SE4930 Current Topic Research Assignments

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1 Introduction

In lieu of a formal research paper, SE4930 will rely upon a set of article reviews and podcast summaries. In short, over the course of this quarter, you will be tasked with selecting 2 articles and one podcast from a set of online sources. You will then be responsible for reading the article and preparing an article summary. The article summaries will be submitted via the course website.

2 Summary Content

The summaries should be approximately one and one half pages, and should highlight the material contained within the article or podcast. In specific, you should address what was discussed in the article or podcast, what you learned from the article or podcast, how this material will help you in your software development, and what questions you may have developed from reading this article or listening to this podcast.

In addition to the written text, the summary shall clearly delineate the name of the article or podcast, its date, and other relevant bibliographic information.

3 Details

Overall, you are required to summarize four artifacts. Two artifacts are to be articles, one artifact is to be a podcast, and one artifact is left up to you. The materials are to come from three different sources.

One article must be from IEEE Security and Privacy Magazine (http://www.computer.org/portal/web/security/home). The IEEE Security and Privacy magazine is one of the leading authorities on the topic of secure software development, and has many articles that are applicable to this topic. You must select one article from this publication to review and summarize.

In addition to current security trends, it is also important to read on some of the experimental aspects of software security. To fulfill this obligation, one article being reviewed must come from a conference proceeding. One of the oldest and most highly regarded conferences in the area of security is the IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (http://www.ieee-security.org/TC/SP-Index.html). Conference articles from this publication are available through our library subscription to the IEEE digital library. You must select one article from one of the conferences to review and summarize.

In addition to formal articles, it is also important to be able to listen and comprehend audio information. To this end, you will be required to summarize one of the podcasts from The Silver Bullet Security Podcast (http://www.cigital.com/silverbullet/). This is a series of online podcasts presented by IEEE Security and Privacy and Cigital which address assorted security needs.
4 Due Dates

Overall, four submissions must be made. Three are predefined for you (one must be a Magazine Article, one must be a conference article, and one must be a podcast), while the fourth may be chosen from any of these three sources. To avoid all reviews being completed in week 10, the following interim due dates have been assigned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>December 14, 2011</td>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>The first article or podcast review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>January 11, 2012</td>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>The second article or podcast review</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>January 25, 2012</td>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>The third article or podcast review</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>February 8, 2012</td>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>The fourth article or podcast review</td>
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The specific sequence and order of articles and podcasts up to you. However, once an article has been reviewed, it is no longer available for a second person to review the article or podcast. Thus, it might be to your advantage to start early if there are articles that you are really interested in. You may want to do the podcast first or the conference article. And, it is certainly permitted to turn in articles early.

Article reviews are to be uploaded to the course website.
Ungraded reviews will also be placed on the course website in a matrix so that it is possible to determine if an article has already been reviewed or may have relevance to another article.