse usually everybody has a single room, sometimes it may happen that two students from the same group are asked to share a room, but they are contacted about it beforehand.