

Editorial Preface

All Good Things Must Come to an End

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Security is a process, not a feature. Although security features have their place, you cannot protect your software by sprinkling “magic crypto fairy dust” (McGraw, 2015) over it and expect everything to be fine. Key management and security protocols are certainly necessary in many applications but remember that those applications (and all other applications) are still prone to implementation bugs and security flaws. This implies that you need some sort of secure software development lifecycle (SSDL) to ensure that you are covering the bases with software security activities, but you also need someone to step up and take responsibility for the practical aspects of the SSDL. Larger organizations will typically have a Software Security Group (SSG) (McGraw, 2009) to carry this mantle, but even small enterprises should be able to maintain a guild of software security champions (SAFEcode, 2019). A security champion program will allow you to transition from “the department of no” to “let me show you how you can do this securely”.

This issue contains three articles. First, Mamun present a novel key management protocol for wireless sensor networks in “A Robust and Lightweight Key Management protocol for WSNs in Distributed IoT Applications”. Then, Jaatun, Nyre and Tøndel present an approach for securing OLSR mobile ad-hoc networks in “A Secure MANET Routing Protocol for Crisis Situations” (assessment of this article was handled by Prof. Shariar). Finally, Fernandez, Washizaki, and Yoshioka explore a decade of security patterns in “Using Security Patterns to Develop Secure Systems—Ten Years Later”.

With this issue, my tenure as Editor-in-Chief comes to an end. I can only lament the publisher’s decision to discontinue IJSSE as a journal focused only on Secure Software Engineering, but I understand that with the low number of submissions we had been experiencing, a change was unavoidable. I wish Prof. Hossain Shahriar as the incoming EiC of IJSSSP every success!

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