A week in Svalbard

There is a big difference between going on this kind of meetings in Sweden and Norway. In Sweden, focus areas are where there are information security people. In Norway you have chosen another way, here you choose a nice place and take your information security people!

Speaking of a nice place, I landed the day before when there was the only opportunity to get on time. However, there is nothing I'm sorry for when I had half a day to open the Longyearbyen itself on my own hand and look closer at the tourist destinations that could be reached by foot.

During the first day, COINS had responsibility for the program, which included a good mix of lessons learned and ongoing projects. I wish I had heard these lessons learned at the beginning of my PhD, because they gave a very good picture of what it actually is and how to think about getting a more efficient and enjoyable study time. The easiest way to get in is still blockchain-Chris finish: "I'm not saying you should cheat, but you should definitely cheat".

The six ongoing projects seemed carefully selected so that they followed a red thread and were at a level that everyone could understand and refer to. The presentations also led me to a somewhat unexpected article; "Elevated romantic love and jealousy if relationship status is declared on Facebook" when I looked for one of the presenters article.

But we did not have to sit locked in and watch PowerPoint all day, the first day also gave an introduction to Svalbard using a bus and a guide before it was time for dinner, a very important part for networking. But it's a bit sad to finish the evening with a formal dinner so it had to be a party with a bunch of COINS students before it was time to finish the day with polar bear and northern light hunting. (Un)fortunately none of them showed up.

The following two days was dedicated to Norwegian Informatics Conference (NIKT) which is actually four conferences in one:

•Norwegian Informatics Conference (NIK)

•Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of IT (NOKOBIT)

•Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK)

•Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects (UDIT)

To me, this was a good combination for when NISK became too technical I was able to get away to NOKOBIT and listen to GDPR, digitization and technology adoption failure. This also gave a lot of keynote speech which was interesting.

The first day of the conference ended with an interesting dinner. It's the first time I've been escorted by courageous guards in the wilderness for a conference dinner. But have to say that it is probably the best place I have eaten a conference dinner!

The second day of the conference ended with a beer with a few new Norwegian friends.

Overall, it was a good conference with very many press releases. I have already benefited from someone in discussions with colleagues after the conference and I will surely quote some article.

The worst thing about the trip was the journey home, when a major told it for transport, mainly the last train that was delayed 6 hours, which meant I came home at 3 o'clock in the night. But it was worth it!