

FIRST POST

Bringing together Security and Incident Response teams from around the globe.

Annual FIRST Conference in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland, is a triumph



Over 1,000 specialists representing six continents participated in the FIRST Annual Conference in the Republic of Ireland last month. From Tonga to Tanzania, Greece to Guatemala, and Australia to America, participants from nearly 80 countries attended our first in-person event since Edinburgh in 2019. Over five days, computer security experts shared insights, challenges, and success stories with our incident response and security team community. Ireland was a great host, and local media covered the event extensively, including regional broadcast news RTÉ.

Detective Sergeant Mick Moran, An Garda Síochána, and UCD's Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation started the conference. Sharing the staggering statistic that now one in 500 people access child sexual abuse material online in the workplace, according to Swedish outfit, NetClean. Mick and Romain Wartel, CERN, warned the delegates of the escalating problem and the necessity to tackle the issue now together.

Also on the stage was Viktor Zhora, The State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, along with Yevheniia Volivnyk and Yevhen Bryksin, CERT-UA, SCPC SSSCIP.

The trio shared how they have fought and are continuing to fight cyber attacks on Ukraine, with several vicious attacks on the country's infrastructure –

everything from government departments, businesses, and even charities assisting with humanitarian aid.

Disclosing the sophistication of the cyber attacks and the complexities of dealing with these online assaults, the team shared how they continue to protect the country in the ongoing, simultaneous cyber war.



Other notable speakers were Google's Maddie Stone on cyber attacks compromising 0-day unknown vulnerabilities used by state actors, Netresec's Erik Hjelmvik's overview of the SolarWinds supply chain compromise, a panel of Tal Goldstein, World Economic Forum, Pei Ling Lee, INTERPOL, Caroline Canina, Microsoft, Nick Tuppen, Bank of America and Derek Manky, Fortinet discussing the drive for public-private cooperation to strengthen cybersecurity readiness and combat cybercrime and Eoin Byrne from Cyber Ireland on how we need to address cybersecurity through industry-academic-government collaboration.

Other areas such as SMS fraud, Cloud security, Ransomware, Phishing, Memory Forensics, Malware,

and the crucial need to work more closely with law enforcement to catch the criminals, were also hot topics throughout the week.

Brian Honan, CEO, BH Consulting and FIRST Annual Conference Program Chair, said: "We are grateful to all the speakers, sponsors, and trainers who made this event possible and especially to the people of Dublin, and Ireland, for their hospitality. The theme of this year's conference was the Irish phrase Neart Le Cheile, which means strength together. The benefits of having our first physical meeting since the pandemic reiterated the importance of networking with your peers to make the internet a safer place for all."



“Dublin was the perfect host to us all, and after a two-year break from in-person meetings, this was the ideal setting for the FIRST community to plan the next steps in facing cyber threats worldwide. As a membership organization, our goal is always to inspire and empower participants at our conference to take new thinking and tools back with them to their everyday roles. That was most certainly the outcome of our time in Ireland.”

Chris Gibson, CEO, FIRST

With great thanks, we would like to highlight the generous supporters of this event: AWS, SentinelOne, Uptycs, ENISA, Palo Alto Networks, Torq, Amazon, Ericsson, LinkedIn, Tines, Conceal.io, Fortinet, Group-IB, Joe Security, Mandiant, OTRS, Cybereason, DomainTools, Google, Intezer, Recorded Future, ThreatRay, Secureworks, CIRCL, Hitachi, OASIS Open, Resecurity, UCD Dublin, and our gracious local host, NCSC.

We plan to hold next year’s conference in Montreal, Canada, from June 4 to 9, 2023.

Please read about our other upcoming events in our [events calendar](#).



Dr. Sherif Hashem is the new Chair of FIRST, and four new members join the FIRST Board of Directors

Our Annual FIRST Conference is also the occasion of our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, our membership voted in four new board directors, who then unanimously voted Dr. Hashem as the new FIRST Chair for the 2022-23 term. We also bid farewell to a few board members too.

Dr. Hashem brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and international relations to the role. He is currently an Information Sciences and Technology Professor at George Mason University (GMU). His research covers cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cyber policies and strategies, and information security management. He is a member of the African Union's Cybersecurity Expert Group (AUCSEG), a Senior IEEE member, and an ISACA Certified Information Security Manager (CISM).

Over the last two decades, Dr. Hashem has led several national critical cybersecurity efforts, including developing the Egyptian Computer Emergency Readiness Team (EG-CERT) framework. In 2015, he became a member of Egypt's Supreme Cybersecurity Council (ESCC), affiliated with the Cabinet of Ministers. As the Chairman of the Executive Bureau of the ESCC, he led the team that drafted Egypt's first National Cybersecurity Strategy (2017-2021). His cybersecurity initiatives contributed to Egypt's advanced cybersecurity rank - 14th among 193 countries, as reported by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Global Cybersecurity Index in July 2017.

