COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2015-10-05   *Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska*

Time: 1400 - 1500
Place: Skype
Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Stig Frode Mjølsnes (NTNU), Patrick Bours (Gjøvik University College), Chunlei Li (University of Stavanger), Ijlal Loutfi (Student), Vivek Agrawal (Student), Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office)

Apologies:

- Chunming Rong (University of Stavanger), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø).

Agenda

1. New administrative support: Urszula Nowostawska
2. Agenda
3. Meeting minutes of previous meeting - https://www.coinsrs.no/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/COINS-Steering-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-2015-01-22.pdf
4. Status, goals and milestones
   a. Tasks from previous meetings (none left)
   b. Admission of students: 5 admitted in 2015 – Håkon Gunleifsen (HiG), Yan Li (UiO), Christian Otterstad (UiB), Martin Strand (NTNU), Joseph Twayigira (UiA)
   c. coinsrs.no: Upcoming events on front page, announcement of thesis defence
5. Students+events
   a. Upcoming Ph.D. student seminar in Stockholm: https://coinsrs.no/coins-ph-d-student-seminar-2015-stockholm/
      Registered students: 3/21 HiG, 2/5 NTNU, 0/4 UiA, 3/6 UiB, 2/7 UiO, 0/3 UiS, 0/1 UiT
      Registered alumni: Ebenezer Paintsil, Oleksandr Kazymyrov
      Registered supervisors: Stewart Kowalski, Stefan Axelsson, Slobodan Petrovic, Hanno Langweg
      Student get funding for seminar+NordSec+CySeP
   b. Metochi summer school experience 2015: https://coinsrs.no/first-coins-summer-school-completed-in-metochi-2015/
   c. Metochi summer school in 2016: probably available weeks 27/8-3/9 or 3/9-10/9 or 30/7-6/8
      Include a real defence as part of Metochi?

    d. 20+ new Ph.D. students in COINS in 2016 (thanks to IKTPLUSS)

    e. 2016: Finse, Svalbard, Metochi, Ph.D. student seminar, student mobility

6. Budget

    a. Enough money available to spend on events, fewer students/supervisors participate than budgeted for

    b. Missing reports of in-kind contributions:

      i. 2013: HiG ok, NTNU ok, UiA ok, UiB ok, UiT ok; missing: 0 from UiO, 0 from UiS

      ii. 2014: HiG ok, NTNU ok, UiB ok, UiT ok; missing: 0 from UiA, 0 from UiO (invoice 188 TNOK without credit note), 0 from UiS

      iii. 2015: 400 TNOK required in in-kind contributions (e.g. student/supervisor time)

      iv. Little in-kind contributions => reduced funding from NFR => reduced possibilities for Ph.D. students

7. Underused potential

    a. ECTS/course recognition; limits on how many ECTS can be provided by courses under non-local course codes even though university is part of COINS

    b. Supervisor seminar

    c. Internship opportunities

8. Beyond 2016

    a. Mid-term evaluation of COINS in 2016

    b. SWITS@COINS in 2017?

9. Miscellaneous

Welcome

Welcome extended to Urszula Nowostawska as the new administrative support.

Agenda

No modification or any changes to the agenda. Tor Helleseth proposed to think if the next year we should continue the same way. The issue will be discuss later.

Meeting minutes 2015-01-22

Previous meeting minutes accepted without objection.

Status, goals, and milestones

Tasks from previous meetings

No tasks left from previous meetings.

Admission of students

- Several students were admitted to COINS: Håkon Gunleifsen (HiG), Yan Li (UiO), Christian Otterstad (UiB), Martin Strand (NTNU), Joseph Twayigira (UiA), Samson Yoseph Esayas (UiO) and Harsha Sandaruwan Gardiyawasam Pussewalage (UiA). More students expected to join from UiB (3-4) during the next year, 5-6 students from HiG plus number of IKTPLUSS, one student from UiS, at least two more from

NTNU. Overall, it should be at least 20 students from IKPLUSS program in addition to KD position. Very likely, we might have more students next year than we have this year.

- A note must be sent to the COINS if there is an information that somebody is going to graduate. It was reported from UiS that Antorweep Chakravorty has finished his PhD defense and Aryan TaheriMonfared will have a defense on 26th of October.

Students+events

PhD seminar in Stockholm

- Twelve students will participate in the PhD seminar in Stockholm on Sunday 18th and Monday 19th of October. Following the seminar, NordSec will take place from Monday 19th of October to Wednesday, the 21st of October. NordSec is the main Nordic conference on secure IT systems that brings together Ph.D. students and senior researchers from the Nordic countries. After NordSec, from 20th to 23th of October, the CySeP winter school will bring more senior researchers to find out how to solve real-world security and privacy problems.
- Patrick Bours will promote event through emails so as many as possible could attend the seminars.
- Two former COINS students will attend the PhD seminar: Ebenezer Paintsil and Oleksandr Kazymyrov.
- Several supervisors will be there: Stewart Kowalski, Stefan Axelsson from CCIS, Slobodan Petrovic and Hanno Langweg.
- There is an opportunity to meet Gene Spafford who is going to give a keynote at NordSec.
- Question was raised if the Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK) will be organised next year and where. Decision will be made on Monday on the conference week. It is, however, an open question if it will be next year. Partick Bours suggests to do everything what we can to make this very important event happened. A FRISC committee should be in charge of discussing it; however, there is no much support to it. COINS are not in position to support NISK. There is a question how it will be extended or organised. Tor Helleseth suggested a PhD seminar before or after ArcticCrypt, so highly profile people might come.

