

SECFUNET project – Marcelo Pasin

Speaker: Marcelo Pasin, Assistant professor at the University of Lisbon. Previously, he was a researcher at INRIA (France, 2007-2008) and tenured associate professor at the Federal University of Santa Maria (Brazil, 1991-2007). He has worked for CoreGRID, EGEE and EC-GIN in FP6, and is now working for TClouds and SECFUNET in FP7. SECFUNET is a project from within the recent EU-Brazil joint call held during Call 7 of FP7.

1. How does your project contribute to International cooperation and trust and security?

SECFUNET is a STREP in FP7, with EU and Brazilian partners. It proposes to create a new generation in the Internet security that is very simple to use (no need of a specialized skill). It is based on secure microcontrollers, has strong authentication with privacy and secure identity management. It is intended for use with virtual networks and clouds, offering isolation, reliability and encryption.

1. What are the benefits and expected impact of your project brought on by international cooperation?

SECFUNET's partners are very heterogeneous: Brazilian and European partners complement each other. We have a large number of partners, with many different skills. It would be hard to gather these skills without cooperation. Specifically from Brazil we get different perspectives, very different regulation frameworks and very different concerns. Brazilians also include a pioneer researcher in intrusion-tolerance and a national networking research laboratory. SECFUNET also allows for leveraging previous cooperation that would otherwise be impossible.

2. International cooperation is not an easy task and required a lot of patience and time. What are the issues encountered and how did you address them?

In time scales, the start times were very different and this caused a lot of problems. EU – started May and Brazil are only now hiring as they received funding in October. So EU partners started long before.

Cooperation projects in Brazil are not structurally the same as in EU. They are not used to the types of joint projects, which include meetings, discussions, workshops, etc. They are just used to meeting at the beginning and then work on the project in an independent fashion. It will take a while for them to get used to it. The evaluation process is also very different between EU and Brazil. In Brazil, reporting is carried out mainly in the very end of the project, therefore, making it difficult to get things going in terms of a common progress reporting mechanism between the countries. Another example is Brazilians are not responsible for delivering to the EC. These efforts need to be harmonised between the participants in the different countries.

3. In the opening session, it was mentioned by the Commission that INCO projects should go further than just identifying stakeholders and who the counterparts are in the countries and topics of cooperation. What are your projects plans to take this approach for a longer term strategy and is there anything that BIC can do to help you with this strategy.

As a perspective for longer term exploitation, we have several industrial partners. We feel it is the combination of the companies that are going to do their development of their products within the projects in order for the project to have a longer term impact for both the partners and the project in general. Twinteq wants to develop its products in near-field communication, EtherTrust and Implementa work with secure elements like SIM cards, and Infineon wants to boost its trusted components for the future networks. More generally, SECFUNET wants to establish a sound security infrastructure that could be used by anyone.

4. What are your recommendations for improving effectiveness?

As recommendations for improving effectiveness, I suggest better agreements with non-European authorities, with, for instance, better definitions in the commitments, and better synchronisation. It could include previous negotiation for project management standards, as, for example, how to deal with deliverables, project review and evaluation. The European Commission should help the targeted applicants to have knowledge of its rules and evaluation standards, using, for example, concertation meetings in the targeted countries.