

# Safe and Secure Research and Education Networking

**Roderick Mooi**

*Senior Information Security Officer @ GÉANT*

15 September 2022

RoEduNet Conference

[www.geant.org](http://www.geant.org)

## Agenda

Who Am I?

About GÉANT

National and International collaborations in Security

GN4-3 > 5-1 Work Package 8: Security

Security Awareness, Training and Crisis management

GÉANT: DDoS Cleansing and Alerting Future

# But first, why is security important?

## 2021 Attacks

**Howard University cancels classes after ransomware attack**

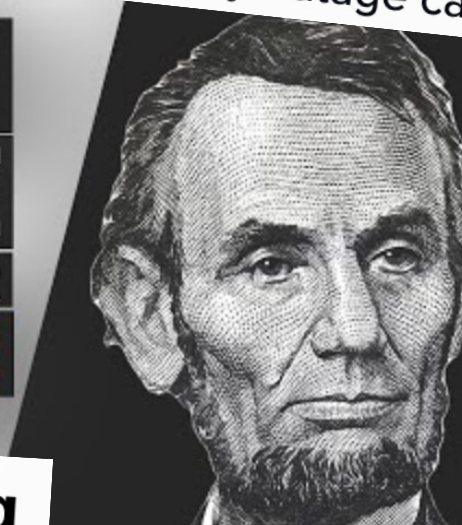
**Brown University hit by cyberattack  
some systems still offline**

**Data Breach at University of Kentucky**



**University still recovering from major cyberattack that disrupted IT systems**

The University of Sunderland brings some IT systems back online after a five-day outage caused by a cyberattack.



**Swinburne University confirms 5,000 individuals affected in data breach**

**University of Hertfordshire pulls the plug on, well, everything after cyber attack**

University of California data breach:  
Sensitive information of staff, students leaked

**Educational institution ROC Mondriaan in The Hague victim of major cyber attack**

**AUAS and UvA target of cyber attack**


**Cyber attack disrupts services at University of the Highlands and Islands**





 September 2022  
**China accuses U.S. of cyber espionage at university**  
Northwestern Polytechnical University / 西北工业大学 - Xi'an, People's Republic of China  
[China Accuses NSA of Northwestern Polytechnical University Cyber-Attack](https://australiancybersecuritymagazine...)  
[https://australiancybersecuritymagazine....](https://australiancybersecuritymagazine...)

 August 2022  
**Unauthorized access at a university in Denmark**  
Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU) - Lyngby, Denmark


 August 2022  
**Cyber attack on an art college in the USA**  
Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) - Savannah, Georgia, Georgia, USA (Chatham County)  
[SCAD suffers data breach, 'limited number' of current and former students, employees impacted](https://eu.savannahnow.com/story/news/20...)  
<https://eu.savannahnow.com/story/news/20...>

 August 12, 2022  
**Facebook account of a university in Kentucky hijacked**  
Thomas More University - Crestview Hills, Kentucky, USA (Kenton County)  
*An alternative account was put into operation.*  
[The Thomas More University Facebook account 'Thomas More University' was hacked.](https://www.facebook.com/ThomasMoreUnive...)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ThomasMoreUnive...>

 July 2022  
**Unauthorized access at a university in Australia**  
University of Western Australia - Perth, Western Australia, Australia  
[Student details, photos exposed in University of WA data breach](https://www.itnews.com.au/news/student-d...)  
<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/student-d...>

 July 23, 2022  
**Cyber attack on a university in Germany**  
Bergische Universität Wuppertal - Wuppertal, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany  
[Hackerangriff auf die Bergische Universität](https://www.uni-wuppertal.de/de/news/det...)  
<https://www.uni-wuppertal.de/de/news/det...>

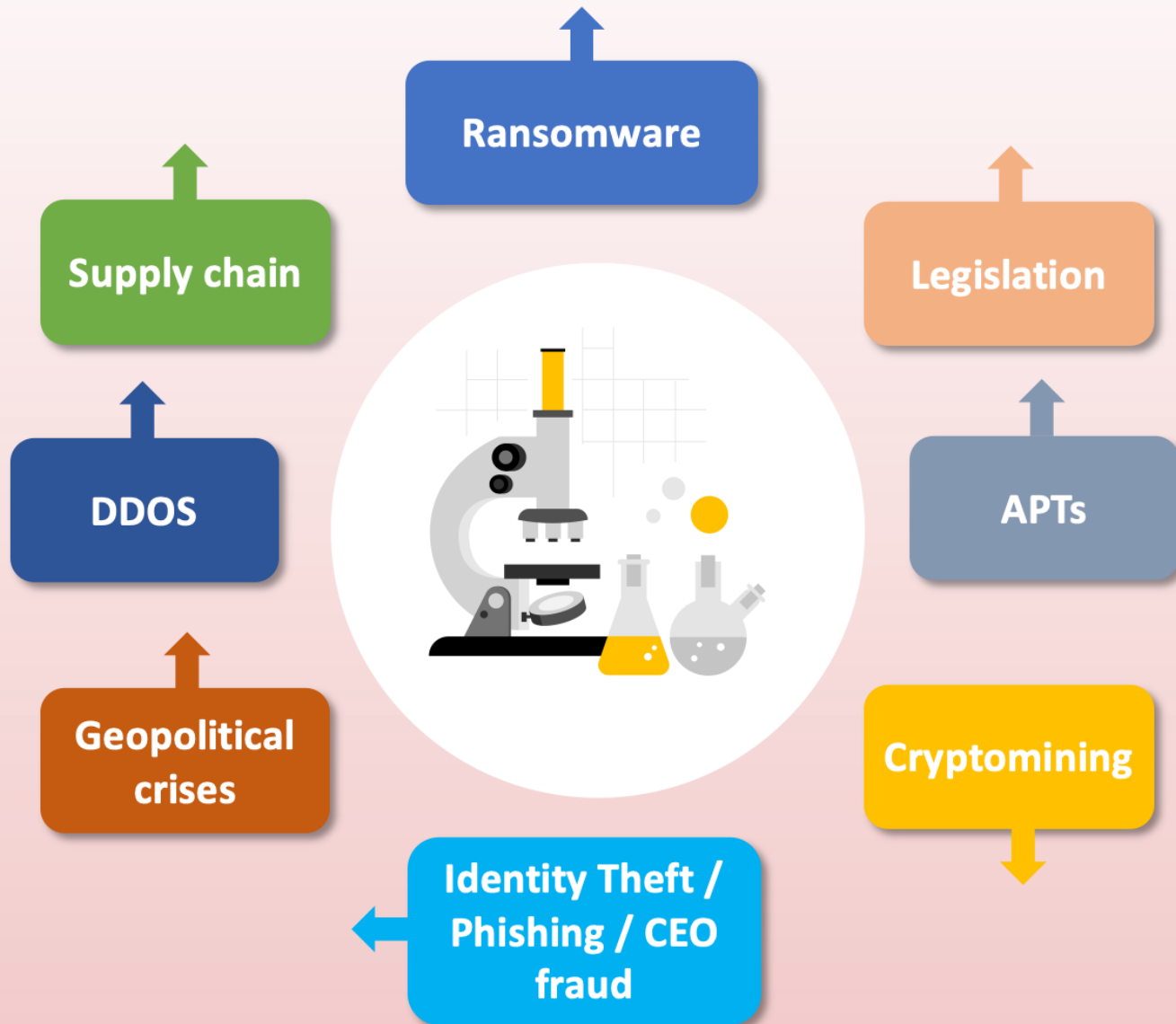
 July 10, 2022  
**Unauthorized access to personal data of a university in Australia**  
Deakin University - Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
[Deakin has been targeted in a cyber attack this week – here's what happened and what you should do](https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/deakinlife/2...)  
<https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/deakinlife/2...>

 July 4, 2022  
**Cyber attack on a university of applied sciences in Switzerland**  
Haute École Arc (HE-Arc) - Neuchâtel, Switzerland  
[Schon wieder Cyberangriff auf Hochschule in Neuenburg](https://www.inside-it.ch/schon-wieder-cy...)  
<https://www.inside-it.ch/schon-wieder-cy...>

# THREATS



# CHALLENGES



Boundaries & Borders

Laws & Regulations

Standards & Processes

Resources & Skills

Time & lack of Automation

Different levels of Maturity

## Working together to get things done

Why should you invest in building relations?

