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18th SSF Security Talk

Generative AI: A Powerful Productivity Tool or a Fundamental Security Risk?

Monday, 26 August 2024 | Hotel Bellevue Palace, Bern

Keynote speeches

Katharina Fulterer
Partner at Eraneos
Switzerland

Stefan Preuss
Head of the
Emerging
Technologies Audit
Department at die
Mobiliar

**Dr. Thomas
Rothacher**
Director Science
and Technology at
armasuisse

Panel discussion | Moderation: Fredy Müller, Managing Director SSF

Jennifer Scurrell
PhD Candidate at the
Center for Security
Studies at ETH Zurich

Patrick Fontana
Digital & App
Innovation Specialist
at Microsoft

Dr. Peter Friedli
Partner at Eraneos
Switzerland

**Dr. Thomas
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Director Science and
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SWISS SECURITY FORUM (SSF)

Welcome to the 18th SSF Security Talk!

"Generative AI: A Powerful Productivity Tool or a Fundamental Security Risk?"

Dear members, interested parties and guests,

From numerous news articles and posts in your social media feed to brand-new applications that are gradually being integrated into your favourite software: Generative artificial intelligence is virtually omnipresent by now.

In November 2022, the company OpenAI attracted widespread attention with the release of ChatGTP 3. This application enabled many people to interact directly with a form of generative artificial intelligence for the first time. It differs from traditional artificial intelligence insofar as it generates new, unique outputs based on huge amounts of data on which it has been trained. While traditional AI focuses on making decisions based on input data, generative AI actually generates a new "product".

In the meantime, generative AI has undergone commercialization and is becoming available to a growing number of users. As a result, more and more people are beginning to make use of this tool without understanding how the underlying technology works. The proven benefits and efficiency gains that can be realized with generative AI make its use tempting. At the same time, widespread use opens the door to new potential dangers. This raises some very pressing questions:
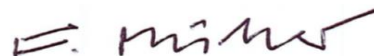
- In what sectors is generative artificial intelligence already being used? In what areas is it likely to be implemented in the near future, and what changes can be expected as a result?

- How can the benefits of this technology be maximized while simultaneously reducing the potential risks? For example, how can it be guaranteed that generative artificial intelligence meets certain ethical standards and is not used to generate incorrect or malicious results?

- As generative AI is now able to create realistic-looking images, video and audio clips, the potential for disinformation and fraud is growing. How prepared is our society and institutions for these developments? What role could such technologies come to play in modern hybrid warfare?

These important questions are at the centre of the 18th FSS Security Talk, to which we warmly welcome you.

With kind regards

Hans-Jürg Käser
President
SWISS SECURITY FORUM (SSF)

Fredy Müller
Managing Director
SWISS SECURITY FORUM (SSF)

Programme

17:30	Arrival of the guests	
18:00	Welcome	
	Generative AI: opportunities, challenges and possible applications	Katharina Fulterer, Partner Data & AI, Eraneos Switzerland AG
	How can we trust artificial intelligence?	Stefan Preuss, Head of the Emerging Technologies Audit Department, die Mobiliar
	Technological transformation and its impact on security	Dr. Thomas Rothacher, Director Science and Technology, armasuisse
19:00	Panel discussion and Q&A session	
	Panel guests:	Jennifer Scurrell, PhD Candidate at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zürich
		Patrick Fontana, Digital & App Innovation Specialist, Microsoft
		Dr. Peter Friedli, Partner Public Security, Eraneos Switzerland AG
		Dr. Thomas Rothacher, Director Science and Technology, armasuisse
		Stefan Preuss, Head of the Emerging Technologies Audit Department, die Mobiliar
	Key takeaways:	Lisa Kondratieva, Head of AI, ti&m
	Moderation:	Fredy Müller, Managing Director SSF
20:00	Aperitif	

We thank our event partners and annual partnerships!

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Short biography of the speakers | panelists

Katharina Fulterer has been Partner Data & AI at Eraneos since 2022. She has been working as a management consultant for technology, digitalization and artificial intelligence for 15 years. In 2017, she co-founded Boydak Automation AG, a company specializing in automation and artificial intelligence. She also worked for 4 years in the non-profit sector in East Africa. Katharina Fulterer holds a double Master's degree in International Affairs from the University of St. Gallen and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris.

Stefan Preuss specializes in the risk assessment of emerging technologies in the corporate context and has over 25 years of experience in assessing the impact and risks of new IT technologies in companies. As Head of Emerging Technologies Audit at die Mobiliar, he stands out for his in-depth expertise in the assessment of AI use cases. He previously worked at PwC, Swisscom and AWK/Eraneos. Since 2019, Stefan Preuss has been focusing intensively on the implications of AI for companies.

Dr. Thomas Rothacher has been Head of Science and Technology (S+T) at the Federal Armaments Office armasuisse since 2013. He has also been Deputy Head of Armaments since 2020. He has been with armasuisse since 2001. As Head of S+T, he deals with a wide range of technologies such as sensor technology, cyber defense and artificial intelligence. Dr. Thomas Rothacher studied physics at the University of Bern. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the subject of "Laser Demining".

Jennifer Victoria Scurrell is a PhD student at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich, and a Red Teamer in the field of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for an AI technology company. She conducts research on human-AI interaction and in her doctoral thesis she analyzes the use of artificial intelligence in information operations with a focus on attempts to influence political opinion forming processes in social networks. Jennifer Victoria Scurrell holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Modern History, and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Zurich.

Patrick Fontana has been a Digital & App Innovation Specialist at Microsoft Switzerland since 2021. He has more than 20 years of experience in the areas of systems engineering, consulting and solution design for Microsoft infrastructure, workplace and cloud solutions. His focus has always been on enabling a modern, flexible working environment for his customers. Patrick Fontana also works on defense & sovereignty cloud solutions.

Dr. Peter Friedli is a partner at Eraneos and has been Head of Public Security since 2018. In this role, he is responsible for mandates and client development in the field of public security. He has extensive management experience in defense projects. Dr. Friedli holds a doctorate in physics from ETH Zurich and a master's degree in electrical engineering and information technology. He also serves in the Swiss Army as an intelligence officer with the rank of captain in the cyber sector.

Lisa Kondratieva holds a Master's degree in Communication Systems from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Leadership Development Program from the University of St. Gallen. She joined ti&m in 2018, where she currently works as Head AI & Digital Solutions. She is responsible for promoting the topic of AI and implementing machine learning and LLM projects for clients. As a strategy consultant, requirements engineer and project manager, she has been working in the field of IT for more than 10 years and has successfully implemented numerous projects in industries such as banking/finance, transportation and consumer goods.