

COINS

Research School of Computer and Information Security

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Annual Report 2013

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Hanno Langweg

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Abstract

COINS started formally on the 1st of January, 2013, had all contracts between consortium members signed by 23rd of April, 2013, and admitted its first student on the 20th of June, 2013. By the end of the year, 38 Ph.D. students had been admitted and 2 had already graduated as members of COINS.

Time spent in 2013 was mainly used to gather knowledge, establish activities, and promote COINS among Ph.D. students, supervisors, and institutions. Money spent in 2013 went to direct costs of events, to supporting travel of Ph.D. students to attend events, and to cover staff time for activities.

Main events were attendance of the Finse winter school in information security, participation in the hack.lu CTF competition, and the Ph.D. student seminar co-located with the Norwegian Information Security Conference. Main activities related to establishing COINS were a study tour to visit a dozen research schools in Europe and the creation of a website as the main communication channel. To improve recruitment, a *COINS Student Researcher Grant* was developed where companies fund promising candidates in small-scale research projects.

Priorities for 2014 include a more efficient delivery of the Ph.D. course portfolio of the consortium members, integration of supervisors in COINS activities (participation in events, co-supervision, teaching of courses), solicitation of more input from students, establishment of administrative routines to offload work on multiple people. Main events will be participation in the Finse winter school, a Ph.D. student seminar co-located with the NordSec conference in Tromsø, and preparation of the Metochi summer school in 2015.

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Chapter 1

Overview

1.1 Homepage

The website for COINS is the main channel for external communication. Its URL is <https://www.coinsrs.no>. A representation of the URL for mobile devices is available as a QR code on the title page of this report.

Functionality of the website comprises a listing of COINS Ph.D. students, consortium members, employers, and partners; a portrait for every admitted student, announcement of future events, documentation of past events, statistics about students, topics, and employers, publications of COINS students, an alumni hall of fame, an overview of current open positions for future candidates, a map with all relevant partners and sites of events; news feeds of Norwegian information security tweets and recent software vulnerabilities; registration forms for new student members, for funding applications, for academic and industrial partners, and for people interested in being considered for future scholarships; publication of steering committee and academic advisory board meeting minutes.

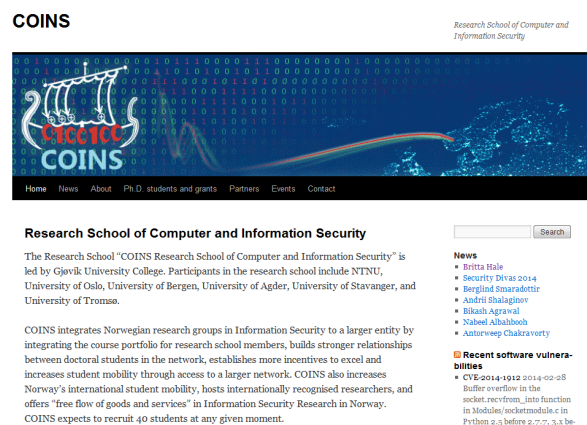


Figure 1.1: <https://www.coinsrs.no>

1.2 Organisation

Roles and institutions in COINS are listed in table 1.1.

1.3 Management

The *Steering Committee* is responsible for all the research training issues and for resource management. It consists of the scientific director, one representative from each of the consortium members plus two representatives from the Ph.D. students.

Steering committee meetings were held in Finse in April 2013, by email in June 2013, by video conference in August 2013, and in Stavanger in November 2013. Meeting minutes are available on the COINS website.

The *Academic Advisory Board* evaluates the school's results. It provides guidance to both the scientific director and the steering committee. The board's members comprise expertise

Scientific Director	Prof. Einar Snekkenes, 15% FTE
Activity Management Office	Hanno Langweg, 10% FTE
Host institution	Gjøvik University College
Consortium members	Gjøvik University College NTNU University of Agder University of Bergen University of Oslo University of Stavanger University of Tromsø

Table 1.1: Roles and institutions

Body	Member	Institution
<i>Steering Committee</i>	Einar Snekkenes (Scientific Director)	Gjøvik University College
	Hanno Langweg	Gjøvik University College
	Stig Frode Mjølunes	NTNU
	Vladimir Oleshchuk	University of Agder
	Tor Helleseth	University of Bergen
	Audun Jøsang	University of Oslo
	Chunming Rong	University of Stavanger
	Ragnar Soleng	University of Tromsø
	Pankaj Pandey	Ph.D. student representative
	Ctirad Sousedik	Ph.D. student representative
<i>Academic Advisory Board</i>	Prof. Hanne Riis Nielson	Danmarks Tekniske Universitet
	Prof. Armin B. Cremers	University of Bonn
	Prof. Simone Fischer-Hübner	Karlstads Universitet
	Prof. Eugene Spafford	Purdue University
	Sofie Nystrøm	Telenor

Table 1.2: Members of COINS Steering Committee and Academic Advisory Board

from the Nordic countries, the U.S., and network-based researcher training, as well as women leaders in the field.

