

## Cyber Security KTN Newsletter #21

### Highlights this Month

- Cyber Security KTN Annual Conference 12 June 2008 – last places available
- New research on security education for IT undergraduates
- Centre for Defence Enterprise
- InfoSecurity Europe 2008 and the KTN's privacy whitepaper

### News Items

- Secure Software Development Workshop
- Cyber Security KTN PULSE programme – regional events on the radar
- Economics of Information Security download available now
- Have your say on Cyber Security KTN website improvements

### Upcoming Events

- 12th June - Annual conference (details below)
- 17th, 18th June - IA08: the leading Information Assurance event (details below)
- 17th 18th July - International Crime Science Conference in July (details below)

### Cyber Security KTN Annual Conference 12 June 2008 – last places available

The Cyber Security KTN Annual Conference 2008 takes place on 12 June in London. The theme for this year's event is 'joined-up security' and limited places for KTN members who want to attend are still available free of charge.

Guest speakers at the Conference include Charles Ross from Quantum Technologies Action Plan (QTAP), Air Commodore Graham Wright CBE, Director, Targeting and Information Operations at the MOD and Rt Hon Alun Michael MP. The event also offers delegates an expert panel discussion, breakout sessions, networking opportunities and an exhibition.

Issues for discussion include:

- Integrated security
- Breaking down barriers between sectors and in corporations
- Security awareness across organisations for experts and non-experts
- A whole life approach to information assurance
- Innovation in security - joining up business and academia
- The impact of cyber warfare
- Partnering in crime prevention and response as well as updates on KTN activity

The Conference is aimed at IT industry professionals, Government representatives and academics with an interest in cyber security issues.

For those interested in registering for the Conference, please log on to: [http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/events.php?page=ev\\_annconreg](http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/events.php?page=ev_annconreg)

## InfoSecurity Europe 2008 and the KTN's privacy whitepaper

The Cyber Security KTN made waves at Europe's largest security technology trade show in April by releasing its white paper on privacy to the 12,500 visitors who attended this year's event. The paper entitled 'Privacy Engineering' outlined an approach to building privacy into every level of the product development process for information systems. It also advised organisations not to delegate privacy issues to junior members of staff, and placed the issue of privacy squarely in the court of IT companies rather than the public.

The release of the white paper was met with interest from various media outlets:

- Computing magazine  
<http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2214949/cyber-security-ktn-issues>
- IT Pro  
<http://www.itpro.co.uk/news/191331/infosec-08-make-security-part-of-corporate-culture.html?searchString=nigel+jones>

Also announced at InfoSecurity Europe was the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's study on IT security breaches in collaboration with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The report highlighted that the number of security breaches has fallen by a third in the past two years but that basic mistakes are still being made by most organisations. According to the report, four-fifths of the companies that

have had a computer or laptop stolen did not have the data on the computer encrypted. Furthermore, two-thirds of companies allow employees to remove data on unsecured USB sticks.

The executive summary of this government report can be found here:

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45713.pdf>

For information about next year's InfoSecurity Europe event use the following link:

<http://www.infosec.co.uk/>

## Secure Software Development Workshop

The KTN's Secure Software Development Special Interest Group recently held a set of workshops on how to help UK software developers produce products with fewer security flaws/vulnerabilities. This was an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute and shape the recommendations coming out of the KTN on this subject. Speakers included Geoff Hill, a well-respected developer from Microsoft and Lord Toby Harris who was responsible for the recent House of Lords report on e-crime. The workshops themselves focused on four themes:

- Business case exemplars – confirming the business case for why anyone should be concerned about secure software development
- Good practice review – a broad assessment of what good practice exists today and how could it be disseminated effectively
- Training and academia – a review of how to integrate secure software development into existing training and academic programmes
- Secure Software Development process lifecycle 'best practice' – the very best examples of implementing secure software development practices

The workshops provided a wealth of primary information on how best to develop new guidelines and rules that can reduce the possibility of security flaws and vulnerabilities in software programmes. The output of the event is a White Paper on secure software development which will be released at the KTN's annual conference on 12th June.

Whilst still under wraps, the White Paper will include three key conclusions. Primarily, that there are some excellent examples of good practice already and these need to be championed. Get Safe Online is one example which targets business and personal computer users. Its model could be replicated for the software

development community. Secondly, that there is a significant role for professional institutes to play – that of establishing codes of practice that target software developers. And finally, that a strong set of public sector procurement guidelines for purchasing software would increase the case for more secure software development and implementation.

The White Paper will also include a list of proposed actions with recommended owners to ensure that the development of this document delivers real results and real change.

### **New research on security education for IT undergraduates**

The KTN has announced the results of researched undertaken by Bill Whyte, an independent security consultant and former division manager at BT Laboratories. The research shows that UK computing students receive almost no education on how to incorporate security functionality when designing and developing new software applications. It confirms fears that the IT community is not tackling common security issues at the root cause by encouraging a more secure approach to software development.

The research took the form of a detailed analytical review of open source web material gathered from the 75 UK universities most renowned for delivering future software developers. It showed that as few as 20% of UK computing undergraduates get no more than five hours education on software security and many get none at all.

“Frankly I was surprised by how low the figures were,” explains Whyte. “Today’s computing market is a complex value chain of software activities and is as vulnerable as its weakest link. The study is clear – security issues stem from beginning of the chain. We need to get a much greater percentage of security-literate graduates out there or the number of otherwise-avoidable financial losses will grow.”

Interestingly, the recent BERR and PriceWaterhouseCoopers report on UK information security breaches does not reference secure software development in any of its 32 pages.

