



## ASREN to Hold Workshop on Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)

### In this issue

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Workshop on Identity Federation Infrastructure to be Held Next December                           | <b>3</b> |
| Empowering Network Engineers around the World: GÉANT and NSRC Renew Partnership                   | <b>3</b> |
| International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment – e-AGE 2016 | <b>6</b> |

*BEIRUT* – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) announced a workshop on Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), which is jointly organized by ASREN, TRANSITS and GÉANT will be held at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, November 29-30, 2016.

TRANSITS evolved out of a European Commission funded project (IST-2001-39118, July 1, 2002 – September 30, 2005), that aimed at establishing CSIRTs and at addressing the shortage of CSIRT skilled staff. The demand for the training extended beyond the project and was picked up by GÉANT (formerly TERENA) in creative and financial collaboration with ENISA, FIRST and other like-minded organizations.

Since the inception, TRANSITS has trained over a thousand security professionals in the European region. Many more have benefited from the third party courses organized elsewhere around the world. Over the years, operatives have been trained for commercial, governmental, military and national CSIRTs, as well as those in the research and education sector. A number of participants have gone on to become TRANSITS trainers themselves, passing on their knowledge within their own regions and countries.

This workshop targets new or potential CSIRT personnel who wish to gain a solid understanding of the main aspects of working in an incident handling and response team. It offers experience and expertise in Operational, Organizational, Legal and Technical areas which form knowledge basis for CSIRT personnel.

The workshop offers participants a unique opportunity to mix with their peers and discuss security issues in a secured and trusted environment, whilst being tutored by seasoned experts of the European CSIRT community. The course is open to individuals currently working for a CSIRT or network security related organization, and those with bona-fide interest in establishing a CSIRT. Applications are also welcome from commercial, governmental, law enforcement and military organizations, as well as national research and education networks (NRENs) and research and education institutes.

Typical participants are usually experienced IT professionals with the growing interest and professional need to become system or network security experts. Familiarity with Internet protocols, addresses and port numbers is assumed. The basic expectation is that all participants are aware of security issues involved in connecting computers to the Internet and are committed to using their skills to improve the security of computers and networks. Individuals from other backgrounds and with other interests are welcome to contact the organizers to discuss their suitability for the course.

For more information and registration, please visit the following link:

<http://asrenorg.net/?q=content/workshop-computer-security-incident-response-team-csirt>

## Workshop on Identity Federation Infrastructure to be Held Next December

*BEIRUT* – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) announced a workshop on Identity Federation Infrastructure to be held at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, December 3-4, 2016.

The workshop concentrates on technologies which allow federated access to the services. There are various technologies which allow users to use web based and non-web based services, Internet access, etc. It will be primary focusing on identity federations which are used for federated access to web based services but it will also tackle eduroam infrastructure.

Participants will have an overview of eduroam, identity federations and eduGAIN. They will be able to prepare policies and agreements which may be signed with GEANT representatives in order to connect to the global community.

Participants will know how to build national federation, and they will also be able to install and configure Shibboleth v3 for the home organization and connect it to the national federation. They will know how to then connect national identity federation to the eduGAIN.

For more information and registration, please visit the following link:

<http://asrenorg.net/?q=content/workshop-identity-federation-infrastructure>

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## Empowering Network Engineers around the World: GÉANT and NSRC Renew Partnership

*CAMBRIDGE* – In the debate over what makes or breaks a successful NREN, the arguments of a sound business model and strong member engagement rank generally high. However, another key requirement for a sustainable networking organization is the availability of skilled technical staff able to set up and manage networks efficiently and with confidence. Securing such a pool of engineering expertise may prove challenging for novice NRENs, particularly in emerging regions, and calls for

technical training support and sharing of best practice. Providing this very support lies at the heart of the strong relationship between GÉANT and the University of Oregon-based Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC) - two of the world's leading organizations responsible for developing and connecting NRENs around the world.

In 2013, GÉANT and NSRC signed a partnership agreement to formalize and further develop



their longstanding working relationship in support of the many NRENs being set up in emerging regions. Since then, NSRC has run over 180 training events in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East – regions where GÉANT is supporting the development of research and education (R&E) networks. As a result, over 5,000 engineers have benefitted from the capacity building. The recent renewal of the partnership agreement is expected to lead to further expansion of joint GÉANT/NSRC activities.

“We are very excited to continue working with the NSRC team. They are truly global facilitators, not just of technologies, but also of people. Both GÉANT and NSRC are driven by a strong commitment to unlock potential and empower NREN engineers around the world to become the masters of their own networks. I look forward to continuing this inspiring team

work in support of research and education in emerging world regions,” said Cathrin Stöver, chief collaboration officer, GÉANT.

By providing network engineering assistance and hands-on technical training at campus and NREN levels, NSRC complements GÉANT’s expertise in procuring and implementing data-communications networks for the dedicated use by the R&E communities across the world: GÉANT provides the regional network infrastructure working with the regional organizations and NREN partners in each country, NSRC’s primary focus is to train campus and NREN engineers to get the best out of the dedicated network capabilities.

