2004 SAIT Information Security Summer School

After Action Report

Florida State University
Department of Computer Science

Executive Summary

The SAIT Information Security Summer School was held on the FSU campus May 3 – 7 with the intent to recruit new students to the National Science Foundation Scholarship for Service program and the Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program. The content was an introduction to information security for those who were considering a degree or career change in the field. The majority of the conference activities were held in room 101 of the James Jay Love building on the Florida State University campus. This room is a Technology enhanced classroom equipped with two projectors and screens, which could display independently with a laptop, the PC, document cameras or VCR/DVD player. All of this equipment was used at least once during the conference. The event was organized by Alec Yasinsac and Mike Burmester. This was the second event of its kind, the first, The Summer School on Information Security, was held in May 2003. There were estimated total of sixty participants. In addition, approximately six unregistered attendants sat in on one or more of the lectures. Less than ten persons who registered to attend did not show.

The Event

Participation -
As noted in the Program attached in the appendix, the conference began with a small reception at the Holiday Inn Select on the evening of Monday, May 3, 2004. Approximately 25 people attended this reception where programs and temporary parking decals were distributed, and a welcome statement given by Alec Yasinsac. Tuesday morning 47 participants attended. As is the normal trend at conferences, attendance slowly diminished each day with 45 participants showing on Wednesday, and around 28 attended the morning session on Thursday, while 20 remained by the end of the day. A final breakfast was held at the Holiday Inn Select on Friday morning. 20 participants attended this full buffet breakfast. Alec Yasinsac discussed how the Information Security program first began and briefly discussed the scholarships. Several of the students stayed to speak with Alec and Angela Shrum about the information security scholarships, with 3 students expressing intentions of applying for the scholarship. To date, 2 of those students have submitted applications, and one student who was unable to attend the conference has submitted an application.

Job Fairs –
On Tuesday evening of the conference a mini job fair was held in room 151 of the Love Building. This consisted of corporations and companies in the information security field. Representatives from Harris Corporation, Cisco, Datamaxx, and ICS were available to discuss employment opportunities. On Wednesday evening the mini job fair consisted of representatives from federal agencies. The National Security Agency made a presentation and provided extensive information on employment opportunities. The United States Marine Corps was also represented and answered questions.

Speakers –
Tuesday morning began with a discussion of digital forensics by Peter Sommer from the London School of Economics. He then gave a keynote address on issues regarding digital evidence.

Following lunch, Jessica Watts from Cisco presented Jonathan Nilson with a small gift from Cisco for receiving one of only four Cisco scholarships for 2003. Then Martin Nystrom from Cisco gave a talk about web security. This talk was very well received. He did some live hacking into a website and took questions from the audience throughout the discussion which kept the audience engaged. Mike Burmester followed with a talk on privacy and accountability. David Thompson from Harris Corporation finished the day's discussions with information assurance protections in industry.

Dr. William Arbaugh began Wednesday morning with a discussion of wireless network security. Marjorie Forbes then gave the mornings keynote address on the NSA's involvement in the field of Information Security. After lunch, Brett Tjaden gave an introduction to Cryptography (the schedule was switched at the last minute) which led nicely into the panel discussion on cryptography. Alec Yasinsac mediated while Brett Tjaden, Mike Burmester and Kelly Martin from the NSA sat on the panel. Kelly followed the panel with an in depth discussion on DES and AES encryption.

Thursday morning began with a discussion presented by Dr. James Davis of Iowa State University on the Legal and Ethical Issues of information security. This was an interactive discussion with the audience, which became intense at times. This discussion was the audience favorite. Virgil Gligor presented a keynote address on security and distributed computing. After lunch, Virgil Gligor, Michael Davis, and James Davis sat on a panel discussion that covered a variety of information security topics. Michael Davis then gave a brief discussion on information security in the military followed by scholarship information presented by Angela Shrum.

