Entity Configuration for Designing a Port Security Information System: Proposed Extensions of the Vocational Education and Training Curriculum

Apostolos Kaltzas, Sofia Gompou, and Dimitrios Kotsifakos

Abstract—Port security is one of the most important fields of Vocational Education and Training (VET) maritime studies. In this article, we propose the configuration of entities that are used to design a port security information system for VET education. Our work integrates recent maritime Information Technology (IT) concepts into VET. We record the initial design for building educational software for a school-level security information system that can be used as an extension project for the existing maritime curriculum of VET. This plan, if implemented and completed, will strengthen and expand the boundaries of school knowledge and curriculum. This article describes the design part of the whole project.

Index Terms—Vocational Education and Training, Maritime Studies, Modeling, Information System.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the recent reforms in Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Greece, the students have the right to choose directions from the Maritime Specialties (http://www.iep.edu.gr/el/naftiliakon-epaggelmaton). They can do this choice in the second grade of the daily Vocational Lyceum (EPAL). In the second-grade students attend 23 hours of Laboratory Training and 12 hours of General Education courses per week. In the 3rd grade of EPAL, after choosing one of the two specialties provided by the VET direction, also they can attend 23 hours of specific lessons. According to the Gov. 1489 / t. B / 26-5-2016, from the school year 2017-2018 up to today (2020), in the Sector of Maritime Occupations in the 3rd Class of the Daily and Evening EPAL, the following specializations are planned:

• "Merchant Marine Commander",
• "Merchant Marine Engineer".

Students who serve on a boat are considered as "individual pupils" with an obligation to take oral and written exams at the end of the school year. Upon graduation, students receive a master’s or engineering degree that allows them, if under 27, to participate in the national exams for admission to the Merchant Navy Academies (AENs). "Merchant Marine Commander" and "Merchant Marine Engineer" are taught Navigation, Stability of a ship, Loading, Emergency, Bridge Guard and Naval Communications. One of the most important fields of study of the specialties concerns the safety of ships and ports. Ports are the most important part of maritime transport, with safety of shipping and passengers playing a very important role, as we are seeing an increasing number of terrorism incidents and other emergencies.

More attention should be paid to issues relating to improving the safety of passengers and installations, as the Greek legislation lacks relevant laws and guidelines. The strategic position of the Greek ports, coupled with the increasing volume of freight and passenger traffic, increases the need for intelligent and specialized safety solutions. An adequate level of protection and resilience against natural or electronic threats, or even combined threats to ports, should be ensured and the detrimental effects on society and citizens of any attack should be limited. It is important that the competent authorities also consider the sense of passenger safety. A modern information security system for vocational education should include access control for incoming vehicles and users, electronic patrols, surveillance of port facilities and surrounding operating sites, as well as electronic control of passengers following the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS). Furthermore, technology in general and Information Technologies (IT) are essential for maritime, as the communication of ships with ports will be safe, without fear of hackers monitoring. Port operators should in all cases implement an appropriate security plan that is consistent with the relevant financial and operational data and with the security standards of the ISPS.

Based on these guidelines, we propose a completely new classification of entities for the design of an information system security modeling based on the latest directions of IT, as well as the curriculum data and the institutional framework for maritime studies in VET. With term “entity configurations in maritime specialties” we mean the distinct and independent configuration that can be a source of a maritime threat and may be included in a risk assessment framework. Modeling of the planned information system concerns all explicit or unambiguous marine factors. The main motivation of our idea is that the project of design, modeling and implementation of a school-level security information system (educational software) strengthens and expands the boundaries of school knowledge, especially as this curriculum pursues.
The overall project includes:

- Phase 1: needs planning (based on the books and the curriculum of the Maritime Specialties of EPAL)
- Phase 2: implementation of all or part
- Phase 3: teaching and applying in the classrooms
- Phase 4: evaluation - feedback - redesign.

The article describes the part of Phase 1 and is written in the following order: in Section II we introduce the conceptual clarification for the Information Security System for Maritime Studies off Vocational Education. In Section III we focus in the safety systems used in port and the threats to port security planning needs for organizing a new information system. In Section IV we present the entity configuration for designing a port security information system used in ports and the International Code on Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS code) for the safety of ships and port facilities. In Section V we present the port fire station operating regulations and suggestions for advancing port security with computer science. In Section VI we present the conclusions, the basic idea of the article, and our suggestions for advancing port security with computer science.

