
Press Release



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
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Double success for IT security

Scientists from Technische Universität Darmstadt receive Heisenberg and Horst Görtz Foundation Professorships

Darmstadt, June 21st, 2011. Two scientists at CASED, the research center for IT security in Darmstadt, were awarded highly coveted sponsorship for their outstanding accomplishments: Prof. Dr. Stefan Katzenbeisser assumed his Horst Görtz Foundation professorship on May 1, 2011. Dr. Marc Fischlin has held the Heisenberg professorship at the TU Darmstadt since June 2011.

TU Darmstadt's President, Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Prömel, stated that, "Both scientists were able to develop their own, impressive profiles at early ages through their excellent research accomplishments. Their success also corroborates the successful promotion of talented, young scientists at the TU Darmstadt." The Director of CASED, Prof. Johannes Buchmann, is pleased about this double success, "These professorships strengthen the already attractive profile of the TU Darmstadt in the area of IT security research."

The Horst Görtz Foundation is supporting Prof. Dr. Stefan Katzenbeisser until 2017 with an amount of 150,000 euros a year. The foundation had already supported this researcher with a junior professorship in the area of security engineering at the Computer Science Department of the TU Darmstadt. His research focuses on methods for providing technical protection for highly sensitive data, e.g. for the encrypted processing of genetic material. "Thanks to the support of the Horst Görtz Foundation, as a junior professor I was already able to set up my own group, which has been successful in addressing the subject of data protection", said Katzenbeisser, who emphasized "I am very happy that I can continue along this path at the TU Darmstadt".

Prof. Dr. Marc Fischlin has been awarded a Heisenberg professorship by the DFG (German Research Foundation). Applicants for this award must prove themselves during a multi-level selection process. Fischlin previously headed the "Emmy Noether-Nachwuchsgruppe" Minimizing Cryptographic Assumptions (MiniCrypt) within the Computer Science Department, and his research focuses on proof of security for cryptographic procedures. In November 2010 he presented his highly regarded security analysis for an encryption protocol for the new personal ID cards. "The Heisenberg program will allow me to continue my successful research within the scope of the Emmy Noether program and enable me to significantly influence the basic way of thinking in our sphere of activity", said a very happy Fischlin. The DFG supports its professorships for a period of up to five years, and 800,000 euros is provided in the first three years alone.

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The **Horst Görtz Foundation**, which was named after its founder, was originally set up by the company Utimaco Safeware AG in 1996. One of its objectives is the promotion of science and technology in research and education on a non-profit basis, above all in relation to information security. The foundation awards the German IT Security prize every two years, which includes a total of 200,000 euros in prize money.

The **Heisenberg professorship** prepares outstanding researchers for leading scientific positions, and scientists need to apply to the DFG as well as to a university for a professorship. The DFG utilizes scientific excellence criteria when determining who will win a Heisenberg professorship. At the same time, the university reviews candidates for the new professorship during an appointment process. If both of these reviews are successful, the person can take on their Heisenberg professorship. If the position receives a positive evaluation after three years, it is turned into a permanent position after a period of five years.

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