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Editorial:

Special Issue: Research Papers from the 2010 Annual Security Conference

This is the first of two special issues focusing on papers selected from the Annual Security Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The four papers published in this issue of the Journal of Information Systems Security represent a mix of security topics covering a wide range of interesting issues. Thank you to all of the participants attending the Annual Security Conference.

The first paper titled A Conceptual Model of Social Engineering by Marcus Nohlbert, Benkt Wangler and Stewart Kowalski, categorizes and presents the various types of social engineering attacks, how they are created, victims, perpetrators and cultural aspects. The paper suggests this model might be used for teaching purposes and helping to protect against social engineering attacks.

Following this work is a comparison of spyware removal tools by W. Martins and S.M. Furnell. Comparing the effectiveness of antispyware removal tools examines various products to determine their effectiveness in removing spyware in a test environment. Results suggest that after using antispyware components active processes and registry keys remain, questioning the capabilities of these malware products.

Next, Detecting and Visualizing Domain-Based DNS Tunnels through N-Gram Analysis explores the possibility that DSN tunnels might be detected by using character frequencies of domains in DNS queries and responses. Empirically they show how domains follow Zipf's law and tunnel traffic signatures can assist in discovery and determination of anomalies.

The final paper in this special issue, Design of a Secure Electronic Medical Record Process using Secure Activity Resource Coordination by Ravi Thambusamy and Rahul Singh, use a design science and case study approach to demonstrate the use of Secure Activity Resource Coordination in designing a secure electronic medical record business process. They argue that security should be incorporated as a functional requirement in business process design, particularly when dealing with Electronic Medical Record processes.

We hope you'll enjoy this special issue of JISSEC.

Alex McLeod

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