Why should you give away stuff you developed with a lot of blood, sweat and tears?

Why should you share your good ideas and insights?

Why should you share sensitive information about your own organisation?

**We included some presents for you 😊**





# GEANT:

**Supporting collaboration and development amongst researchers, the dissemination of information & knowledge, and providing access to a portfolio of services and infrastructure resources:**



**Runs a membership association for Europe's National Research & Education Networks (NRENs)**  
GEANT Association



**Coordinates and participates in EC-funded projects**  
Under Horizon 2020, the Horizon Europe programme, and other EC funding programmes, aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.



**Operates a pan-European e-infrastructure**  
GEANT network



**Manages a portfolio of services for research & education**  
eduX

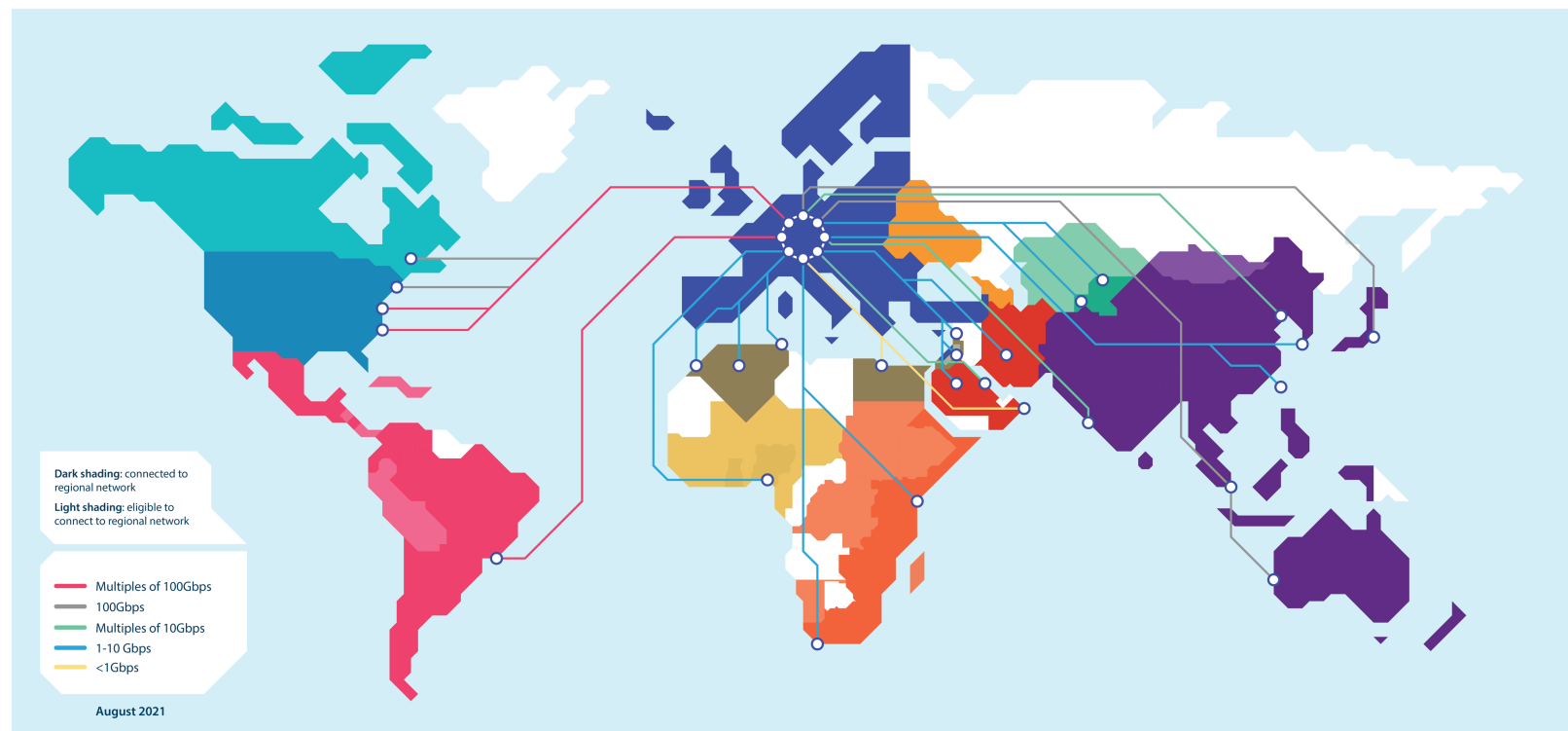


**Organises and runs community events & working groups**  
TNC, task forces & special interest groups

# Network

The GÉANT network interconnects research, education and innovation communities worldwide, with secure, high-capacity networks.

We design, plan, build and operate the large-scale, high-performance GÉANT network that connects European NRENs to each other and the rest of the world for sharing, accessing and processing the high data volumes generated by research and education communities and for testing innovative technologies and concepts.



You may have heard of.....



