



TU Darmstadt awarded with funding for Competency Center for IT Security Research Center "EC-SPRIDE" will focus on Security and Privacy by Design

Hannover/Darmstadt, 28-02-2011. The Technische Universität Darmstadt has been awarded with funding to establish the competency center "EC-SPRIDE" by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The new center's objective is protecting information technology users against fraud, misuse, sabotage and spying.

Today during the CeBIT 2011 Opening Ceremony the Federal Ministry of Education and Research announced the three winners of its' Center of Excellence for IT Security Research competition. Technische Universität Darmstadt (TU Darmstadt) has been awarded with funding to establish the center of competency "European Center for Security and Privacy by Design" (EC-SPRIDE). The University will be joined by the Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology Darmstadt (Fraunhofer SIT Darmstadt) to work on EC-SPRIDE. The three centers will be funded over the next four years with a total of approx. 17 Mio Euros by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The centers will be evaluated after three years. The two other centers of excellence will be established at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the Saarland University in Saarbrücken.

"Today Darmstadt is already one of the most important and largest centers for IT security research in Germany and Europe. The new center is a perfect fit for the research strategy of Technische Universität Darmstadt. With its research cluster "Future Internet" the University is taking up the challenge to design the internet as an innovative driving force for secure, high-performance and efficient technologies and services", says TU President Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Prömel about the Federal Ministry's decision.

Protection against fraud, misuse, sabotage or data espionage, i.e. "security", and the protection of individuals' private spheres, i.e. "privacy", are part of the most important requirements for information technology, whether it be e-mail, social networks, business software, smartphones, cloud computing or the controlling of critical infrastructures. Nowadays, realizing a solution for these requirements often resembles a race: Constantly new weaknesses are being discovered, with the IT industry

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reacting by developing new security measures. EC-SPRIDE aims at breaking this cycle and developing the theoretical basics, practical methods, tools and mechanisms for “Security and Privacy by Design“. “In the long run we cannot afford to wait and react only when the “bad guys“ have come up with the next thing. Security has to be part of Information Technology’s design and production process from the very beginning”, says Prof. Dr. Michael Waidner, the designated Managing Director of EC-SPRIDE, as well as Professor at the Technische Universität Darmstadt and Director of Fraunhofer SIT Darmstadt. “EC-SPRIDE will significantly improve the IT industry’s ability to develop secure and data protection friendly IT systems in a cost effective manner“.

„The Technische Universität Darmstadt has been very target-oriented and successful in establishing IT security as one of its focuses in research and teaching. Currently in its’ Computer Engineering department, eight professors are working mainly on IT security. EC-SPRIDE will make use of the already existing structures, especially CASED, and add new cutting edge research activities“, says Prof. Dr. Johannes Buchmann, one of the four designated EC-SPRIDE Directors, also Director of CASED, the Center for Advanced Security Research Darmstadt. CASED is a joint institute of the Technische Universität Darmstadt, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the Darmstadt University of Applied Research, and is being funded by the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art within the LOEWE initiative.

Other members of the EC-SPRIDE Board of Directors are Prof. Dr.-Ing. Mira Mezini and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ahmad-Reza Sadeghi. All afore mentioned are professors of the Darmstadt Technical University’s Computer Engineering Department. Prof. Sadeghi is director at Fraunhofer SIT Darmstadt as well.

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