Editorial Preface

Secure Software Engineering is not About Security Features

Martin Gilje Jaatun, SINTEF Digital, Trondheim, Norway

As hard as it may be to admit for many of us, secure software engineering is a quite narrow field, and software security remains an arcane art for many practitioners. Recent media stories highlight that in the top US universities it is possible to graduate with a computer science degree without having taken a single security course, much less a course in software security. Even though some universities now offer courses in secure software engineering, no software engineering program to my knowledge requires all students to take such a course. It is thus understandable that many practitioners fall into the trap of thinking that software security is "something to do with crypto".

This misunderstanding is also shared by many authors who submit to IJSSE. Although software security is doubly important when developing security features, this journal is not the best venue for disseminating the latest and greatest security features, unless the focus is on software security activities that are involved when developing such features. To put it a little bluntly, security features are only necessary in security-related (parts of) software, but software security is necessary for all software. As an initial guideline for prospective authors, I could suggest that a contribution should relate to at least one of the activities described in the latest BSIMM report (http://bsimm.com) to be appropriate for this journal.

This issue is the inaugural issue of my tenure as IJSSE Editor-in-chief. I thank former EiC Khaled Khan for his hard work in establishing IJSSE as the premier journal on Secure Software Engineering, and will strive to carry on his legacy in the years to come.

This issue contains three articles. First, Christos Kalloniatis and colleagues tackle practices for ensuring security and privacy during software systems analysis and design, with a particular focus on requirements engineering methods that focus on elicitation and modelling of security and privacy requirements, in their contribution "Designing Secure and Privacy Aware Information Systems". Furthermore, in "Introducing a Novel Security-Enhanced Agile Software Development Process", Martin Boldt and colleagues present empirical work on developing secure software at Ericsson in Sweden. Finally, Liguo Yu and colleagues examine how the use of security design patterns influence the quality and complexity of the resulting code in "Design Patterns and Design Quality: Theoretical Analysis, Empirical Study, and User Experience", concluding that a balanced approach is likely to be superior to blindly applying security patterns in all situations.

Martin Gilje Jaatun
Editor-in-Chief
IJSSE