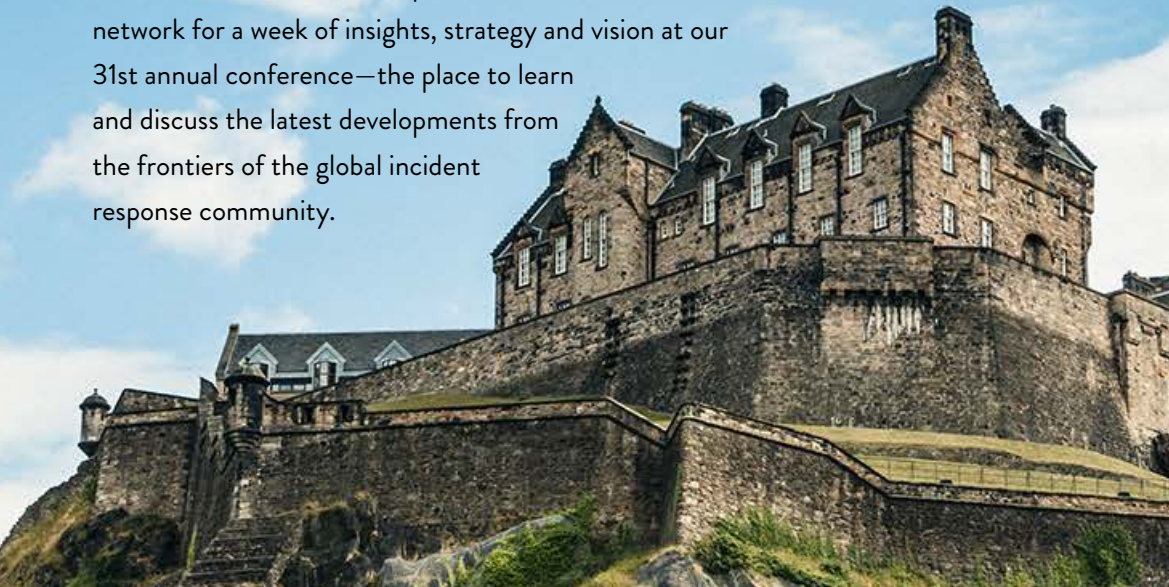


EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

Defending the Castle: Join the 31st Annual FIRST Conference in Edinburgh, 16–21 June 2019

Join like minds and fellow experts from across the FIRST network for a week of insights, strategy and vision at our 31st annual conference—the place to learn and discuss the latest developments from the frontiers of the global incident response community.



The venue

Held in Scotland's historic and dynamic capital, Edinburgh, this year's conference offers opportunities for you to experience the city and meet with speakers and industry experts to grow your network.

It's not too late to sign up for this year's conference. Find more information at-

www.first.org/conference/2019

An exceptional rundown

We had a record 275 submissions this year, and have selected a final 77 presentations, to be hosted by esteemed industry experts. The week's five tracks run from Monday to Friday with topics covering everything from technical analyses of the latest attacks and managing product and supply chain security, to how different countries keep their healthcare systems secure.

"This is an invaluable opportunity to expand your knowledge and learn new skills first-hand, with classes about malware analysis, running effective table-top exercises, finding vulnerabilities in industrial control systems — and much, much more,"

Andrew Cormack, FIRST 2019 Program Chair

Keynote speakers

We're privileged to be joined by five distinguished keynote speakers who will cover cutting edge topics from the front lines of computer security, including penetration testing, psychology, the human impact of IoT appliances and artificial intelligence.



TRAINING INITIATIVES

Training towards a safer and more secure global electronic environment

The thirst for knowledge and best practice guidelines to safeguard our electronic environments is growing. As well as developing our own training and events directly, FIRST is also partnering with leading organizations, such as ITU, to deliver courses globally and meet growing demand.

Training the trainers

Oftentimes much of the strength of a training session comes from the caliber of the instructor. At FIRST, we're making sure we secure and develop more instructors to deliver our world-class courses. So much so that at our upcoming annual conference, we'll have a full day 'train the trainer' event for the IPv6 and DDoS trainings.

