

Education leaders unite: K.U.Leuven DistriNet and SANS to cooperate on security education -- First European partner for secure programming initiative of SANS.

Leuven, Belgium – 6 May, 2008 – DistriNet, the security research group of the Department of Computer Science at K.U.Leuven today announced an exciting new partnership with SANS Software Security Institute (SANS-SSI), a cooperative research and education organization in computer security training. The goal of the partnership is to enhance the security curriculum of students by including secure coding in computing and engineering courses, to exchange teaching practices in the field of secure programming, and to provide easy access for European companies to SANS-SSI knowledge and certification.

“In a short time, SANS-SSI certification tests already have established a very high credibility in industry complementary to our academic activities. We want to give students, staff and industry access to this credibility.” said Prof. Christophe Huygens of DistriNet. Prof. Wouter Joosen adds: “Having early access to the industry requirements collected by a global educational player provides a key sounding board for our academic program, and aligns very well with our overall demand-driven approach. Our industry partners recognize initiatives like this one.” SANS-SSI will be able to leverage the research and educational track record of DistriNet in their content as well as use the cooperation as a platform for events and workshops in the centre of Europe.

Mason Brown, Director at SANS Institute stated “K.U.Leuven is one of only a handful of educational institutions that has been successful in integrating critical security skills into the under graduate and graduate computer science curriculum. Enterprises that hire students from K.U.Leuven will have access to secure development and other skills not found in most graduating students. SANS is excited to have the opportunity to work K.U.Leuven to address the growing need for these skills.”

About DistriNet

The "distributed systems and computer networks" research group, headcount 65, is part of the Department of Computer Science at the K.U.Leuven. The domain of expertise and innovation of DistriNet is the development of open, distributed object support platforms for advanced applications. DistriNet's research is always application driven and often conducted in close collaboration with industry. Currently the group is involved in several regional and European research projects involving computer networks, middleware, distributed systems, embedded systems, multi-agent systems, security and internet middleware. The know-how of DistriNet is at the basis of several spin-offs. Next to research the DistriNet group is responsible for all courses in the domain of computer architectures, operating systems, networking, decentralized and distributed systems, security and for many courses in the domain of software engineering. DistriNet is a member of the research institute IBBT founded by the Flemish government to stimulate ICT innovation. distrinet.cs.kuleuven.be

About SANS-SSI

SANS is the most trusted and by far the largest source for information security training and certification in the world. It also develops, maintains, and makes available at no cost, the largest collection of research documents about various aspects of information security, and it operates the Internet's early warning system - Internet Storm Center. The SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization. Its programs now reach more than 165,000 security professionals around the world. A range of individuals from auditors and network administrators, to chief information security officers are sharing the lessons they learn and are jointly finding solutions to the challenges they face. At the heart of SANS are the many security practitioners in varied global organizations from corporations to universities working together to help the entire information security community. SANS-SSI, the Secure Software Institute aims at promoting, educating and assessing secure programming practices. www.sans.org www.sans-ssi.org

###

Immediate Release

Media Contact: Katrien Janssens, +32 16 327747 katrien.janssens@cs.kuleuven.be

Faculty Contact: Christophe Huygens, +32 16 327088 christophe.huygens@cs.kuleuven.be