Dr. Serge Droz

Alexander Jäger

2020-2022 BOARD ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Serge Droz, Alexander Jäger, Dave Schwartzburg and Javier Berciano for being re-elected to the FIRST Board of Directors. We'd also like to welcome new board member Shawn Richardson (see page 2). All board members will serve two years except Serge who will step down as chair (though remain on the board) in 2021 due to our term limits. Alexander was elected as CFO for a second year

The Board of Directors is responsible for general operating policy, procedures, and related matters affecting FIRST.Org, Inc. corporation.

Alexander says: "My purpose during the next two years is to encourage further professional development of FIRST as an organization, this means reducing the operational work that volunteers do, with the goal to let them focus their time and dedication on content and community work. The other goal is to make the incident response Hall of Fame that has been established in 2019 continue to celebrate and showcase and tribute those outstanding contributions."

We're excited to share that our 2020 Board of Directors election was facilitated through our new BigPulse eVoting service. More than 50% of FIRST teams cast their election vote through this new secure single -sign-on service.

Welcoming a new board member –
Shawn Richardson

We'd like you to join us in welcoming new board member – Shawn Richardson – to FIRST. Richardson attended her first annual conference in Kuala Lumpur (2018) and since then has been heavily involved in many of our initiatives including:

- Co-chair of the Ethics SIG
- Member of the PSIRT SIG
- Member of the Vulnerability Coordination SIG
- Co-founded the Women of FIRST Birds of a Feather

Shawn has also recruited two PSIRT teams into FIRST.

Shawn plans to help FIRST to continue its tremendous growth and will encourage diverse participation across FIRST including SIG and chair roles, be a champion on the board for additional perspectives and foster ways to mentor new members and develop their leadership.

"I have benefited from several volunteer opportunities from my FIRST membership. This experience has given me a perspective into FIRST's strengths and opportunities. As we continue to grow as an organization, I challenge us to listen to the voices that we don't usually hear. The bar to entry and acceptance in our field can be very high, and we need to do all we can to promote participation and inclusion. I will use my experience in overcoming some of these barriers to help others, and make our organization stronger"

Shawn Richardson

Shawn Richardson is senior manager of product security incident response (PSIRT) at NVIDIA. She has spent the last 20 years working in various security assurance, incident response, and privacy roles at companies like Palo Alto Networks, Amazon and Microsoft. When not preparing for the next disaster, she enjoys exploring her new home state of California (US) with her husband (Patrick), hanging out with her rescue cats (Lily and Izzy) and building Lego Architecture Series.

FIRST reveals its new Vision and Mission

It's vital that we continue to review and update our vision and mission to ensure that it still reflects the needs of global incident response and security teams across the world.

With this in mind, the Board has spent some time since our time in Malaga to produce a new vision and mission which we are pleased to share with our members.

The new vision is:

FIRST aspires to bring together incident response and security teams from every country across the world to ensure a safe internet for all.

"We felt this new vision statement describes our ambition to be an open, inclusive, global organization that works together to build and maintain a safe internet," says Executive Director, Chris Gibson.

How will we achieve our vision? The revised missions below outline our purpose for the coming years:

1) Global Coordination - You can always find the team and information you need.

FIRST provides platforms, means and tools for incident responders to always find the right partner and to collaborate efficiently. This implies that FIRST's reach is global. We aspire to have members from every country and culture.

2) Global Language - Incident responders around the world speak the same language and understand each other's intents and methods.

During an incident it is important that people have a common understanding and enough maturity to react in a fast and efficient manner. FIRST supports teams through training opportunities to grow and mature. FIRST also supports initiatives to develop common

means of data transfer to enable machine to machine communication.

3) Policy and Governance - Make sure others understand what we do, and enable us rather than limit us.

FIRST members do not work in isolation, but are part of a larger system. FIRST engages with relevant stakeholders, in technical and non-technical communities, to ensure teams can work in an environment that is conducive to their goals.

Going forward, the Board will continuously review our activities to ensure that they are aligned with our new vision and mission.

"Everything we do, as an organization, should further one or more of these missions. If our activities don't then we should ask ourselves if they correctly cover our ambitions or, more importantly, whether we should be conducting the activity at all," says Chris.

You can find our vision and mission on our website: (https://www.first.org/about/mission)

FIRST 32nd Annual Conference – Virtual Edition

The current global pandemic has caused many organizations to pivot their face-to-face activities. We have also made the decision to shift our 32nd Annual Conference online which will be held November 16-18 2020. This will be our first virtual Annual Conference and we are working very hard to create a program that you will find both interesting and valuable.

We are working with the Program Chair to bring you a variety of speakers from global security and incident response professionals from all stages of their careers and from public, private and academic sectors. Topics will focus on the latest Incident Response and Information Security topics and ideas, to strengthen our individual and collective ability to prevent, detect and respond to computer security incidents. The virtual event will be an opportunity to exchange information and ideas, learn together, build trust relationships and co-operate on areas of mutual interest.

Who should attend?

- Technical staff who determine security product requirements and implement solutions.
- Policy and decision-makers with overall security responsibility.
- Law enforcement personnel involved with investigating cybercrimes.
- Legal counsel who work with policy and decision-makers in establishing security policies.
- Senior managers who are directly charged with protecting their corporate infrastructures.
- Government managers and senior executives responsible for protecting systems and critical infrastructures.

Past participants have included information security practitioners, executive management, network architects, system and network administrators, software and hardware vendors, security solutions providers, ISPs, law enforcement, and general computer and network security personnel.

