MSc Curriculum in Resilient Computing*

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http://www.resist-noe.org/
Why a curriculum on Resilient Computing

Resilience (for computing systems and information infrastructures): the persistence of service delivery that can justifiably be trusted, when facing changes (functional, environmental or technological)

Changes:

- **Foreseen**, e.g. new versioning
- **Foreseeable**, e.g. advent of new hardware platforms
- **Unforeseen**, e.g. drastic changes in service requests or new type of threats

- **Short term**, e.g. seconds to hours, as in dynamicity or mobility
- **Medium term**, e.g. hours to months, as in new versioning or reconfigurations
- **Long term**, e.g. months to years, as in reorganizations
Computing in the future

Table 1. Examples of Pervasive Computing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wearable Computers</th>
<th>Smart Classrooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wearable Keyboards</td>
<td>Enhanced Learning Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Homes</td>
<td>Telematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Badges</td>
<td>GPS-equipped Automobiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active RFID tags</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Four Grand Challenges:

1. Eliminate Epidemic Attacks by 2014
2. Enable Trusted Systems for Important Societal Applications
3. Develop Accurate Risk Analysis for Cybersecurity
4. Secure the Ubiquitous Computing Environments of the Future

Table 2. Two Alternate Futures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Given Current Trends</th>
<th>Trustworthy Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spam</td>
<td>Hassle-free systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity theft</td>
<td>User-controlled privacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network outages</td>
<td>Self-aware networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malware</td>
<td>Self-adjusting networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent manual intervention</td>
<td>Self-healing networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unchecked abuses of laws and rights</td>
<td>Balanced regulation and law enforcement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some examples of recent resilience problems

- “Over the past five years, high profile IT difficulties have affected the [UK’s] Child Support Agency, Passport Office, Criminal Records Bureau, Inland Revenue, National Air Traffic Services and the Department of Work and Pensions, among others”
- The French Insurer’s Association estimates the yearly cost of computer failures to be 2 B Euros, of which slightly more than half is due to malicious faults (e.g. by hackers and corrupt insiders)
  https://www.clusif.asso.fr/fr/production/sinistralite/index.asp
- “At 03.25hrs on Sunday 28 September 2003, the Italian power system experienced a power failure across all of Italy because of an inadequate SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) systems… The electricity supply to Rome was not restored until late afternoon and the remainder by late evening”
- “Nearly 10 million people in the US suffered from some kind of on-line fraud last year … the total cost was $1.2bn”
- “Law enforcement agencies in the United States and overseas recently disrupted an on-line organised crime ring that spanned eight U.S. states and six countries … 7 million credit card numbers had been stolen by the crime ring, costing consumers and credit card companies around $4.3 million”
- “Mobile devices such as PDAs and cell phones are the new frontier for viruses, spam and other security threats … 70 percent of all email traffic on the Internet is spam … The number of known viruses grew by 28,327 in 2004 (for a running total of 112,438 known viruses) an increase of 25 percent from 2003”
- “On 17 Mar 2005 the UK’s National Hi-Tech Crime Unit reported a (foiled) attempt to steal £220m from the London offices of the Japanese bank Sumitomo Mitsui, by criminals who attempted to transfer the money electronically after hacking into the bank’s systems”
  BBC News http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4356661.stm
What about software?

- In 1995, The Standish Group reported that the average US software project overran its budgeted time by 190%, its budgeted costs by 222%, and delivered only 60% of the planned functionality. Only 16% of projects were delivered at the estimated time and cost, and 31% of projects were cancelled before delivery, with larger companies performing much worse than smaller ones. Later Standish Group surveys show an improving trend, but success rates are still low.

- A UK survey, published in the 2001 Annual Review of the British Computer Society showed a similar picture. Of more than 500 development projects, only 3 (three!!!) met the survey’s criteria for success.

- In 2002, the annual cost of poor quality software to the US economy was estimated at $60B [NIST, 2002]
### Risks, novel problems and need for integration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Applications</th>
<th>Present or Potential Risks</th>
<th>Novel Problems</th>
<th>Need for Integration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Critical Utility Infrastructures               | Black-outs (e.g. Italy 29/09/2003)                              | - Escalating and Cascading failures  
- Human Interaction                                             | - New fault types  
- Interdependencies  
- Resilience for survivability  |
| E-commerce (e.g. online auctions – eBay)       | Frauds (several reported)                                      | - Trusted identity management of dynamic sellers/buyers                         | - Identity mgmt.  
- Security  
- Legal issues                                                     |
| Personal digital devices                       | Potential catastrophe on a large-scale basis (not yet reported) | - “Common mode” failures affecting a very large number of untrained users at the same time | - Human interface  
- Public awareness  
- Societal issues                                                    |
Complex systems need to be correct and resilient
- Pervasive and ubiquitous computing - always on-line
- Open dynamic heterogeneous interconnected system
- Sensitive personal information
- Untrained users - often risks unaware

- “Panic inducing” malicious faults
- “Huge multiplicity common mode” accidental faults

Catastrophic failure
Rationale

(Reasonably) known:
High dependability and security
for safety-critical or availability-critical systems

Avionics, railway
signalling, nuclear
control, etc.

