FIRST: the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams

Multiple perspectives – civil, commercial, criminal
“Precovery” – addressing crises before they break
Fires and rainbows – how to learn from disaster

That calamity will strike the globe somewhere, somehow, sometime, is a certainty; what is always uncertain is where, how, and when.

Whether caused by nature, carelessness, chance, vandalism or criminality, the consequences are almost always the same: casualty, chaos and devastation, followed by an aftermath of shock and secondary damage, and then the long, arduous process of recovery.

And these macro-shocks that shake the globe are echoed in the micro-shocks caused within organizations and communities when local variations of the same crises invade, twist and paralyze their lives.

Communications networks are the nervous systems of disaster relief and recovery, and computers are always at the center of modern communications, which is why computers themselves are often the target for attack, and their breakdown or malfunction can in itself precipitate institutional or social chaos.

As the world’s premier body of Computer Incident Response and Recovery Teams and individuals, FIRST has unique experience of crises and crisis management, and at its 21st annual conference in Kyoto, Japan, knowledge will be pooled and practices refined with contributions by experts drawn from every continent.

FIRST’s volunteer members are top computer emergency professionals, brought together by a common dedication to discovering, sharing and promoting best practice.

Commercial collapse, civil attack and criminal subversion will all be addressed in Kyoto, and a series of keynote speeches, supported and elaborated in specialized seminars, will constitute the first time ever that such a comprehensive review and analysis of Incidents, Incident Response and Incident Recovery has been staged.

Kyoto was for over a thousand years the seat of the Japanese Imperial Court (its name means “capital city”) and is still the country’s cultural center. It’s a tribute to the city’s own powers of recovery that its architecture and heritage have survived through cycles of social and political upheaval.

Indeed, Japan herself is a world-model of incident recovery, over the centuries repeatedly finding routes back to prosperity and harmony from siege, occupation, civil war and destruction.

In a happy coincidence of timing, as FIRST’s conference closes, the Kyoto festival of Gion Matsuri begins, a purification ritual inaugurated some 1100 years ago to appease the gods who cause fire, flood, earthquakes and pestilence.

FIRST is honored to be Kyoto’s guest in 2009, and in a spirit of gratitude promises to devise, share, collect and publish some practical advice as collateral to the ceremonies of prevention.

1 “Akira Kurosawa Interviews”, University of Mississippi / Jackson, 2008
As well deliberating and investigating Incident Recovery, FIRST delegates at Kyoto will continue their pioneering work towards the better globalization of security, and collaboration between Incident Response Teams and Law Enforcement agencies. Also on the agenda are:

- **Geek Zone** – presentations with a hands-on format aimed at smaller and more technically-minded audiences of up to 30 people
- **Beer ‘n’ Gear** – where vendors demonstrate their equipment
- **Conference Dinner**
- **SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings and Vendor Booths**

And the 2009 event will have built into its agenda more time and opportunities for delegates to network and share ideas.

With ever-more sophisticated communications systems offering ever-more complex possibilities for breakdown, and humanity suffering or witnessing sequential catastrophes which show that no amount of human ingenuity will ever frustrate the operations of chaos and the interventions of disaster, it is an imperative that anyone who has a role to play in incident recovery or security planning should seriously consider attending FIRST’s 21st conference in Kyoto.

Writing about FIRST, the leading British commentator David Lacey declared in *Computer Weekly*:

> Of all the security clubs and associations, the one that impresses me most is FIRST [http://www.first.org/](http://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.

**More About FIRST**

Founded in 1990, the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams is a not-for-profit international organization that brings together a variety of security and incident response teams, plus teams from product security. Today, with more than 194 member teams from around the world representing governments, 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

**Who Can Attend the Conference?**

You do not need to be a member of FIRST to attend the 21st Annual Conference. Any incident response and security team or security professional who has responsibility for coordinating how an organization 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
AFTERMATH:  
CRAFTS AND LESSONS OF INCIDENT RECOVERY

JUNE 28-JULY 3, 2009  
HOTEL GRANVIA  
KYOTO STATION, KYOTO, JAPAN

- 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 includes 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 Incident Recovery, attending the 21st 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 analyzing 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 response

Conference Location

The 21st Annual FIRST Conference will be held at Hotel Granvia Kyoto at Kyoto Station, Japan. A block of rooms is being held for conference attendees at a discount rate of 21,500 – 25,000 JPY depending on room type and dates of arrival and departure. These rates will be honored four days before and four days after the official meeting dates, based on availability. To receive the discount rate, you must make your reservation prior to June 1, 2009, and mention that you are attending the FIRST Computer Security Conference. Reservation requests received after June 1st will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. All reservations must be made using an assigned password through the Granvia’s online reservation service. Online reservations will be accepted from January 1–June 1, 2009. Please check the conference website for the link and password.

For more information on the Hotel Granvia Kyoto, please visit:   http://www.granviakyoto.com  or call + (81) 75 344 8888.

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 wouldn’t want to miss: take advantage of early registration and our hotel discounts – sign up today.

For more information about FIRST:   www.first.org  
For questions about the conference, email:   first-2009@first.org  
To register for the conference, go to:   http://www.first.org/conference/2009

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 organizations 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:   http://www.first.org/conference/2009/sponsorship