

Dear TCSP Members,

The IEEE Computer Society Technical Activities Board requires each Technical Committee to file an annual report following certain conventions of content and format. I thought that you might find our 1999 report informative. I will welcome your comments, especially those which will help to improve our next year's annual report.

-- Tom Berson

Technical Committee on Security and Privacy (TCSP) Annual Report for Calendar Year 1999

Chair:

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Executive Committee:

Other officers are listed on the TC's home page at <http://www.issl.org/tc.html>.

The roles of the officers of the executive committee are as follows.

- Chair: organizes TC and coordinates with Computer Society.
- Vice Chair: Is chair-elect; learns responsibilities and activities of chair; represents chair if chair is unavailable.
- Past chair: advises chair and ensure continuity for TC.
- Newsletter editor(s): publish TC newsletter; serves as webmaster.
- Chair, subcommittee on Academic Affairs: champions education issues to TC.
- Chair, Subcommittee on Standards: champions standards activities; recommends position on and informs members of emerging standards that affect TC members.

- Chair, Subcommittee on Security Conferences: chairs annual Symposium on Security and Privacy.

Election and Terms:

The TC on Security and Privacy elects a new vice chair in odd-numbered years. The vice chair serves for two years and then automatically assumes the position of chair for two more years. This structure ensures continuity for the TC.

Communication:

The TC leadership is in regular email communication via a private email distribution list. This is used to disseminate information and to conduct discussions relevant to the running of the TC and its activities.

The TC communicates with its members through its newsletter, *Cipher*, which is available to all members in two formats: members can elect to receive the full issue in text as an e-mail message, or they can receive what is called the "post card" notification, which is a brief e-mail message advising the member that a new edition has been posted to the TC's web site. The mailing list is maintained by the TC and, because it is an electronic mail list, we are sure that changes in e-mail addresses are effected promptly and accurately. In 1999 four issues of *Cipher* were distributed (although that figure is misleading, because as new or changed content becomes available, it is immediately placed on the web site).

The newsletter (both current and back issues) is posted on the TC's web site, so that it is available for ready access by members. The newsletter consists of several separate sections that are maintained as links. Sections include a listing of upcoming conferences of interest, calls for papers, news, publicity concerning the main conference of the TC, the members of the executive committee, book reviews, changes of address or position of members, etc. Many of these are living items, updated as the maintainer of that section receives new information. Thus, a visitor to the web site will always receive, for example, the latest edition of the list of upcoming conferences.

Web Assets

The TC's web site consists mainly of the *Cipher* newsletter space, described previously. Additionally, the web site contains the list of TC officers, membership information, links to conferences sponsored by the TC, and a link to the Computer Society's web site.

Awards and Recognition

The TC made no awards in 1999.

Member Database

The TC has been unable to coordinate its database with that maintained by the CS. The CS database is not distributed in a database format, but is instead distributed as unformatted ascii text. It would be a prohibitive effort to manually compare all entries on the TC's member list with that provided by the CS.

Meetings

The TC held two membership meetings in 1999. The primary meeting was held, as always, in conjunction with the TC's major conference, the Symposium on Security and Privacy. A second meeting was held at the National Information Systems Security Conference. The primary meeting is the one at which major issues affecting the TC are discussed. The second meeting was an informational meeting for members and an explanation of the TC for nonmembers (for purposes of recruiting).

Volunteers

The TC is blessed with a large and active corps of volunteers. It is difficult to estimate their numbers. They consist of members of the executive committee; editors, contributors to and feature editors to the newsletter; authors, program committee members and referees for the conferences; organizers for the conferences; and so on. Between 50 and 100 persons were active in these roles during 1999. The TC continually seeks new volunteers. Referees are excellent sources of volunteers; after they participate on one conference, they often express interest in assuming a larger volunteer role. We do try to rotate volunteers so that nobody becomes overworked, and so that we have a continuing supply of new talent. We particularly try to involve young members of the community in roles which prepare them for TC leadership positions. There is no maximum period of service.

The most important volunteer positions are our conference chairs and program chairs. To ensure continuity in these roles, we have a two-year cycle, with a new volunteer selected each year. Our conference co-chairs, who are in charge of registration, become conference chairs the following year, and our junior program chairs becomes senior program chairs in the following year. Thus, each year we select a new conference co-chair and junior program chair for each conference.

TC reviews

There was no TC review in 1999.

Concerns

It is difficult for the TC to be aware of all activities related to security and privacy, yet the TC membership and volunteers are among the most knowledgeable and most experienced professionals in the field of security and privacy. Different IEEE publications develop special issues on topics such as network security or issues in cryptography, issues on which our members are the experts. Yet, our involvement is often by chance or coincidence. This same situation clearly exists with many other TCs and their fields of specialization. The Computer Society should actively work to ensure that the TCs are involved in activities in their fields.

Staff Assistance

The Computer Society staff has been of great help with contracting issues for the hotel at which our annual symposium is held.

Summary of Major Activities

Conferences

The Technical Committee on Security and Privacy sponsors two meetings annually. The 20th Symposium on Security and Privacy was held on 9-12 May 1999 at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland, California. This was a milestone event with special retrospective and prospective panels. Because the conference has an international reputation for groundbreaking research results in the field, the proceedings of the conference have been widely used as continuing references by researchers, with a status very close to that of an archival journal. We prepared and distributed a CD with the collected proceedings for all from the full 20 years of the Symposium. Approximately 250 people from throughout the world attended the 1999 meeting. Some came specifically for the anniversary activities. The conference's size is large enough to include many significant researchers, but at the same time small enough to allow formal and informal discussion among these researchers. The conference format, a single track with included breaks and lunches, fosters collegial interchange throughout the meeting. The conference has a mixture of attendees from industry, non-profit research laboratories, and academic institutions. Special efforts are made to solicit student attendance.

The Computer Security Foundations Workshop is intentionally a much smaller event, limited to approximately 40 participants. Participants submit position papers in advance, and the selection of participants is intended to foster closer dialog on models and directions for fundamental research in computer security.

Special Issues

None.

Collaboration

The TC collaborates with other Computer Society activities in the field of security and privacy, for example, special issues of Computer Society periodicals. Reading the newsletter, *Cipher*, and contacting the TC officers is the way for TC members to ensure that they are aware of and involved in security activities both inside and outside the TC.

Strategic Planning Results

The TC's strategic planning is focussed on the appropriate size, scope, role, and venue for its flagship conference, the Symposium on Security and Privacy. The conference seems to have stabilized at a size of approximately 200-250 attendees. This size is large enough to reflect different viewpoints but small enough to allow vigorous interaction among participants. The TC intends to keep the conference at this size for the near future.

During 1999 in response to external pressures the TC reluctantly made plans to move its conference from its traditional venue, the Claremont Hotel and Resort in Berkeley, CA. The putative move was very unpopular with TC members. When external conditions changed the TC undid the plans to move and made plans to remain at the Claremont. CS staff was of great assistance in this unusual evolution.

New Activities

None

Election Results

After appropriate nominations an election was held for the position of TC Vice Chair. Michael Reiter was elected. He will serve in that office during 1999-2001. He will then become Chair for 2001-2003.

2000 Plans

The 2000 Symposium on Security and Privacy and the 2000 Computer Security Foundations Workshop will be organized to provide valuable new research results in security to the community. The *Cipher* newsletter will be published and used as a reference by members.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Berson, Chair, TCSP
26 April 2000