Transaction
processing,
back-end servers, etc.

Continuous complexity growth
Large, networked, evolving, applications
running on open systems, fixed or mobile

Scalability of Dependability
Beyond rigorous functional design, provision of
Resilience for Survivability,
wrt accidental and malicious threats

Partners

Budapest U  
City U  
Darmstadt U  
DeepBlue  
Eurecom

France Telecom R&D  
IBM Zurich  
IRISA  
IRIT

LAAS-CNRS (Coord.)  
Lisbon U  
Newcastle U  
Pisa U  
QinetiQ

Roma-La Sapienza U  
Southampton U  
Ulm U  
Vytautas Magnus U
Curriculum rationale

To move from the usual application-driven MSc curricula (like MSc in embedded systems or web-based systems, etc.)

To identify a MSc curriculum where, in the first year, the focus is on advanced fundamental invariants (application independent) that can provide students with a solid updated theoretical knowledge for dealing with resilience

To specialize, in the second year, on applications of such knowledge on real projects in selected application tracks with strong connection with productive world

To remove the gap between what is known and what is used:

From Best Practices -> to Methodical Scientific Approach
Curriculum aims

➢ To equip students with the skills and knowledge required to develop and assess secure and dependable computer-based systems
➢ To provide a qualification enhancing employment prospects in resilient computing
➢ To develop research skills
➢ To develop and improve key skills in written and oral communication and in teamwork
➢ To develop and improve skills in using the literature and information technology resources relevant to resilient computing
➢ To encourage the development of creativity skills
➢ To develop skills in critical assessment, analysis and storage of information
➢ To provide a curriculum which meets the requirements of appropriate professional bodies, thus providing a basis for further professional development and lifelong learning
➢ To address the relevant professional, legal and ethical issues relevant to the development, assessment and maintenance of resilient systems
➢ To provide an international perspective on developments in computer resilience.
Curriculum organization

1st Year

- 1st semester: Basics and Fundamentals (30 ECTS)

Courses:

- Advanced Probability and Statistics (6 ECTS)
- Cryptology and Information Security (6 ECTS)
- Logic in Computer Science (6 ECTS)
- Advanced Graph Theory (3 ECTS)
- Human Factors, Human and Organizational Behavior (3 ECTS)
- Fundamentals of Real-Time Systems (3 ECTS)
- Fundamentals of Dependability (3 ECTS)

- 2nd semester: Methods, Techniques and Tools (30 ECTS)

Courses:

- Computer Networks Security (6 ECTS)
- Fault and Intrusion-Tolerant Distributed Systems and Algorithms (6 ECTS)
- Dependability Evaluation of Computer Systems (6 ECTS)
- Testing, Verification and Validation (6 ECTS)
- Usability and User Centered Design for Dependable and Usable Socio-technical Systems (6 ECTS)
1st semester scheduling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Probability and Statistics</th>
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</table>

2nd semester scheduling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Networks Security</th>
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<td>Fault and Intrusion-Tolerant Distributed Systems and Algorithms</td>
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<td>Dependability Evaluation of Computer Systems</td>
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<td>Usability and User Centered Design for Dependable and Usable Socio-technical Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Projects (in cooperation with industry on specific appl. fields)</strong> (30 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses (common to all application tracks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Management of Projects</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Fault Tolerant Middleware- based Systems</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Software Reliability Engineering</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application track: <strong>Telecom.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses (specific for this track):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Resilience of Protocols and Architecture</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Resilience of Mobile Applications</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application track: <strong>Safety critical Systems</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses (specific for this track):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Development Process and Standards for Safety critical Applications</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Architectural Issues and Examples of Systems</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application track: <strong>e-Business</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses (specific for this track):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Resilience of SOA and Web-based Applications</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Damage Tolerance in Large scale Systems</strong> (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common to all Application tracks:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Project in cooperation with Industry</strong> (9 ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Space for additional Courses</strong> (6 ECTS)</td>
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Curriculum Pre-requisites

- Discrete Mathematics
- Calculus
- Basic Computer and Network Architectures
- Programming and Data Structures
- Basics of Operating Systems
- Basics of Software Engineering
- Basics of Probability and Statistics
Contributions welcome!

- Review first year courses and their content
- Propose courses and application tracks for second year
- Identify existing support material for all courses

Means for contributing:
- Through the curriculum forum at ReSIST web portal
  http://www.resist-noe.org/
- Through a dedicated Consultation Panel at:
  http://resist.isti.cnr.it/home.php

Events of interest:
- Professoral Seminar, Newcastle, UK on Sept. 2-4, 2008 to inform on ReSIST findings and discuss with interested academics of the best way of disseminating this knowledge
- Dedicated WSs during 2008 on the MSc Curriculum on Resilient Computing

Persons interested to be informed:
Mail to me: Luca Simoncini <luca.simoncini@isti.cnr.it>