ECHO

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CYBERSECURITY CENTRES AND COMPETENCE HUB FOR INNOVATION AND OPERATIONS

Newsletter •••

# First Release of the ECHO Federated Cyber Range

Written by Matteo Merialdo
Project Implementation Coordinator, RHEA Group

After 18 months of rigorous system engineering life-cycle, the ECHO team delivered the first version of our Federated Cyber Range (E-FCR) in March 2021!

Aim of the E-FCR is twofold:

1) Enable the creation of complex cyber range scenarios, the result of the interconnection of multiple, distributed, cyber range scenario leveraging different capabilities and different technologies. ECHO integrated a lightweight, portable, reliable VPN technology, enabling Layer 3 interconnection of multiple cyber range scenarios.
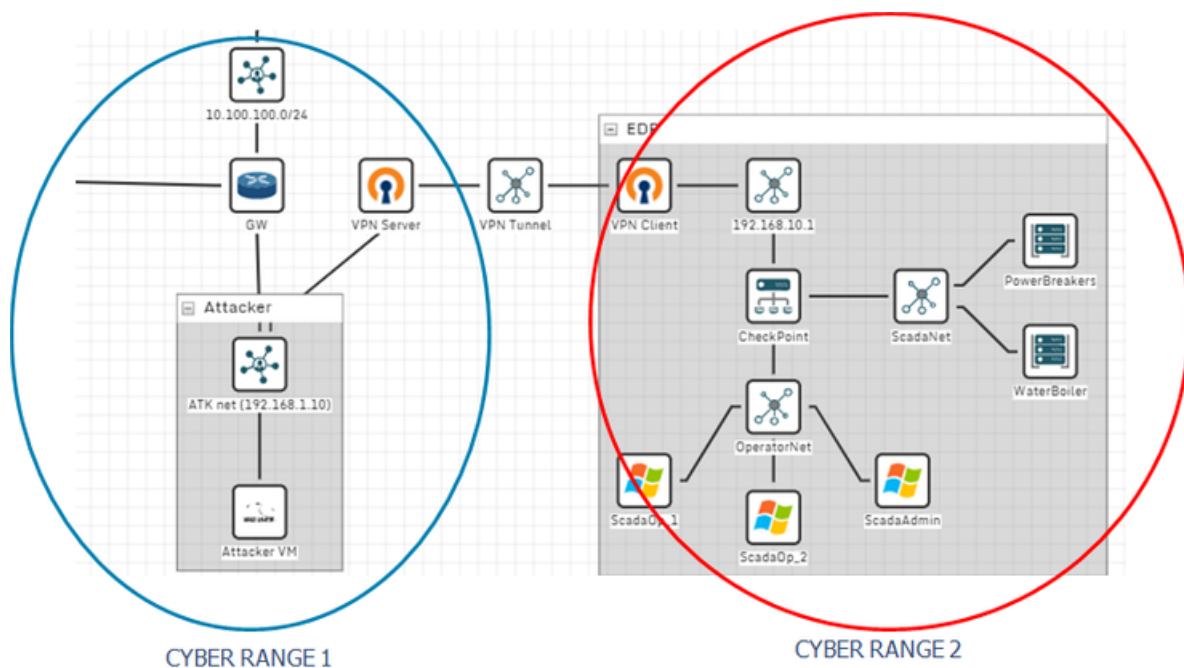
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IMPACT PRODUCT

Result of the first two-year journey of ECHO

Written by Matteo Merialdo
Project Implementation Coordinator, RHEA Group

ECHO recently concluded its **first two-year journey**, where multiple systems, software and frameworks development activities took place. It is time, finally, to exploit and show the results of these two incredibly intense years!

In a nutshell, ECHO worked on a **vast set of assets** and delivered **its first consolidated versions**:

- **ECHO Multisector Assessment Framework (E-MAF)** – a novel process to **assess the risk of multi-sector and inter-sector scenarios**.

- **ECHO Cybersecurity Certification Scheme (E-CCS)** – based on the EU Certification Framework, the E-CCS provides guidelines to more easily **define sector-specific product-oriented certification schemas**.

- **ECHO Cyberskills Framework (E-CSF)** – an innovative methodology t**o design and implement tailored outcome-based cyber training curricula**, including hands-on skills development based on cyber ranges exercises.