New materials and releases

As well as our commitment to continued improvement of our existing training courses, and improving access to these materials on our website, we're also leading the way with the development of new, quality training materials; our most recent being the publication of the DDoS mitigation training, under an open license. This course will be held in Edinburgh, along with others, free of charge to participants of the conference. Be sure to register early.

Reaching out: Incident response for policy makers

In 2018, our very own board members Maarten Van Horenbeeck and Serge Droz have developed a new training course: Incident Response for Policy Makers. This training was recently expanded and updated materials are now available.

This training has been delivered now several times in Geneva, New York, Seoul, Tallinn and Lima, targeting international missions, diplomats and other policy makers. To find out more, participate or host these courses email: frst-sec@first.org

"Government policy has a crucial influence on the way FIRST members operate. This course uses real examples of incidents to effectively demonstrate what incident responders can do and what kind of environment is required to ensure the optimal response."

Serge Droz, FIRST Board Member

2019 FIRST BOARD ELECTION: 20 JUNE 2019

Nominations are now open for the FIRST Board of Directors 2019-2021 term. Open to both members and non-members, the FIRST Board of Directors consists of ten representatives who each serve a two-year term. Due to the staggered appointment of representatives, each year five places on the board become available.

Ideal candidates are those passionate about FIRST and driven to contribute to the organization's ongoing success. As well as enthusiasm, the other qualities and functions of board members are outlined in the Requirements for FIRST Board of Directors Members ([HERE](#))



A special thanks

As we open these nominations, we would also like to thank Adli and Margo – who have confirmed that they do not plan to run for re-election this year. We appreciate their many years of service.

Election and nomination deadline

In keeping with tradition, new board members are elected at the Annual General Meeting, during the Conference. For 2019 this will be held on Thursday, 20 June during the 2019 FIRST Conference in Edinburgh, UK. Ahead of this, the deadline for nominations and submissions of interest is Sunday, 16 June 2019 at 12pm in Edinburgh (UTC).

Interested parties can self-nominate, or be nominated by a team or full member representative. All candidates need a total of six nominations and seconds from team representatives to be confirmed for the ballot – so get campaigning! Further details about making a nomination are below.

Making a nomination

- If you are a team representative, you can make a nomination by sending a PGP signed email to first-nominations@first.org. Be sure to also cc: the teams list first-teams@first.org to encourage other reps to provide secondments.
- If you are a full member representative, you can nominate a candidate by sending a PGP signed email to first-sec@first.org. This email should contain the name of the candidate, a statement of support, and your name and organization. Bear in mind you can only nominate or second up to six candidates.

For all other information regarding the election and expectations of Board members, please [click here](#).

OUTREACH AND POLICY

Outreach initiatives to minimize the impact of incidents

Security



As an international confederation of trusted computer incident response teams, FIRST places a high priority on reaching out to relevant communities, societies and associations with the aim of improving responses to incidents and increasing electronic safety and security globally. Collaboration and cooperation, as well as prevention, are key to that which is why we are committed to helping others understand the importance of preparation in minimizing the impact of a global incident.

Alongside FIRST's extensive work in cybersecurity capacity building and norms implementation, the last year has seen us further educate the growing international community on what incident response teams do, how they interact with the community, and how they can work more effectively with a broader set of partners and organizations.

Our outreach activities towards this aim over the last 12 months have included:

- Participation in the Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace – an initiative by the Swiss Government - in cooperation with the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), ETH Zurich, and the University of Lausanne – that is analyzing the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in contributing to greater security and stability in cyberspace.

- Highlighting our own spirit of collaboration and cooperation we shared many of our technical learnings around interdependence of engineering systems, and demonstrated how no group or government can solve cybersecurity challenges without involving other community members.

- We also participated in a United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) meeting on the value of regional organizations in strengthening cybersecurity and stability. As an outcome, we are now investigating ways in which we can directly contribute to the new UN Government Group of Experts (UNGGE) and Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) initiatives, which will be key to identifying and developing new norms and norms implementation efforts moving forward.