II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION FOR AN INFORMATION SECURITY SYSTEM FOR MARITIME STUDIES OFF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Reference [6] shows that shipping is a key pillar of the growth of the Greek economy. This success is largely due to the manpower it employs, both in command staff (Masters - Engineers) and in other seafarers. Sipping is a field that requires responsibility, leadership, mechanical skills, knowledge of foreign languages, especially the English language, good physical strength and endurance, and love and familiarity with the sea. Merchant Marine Commander and Merchant Marine Engineer must be the “masters” of the ship and, at the same time, the ship's representative on board, to be the principal responsible for the safety of the ship, the crew, the cargo, and the passengers, to map the course of the ship, to direct and organize the work of all crew. The Merchant Marine Commander or the Merchant Marine Engineer need to work with the Engineer and the shipping company.

The graduate of the Merchant Marine Engineer track of VET may be responsible for the maintenance, proper operation of the ship's engines and for the calculation of fuel and supplies, works mainly at the engine room and is responsible for the maintenance work, the proper operation of the engines, and the supply of fuel, water, lubricants and spare parts of the ship. Moreover, he needs to work closely with the Captain and the shipping company. Another crucial area concerns criminal and terrorist actions. Ports can be a target of criminal and terrorist actions. The increasing load of freight and passenger transport the last years demand more strict security measures, which, however, must allow the uninterrupted function of the port activity and provided customer services. The ones responsible for the ports must always apply a suitable security plan, adjusted to the financial and operational data and simultaneously compliant to the security standard of the ISPS code (International Ship & Port Facility Security Code) as described by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations (http://www.imo.org/en/About/Pages/Default.aspx).

Complying with the ISPS code requires investment in physical security measures for the protection of large areas with an extensive perimeter, which, however, should not affect the passengers’ traveling experience. Maritime security refers to a dual meaning, where except from the illegal actions (security), there is also the secure conduction of labor at the port (safety). Some important security systems, which are used for the avoidance of illegal actions in European ports is the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships System (LRIT), European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR), Vessel Traffic Monitoring & Information Systems (VTMIS), and Systems specialized in the Design, Development, Production and Integration of Command and Control (C2) and Force Protection Systems (System C4i).

The contribution of the Fire Brigade is also important in port security because is responsible and has the operational design of suppressing all fires. The contribution of the Fire Brigade is also important for the rescue of people and tangible goods from the ports and the Port Police. The mission of Fire Brigade includes the assurance of

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compliance and monitoring the application of the naval security rules. Computer Science is also a major factor in maritime security. Applying external measures on both ports’ and ships’ security systems (e.g. firewalls) can prevent many potential cyber-attacks, which may lead to endangering both passengers and crew, and be the source of an attack with an impact in the maritime ecosystem.

The Conceptual Clarification for the entities of an Information Security System for VET (Fig. 1) results from the following legislation:

- **Port:** On Article 1 of Law 2971/2001 (Government Gazette A’ 285) is stated that “A port is a land and sea area together with works and equipment, which mainly allows for the reception of all types of waterways and recreational craft, the loading and unloading, storage, reception and promotion of their cargo, the servicing of passengers and vehicles and the development of business activities, directly or indirectly related to maritime transport”. Based on Article 18 of Law 2971/2001, “port zone” means the land and sea area, continuous or interrupted, in which the competent port administration and demersal operator can carry out the projects required to serve commercial, passenger, maritime, tourism and fishing traffic and, more generally, the good functioning of the port. It is divided into land and sea. Article 19 stipulates that “the land-harbor zone shall consist of the seabed and the continuously needed coastal areas for the execution of works. Under Article 20 “the seaport zone shall include the port basins and the sea area up to five hundred meters from the coast of the land area”. In addition, in accordance with Article 2 (12) of Law 3622/20071 (Government Gazette A’ 281) a port shall be defined as “the designated area of land and water in which one or more port facilities, other than military installations, are located, the limits of which are determined in accordance with Article 10 of this Regulation. and do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of the port zone within the meaning of Law 2971/2001”.

