

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2018-05-25

Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska

Time: 1123 - 1225

Place: Gjøvik, NTNU A132/Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder), Stephen Wolthusen (NTNU, Gjøvik), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Sergii Banin (Student), Xiaojie Zhu (Student) and Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office).

Apologies:

- Chunming Rong (University of Stavanger) and Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø).



Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Meeting minutes of SC Skype meeting 2018-03-06
3. Status, goals and milestones
 - a. Tasks from previous meetings
 - b. Admission of students
 - c. coinsrs.no: Upcoming events on front page
4. Metochi 2018 (IMT6003)
5. Students+events
 - a. Looking back: COINS IT Security Exercise (IMT6007)
 - b. Looking back: Finse 2018 (IMT6002)
 - c. Ph.D. student seminar 2018 (IMT6004)
 - d. Finse 2019, COINS IT Security Exercise 2019, Metochi 2019
 - e. ECTS and participation in courses
6. COINS 2020++ (to be continued on Svalbard)
7. Miscellaneous

Agenda

No modification or any changes to the agenda. Agenda was approved. Sergii requested suggestions from Hanno to help students from Department of Manufacturing and Civil Engineering in establishing a research school similar to COINS in their area of research. They need some advice and directions for submitting the applications. Hanno is happy to help.

Meeting minutes 2018-03-06

Previous meeting minutes accepted without objections.

Status, goals, and milestones

Tasks from previous meetings

Xiaojie offered to report about a formal course recognition procedure at University of Oslo of the course he took at COINS summer school last year and tell how it worked. He also offered to give a new proposal for partnership. Due to problem with the Skype connection, there was no voice from Xiaojie, the issue was postponed to the next meeting.

Admission of students

There is a call for the PhD position at University of Agder, thus we may expect a one student joining COINS after summer.

Recently we have received lots of applications from University of Bergen.

There should more applications from NTNU in Gjøvik coming soon.

Upcoming events

COINS summer school in Metochi, Greece and COINS PhD student seminar in Svalbard, Norway.

Metochi 2018

This year summer school in Metochi will take place in the last week of July. We will have 6 lecturers:

- Sandra Scott-Hayward from Queen's University Belfast who will talk about SDN and NFV Security,
- Thomas Lukaseder from Ulm University, topic: SDN-assisted Mitigation of DDoS Attacks,
- Slobodan Petrović, NTNU, topic: Approximate Search in Intrusion Detection,
- Christina Pöpper, NYU Abu Dhabi, topic: LTE/Mobile Network Security,
- Steffen Wendzel, University of Applied Sciences Worms, topic: Network Information Hiding and Covert Channels,
- Christoffer Hallstensen, NTNU, topic: Computer Network Defence – the big picture.

This year without any advertising we have many students from COINS and abroad signing for the summer school. The summer school will be from Sunday to Sunday, 5 days of lectures and one day free in the middle of the week. As usual we will start with intensive 4 hours morning sessions, followed by the long break and then afternoon sessions and after dinner, informal sessions that allows mingling and socialising.

Thomas Kemmerich is also organising a trip to ENISA on Monday, just after the summer school. COINS visited ENISA already twice, in 2015 and 2016. This year, however, we may have fewer students than in the previous years.

This year we will have few students coming with their families to Metochi.

Students+events

COINS IT Security Exercise

This year for the first time we have introduced a new course for PhD students: IT Security exercise (IMT6007). IMT6007 is a 5 ECTS PhD-level course on software security with an NTNU course code. This is more applied IT course, capture the flag style. The course was based on three meetings: 2 days in Trondheim, 6-7 March 2018, 2 days in Oslo, 5-6 May 2018 and one day in Gjøvik 25 May 2018.

Experience with the course is slightly mixed. We have hired three external lecturers from FluxFingers, a highly skilled CTF team of Ruhr University Bochum. During the first meeting in Trondheim we had 5 PhD students plus 2 on Skype. The capacity was filled with master students (twice as more master students than PhD students) from Gjøvik and Trondheim. Unfortunately, the number of students in Oslo decreased significantly, few could not come, one student cancelled the participation, some preferred participation in the Holmenkollen stafetten instead. Overall, it turned out that we have brought to Oslo 3 lectures for only one PhD student, few Bachelor and Master students. The only PhD student even needed to leave earlier. It was a very expensive event. In Gjøvik we had 2 PhD students and 2 non-PhD students. It turned out that many students are in the security studies, but they are not into the security. It was very disappointing. Many of them showed lack of skills in basic security courses and lack of interest. We had to ask the registration office to register students for the course and if they will not participate we have to cancel the registration, this cause lots of problems.

Feedback from the 2 students was that they did like the course, but the number was not very satisfying. We should have given a minimum limit of people. Maybe one of the solutions in this kind of situation would be that if a student drops a course, the home institution will cover the expenses of the course. The fact that PhD students from University of Oslo did not show up at the Oslo meeting was not very good for the host institution. Maybe we should inform supervisors beforehand. From the original registration everything looked quite well, the number of students was satisfying, but unfortunately it was not good at the end.

