

NOAH PROJECT TO PROVIDE EARLY WARNING AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

The NoAH project (A European Network of Affined Honeypots) held its kick-off meeting in the TERENA offices in Amsterdam on 4 April 2005. NoAH is a design study, which is financially supported by the European Commission as a specific support action in the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union. The project started on 1 April 2005 and will run for a period of three years.

In recent years, we have been witnessing an increasing number of attacks on the Internet. viruses, worms, trojans, spyware and other types of malicious programs are discouraging the effective use of the Internet and are crippling the IT infrastructure. Studies have pointed out that attackers already possess the technology to take over a large part of the Internet within minutes. At these timescales, human reaction to an attack may be impossible. To combat these threats, an infrastructure is needed to assist in detecting and containing such attacks.

The goal of NoAH is to produce a design study and perform the necessary technical work to develop an infrastructure for security monitoring based on honeypot technology. Honeypots are computer systems that do not provide regular production services. Instead, they are intentionally vulnerable and at the same time closely monitored systems that wait to be compromised by attackers. Once hit, honeypots can be used to analyse attacks.

In NoAH, honeypots will be used as early-warning systems capable of detecting attacks at the early stages of their infestation. By correlating data from geographically distributed honeypots, NoAH will be able to detect cyber attacks before they have the chance to do any major damage. To contain the spread of attacks once detected, NoAH will explore the possibilities for generating automated attack signatures or other containment-related information that may be used by security appliances.

The NoAH project has a total budget of 2.4 million euro, of which more than 1.4 million will be contributed by the European Commission. The co-ordinator of the project is FORTH (Greece) and the other project partners are Free University Amsterdam (Netherlands), FORTHnet and Virtual Trip (Greece), DFN-CERT (Germany), ETH Zürich (Switzerland), Alcatel and TERENA.

TERENA will lead the information dissemination work package of the NoAH project. It will organise NoAH workshops co-located with the TERENA Networking Conferences in 2006 and 2007. TERENA will also provide the project website and mailing lists. In addition, TERENA has smaller roles in other parts of the project, including the collection of end-user requirements for the NoAH infrastructure through TERENA task forces and the TERENA membership, and support to the provision of a test bed infrastructure via the participation of interested TERENA member organisations.

For more information: <http://www.fp6-noah.org/>

KM04/05



TRANS-EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKING ASSOCIATION
For more information, please contact the TERENA Secretariat
Tel: +31(0) 20 530 4488, email: news@terena.nl

<http://www.terena.nl>