

ITEA Success Story

ADAX

From technical leadership to business excellence in cybersecurity

The ADAX project started in early 2013, aiming at developing advanced capabilities for cyber-Attack Detection And Countermeasures Simulation. The consortium was comprised of 8 partners from France and Turkey including 2 large enterprise, 4 SMEs, 2 academics. Airbus DS Cybersecurity (Cassidian CyberSecurity SAS) acted as Project Coordinator while Yapi Kredi Bank acted as pilot end user. The project duration was 30 months for a total effort of 86 person-years.

A key success factor for this project has been the continuous assessment of the innovativeness of our developments versus the state of the art. Cybersecurity being a very fast evolving discipline, we had to keep an eye on both the

evolution of threats and the market solutions landscape to make sure the technology outputs from ADAX would make the difference. For example, we started the project with a set of developments targeting improved detection of DDoS attacks (Distributed Denial of Service) because at this stage, the banking sector was still under shock of the large DDoS on global payment system, which occurred in 2010. This massive attack carried out by the “Anonymous hacktivists group” had caused major disruptions of services to powerful transaction and banking champions like VISA, MASTERCARD or PAYPAL. So we reassessed the market and found out that there was a lack of available solutions for

incident response to emerging APTs (Advanced Persistent Threat). An APT named “Pitty Tiger” was discovered by Airbus DS Cybersecurity on the IT network of a monitored customer, using a spear phishing e-mail, a corrupted word document and several RATs (Remote Access Tools) in order to disclose company-confidential information. Consequently, we focused our second batch of experiments on response to APT threats. This continuous adaptation to changing conditions of the attacker-defender game helped us stay nearest to the end-user needs and capture key customer contracts throughout the project execution thanks to a fast integration of ADAX developments into the portfolio.

