

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2016-11-28

Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska

Time: 1600 - 1730

Place: Bergen/Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Stig Frode Mjølshes (NTNU, Trondheim), Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Chunlei Li (representing University of Stavanger), Øyvind Ytrehus (University of Bergen), Stephen Wolthusen (NTNU, Gjøvik), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø), Bo Sun (Student), Andrii Shalaginov (Student), Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office).

Apologies:

- Audun Jøsang (University of Oslo).



Agenda

1. Results of election of student representatives
2. Agenda
3. Meeting minutes of SC Skype meeting 2015-12-07
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. Looking back: Finse 2016, Metochi 2016
 - b. Past Ph.D. student seminar in Bergen
 - c. ECTS and participation in courses
 - d. Finse 2017
 - e. SWITS/COINS joint seminar 2017
 - f. Metochi 2017
6. Budget
 - a. Budget proposal for 2017
 - b. Reports of in-kind contributions
7. Beyond 2016
 - a. Mid-term evaluation of COINS in 2016
8. Miscellaneous

Welcome

Welcome extended to Bo Sun as the new student representative elected at the PhD seminar in Bergen. Election of student representative is for one year. Welcome to Andrii Shalaginov re-elected for the 2nd year. Ijlal Loutfi from the University of Oslo did not run for re-election, due to her time spent abroad next year.

Agenda

No modification or any changes to the agenda.

Meeting minutes 2015-12-07

Previous meeting minutes are approved.

Status, goals, and milestones

Tasks from previous meetings

No tasks left from previous meetings.

Admission of students

- 20 students were admitted to COINS in 2016: many in NTNU and Bergen. There are 3-4 students in Bergen that qualify for COINS membership but did not apply for membership yet.
 - There will be at least one student from Oslo that could join.
 - One more student from NTNU Trondheim as part of IKT PLUSS project will arrive soon. Unfortunately, one student has left.
 - In Agder, several students graduated and one is close to completion.
 - Perhaps additional 2 students will be employed at the University of Bergen next year.
 - In Stavanger, 2 students graduated last year and one student just submitted his thesis. Two students joined this year and one female student should join soon.
 - In Trømso not many students in the security area, at the moment there is only one student. There was an expectation for one, but University was unable to hire the right person.
 - In NTNU Gjøvik, 5-6 students were hired on KD projects, and a couple more on Ars Forensica project will be coming soon. Few students have graduated last year and one will defend her thesis very soon. Actual headcount is increasing since there are more students joining than completing.

coinsrs.no

- No comments about the website.

Students+events

Finse winter school 2016

The first time the Winter School was organized under the COINS project. The Winter School went well and the programme was very good. Now the work will start on the programme for the Finse Winter School 2017. Øyvind Ytrehus will take over the responsibility for Finse Winter School, with help of Tor Helleseth. There were 32 rooms occupied by the Finse participants last year.

Metochi summer school 2016

- Organized for the second time at the Study Center of the University of Agder. The topic of this year summer school was Authentication. Several lectures were invited and about 15 students from COINS. Lecturers were from all over the world and even one lecturer was from Greece. Unfortunately, he could not provide his lecture as planned due to technical difficulties, so the other lectures needed to be stretched a little. It worked well, but it caused some stress during the event.
- As a part of the summer school, students have visited ENISA the day before travel to Lesbos. COINS gave one presentation to ENISA and there were several presentations from them in the field of authentication. Great exchanges of ideas and possibility of talking to experts in ENISA. Next year we have to find out if this will work since the summer school will be from Sunday to Sunday, not like this time, from Saturday to Saturday. It is not sure if people will be willing to stay at ENISA after the whole week of summer school. The other option would be to visit ENISA on Friday and have a full day of sightseeing on Saturday.
- Students are lazy to register or to respond. Only half of the registrations were early enough to plan, the other half needed a personal invitation. It would be nice to encourage students locally to reply to the invitations.

PhD seminar in Bergen

- Started on Sunday the 27th of November with many people attending. There were 27 attendees on Sunday, the highest number ever at the seminar. On Monday there were 20 people attending.
- Presentations of participants worked well. There were several working groups where students discussed areas of common grounds across universities. There was a discussion on upcoming SWITS/COINS PhD student seminar. In addition, there was a panel discussion where the students could ask all participating professors any questions related to the PhD training in Norway. There was also a simulated defense where the student who will defend late this year or early in January could practice with 45 min presentation of his thesis. He was provided with two opponents to ask difficult questions that he could face during the real defense. The candidate, students, and opponents have enjoyed the opportunity.

