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Preface

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on Engineering Secure Software and Systems (ESSoS 2017), co-located with the conference on Detection of Intrusions and Malware and Vulnerability Assessment (DIMVA 2017). ESSoS is part of a maturing series of symposia that attempts to bridge the gap between the software engineering and security communities with the goal of supporting secure software development. The parallel technical sponsorship from ACM SIGSAC (the ACM interest group in security) and ACM SIGSOFT (the ACM interest group in software engineering) demonstrates the support from both communities and the need for providing such a bridge.

Security mechanisms and the act of software development usually go hand in hand. It is generally not enough to ensure correct functioning of the security mechanisms used. They cannot be blindly inserted into a security-critical system, but the overall system development must take security aspects into account in a coherent way. Building trustworthy components does not suffice, since the interconnections and interactions of components play a significant role in trustworthiness. Lastly, while functional requirements are generally analyzed carefully in systems development, security considerations often arise after the fact. Adding security as an afterthought, however, often leads to problems. Ad hoc development can lead to the deployment of systems that do not satisfy important security requirements. Thus, a sound methodology supporting secure systems development is needed. The presentations and associated publications at ESSoS 2017 contributed to this goal in several directions: first, by improving methodologies for secure software engineering (such as flow analysis and policy compliance). Second, with results for the detection and analysis of software vulnerabilities and the attacks they enable. Finally, for securing software for specific application domains (such as mobile devices and access control).

The conference program featured two keynotes by Konrad Rieck (TU Braunschweig) and Cristiano Giuffrida (VU Amsterdam), as well as research and idea papers. In response to the call for papers, 32 papers were submitted. The Program Committee selected 12 full-paper contributions, presenting new research results on engineering secure software and systems. In addition, three idea papers were selected, giving a concise account of new ideas in the early stages of research. Many individuals and organizations contributed to the success of this event. First of all, we would like to express our appreciation to the authors of the submitted papers and to the Program Committee members and external reviewers, who provided timely and relevant reviews. Many thanks go to the Steering Committee for supporting this series of symposia, and to all the members of the Organizing Committee for their tremendous work and for excelling in their respective tasks. We owe gratitude to ACM SIGSAC/SIGSOFT and LNCS for continuing to support us in this series of symposia.

Finally, we thank the sponsors ERNW, genua, Huawei, Rohde & Schwarz Cybersecurity, and VMRay for generously supporting the ESSoS and DIMVA conferences this year.

May 2017

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