TF-CSIRT & TI Restructuring

TF-CSIRT Meeting
30 January 2012
TF-CSIRT

› Task Force for European CSIRTs established in 2000.

› Forum for exchanging experiences and knowledge, establishing services, promoting common standards and procedures, assist with establishment of new CSIRTs, and liaising with relevant bodies.

› 3 meetings per year, including joint event with FIRST every January (since 2006).

› Average attendance is ~60-70 participants, rising to ~120 for joint events with FIRST.

› Participation is approximately 60% academic, 20% governmental, 15% commercial, 5% other.
Trusted Introducer

- Trusted Introducer (TI) service established in 2001.
- Offers an accreditation and listing service for CSIRTs, with re-validation three times per year.
- 84 accredited teams (44% academic, 28% governmental, 28% commercial) + 143 listed teams (39% academic, 24% governmental, 37% commercial)
- 3 x accredited team meetings per year, held in conjunction with TF-CSIRT meetings. Average attendance = 50 participants.
- Services currently provided under contract by PREESECURE, financed by accreditation fees (currently amounting to EUR 89K per year).
- Review Board – TF-CSIRT Chair, TERENA representative, 3 members elected by accredited teams.
Rationale for change

› TF-CSIRT has no formal notion of membership, which is increasing expected by external organisations with whom we communicate.

› There is a confusing overlap and duplication of functions between TF-CSIRT and TI, with (often) different Chairs and different Secretaries.

› TF-CSIRT and TI are currently treated as separate entities which limits coordination and common use of staff resources, and creates overlaps in meeting programmes.

› TI is now well established and should be considered an essential element of the European CSIRT community rather than an ‘add-on’.
Rationale for change (cont...)

› Certain services (e.g. TRANSITS courses) both support and rely on TF-CSIRT community, but little direction or oversight from TF-CSIRT.

› TF-CSIRT has been moving away from cooperative approach and becoming increasingly difficult to formulate programme. Needs more input from community representatives and staff.

› The TF-CSIRT/TI community needs to become more connected with those providing leadership/direction. Non-academic CSIRTs also now constitute the majority.

› TERENA supports TF-CSIRT, but the group is the sum of its participants!
Developing the proposal

› Some ideas for restructuring TF-CSIRT and TI were presented at meeting in June 2011.

› Kevin Meynell asked to produce paper that:
  › Summarised the current situation
  › Made the case for change
  › Provided more detail on specific ideas

› Working Group (8 persons) formed to provide feedback on the paper:
  › A number of comments received which were taken in account when discussed further within TERENA.

› Revised proposal circulated to TF-CSIRT mailing list on 4 January 2012.
Proposal - Membership

› Introduce membership corresponding to TI status:
  › Accredited Members
  › Listed Members
  › Individual Members (TI Associates) – must be renewed annually.

› Employees of Accredited and Listed Members, and Individual Members can subscribe to mailing list and attend meetings.

› Existing mailing list subscribers not affiliated with Accredited or Listed teams (~20) to be granted Individual Member/Liaison status.

› Non-members could still be invited to meetings at the discretion of the Chair.
Proposal - Administration

› Introduce elected Chair
  › Elected by Accredited Members for single 3-year term.

› Transition TI Review Board into TF-CSIRT Steering Committee
  › TF-CSIRT Chair, TERENA Secretary + 3 elected representatives (1 elected per year for single 3-year term)

› TF-CSIRT Steering Committee to have enhanced role:
  › Coordinate TF-CSIRT, TI, TRANSITS and other related activities, and advise on future developments and strategic directions.
  › Review the performance of the TI service, and make recommendations to change or expand it.
  › Make decisions on special issues related to certification, accreditation, listing and individual memberships.
  › Act as a programme committee for TF-CSIRT meetings.
Proposal - Activities

› Abolish the somewhat artificial distinction between the TF-CSIRT meeting and seminar (except for joint FIRST/TF-CSIRT meetings).
  › Replace TI meeting with TF-CSIRT Accredited Members session for clarity.
  › Automated invites for Accredited, Listed and Individual members.

› Review the list of activities annually instead of when the Terms of Reference are renewed (usually every 2 years).
  › Return to more regular updates on current activities.
  › Support for up to 4 working groups is available from TI service.

› Promote TF-CSIRT/TI beyond its traditional NREN focus by identifying teams in different sectors and making contact.
Proposal - Cosmetics

› TF-CSIRT should formally become an umbrella for TI and TRANSITS, and possibly other security-related activities.

› Rename TI to ‘TF-CSIRT Trusted Introducer’ to identify as a TF-CSIRT service

› Have a clear statement about what TF-CSIRT/TI is, what it does, and the benefits of being involved.

› TF-CSIRT and TI websites updated and made more coherent.

› New logos suggested by working group.
Next Steps

› TERENA will continue to support TF-CSIRT and associated activities.

› The TF-CSIRT administration will continue to be funded from the GN3 project until April 2013.

› The TI service will continue to operate on a cost-recovery basis.

› New Terms of Reference to be drafted.
  › By April 2012 in conjunction with Working Group.
  › To be discussed at May 2012 meeting.

› Approval from appropriate TERENA bodies (TEC/TTC).

› Introduce new structure from 1 September 2012.
  › Elections for Chair and 1 representative at September 2012 meeting.