For nearly 25 years Steve Huter and his enthusiastic team at NSRC have helped train local technicians in the developing world to build and maintain well-structured networks,

covering topics ranging from network design, routing and switching, installation of network monitoring and management tools, to implementing network security practices and deploying wireless networks. Rather than doing the required network work themselves, the NSRC team strives to give local network engineers the technical know-how, tools and skills so they can do it themselves and then, in turn, reach out and train others in their local communities. In that way, NSRC has successfully contributed to developing a critical mass of savvy network engineers in scores of countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa alone such a train-the-trainer program conducted in conjunction with the UbuntuNet Alliance has resulted in empowering over a thousand engineers across the region to become the masters of their own networks.

“Technically skilled people working together all over the world is the heart of how we create, build and maintain the infrastructure of the internet. The operators who take care of their research and education networks cultivate the local expertise to enable continuous progress in their communities. We appreciate the visionary leadership and funding provided by the European Union to develop dedicated regional network infrastructure, which enables people to deliver relevant educational platforms and research output that ultimately enriches the whole internet ecosystem. The NSRC group is honoured to deepen our complementary working relationship with the wonderful team at GÉANT and continue growing the global R&E network fabric,” said Steve Huter, director of NSRC.

Under the new partnership agreement, over the next few months Steve and his colleagues will continue their long-standing commitment towards helping local NRENs expand Internet access in Africa, working closely with GÉANT, the UbuntuNet Alliance in Eastern & Southern Africa, WACREN in West & Central Africa and ASREN in North Africa to establish and fine-tune training needs in the framework of the AfricaConnect2 project.

In addition to Africa, GÉANT and NSRC are also exploring synergies and further collaboration opportunities with other EU-funded regional networking projects. Under the new agreement, they plan to identify needs and develop joint programs to support EUMEDCONNECT in the Eastern Mediterranean (in conjunction with ASREN), CAREN in Central Asia, the new Asiaconnect phase of TEIN in Asia-Pacific (in conjunction with TEIN\*CC) as well as to further engage in Africa via AfricaConnect2 (in conjunction with the African regional partners).

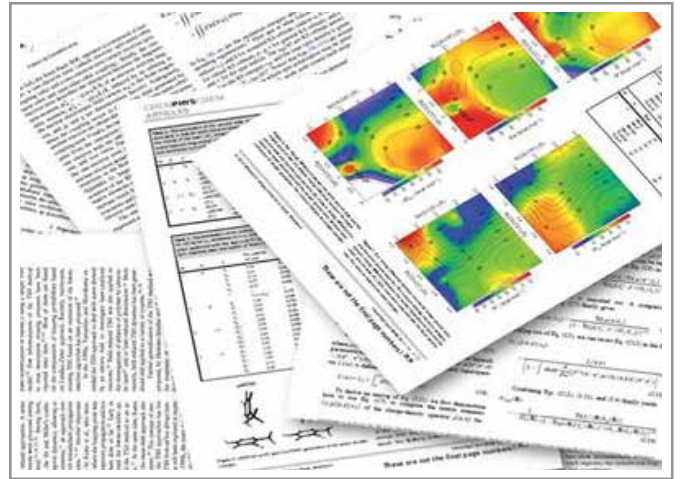
“Thank you for giving us and our member institutions this valuable opportunity of providing a network engineering assistance program for LEARN. The NSRC team helped three of our universities fix bottlenecks caused by firewall, internal routing and IPv6 configuration issues. Guidance provided on selecting the right fibre transceivers will save millions of rupees out of future purchasing and sound technical advice received on network monitoring will help us optimize the performance of the internet access,” said Kirithi Walgama, CEO, LEARN, Sri Lanka.

Under the Patronage of Lebanon's Minister of Telecommunications  
HE Mr. Boutros Harb

## International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment – e-AGE 2016

AMMAN – Authors are invited to submit papers to be presented at e-AGE 2016; the 6th Annual Conference to be organized by the Arab States Research and Education Network December 1-2, 2016 at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

The e-AGE series of conferences have been held for the past five years making the conference an important venue for networking among experts and scientists from all over the world.



The theme of e-AGE 2016 to be hosted by the American University of Beirut is "Ubiquity and Cohesiveness of e-Infrastructures".

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of research by November 10, 2016 on topics related to:

- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in the scientific areas related to energy, environment, health, climate, water, agriculture, biology, economy, medicine, as well as in social sciences and humanities.
- Perspectives on NRENs, including challenges, operation, sustainability, funding, governance, business models, security and services.
- Problem-solving environments and access to research and education resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
- Virtual Research Environments, Internet of Things, Science Gateways, Federation of Identities, and AAI services.
- Visualization and Virtual Reality

For more details, please visit the conference website at:  
<http://asrenorg.net/eage2016/?q=Page/call-participation>

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