Press Release

Tallinn, October, 2021

Artificial Intelligence Threat Reporting & Incidence report system

A new EU project has come to protect ICT systems providing collaborative-first approach and state-of-the-art technology

IRIS EU project, which consists of 19 partners from 12 European countries, officially launched its activities with the organisation of the consortium kick-off meeting that was held virtually, in September 2021.

As existing and emerging smart cities continue to expand their IoT and AI-enabled platforms, novel and complex dimensions to the threat intelligence landscape are introduced. These, are linked with identifying, responding and sharing data related to attack vectors, based on emerging IoT and AI technologies, whose architecture and behaviour are not currently well understood by security practitioners, such as CERTs and CSIRTs. This lack of experience as well as of tools, for detecting and reporting IoT & AI attack vectors is further aggravated by potentially greater safety risks caused by such attacks.

The H2020 IRIS project aims to deliver a framework that will support European CERT and CSIRT networks detecting, sharing, responding and recovering from cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities of IoT and AI-driven ICT systems, in order to minimize the impact of cybersecurity and privacy risks. The IRIS platform will be made available, free of charge, to the European CERT and CSIRTs, by the end of the project.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101021727. Content reflects only the authors' view and European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

IRIS concept is proposed as a federated threat intelligence architecture that instates three core technological and human-centric components into the threat intelligence ecosystem:

- **The Collaborative Threat Intelligence** module: forms the nexus of the IRIS framework and core component of the architecture enhancing the capabilities of the existing MeliCERTes platform by introducing **Analytics Orchestration**, an **Open Threat Intelligence interface** and an intuitive **Threat Intelligence Companion**. All these supported by a **Data Protection and Accountability** module;
- **The Automated Threat Analytics** module: collects and supply key threat and vulnerability assessment telemetry and respond to received intelligence, initiating autonomous response and self-recovery procedures:
- **The Cloud-based Virtual Cyber Range:** delivers an immersive virtual environment for collaborative CERT/CSIRT training exercises based on real-world environment platforms (and Digital Twin Honeypots), providing representative adversarial IoT & AI threat intelligence scenarios and hands-on training.

The IRIS platform will be demonstrated and validated in three carefully selected pilots resembling real world environments with the engagement of three smart cities (Helsinki, Tallinn and Barcelona) along with the involvement of national CERTs, CSIRTs and cybersecurity authorities.

"*IRIS is uniquely positioned to provide a high impact solution to support the operations of European CERTs and CSIRTs for coordinated response to large-scale cross-border cybersecurity incidents and crises*," mentions Mr Nelson Escravana from INOV, the Project Coordination Team.

"Cybersecurity is an essential component for ensuring privacy, trust and security of the digital services and interactions of the smart city. In the IRIS project we will contribute our practical research in smart cities with our, Urban Operating Platform (UOP), city data environment, which will be utilised to explore the cybersecurity element of data integration with smart energy and transportation platforms. Further, we look forward to working with the IRIS consortium and fellow cities, Helsinki, and Barcelona, on researching innovative solutions for securing the smart city." says Ralf-Marin Soe, Director of the FinEst Centre for Smart Cities (FinEst Centre).

The IRIS consortium comprises of public organizations, SMEs with cutting-edge cyber technologies, large industries as service providers as well as research and academic partners with significant achievements to cybersecurity and privacy technologies.

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About FinEst Centre

FinEst Centre for Smart Cities (FinEst Centre) contributes to the emergence of European Digital Single Market in the urban context and focuses on research and innovation in the following fields: smart mobility, energy and built environment glued together by governance and urban analytics and data. In Estonia, the societal use of ICT is the most developed globally exemplified by widespread take-up of innovative mobile and e-applications. The FT-CoE aggregates current research, innovative services, and solutions into integrated service solutions capable of creating additional added value to its users all around Europe.

Project at a Glance

Acronym	IRIS
Title	Artificial Intelligence threat Reporting and Incident response System
Funding	This project has received funding from from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101021727
Duration	36 months (September 2021 – August 2024)
Project Coordinator	INOV - Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Inovacão, (INOV), Portugal Email: *coordinator@iris-h2020.eu*

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