Most speakers provided copies of slides used in their discussions to be posted on the conference website. The conference was also video and audio recorded. Many of the conference participants requested a copy of the recordings and also inquired as to when the slides would be posted to the conference website. The slides have been posted to the website at www.sait.fsu.edu/summer2004/aftermath/index.shtml. Copies of the audio and video recording will be available at cost by the end of the summer via the website.

Responsibilities of those involved

- Alec Yasinsac and Mike Burmester invited speakers and planned the conference.
- Angela Shrum organized the events, corresponded with speakers, registered participants, arranged media relations, provided content for the website and poster, and coordinated all other aspects of the conference.
- Susan Stetson handled budget items, reimbursements, expenditures, and the honoraria.
- Robin Dupont worked with guest speakers for travel reimbursements.
- Melody McGuire coordinated with hotel for the room block and reception and breakfast.
- Louis Brooks set up wireless access points in the conference locations and made it accessible to participants with laptops.
- Leo Kermes drove the van which transported hotel guests to and from the conference site from the Holiday Inn Select as well as various locations for lunch and drove some speakers to the airport.
- Jon Nilson designed the IS3 logo and website, posters, conference name badges, and program. He was also the conference webmaster, videographer and will produce the video recordings.

Media and advertising

Teaser fliers for the conference listing the conference website were handed out and posted on campus two months prior to the conference. Full informational posters were posted on the FSU campus and mailed to several universities in Florida one month prior to the conference. A press release was issued by the FSU Media Relations Office on Friday, April 23rd. As a result, Tom Block from FSU headlines

interviewed Alec Yasinsac which aired on NPR-WFSU the week prior to the conference. News Channel 27 sent a reporter to interview Alec Yasinsac and Mike Burmester on Monday May 3. The conference was also mentioned in the Campus Notes section of the Tallahassee Democrat on Sunday, May 2 and an article appeared in the FSView school newspaper Volume XIII, Issue 14 Thursday, April 29, 2004 – May 9, 2004. Sarah Grady from WCTV news channel 6 interviewed two students, Angela Shrum and Mike Burmester regarding the scholarships on Tuesday, May 4 which aired on the 5:00 news that evening. This media attention was invaluable in getting the word out about both the conference and the scholarship the programs.

Budget

The conference was funded by the National Science Foundation, the SAIT Lab, and participant fees with the majority of the costs covered by the National Science Foundation. Students that were eligible to apply to the Information Security scholarships were permitted to attend free. To increase the number of participants, TCC students and FAMU students also attended free. Non-traditional students who were not eligible for the scholarships who wished to attend free were asked to submit a paper or project they had done and justification for the waiver of the deposit. In addition, employees of the sponsors of the SAIT Lab were invited to attend at no charge. All others paid a $100 non-refundable deposit. $1100 was received in deposits. These funds were used to purchase gifts for the speakers, as well as the Monday evening reception, Friday morning breakfast, lunch for the speakers at the University Center Club, breakfast for the conference, and cables for recording the audio. The items that could not be covered by the deposits were covered by private donations from Datamaxx within the SAIT Lab fund. Approximately $6000 total was spent on the conference. A detailed ledger is attached in the Appendix.

Responses

On Thursday a school evaluation form was distributed, a copy of which is attached in the appendix. 25 completed forms were received. 68% of the respondents were students in a Computer Science Program. 36% learned of the conference from an email sent by Angela Shrum, 24% learned from an in class announcement or faculty member, 16% were informed by another participant, 12% heard it on the radio while the others saw the posters or the website. In response to the helpfulness and organization of the website, 44% responded the website was 'good', while 40% responded 'excellent'. 76% responded 'excellent' regarding the helpfulness of the "Schedule of Events" program. 60% responded that the overall quality of the speakers was 'excellent', 32% responded they were 'good'. Similar results were found regarding the overall quality of the conference with 64% responding 'excellent' and 24% responding 'good'.

