Balkan Cybersecurity Days

Biographies of Speakers

Chris Gibson

Executive Director, FIRST

Chris brings a wealth of relevant and up-to-date experience in setting up and managing CERTs at the very highest levels of the worldwide Information and Cyber Security community.
Chris spent over 12 years working in the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) whilst at Citigroup and, for 10 years, was part of the leadership of the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST); 2 as Chair. Within FIRST he implemented the Fellowship program. This was created to fund CERTs from UN-designated “Least Developed Nations” (LDCs) allowing them both to join FIRST and attend conferences and training.
Chris joined the UK's Cabinet Office, in 2013, to build, launch and lead the UK’s first formally chartered national CERT - CERT-UK. When CERT-UK was subsumed, in 2016, into the UK's National Cyber Security Centre he left and joined Close Brothers as Chief Information Security Officer in November 2016, moved to Orwell Group as CISO in Jul 2018 and joined FIRST as it’s Executive Director in May 2019.
Chris’ experience has allowed him to work with colleagues from both inside some of the world’s largest global financial institutions with the complexities that brings and also with colleagues from the incident response community, with members ranging from Microsoft and Oracle through to the national CERTs of Azerbaijan and Indonesia.

Nadica Josifovski

State Advisor for Information Systems and Technologies, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia

Nadica Josifovski was born in 1972 in Kavadarci, Macedonia. In 1996 she graduated Computer Science on the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University St. Cyril and Methodious in Skopje. In 2017 she obtained Master’s degree in the field of Regulation in energetics, electronic communications and traffic.
Nadica started her professional career in 1996, and worked mainly as programmer, quality assurance team member and trainer in several local and international companies. In the period from 2005 to 2013 Nadica gets her valuable experience as Project manager in one of Macedonia’s leading IT companies - Seavus, working on projects in the country and abroad, in both private and public sector. From 2013 she is working as information and communication technologies (ICT) advisor to the Director at the Agency for Electronic Communications. Currently, she is seconded to the Ministry for Information Society and Administration as a State Advisor for Information Technologies and Systems, working on projects in the field of interoperability, eGovernment, eServices, open data and cyber security. Nadica is also a co-author of the Macedonian Interoperability Framework and of the Macedonian metadata standards for open data.

Maja Lakušić

Cyber Security Promotion Advisor, SRB-CERT, Serbia

Maja Lakušić is Advisor for Cyber Security Promotion in the National CERT of Republic of Serbia. Maja is a member of the National CERT since 2019, in her role she is responsible for development of cyber security policies, collecting information on the state of cyber security in the country and in the international environment, preparing and conducting public opinion polls and information in the

field of cyber security, monitoring the activities of international organizations in the field of cyber security. She is a lawyer and certified SSAP (SANS Security Awareness Professional). When joining the National CERT she already had experience in labour law, corporate law, property rights and human rights.

Michael Hamm

Operator and Analyst at Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg

Michael Hamm has worked for more than 10 years as Ingenieur-Sécurité in the field of classical Computer and Network Security (Firewall, VPN, AntiVirus) at the research center “CRP Henri Tudor” in Luxembourg. Since 2010, he has been working as an operator and analyst at CIRCL – Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg where he is working on forensic examinations and incident response.

Pawel Pawlinski

Principal Specialist, CERT.PL, Poland

Paweł Pawliński is a principal specialist at CERT.PL. His job experience includes data analysis, threat tracking and automation. In his current role, Paweł leads projects for information exchange and threat monitoring.

Serge Droz

Vice Chair, FIRST

Serge Droz is a senior IT-Security expert and seasoned incident responder. After more than twenty years work in different CSIRTs he now works as a senior adviser for the Swiss FDFA. He studied physics at ETH Zurich and the University of Alberta, Canada and holds a PhD in theoretical astrophysics. He has worked in private industry and academia in Switzerland and Canada in different security roles as well as at the national CERT in Switzerland.

Serge is a member of the board of directors of FIRST (Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams), the premier organisation of recognised global leaders in incident response. In this role he actively participates in discussion relating to cyber security at various policy bodies, in particular related to norm building.

Serge is an active speaker and a regular trainer for CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team) courses around the world.

Vladislav Bidikov

Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, North Macedonia

Cybersecurity expert working 13+ in the Faculty Computer center at the Faculty for Computer Science and Enginering (FCSE). Mitigation of DDOS attacks are his expertise, while being actively involved in Personal Data protection activities and high-end IT system design for National IT systems, as well as activities in the Academic sector in the field of Cyber security.