The annual board meeting was held in Finse and by video conference in April 2013. Meeting minutes are available on the COINS website.

1.4 Ph.D. students

Table 1.3 shows the Ph.D. students admitted to COINS. As of the end of the reporting period, 38 Ph.D. students had been admitted to COINS, 27:11 of them male/female (71%/29%). 2 of the students graduated within the reporting period, leading to 36 active students and 2 alumni (1 male/1 female).

Ph.D. students in COINS have so far not taken courses organised by the research school and have not taken courses in information security offered by consortium members other than their home institution.

1.5 Supervisors

COINS did not publish information about supervisors of students admitted to COINS in 2013.

Name	Sex	COINS consortium members	Admitted	Status
Mohamed Abomhara	male	University of Agder	2013	Active
Bikash Agrawal	male	University of Stavanger	2013	Active
Nabeel Albahbooh	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Waqas Aman	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Kiran Bylappa Raja	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Antorweep Chakravorty	male	University of Stavanger	2013	Active
Samson Gejibo	male	University of Bergen	2013	Active
Håkon Jacobsen	male	NTNU	2013	Active
Oleksandr Kazymyrov	male	University of Bergen	2013	Active
Sandra Khan	female	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Kjetil Kjernsmo	male	University of Oslo	2013	Active
Chunlei Li	male	University of Bergen	2013	Active
Guoqiang Li	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Yi-Ching Liao	female	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Maria B Line	female	NTNU	2013	Active
Jayson Mackie	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Edlira Martiri	female	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Soumik Mondal	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Martin Aastrup Olsen	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Ebenezer Paintsil	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Graduated
Pankaj Pandey	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Anika Pflug	female	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Lisa Rajbhandari	female	Gjøvik University College	2013	Graduated
Jan Roksvold	male	University of Tromsø	2013	Active
Simona Samardjiska	female	NTNU	2013	Active
Andrii Shalaginov	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Kashif Habib Sheikh	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Berglind Smaradottir	female	University of Agder	2013	Active
Ctirad Sousedik	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Bo Sun	female	University of Bergen	2013	Active
Aryan TaheriMonfared	male	University of Stavanger	2013	Active
Mohsen Toorani	male	University of Bergen	2013	Active
Nils Ulltveit-Moe	male	University of Agder	2013	Active
Dijana Vukovic	female	NTNU	2013	Active
Gaute Wangen	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Takashi Watanabe	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Goitom Weldehawaryat	male	Gjøvik University College	2013	Active
Huihui Yang	female	University of Agder	2013	Active
Total: 38	27 m/11 f			

Table 1.3: COINS Ph.D. students

Category	1,000 NOK
Own financing	476
Other public	139
Research Council of Norway	676
Sum	1,291

Table 1.4: COINS income in 2013

Category	1,000 NOK
Payroll	672
R&D services	139
Other	480
Sum	1,291

Table 1.5: COINS costs in 2013

1.6 Courses (and other national activities)

11 COINS Ph.D. students participated in the Finse winter school on information security under the auspices of the FRISC project, organised by UiB, in April 2013. Participation of a COINS team comprised of information security Ph.D. students from Norway at the international hack.lu *Capture-the-flag* competition took place in October 2013. A gathering of 14 COINS students at a dedicated seminar happened in conjunction with the *NISK Norwegian information security conference* in Stavanger in November 2013.

Courses currently offered by consortium members were tabulated to identify overlaps and shortcomings in thematic areas. COINS works towards local recognition of shared courses at the Ph.D. level among the partners. This will primarily be achieved by organising winter and summer schools at the Ph.D. level. To get recognition for participation in the winter/summer school, identical local course descriptions for all consortium members are planned, so that no recognition of courses taught at other consortium members is required. This had been discovered to be an obstacle by other research schools earlier. The formal quality assessment is to take place in the partner institutions and Ph.D. programmes. COINS will set common minimum standards for quality of courses and will assist partners administratively.

1.7 International cooperation

COINS offers stipends for short-term stays with its international cooperation partners. These partners are: CASED (Center for Advanced Security Research Darmstadt), Chalmers (Chalmers University of Technology), ENSICAEN (National Graduate School of Engineering & Research Center), Ericsson Research (Security Group), Karlstads universitet, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology), Plymouth University. Partners offer to host a COINS student for up to two weeks per year. None of the students applied for support to stay with one of the partners in 2013.

SWITS (Swedish IT Security Network for Ph.D. Students) was established in 2001 with the aim to strengthen cooperation between Ph.D. students and research labs in Sweden. Activities include an annual two-day seminar with inspiration and presentations given by thesis advisors and Ph.D. students. COINS cooperates with SWITS and encourages students from both networks to communicate and attend each others events.

1.8 Budget

Income and costs for the reporting period are shown in tables [1.4](#) and [1.5](#).