Metochi summer school in 2015

- The first COINS summer school on cloud security was held last summer (22nd - 29th August) at the Metochi Study Centre on the Greek island Lesvos, operated by University of Agder. Most of the participants had used the opportunity to pay a visit to ENISA (European Network and Information Security Agency) in Athens.

- Vivek Agrawal gave short description of his experience and impressions while visiting Greece. Lots of very nice research ideas, professional speakers and overall nice life experience. That was a very nice place for research study and reflections.
- Metochi summer school was run with a narrow focus, but it was structured like Finse. There were morning session, lunch, afternoon sessions and outside session after dinner. One evening a session was taking place in a small amphitheater.

Metochi summer school in 2016

- Three periods available for the summer school, next year:
    1. 27th August – 3rd September
    2. 3rd September – 10 September
    3. 30th July – 6th August
- Decision of the exact date will be made in November. University of Agder has a priority to choose the date, but the final score is also taken in consideration. UiA may want to have their summer school in the same time. A UiA/Metochi committee decides who gets which one. Experts can give special courses for students and extra days can make tutorials more valuable.
- Thomas Kemmerich and Hanno Langweg are planning to attend the Metochi summer school next year.
- Hanno Langweg suggested that we could have a real PhD defense at Metochi. Everybody can go to Metochi for defense. Some objected that it would be difficult for staff member to attend it, and they would like to be on their student's defense. Another objection was regarding the broadband connection. However, if the place of defense is not decided and there is a chance that Metochi would have a PhD defense would somebody consider a defense there? Partick Bours' student finishes too early before the summer school. Hanno Langweg suggested that Mohamed Abomhara would be a natural candidate for defense in Metochi since he received most of his credits from Metochi.

COINS students in 2016

More than 20 new students should join COINS next year, thanks to IKTPLUSS program. All of the students knows their topics and they all relates to each other.

2016

- How to organize events in COINS, topic for the summer school.
- Many students whose proposal was accepted were attending Finse previously. It was suggested, that participation in summer school could give a change of receiving a grant. It is, however, hard to reach for most of the people.
- Seminar with IKTPLUSS and supervisors – what kind of events we can have.
- Hanno Langweg suggested half-day seminar at Gardermoen in January or February, or another half-day meeting somewhere – nobody was keen to volunteer.

- Finse – email from Tor Helleseth with budget proposal.
- Students in Metochi asked how they could help. Britta Hale suggested a recruitment lecture. None volunteers for programme committee.

Budget

- Hanno Langweg did not give the exact numbers since the large part of administration is preparing for merging institutions of higher education. The details will be available from the 1st of January 2016. However, COINS are doing ok, underspending a bit. Currently have no problems to pay for all the events applying for the next year and can even have more students attending the events than this year.
- Need to document more "in-kind" contribution for this year than was needed for previous years according to application for funding. 2012 has been sent and Hanno has received an excellent proposal from Ragnar Soleng. Ragnar proposed to make available a list/form that states everything that could be mentioned as "in-kind" contribution such as every event or en estimated numbers of hours that has to be documented for the event so it will make it easier to report.
- There is a database on the COINS website for which it is possible to retrieve all the events for which students has been funded. This list could also company such as form, so it will make easy to forget some participation of students.
- It is good that University of Trømso has two PhD students, because one PhD has graduated recently and it would be a pity to have a partner of COINS without any current PhD students.
- Overall COINS are doing fine on the budget.
- Remember to fill the form for documenting only "in-kind" contribution when they are sent to you. This year the forms will be mailed probably in late November so that they can be returned in early December.
- Missing documented "in-kind" contribution from UiS for 2013 and 2014. Welcome a positive response on 2015 in kind contribution from UiS.

Underused potential

- COINS offers several course descriptions so people can register for the events, write report and get participation credited with the ECTS units. Some universities have limits of how many credits people can take from other institutions. Unfortunately, there is a limit of 10 of ECTS units from courses taken outside of UiB. UiO even has limit of 5 ECTS unit taken outside of UiO. It would be desirable to have more creditable COINS events and get the credit that can be used toward the taught component of a PhD programme.
- Hanno Langweg suggested that one way to work around it would be to have an identical course description at the local course codes so COINS events would not appear as a HiG or NTNU event in the future, but under local code. This would not

change anything in terms of event just works around any administrative limits and impose a recognition.

Items 7b, 7c, 8 or 9 are postponed due to time constraints.

Important items:

- Mid-term evaluation of COINS. COINS has been running for almost 3 years. The mid-term evaluation will be in summer or autumn 2016, which will include a questionnaire of a visit.
- We have been asked by the Swedish partner network SWITS if it is possible to host a SWITS seminar with a COINS PhD seminar in Norway. Usually this is in different place in Sweden every year, but as an exception, they want to come to Norway, maybe in 2017. It is important to make sure that many people from Sweden and Norway will attend this event.
- Many thanks to Vivek Agraval for his contribution in SC as a student's representative as this was his last SC meeting. Ijlal Loutfi will run for reelection next year.

SC meetings

Next SC meeting will be held before Christmas. Please send preferences to Hanno Langweg.

Action: Hanno to send out a Doodle poll with suggestions.