eduVPN



Collaborate



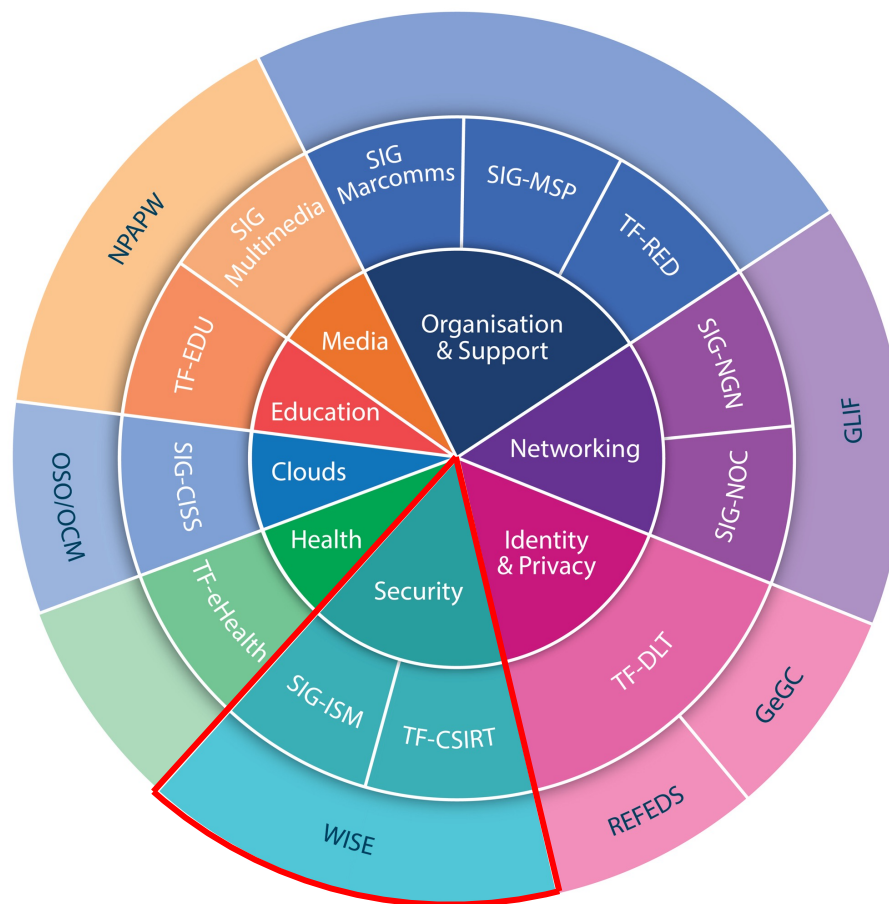
Identify



Connect



## Special Interest Groups & Task Forces



> [community.geant.org](https://community.geant.org)



## Trusted Introducer for Incident response teams

- Sharing good practices
  - Sharing security intelligence
  - Training (TRANSITS)
  - Trust
- 
- <https://www.trusted-introducer.org>



# SIG-ISM:

## Special Interest Group on Information Security Management

- Community for security officers
- Whitepapers on security management and risk management
- Top 5 security risks and trends for R&E
- Get in contact with your peers
- Share day-to-day challenges and solutions
- <https://community.geant.org/sig-ism/>

## Other communities

- WISE
  - Information Security for Collaborating e-Infrastructures
  - Security Specialists of e-infrastructures
  - Focused on developing policies, risk analysis, etc.
  - a collaborative activity of information security officers from several large-scale infrastructures, including EGI, PRACE, EUDAT, WLCG, XSEDE, HBP and others.
  - **“A Trust Framework for Security Collaboration among Infrastructures”**
  - <https://wise-community.org/sci/>
- FIRST Academic Security SIG
  - <https://www.first.org/global/sigs/academicsec/>
- WLCG SOC working group
  - <https://wlcg-soc-wg.web.cern.ch/>



### Network

We are the trusted partner for pan-European and global advanced R&E networking.



### Security

We provide a safe and secure information ecosystem for researchers, educators, and students.



### Innovation

We continually evolve key infrastructures, innovate, and develop new services in order to fulfil the needs of the R&E community in a sustainable way.



### Community

We are acknowledged worldwide as a leader for developing and supporting R&E networking communities, and global REN development.



## The GÉANT Association is driven by Eight Strategic Goals

### European Union

We are seen by the EU as an indispensable partner for their vision.



### Stakeholders

We forge relationships with other e-infrastructure providers, research infrastructures (RIs), and other stakeholders, to benefit the R&E community.



### Governance

We have a governance structure that is agile and benefits from the diversity of our membership.



### Funding

We will ensure financial sustainability to benefit our members.





# GÉANT2020 Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)

The GÉANT2020 FPA is a seven-year programme, split into three phases:

GN4-1	<del>1 May 2015 to 30 Apr 2016</del>
GN4-2	<del>1 May 2016 to 31 Dec 2018</del>
GN4-3	1 Jan 2019 to 31 Dec 2022
GN4-3N	

Action A	Drive the Evolution of the Network
Action B	Support the Knowledge Community
Action C	Provide Security, Trust and Identity
Action D	Deliver GÉANT's Collaborative Ecosystem
Action E	Develop the Human Capital of the GÉANT Partnership
Action F	Ensuring the Long-Term Future of the GÉANT Infrastructure

# GN5 - Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)

## Horizon Europe

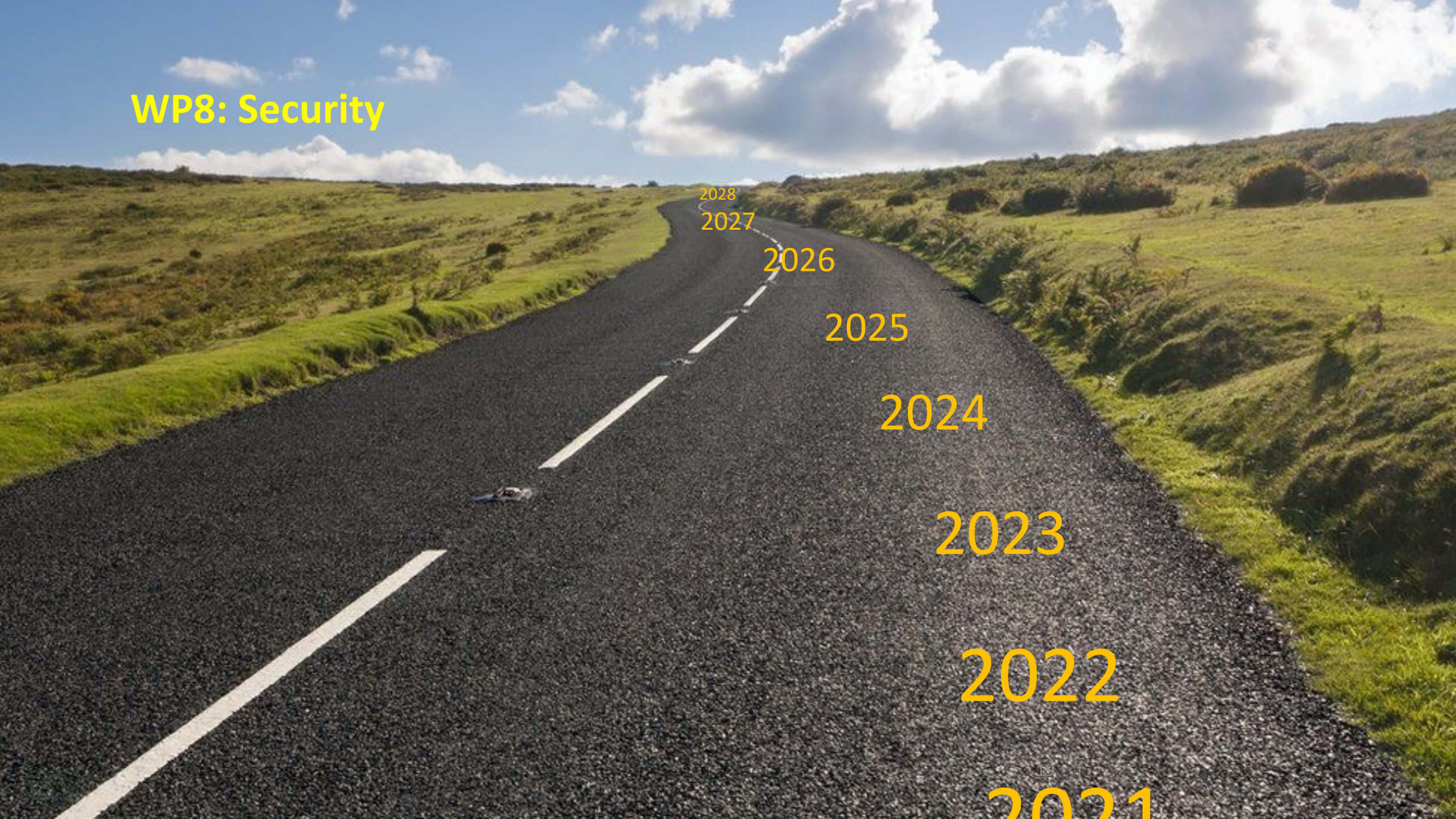
The GN5 - FPA is a seven-year programme:

GN5-1      1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025  
GN5-IC1    1 November 2022 to 31 October 2025

- Action A      Understand and respond to the requirements of R&E communities.
- Action B      Evolve the Communication Commons towards data-driven research and education.
- Action C      Deliver state-of-the-art network connectivity and operational excellence.
- Action D      Deliver interoperable and distributed trust and identity infrastructure, security and above-the-net services, and procurement.
- Action E      Ensure innovation of key infrastructures and service development as an indispensable part of the GÉANT partnership.
- Action F      Strengthen the collaborative ecosystem of GÉANT and the NRENs, and develop the human capital of the GÉANT partnership.



