Message from the Chairs

SPRO 2015

Welcome to the First International Workshop on Software Protection (SPRO 2015), co-located with the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2015) held at Florence (Italy), the 19th of May 2015.

Software Protection aims to mitigate Man-At-The-End (MATE) attacks, such as reverse engineering, software piracy, and software tampering; more in general, software protection research aims at developing algorithms that protect the integrity of data and software applications deployed on untrusted devices.

Software Protection has always been a necessity since software has become a commercial product, and it is an area of growing importance in software security, which has recently evolved from a set of disparate technical tricks into a proper research field.

The goal of SPRO workshop is to bring together researchers and industrial practitioners both from software protection and the wider software engineering community, in order to increase the synergies between the different research areas of software protection and software engineering.

The special theme of this first edition of SPRO workshop is “Techniques, Evaluation and Industrial Perspectives”, underlying the aims to discuss software protection techniques, security evaluation methodologies, and gathering the industrial viewpoint on current research challenges. We believe that industry and academia share some of the many questions that software engineers face recurrently:

- What protection techniques can be designed to protect given assets in software applications?
- Which threats need to be considered, and how can we evaluate the security of protected applications?
- How can different protection techniques be efficiently combined and what is the gain?
- What can we learn from existing industrial use cases and best practices?
- How can protection techniques be efficiently tooled and integrated into a build process?

We hope to have paved the way to the search for these answers, and to the growth of this research community.

We followed a very thorough review process to ensure high quality papers and presentations. Each research paper was reviewed by at least four program committee members. We received 19 submissions from 60 authors of 13 countries. The nine best papers were accepted as full papers for publication and presentation at the workshop; of the accepted papers, 12 authors are from industry and 18 from academia.

The workshop is structured in three sessions: software protection techniques, software protection evaluation, and formal methods for software protection. Two well-known researchers in software security and protection are invited as keynote speakers in order to stimulate interesting discussions and attract more participants: Prof Bart Preneel’s keynote is titled “Software Security: Squaring the Circle?”, while Prof. Bjorn De Sutter’s keynote is titled “Making Advanced Software Protection Tools Usable for Non-Experts”.

Finally, we want to thank all the authors for their submissions to SPRO 2015, the Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their dedication and the excellent work performed despite their busy work schedules.

We also want to extend our gratitude to the ASPIRE FP7 project (nr. 609734) and NAGRA - a Kudelski Group Company - for partly sponsoring the SPRO workshop; to Bjorn De Sutter for his advice and feedback in the workshop proposal preparation; to ASPIRE for hosting the SPRO web-site.
and Alessandro Cabutto for its design and contents; and to organizers of ICSE 2015 for supporting us in the logistics of the workshop and the publication of its proceedings. Sincerely thanking you all.

Up-to-date information on the SPRO workshop can be found at:

https://aspire-fp7.eu/spro/

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