

# Cloud Security Alliance Nordic Summit 2015, Oslo,

Report by Vivek Agrawal

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This is a reflection report on the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) Nordic Summit<sup>1</sup> that was held in Oslo on June 15, 2015. The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote the use of best practices for providing security assurance within Cloud Computing, and to provide education on the uses of Cloud Computing to help secure all other forms of computing. The conference offered an opportunity to learn about cloud security in addition to having the opportunity to network with colleagues in the IT-security community and with prominent IT security experts. There were many excellent speakers presented a keynote on cloud security. There was also an option to attend the CCSK certification training (for an extra registration fee). I did not choose the certification training option.

The event started with the opening notes presented by Damir Savanovic, Senior Analyst and Researcher at CSA, and Martin Gilje Jaatun, Vice President of CSA Norway Chapter. They provided some background information related to CSA, its mission and activities. Jim Reavis presented the first keynote on the topic of ‘The CSA story and Future’. Mr. Reavis is helping shape the future of information security and related technology industries as co-founder, CEO and driving force of the Cloud Security Alliance. CSA was formed in December 2008 in order to provide objective enterprise user guidance on the adoption and use of cloud computing. CSA has a network of chapters worldwide. Apart from working on cloud standards, CSA also work on certification, education and training, guidance and tools. Mr. Reavis also expressed his vision in the area of IOT security. The upcoming research will identify and document critical vulnerabilities found in IOT in enterprise environments. According to him, the biggest security risk of cloud computing is “Not embracing the cloud.” The legacy IT is rapidly becoming the biggest risk to enterprise as it is hard to find hardware for old systems, operating systems no longer supported by manufacturer, losing expert developers to maintain and update proprietary code. Secondly, enterprises cannot match the security budget and skill sets being developed by cloud companies.

Ram Samani, CTO for McAfee EMEA, gave the next keynote lecture. The title of his presentation was “CSA Guide to Cloud Computing: Implementing Cloud Privacy and Security”<sup>2</sup>. He discussed various issues related to the concern of considering cloud as a safe platform to host data. He started his presentation giving a brief introduction of cloud, the various models of cloud, and also the potential benefits and key role within the internet economy. Then, a view of the top threats to cloud computing was also discussed. The major portion of his presentation was focused towards the role of cloud consumer and cloud service

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<sup>1</sup> <https://csanorway.no/nordicsummit15/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blog.cloudsecurityalliance.org/2014/12/04/csa-guide-to-cloud-computing-now-available/>

provider. It consisted of having a practical information on how someone can leverage a cloud service provider, and various steps that end consumer (customer) need to consider while migrating to the cloud.

Ramsés Gallego conducted the next session of the presentation by presenting his topic “Cloud catalog: The next frontier”. Gallego<sup>3</sup> is responsible for strategy development and execution of the security portfolio at Dell software. According to Mr. Gallego, “*the current approaches to security are siloed, creating risk and impeding innovation.*” It is important to manage operational and business risk, have improved CAPEX and OPEX management, optimal value through effective and efficient services, and align IT investments with business goals in order to run any business effectively. He also presented his version of cloud architecture. It consists of two sections, a) Governing the cloud, b) operating the cloud<sup>4</sup>.

Damir Savanovic conducted the next session of the event with his presentation, “CSA STAR: The future of Cloud Trust and Assurance”. He is a senior analyst and researcher at CSA. He mentioned the top reasons for not adopting cloud according to the CSA financial services research. The important reason is the security concern, and it includes issues like data confidentiality, loss of control of data, data breach, legal and compliance issues, data loss. The reasons include regulatory restrictions and concerns over public breach.

Martin Gilje Jaatun<sup>5</sup>, Vice President, CSA Norway Chapter, presented the next keynote on the topic of Accountable cloud provider. Cloud providers need to commit to being responsible caretaker of other people’s information. This commitment encompasses both willingness and capacity to act as a responsible caretaker. The accountability of a cloud service provider can be captured in many aspects, i.e. Transparency, responsiveness, remediability, responsibility, verifiability, appropriateness, effectiveness. Accountability would make cloud services more transparent and hence trustworthy. Presence of transparency could provide visibility of governing norms, behavior and compliance of behavior to the norms. A cloud customer must take care of certain things while making a contract with a cloud provider. For instance, clear statements on what provider may do with data, how the provider handles data, conformance to data agreements, data location, procedure to leave the service, assurance that the user still owns the data.

Kai Roer, Senior partner at The Roer Group AS gave the closing remarks where he thanked all the speakers and participants.

It was a great experience for me to meet these people at the same place and know the various on-going research in the area of cloud computing and security. I also had an opportunity to discuss my PhD with speakers during the lunch break. I received some constructive feedback from them. I would like to thank COINS for sponsoring my participation.

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<https://csanordicsummitandsummercon2015.sched.org/speaker/ramsesgallego?iframe=no&w=i:100;&sidebar=no&bg=no>

<sup>4</sup> <https://downloads.cloudsecurityalliance.org/initiatives/guidance/csaguide.v3.0.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sintef.no/en/all-employees/?EmpId=242>