## WP8: Security





Standards and  
Best Practices

Security  
Operations  
Support

Services  
and  
Tools

Incident Response and  
Crisis Management

Development of  
Human Capital,  
Training and Awareness

Securing  
High-Speed Networks

2026

2024

2023

2022

2021



# WP8: Security: Proposal GN5-1 (2023 – 2025)

## Overview of activity – ongoing and new

Task 1: Best Practices,  
Security Baseline

Task 4: Research

Securing High Speed  
networks

Task 5  
Security and privacy  
coordination across  
workpackages

Task 3: Delivery of  
Services and tools:

DDOS detection &  
mitigation: NeMo + FoD

Support for eduVPN

Tools for security  
operations

Cryptographic services

Broker (NREN) security  
services

Cyberthreat Analysis and  
Cyber Threat Intelligence

Task 2: Security Training  
and Awareness

Cybersecurity Month,  
Regular awareness updates

Security training:  
Expert, basic and all-round

Incident Respons and  
crisis management

Career development/  
mentoring: identify  
talents, stimulate and  
support cross training

Jointly led by Henry Hughes (JISC) and Alf Moens (GÉANT)

# Security Baselining

## Policy

- *Management Commitment and Mandate*
- *Internal Security Policy*
- *Acceptable Use Policy*
- *Regulatory and Privacy*

## People

- *Training and Awareness*
- *Personnel Management*
- *Supplier Management*

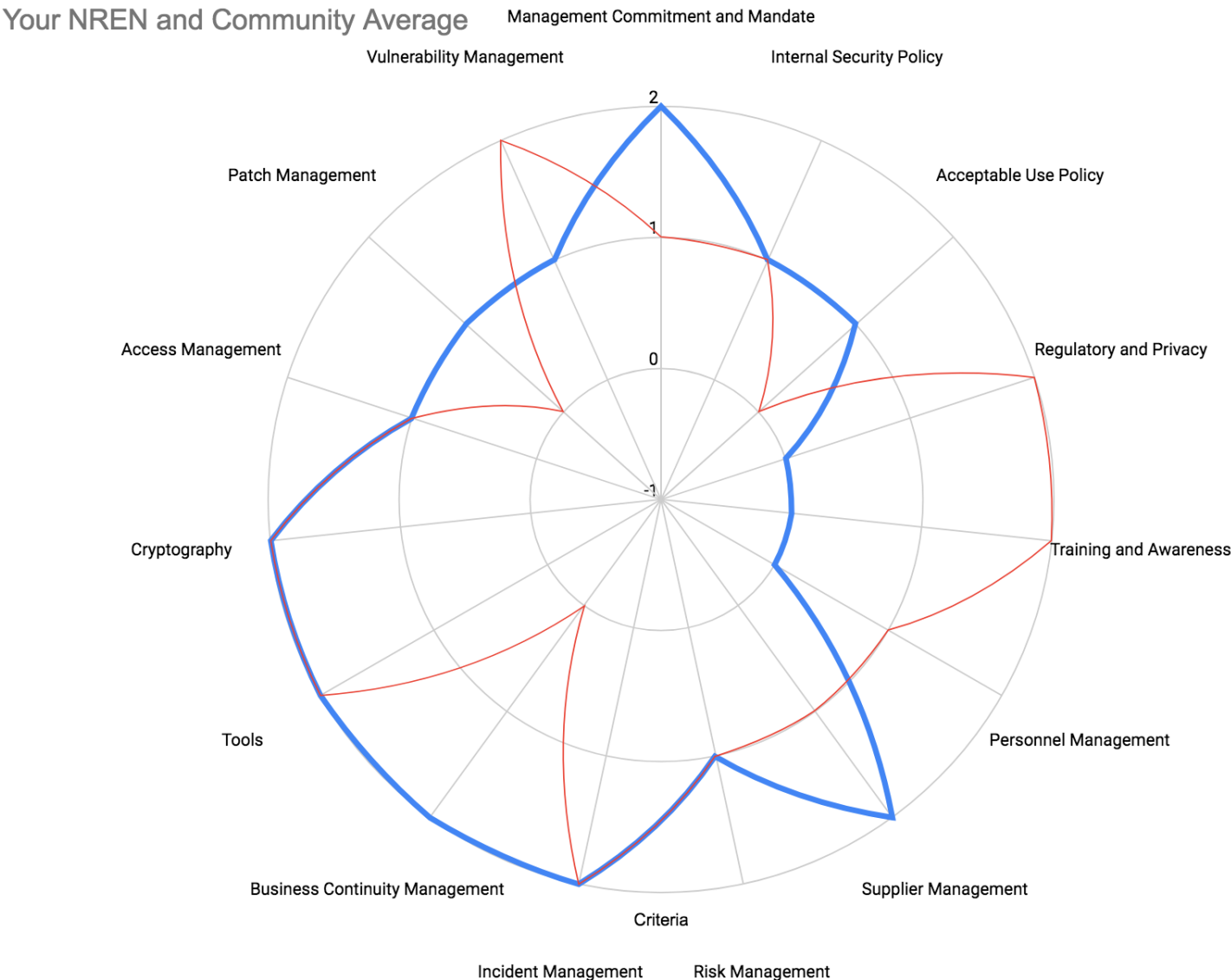
## Threats

- *Risk Management*
- *Incident Management*
- *Business Continuity Management*

## Operations

- *Tools*
- *Cryptography*
- *Access Management*
- *Patch Management*
- *Vulnerability Management*

# Security Baseline



## ACHIEVEMENTS (TASK 3)

### *Security Products and Services*

#### **SOC tooling**

Coherent set of tools,  
packaged in Docker  
containers

#### **Firewall on Demand**

Migration to Python 3  
and Django 2

Virtual network testbed  
API for DDOS

#### **eduVPN**

Uptake:

91 servers in 23 countries, 15  
secure Internet servers  
39K new MacOS users observed  
National usage is not registered  
centrally

#### **Vulnerability Management**

Agreement with Holm Security  
Evaluation of Vulnerability  
Scanners

#### **Distributed Denial of Service Mitigation: NeMo**

Testbeds in GÉANT network  
Acquisition of equipment  
virtualisation with Docker  
**Expanded team**

# <https://geant.org/projects/gn4-3-deliverables/>

## D8.6 Vulnerability Assessment as a Service Pilot Project



Published date | 16 August 2022

This deliverable provides an introduction to common vulnerability assessment and management methodologies and tools and reports on the results of a pilot project conducted by WP8 T3.2 to evaluate different vulnerability scanning tools in production or test environments in various NRENs and institutions.

