Women in Cybersecurity, Dallas, Texas, April 2016
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The third Women in Cybersecurity conference was held in Dallas, Texas, in the period from March 31st til April 2nd. Conference gathered women that are somehow related to the cybersecurity, mostly students (both udndergraoueted and graduated students at PhD study level). Beside students, there were a lot of women from industrie and education area.

There were different workshops (parallel sessions) that all the participants were able attend. To attend a workshop, participants had to register before conference started.

On the first day of the conference I've choose to participate two workshops: "To catch a Thief: Think Like One" and "Cybersecurity Club: 101 from Inception to Installment and Beyond". **"To catch a Thief: Think Like One**" was organized by Target Inc. and lecturer was Christina Carlson. She gave a talk about hackers, what is their motivation, how you can become one, what are the most common dumb security ideas, etc. We had a chance to test ourselves as hackers through three examples: hacking Web application for online banking (http://www.altoromutual.com/), performing SQLInjection attacks at the same Web application and finding vulnerabilities at the same Web application with ZED Attack Proxy tool (https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Zed_Attack_Proxy_Project). This workshop was useful to me, since I have a teaching obligations related to Internet programming and I have got some new idea how to improve the course and make my students more interesting to security of Web applications. On one of the networking social sessions, I had a chance to talk personally with Christina and to introduce her with COINS and she was really interesting to come and give a lecture on some of COINS winter or summer schools. Lecturers for the **"Cybersecurity Club: 101 from Inception to Installment and Beyond"** workshop were students from Tennessee Tech and Texas A&M University. They introduced us to their Cybersecurity club named Cyber Eagles (http://blogs.cae.tntech.edu/cybereagles/) and walk us through all the phases for establish club like this and gave us interesting talk about how to motivate students to become a part of club like this. To the best of my knowledge, there is no club like this at NTNU and I think it would be very useful to have one, especially one that would gather undergraduate students to motivate them to continue their research in cybersecurity. Most of the participants at the conference were from the USA and at this workshop I got a T-Shirt of the Club as a person who travelled the longest to get to the conference.

At the end of the first day of conference we had to deliver our posters for the presentation at the Student poster session. There were 170 posters submitted for the conference and only 31 posters were accepted for presentation. I presented a poster related to my current research - privacy issues on Android mobile devices. Topic was very interested to the most of the participants and I was talking an hour and a half trying to answer all the questions. It was really nice expirience and I was very glad about the fact that people considered my research results so interested.

On the second day of conference, I've participated at the third workshop I've regitered for **"Big Data Analytics and Cloud for Cyber Security Applications"**. The workshop gave an overview of the big data analytics and cloud data management techniques and how to use these techniques to solve cyber security problems (for example, malware detection).

Besides the workshop, second day of the conference was the day for poster presentations. There was also interesting talks, such as "The Business of Cybersecurity", where it was pointed out that cybersecurity is no longer just a technology problem, but the business as well and both research and industry institution have to work together on solving problems and on introducing the world about cybersecurity in general. Session titled as "5 Minute Lightning Talks" was quick but useful, introducing the participants to topics such as how to start a start-up company, reverse code engineering, role of criminology in the cybersecurity, etc. During this session, Cybercorps - scholarship program managed by NSS was presented (more details can be found on https://www.sfs.opm.gov/). On the session titled as "So You Want to Work in Privacy?" speakers shared their expirience how it is to work in privacy related workgroups in Yahoo! and Google and one of the conclusions of this session was - To be one of the best researcher/worker in privacy area, it is important to have some prior knowledge related to law, and it's recommended to take some legal and policy classes. Interesting talk about this was given on the third day of the conference, where one of the employees from IBM Security talked about her careera switch - "From Law to Cybersecurity: What I learned on my journey". The third day I had attended the workshop **"Breaking the Bank to Save Web Apps"** which was organized by Google. Through the workshop, we were introduced to the OWASP top 10 project (https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_Top_Ten_Project) and as a practical part of the workshop we were given access to one vulnerable Web application for banking to performe attacks such as Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) and Cross-Site Request Forgery (XSRF) and SQLInjection (similar to the first workshop I've attended at WiCyS).

Networking social session, where some of the major well-known companies (such as IBM, Facebook, etc.) presented their work and introduced the participants to the concrete things they are working on, was a great opportunity to learn something about what skills do you need to apply for a job position. We were given some advices how to prepare for the job interview. Career & Graduate School Fair was useful for the attendees who are about to finish their current studies level and are looking for a job opportunity or for an internship. This was useful for me too and I've made some connections with a few companies that have their branches in Europe where I would like to work after finishing my PhD studies. On one of the social events, I met Claire Vishik. She works for ENISA and she also showed an interest to participate to one of COINS events. Her research is related to policy, cybersecurity, privacy and cryptography.

Since Texans have some different idioms comparing to the rest of the States, each day during the launch time we had to learn one. The way Texans say "Hello" is "Howdy", when they are about to do something awesome, such as dancing, they say "Yeehaw!" and when they want to encourage someone they say "Git R Dun". We also had a chance to learn some Texas line dancing and it was really funny and relaxing.

In total, WiCyS is a great conference to attend and I would highly recomand it to all the female members of COINS. It combines lots of useful workshops and sessions with social events and fun times and it is a great opportunity to make connections with women from both industry and research and it is definilty worth of spending 10 hours up in the air to reach the States from the Europe. And, if there is a chance for something similar to start in Europe, think it will be good to start it. Or try to make some sort of collaboration with WiCyS for 2017.