- **Port Facility:** It is the designated public or private area comprising anchorages, pilots and approach zones from the sea and where the ship/port interconnection is made. The boundaries of the port facility shall be established or amended by a decision of the Head of the Port Authority’s local authority after a proposal by the Administration and Mining Authority of each port operator has been preceded by a proposal from the Port Authority. Accordingly, the limits of each port are established or amended by a decision of the competent Security Authority of each port liable (Government Gazette A’ 281).

- **Ship/Port Interface:** Interactions that develop when activities such as the boarding or disembarkation of persons, the loading or unloading of goods or the provision of port services to or from the ship take place directly or indirectly on a ship.

- **Port Authority:** The locally competent Central Harbor Archives, Port Archives, and Marine Archives.

- **Advisory Committee on Maritime Safety (A.C.M.S.):** The committee which recommends to the Minister for Merchant Shipping, the Aegean and Island Policies the need to change the level of safety and to take additional security measures on ships, port facilities, and ports.

- **Single Competent Authority:** The Ministry of Merchant Marine, Aegean and Island Policy (M.M.M.A.I.P.)

- **Coordination Center:** The Maritime Safety Management Control Directorate of Ships and Port Facilities of the Ministry of Merchant Shipping, the Aegean and Island Policies and the States party to the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 74) and have ratified the amendments to this International Convention adopted at the Conference of Governments of the International Convention on 12 December 2002 and its task is to clarify, monitor, receive, manage and provide information on the implementation of security measures for ships, port facilities, and ports.

- **I.M.O.:** International Maritime Organization


- **I.D.E.A.:** International Data Encryption Algorithm

### III. The Safety Systems Used in Port and the Threats to Port Security: Planning Needs for Organizing a New Information System

The system we propose, and design allow better surveillance of the marine space and help to prevent illegal actions on its territory (Fig. 2) are:

- **LRIT (Integrated Vessel Monitoring Network and e-navigation systems for European waters)**
- **EUROSUR (European Border Surveillance System)**
- **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)**
- **System C4i (Secure wired and wireless communication systems and data transmission networks).**

For educational reasons we keep only them. Port security refers to a two-pronged concept that first includes the right working and physical environment (safety) and the second is the security climate relating to unlawful acts that endanger human life and property. The second is intended primarily to avoid unlawful acts being carried out in the port area. In the case of installations, persons or ships which are in breach of the law (ILO-IMO, 2004:1).

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A. Safe Operation at the Port Site (Safety): Port workers and those directly involved in their work are exposed to various accidents such as the fall in the sea, possible fires resulting from leakage of liquid cargo, and natural disasters which can be caused. Therefore, there should exist an effective management of the safety and health of workers. In order to protect port workers, the International Labor Organization ILO (the United Nations organization responsible for promoting social justice and promoting decent work by defining international labor standards) has adopted a code covering the most common activities taking place in ports. ILO standards help address these challenges by dealing with two characteristics of dock work: the need for specific protection due to the safety and health hazards to which dockworkers are exposed during their work, and the impact of technological progress and international trade on their employment and the organization of work in ports. (https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm). Safety is achieved by working measures (e.g. fire protection and firefighting) and health.


A safety assessment is followed by the development of a safety plan to be drawn up by both port facilities and ships. This plan provides every detail for the preparation, prevention and response activities of stakeholders. In each port facility and ship, there must be a safety officer the duties of whom is the preparation and implementation of the safety plan are included.

The security organization of the port facility should be able to monitor the entire port facility and the points close to it, on land and at sea, at all times, including nighttime and the periods of limited visibility, the restricted access areas within the port facility, the ships in the port facility and the areas around the ships. Lighting, security guards, including pedestrian patrols, vehicles or the sea, intruder detection devices and surveillance equipment may be used for monitoring.

In addition, it is necessary for the shipping company to ensure that the necessary assistance is provided to the company’s security officer, the master, and the ship’s security officer to perform their duties and responsibilities. The mission of the Port Corps to the security of each port includes ensuring compliance with and monitoring the application of maritime safety rules to ships and port facilities. The Port Corps also check the conditions for the safe management of ships, in accordance with the institutional framework applicable each time, such as the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS).