Finse winter school 6/5 – 11/5 2018

Feedback from Tor: this year winter school was quite similar to the previous years. All 32 rooms were taken. The style of lectures was also similar. We had 7 lecturers: Gunnar Alendal, Dennis Andriess, Colin Boyd, Nils Gruschka, Qian Guo, Audun Jøsang, and Martin Pirker. Vladimir and Tor have participated as well. Several PhD students decided to take IMT6002 course, 6 students were giving presentations and the weather was very beautiful. Next year Finse winter school will also take place in the same week in May, 10-15 May 2019 (Øyvind will double check). The distribution of students: approximately 80% PhD students were from University of Bergen and only very few students from other universities, maybe because of the limited participation at the other COINS events.

It would be interesting to find out why there was so little participation from other universities at the winter school. Sergii reported that he did not hear any reasons why students would not go. He, himself did not participate either.

Overall all went well. COINS have already received an invoice. Last year there was misunderstanding who should be charged for the event, Gjøvik or Trondheim.

Øyvind Ytrehus is happy to host the event next year. He will do it together with Tor.

Ph.D student seminars 2018

This year's COINS Ph.D. student seminar will be held in Longyearbyen (Svalbard), followed by NISK, the Norwegian Information Security Conference. We do not have a local host in Svalbard, so it will be different than for the last few years. Preliminary draft for the PhD student seminar is to arrive on Monday, the 17th of September of early morning of the 18th of September. The seminar will take place in Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen or Kulturhuset. We will start at 13:00 with 4 hours session for COINS followed by two days research on NISK track. We plan to have as usual, talk about life after PhD from postdocs, short presentations from participants and ask the professors panel.

The seminar will be under the course code. This year we will have a different participation requirement. Everybody needs to attend 4 hours workshop session and the whole NISK conference, which means arrival on Monday and departure on Friday with writing a report about the events (IMT6004/5/6).

We need to have an organising committee for the PhD seminar, volunteers are welcome. Sergii Banin has volunteered to help and will take a responsibility for student's participants from NTNU in Gjøvik from different research groups: biometric group, digital forensics, and other.

COINS will cover expenses for travel to Svalbard to PhD student seminar and NISK (19-20 September) as a package. We have many applications from students, over 30, with lots of students from UiB. We may consider inviting a speaker for the PhD student's seminar, but until we will not know the programme at NISK and invited speakers we cannot decide. All

the proposals for whom we should invite are welcome, but please keep in mind that the COINS session will be much shorter than normally.

Vladimir is interested to attend the event.

Registration for NISK is combined with the room booking at the hotel.

Finse 2019, COINS IT Security Exercise 2019, Metochi 2019

Finse winter school in 2019 will take place in the same week as in this year.

We have also received confirmation that the summer school in Metochi in 2019 will take place at the same time as this year, in the last week on July 2019. We do not have an organizing committee yet, neither the topic for the summer school. Suggestions for the topic are welcome. It would be nice to include all the fields that were not recognized so far or if there are any pressing topics that would be useful to know. Maybe it would be useful to talk to Staal Vinterbo about a privacy topic. He is probably not aware of the opportunity, since he is new in the department. This year in August there is a summer school in privacy. Since most of the students who attended the summer school in Metochi have already graduated, thus we may recycle the topics, students will be different.

ECTS and participation in courses

Due to the problem with Skype connection to Xiaojie, the evaluation of ECTS points at the UiO was postponed.

There are no formal problems at NTNU with evaluation of COINS courses, but there is a problem to select COINS courses until the literature for topics is not provided.

No any known problems with University in Bergen and Agder with the course recognitions.

No any future events in the near future.

COINS 2020++

The COINS research school is funded by Norwegian Research Council until the end of 2020, 2.5 year left of funding. We must discuss a plan, what we can do with COINS after 2020. Maybe we should plan for another funding, the question is if we want to copy the same research school or find something different. The discussion will be continued at the next steering committee meeting in Svalbard. We need to think how we can prepare for the future. It is clear that we will not get more funding from the research council after 2020, but we may consider applying for another funding under different topic.

The Finse winter school participation could be entirely covered by participants and receive a partial funding from universities. That could be a potential solution to the problem.

We would probably need to rename COINS, some research school have done it, and broader the focus of research. The new school cannot be just a continuation of the existing school but needs to have new activities. Perhaps we should include also safety with security and name it BILLS, NOTES or VIPS. At Simula, security is the substance for robustness and

resilience. This could be a potential place to apply for funding. We may need to deal with different people, but this should not be a big problem. At NTNU campus Gjøvik, we have access to many different industries in Raufoss, particularly Sintef would be a good connection. Crucial point is to discuss the directions that we could take. The umbrella could be quite wide to include the industry in Bergen and those from security.

In March Hanno had some discussion regarding the funding from the research school and the response from the research council was that they are not going to fund research schools in ICT, thus he did not pursue the funding application this year.

If anyone has any ideas regarding the funding or continuation of research school after 2020, please send the suggestions to Hanno or Urszula. It would be a great foundation for the discussion in September steering committee meeting.

It would be useful to explore new areas and reach to our colleagues in other departments. Now, would be a good time to have some small meetings, organise new tracks and summer/winter schools.