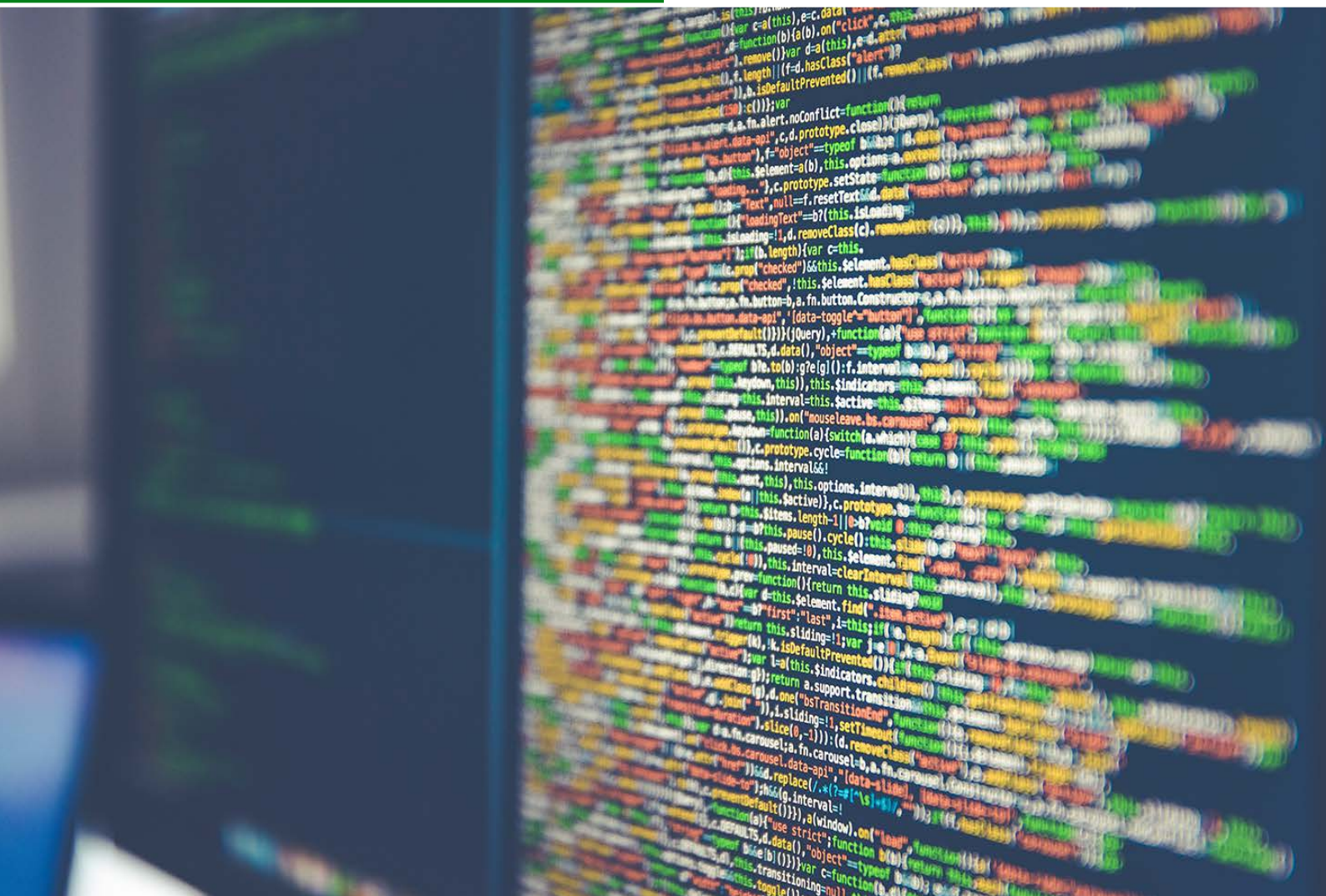
- Within the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), FIRST started chairing a task force on Cyber Incident Management. This group has three goals:

1. to become a clearinghouse for capacity building requests between organizations providing cybersecurity development internationally.
2. to build a set of lessons learned from previous capacity building projects.
3. to grow an international mechanism for CSIRT maturity assessment, based on SIM3.

- Maarten Van Horenbeeck and Serge Droz continued our policy maker trainings in New York, facilitated by Open Systems, and in Seoul as part of the MERIDIAN conference, as well as in Tallin during the FIRST Regional Symposium for Europe.

