

# Guest Editorial: Managing Insider Security Threats (MIST 2012 Volume 1)

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Insider threats are one of the serious hard problems of organizational security because it is often unclear whether or not an actor is an insider, or what we actually mean by “insider”. In addition, it is frequently almost impossible to verify if an authorized insider action (authorized at the level of an operational policy) would constitute an insider attack contravening the organizational security policy of an enterprise. Hence, research on how to fight against insider attacks is one of the recent major topics in information security.

This special issue aims at showcasing the most recent challenges and advanced technologies for managing insider security threats. It collects a series of papers selected for presentation at the fourth International Workshop on Managing Insider Security Threat<sup>1</sup> (MIST’12), Nishijin Plaza, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, November 8-9, 2012.

The brief history of past MIST workshops is as follows:

- The first MIST was held at Purdue University, USA on June 16, 2009. The general chairs were Prof. David Chadwick (University of Kent, UK) and Dr. Ilsun You (Korean Bible University, South Korea).
- The second MIST took place at Morioka, Iwate, Japan on June 15, 2010 chaired by Prof. A Min Tjoa (Vienna University of Technology, Austria) and Dr. Ilsun You.
- The third MIST was held at Fukuoka Institute of Technology, Fukuoka, Japan on November 30 - December 1, 2011. Its general chairs were Dr. Ilsun You, Dr. Christian W. Probst, (Technical University of Denmark, Denmark), and Dr. Yoshiaki Hori (Kyushu University, Japan).

In the third MIST, we served on the advisory committee and gave a key note on “From Insider Threats to Business Processes that are Secure-by-Design”, arguing that the insider problem is best tackled during the design of organizational processes. Also, in the fourth MIST, we are serving on its steering committee with the general chair Dr. Ilsun You. This year’s keynote raises the question of how to introduce aspects of the physical world when assessing the security of critical applications. To defend against insider threats, and to secure applications in general, research has to move beyond traditional approaches to IT security that are restricted to securing IT infrastructures and consider the wider context in which IT systems are deployed.

Our selected articles consist of seven papers [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. All papers have been reviewed by two or three experts from the program committee and revised based on the technical and editorial comments provided. We believe that this special issue will trigger further research and technology improvements

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<sup>1</sup><http://isyou.info/conf/mist12>

for managing the insider threats.

We would first like to thank the researchers who submitted their work to this year's MIST, and thank also the experts who reviewed the submissions and gave many useful comments for improving the materials. Finally, we are grateful to IEICE-ICSS and IPSJ SIG on Security Psychology and Trust (SPT) with whom MIST 2012 is cooperating.

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