Atdhe Buja

ICT Academy CERT, Kosovo

Atdhe is a cybersecurity expert with 10 years of experience in incident handling, tools, trends, and security technologies. He has a strong understanding of the importance of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and its role in threat intelligence gathering and analysis. Atdhe has extensive experience in consolidating CERT teams in sectors of academic, and critical information infrastructure (CII). He has worked on a range of projects aimed at protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring the safety and reliability of industrial systems. In recent years, Atdhe has been focused on developing a model of cybersecurity countermeasures for industrial IoT. He recognizes the unique challenges presented by IoT devices and is committed to helping organizations implement effective security strategies that address these challenges. As a speaker, Atdhe has presented on a range of cybersecurity topics, including incident handling, threat intelligence, and ICS/SCADA cybersecurity.

Blent Kurtalani

ICT Academy CERT, Kosovo

I'm part of Information Security team at Solaborate L.L.C , and part of ICT Academy CERT as Cyber Security Analyst and co-founder of ICT Academy. Experienced in Cyber Security with a demonstrated history of working in the CERT Community, Higher Education Industry, BPO Industry, Software Development Industry etc. Areas of expertise include building incident response teams from the ground up and counselling of new teams, exercising and implementing scenario designs, hands-on incident response and coordination, vulnerability analysis, risk management, security governance (including ISO/IEC 27001/2, GDPR, HIPAA), penetration test coordination specialized in most advanced.

Valentin Lekov

CPP Services, North Macedonia

At just 25 years old, Valentin is a highly motivated student currently pursuing a degree in Computer Science/Cybersecurity at FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. In addition to his studies, he is an accomplished Cyber Security Specialist and Penetration Tester, working tirelessly to keep businesses safe from the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats. Currently employed at CPP Services, a leading provider of cybersecurity solutions in the region, Valentin has extensive experience in performing vulnerability assessments and penetration testing across a wide range of industries.

In his free time, Valentin enjoys reading about new vulnerabilities, exploits and techniques, as well as coding. He is also passionate about mentoring the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and providing guidance to those just starting out in the field.

With his dedication and enthusiasm, he is poised to make a significant impact in the field of cybersecurity and beyond. He looks forward to the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and further develop his skills and knowledge.

Matej Kovačič

Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

Matej Kovacic works as a researcher at Jozef Stefan Institute and International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence.

He is an author of four monographs and author or co-author of several other original scientific, professional and other articles and presentations. His last book, published in 2022 is titled "Crash course on cybersecurity: a manual for surviving in a networked world".

Saso Mickov

ASEE, North Macedonia

I have a bachelor's degree in computer science from state university in Skopje ("Ss. Cyril and Methodius"- Skopje) and Master (MSc) in E-Business Management, at Faculty of Economics ("Ss. Cyril and Methodius"- Skopje).
I am holder of the relevant professional certificates in the critical areas of information system based on world famous framework and standards, such as COBIT, ISO 27001, PCI DSS and ITIL:
• CIPM - Certified Information Privacy Manager - 2020, IAPP • CIA - Certified Internal Auditor, 2014, the IIA • CISA - Certified Information Systems Auditor, 2008, ISACA • Information Security ISO 27001 Lead Auditor – BSI • ISMS in accordance with ISO 27001 – TUV, Austria • ITIL v3 Foundation Certificate • Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer- MCSE
Over 20 years of professional experience in the critical project in the local country and interracially give me appropriate technical and business knowledge.

Kristijan Angelovski

CPP Services, North Macedonia

Kristijan Angelovski is a highly motivated student currently pursuing a degree in Computer Science atthe Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering in Skopje. At the age of 23, he has already demonstrated a strong interest and aptitude in the field of cybersecurity. Kristijan has gained valuable experience as a Cyber Security Engineer and Penetration Tester during their time at CPP Services. He is passionate about ensuring the security of digital systems and networks and has developed a deep understanding of cyber threats. Kristijan is dedicated to keeping up with the latest security trends and technologies and is always seeking to expand their skills and knowledge. With a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence, Kristijan is sure to make a significant contribution to the cybersecurity industry in the future.

Emanuela Dyrmishi

Italy

I worked many years in the field of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy in Switzerland as referent of Psychiatry for the Asylum Seeker Centers where I also train the staff in " Conflict Prevention and Resolution with focus in Geopolitics, Psychology, Interculture.
This human and working experience allowed me to know people from all over the world, the functioning of their countries on a social, cultural, political and economic level. To strengthen this knowledge in transcultural, ethnopsychological and legal level, I finished the school of " Transcultural approach to the person". Subsequently, I continued my training with the Master as Analyst of Economic Risk, Geopolitics and Intelligence at SIOI-UNA, Rome- Italy (School of high formation in International Affairs) with focus on Intelligence and thesis based on Migration and Terrorism. Part of the formation was the Summer School of "Terrorism and Hybrid Threats".
Latter i continued my training in Cybersecurity managing Risk at Harvard University and always at SIOI-UNA with the Master in European Projectuality and Internationalization.
Embracing the experiences already done, with other colleagues we founded the newborn ITree- Immigration, Integration and Inclusivity of which i'm the president.
In past years I've worked as Researcher in Psychopharmacology, a field in which I have a Master's degree.