Please check the FIRST **website** for the latest program.

Tips on how to publish your ideas in peer-reviewed journals

By Andrew Cormack

Have you ever considered publishing your ideas in a peer-reviewed journal? Until a few years ago, I hadn't. In this article, I'd like to share some tips with the readers of FIRST Post on how I get my ideas published.

My original impetus was an EU consultant. He wanted to reference my work because it covered areas that no one else had thought about. But my blog posts and white papers were difficult to find and unlikely to be cited. Publication allowed me, and allows others, to share the results of my discoveries with a much wider audience.

"Publication is both a way to think and to communicate"

First things first, I find it very useful to write down my ideas just in case I decide to publish them later. This process is very valuable even if I decide later that peer-review is not appropriate.

Writing down your ideas is also a great way to structure your thoughts. It doesn't matter whether you use mind maps, structured text (like me), or something else. Anything that gets you thinking about how your ideas are linked and related, and how you reached a conclusion, will build your confidence. Structuring also allows you to see whether you are heading in the right direction and how to explain your thoughts to others.

Publication is part of effective transmission

Peer-reviewed journals formalize the process. Good reviewers point out where the gaps are, where you might include the work of others, and how to communicate your ideas more effectively.

So, how should you start the publication process?

First of all, take a look at some journals for reference. A good place to start is ACM's 'Digital Threats: Research and Practice' (DTRAP), which anyone can access, thanks to FIRST sponsorship. As well as research papers, DTRAP publishes shorter Field Notes and Putting Research into Practice. The first issue contains papers from our Edinburgh conference. The second includes Matthijs Koot's paper on vulnerabilities which he described in the FIRST Post summer newsletter.

Secondly, research similar approaches to your idea. This is a required section for full research papers – sometimes called a literature review – but even if you are not aiming for one of those it's a useful process. You may find that your question has already been answered, or discover new ways to approach it.

Thirdly, draft your paper. Rules on seeking public feedback at this stage can vary. Some journals forbid it, others encourage it. But do get someone – maybe a non-specialist – to read your paper to check that it makes sense.

Then format it (follow the Journal's instructions) and submit. Expect at least one round of reviews, and make sure you address every comment. Expect tough questions and critique, even rejections. The reviewers' job is to make you, and your CV, look the best they can. This may take weeks or months.

Finally, enjoy seeing, and sharing, your work in "print"!

Andrew Cormack's publications can be found at **https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8448-2881**

FIRST is establishing a "publication mentors" community. Let us know at **first-sec@first.org** if you'd like to help, or be helped.
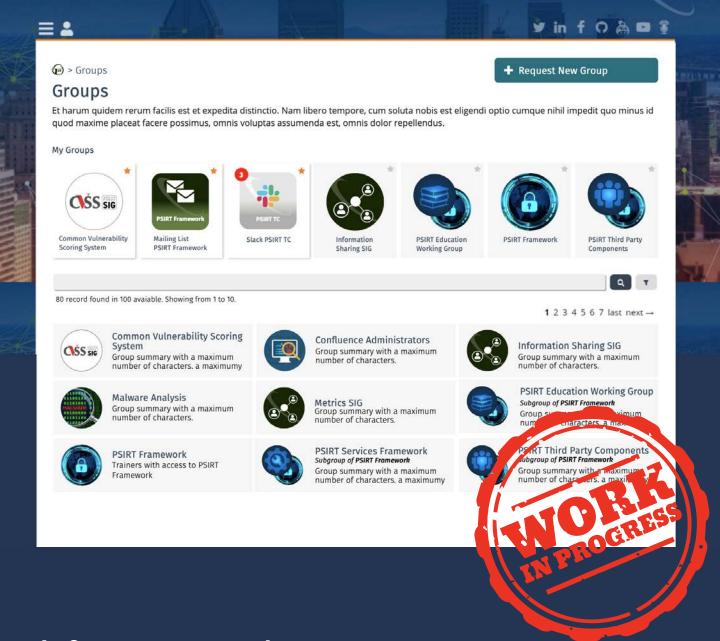

Code of Conduct – A Reminder

FIRST aims to develop a global community of security teams where trust and integrity are paramount. As a consequence, FIRST membership is intended to be inclusive, open, collaborative and enjoyable to all participants. The Code of Conduct explains expectations for anyone participating in FIRST activities such as conferences, meetings, video or voice calls, and chat channels such as Slack.

As most of our meetings are now online, it is important to remind you that our Code of Conduct also applies to our participation in virtual events. The anonymity of such meetings often incites behavior that would not be tolerated at in-person meetings. The Code of Conduct spells out the types of behavior we support, and do not permit.

Please familiarize yourself with the Code. **https://www.first.org/about/policies/code-of-conduct**

Infrastructure update

The FIRST infrastructure team has been busy implementing a new service on the FIRST Portal to improve how we collaborate. This service, called Groups, will support SIGs, committees, and other formal and informal groups. Groups will allow members to send requests to join a particular group, manage their membership, and suggest the creation of new groups.

From an administrative perspective, group owners will be able to manage their group membership, define the requirements for participating in the group, manage sub-groups, and control what resources are available. Access control will be synchronized across all group features (Wiki, Jira, Slack, mailing lists, etc).

Future plans include adding enhanced functionality such as calendaring capabilities and meeting integration. Groups will initially be made available to group admins and then rolled out to all members soon after.

Have you read our new Annual Report yet?

It has already been downloaded by hundreds of people across the world from Japan to Lithuania.

You can read it here!

Improving Security Together

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