At an international level, Dr. Hashem was a member of the United Nations Group of Government Experts (UN GGE) on the Developments In The Field Of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, a 15-member group of experts that developed strategic cybersecurity reports endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

He has been invited to give cybersecurity and ICT professional and strategic keynote speeches by

numerous leading international organizations, including UN, ITU, Interpol, NATO, OSCE, OECD, African Union, the League of Arab States, as well as by the US Department of Defense, and US Department of State.

"I am deeply honored to be elected as the new Chair of FIRST's Board of Directors. It is a great privilege and responsibility to work with my distinguished colleagues on the Board and with FIRST's competent officers and staff to support further and empower the global security and incident response community. Last June marked a new milestone for FIRST. We reached over 620 member teams from 100 countries, with 1000 participants in the annual conference from 87 countries. This continuous growth in the membership and diversity of FIRST's activities and outreach demonstrates the resilience and agility of FIRST and its members, even during the challenges of a global pandemic. I look forward to contributing towards FIRST's continuous growth and advancement."

Dr. Sherif Hashem, FIRST Chair



Four new additions to the FIRST Board of Directors

Four new FIRST board members were also elected - Désirée Sacher-Boldewin (Liaison), Olivier Caleff (Liaison), Trey Darley (Accenture), and Audrey Mnisi (Ghana Association of Banks - CERT/GH). Each member brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge, not to mention a global reach, to help us in our work towards keeping the internet safe. They will serve the 2022-24 term.

Our new members join our existing board, Tracy Bills (CERT/CC), Serge Droz (Liaison), who has been

appointed for a further two years, Michael Hausding (SWITCH CERT), and FIRST CFO, Mona Elisabeth Østvang (mnemonic IRT), Yukako Uchida (JPCERT/CC).

Alexander Jager, Javier Berciano, and Shawn Richardson are departing the board this year. We would like to highlight our appreciation for their work on the board these past years.



Olivier Caleff - *Cyber Resilience and Cyber Crisis Director*

Olivier Caleff is based in France and works for ERIUM. Olivier started working with firewalls in the early 1990s at APOGEE Communications and then held various CSIRT positions, including CERT-FR Representative. He currently assists CSIRTs on SIM3 maturity-related topics. He has been an active member of FIRST since 2013 and participates in several of the organization's activities such as training, the Membership Committee, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) such as CSIRT Framework, TLP, Malware Analysis, Cyber Exercises, and DNS Abuse SIGs.



Trey Darley - *Security Senior Manager, Cyber Resilience Lead for Belgium and Luxembourg*

With over 25 years of IT experience, about 15 years in infosec, and a lengthy stint at the Belgian national CERT (CCB/CERT.be), Trey is now working with clients to help them increase their resilience, lower their risk exposure, and do crisis management better. You may also know Trey from his many years of leading the STIX/TAXII cyber threat intelligence standardization efforts under the auspices of the OASIS CTI TC, which he co-chairs. He has been involved with FIRST since joining initially as a liaison back in 2016 and is passionately supportive of FIRST's international capacity-building efforts.



Audrey Mnisi Mireku - *CISRO, Ghana Association of Banks*

Audrey Mnisi Mireku is a Chief Information Security Risk Officer at the Ghana Association of Banks (GAB). She leads and coordinates engagements on Information security, compliance, fraud prevention, and information sharing in the banking sector. Her engagements include member banks, industry regulators, the media, law enforcement, and policymakers. In 2019, Audrey led the National CERT of Ghana to join FIRST.



Desiree Sacher-Boldewin - *Lead Security Architect, Finanz Informatik GmbH & Co. KG*

Desiree Sacher-Boldewin is the Lead Security Architect for Finanz Informatik in Germany. Desiree has over 15 years of experience in the IT security and incident response industry achieved through many security operational roles. She has learned about the risks and threats in our industry through a lot of first-hand experience. Daily, she defines processes and structures to improve operational IT security tasks. She writes papers with taxonomies that illustrate and document operational security problems in her leisure time.

Chris Gibson, FIRST CEO, said, "I am extremely happy with how FIRST's membership has grown year on year, which is testament to the hard work of the previous board, especially in difficult times with minimal face-to-face meetings and which culminated in a hugely successful conference in Dublin. I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors, which is our most diverse yet in terms of gender and includes a further board member from Africa."

The FIRST 2021-22 Annual Report is now available

FIRST's latest Annual Report is now published. The report is a snapshot of FIRST's work from June 2021 to June 2022, including our Financial Report, Special Interest Groups, Training and Education, and Policy and Governance. You can find the report [here](#).



FIRST adds a New Director of Community and Capacity Building to the team

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Klée Aiken as Director - Community and Capacity Building for FIRST. This newly created role will strengthen and grow FIRST's education, training, and capacity-building efforts. Klée will also help us to achieve global coordination and engage countries and cultures currently underrepresented at FIRST.

