Reflection report for
The 11th Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK 2018)

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18 - 20 September 2018
Longyearbyen, Svalbard

From the 18th to the 20th of September the Norwegian ICT Conference for research and education took place in Longyearbyen, main town in the wild north island of Svalbard.

It was a joint conference composed by different entities:

- the Norwegian Informatics Conference (NIK),

- the Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of IT (NOKOBIT),

- the Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK),

- the Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects (UDIT).

Before the NISK conference, it was held the annual COINS Ph.D student seminar and it consisted of three main parts. In the first part there were made some presentations on the topic "lessons learned from doing a Ph.D": Chris Carr, from NTNU, talked about *how to get (and not to get) a PhD + why you should/shouldn't travel*; Andri Shalaginov, from NTNU, talked about *Ph.D.: "Mission Impossible" or " Roadside Picnic"?*; Bo Sun, from UiB, talked about *there is always light at the end of the tunnel*.
In the second part, 6 students gave a short presentation of their own PhD project. In the last part two presentation were made about "life after the Ph.D." by Berglind Smaradottir from UiA (*Experiences from doing a PhD in ICT at the University of Agder - How to find a job afterwards?*) and by Bikasj Agrawal from UiS (*A journey from PhD to Startup*).

After the COINS student seminar, the NISK conference started in parallel with the other conferences. In the following link it is possible to have a look of the proceedings of the NIKS conference:

http://nikt2018.ifi.uio.no/images/NISK2018_preproceedings.pdf.

The talks given were divided by topic covered: Crypto-primitives, Crypto-protocols, Security Analysis, Biometrics and Malware.

Among them I want to recall the presentation made by Martha Norberg Hovd, from Simula@Uib. With title "A succeddful Subfield Lattice Attack

on a Fully Homomorphic Encryption Scheme", she presented the application of a known subfield lattice attack on a fully homomorphic encryption scheme based on NTRU. Fully homomorphic encryption schemes are of a great interest nowadays since they satisfy the following relation for any function f: $Dec(f(c)) = f(Dec(c))$, where c is any possible cyphertext.

Another interesting talk was given by Patrick Bours, from NTNU, who presented a paper with title "Fake Chatroom Profile Detection", joint work with Parisa Rezaee Borj and Guoqiang Li. The motivation of their work is the hardness of connect online identities to physical ones, regardless of their good or bad intentions. In their research they focus on using biometrics (keystore dynamics) and textual (stylometry) features to determine both the correctness of the profile chatter, as well as ongoing harassment activity.

I want to mention one last presentation given: "Assessing face image quality with LSTMs", work done by Tommy Thorsen, Pankaj Wasnik, Christoph Busch, R. Raghavendra and Kiran Raja. Face recognition is getting more and more used as a way to authenticate a user in a device, therefore the increasing of the need of making this biometric authentication method as secure and reliable as possible. The authors investigated the possibility to use machine learning techniques to provide a general way to estimate overall face image quality.

I am enormously grateful to COINS for giving me the opportunity of attending this event and especially the opportunity of visiting the extreme north!