CENTER FOR CYBERSECURITY AND DIGITAL FORENSICS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Experience: Center for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics

Country: United States of America

Coordinating Institution: Arizona State University

Duration of the experience: September 2015 – present

Webpage: https://cybersecurity.asu.edu/; https://skysong.asu.edu/ ; https://globalsecurity.asu.edu/

Social networks: Twitter: @ASUSkySong

Area of the successful experience: ICTs & investments

DETAILED INFORMATION

1) **Description**

Arizona State University's innovative culture provides the optimal environment for addressing the unique and emerging challenges in cybersecurity. ASU's Center for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics (CDF) brings together experts from many disciplines to conduct research and provide hands-on education. The center also leverages the power of SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center, to connect with industry partners and support entrepreneurial ventures.

CDF is part of the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which addresses emerging global challenges characterized by complex interdependencies and conflicting objectives, where there may not be obvious solutions. Cybersecurity is one of the "wicked problems" that GSI explores. The CDF focuses on three fundamental pillars: research, education and entrepreneurship. The center marshals the talents and resources of ASU faculty across disciplines, tapping experts in business, law, engineering, social sciences, public policy and other fields.
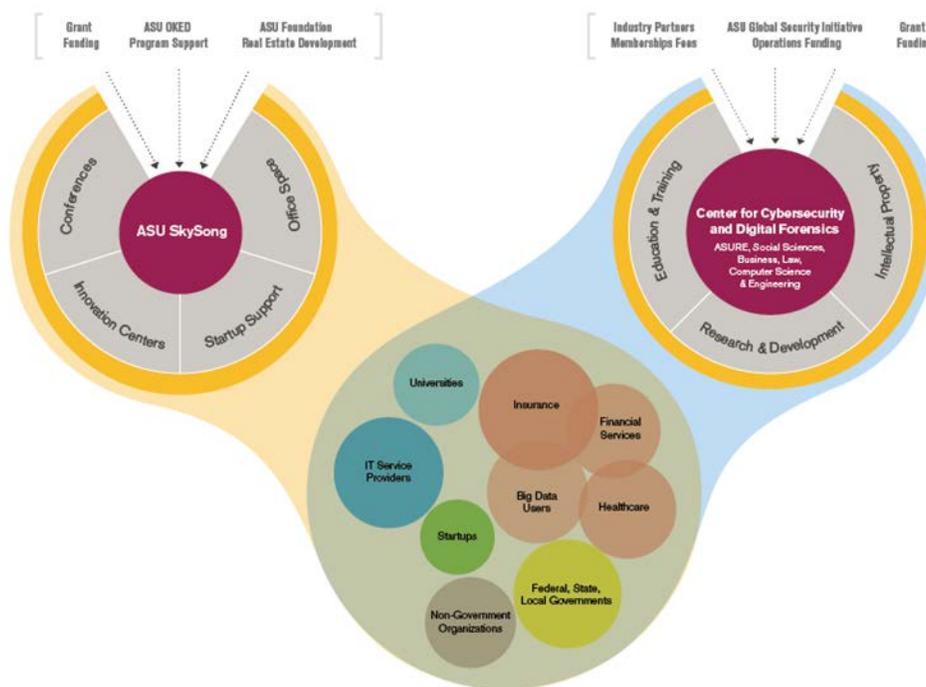
2) **Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of the CDF are threefold: students, faculty, and industry. Students will have the opportunity to work on applied projects with faculty, gain industry experiences, and work in some of the most advanced digital labs in the country. Faculty will have the opportunity to work on cutting-edge research, work with interdisciplinary teams on the latest cybersecurity issues, and utilize the technology transfer and commercialization services offered by the University. Industry will have access to the world's leading experts on cybersecurity, as well as a pipeline of potential talent with experience working on issues specific to their needs.

3) **Implementation**

Cybersecurity is an area of prime concern on multiple levels: national, commercial and individual. There is a huge need to develop systems, analytics and methodologies to combat cyber threats. The military, governments, hospitals and financial institutions handle massive amounts of sensitive data, and it is often shared across networks and computers. How do we consistently protect such information, especially when technology is constantly evolving? To address this question, the Global Security Initiative at Arizona State University has launched the Center for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics. The center will take a proactive, interdisciplinary approach to the issue of cybersecurity.

Gail-Joon Ahn, an expert in security analytics and big-data-driven security intelligence, will serve as the center's director. Ahn is a professor in ASU's School of Computing, Informatics and Decision Systems Engineering, part of the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) is a university-wide interdisciplinary hub for global security research that focuses on openness, inclusiveness and connections to the global defense, development and diplomacy communities. The initiative addresses emerging global challenges characterized by complex interdependencies and conflicting objectives, where there may not be obvious solutions.

4) Accomplishments and Results

Recent accomplishments include the successful launch of the Center for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics and its transdisciplinary faculty. The center has engaged nearly 30 faculty members across eight academic units — from computer science and business to law, psychology and even the English Department.

CDF is part of the Global Security Initiative which already boasts a track record of success and accomplishments. Specifically, it has gained $10 million in funding in conjunction with ASU's Foresight Initiative through a cooperative agreement with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The Foresight Initiative is a five-year effort to develop research products, tools and processes for decision-making in the context of environmental change and national security dynamics.

5) Offers of cooperation with the region to exchange good practices

Modalities of Cooperation	Modalities of cooperation offered by the coordinating institution	Possible dates for cooperation
Sharing of information via e-mail	X	Present
Teleconferences	X	Present
Videoconferences		
Workshops		
Mentoring		
Technical tours and visits of experts	X	Present
Others – Please describe		

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The collection of succesful experiences is one of the most important tasks of the **Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)**. As of now, more than 200 projects implemented by countries of the Americas are accesible in the **Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report 2012 -2015**: www.riacreport.org. The Organization of American States (OAS) operates as the RIAC Technical Secretariat and serves as liason between countries and multilateral/academic institucions. In 2015, the collected experiences and intellectual contributions will guide the panel discussions during the IX Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) – Guatemala City, November 16-18, 2015.

For the latest information on the RIAC and the Signs Report follow us in Twitter @riacnet.org #RIACreport