We consider this capacity-building role as one of the pillars of mitigating the increasingly severe effects of cybercrime or malicious state operations. While our members know how to reduce cyber- attacks, FIRST relied primarily on volunteers to deliver a scalable and coherent capacity-building program. This new position will tackle just that.

Currently based in New Zealand, Klée has been working on Internet and security issues in the region since 2013, first at a think tank, then at APNIC, and most recently at CERT NZ. Through his on-the-ground work with practitioners, he developed a genuine love for FIRST and for bringing people together to create new initiatives. Subsequently, this ultimately inspired Klée to join the incident response community, taking on a role with CERT NZ.

At CERT NZ, Klée developed the team's relationships with Pacific partners and built a wide-ranging capacity-building program. In creating the Pacific program, Klée drew on his policy, training, and engagement experience from APNIC and his time on the Advisory Board and Research Committee of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), a global platform for more informed, complementary, and impactful capacity building.

Klée's first introduction to FIRST was at the Sri Lanka Technical Colloquium in 2016. He witnessed FIRST's impact on improving technical capabilities, building lasting networks, and energizing new and experienced incident responders. He is excited to work with the FIRST community to strengthen and grow FIRST's education, training, and capacity-building efforts.

Klée started in June and attended the Annual FIRST Conference in Dublin later that month, where he met the board and other key members. Please join us in welcoming Klée to the FIRST staff.

"When I joined in 2019, my goal was to professionalize FIRST by fulfilling our vision and mission, creating systems and processes, and improving our infrastructure and global reach. Fundamental to this was hiring two full-time team members to carry out vital services on behalf of the organization. This included a new infrastructure manager who joined us earlier this year and now a capacity-building manager. Klée brings outstanding skills to FIRST, and I'm looking forward to working with him as we build communities across the internet - especially in areas where we are currently not fully engaged"

Chris Gibson, FIRST CEO

34 new members join FIRST

FIRST now has 620 members worldwide. Below are some of our recent members for your reference and future collaboration:

April 2022:

- Josh Lemon (liaison) sponsored by Salesforce CSIRT
- Enrico Marsetti sponsored by Nestle
- CSIRT-CYWEX, CO sponsored by CSVD/A3Sec and SOC-CCOC
- VCG, LT sponsored by NRD and LITNET
- S4B CERT, MX sponsored by AXTEL CSIRT and GammaC SOC
- CSIRT-GT, ES sponsored by BBVA and EULEN
- CBT CSIRT & CSOC, CO sponsored by SOC-CCOC and CSIRT-CCIT
- Entel CyberSecure CSIRT, PE sponsored by Jacksecurity and BlueHat
- CSIRT-GMS, EC sponsored by CEDIA and GammaCSOC

May 2022:

- Matt Palmer, JE, sponsored by NCSC UK
- Daniel Di Giacomo, DE sponsored by ComCERT
- Elliott Atkins, GB, sponsored by NCSC UK
- Desiree Sacher-Boldewin, DE sponsored by CIRCL
- Cyberani Solutions DFIR Team, SA sponsored by Saudi Aramco and STC DFIR
- Fifth Third DART, US-sponsored by BAH CIRT and Target CFC CSIRT
- Spamhaus, GB sponsored by Team Cymru and NCSC-NL
- BE: SEC-CSIRT, ES sponsored by Deloitte ECC and Telefonica CSIRT
- Advania CDC, NO sponsored by KraftCERT and HelseCERT
- CERT.tg, TG sponsored by bjCSIRT and CERT OPL
- Netscout ASERT, US sponsored by Juniper SIRT and NVIDIA PSIRT

June:

- Ernesto Perez, EC sponsored by Blue Hat CERT
- Juan Manuel Jimenez, UY sponsored by CERTuy
- Ben Tyson (liaison), SE sponsored by CERT-SE
- Fujitsu SP-CSIRT, ES sponsored by CERT-Aiuken and Entelgy Innotec CSIRT
- Walmart SIRT, US sponsored by PepsiCo and Box SIRT
- Binary Defense, US sponsored by Team Cymru and SWITCH
- SOC PASSWORD, CO sponsored by Jacksecurity and Blue Hat CERT
- P3-CERT, ES sponsored by BCSC and Versia CSIRT
- OneseQ CERT, ES sponsored by CERT-Aiuken and INCIBE-CERT
- TIC DEFENSE USA CORPORATE, US sponsored by CERT Cyberseg and TIC Defense-CERT
- INX CSIRT, TW sponsored by TWCSIRT and TWCERT/CC
- CSIRT BDE, ES sponsored by Entelgy Innotec CSIRT and CERT-BDF
- MKD CIRT, MK sponsored by SI-CERT and CERT/CC
- NCSC BE, sponsored by CERT.be and CERT-EU

Read about joining FIRST [here](#).



FIRST

Thanks for reading!

Remember to follow us on our social media channels Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for regular updates!