It was expected that the job fairs were not as satisfactory, with a poor showing of agencies at the federal job fair, and this was shown in the responses with only 8% saying 'excellent', 56% said 'good', 20% said average, and 4% said poor. Approximately 20 of the participants attended the job fair on Tuesday evening with one participant offered a job by ICS. Approximately 15 participants attended the Wednesday evening job fair. 48% of respondents showed that the length of the conference should remain the same, about 4 days.

These results are encouraging and show what could be improved upon, specifically the quality of the job fairs and the organization of the website. When asked what was the most valuable part of the conference, most responded similarly with the quality of the speakers or the speakers who interacted most with the audience. When asked what topics should be presented at the next conference, several said more of the same, and several others said wireless network security. When asked what could be improved, most wanted more interaction between the speakers and the audience, one even stated that power point presentations should not be allowed. Several of the participants have requested to be notified when the speaker's slides are available online as well as the video recording of the conference lectures. Several people, including at the speakers expressed how impressed they were with how well the conference was organized. One speaker said it was the most organized event he had been to. Most of the participants

were empowered with the material provided and have thanked the coordinators in the weeks after the conference.

Recommendations for future action

- When planning the schedule for this event, breaks between speakers were not scheduled for two main reasons: 1) Attendees rarely return to the conference area within the allotted time and 2) Attendees tend to leave and not come back at breaks. However, not having scheduled time between presentations for the speakers to break down and set up resulted in delays and constantly running behind schedule. For future events, breaks should be better managed by not printing the break times on the scheduled of events but announced at the appropriate time as a five minute standing break. This will allow presenters to get into position as well as give the audience a chance to stretch their legs. In addition, longer lectures (2 hours) should be broken into two with a 5-10 minute break to give both speaker and audience a chance to move around and refresh, but again, this short break should not be posted on the schedule of events.
- The audience responded most positively to the speakers that allowed for interactive discussions. These kept the audience engaged and interested in the topic being discussed. These kinds of interactive discussions should be encouraged when inviting speakers in the future. If circumstances permit, smaller lab sessions would also be beneficial.
- The job fairs were intended to be an incentive for participation as well as to assist current scholarship students with job placement per their Federal Cyber Service commitment. In addition to the NSA and USMC, numerous other agencies were contacted, but none were willing to participate. A stronger effort to encourage federal agency participation needs to start at the very beginning of event planning so agencies have adequate time to make arrangements to have representatives and materials available. If a corporation (like Harris or Cisco) is sending a speaker, the coordinator of the conference should confirm that the company also send a recruiter with materials, or at least provide the speaker with the recruitment materials.
- While the speakers were scheduled to meet their own itinerary, the flow of the program should be taken into consideration when scheduling specific talks. For example, an introduction to cryptography should be scheduled before a panel discussion or further in depth cryptography topics. While this was attempted, it should be more of a priority. In addition, speakers who are giving more than one talk should have the talks spread out to avoid monotony.
- No students were attracted from outside the state of Florida. Recruitment of potential students should begin early in the semester and should branch to surrounding states such as Georgia and Alabama. Housing costs were not covered for this event and may have contributed to the lack of out of town students. Low-cost housing should be offered for the week at a nearby hotel or in the dorms. Scholarships to attend the Summer School should be offered to those that meet a set criteria, to further encourage participation.
- A participant suggested that a portion of the conference should be held over a weekend, to allow those who have work obligations to attend more of the conference.

Appendix:

Detailed ledger
List of participants
Speaker list
Program
Small version of full informational poster
Registration form
Conference evaluation form

