About the S^2ERC & NSF’s I/UCRC Program

In 1976, the National Science Foundation (NSF) established the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center program (I/UCRC) to encourage collaborative endeavors between academia and industry. The goal of the program was to establish self-sufficient research centers of excellence in areas of critical technology advancement. In 2010, Ball State University’s Software Engineering Research Center (SERC) and Iowa State University’s Center for Information Protection (CIP) joined forces to become a single, NSF-funded I/UCRC - the S^2ERC.

Our center has continuously operated since 1986, and is the only I/UCRC devoted to security and software engineering. Our center continues to grow as we add more participating universities and affiliates to our numbers. Just recently, Virginia Tech and Georgetown University were added as primary center sites, each bringing in new affiliates.

S^2ERC now has over 25 industry and government affiliates, and over 50 renowned researchers from 13 participating universities. With our impressive numbers and history of continuous growth, S^2ERC is a great investment for all organizations aiming to increase their presence in the security and/or software engineering industries.

Hello Prospective Affiliate!

I invite you to join the Security and Software Engineering Research Center (S^2ERC), a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC). Our mission is to deliver practical, applied research that you can readily implement in your organizations. Researchers of the S^2ERC strive to consistently generate projects that address affiliates’ vital needs, and every affiliate member votes on which research proposals are funded in the Center, thereby hand-picking the projects in which it invests. As a result, technology transfer is the hallmark of the S^2ERC – resulting in a research center that is proven, dedicated, cost-effective, and collaborative. Collaboration means that your money goes further, to the extent that some of our affiliates have documented 7:1 to 10:1 returns on their investment in the S^2ERC! On behalf of our university sites and current affiliates, I invite you to join a research center that can change the way you do business. I look forward to hearing from you!

- Dr. Wayne M. Zage, S^2ERC Director

Highlights & Benefits of Membership

- Research projects tailored to your interests & needs
- Significant returns on research investments
- Exploit innovations that may lead to new products
- Improve software quality and productivity of software engineers, designers, and architects
- Access to expertise in new security & software engineering technologies
- Use of unique laboratories and facilities
- Significantly lower overhead rate mandated by the NSF
- Networking opportunities with industry & government leaders
- Access to technical reports, on-site short courses and seminars
- Potential summer interns and future employees
- Visibility into a large range of research that may be of interest to companies now and into the future
S²ERC Affiliates

The S²ERC Affiliates...
- Guide the direction of S²ERC research projects
- Recommend topics for new projects
- Receive project updates, publication access, on-site seminars, site visits, and more from the S²ERC researchers and staff
- Interact with the brightest students from 13 universities
- Network with other like-minded researchers, companies and agencies

Our Two Types of Membership

Membership in the S²ERC is divided into two types, which are based upon the organization's annual monetary contribution.

Full Membership requires a minimum commitment of $40,000/year.

Associate Membership, designed for small companies, requires a minimum commitment of $5,000/year.

Semi-Annual Showcases

Twice each year, affiliates and researchers come together for a showcase hosted by one of our participating universities or member companies.

At the showcases...
- Researchers present new proposals and status/final reports on projects
- Affiliates meet to determine project funding
- Networking between affiliates and researchers occurs

Showcases are at the heart of the S²ERC. We value the time of our affiliates and researchers, so we put countless hours of effort into ensuring that showcases are productive, organized, and enjoyable!

Next Showcase

Join us at Ball State University May 25-26, 2016 to celebrate 30 years as an NSF I/UCRC! The May 2016 S²ERC Showcase begins with a networking reception held at the Charles W. Brown Planetarium located at Ball State University on the evening of May 24. Check our website for details and updates.
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