Computer Security EDA263 (DIT641)
mid-course meeting with student representatives
short notes

Time: 2013-02-19 (Tuesday) at 1530
Place: Room 5128 at the CSE department

Participants (students):
Dina Zuko, Johan Sjöblom, Andreas Åkesson, Szabó Hunor, Enric Mayas

Participants (teachers):
Magnus Almgren, Erland Jonsson

Discussion
The discussion was divided into three parts, the lectures, the labs, and the book. Below is a summary of some of the viewpoints brought forward by the student representatives, with possible comments from the teachers.

Lectures
The lectures give a good overview and the material is seen as up to date. The use of current events is interesting. Some students find that the material in some lectures can be presented faster, while other students (with a different background) have found that the speed of the very same lecture is challenging. It is important to find a good balance so that a majority learns from the lectures. It was also discussed if a lecture could be recorded and viewed off line.

Labs
Overall, the students like the labs. They are quite different in nature and one learns something from each one of them. Booting into the lab environment has sometimes taken too much time.

Book
The book is seen as expensive, but the teachers see it as an important part of the course to give more depth than they can provide in the lectures. A possible solution is to have a few "reference copies" of the book in the library that cannot be checked out but only read in the library. As the second edition is new, it has been difficult to find used copies to buy but that will probably be easier next year. It would also be interesting if the book could be bought by the library as en e-book (but it does not seem to be available as such this year).

Other comments
Some students do not like the combination of an "open" web page for lectures and PingPong for the labs but would have preferred the use of a single system. We will take this into consideration for next year. Overall, the social environment is good. Students are friendly and helpful when asking for help. It feels "safe" to ask questions in the lecture. The possible need for some exercise sessions was also discussed.