- It was odd that all the people who were willing to participate in the PhD seminar were coming from outside Bergen. Very few people attended from Bergen. Some students from Bergen who are not members of COINS showed up and that was nice, but the majority did not attend and they even did not respond to the invitation. There could be a trend that people do not want to attend a seminar if they do not need to travel, perhaps it could be less attractive if it is local. It will be not good for the coming PhD seminar in Oslo. Overall, the participation was great with a large group from NTNU, University of Oslo, some local students from Bergen and several supervisors.
- Bo Sun comments: Not many PhD students attended on Monday, due to the topic that was not very interesting for students and then to attend the defense. The suggestion would be to invite more speakers on general security topics and afterward have a simulated PhD defense. Moreover, although the PhD defense was simulated, the opponents did not read the thesis. The opponents gave very general questions that each PhD student could handle. For the future, the PhD defense should be better simulated.
- PhD seminar was hosted by the UiB. That was a very good decision. The second day of the seminar took place at Bergen University College.

ECTS and participants in courses.

- ECTS points are offered during active participation at the PhD student seminar, the Metochi Summer School, and the Finse Winter School. For mid-term evaluation that Research Council now performs, the numbers of credit points awarded to students have been summed up. So far we had 74 students in COINS (active and graduated), out of those 21 students attended the events with ECTS points awarded. On average, they got 4 points. There are research schools where students attend many more courses for points but the situation for these research schools is different. Some research schools are there to establish the research school programmes in the area, they start from scratch and all the courses are offered by the research school. For us the situation is different. We have established PhD programmes with established courses and COINS comes only as an additional umbrella. It is unclear if the RCN will use the numbers for benchmarking and telling research schools to deliver more credit points. However, the council acknowledges that all research schools are different. No plans to cut down the funding to the existing research schools. We should get some kind of letter with recommendations what the panel thinks would be good, any changes, input and what to do in the remaining 4 years.
- There is one issue with the recognition of courses. No problem with students with new NTNU, UiA, UiS, UiB (very convenient system with a word of professor that university administration accepts). There are cases with the University of Oslo that students will not attend the event, or not attend for credit because there is a limit of a number of points they can get from institutions outside the University of Oslo. This

is very unfortunate. The solution would be to introduce a local course code at Ifl, with the same course description and give Ifl's course code but it has not progressed so far. It will be discussed with Audun Jøsang again to get more students from Oslo who can participate in events for credits.

Finse winter school 7/5 - 12/5 2017

- Welcome, Øyvind Ytrehus, who is not a regular member of the steering committee. The main task for the Finse winter school is to appoint a programme committee. The event is quite informal and it will be continued this way. To recruit the lecturers, active members in the programme committee were needed. Bo Su and Andrii Shalaginov have volunteered as student members for the programme committee for the Finse Winter School 2017. The winter school will start on Sunday evening, the 7th of May with 5 days of teaching.
- Hanno Langweg has a backlog of names of speakers that were contacted for winter or summer schools in the past, but due to the conflict of events could not participate, but were willing to try next time. There is one lecture on trusted computing, two lectures on biometrics, two lectures on network and telecommunication security, one for software defined networking and one with verification of protocols. The list of the potential speakers may be distributed among the members of the steering committee beforehand. Last year Ijlal Loutfi had skype conversation with potential candidates before inviting them as speakers. Last year there were people who nobody knew and some of them cancelled at the last moment because they were stressed. It would be good to have people that are known to members of the committee, in this case, their commitment is much stronger.
- There are 32 rooms booked for Finse. **Action:** Tor Hellesteth is going to check with the hotel the confirmation of the rooms for the next year Finse School. The question is if the number of rooms should be increased from 32 to 35 due to the increased number of students, but it will also increase the cost for COINS. Now COINS pays around NOK 9000 per student in a single room. There is a possibility of double rooms but students would need to share the room in this situation. Last year there was a waiting list for participants, but at the end, only one person from the list was refused to Finse. Two weeks before the school's start there is a chance of changing the number of rooms. COINS will book 32 rooms for now. There is a problem if few people need to fill the space, sending an invitation to the huge number of people is not ideal because afterward, too many people are willing to attend.

