

The Fifth Workshop on the Economics of Information Security (WEIS 2006)



Robinson College, University of Cambridge, England
June 26-28, 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS

Do we spend enough on hunting down bad guys on the Internet? Do we not spend enough? Or do we spend too much?

One of the most exciting and rapidly-growing fields at the boundary between technology and the social sciences is the economics of information security. Many security and privacy failures are not purely technical: for example, the person best placed to protect a system may be poorly motivated if the costs of system failure fall on others. Many pressing problems, such as spam, are unlikely to be solved by purely technical means, as they have economic and policy aspects too. Building dependable systems also raises questions such as open versus closed systems, the pricing of vulnerabilities and the frequency of patching. The 'economics of bugs' are of growing importance to both vendors and users.

Now that both crime and conflict are becoming virtualised, many of the lessons learned by information security economists may travel to other security applications, such as law enforcement. Law enforcement concerns such as traffic analysis impact on information security costs and practices in turn. For these and other reasons, the confluence between information security and economics is of growing importance.

Information security mechanisms are increasingly used not just to protect against malicious attacks, but also to protect monopolies, differentiate products and segment markets. There are deep questions about the economics and politics of DRM, of locking printers to the maker's cartridges, and of practices such as region coding.

Original research papers are sought for the Fifth Workshop on the Economics of Information Security. Topics of interest include the dependability of open source and free software, the interaction of networks with crime and conflict, the economics of digital rights management and trusted computing, liability and insurance, reputation, privacy, risk perception, the economics of trust, the return on security investment, and economic perspectives on spam.

Important dates

- * Submissions due: March 20, 2006
- * Notification of acceptance: April 24, 2006
- * Workshop: June 26-28, 2006

WEIS 2006 is co-located with the Sixth Workshop on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PET), to be held June 28-30, 2006.

Papers should be sent by noon GMT on Monday, March 20, 2006 to weis-06@cl.cam.ac.uk. For more information please visit <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~twm29/WEIS06/>

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