

## Foreword

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Computer are going to be more and more mobile every passing days. Most users and customers do not even realise that their smartphones and PDAs are now true computing environments with powerful capabilities. More worrying, all of them are now widely communicating both with “classical” computer and with other mobile devices. And we are only at the dawn of a new era of mobility. But as usual technological convenience is spoiled by bad guys and malware writers. That is not surprising in itself. But mobility make things far harder to identify the existing risks and protect against them. That is why the editorial board has proposed to devote an issue to the viral and antiviral aspects related to mobility. Our intended hope is to initiate and promote research in this field.

This foreword gives me the opportunity to thank all the reviewers for their great work of reviewing. Eleven papers have been submitted and four papers have been accepted for publication in this Special Issue on Mobile Malware and Anti-Malware Technologies. Each paper has been reviewed by at least two referees who all have been chosen in the academic world as for any other paper accepted for publication in our journal.

The papers presented in this special issue neatly illustrate the diversity of perspectives and approaches being explored at both theoretical and practical levels. Taken as a whole the papers also clearly reveal the on-going challenges arising from convergence and clash amongst these different streams of research and development. More promisingly however, they also illustrate

the benefits of bringing research from these different domains together enables the commencement of the difficult task of moving towards the generation of more coherent integrated responses to the challenges faced.

But many open problems still remain as far as mobility security is concerned and this special issue is only the very first stone of a building whose size is impossible to evaluate. This foreword gives me the opportunity to mention two of these open problems which are particularly essential:

- there is a strong need for mathematical models of what mobility really is. These models will greatly help to identify many different kinds of risks related to mobility. Up to now only a few attempts are known to describe ad-hoc networks, as an example. The very inherent essence of mobility has no theoretical description yet;
- analysis of malware propagation in mobile networks and systems is another key topic which is worth considering.

My hope is that many students will consider with interest such topics, especially on their theoretical aspects. I would like to thank all the authors who have submitted to this special issue. All of them have contributed to make computer virology progress, be their paper accepted or not.

Eric Filiol, Editor in Chief

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