SWITS/COINS join seminar 2017

- SWITS - Swedish IT security network for Ph.D. students. It is similar to COINS and it started in 2001, managed by the University of Karlstad. They have an annual seminar in a different place every year and they invite all PhD students and their supervisor

from all universities in Sweden. There are usually 50-75 people. The idea is to host a joint seminar. We have been visiting the SWITS seminar with some COINS students for couple years now and it would be a nice idea to invite the Swedish PhD students and their supervisors to Oslo. The reservation was made with Voksenåsen Conference Center in Oslo. This center is a gift from the Norwegian government to Swedish Government for the support that Sweden provided to Norway in World War II.

- The seminar will be in June, the typical day for the SWITS seminar. Reservations are for 7-9 June (Wednesday - Friday). There are reservations for 30 people (30 single rooms plus 10 participants from Oslo) on Wednesday and for 70 people (50 single rooms, 10 double rooms plus 10 participants from Oslo) on Thursday and Friday. The idea is to have the first day for COINS students only, and Thursday and Friday as a joint seminar for COINS and SWITS students. The idea of the joint PhD seminar was discussed at the PhD seminar in Bergen and was very much welcomed. Audun Jøsang has offered the local support and Stig Frode Mjølvsnes could be a backup person. If there will be many students and supervisors willing to participate, there is a number of double rooms to share. Some students have a problem with sharing the room and they would rather not attend the seminar to avoid sharing the room. Can we say that those students who are willing to share the room will have a preference for staying at Voksenåsen and those who will insist on staying in single room risk that they may end up staying at a hotel that is not at the seminar's site?
- Tor: In Svalbard students had very nice, expensive rooms and they needed to share it.
- Bo: Most of the students would rather share the room than do not go at all.

Metochi summer school 27/8 – 3/9 2017

- COINS is going to rent the study center of the University of Agder at Lesvos.
- The school will take place on the first week of September 2017, from August 27th until September 3rd (conference in Lofoten in mathematical methods in cryptography from 04-08 of September, followed by ESORICS 2017 in Oslo from 11-15 September).
- The topic of the summer school is still not decided. We had in the last year Cloud Security in 2015 and Authentication in 2016. There are three proposals:
 - Digital Forensics - Katrin Franke.
 - Internet of Things Security Track - Josef Noll. However, we do not have tracks in Finse and we have a broad spectrum of topics so this could more fit for the summer school.
 - Software security – Thomas Kemmerich.

Topic choices of the steering committee members: Cryptography, Post-quantum crypto. Other interesting topics: Crypto application, Secure implementation of cryptographic algorithms, Use of cryptography as anti-forensics, Tamper resistance of hardware, History of cryptography. Perhaps Forensics and Software Security could be

combined, there is an overlap with those topics, and maybe the cryptography could be added to it so that it could meet the expectation of many students.

Action: Hanno Langweg will put the proposed topics in the doodle poll and then will show to the students and ask them for the preferable topic that they would be willing to attend the school if that topic would be chosen.

Budget

Budget proposal for 2017

In the previous steering committee meeting, we have discussed the budget proposal for 2016 and 2017. The difference between the budgets for 2017 in comparison to the year 2016 will be that we will spend more money on PhD seminar in Voksenåsen in Oslo. Since the SWITS students are invited more money are needed to that. We will spend less money on the individual mobility of students, such as summer schools organized not by COINS or attend a conference without a paper.

No objections were made to this plan.

Reports of in-kind contributions

In the budget proposed to the Research Council, we said that Research Council provides 75% of the funding and we will provide the remaining 25% in the form of time that we record for COINS. The in-kind contribution documentation needs to be sent to us soon. We will send a reminder, provide the forms and fill with the estimate hours based on participation in the events. It worked well last year.

Beyond 2016

Mid-term evaluation of COINS

The mid-term evaluation for COINS and other research schools that started in 2013 has begun. A questionnaire by the Research Council has been sent to all the members of the steering committee representing all the partners in COINS and to all students.

There was a seminar in the Research Council in October that Hanno Langweg attended. The RCN reported on the new research schools that started up and there was a possibility of talking to the representatives from the other schools. They also outlined the procedure for the research evaluation. The council is going to evaluate the responses from the questionnaires. They will aggregate the information and will discuss the results in the panel of professors from Sweden and Denmark. There will be hearing for the research schools at the Research Council in the third week of January 2017. Not clear who will be invited to it. Hanno Langweg will definitely go there but maybe other representatives will be needed. There are no indications that it may go wrong.

Miscellaneous

All have been discussed before.

Next Steering Committee Meeting could be in Oslo in Voksenåsen.