Published on *Digital Agenda for Europe* (http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda)

PANOPTESEC - Launch of EU-funded Cyber Security Project to handle security incidents

Published by Newsroom Editor on 23/01/2014
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23/01/2014
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The EU-funded project PANOPTESEC will address the challenge of modern networks and systems to detect vulnerabilities and possible attacks on sensitive information and essential services by developing a system that will empower individuals, companies and organisations in handling security incidents. The near market-ready system will be first used by ACEA, one of the largest Italian public utility companies for power and water supply.

Panoptes is a Greek word meaning ‘all eyes’ or ‘all seeing’ and has incorporated into the project name to represent the overall goal of the PANOPTESEC project which is to deliver a continuous cyber security monitoring and response capability in real-time.

The PANOPTESEC prototype will proactively and reactively evaluate system weaknesses, identify potential attacks, provide a list of prioritised response actions and automatically manage cyber incidents. Existing response assistance products do not provide a wide understanding of the system interdependencies and do not aid the security personnel in assessing the measures that need to be taken. PANOPTESEC will calculate automatically the risks and act proactively in a possible threat. Specifically, this prototype will assess the risks and improve situation awareness, improving the action determination time from days to minutes and reduce the response time from hours to seconds. It will also detect cyber incidents in real-time and support breach notifications, reducing false positive and negative rates.

European contribution

The European consortium that will develop this beyond-state-of-the-art prototype consists of eight partners from academia, research and industry in Belgium, France, Germany and Italy.

The Institut Mines-Telecom (IMT), a group of prestigious French higher education establishments under the Ministry of Industry will coordinate the overall project, supported by RHEA, a software and engineering consulting company specialising in space and other cutting-edge technologies, for the technical organisation and monitoring of the technical progress. The consortium is complemented by Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs France, a research company of optical components, networks architectures and data analytics, Epistematica, a company operating in the market of IT services and software applications, the Research Center of Cyber Intelligence and Information Security (CIS) of the Sapienza University of Rome, which is one of the largest and oldest universities in Italy, the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH), a young university with a 10-year involvement in technology for ontologies, SUPELEC, one of France’s most famous and prestigious higher education institutes of engineering, and ACEA.

The total budget of the project is approximately 7,5 million € and the European Commission is funding 70% within the seventh framework programme for research (FP7). The project full title is "Dynamic Risk Approaches for Automated Cyber Defence" and will be completed in 2016.

About PANOPTESEC: www.panoptesec.eu [1]

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