Computer Security EDA263/DIT641
mid-course meeting with student representatives
short notes

Time: 2018-02-19 (Thursday) at 1515
Place: Room at the CSE department

Participants (students):
Felix Rosén (GU), Ruslan Masinjila (MPALG), Erik Forsström (MPCSN), Seyed Reza Esmaeili (MPCSN)

Participants (teachers):
Magnus Almgren, Wissam Aoudi

Discussion
The discussionfollowed the template given by Chalmers. Below is a summary of some of the viewpoints brought forward by the student representatives, with possible comments from the teachers.

What is the impression of the course so far?
The answer was divided into three sections: lectures, labs and book.

Lectures
The lectures are very good, where some of the course representatives said this course / the lectures were one of the most interesting in the program. There is engagement from the teacher, and the course format is good. There is a good mix of the history on how things were, coupled with what happens right now.

The representatives also liked the interactions in the lecture, esp. the use of quizzes with Kahoot!. They also liked the use of the blackboard in conjunction with the slides. By using different techniques to present the material, the tempo of the lecture changes, it becomes more interesting, students become less sleepy, and it gives time to reflect about the content. The videos are also nice in that they give another perspective to the content (two ways of seeing the same problem).

Finally, the invited lectures this year has been very good. They give a different perspective, were well structured and informative, but also fun!

Labs
Overall the labs are very good. They are different in nature and there were learning moments for all labs. As one representative expressed it, it was quite rewarding to finish the labs. The feedback from the lab assistants are also good and in most cases constructive so one can finish the lab in a better way after getting feedback.

There seems to be a minor confusion about lab deadlines, despite the information being on pingpong. Solutions were to emphasize early that labs are done somewhat in parallel (it is expected to start with lab 3 early in the course). Solutions to next year involves: the new learning platform

(CANVAS has a built-in calendar), creating a google calendar that students can import, change order of labs (lab 3 becomes lab 2), repeat lab info at lecture in course week 2 and emphasizing that some labs are supposed to be done in parallel.

It would be nice to have more labs in the future, and some time was spent discussing options.

Book
Overall, good comments about the books from the ones that used it. It is well structured. The students also liked the offprints.

Does the student rep feel that the course give the right environment for the learning goals?
Yes, the environment is good.

Are the connections between the learning goals, teaching activities, and examination clear?
Yes, the course is structurally aligned. The student representatives like that real exam questions are sometimes discussed in conjunction to the lecture material.

Are the deadlines clear and reasonable?
Yes, the deadlines are clear but it can be even better (see discussion above).

Any special info from examiner to students?
No.

Any thing to consider for the rest of the course?
Please put dates in pingpong on "passed" lectures.

Should any special questions be part of the survey?
Student representatives will ask more students and email potential questions by the end of the week.

Summary
Overall, the course works well. It is quite popular among several programs and it has grown during the last few years. Changes to CANVAS and more labs would be very good. Recording of lectures could be nice but not essential given the types of lectures. Overall, the social environment is good. There is enough time during the labs to complete the labs and ask for help. Please keep Kahoot and the interactive elements to future versions of the course, as well as the invited lectures (if possible).