

Panel: CICI Regional Collaboration Projects – Impact and Tales of Transition to Practice

CC and CICI PI Workshop
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CICI: Regional: Southeast SciEntific Cybersecurity for University REsearch
("SoutheastSECURE")

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SoutheastSECURE Overview



- Coalition of four universities in the Southeast US
- Objective: Cybersecurity awareness in “Higher ED”, specifically NSF
 - Increase researcher cybersecurity awareness
 - Increase researcher cybersecurity skills
 - Investigate researcher attitudes and beliefs towards cybersecurity
 - Develop tools for automated scanning
 - Develop appliances for automated scanning
 - Provide on-campus and virtual cyber security training for researchers
 - Facilitate communication between researchers and campus IT/security



SoutheastSECURE: Survey Findings

- NSF-funded researchers across the southeast US were sent a survey regarding cyber security
 - University researchers listed as a PI on an active NSF award
- Noteworthy findings:
 - 34% of respondents reported maintaining their own security; 4% reported “no regular maintenance”
 - 39% of respondents reported their projects had no security requirements, or that they created their own requirements.
 - Another ~19% reported they were not sure
 - 35% report writing their own software without secure coding practices
 - 1.5% reported security incidents resulting from custom software

SoutheastSECURE: Outreach and Awareness

- SoutheastSECURE has developed a tool suite for NSF-researchers
 - Website vulnerability scanner
 - Locally based network vulnerability scanner
- SoutheastSECURE has developed training materials
 - Short videos to increase security awareness
 - Training modules to provide focused security training
- SoutheastSECURE has held cyber-security workshops
 - Campus-wide workshops
 - Targeted at researchers



SoutheastSECURE: Future Plans

- SoutheastSECURE surveys have identified needs in cyber security
- Research requirements and cyber infrastructure are not always coordinated
 - Researchers being responsible for cyber infrastructure may increase cyber risks
- Investigate additional training & tools to address current research findings:
 - To help campus IT support unique research projects
 - To help researchers with project cyber needs that cannot be met by normal campus IT
 - To help researchers manage cyber risk
 - To help researchers cope with increasing cyber requirements
 - To help researchers cope with other cyber challenges
 - Ex: Data backup and provenance