



Greetings from CERIAS at Purdue University!

We are going to try something new – a newsletter appearing every other month or so that will provide some background and insight into recent developments and upcoming events related to CERIAS and the industry. Whether this newsletter continues will depend on reader comments (that's you) and contributions from faculty and students.

Why start a newsletter? In part, because CERIAS continues to grow and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep everyone informed of all the exciting things being done by CERIAS faculty, staff and students. Another reason is that we are constantly seeking to “evolve” CERIAS in ways that meet the needs of the organizations supporting CERIAS and the people participating in our activities. The suggestion of a newsletter has come up repeatedly in discussion with these groups.

If, at any time, you want to unsubscribe from this newsletter mailing list, send email to newsrequest@cerias.purdue.edu with a subject of “unsubscribe”. If you know other people who would like to subscribe, have them send an email to the same address with “subscribe” as the subject line.

We'll endeavor to keep these newsletters short, which will mean that some details will be edited and some subjects abbreviated. If you want additional information on anything you see here, [contact us directly](#). Of course, there is considerable information on the [CERIAS WWW site](#) so you may want to start there.

Please send comments to info@cerias.purdue.edu about this initial issue – do you like the idea? Do you have something to contribute? What would you like to see in future editions? Our current plans are to include articles on some of our educational and research activities, and perhaps a discussion of some recent security policy issues in future issues. However, that depends on your response to this issue.

Until next time,

-- gene spafford
CERIAS Executive Director

Marking Time

Did you know that CERIAS will be celebrating its tenth anniversary as a Purdue institute in May of 2008? It's somewhat difficult for us to believe that we've been in operation for a decade. Our spring symposium will be the ninth such event (we didn't have one the first year) -- mark your calendars for March 19-20; more details to follow.

We've accomplished a lot in our first decade. CERIAS faculty have conducted over 200 research projects involving personnel in 20 departments and across several campuses. By the end of this academic year we expect to have had as many as 105 Ph.D. graduates, and almost 180 research-oriented MS graduates in the program's history. At least 40 undergrads have worked on advanced research projects in the Center, and at least 500 have taken infosec classes taught by our faculty. CERIAS graduates are teaching information security and privacy classes to students at universities around the world, they're managing projects in labs at small "startups" and multinational corporations designing the next generation of computing products, and they're working with law enforcement and government agencies to fight cyber crime.

The Center currently has 81 faculty on three Purdue campuses and a full-time professional staff of twelve. Two research assistant professors have recently joined existing CERIAS research staff members Dr. Pascal Meunier and Keith Watson:

- Fariborz Farahmand received his Ph.D. from the College of Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2004 and was a visiting assistant professor at the Purdue Krannert School of Management until earlier this year. Fariborz is currently working on risk assessment, perception and reduction methodologies, vulnerability modeling, and privacy issues.
- William R. Speirs II received his Ph.D. from the Department of Computer Science at Purdue University in 2007. He is currently working on a contract to develop software for identifying and analyzing stealthy malware. Bill also has research interests in cryptographic methods and data integrity.

CERIAS continues to host visitors from around the world as project collaborators and as personnel on sabbatical. Since we were established in 1998 we have played host to long-term visitors from many exotic locations, including Korea, China, Italy, Norway, Germany, Romania, Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Michigan, California and North Carolina!

Visit [our WWW pages](#) to see a current line-up of faculty, staff, visitors, and senior students.

Of Special Note...

Congratulations to the following:

- Professor **Stephen Elliot** was named as University Faculty Scholar, and given a College of Technology Discovery Award.
- Professor **Mike Atallah** was elevated to Fellow of the ACM this spring. At the same awards ceremony, Prof. **Gene Spafford** received the ACM President's Award.

