

To: ISW2001 organizer
Re: request for permission to attend ISW01

Dear ISW01 organizer,

Please consider my request for permission to attend ISW01. Here is some background information about myself. I have been working in the area of data security since the 1980's, and have chaired a number of conferences in the field. In the early 1980's I was employed as a research scientist specializing in the design and implementation of reliable communication systems. More recently I have expanded my research interest to network security. Compared with data security and reliable communication, there appears to be a lack of formalism in network security. I got the same feeling when I looked at other associated areas including survivability. This reminds of the early days of cryptographic research when most of the proposals/solutions tended to be ad hoc or based on intuition. By attending ISW01 I'm hoping to achieve a couple of modest goals:

- to better understand other researchers' views,
- to contribute to the discussions from my personal experience in reliable communications (in a noisy environment) and security (against malicious attacks), and
- to take home some interesting research topics.

Some of the (very high level) questions in my mind are:

1. Is there such a thing as a "survivable system/network" ? Or is it just that some may "live" longer than others in an adversarial environment?
2. Can we learn something from the nature in building a more survivable system?
3. Is it possible to quantify the major factors that have impact on the degree of survivability of a system ? If it is, how?

Thanks,

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