

FIRST TIMES

A Newsletter of
FIRST.org, Inc.

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF FIRST TIMES

BY DR NEIL LONG, CHAIRMAN OF FIRST

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- Tell us a story about FIRST !
- Give to the members some update about your team!
- Share your feelings about our organization. !
- Question?
Comment?
Complain?



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This post-Conference and post-AGM edition reflects changes in the Steering Committee (SC) composition as a result of the annual election by FIRST Members. As the new Chair of the Steering Committee I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for departing SC members Dan Grove and Miguel Sanchez who have given many years of dedicated service and commitment to FIRST and played major roles in developing the organization. We all thank Wietse Venema as he steps down from the role of Chair having concluded the 2-years limit as defined in our Operational Framework. He lead FIRST through some often difficult transitions, as our size and extent exceeded the capacity of what was a largely voluntary support structure, to the present operation with a Secretariat funded largely from membership fees. We welcome the new members to the SC who expand the SC viewpoint once again to Australia and in particular now to include South America. Details on www.first.org and don't forget to view the forthcoming TC and 2003 Conference information while there.

The number of IRTs continues to increase with many not (as yet!)

being members of FIRST (we always welcome new applications which rely on the sponsorship of an existing FIRST Member team). The major challenge we all face today is that of establishing relationships based on trust and integrity with more and more IRTs. There are individuals from within FIRST teams who are actively involved with non-FIRST initiatives based on geographic-regional groupings and this was reflected at the AGM with the establishment of a FIRST Task Force to examine FIRST's role in working with existing and forthcoming regional groupings of IRTs and in what way FIRST can continue to foster and build trusted relationships across the globe. Threats to Internet security and host systems know no frontiers.

As we approach the anniversary of Sept 11th 2001 we are all aware of the impact this had on day to day life and the consequent anxiety experienced by the general public, friends and families. It is my firm belief that making positive efforts to build trusted relationships in both our professional and social lives is a powerful way to counter such intimidation and in this way we can all make a difference throughout our varied communities.

Regards,
Neil Long, August 15th, 2002

FIRST EVENTS

THE TECHNICAL COLLOQUIUM OCTOBER 7-8, 2002 DE PAUL UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The 2002 October FIRST Technical Colloquium (TC) and Steering Committee Meetings will be hosted by the DePaul Incident Response Team at the DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, USA, on October 7-10, 2002. Attendance is open for FIRST Team members only, and no attendance fee will be required.

The program for October 7, 2002 (TC) as well as for the Hands-on Class on October 8, 2002 are currently being prepared. Please check the web page: <http://www.first.org/tc/oct2002>

15TH ANNUAL COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT HANDLING CONFERENCE JUNE 22-27, 2003 OTTAWA, CANADA

The Conference Web Pages have been updated and you will find useful information on <http://www.first.org/conference/2003>, including the Call for Papers.

The FIRST Conference 2003 will be held at the Westin Ottawa hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Discount rates of \$219 Canadian for the rooms.

THREE QUESTIONS TO...

...LILIANA SOLHA MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Liliana is a new member of the Steering Committee. She is a member of CAIS, the Brazilian CSIRT for the academic and research network.

What is the situation of Incident Response in Latin America?

Incident Response (IR) is basically characterized by a poor culture of incidents report, very few CSIRTs (either because they're not known or simply do not exist), no available or updated statistics on security incidents, no communication infrastructure to enable effective IR, no adequate response from most of the whois contacts, notorious hacker activity, many IT professionals with no awareness of security issues, etc.

What do you plan to improve the situation?

First step will be to gather Latin American FIRST security teams to discuss strategies and plans which will lead to improvement on IR situation. Certainly, they have great ideas and proposals.

As far as regional cooperation is concerned, a regional initiative regarding CSIRTs developing in Latin America is also being considered. However, there is no certainty about the model which fits better.

Right now our main focus is to stimulate different process which will contribute to make CSIRT to emerge in different spheres: governmental, research and academic, com-

mercial, etc.

Do you think being a member of the FIRST Steering Committee will help you in this task?

Definitively, yes. Because of what FIRST represents to security groups and security community. I think this can be a good moment to start any initiative which promotes CSIRT development in Latin America. Being part of SC any regional effort can have a higher backwashing.

It's extremely important that FIRST knows particulars of each region for better trace future strategies in order to help CSIRTs development. So, as a member of SC, member of a Latin American team, and knowing Latin American security difficulties, needs and problems, I can act as a link between FIRST and this community.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

THE NEW FIRST MEMBERS

Since the last issue of *FIRST TIMES* (May 2002), thirteen new teams have joined FIRST as full members, and four liaison members were changed to full members.

