

TERENA AND FIRST JOIN FORCES ON CSIRT TRAINING

Today TERENA, the Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association, and FIRST.Org, Inc, the representative organisation of the global Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the provision of training to members of Computer Security Incidents Response Teams (CSIRTs).

The agreement follows on from the TRANSITS project (Training of Network Security Incident Teams Staff) in the 5th Framework Programme of the European Union, which was carried out by TERENA and its British member organisation UKERNA. TRANSITS has provided funding for the maintenance of course materials for the training of CSIRT staff members and for the organisation of training workshops. With the TRANSITS project ending on 30 September 2005, a more permanent framework had to be developed for the continuation of the training efforts after that date. In the Memorandum of Understanding, FIRST.Org, Inc. commits to make additional funding available to the FIRST Secretariat, so that it can take on new tasks related to CSIRT training.

The FIRST Secretariat, a function provided by Don Stikvoort of S-CURE B.V. in the Netherlands, will enlist the assistance of volunteer experts from the international CSIRT community who will regularly provide updates of the TRANSITS course materials. The FIRST Secretariat will act as the final editor of the updates of the course materials, integrating the contributions from the volunteer experts and guarding the completeness and consistency of the materials as a whole.

FIRST.Org, Inc. takes responsibility for organising at least three training courses per year outside Europe, which will cover all five core subjects of the TRANSITS materials: technical issues, legal issues, vulnerabilities, organisational issues and operational issues. At least one of these training workshops will be held in Central or South America, and at least one of them will be held in the Asia-Pacific region. The organisation of these workshops will be handled either by the FIRST Secretariat or by volunteers from the FIRST membership with assistance from the FIRST Secretariat.

TERENA and FIRST.Org, Inc. jointly take responsibility for organising at least two training workshops per year in Europe. The logistical organisation of these training courses – including the selection of venue and financial arrangements – will be handled by the TERENA Secretariat, while the FIRST Secretariat will take care of the programme of the workshops, including the invitation of lecturers.

The copyright of the TRANSITS course materials will remain with TERENA. Organisations or individuals may obtain permission from TERENA to use the TRANSITS course materials, provided that the materials will be used only for non-commercial training courses. Another condition is that TERENA will receive a report on the course delivery with feedback from the presenters and the trainees; this will be beneficial in keeping the course materials relevant and up to date.

The agreement between TERENA and FIRST.Org, Inc. is initially for a period ending on 31 October 2006. In September 2006, the two organisations will evaluate the agreement, and depending on the result of the evaluation they will seek to conclude a new, longer-term agreement, which is expected to enter into force on or before 1 November 2006.

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