

Research Results: Better, Faster, Sooner through Artifacts Sharing

Laura Tinnel & David Balenson, SRI International
Teesh Shahi, UIUC and David Johnson, University of Utah
December 11, 2020



SEARCCH Collaborative Team Pls







Terry Benzel, Jelena Mirkovic

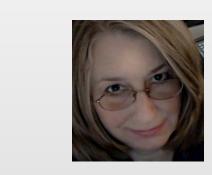
USC-ISI

Marina Del Rey, CA

benzel@isi.edu,

mirkovic@isi.edu







SRI International
Arlington, VA
laura.tinnel@sri.com,
david.balenson@sri.com





Eric Eide
U. Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
eeide@cs.utah.edu





Tim Yardley
U. Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
yardley@illinois.edu



Our Community's Challenges & Needs



- Sharing of repeatable, reproducible, and reusable artifacts in cybersecurity experimentation
 - Can greatly enhance one's ability to build upon the work of others
 - Helps in comparing solutions.
- Sharing artifacts can be difficult and timeconsuming
- Finding relevant experiments and artifacts can be challenging and time-consuming
- We need:
 - ✓ Broad sharing of experiment artifacts
 - ✓ Solution that facilitates rapid and open community sharing and reuse



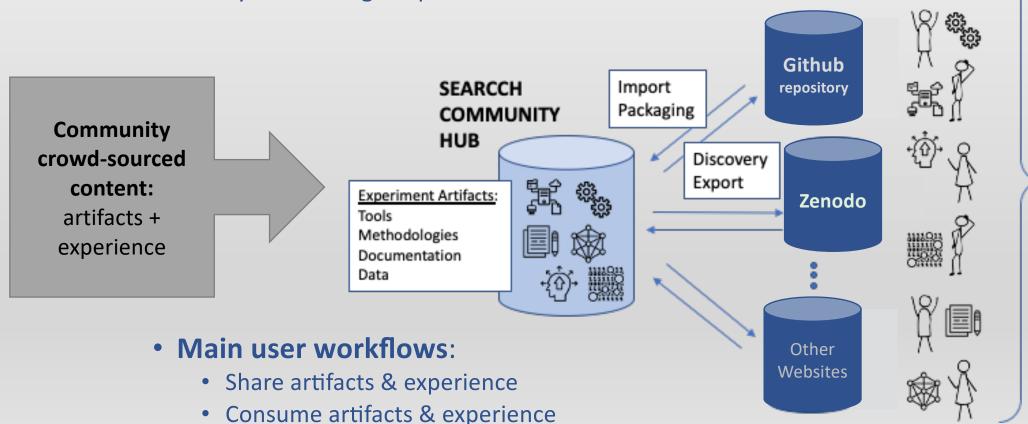
https://www.business2community.com/leadership/8-keys-innovation-mindset-0882548

Artifacts-sharing Hub Concept of Operations



Collaborative, community-driven platform that lowers barrier to sharing and reuse

- ✓ Assisted sharing through importing tools
- ✓ Smart search feature using rich domain-specific semantics
- ✓ Enable community to exchange experience with artifacts





EXPERIMENTAL CYBERSECURITY

RESEARCH







CYBERSECURITY
TECHNOLOGIES
SOLVING
REAL-WORLD
CHALLENGES









The Hub Stores Artifact Metadata



The SEARCCH Hub does not store artifacts directly; rather it

- stores a rich metadata representation of artifacts,
- enables researchers to quickly vet artifact relevance to their work and then access actual artifacts in their native location

Artifact Title, Description, and Author(s) Subject Descriptor / Research Domain

Research Questions and Hypothesis Methodology

Metrics

Dataset

- Type (several options plus freestyle entry)
- Time of collection
- How/where it was collected

Source Code - any script, research product, traffic generator, simulation, etc.

- Description
- Role in the experiment (e.g., research code, simulator, orchestration code, etc.)
- Language
- Dependencies
- How long it runs
- Any special memory, CPU, hardware, OS requirements

Publication

- Type (e.g., journal article, conference, whitepaper, blog post, technical report, thesis (MS/PhD), book, instructions (installation, use), citation)
- Where published

- Year of publication
- References

Executable - specific binaries used in experiment

- Type
- Purpose
- Supporting Information
- Visuals
- Supplements
- Tutorial

Organization - metadata at the collection level

- Type (e.g., company, academia, government)
- Name
- Group

System Environment

- Testbed
- Resources

License

- Type
- Restrictions

Domain (aka., Research Applications)

- Current
- Potential

Note: source code details, if captured in the source's README file will show up in the hub as part of the text description.

Fundamental Research Design Question



- Determine how to best represent cybersecurity experiment artifacts and the relationships between them and develop an optimized <u>data model</u> that facilitates the efficient artifact discovery
 - 1) Manually cataloged cybersecurity artifacts to better understand existing artifact features and the breadth of artifacts
 - 2) Performed automated "mining" of cybersecurity related artifacts from Zenodo as test subjects
 - 3) Implemented a general artifact "importer tool"
- Once fully operational, we expect most of the hub's catalog to come from user contributions, not automated mining







Current Hub Features & Capabilities



- Search hub repository for artifacts
- For found artifacts
 - View
 - Favorite
 - Rate
 - Review
 - See other reviews
- Import new artifacts



SEARCCH Hub Demo

Questions for the Community

- What did you like about the hub features you saw?
- What features should be changed and how?
- What additional functionality should we consider?

SEARCCH Beta Program



- Opening for Beta use in mid-January
- Training session
 - Probably 2nd week of January
 - Get set up with account
 - Bring an artifact to import
- Open beta program to more users
 - Probably end of January
- For more information
 - Talk to us
 - Follow us on Twitter: @SEARCCH_Hub
 - Visit us on the web: https://searcch.cyberexperimentation.org
 - Send us email: beta-test@searcch.cyberexperimentation.org