Risk-based Security Technical Debt Reduction: When everything's important, nothing gets done.
Prof. Laurie Williams
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Date: Dec 11th, 2020
Time: 14:00 – 15:00
Teams Link: Join Seminar (We'd appreciate if you could optionally register to join our mailing list)

Abstract:
While engineers are increasingly aware of security requirements, in many organizations security remains the responsibility of "those security people" and is not tightly integrated into the development cycle. Productivity and feature goals can result in engineers focusing on deployment rather than on fixing non-critical security issues or on building security into a product, resulting in an increase of security technical debt. Attackers eagerly exploit the vulnerabilities lying in the security technical debt pile. Organizations can benefit from risk-based practices for shrinking this debt. This talk will present two research projects in which risk is being used to prioritize security mitigations. The first project is focused on reducing secrets and credentials that have been checked into a code base. The second project relates to the prioritization of patching the continuous onslaught of vulnerable components and libraries that comprise a product.

Bio:
Laurie Williams is a Distinguished Professor in the Computer Science Department of the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU). Laurie is a co-director of the NCSU Science of Security Lablet sponsored by the National Security Agency, the NCSU Secure Computing Institute, and is the Principal Cybersecurity Technologist of the SecureAmerica Institute. Laurie's research focuses on software security; agile software development practices and processes, particularly continuous deployment; and software reliability, software testing and analysis. In 2018, Laurie was named an IEEE Fellow for contributions to reliable and secure software engineering.

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