



Review panel 2021

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Lin Padgham (chaired the process)

This conference applied to be upgraded from A to A*.

Due to the large number of Conflict of Interest in the relevant area committee, it was referred to the Chairs meeting. All committee members provided their opinion and justification to the Chairs. These were considered along with the revised submission and the corrected PC profile and WPP reports. The PC profile (using partial PC) in the submission showed a median PC h-index of 30, mentioned by several in the committee. However using the full PC this is 21. 55 of 88 PC members are established researchers as opposed to the 35 of 37 shown in the original profile. A revised WPP for the established researchers was also provided which showed 35 of the 55 established researchers on the PC were actively engaged with the conference.

A revised WPP for top people in the area was also provided, using the 30 names in the submission whose details were provided, rather than including the additional 39 whose details were not provided. This showed 4 of these top 30 people publishing in ESORICS, putting it in 17th position. All the other A* security conferences, except EUROCRYPT, as well as several A conferences were more popular with this group of leading researchers.

The independent opinion of all Chairs was that this conference should remain at rank A, as there is clearly a substantial gap between it and the A* conferences in the area. Evidence noted was that although h5 of 34 is in the top 20 security conferences, it is well below the 52-88 h5 of the other A* conferences. The 4 A* security conferences (excluding cryptography specialisation) are in the top 4 positions and are the most frequented venues of leading researchers in the area. The PC, though good, was not nearly as strong as the submission showed. They were also not publishing as widely as might be expected in the A* venues in the area. There was not convincing evidence that the leading people in the area had a strong engagement in the venue. The venue will stay at rank A.