

NEWS FROM TERENA (154)

Mandate of the TERENA Task Force, TF-CSIRT, renewed



Amsterdam, 15 September 2004

The TERENA Technical Committee today has once again renewed the mandate of TF-CSIRT, TERENA's Task Force on Collaboration of Security Incident Response Teams, for an additional two years from 15 May 2004. The task force provides a forum for exchanging experiences and knowledge, establishes pilot services for CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams) in Europe, promotes common standards and procedures for responding to security incidents, assists with the establishment of new CSIRTs and the training of CSIRTs' staff, co-ordinates other joint initiatives and provides a vehicle for CSIRTs in Europe to liaise with the European Commission and other policy-making bodies.

One of TF-CSIRT's new activities is its contribution to the development of the Request Tracker for Incident Response (RTIR) Incident Handling tool. The Task Force will also work on defining a unified way of conveying vulnerability and exploit information in a structured manner, based on the same XML concepts as IODEF, the Incident Object Description and Exchange Format that was developed by TF-CSIRT in earlier years.

The Task Force will investigate the exchange of incident-related information between the incident handling systems of CSIRTs in different administrative domains, with the ultimate goal of automating the exchange of incident-related data and metadata between incident handling systems.

Under the new mandate, the Task Force will collaborate with the Joint Research Activity on security in the GN2 project. GN2 is a new, very large project in the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union, which will provide the successor to the current GÉANT backbone network and will also encompass a number of joint research activities between national research and education networking organisations.

As before, TF-CSIRT will exchange information with the European Commission services that are responsible for EU policies and actions related to network security. Currently, the preparations for the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) are an important topic in the discussions between TF-CSIRT and the European Commission. The Task Force will also liaise with the European Forum of Abuse Teams.

Information about TF-CSIRT, including the new Terms of Reference can be found at:
<http://www.terena.nl/tech/task-forces/tf-csirt/>

For further press information, please contact:

TERENA Secretariat
Singel 468 D
1017 AW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 530 4488
Fax: +31 20 530 4499
e-mail: pr@terena.nl