

Newsletter

AVAR 2011 Conference Preview

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AVAR 2011 Conference in Hong Kong

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This is a special AVAR 2011 Conference preview edition of our newsletter. The Association of Anti-Virus Asia Researchers (AVAR) has had an [annual conference since 1998](#), when the first meeting was held in the Century Hotel, Hong Kong. This year, the conference returns to Hong Kong for the third time.

This year, the [14th conference](#) will be held on 9-11 November 2011 at the Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour View Hotel. The official organiser is West Coast Labs, part of the Haymarket Media Group, and Yui Kee's Chief Consultant is the Conference Chair.

Mr. Dyer said, "We have had many interesting responses to the Call for Papers, and the programme is looking very good. I look forward to welcoming everyone to the conference, and to Hong Kong."

For visitors, the conference hotel is situated on Hong Kong Island, in the heart of the city, with views of Victoria Harbour. It is close to both [Golden Bauhinia Square](#) and the [nightlife of Wan Chai](#). There are plenty of alternative hotels nearby. The fastest route from the airport is probably the [Airport Express](#) train, with most hotels having a shuttlebus service from the terminus in Central. Hong Kong has excellent public transport, and there is a choice of buses, trams, underground railway (MTR) and ferries around the conference hotel.

Both visitors and locals will be able to meet and learn from anti-virus and malware experts and professionals from around the world. The rest of this preview edition takes a closer look at the programme. The [official conference website](#) has registration information and updated details.

More Information

[Proceeding of the First AVAR Meeting September 4, 1998 Hong Kong](#)

[Welcome to AVAR 2011 in Hong Kong](#)

[Golden Bauhinia Square](#)

[Wan Chai Nightlife](#)

[Airport Express](#)

AVAR 2011 Programme Preview

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The safest thing to say about the presentations is that they are all about malware, beyond that, it is difficult to group them. The two most common themes are e-Commerce and regional or country influences, but the approaches are diverse. Cao Yang and Jeff Li both look at the dangers of online payments, but Cao Yang considers mobile payments, and Jeff Li looks at popular Chinese services Taobao and Alipay. Conversely, Jeffrey Ma proposes an in-depth defensive framework and Marco Dela Vega looks at the rise of Mac rogue anti-virus software.

Kazumasa Itabashi will present his case study of targeted attacks abusing regional software, and Young Jun Chang looks more specifically at attacks using Korean cultural characteristics.

There is more on mobile platforms, V Dhanalakshmi will present a detailed account of the Android threat landscape, and Tony Lee will examine phishing and data theft on mobile platforms, and its various attack vectors and impact to the users.

For reverse engineering, Jim Wang will explain the difficulties in analysing Easy Programming Language (EPL) code and KM Darsham will present some techniques for products which use COM and API technologies. Also in analysis, Igor Muttik will demonstrate the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) shell and NSH scripting offered by it and discuss the implications and look at the arsenal of EFI tools available.

Presentations looking at particular malware techniques include Lukas Hasik's examination of image poisoning, Xue Yang's dissection of exploit kits and Zheng Zhang's detection of anti-analysis techniques in packers.

Matt Garrad will consider how best to implement a more rounded measure of Anti-Malware product testing than just traditional detection rate evaluations, extending the metrics to include hardware impact performance statistics.

Many of the presenters will be backing up their assertions with demonstrations, hard data and statistics from their organisations, so the conference will provide some solid insights into the state of play in the malware arena.

For a lively debate, there will be a panel session on "Freedom vs. Security". Overall there will be a broad cross-section of the continuously developing threat of malware and how to defend against it.

Of course, the programme might change as the conference approaches, but the updated information will be at [the official website](#).

More Information

[AVAR 2011 Conference Program](#)

AVAR Hospitality Programme

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The hospitality programme for the conference will provide a small taste of Hong Kong and China.

The Gala Dinner on the Thursday evening is a Chinese banquet at the world-famous Jumbo Kingdom floating restaurant in Aberdeen Harbour. Established in 1976, it is decorated like an extravagant ancient Chinese imperial palace. Alighting from a boat, visitors pass through a grand portal guarded by golden dragons and climb the stairs to an enormous mosaic of the Emperor's procession. The Jumbo Kingdom has featured in innumerable films and documentaries

After the close of the conference, stay for a little relaxation. On the Saturday, there is an island tour and lunch. Cruise through Victoria Harbour, around the west end of Hong Kong island to Lamma Island to enjoy a seafood lunch at Sok Kwu Wan. Lamma is the third largest island in Hong Kong, and it is particularly well-known for its seafood restaurants. It is sparsely populated for Hong Kong, and has archaeological remains from the Neolithic and Bronze ages, and one remote beach is an important breeding site for sea turtles.

The final event in the hospitality programme is Sunday Brunch at the Café Renaissance at the Harbour View Hotel.



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