Project:

Secure Environment for Information Systems in Medicine

Partners:
- SCOLL (UK) (Coordinator)
- NHS Executive (UK)
- BAZIS Foundation (NL)
- University of the Aegean (GR)
- University of Thessaloniki (GR)
- University of Plymouth (UK)
- University College Dublin (IR)
- KYROS (GR)
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (B)
- The Royal London Hospital NHS Trust (UK)
- Leiden University Medical Center (NL)

Project identity:
Contract: AIM A2033
Acronym: SEISMED

Scientific Director (for UoA):
Prof. Sokratis KATSIKAS
Dept. of Mathematics
University of the Aegean
30 Voulgaroktonou St.,
Athens GR-114 72, Greece
Tel.: (+30-1-) 64.92.112, fax: 64.92.299
e-mail: ska@aegean.gr
www.icsd.aegean.gr/info-sec

Researchers:
Dimitris GRITZALIS
Kostas MAVROUDAKIS
Maria GEORGALA

Source of funding:
European Commission
AIM Programme

Duration:
Forty two (42) months
(December 1991 - June 1995)

Budget (funding):
Consortium: 400.000 EURO
UoA: 50.000 EURO

Project motivation, scope and objectives

Medical personal data are considered sensitive. They contain evidence for several diseases, some of which are incurable or very serious or genetic data. Moreover, there is a possibility to use these data for other purposes than they were collected for, including research and statistics, that demands clear technical and regulatory rules to be followed.

The individual should be sure that he could consult a health professional in confidence. Furthermore, as computers are used on an increasing scale within a healthcare environment, greater attention needs to be given to the security of those systems.

The main objectives of the project were to:
- Examine, across the EU, the legal issues of data protection and privacy within healthcare information systems and develop a relevant code of Ethics.
- Develop a High Level Security Policy (HLSP) to enable organizations using information systems to follow a consistent path.
- Perform risk analyses surveys at a number of health care centers, in order to identify the needs for improved security.
- Develop specific guidelines for enhancing security of existing systems, development of future systems and systems using computer networks.
- Develop an encryption prototype suitable for use in healthcare environments.

The major results of the project were made available in a three-volume set of books (SEISMED Consortium, Data Security for Health Care, IOS Press, 1996).

The motto of the UoA team, for this project, was:
“Appropriate security guidance protects privacy and saves human lives”