Internet Topics: The 21st Annual FIRST Conference

■About FIRST

When dealing with incidents and problems occurring on the Internet, it is necessary to cooperate with many other organizations to take appropriate measures. Although incidents are becoming more localized nowadays, this cooperation is still very useful, because for instance, understanding incidents that have occurred in other countries enables us to prepare for future incidents. As an Internet service provider, IIJ participates in several international organizations to take part in such cooperation activities. Among such international organizations is FIRST[*1].

FIRST was established in 1990 for the purpose of handling international incidents. In handling international incidents, what is necessary is the cooperation of people with various backgrounds, who are from different cultures, are subject to different laws, use different languages, live in various time zones, have different roles, etc. To make such international cooperation smooth and efficient, FIRST has several rules including those to keep confidentiality of sensitive information and to use English as the official language.

FIRST is an organization of CSIRTs[*2] and consists of approximately 200 member teams from various organizations around the world, including CSIRT specialized organizations, national security agencies, universities, research institutes, commercial companies, etc.

■Annual FIRST Conference

FIRST conducts a wide variety of activities between members, from online discussion to face-to-face meetings. FIRST hosts several meetings per year, the largest of which is the Annual FIRST Conference. The Annual FIRST Conference has been held every June, in various cities throughout the world. While most of FIRST's activities are restricted only to members to maintain confidentiality of sensitive information, the Annual FIRST Conference is open to everyone who doesn't belong to a member team[*3], and its participants count approximately 400 every year.

The Annual FIRST Conference for this year, will be held in Kyoto from June 28 to July 3[*4], 2009. As of this writing, some part[*5] of the program has been published and the call for participation is open.

The program covers a wide variety of topics including technical topics as also discussed in other information security conferences, as well as information on situations of the attacker's side, trends of international cooperation activities, introduction to schemes and case studies of cooperation between organizations of various types (such as national agencies, law-enforcement agencies, ISPs and product vendors), case studies of incident response based on actual experience of attacks, etc.

In addition, many of the participants as well as speakers are the foremost security professionals; The Conference offers a valuable opportunity of such experts from around the world gathering in Japan. We therefore urge you to participate in the 21st Annual FIRST Conference, and take full advantage of this opportunity to learn the latest trends and build cooperative relationships[*6].

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*1   http://www.first.org/

*2   Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) is an expert group that handles incidents and problems in which computers are involved.

*3   During the Conference, there are also some meetings restricted only to members (such as the Annual General Meeting).

*4   http://conference.first.org/

*5   http://conference.first.org/program/program.aspx

*6   Please note that recording or taking pictures during the Conference is prohibited to keep confidentiality of anonymous presentation, mention of sensitive information and such.