- The Best Practices Forum on Cybersecurity – an inter-sessional activity of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, of which FIRST board member Maarten is the Lead Expert – published its outcome paper “**Cybersecurity culture, norms and values**”. The paper explores cybersecurity norms from a multi-stakeholder perspective, and includes input from across the world on how countries, corporations and civil society see norms development and implementation. Key learnings from this work include:

- The importance of norms as a key mechanism for state and non-state actors to agree on responsible ways of behavior in cyberspace, and the importance that the community builds mechanisms for norms implementation;
- The importance of multi-stakeholderism. Within FIRST, we often discuss how one party cannot go it alone. This is no different in the international community.
- And finally, the reality that cybersecurity norms and laws should always be respectful of human rights.



These are just a few of the initiatives that we have participated in, others have included the opening of the Paris Call, Microsoft Peace Institute meetings, Interpol Stadia Project, ICRC “Human costs of cyber operations WS and Symposium on Digital Risk and the WEF Center for Cybersecurity CSIRT Advisory Group. We’re always looking for people to help us take our outreach efforts further, so if you’d like to be involved, please contact maarten@first.org or serge@first.org.

PSIRT FRAMEWORK

Prevention is key with PSIRT

When it comes to our health we all know that prevention is better than cure – and this sentiment stands in our industry also. It’s for this reason that our own PSIRT (Product Security Incident Response Team) committee has developed new training resources.

As well as helping companies build and implement strategies to mitigate and minimize product and hardware vulnerabilities, the training materials will support the in-house teams that are responsible for protecting the information infrastructure.

Drawing on best practice and the expertise of many of the industry’s leading security experts, FIRST’s PSIRT Framework and accompanying materials are essential tools for any organization with products or services that are internet connected. As engineers and developers, it is our duty to both deliver exceptional products and services but also to protect customers – and this framework will help you convey to others, in plain and common language, the importance of proactively addressing product security issues.

We provide this training to PSIRT teams as part of our current education and training programs, the Framework is also available for download from the FIRST website [here](#), and the training materials can be accessed for public educational use [here](#).



STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

At FIRST we believe that we're all better off when we work together, so we're excited to have partnered with LACNIC, the Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre. Our partnership with this not-for-profit saw us deliver the first Regional Symposium Conference in May, with an aim of promoting coordination and cooperation among Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

As well as sharing trends and ideas in this space, the three-day event was rich with information about how to improve computer security.

From the latest incident response and prevention techniques to security strategies for incident management and insights about cybersecurity threats, the information and training opportunities were both technical and accessible.

In addition to increasing their knowledge about these vital issues, attendees also had the opportunity to network with others in the industry – gaining best practice guidance and insights from their colleagues in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

According to Graciela Martinez Giordano, FIRST Liaison member and Head of WARP at LACNIC, “This activity is one of the primary outcomes of the partnership between LACNIC and FIRST, and will allow for better interaction between Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in Latin America and the Caribbean with the rest of the global security community.”

You can find out more about LACNIC events at www.lacnic.net.

CHRIS GIBSON APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT FIRST

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Chris Gibson as Executive Director of FIRST. Chris brings with him over 15 years of leadership experience and knowledge of the cybersecurity industry. He is well versed in FIRST's mission having spent nearly ten years on the Board of FIRST, five years as Chief Financial Officer and two as Board Chair. He joins FIRST from Orwell Group where he was Chief Information Security Officer.

Chris will work closely with the Board of Directors to ensure annual programmes are achieved within budget and help raise funds for these programs. He will build on the strength of existing relationships that the Board has created with partner organizations and members. He will also act as the organization spokesperson to engage with an international community of policymakers on cybersecurity challenges.

Thomas Schreck, Chair, First said: "The Board is delighted to appoint Chris Gibson as Executive Director. Having worked with FIRST in various roles, Chris has a deep understanding of our goals and truly understands the value of collaborating with members and partners on a global scale. He also brings incredibly strong knowledge and experience of cybersecurity standards, processes and training from his work in the private sector with Citigroup



and in the public sector where he built and ran CERT-UK, the UK's first national Computer Emergency Response Team within the UK Government's Cabinet Office."

"I'm enormously excited to be joining FIRST as Executive Director. I've been involved with the organization since 2001 and I'm looking forward to working full time to achieve the FIRST mission."

Chris Gibson, Executive Director, FIRST



Thanks for reading! Remember to follow us on our social media channels Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for regular updates!

