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Deliverable DJ2.4.1,3: Report on GÉANT2 (Ad-hoc) Security Advisory Groups in Year 3



Deliverable DJ2.4.1,3

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Abstract

Work Item 4 (Relationship with TF-CSIRT) of JRA2 (Security) details the relationship with the TERENA Taskforce TF-CSIRT (Collaboration of Security Incident Response Teams). One item of this collaboration is the creation of ad-hoc teams to deliver security advice to any activity within GN2 that requests it. This deliverable reports on cases of advice requested and how the cases were handled.

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0 Executive Summary

Work Item 4 (Relationship with TF-CSIRT) of JRA2 (Security) defines the relationship between GN2 and the TERENA security taskforce TF-CSIRT (Collaboration of Security Incident Response Teams). It includes the creation of ad-hoc groups made of TF-CSIRT members for delivery of advice on specific topics on behalf of any GN2 activities.

In Year 2, the Activity Leader of JRA1 (Nicolas Simar, DANTE) initiated the first request for advice, which was successfully treated and resolved. However, after this case, no further formal requests to set up such an ad-hoc group were received by the JRA2 leader. It is, therefore, the belief of the JRA2 participants that despite its potential, the interest in the service is not sufficiently high to maintain its reporting in a specific deliverable for the rest of GN2. Consequently, the deliverable reporting on the offer to create ad-hoc groups to give advice on specific security topics has been removed from GN2/JRA2 plans for the remaining period of the GN2 project.

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1 Introduction

The TERENA TF-CSIRT is a well-established group of security experts and Work Item 4 of JRA2 (Security) defines the relationship between GN2 and this group. The main topic of this deliverable is the following collaboration item in the Description of Work:

- Creation of ad-hoc groups made of TF-CSIRT members for delivery of advice on specific topics, upon request by JRA2 leader, and delivery of advice reports

Any activity within GN2 is encouraged to contact the JRA2 activity leader, whenever specific advice is required on security related topics. The JRA2 activity leader will then call for volunteers within TF-CSIRT to form an ad-hoc group of experts to address the issue at hand. It should be taken into consideration, that the volunteer work itself is not funded and that the security experts within TF-CSIRT are usually quite busy. It is therefore recommended to contact the JRA2 activity leader with concrete questions, which can be answered in a fairly short period of time with limited manpower investment. Typical use cases will include reviewing security considerations or commenting on the soundness of architecture proposals.

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2 Activities

The offer to create ad-hoc groups to address security issues has been made at several occasions, namely at several meetings with GN2 activity leaders. Even though interest was expressed, only one formal request to create an ad-hoc group was received to date.

At the GÉANT2 Technical Workshop in January 2006, JRA1 contacted the JRA2/WI4 leader to discuss the option of reviewing security aspects of perfSONAR with a group of security experts from TF-CSIRT/JRA2. Specifically, it was requested that the way usernames and passwords for perfSONAR are stored within the monitoring infrastructure be assessed from the security point of view.

The ad-hoc group provided an assessment methodology, applied it to the case and came up with concrete proposals to increase the security level. The case was closed to the satisfaction of the JRA1 Activity Leader. On 13 July 2006, a summary report was finished and subsequently communicated to the requesting party and TF-CSIRT. The full report produced in answer to the request was attached as Appendix A in the previous edition of this deliverable (DJ2.4.1,2) and is available from the GÉANT2 web site.

However, there were no further requests for the service in Year 3. It was decided to keep the service in its present form for the remainder of the GN2 project, but no longer to report on its usage in a service specific deliverable. The management reports will be used instead.

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3 Conclusions

Work item 4 (Relationship with TF-CSIRT) is offering to establish ad-hoc groups for delivery of advice on specific security topics to any GN2 activity. So far, only one request for this service was received. However, it is the belief of the JRA2 participants that the offer to set up ad-hoc groups should be maintained throughout the future phases of GN2 in its present form, but the rather low interest does not warrant for a specific deliverable on usage of this service.

The description of work for the next phase has been amended accordingly.

4 References

[TF-CSIRT] <http://www.terena.org/activities/tf-csirt/>

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5 Acronyms

TF-CSIRT TERENA taskforce "Collaboration of Security Incident Response Teams"