- Professors **Michael Salvo** and **Thomas Rickert** won the 2006-'07 Kairos Best Webtext Award for their "[...And They Had ProTools](#)"
- Purdue faculty were awarded six new NSF Cybertrust awards – 10% of all the awards granted to US institutions. Faculty involved were Professors **Bagchi, Bertino, Jagannathan, Li, Nita-Rotaru, Rao, Rego, Vitek, and Xu.**

[Security Seminar](#)

The CERIAS Security Seminar is now in its sixteenth year (prior to 1998, it was the COAST Security Seminar). We continue to draw a great deal of interest in our speakers and we hear that the video recorded presentations are being used in classes everywhere from Indianapolis to Istanbul!

If you are interested in viewing any of the recent seminars, you can download them (for free) from most of the video aggregators, including Apple's iTunes site. You can also find links to them on our [seminar WWW page](#). As resources permit, we are converting past seminars to podcasts to make them available for viewing.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor the weekly seminar series or provide a speaker, please [contact us](#). The fall schedule is nearly full, but spring semester dates are still open.

[CERIAS Weblog](#)

A half-dozen of our faculty and staff regularly post to the CERIAS blog. You can find the blog, and various feeds (e.g., RSS) on the Weblog WWW page: <<http://www.cerias.purdue.edu/weblogs/>>. Comments are always welcome.

CERIAS faculty and staff wishing to join our merry band of bloggers should [contact Ed Finkler](#), our archive & web guru.

Spaf has recently established a "[tumblelog](#)" to provide quick links to items that are worth noting but do not deserve a full blog post (or items he doesn't have time to write about). Find Spaf's tumblelog at <<http://spaf.tumblr.com>>.

(BTW, Spaf was the subject of a recent Silver Bullet Interview with Gary McGraw: <<http://www.cigital.com/silverbullet/show-018/>>. You might find that interesting.)

[CERIAS Paper Archive](#)

We continue to collect citations to research papers by CERIAS faculty, students and staff. We often have the entire paper, or pointers to where the papers can be found. As a recent initiative to bring the archive up-to-date and make our website more user friendly, we saw over 100 new entries submitted to the archive by our faculty. The ones directly entered by the authors are already available, and the ones sent to our staff for entry are being added as quickly as we can get to them. Currently there are 61 entries dated 2007 and more being added each week. (Special note to companies: most of the work in these papers is available

for licensing or additional funded development; contact the individual author(s) or info@cerias.purdue.edu for details.)

You can access the bibliography with a keyword search, or simply to browse, by visiting: https://www.cerias.purdue.edu/tools_and_resources/bibtex_archive/.

Cassandra and ReAssure

Our free Cassandra and ReAssure services are still running strong and available for use. Cassandra is a notification service for patches and vulnerability alerts, and ReAssure is an environment tailored for potentially dangerous cyber security experiments. If you haven't checked into these projects visit [our WWW site](#) see what they're about.

Projects

We are in the process of updating the sections on our WWW site that describe the projects and people associated with CERIAS. As we complete more of the site redesign, and as faculty provide us details. Currently you can visit the [WWW research pages](#) to find titles for about 50 active research projects through the center. More will be added over the coming weeks.

Special Offers

CERIAS (and COAST) alumni and participants can continue to receive a "name@cerias.net" email address. Send email to postmaster@cerias.net to request yours.

Events

CERIAS and the Biometrics Lab played host to the INCITS M1 biometric committee meeting earlier this month. Our biometrics group has been heavily involved with the committee: you can find out more [at their WWW site](#).

The CERIAS External Advisory Board meeting is being held in Washington, DC, at the offices of the Science and Technology Policy Institute, on October 3. Representatives from all Tier I CERIAS Industrial Partnership Program members and our senior advisors will hear progress updates, receive current resume books, and will discuss Center research directions and opportunities. For more information on the CERIAS Industrial Partnership Program contact us at 765/494-7806 or at jrasmus@cerias.purdue.edu.

Other events, as they are scheduled, will be listed on the CERIAS WWW page and described in upcoming newsletter editions.