IV. ENTITY CONFIGURATION FOR DESIGNING A PORT SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEM USED IN PORTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CODE ON SHIP AND PORT FACILITY SECURITY CODE FOR THE SAFETY OF SHIPS AND PORT FACILITIES

In Fig. 3 we present the configuration entities for the port security information system. This configuration concerns a proposal for a proposed extension of the existing maritime curriculum of vocational education and training.

The International Code on Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS Code) is part of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and lays down the ways of implementing security measures on ships and port facilities to avoid terrorist threats and other criminal acts. It focuses on the proper implementation of security measures required internationally. It consists of two parts. In the first part where its provisions are regarded as binding and in the second part where its provisions are regarded as constitutive. Administrative bodies for the implementation of the provisions of the ISPS Code and the Regulation, port facilities may also entrust private companies with the task of implementing the provisions of the Regulation.

The provision of security services, equipped with the relevant statutory authorization, the exercise of the security checks provided the approved security plans. Those provisions including checks on persons, baggage and cargo, access checks and security surveillance of port facilities. Those activities require the issue of a police authorization by the Port Authority concerned, the terms and conditions of which shall be determined by a decision of the Minister.

Fig. 3. Model for Secure Information System.
V. PORT FIRE STATION OPERATING REGULATIONS AND
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVANCING PORT SECURITY WITH
COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Fire Brigade in its mission to provide security and
protection of the lives and property of citizens and the State
itself against the risks of fires and any other disasters shall
be responsible and operational planning for the repression of
all fires and for providing all possible assistance to save
people and property in the port areas. It has, thus, set up fire
brigade stations in the country's major ports with qualified
fire brigade and special equipment to best guarantee their
fire protection according to the State Department. no. 5804
Ministerial Decree, the Fire Brigades Magistrates of the
Brigadier are the responsibility of the Regional
Administrations. The Port Fire Stations are subject to the
Regional Administrations or the Department of Fire
Brigades concerned and are distinguished in Class I by two
ships (one Class A and one Class A2 ship), and in Class II
by one Class A2 ship. Fire-fighting vessels (PPE) shall be
made available and allocated to the Regional Administrations or their Fire Brigades by the decision of the
Head of the Fire Brigade, upon submission of a proposal by
the Water Resources Directorate. Reference [7] shows that
Port Fire Stations have a certain area of responsibility
defined by the Regional Fire Brigade Administration to
which they belong. In the event of an incident outside the
area of responsibility of the Port Fire Brigade, the
competence to intervene by the fire brigade may be
extended by order of the Chief Fire Brigade. The Fire
Brigades Magistrates of the Brigadier Tasks:
• Fire safety of the country's ports and port facilities.
• The fight against fires of all types and sizes of ships,
  floating facilities, and installations, at berth or in the
  wider port area and on land.
• To assist people at risk at sea.
• The provision of assistance and response to water
disasters in the insides of ships, floating equipment,
  and installations.
• The performance of any other task arising from other
  provisions relating to fire - rescue at sea.

Ship-Port contact is a circumstance that bears no gap in
its computer security system. Thanks to the continuous
development of Information Technology, cryptography, and
computer security, additional security measures can and
should be taken to increase the security of passengers and
crew but also of the ports and ships. It is the main concern
for ports to ensure safe communication with the ships in its
range. The ruling concern is to prevent any kind of
intervention by third parties to the port's or ship's computer
system, which can cause disastrous accidents or
miscommunication.

A. Firewalls: Firewalls are compulsory for every device,
to protect the personal and significant data from hackers and
the device from viruses [1], [4]. A firewall provides security
and privacy, but when conveying a message, it can easily be
modified.

B. Port Knocking Method: The Port Knocking method
ensures safe and encrypted communication between
authorized devices [5]. It opens a port on a firewall when it
receives the correct sequence of attempts in specific ports.
Through this port, an encrypted message is passed to the
other side [2]. This method can ensure that an attacker
cannot detect any port, as they will seem protected and
closed unless he sends knocks in the correct sequence. Port
Knocking protection has a long sequence of knockings,
which beneath, has a less complicated knocking sequence
[3]. Both steps, to connect with the other party behind the
firewall, demand the consignor to know the exact port
knocking combination of the recipient’s firewall.