The release of the research caught the attention of the technology media with more than ten publications printing a news story on the findings. Some of the articles can be found below:

- Computing - <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2216373/students-educated-security>

- British Computing Society - <http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=conWebDoc.19168>
- Women in Technology - <http://www.womenintechnology.co.uk/it-graduates-lack-security-training-news-15017914/>
- Vnunet.com - <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2216490/secure-development-key-security>
- IT Pro - <http://www.itpro.co.uk/applications/news/196269/uk-computing-graduates-lack-security-skills.html>

## Centre for Defence Enterprise

The Ministry of Defence has launched a new initiative to provide a portal through which academia and industry can electronically submit research and development proposals into MOD. It is holding a series of open monthly seminars to launch the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE). The aim is to stimulate debate among companies and researchers with common interests and to expose the military's requirements. The first was held on 29th May. Thereafter they will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month.

If you are interested in attending the seminar or how you could benefit from and work with the CDE, please contact Anne Norman on 01235 438445.

A flyer for the first seminar can be found here:

[http://ktn.globalwatchonline.com/epicentric\\_portal/binary/com.epicentric.contentmanagement.servlet.ContentDeliveryServlet/PUBLIC/marians/CDE\\_Seminar.pdf](http://ktn.globalwatchonline.com/epicentric_portal/binary/com.epicentric.contentmanagement.servlet.ContentDeliveryServlet/PUBLIC/marians/CDE_Seminar.pdf)

## Cyber Security KTN PULSE programme – regional events on the radar

The Cyber Security KTN PULSE programme is aimed at identifying and gathering feedback on the key issues that regional stakeholders and businesses have in the area of Cyber Security. PULSE events are designed to provide a catalyst for collaborations and networking opportunities within each region through facilitated sessions and the opportunity to meet others in the user, vendor and research communities. The PULSE programme brings the national debate on information, data and cyber issues to a local and regional audience, facilitating knowledge transfer, innovation and effective responses to business needs.

PULSE events are currently being organised from early Summer throughout the year in the North West, Wales, East Midlands and Northern Ireland. To get involved with partnering events in your region, or to gain

more details on PULSE activities, please email: [RJAMES2@qinetiq.com](mailto:RJAMES2@qinetiq.com)

## Register now for IA08 – the leading Information Assurance event

Places are filling up for IA08, the Government's leading Information Assurance (IA) event that will enable attendees to find out about the latest developments in this field.

IA08 attendees will be able to put questions to senior Government experts on Information Assurance issues. Participants will be the first to hear the Cabinet Office's statement on how industry takes forward IA issues at the two-day event.

Case studies and interactive discussions at the conference include topics such as Bringing Leadership, Governance & Compliance to IA, Integrating IA into Business as Usual and Managing Human Factors in IA. Cyber Security KTN Director Nigel Jones will be facilitating the Crafting Cultural Change for discussion.

Keynote speakers include Sir Gus O' Donnell KCB, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, and John Suffolk, Her Majesty's Government Chief Information Officer, at the Cabinet Office. BBC journalists Edward Sturton and John Humphreys will respectively be on hand to facilitate and offer after dinner speaking at IA08.

The conference is aimed at and will be attended by leading government and industry decision makers and senior academics within the information assurance community.

To attend the two day event taking place at Park Plaza Riverbank, London, SE1 7JT, please go to:

<http://livegroup.co.uk/ia08/>

## Cyber Security KTN presence at International Crime Science Conference in July

Nigel Jones, Director of the Cyber Security KTN, will be chairing an e-crime prevention session at this year's International Crime Science Conference in London.

Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary, will be opening The Conference which promises to bring together senior security and crime reduction practitioners, policy-makers, technologists, and leading academics.

This year the conference will concentrate on the prevention, disruption and detection of terrorism, organised crime and crime and anti-social behaviour. Technologies and methodologies from the fields of biometrics, forensic science, surveillance and crime science will be explored with planned plenary sessions on topics including data forensics and bio-chemical threats.

For further information on the conference, taking on 17 and 18 July 2008, at the British Library, in London, please go to: <http://www.cscs.ucl.ac.uk/events-1/icsc-2007/programme>

### **Economics of Information Security download available now**

The Cyber Security KTN is pleased to make available to members a download for the publication entitled: 'The Economics of Information Security'.

The download is the result of a seminar on the topic organised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Hewlett-Packard Laboratories (Bristol) and the KTN.

The report covers information security topics such as investment factors, use of the best economic models and measuring value.

To download the publication, please go to: [http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/content/files/ESRC\\_econinfsec.pdf](http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/content/files/ESRC_econinfsec.pdf)

### **Have your say on Cyber Security KTN website improvements**

The Cyber Security KTN is seeking members' feedback on the functionality of its recently revamped website.

The aim of the site's redevelopment was to improve the maintainability of the site from a technical perspective and also to improve its navigation, readability and clarity to visitors. The result of this work has allowed the KTN to respond more quickly in putting content onto the site and the new layout has already been commented favourably upon by our visitors. Some highlights include:

- Quick links to upcoming events displayed on every page, with events being automatically updated
- 'KTN in the News' section
- Site is now web standards compliant and compatible with all major browsers

If you have any comments on the KTN website, please click on: [http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/index.php?page=in\\_contact](http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/index.php?page=in_contact)

## What do you think of the Cyber Security KTN newsletter?

The Cyber Security KTN would like to hear from members reading this newsletter to gain feedback on improving its content.

If you have a view on what articles we should be covering, or if you have a suggestion for an article yourself, please go to: [http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/index.php?page=in\\_contact](http://www.ktn.qinetiq-tim.net/index.php?page=in_contact)

## Contact us

Contact us online via the portal or call Ralph James (KTN Manager) on: 01684 897588.

For general enquiries about the KTN, please email: [csktn@qinetiq.com](mailto:csktn@qinetiq.com)

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