

FIRST: the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams

- Making security a global issue, with responsibilities shared globally and a proactive global response
- Crossing frontiers to seek out and stop malefactors and bring them to justice
- Preserving the integrity of corporate and personal Internet activity everywhere in the world

Asymmetry was once a harmless geometric term. But in the 21st century it has morphed into a frightening buzzword. It defines the fact that small cells of criminals, terrorists or malcontents can now wreak devastation out of all proportion to their size, bringing Internet-using organisations to their knees, holding them to ransom, invading national security systems, and paralysing or disrupting national service infrastructures.

The shields these malefactors shelter behind are territorial – the way that laws, law-enforcement and the uses of the Internet itself play out in different ways in different nations. Terrorists, spies, phishing attackers, data thieves and vandals, far from being impeded by the frontiers which were once bulwarks of security, now use them to evade detection and capture.

And corporations, too, need to be aware, when their enterprises “go global”, that the Internet may be a device which crosses frontiers, but it is not an instrument which changes human nature or local culture. The credits which offshoring and outsourcing bring to the balance sheet can be diminished by debit entries in the fields of ethics and safety.

So how can Internet security answer these challenges and transform itself technically, politically, legally and efficiently into a truly global force for good?

This is the key issue which will be debated at the 20th Annual FIRST Conference in Vancouver, Canada – an appropriate location, given its position as a gateway between the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

FIRST took significant steps towards recognising the need to globalise security at its 2006 conference in Baltimore, USA, when a special interest group was created to bring together law enforcement agencies from all over the world and their counterparts in Computer Security Incident Response Teams. The issue was also placed on the 2007 agenda at FIRST's 19th Annual Conference in Seville, Spain.

In Vancouver the debate will evolve to cover, among other topics:

- How to connect to and work with law enforcers
- How to connect to and work with other Computer Security Incident Response Teams around the globe
- How to interact with Internet Service Providers
- How to tighten security while staying customer friendly

As the Internet burgeons into new marketplaces, and organisations avail themselves of the opportunities it presents to act and work globally, so the asymmetric threat deepens, its implications become more sinister, and there is an imperative need for all those who have a practical, commercial, legal or technical interest in advancing worldwide security to join FIRST in Vancouver.

Join the Global Computer Security Network Today

This conference promises to be the best ever: record attendance is expected. So here is one event you don't want to miss: take advantage of early registration and our hotel discounts – sign up today.

For more information about FIRST:
Go to www.first.org

For questions about the conference, email:
first-2008@first.org

To register for the conference:
Go to www.first.org/conference/2008
Complete and submit the registration form.

Call for Papers

The FIRST program committee solicits original contributions on network security for refereed paper presentations, tutorials, invited talks, and panel discussions. Past topics have included creating and managing CSIRTs, computer vulnerability, threat detection, computer forensics, and case studies. Presenters may receive discount registration fees. For more information, visit www.first.org or write to first-2008chair@first.org. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2007.

Sponsorship Opportunities

In an effort to attract registrants at an affordable fee, FIRST.Org, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, solicits conference sponsorships at varying levels. We seek sponsoring organisations that support the mission of FIRST and are committed to improving computer security around the world. Sponsors may receive discount registration fees. For more information, visit www.first.org/conference/2008.



Crossing Borders: Towards the Globalization of Security

June 22-27, 2008
Hyatt Regency Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada



About FIRST

Founded in 1990, the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams is a not-for-profit international organisation that brings together a variety of security and incident response teams, plus teams from product security. Today, with more than 180 member teams from around the world representing governments, economies, educational institutions, commercial enterprises, and financial corporations, FIRST has become a front-line enabler in the global response community, providing access to best practices, tools, and trusted communication with its member teams.

FIRST seeks to:

- facilitate better communications and information sharing among teams and the global community at large
- foster cooperation and coordination in incident prevention
- provide prompt rapid reaction to incidents

Of FIRST, the leading British commentator David Lacey wrote in *Computer Weekly*:

"Of all the security clubs and associations, the one that impresses me most is FIRST (www.first.org), the Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams. Why? Because it's focused, born out of real business requirements and it's highly selective, i.e. you have to be sponsored and audited to gain membership. FIRST is not a club that exists to make an income for its organizers. It's an international community that serves a real purpose: helping Government, Industry and Academia to respond quickly and effectively to new security threats. So I have no hesitation in recommending that you book a space in your busy diary to attend their Annual Conference."



Who Should Attend the Conference?

You do not need to be a member of FIRST to attend the 20th Annual Conference. Any incident response and security team or security professional who has responsibility for coordinating how an organisation responds to digital security incidents should be there. And the conference will also be of interest to:

- technical staff who determine security product requirements and implement solutions
- policy and decision makers with overall security responsibility
- law enforcement staff who are involved in investigating cyber crimes
- legal counsel who work with policy and decision makers in establishing security policies
- senior managers directly charged with protecting their corporate infrastructure
- government managers and senior executives who are responsible for protecting systems and critical infrastructures

Past participants at conferences have included IT managers, system and network administrators, software and hardware vendors, security solutions providers, ISPs, telecommunication providers and general computer and network security personnel.

Conference Benefits

FIRST conferences promote worldwide coordination and cooperation among Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). The conference provides a forum for sharing goals, ideas, and information on how to improve global computer security. The five-day event comprises two days of tutorials and three days of technical sessions where a range of topics of interest to teams in this global response community will be discussed.

As well as sharing our focus on global security, attending the conference will enable you to:

- Learn the latest security strategies in incident management
- Increase your knowledge and technical insight about security problems and their solutions
- Keep up-to-date with the latest incident response and prevention techniques
- Gain insight on analysing network vulnerabilities
- Hear how the industry experts manage their security issues
- Interact and network with colleagues from around the world to exchange ideas and advice on incident management best practices

Conference Location

The 20th Annual FIRST Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. A block of rooms is being held for conference attendees at a discount rate of \$195 USD. These rates will be honoured three days before and three days after the official meeting dates, based on availability. To receive the discount rate, you must make your reservation prior to June 4, 2008, and mention that you are attending the FIRST Computer Security Conference. Reservation requests received after June 4 will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. To make your reservation, please contact the hotel prior to June 4, 2008.

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