Rough Ledger

0333	SAIT Lab Fund			INCOME	DISB	BALANCE
Registration fees for summer school				1100		
Breakfasts in house					109.23	
Banquet and closing breakfast					764.82	
Cables / one lunch					146.55	
Momentos					357.5	
				1100	1378.1	-278.1
1327-593-22	NSF Cyber Training grant					
Honoraria						
	Arbaugh	B29289			200	
	Tjaden	B29403			200	
Hotel	Invoiced				936	
Speakers Travel						
	Tjaden, Brett	Trav to Talla 05/04-05/06/04			358.00	
	Davis, James	Trav to Talla 05/05-05/07/04			734.00	
	Gligor, Virgil	Trav to Talla 05/05-05/07/04			463.00	
	Arbaugh, William	Trav to Talla 05/04/04-05/05/04			292.40	
	Sommer, Peter	Trav to Talla 04/30/04-05/08/04			1575.00	
				0	4758.4	-4758.4
Publications	copies / videos				240.08	
	posters				65.00	
Other	Name badges/ legal paper				33.37	
	DVD's for recording				35.97	
				0	374.42	-374.42
Transportation	Biology van	transportation for visitors			50.49	
	Parking Services	Guest parking for summer school 04			168.96	
				0	219.45	-219.45
				1100	6730.37	-5630.37

List of Participants

Last	First	MI	Student?	From
Abcarian	Steve	L	No	TCC
Barnes	Anna	M	Yes	FSU
Bayha	BJ		Yes	FSU
Benjamin	Colin	O	No	FAMU
Boger	Ian		Yes	FSU
Brooks	Louis		No	FSU
Busey	Jonathan		Yes	FSU
Caloza	Joseph	I	Yes	FSU
Cash	James	W	Yes	FSU
Chen	Theresa		Yes	FSU
Coleman	Kevin		No	TSGTechs
Coppens	James	H	Yes	FSU
Cournoyer	Joshua	W	Yes	FSU
Davis	H Jefferson		No	
Donaldson	Roy	L	Yes	FSU
Donaldson	Don		No	FSU
Dorn	Michael	L	Yes	FAMU
Drumming	George		Yes	TCC
Engstrom	Cal		No	Datamaxx
Foos	James	F	No	FSU
Gant	JeRone	K	Yes	FAMU
Gonzalez	James	S	Yes	FSU
Hartsfield	Derek	D	No	Mainline
Henry	Peter	T	Yes	FSU
James	Masa	A	Yes	FSU
Jean-Pierre	Ketly		Yes	FAMU
John David	Ulysses	D	Yes	FSU
Kan	Tony		No	Mainline
Kermes	Leonardo	S	Yes	FSU
King	Chuck	E	No	TSGTechs
Kolar	David	A	No	IIR
Kruza	Marc	S	Yes	FSU
Lamar	Peter	R	Yes	FSU
Lapetina	Peter		No	Lively
Luesebrink	Michael	J	Yes	FSU
McClure	Chris		Yes	FSU
Morejon	Gilberto	A	Yes	FSU
Moss	Christopher	L	Yes	FAMU
Munyon	Paul		No	
Oakes	Sarah	A	Yes	UF
Osejo	Juan	C	Yes	FSU
Owenby	Carl	L	Yes	FSU
Parks	Joseph		No	Maclay School
Patel	Mahesh Komar		Yes	FSU
Pouliotte	Matthew	C	Yes	UF
Russell	John	C	Yes	Stetson
Sheaffer	Dave			FSU

Simmons	Felix		Yes	FAMU
Smith	Elizabeth	M	No	TSGTechs
Spencer	Dagmar			FDLE
Steiskal	Peter	J	No	Maclay School
Suen	Tina		Yes	FSU
Todd	Byron		No	TCC
Tsai	Charles		Yes	FSU
Vera	Louis	R	Yes	FSU
Villmow	Micah	J	Yes	FSU
White	John	P	Yes	FSU
Yagi	Yoshihito		Yes	FSU
Yi	Myongho	(lee)	Yes	FSU
Zaretsky	Louis	L	Yes	FSU

(41 students)

Speaker List:
Dr. William Arbaugh, University of Maryland
Dr. Mike Burmester, Florida State University
Dr. James Davis, Iowa State University
Michael Davis, United States Marine Corps
Marjorie Forbes, National Security Agency
Dr. Virgil Gligor, University of Maryland
Kelly Martin, National Security Agency
Martin Nystrom, Cisco Systems, Inc.
Dr. Peter Sommer, London School of Economics
David Thompson, Harris Corporation
Dr. Brett Tjaden, James Madison University