[Download PDF](#)

## D8.10 Firewall on Demand



Published date | 9 August 2022

This document provides a summary of the enhancements and improvements to Firewall on Demand (FoD) developed and tested during GN4-3. These comprise mainly development of the core service as well as the introduction of Docker containers for installation and runtime-management support and the establishment of testing on various layers.

[Download PDF](#)

## D8.9 Best Practices for Security Operations in Research and Education



Published date | 30 June 2022

This report introduces the concepts of security operations, including its goals, benefits and best practices, and of operational intelligence, as well as Security Operations Centres (SOCs) as a means to realise their practical implementation. It presents three research and education SOC case studies, including utilisation of the SOCTools package developed by GN4-3 WP8 Task 3.1 Security Operations Centre.

[Download PDF](#)



## Status August 2020:

**9 countries** added in apps: Norway, Uganda, Pakistan, Finland, France, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Estonia, Albania

**28 institutes** added in apps: Unit, EUR, PolSI, STC, Trimbos, HEAnet, Tuni, Differ, Perdana, Pionier, GÉANT, Cnous, CSC, Uminho, HS-OS, Hiof, UniOsnabrück, VAMK, DIAK, IPB, University of Nimes, ENSMA, RENU, VU, HSTrier, KENET, Saxion, TUDelft

*Estimated between 35,000 and 60,000 unique App downloads*

Example: Radboud University (NL) reported over June 2020: 3300 unique users, max 900 simultaneous users

<https://www.eduvpn.org/join/>

# eduVPN



## Secure



- Used VPN technology audited by international community
- Strong Cryptography
- eduVPN server/apps audited

## Privacy enhancing

- 'privacy by design' philosophy fully applied
- GDPR compliant by policy and technical design
- eduVPN helps avoiding data leakage on insecure WiFi



## Trust





- Software approved by GÉANT
- Governance software @ Commons Conservancy foundation
- eduVPN service policy under governance of GÉANT
- eduVPN servers operated by NRENs or institutes
- All software: client apps to server (management) fully open-source



91  
Servers in  
23  
countries

16  
Secure internet  
servers

-  Institute access
-  Secure internet

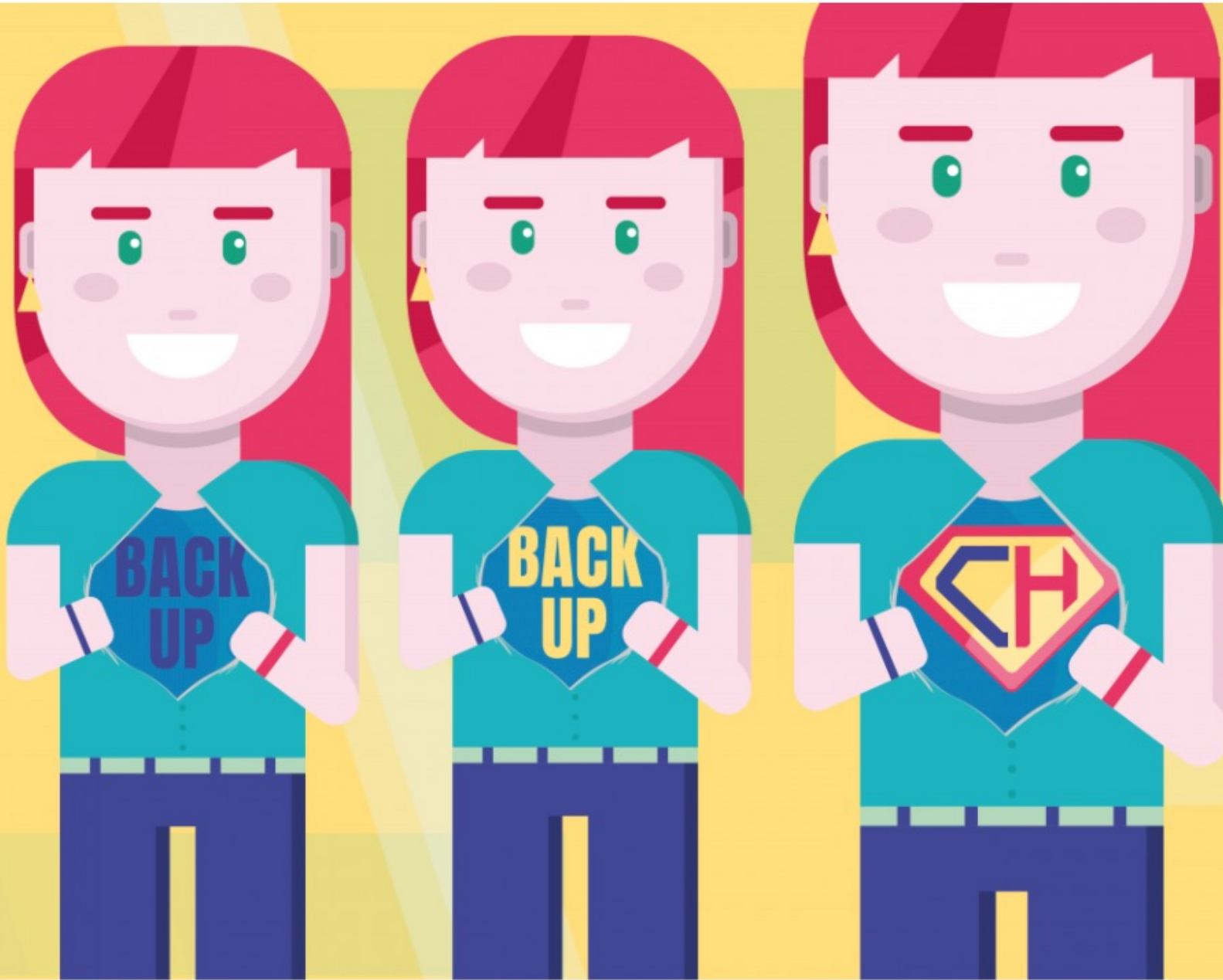


# The First present: Security Awareness



# Security Awareness Month 2020 (Anthology)

- #BecomeACyberHero
- Weekly themes:
  - Week 1: Social engineering
  - Week 2: Phishing
  - Week 3: Ransomware
  - Week 4: Password security
- Case studies:
  - Ransomware Maastricht University
  - Awareness at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland
- Interviews
- Articles
  - Passwords, phishing, Ransomware
- Tip-of-the-day
- Combination of new material and existing local material



**RANSOMWARE**

# **MINIMISE IMPACT**

**BACK-UP YOUR DATA  
AND STORE IT SECURELY.  
ALWAYS.**



**BECOME A CYBER HERO**  
Cyber Security Month 2020

[connect.geant.org/csm2020](https://connect.geant.org/csm2020)







Every single one of us can be a cyber hero  
🕒 4 months ago



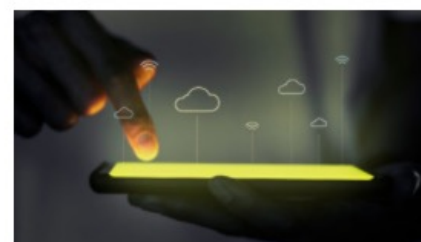
Your identity is at risk in your own home  
🕒 5 months ago



