

Guest editors' preface

Since 1990, ESORICS has established its reputation as the main event in research on computer security in Europe. Every two years, ESORICS gathers researchers and practitioners of computer security and gives researchers the opportunity to present the most recent advances in security theory as well as more practical concerns such as the risks related to simplistic implementations of strong security mechanisms.

ESORICS'98 was held at Université de Louvain, Belgium, on 16–18 September 1998, and Professor Jean-Jacques Quisquater was the General Chair. The proceedings containing the 23 accepted papers were published by Springer-Verlag in the LNCS series number 1485. After the symposium, the program committee accepted the invitation of Professor Sushil Jajodia, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Computer Security*, to select the best ESORICS'98 papers and invite their authors to submit a revised and extended version of their papers for publication in this special issue. The program committee made a first selection, based not only on the scientific quality of the papers, but also on the quality of the discussions raised by their presentation at the symposium. Six papers were selected and their authors were invited to submit a new version of their papers, according to the Journal of Computer Security requirements. In some cases, this invitation was accompanied by precise recommendations to improve or complete the papers. The revised papers were then reviewed by at least three referees, either members of the ESORICS'98 program committee or external reviewers. At the end of this review process, five papers were accepted and are included in this issue.

These papers are representative of ESORICS papers diversity: from a synthesis on "Authorization in CORBA Security" by Günter Karjoth; to a theoretical model for "A logic-based approach for enforcing access control" by Elisa Bertino et al.; including a warning on the vulnerabilities of some cipher implementations, in "Side channel cryptanalysis of product ciphers" by John Kelsey et al.; new techniques for intrusion detection, in "Fixed- vs. variable-length patterns for detecting suspicious process behavior" by Andreas Wespi et al.; and protocols for the security of future mobile systems, in "Authentication and payment in future mobile systems" by Günther Horn and Bart Preneel.

This diversity is a richness that ESORICS has cultivated for a decade, in order to fertilize the creativity of researchers while addressing real life requirements. Let us hope it will again be the case at the next ESORICS 2000, which will be held on 4–6 October in Toulouse, France.

Yves Deswarte and Catherine Meadows