- **ECHO Governance Model (E-GM)** – a full **governance model for a network of cyber centres of competence**, to be used by ECHO partners to guarantee continuity after the ECHO project, directly connected to the European Cybersecurity Competence Network.

- **ECHO Early Warning System (E-EWS)** – a **complete, hardened, early warning system for EU organizations**. E-EWS enables hundreds of organizations to share early warning cyber information and collect, process, enrich threat intelligence data from multiple sources. Able to connect to existing, national, early warning networks based on different technologies, **E-EWS aims to constitute one of the technological foundations of the European Cybersecurity Competence Network**. As a means to test and validate the E-EWS, ECHO is regularly organizing extensive tabletop exercises involving dozen of organizations and complex scenarios.

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T4.3. Solving the most pressing cybersecurity challenges

Written by Antonis Voulgaridis
Technical Project Manager, CERTH

The vision

In line with the needs of Work Package 4 (Inter-sector Technology Roadmaps) of the ECHO project, Task 4.3 tries to solve the most pressing cybersecurity needs by developing a set of **innovative software solutions addressing a variety of inter-sector and** transversal cybersecurity challenges. In that frame, task 4.3 "Early prototypes selection, research and development" focuses on **the selection and subsequent analysis and development of early prototype tools** addressing emerging cybersecurity challenges and covering several **high priority areas** such as healthcare, maritime, energy, space etc. The selected prototypes will not only serve as a source of **technology innovation** but also as a mean of cybersecurity **education and training** towards achieving the research goals of the ECHO project in improving the proactive cyber defence of the European Union.

Relation to other work in the project

Inter-sector prototype tools represent a software development activity with many relationships with other work carried out in the ECHO project. Specifically, the cybersecurity challenges that the tools are trying to tackle are derived from two different deliverables D4.1 and D4.2 (transversal and inter-sector technical cybersecurity challenges accordingly).

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ECHO NEWS

Cyber Range Focus Group (CRFG) Ideathon

The first Cyber Range Focus Group (CRFG) Ideathon took place on April 7th 2021. The CRFG coordinates the cyber range activities of the four pilot projects preparing the European Cybersecurity Competence Network and ECSO.
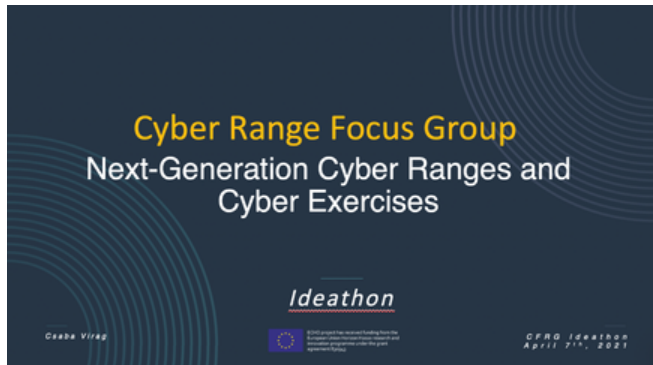
ECHO Early Warning System tabletop exercises

The 5th tabletop exercises (TTX) - part of the evaluation of the ECHO's Early Warning System (EWS) - was carried out during the last days of March, hosting teams from the ECHO network, as well as guest teams.

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Security awareness and possible national security implications

Written by Ana Maria Matejic
Security Services Manager, RHEA Group

Earlier this month, SANS Institute has released the 2021 Security Awareness Report which focuses on analysing data from more than 1500 professionals regarding to managing organizational human risk. Sure thing, one's mind can think in the direction of "policeman approach" when strategizing over addressing the "human risk" but in fact, the idea behind this is very simple and is addressing one burning issue: how can we as an organization or security body can contribute to increasing the awareness around security of our employees and ultimately for a country's citizens.

Security awareness has been, in the beginning, a side activity and a "fire ball" passed between HR, Security or IT departments. Then it gains visibility once cyber-attacks have started to take businesses offline and ultimately affecting national security and its' citizens.