Malware signed by Slovenian companies  
🕒 5 months ago



Worried about online security?  
🕒 5 months ago



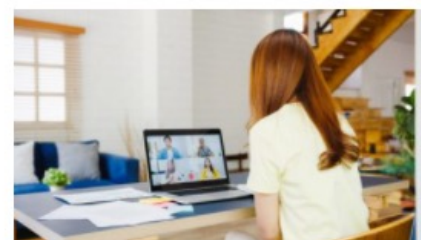
How to make safe back-ups  
🕒 5 months ago



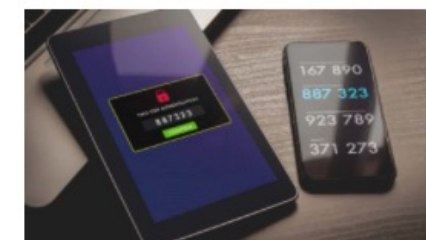
Protection of human data and digital identity during the Covid-19 pandemic  
🕒 5 months ago



Safe Videoconferencing (part 2)  
🕒 5 months ago



Safe Videoconferencing (part 1)  
🕒 5 months ago



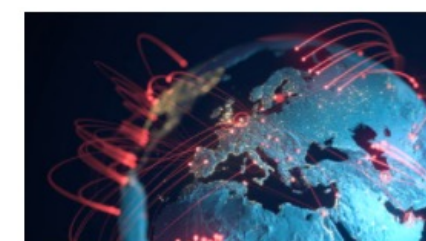
Why you should use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) as much as possible  
🕒 5 months ago



Protect your identity  
🕒 5 months ago



Endpoint security in the enterprise  
🕒 5 months ago



How do hackers try to abuse your device?

Resources still available @

<https://connect.geant.org/csm2021>

Participate in 2022?

<https://connect.geant.org/csm2022>



**A COMMUNITY  
OF CYBER HEROES**

**Cybersecurity Month 2022**

**#AllCyberHeroes**



## The second present: Training





**Client privacy and security**

**Distributed Denial of Service  
(DDoS) Protection (Operational**

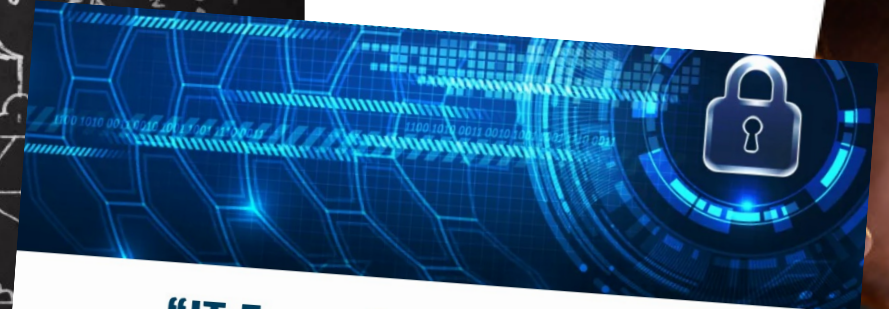


**“Vulnerability Management”**

**Operational network security –  
new for 2020 – virtual learning  
with experts**

**Domain Name System (DNS)**

**“IT Forensics for System  
Administrators” – new for 2021**



## **Operating System Privacy and Security**

Operating System Telemetry  
Logging and Audit  
File Integrity Monitoring (FIM) for detecting security incidents  
Network 1st Hop Security  
Authentication Methods

## **Client Privacy and Security**

Browser Security and Privacy  
E-Mail Security and Privacy  
Instant Messaging Security and Privacy  
Videoconferencing Security and Privacy  
Office Security and Privacy

## **Domain Name System (DNS) protection**

Introduction to DNS and its Security Challenges  
DNS for Network Defence  
DNSSEC  
DNS Privacy Protocols

## **Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection**

Introduction to DDoS Attacks  
Details of Selected DDoS Attacks  
DDoS Detection  
DDoS Mitigation

## **Vulnerability Management**

Vulnerability Management Process and Standards  
Vulnerability Information  
Patch Management  
Looking into the Network  
Network Vulnerability Scanning  
Penetration Tests  
Code Audits  
Vulnerability Disclosure  
Breach and Attack Simulation

# Virtual learning with experts:

5 Modules  
27 x 1 hour webinars

Recordings on GEANT TV  
(YouTube)

Slide decks available

From and with the  
experts of DFN-CERT

<https://security.geant.org/training/>



## The third present: Crisis Preparation



# Let's talk about Crisis Management

- Since Covid-19 everyone knows what a crisis is
  - Working from home, massive online education. And what about research?
  - How do you keep track?
  - Where you prepared?
- Crisis management is a multi-discipline activity
  - Not just ICT or Security
  - Strong role for communication
- These were the most important lessons from nationwide cybercrisis exercises in R&E the Netherlands







How well is your organisation prepared for a network or cyber crisis?

Do you have crisis management procedures in place?

Do you know who should be involved when crisis hits?

And do you know how to reach out to – and work with – other organisations, in the eventuality of a pan-European crisis?



# **CRISIS CLAW**

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT  
WORKSHOP FOR THE  
GÉANT COMMUNITY**

**29-30 NOVEMBER 2022**  
**PSNC, POZNAN, POLAND**

[https://connect.geant.org/2022/07/27/  
save-the-date-claw-2022-29-and-30-  
november-psnc-poznan](https://connect.geant.org/2022/07/27/save-the-date-claw-2022-29-and-30-november-psnc-poznan)

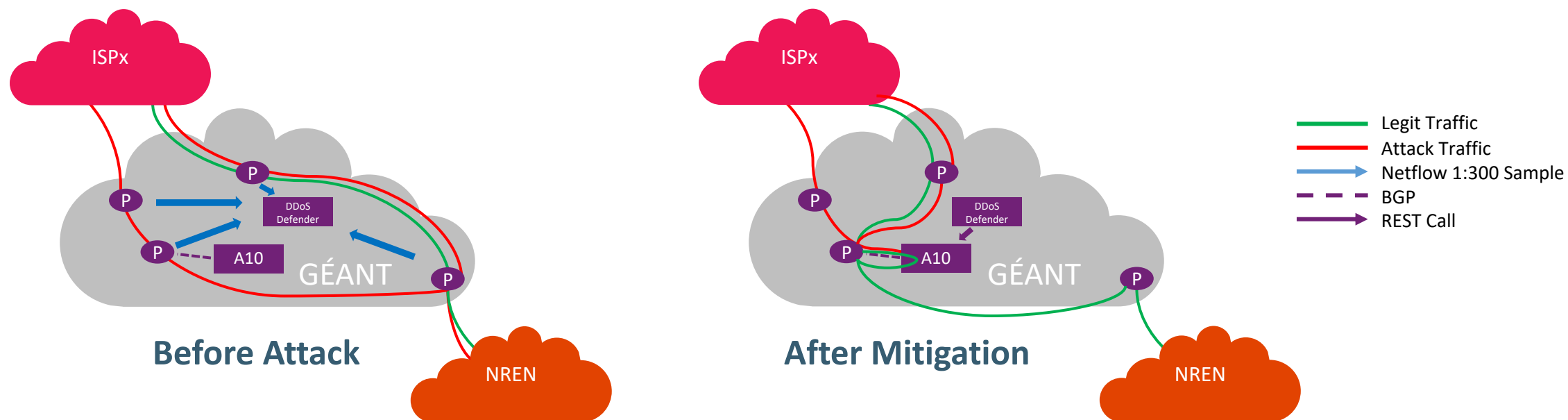
<https://events.geant.org/event/1193/>





# GÉANT DDoS Cleansing and Alerting

- Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) is a large and growing problem
- GÉANT DDoS Cleansing provides a dynamic, automated detection and mitigation service



- DDoS Cleansing uses Flowmon monitoring to divert DDoS traffic to A10 TPS service.
  - Can support up to 38Gbps throughput of attack data
  - No NREN staff resource required
  - No-cost option to add service to peering users
- Firewall on Demand remains to support inter-NREN DDoS

# FlowMon

We would like to inform you that **April 6th 2022** will be the **End of Sale date for Flowmon DDoS Defender** and no new orders will be accepted from this date forward, with no replacement products or solutions within our portfolio.