Early September 2002, the total number of FIRST Members is 126
-> 121 Full Members and 5 Liaison Members

Welcome to these new members of FIRST!

Previously Liaison Members

- APPLE, USA
- eForensics, USA
- esCERT-UPC, Spain
- Goldman Sachs, USA

New Members

- Microsoft, USA
- Army CERT, USA
- SUNET-CERT, Sweden
- Symantec, USA
- NBSO, Brazil
- Univ. of Chicago, USA
- RUS-CERT, Germany
- ABN AMRO, UK
- CNCERT/CC, China
- Foundstone, USA
- RADIANTZ, USA
- IIJ, Japan
- RU-CERT, Russia

INITIATIVES FROM THE MEMBERS

Security Web Conference APSIRT

APSIRT has started a sequence of executive and technical sessions around information security. All sessions has been summarize in a conference to all their customers, which will be broadcasted via web each month since July 19th 2002. The goal is to feed and increase the knowledge of their customers. This initiative is the first one in the country and will offer a public session to any Internet user.

Javier Romero, FIRST Representative of APSIRT: « We expect to reduce the current number of incident reports, which can be dealt by our customers, by increasing the technical knowledge of our customers through this conference. This knowledge will let customer to response by themselves more quickly. »

<http://apsirt.attla.com.pe/e2002>

The Movie "Handling Incident: Case Study" CERT-Polska

CERT-Polska presented a movie during the FIRST Conference in Hawaii which was highly appreciated. Mirek Maj explains where the movie comes from: «The idea of the movie has risen up during the preparation to our annual security conference - SECURE in 2001. Each year we try to prepare something new for our audience, this time idea was the movie. We cooperated with the man from Polish TV who helped us put some professionalism to the movie. One day of shooting made 17 minutes of the movie in which we try to present many aspects of CERT Polska activities and I think - the activities of each CSIRT. After presenting the movie during our conference the idea to make it again on FIRST conference was born. It is big pleasure for us that many people found this movie interesting and described it as a good idea of promoting within constituency the CSIRT role and tasks. »

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THE FIRST ORGANISATION

FIRST TASK FORCE ON REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BY JACQUES SCHUURMAN,
CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE

At the Hawaii Annual Conference, the FIRST Community accepted a motion launched during the AGM to establish a Task Force that will investigate the ongoing initiatives worldwide for further regional co-operation.

The Task Force will investigate such initiatives, address the possibly different issues for particular regions as well as similarities, assess the needs for possible further services as

desired by the FIRST community, and try to formulate conclusions and advice for further initiatives to be initiated by FIRST.

The modus operandi of the Task Force is that it is an open group, based on volunteer efforts of its participants. The Chair of the TF will write an initial document containing the framework for the discussion, upon which the members will be invited to share their views. Most of the work will be done electronically, al-

though a meeting alongside the October TC in Chicago is envisaged.

The Chair will report back to the FIRST mailing list to inform the membership as to (considerable) progress and milestones. The end report (in whatever state of maturity) will be submitted to the Steering Committee in Q1/2003 Committee, which will then act at their discretion.

An archive of previously drafted status reports will be kept at the FIRST website, available to the membership at all times. The Chair of the TF will act as the editor of this archive.

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As you might already know, the Steering Committee has decided to align FIRST's membership year with its fiscal year.

To make this happen, the upcoming membership year will start as usual on September 1, 2002 but will run until December 31, 2003. Next year's membership fee will be proportionally larger (16/12), reflecting the additional four months of that membership "year".

THE FIRST MEMBERSHIP FEE

In addition, the Steering Committee approved an annual base membership fee for the coming year of USD\$ 600. To reflect the extended membership period the upcoming membership invoices will be for the amount of:

$$600 \times 16 / 12 = \text{USD\$ } 800.$$

THE FIRST AGENDA

September 10th
October 7th, 2002
October 8th, 2002
October 9-10th, 2002
November 12th, 2002
November 15th, 2002
December 10th, 2002
January 10th, 2003
June 22-27th, 2003

Steering Committee Teleconference
Technical Colloquium in Chicago
Hands-On Class in Chicago
Steering Committee face-to-face meeting in Chicago
Steering Committee Teleconference
Submission deadline for the FIRST Conference 2003 Call for Papers
Steering Committee Teleconference
Notification of acceptance for the Conference 2003
15th Annual Computer Security Incident Handling Conference, in Otawa



Feedback, advice, story, review, feelings:

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