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●DARPA、コンピュータ同士のハッキング・コンテスト開催

【Wall Street Journal Blog, 2014/06/02】

国防総省国防高等研究事業局（DARPA）は、コンピュータ同士にハッキング対決させる総額 200 万ドルのコンテストを実施している。

サイバーセキュリティの世界では、システムを攻撃するより防衛する方が遥かに費用がかかるとというのが常識であり、これがサイバーセキュリティを確保する上で最大の難関の 1 つとなっている。

今回のコンテストもこの問題の解決策を探るためのもので、自らセキュリティホールを見つけ、修復できるコンピュータの開発を支援することが目的。コンテスト参加者は単純なソフトウェアで稼働するコンピュータを用いて、お互いに侵入を試み、他のコンピュータに侵入、または他からの攻撃を凌ぎ切った場合にポイントを獲得する。

この対決の最終戦は 2016 年のデフコンで開催される予定で、優勝者には 200 万ドル、2 位には 100 万ドル、3 位には 75 万ドルの賞金が与えられる。

（参考）本件報道記事

Military Launches Computer v. Computer Hacking Contest

If the Defense Department has its way, supercomputers in the future will be able to find and patch (or exploit) computer flaws on their own.

The military's research wing, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is running a \$2 million hacking contest in which the hackers are other computers. The division, known as DARPA, is famous for similar contests in which Star Wars-esque robots compete in an obstacle course.

The effort seeks to solve one of the biggest problems in cybersecurity: It's a lot cheaper to be a hacker than a defender. That's because companies have to spend heavily on researchers and new technologies to find software holes, patch them and buy systems to alert firms when hackers get in anyway.

As Mandiant's Richard Bejtlich has said, give him \$1 million, and he could create a team that could hack any computer system online. But for \$1 million, he'd have a hard time defending against most cyberthreats.

Mike Walker, DARPA's program manager, hopes to help create machines that make protection cheaper by finding and fixing their own security holes. "If you

look at the imbalance of power between attack and defense, it's a problem of economics," Walker, a longtime security researcher, says.

In Walker's competition, computers running on simplified software will score points either by hacking into each other or by fending off attacks from other machines. It mimics the capture the flag contests hacking conventions often hold.

Of course, one could also imagine a few organizations that could benefit from a supercomputer that crawls computer networks for security holes that could provide a backdoor.

And even the most basic self-hacking machines are a ways off.

The finals will be held in 2016 at the site of Def Con, a major hacking conference that last year asked federal employees not to come following leaks from Edward Snowden. The winner gets \$2 million, second place gets \$1 million and third place receives \$750,000.

Source:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/06/02/military-launches-computer-v-computer-hacking-contest/>

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