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ECHO PUBLICATIONS

Scientific publications are important elements of the dissemination strategy of the ECHO project. The publications contain the important fresh results of the project, prepared as a cooperation of the consortium partners. Let us introduce one of the many results of **Task 9.5 - Societal Impact Assessment** (from Work Package 9 - Dissemination, Exploitation, and Innovation Management)

This task develops tools and procedures for the Societal impact assessment covering diverse aspects related to governance, assets, people (eSkills + training; jobs). It will also provide selected case studies from EU and international cooperation as examples of impact, promoting the outcomes of the strategic alliances (in collaboration with other WPs) and industry sponsorship of skills development.

Aaltola, Kirsi, and Harri Ruoslahti. "Societal Impact Assessment of a Cyber Security Network Project." Information & Security: An International Journal 46, no. 1 (2020): 53-64.

Project ECHO, aims to deliver a Societal Impact Assessment (SIA) toolkit to assess the impact of establishing a European network of cybersecurity competence centres. The theoretical approaches of network co-creation and inter-organizational knowledge transfer as learning outcomes can provide a foundation for impact assessment at the societal level.

Measurement of impacts through a digital Societal Impact Assessment toolkit can improve the quality of the value creation. An approach that combines traditional evaluation and assessment, co-creative innovation, learning and SIA-outcomes in a practical matrix can provide an applicable element towards a more comprehensive SIA-toolkit for the ECHO network.

Read more here http://isij.eu/article/societal-impact-assessment-cyber-security-network-project

EVENTS

Cyberwiser.eu final event

ECHO participated to the final event of the Cyberwiser.eu H2020 project, on 25 of March. The topic of the event, Effective training in cybersecurity in the era of staff remotisation, is very close to some of the activities we perform in ECHO: moreover, several ECHO partners also participated to the Cyberwiser.eu journey.

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Upcoming

SURVEY. Understanding European Cybersecurity HR Recruitment Processes

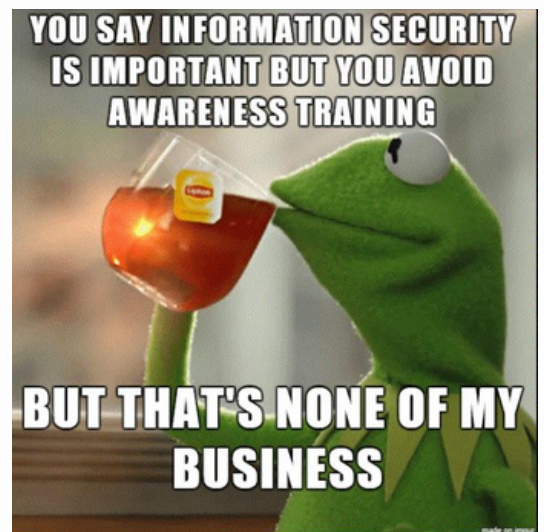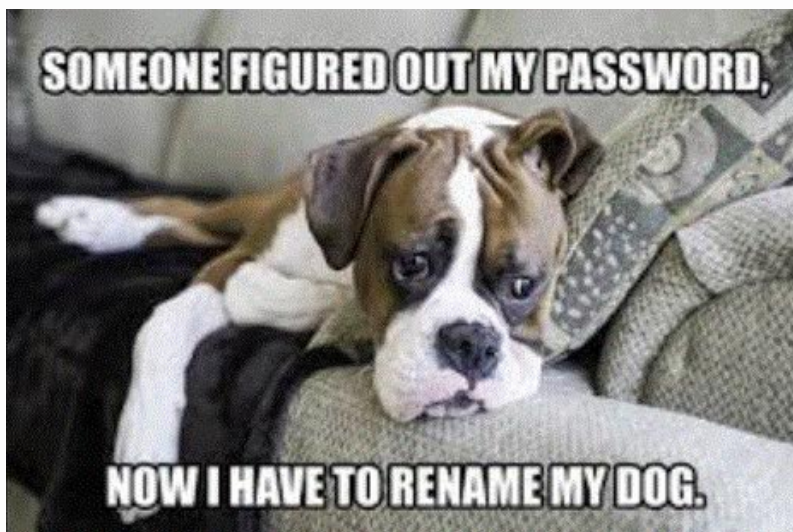Submission deadline: 5th May, 2021

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CS4CA World. The World's No.1 Virtual Cyber Security Conference returns this May!

Date of the event: 6th May, 2021

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

We need to talk more about cybersecurity education/cyber hygiene....

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