 Progress® | Flowmon

Network Operations ▾

Security Operations ▾

Why Flowmon ▾

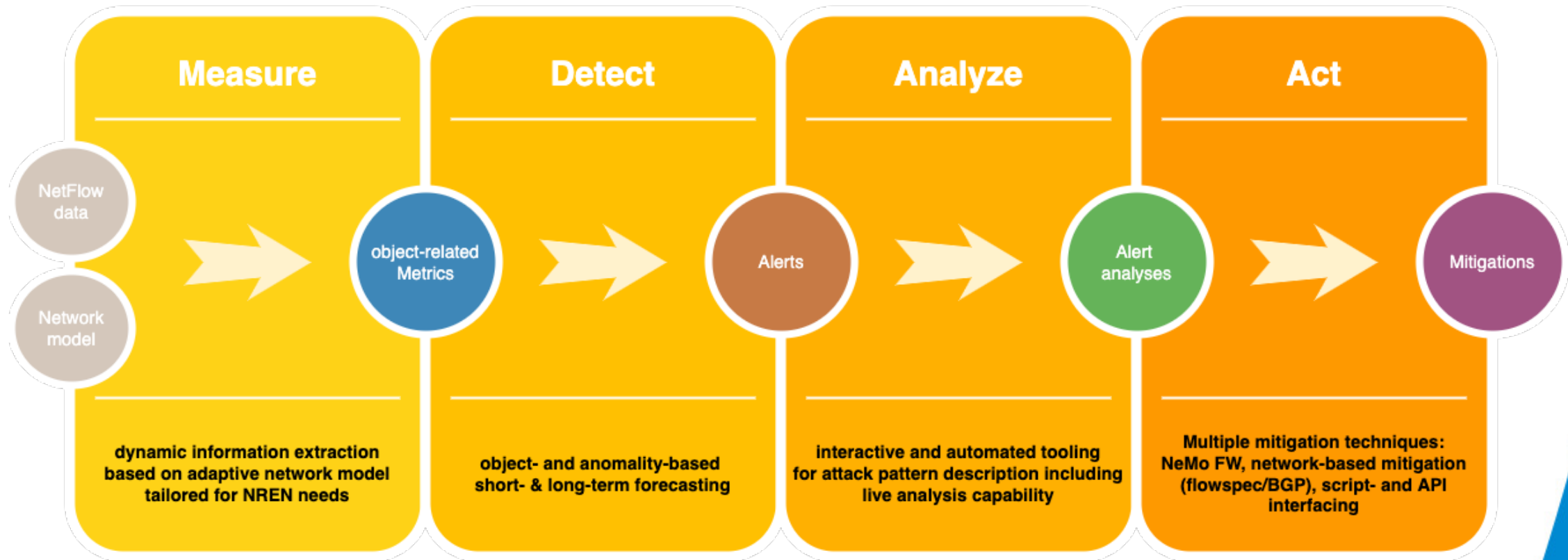
Flowmon - FAQ - Flowmon DDoS Defender End of Sale

