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Preface

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the fourth edition of the International Symposium on Engineering Secure Software and Systems.

This unique event aims at bringing together researchers from software engineering and security engineering, which might help to unite and further develop the two communities in this and future editions. The parallel technical sponsorship from the ACM SIGSAC (the ACM interest group in security) and ACM SIGSOFT (the ACM interest group in software engineering) is a clear sign of the importance of this interdisciplinary research area and its potential.

The difficulty of building secure software systems is no longer focused on mastering security technology such as cryptography or access control models. Other important factors include the complexity of modern networked software systems, the unpredictability of practical development life cycles, the intertwining of and trade-off between functionality, security and other qualities, the difficulty of dealing with human factors, and so forth. Over the last few years, an entire research domain has been building up around these problems.

The conference program include two major keynotes from Cristian Cadar (Imperial College London) on improving software reliability and security via symbolic execution and Thorsten Holz (Ruhr University Bochum) on an overview of modern security threats, and an interesting blend of research and idea papers.

In response to the call for papers, 53 papers were submitted. The Program Committee selected seven contributions as research papers (13%), presenting new research results in the realm of engineering secure software and systems. It further selected seven idea papers, which gave crisp expositions of interesting, novel ideas in the early stages of development.

Many individuals and organizations contributed to the success of this event. First of all, we would like to express our appreciation to the authors of the submitted papers and to the Program Committee members and external referees, who provided timely and relevant reviews. Many thanks go to the Steering Committee for supporting this and future editions of the symposium, and to all the members of the Organizing Committee for their tremendous work and for excelling in their respective tasks. The DistriNet research group of the K.U. Leuven did an excellent job with the website and the advertising for the conference. Finally, we are also grateful to Andrei Voronkov for his EasyChair system.

We owe gratitude to ACM SIGSAC/SIGSOFT, IEEE TCSP and LNCS for supporting us in this new scientific endeavor.

December 2011

Gilles Barthe
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