F-Secure co-founds cyber security ethics alliance

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Cyber security provider F-Secure and ten research organizations create consortium dedicated to developing value-driven cyber security in Europe.

Helsinki, Finland – September 14, 2016: European cyber security provider F-Secure participated in a kick-off event yesterday in Zurich for a research group dedicated to developing value-driven cyber security in Europe. The CANVAS consortium is a project created by F-Secure and ten European partners in response to concerns that increasing efforts to secure digital infrastructure and data may come at the expense of European rights and values.

CANVAS (Constructing an Alliance for Value-driven Cyber Security) brings together participants from various scientific traditions and fields to structure and disseminate research regarding the ethical, legal, empirical, and technological issues related to cyber security. It aims to create resources that inform policy makers, experts, and the public on the development of cyber security technologies and policies that offer security without sacrificing emerging needs, such as basic access rights.

"Right now everyone's struggling to secure digital assets," said Sean Sullivan, Security Advisor, F-Secure. "Doing nothing is not an option given the capabilities of today's attackers, but at the same time, being too heavy handed harms innocent people and companies looking to make the most out of new technology. Governments, companies, and the public are coming to the European cyber security industry with questions about how to make security both effective and practical for their needs, and CANVAS is going to help us get answers to the people that need them."

F-Secure, identified as a European cyber security leader in the project proposal, will play an integral role in CANVAS by helping the group obtain expert opinions from the cyber security industry, and share insights generated by the consortium with other industry experts. F-Secure will also lead an international workshop to discuss the current security challenges facing businesses, and provide expertise on the creation of resources (including a training curriculum and a massive open online course) on behalf of the cyber security industry.

The project, which has obtained three years of funding from the European Union and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, begins amidst a flurry of new cyber security initiatives in Europe, including the European Commission's recently announced 1.8 billion euro contractual public-private partnership*, as well as new legislation such as the Network and Information Security (NIS) directive.

According to Dr. Markus Christen, Senior Research Fellow and CANVAS project coordinator, University of Zurich, CANVAS will benefit these initiatives, and the continent as a whole, by helping stakeholders balance cyber security with other needs. "Cyber security is becoming more important as people and societies are relying more on digital infrastructure than ever before," said Dr. Christen. "But at the same time, it's important that we avoid burning the village in order to save it. Values like autonomy, privacy, and equality need to be maintained while we're securing systems and data, and CANVAS will work with people, companies and policy makers to help them balance these interests."

*Source: *http://telecoms.com/473857/european-commission-launches-e1-8bn-cyber-security-initiative/*

More information:

CANVAS

CANVAS Project Proposal

About F-Secure

F-Secure is a European cyber security company with decades of experience in defending enterprises and consumers against everything from opportunistic ransomware infections to advanced cyber attacks. Its comprehensive set of services and award-winning products use F-Secure's patented security innovations and sophisticated threat intelligence to protect tens of thousands of companies and millions of people. F-Secure's security experts have participated in more European cyber crime scene investigations than any other company in the market, and its products are sold all over the world by over 200 operators and thousands of resellers.

Founded in 1988, F-Secure is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Helsinki Ltd.

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