FAQ

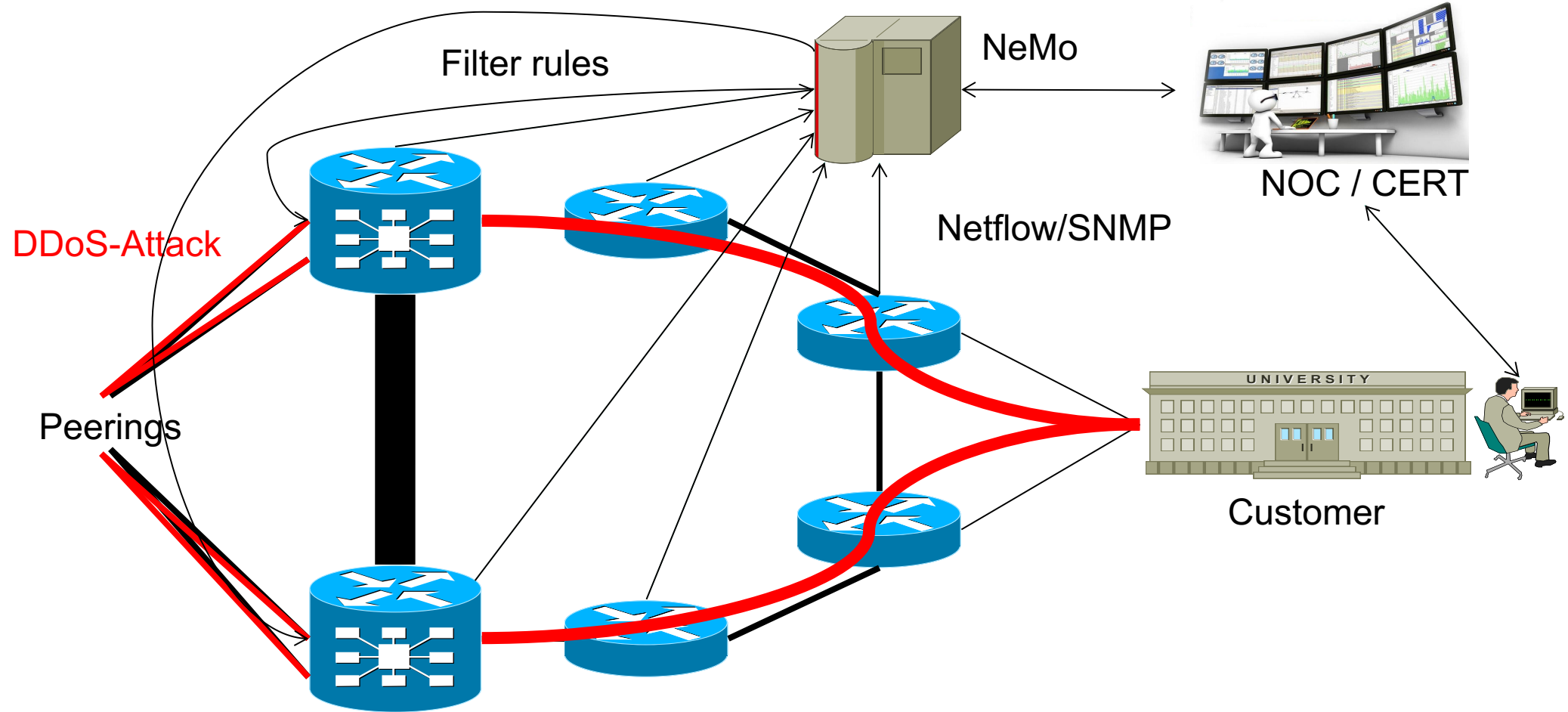
## Flowmon DDoS Defender End of Sale



# Finding NeMo 😊

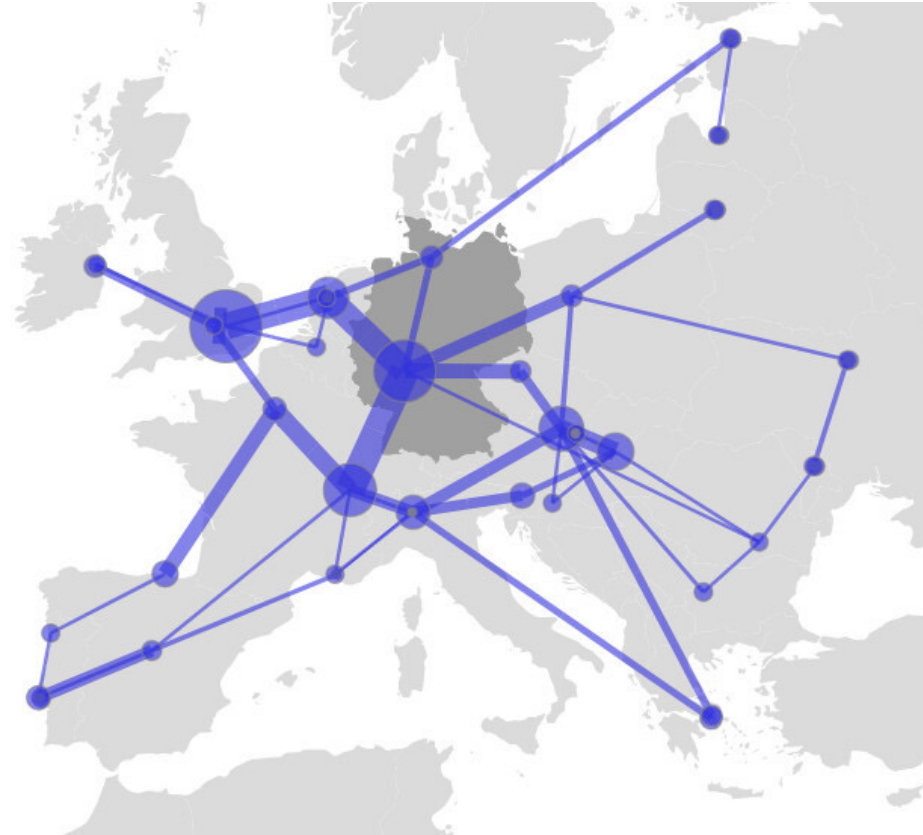


# NeMo: Topology





# NeMo: GÉANT Network



# NeMo: Object Analysis



## NeMo: Alert Details

Summary
**Alerts**
Events
Objects
Topology Map
Visual Explorer
Sparklines
Detectors
Devel Tools
Administration
Preferences
System Information

DFN-NEMO

Critical Alert 309063

Dates/Times in CET

Alarm Begin/End

today, 10:16

–

ONGOING

(46 min)

1 affected object ,48 events

Events First/Last

today, 10:12 / 11:00

Merge...

Close

Mute

Send to TTS

scrolling

## Alert Analyses

This alert has not been analyzed. [Analyze Alert >>](#)

## Event Sources

Universität Pellworm

SYN/ACK  
Packets

### Alert Details

**Description** High ratio of SYN packets to ACK packets.

Tags -

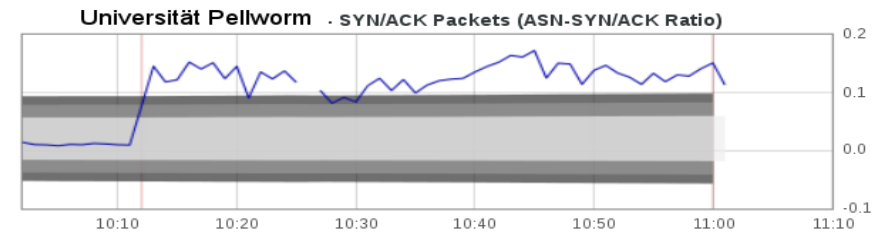
**Event Count** 48 [View all events...](#)

**Trigger** High SYN / ACK Ratio (ID 8)

### Alert History / Comments

[+ Add Comment](#)

Date	User	Message
today, 10:43	System	Observed critically high value of the ratio of SYN packets to TCP packets with C&S both Parked... [Detailed log message about network traffic analysis]
		Observed more high values of the ratio of SYN packets to ACK packets with T&D...



Blue: Current value  
Light blue: Same timeframe 1 week ago  
Lighter blue: Same timeframe 4 weeks ago  
Gray shaded area: Model corridor (if applicable)  
Pink: Model prediction (if applicable)

[illegible]



## NeMo: Mitigation

- Analyse the attack traffic
  - Basis for countermeasure development
- Routing-changes using Flowspec
  - Acting directly on the routers (similar to FoD)
- Possibility to offramp to a VM
  - Firewall-like filters
- Within GÉANT: + A10 integration\*

## NeMo: contact / for more info.

- GÉANT NeMo deployment:
  - [help@geant.org](mailto:help@geant.org)
- Own deployment / other Qs:
  - [gn4-3-wp8-ddos@lists.geant.org](mailto:gn4-3-wp8-ddos@lists.geant.org)
- <https://security.geant.org/nemo-ddos-software/>

# Working together to get things done – why?

- Efficient use of limited expertise and budgets
- Not only Techies, also Management and Marketing/Communications
- Because working together with peers, sharing and caring, helps you to get more things done in better ways.
- You give and you take. The balance is good and....
- It is more fun.





# SOLUTIONS

## Trusted Collaboration

### Data

Traffic monitoring  
Flow data  
Log analysis  
Indicators  
SIEM alerts  
Threat intel.  
Aggregation

### Tools

DDoS mitigation  
Firewalling  
Vulnerability  
management  
Monitoring  
SOCTools  
Information sharing

### Intelligence

Categorised  
Classified  
Analysed  
Enhanced  
Shared  
Timely  
Actionable

## Joint Operations





# Summary

- 3 presents:
  - Security Awareness (cybersecurity month)
  - Security Training
  - Crisis Exercise-in-a-box
- What communities can do for you
- Share information, share intelligence, share experience, work together
- Work on trust
  - “A Trust Framework for Security Collaboration among Infrastructures”
  - V2.0 <https://wise-community.org/sci/>
- Recommended security products and services
  - NeMo DDoS detection and mitigation
  - Firewall on Demand (FoD)
  - eduVPN (<https://www.eduvpn.org/>)

# Thank You !!

[roderick.mooi@geant.org](mailto:roderick.mooi@geant.org)

[www.geant.org](http://www.geant.org)

[security.geant.org](http://security.geant.org)



As part of the GÉANT 2020 Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), the project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 856726 (GN4-3)

## Resources

- <https://www.trusted-introducer.org>
- <https://community.geant.org/sig-ism/>
- <https://wise-community.org>
- <https://www.first.org/global/sigs/academicsec>
- <https://wlcg-soc-wg.web.cern.ch/>
- <https://geant.org/projects/gn4-3-deliverables/>
- <https://connect.geant.org/csm2022>
- <https://security.geant.org/training>
- <https://connect.geant.org/2022/07/27/save-the-date-claw-2022-29-and-30-november-psnc-poznan>
- CLAW22: <https://events.geant.org/event/1193>
- <https://security.geant.org/nemo-ddos-software/>
- <https://www.eduvpn.org/join/>