C. Message Encryption: Encrypting the message is an
additional, but not useless, security measure, so as the
security is airtight [8]. The IDEA is used worldwide, as it is
considered one of the most well-known encryption
algorithms. It has 64 bits block size for keys and 128bits key
size, to increase the degree of diffusion. Through the years
of use by the United States of America and European
countries, there has not been any attack, despite many
attempts.

D. Procedure: The Consignor decides they want to send a
message to the Receiver. After getting the message written,
it is encrypted based on the I.D.E.A. Algorithm. Next, with
the port knocking method and after knocking in the correct
sequence on the receiver's firewall, the Receiver will receive
the encrypted message. When it is time for the receiver to
read it, it will be automatically decrypted.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this article we have shown that modeling of the
planned information system concerns all explicit or
unambiguous marine factors we have shown that the project
design, modeling and implementation of a school-level
security information system (educational software)
strengthens and expands the boundaries of school
knowledge, especially as this curriculum pursues. In this
article we also we have shown that the entity configuration
for designing a port security information system could
operate as extension of the VET curriculum. The added
teaching value of our proposal concerns the training of VET
students in the entities we have listed that could build a
modern information system. The future work of the article is
about a transitional teaching period in which students will
build such information systems with modern IT tools and
environments and integrate the entities. Another extension
of the article could involve the Securing Critical Information
Infrastructures and Supply Chains, focusing on initiatives
and efforts that attempt to deal with the risks and
vulnerabilities of port Critical Information Infrastructures
(CII) ecosystems [9]. Al future extensions of the article
concern, on the one hand, researchers and designers of
school educational software and on the other hand, the
teachers and the students of VET.

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motivation ideas should be mentioned. We also need to refer to the work of the Nineta Polemi at European Comission (DG-CONNECT) Cyber Security and Digital Privacy Unit (https://www.cyberwatching.eu/nineta-polemi) as high standard paradigms for us, about security and privacy.

REFERENCES


[13] Law 4504/2017 (Government Gazette A' 184/29-11-2017) Lifelong training for staff at the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, strengthening transparency and meritocracy in matters falling within the competence of the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, strengthening social participation in the coastal zone The Commission is aware of the need for the Member States to ensure that the European Union's internal market is properly implemented.


Apostolos Kaltsas is holder of a MSc. "Organization and Education Management" of University Thessalas. He is also holder of a Specialty Degree of the Department of General Technology of the Pedagogical Technical School, degree of Pedagogical Studies of the Department of Pedagogy of ASPETE School and Degree of the Department of Vehicles of the School of Technology A-TEI Kozanis. Apostolos Kaltzas is teacher of the engineering branch with 26 years of service current job: he is the director of the 1st Laboratory Center school of Piraeus (1o EK Piraeus). He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish. He is a certified adult trainer. He has various ICT-certifications and has participated in various DAEDALOS and ERASMUS programs.

Sofia Gompu is an undergraduate student in the Department of Informatics, of the University of Piraeus. She is involved in Algorithmic and Security Software research.

Dimitrios Kotsifakos is a PhD holder (Department of Informatics at the University of Piraeus). He also holds a MSc in Informatics from the University of Piraeus, awarded with Distinction (2010), and an undergraduate degree in Electronic Engineering from the Technological Educational Institute (A-TEI) of Athens (1990). In 2012, he successfully completed a one-year Pedagogical Training Program at the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPETE) in Athens. He has participated in seminars, training programs related to Electronics, Informatics and Electrical Studies as well as in international and Greek conferences. He is appointed as a Secondary School Teacher of Electronics (Vocational Education and Training, VET). He has also completed his studies in Advanced Music Theory and Composition and holds a Certificate in Fugue and Guitar. He has participated in international seminars and conferences on musical composition and performance. He is especially active in innovative actions concerning the educational process and he has received awards for the cultural programs he has developed. He is the father of four children.