Review report of a final thesis

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Thesis title: Design of Commercial Bug Bounty Program
Branch / specialization: Computer Security
Created on: 30 May 2021

Evaluation criteria

1. Fulfillment of the assignment

[1] assignment fulfilled
[2] assignment fulfilled with minor objections
[3] assignment fulfilled with major objections
[4] assignment not fulfilled

The nature of the thesis is more theoretical and comparative, however, all of the aspects of the assignment were fulfilled.

2. Main written part  95/100 (A)

As required per the assignment, student starts his thesis with background of the bug bounty programs, further, all the available bug bounty platforms are explored and compared in detail, and all the findings are clearly summarised, including the disadvantages and missing features - these are drivers for proposal of a high-level design of a bug bounty platform in final chapter. Overall, the thesis is well understandable and readable, and introduces the reader to the bug bounty problematics.

3. Non-written part, attachments  70/100 (C)

Non-written attachments are basically not included. It would be nice, if the source files for the design from the chapter 4 were included, in the format such as UML.

4. Evaluation of results, publication outputs and awards  85/100 (B)

The proposed design presented in chapter 4 can be used as a solid starting point for designing and building the bug bounty platform. However, as mentioned in previous point, the results would be easier to process and further used and extended, if they were more formalised and presented in format such as UML.
The overall evaluation

85 /100 (B)

Based on the above mentioned, I do recommend the thesis for defence and propose grade B.

Questions for the defense

Where do you see major deficiencies of the existing bug bounty platforms?
What is the main advantage and differentiator of the solution proposed in chapter 4?
Instructions

Fulfillment of the assignment

Assess whether the submitted FT defines the objectives sufficiently and in line with the assignment; whether the objectives are formulated correctly and fulfilled sufficiently. In the comment, specify the points of the assignment that have not been met, assess the severity, impact, and, if appropriate, also the cause of the deficiencies. If the assignment differs substantially from the standards for the FT or if the student has developed the FT beyond the assignment, describe the way it got reflected on the quality of the assignment’s fulfillment and the way it affected your final evaluation.

Main written part

Evaluate whether the extent of the FT is adequate to its content and scope: are all the parts of the FT contentful and necessary? Next, consider whether the submitted FT is actually correct – are there factual errors or inaccuracies?

Evaluate the logical structure of the FT, the thematic flow between chapters and whether the text is comprehensible to the reader. Assess whether the formal notations in the FT are used correctly. Assess the typographic and language aspects of the FT, follow the Dean's Directive No. 26/2017, Art. 3.

Evaluate whether the relevant sources are properly used, quoted and cited. Verify that all quotes are properly distinguished from the results achieved in the FT, thus, that the citation ethics has not been violated and that the citations are complete and in accordance with citation practices and standards. Finally, evaluate whether the software and other copyrighted works have been used in accordance with their license terms.

Non-written part, attachments

Depending on the nature of the FT, comment on the non-written part of the thesis. For example: SW work – the overall quality of the program. Is the technology used (from the development to deployment) suitable and adequate? HW – functional sample. Evaluate the technology and tools used. Research and experimental work – repeatability of the experiment.

Evaluation of results, publication outputs and awards

Depending on the nature of the thesis, estimate whether the thesis results could be deployed in practice; alternatively, evaluate whether the results of the FT extend the already published/known results or whether they bring in completely new findings.

The overall evaluation

Summarize which of the aspects of the FT affected your grading process the most. The overall grade does not need to be an arithmetic mean (or other value) calculated from the evaluation in the previous criteria. Generally, a well-fulfilled assignment is assessed by grade A.