

Cyber Security Next Generation (CSng)

Activity Report, Term 2021

Interest group of young cyber security scientists, combining academic career development and growth ambitions with outreach to the broader community, contributing to cyber security research policy development from a young scientists' perspective. CSng believes that by joining forces it can contribute to a strengthening of the Dutch multidisciplinary Cyber Security research community of the future requiring an increase of knowledge and expertise in this emerging field.

Who?

The CSng steering board consists of:

- TUD Associate Prof. Zeki Erkin <http://cys.ewi.tudelft.nl/users/zekeriya-erkin>
- UT Associate Prof. Andreas Peter (left the Netherlands as of 01 Jan 2022)
- UT Assistant Prof. Anna Sperotto (as of 01 Jan 2022)
- TU/e Associate Prof. Nicola Zannone <http://security1.win.tue.nl/~zannone/>

Given the desired reach out to other scientific disciplines and general universities, we increased our members who are actively involved in CSng activities:

Other members:

- Cristiano Giuffrida (VU Amsterdam)
- Luca Allodi (TU Eindhoven)
- Andreas Hulsing (Technical University Eindhoven)
- Jair Santanna (University of Twente)
- Simona Samardjiska (Radboud University Nijmegen)
- Kaitai Liang (TU Delft)
- Seda Gurses (TU Delft)
- Jaap-Henk Hoepman (Radboud University Nijmegen)

What?

CSng is about building a community of cyber security researchers and specialists, who consider themselves part of the next generation, and are willing to collaborate and shape the future of Cyber Security in the Netherlands. The inclusiveness extends to all disciplines within the Cyber Security research field. The goal is to have tighter collaboration in Cyber Security in terms of research, education, and corresponding strategies.

How?

By organizing events such as annual workshops and best cybersecurity master thesis competition, all based on voluntary work and open to everyone. Possibly also facilitating and starting joint research initiatives that come out of these connections.

Background:

ICT is the driving force and key enabling technology in pivotal domains of our modern digital society. Adequately addressing the security and privacy aspects to ensure a reliable and trusted functioning of ICT is crucial. Cyber Security specialists and scientists work very hard on the design and deployment of secure and privacy-enhanced ICT, in both knowledge

institutions and private sectors. Given that the Netherlands is a relatively small country, with limited available resources, it is essential to collaborate in both scientific and educational activities in Cyber Security. **Next = Now:** there is an urgent and significant demand for highly educated Cyber Security specialists, who need to be trained in the different aspects of Cyber Security, including the technical, legal, economical and ethical aspects. Bottom-up and content led activities in education, research, and PPP collaboration, can play a big role in tackling these challenges. Already since almost a decade, 4TU.NIRICT supports collaboration around cyber security research. First led by Sandro Etalle, Pieter Hartel and Inald Lagendijk. When in 2014 the younger generation took over, the idea to actively create a closer community around Cyber Security came up. The resulting initiative was named ‘Cyber Security Next Generation’: CSng. This was later recognized and further endorsed by NWO and dcypher. At the moment CSng is also involved in ACCSS activities (<https://accss.nl>).

CSng provides a platform for (young) researchers and specialists to exchange ideas, develop strategies, and launch collaborative activities for Cyber Security research and education in the Netherlands.

The following activities took place in 2021

1. CSng website maintenance and updates (<https://csng.nl>)
2. Annual workshop, **7th Cyber Security Workshop in the Netherlands**, took place in November 2021, online. <https://csng.nl/?q=event>, with a keynote from Dr. Stefanie Roos.
3. The best master thesis competition was organized. The winner was announced during the workshop. The winner was Daniel Vos (TU Delft, supervised by Sicco Verwer) on “Adversarially Robust Decision Trees Against User-Specified Threat Models.”

More information on activities can be found on www.csng.nl

Csng steering committee

Nicole Zannone, Andreas Peter and Zekeriya Erkin