

Guest editor's preface

“The eleventh IFIP database security conference was held on 7–9 August 1997 at Lake Tahoe, California. All the presentations are collected in the book “Database Security: Status and Prospect, Volume 11” and published in early 1998. However, due to space limitations, each paper was limited to 15 pages. By the invitation of the Editor-in-Chief, Professor S. Jajodia, of the *Journal of Computer Security*, this Guest editor invited authors to re-write their presentations in full length for journal articles. Through the referee process, 6 papers were selected. Purely based on space considerations, they are divided into two issues.” This is a quote from the first issue.

In the first issue, the following three papers were included: “Secure object deletion and garbage collection in multilevel object bases” by Elisa Bertino and Elena Ferrari, “Modelling, specifying and implementing workflow security in Cyberspace” by Ehud Gudes, Martin S. Olivier and Reind P. van de Riet, and “Role-based administration of user-role assignment: The URA97 model and its Oracle implementation” by Ravi Sandhu and Venkata Bhamidipati.

In this second issue, three papers are selected. In alphabetical order by first authors, the first paper “A semantic-based execution model for multilevel secure workflows” by Vijayalakshmi Atluri, Wei-Kuang Huang and Elisa Bertino provides an approach to executing multilevel secure workflows in a correct and secure manner by redesigning them based on the semantics of task dependencies. The second paper “A ticket-based access control architecture for object systems” by John Hale, Jody Threet and Sujeet Shenoj is a primitive ticket-based access control architecture that provides a common foundation for implementing (“programming”) authorization services in object systems; the goal is to achieve high assurance secure interoperability. The third paper is “Structured name-spaces in secure databases” by Adrian Spalko and Armin B. Cremers. The paper introduces structured name-spaces to databases and shows that it is a useful and sometimes necessary means for enforcing confidentiality in databases. Again, this editor would like to add that space limitation precludes several equally interesting papers presented in the conference from being included here.

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