

JPCERT/CC Activities Overview Topics

October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022



JPCERT Coordination Center
January 19, 2023

Activity Overview Topics

—Topic1— JPCERT/CC Best Reporter Award 2022

Reporters who quickly find cyber security issues, such as incidents and vulnerabilities, and provide accurate information are important sources of information and collaborators for JPCERT/CC to engage in appropriate coordination to address cyber security issues.

With the increasing numbers of incidents and vulnerabilities, and issues becoming more complex and sophisticated, it has become ever more important to obtain the help of reporters and solve more issues rapidly.

In light of these circumstances, JPCERT/CC established the Best Reporter Awards last fiscal year as a way to communicate our appreciation for the support of reporters who provide valuable information on a daily basis, and to serve as an opportunity to share the activities of particularly outstanding reporters with the general public.

The Best Reporter Awards are presented once a year to those who made a remarkable contribution to the activities of JPCERT/CC through information sharing in the incident reporting and vulnerability reporting categories. Award winners receive a commemorative gift as a token of appreciation. The award recipients are selected based on the number and content of incident reports for the incident reporting category, and the number and content of vulnerability information reported to JPCERT/CC or JVN for the vulnerability reporting category.

The Best Reporter Award recipients for the second year were as follows.

Tomoomi Iwata, NEC Corporation (Incident reporting category)

Michael Heinzl (Vulnerability reporting category)

Mr. Tomoomi Iwata provided JPCERT/CC with many high-quality reports on website defacement incidents in Japan as part of his private activities. In communities hosted by JPCERT/CC, he shared information about trends in the methods used and how to conduct investigations, making significant contributions in terms of disseminating countermeasures as well.

Mr. Michael Heinzl discovered and reported vulnerabilities in many industrial control systems (ICS) and devices, including those manufactured by Japanese companies, as part of his private activities. Mr. Heinzl practices responsible disclosure in which he collaborates with product developers through JPCERT/CC, and in a number of cases, responding to his reports led to the establishment of PSIRTs and improvement of vulnerability handling procedures by Japanese product developers. These favorable examples have been used to raise awareness about PSIRT activities in the domestic ICS developer community hosted by JPCERT/CC.

Once again, we would like to thank the award recipients and the many other reporters who support our activities.

JPCERT/CC Best Reporter Award 2022 (Japanes)

<https://www.jpcert.or.jp/award/best-reporter-award/2022.html>

—Topic2— JPCERT/CC Resumes Active International Collaborative Activities with Border Reopening

Since around the end of FY2019, due to the spread of COVID-19 and subsequent travel restrictions imposed by countries around the world, many international conferences and events have been canceled and held only virtually. From around the middle of this fiscal year, travel restrictions have gradually been eased, and many international conferences are returning to their pre-COVID form. Japan's border control measures have been relaxed as well, and from this quarter, JPCERT/CC started to resume active exchanges with overseas, such as sending staff overseas to participate in international conferences, and welcoming CSIRT personnel visiting from overseas to hold meetings.

For example, we welcomed members of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the JPCERT/CC office in October to engage in the first face-to-face exchange of opinions after the pandemic. We were also visited by members of a number of overseas cybersecurity organizations, including the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), and engaged in discussions on the status of activities on both countries' cybersecurity efforts and future collaborations.

At the end of November, JPCERT/CC staff travelled to Ethiopia to participate in the Internet Governance Forum, one of the largest conferences on Internet governance, hosted by the United Nations. It was the first time in three years that we participated in the forum in person, and we spoke in a panel session. We were also able to exchange opinions with CSIRTs and cyber security experts in Ethiopia, and later, we went to Rwanda to visit local CSIRTs.

Many international conferences are starting to shift to a hybrid format of physical and virtual events, or return to the previous form of holding only on-site conferences. We already have fixed plans for trips abroad to participate in international conferences, and we are also making arrangements for visits from overseas. As we resume physical participation in conferences and visits among CSIRTs, we hope to see more active collaborations between organizations take place again. In 2023, we expect to make even more trips abroad and welcome more visitors from overseas. JPCERT/CC will continue to further enhance international collaborative activities.

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