My doctoral studies – an overview

I am employed at the department of Informatics (ESA), Örebro University. However, I am a registered PhD-student at the Department of Computer and Information Science (IDA), Linköping University. At IDA, I am a member of the research group VITS, which organisationally belong to the area Information Systems and Management. Additionally, I am associated to Bergslagen Research Centre, which together with ‘KK-stiftelsen’ finance my studies. Professor Göran Goldkuhl and PhD Karin Axelsson at Linköping University are my supervisors.

In the area of information security, I am focusing information security management, which means organisational rather than technical aspects of the area. I am applying a practice-oriented (verksamhetsorienterad) perspective and using the framework ToP model (Theory of Practice Model) by Professor Göran Goldkuhl and PhD Annie Röstlinger. This practical-oriented perspective and framework are normally used in studies in information systems by researchers within the research group VITS. Therefore, I hope to develop knowledge that is useful for academicians and practicians in the information security area as well as for academicians and practitioners in the field of information systems.

Currently, I am working on my final chapters in my licentiate thesis. The aim of the thesis is to introduce a critical review of the (in Sweden) dominating conceptual pattern in information security, and a generic model of the information security management within organisations. The study is primary based on literature studies and a case study at a municipality. Some of the central concepts that are reviewed are data-/IT- and information security, information security architecture, actual versus estimated information security.

Preliminary, the model is called the ISMP Model (Information Security Management Practice Model). The model consists of the information security management practice (ISM practice) and its context. The ISMP model describes the ISM practice as a supporting practice to a core business, which has the two roles as principal/financier and the major resultant of the ISM practice. The ISM practice is dependent on a number of prerequisites, in the shape of actors and objects. The ISM practice itself consists of actors who perform primary and secondary activities. Results of the ISM practice are planned information security, information security architecture and real information security. Resultants are actors who in different ways are affected by the results, e.g. in their opinion in the business’ information security. The aim of the model is to increase the understanding of information security management in businesses.

After the licentiate examination, I will continue my research in the field of information security management towards a doctoral examination. Today, I only have some vague ideas of topic for a doctoral thesis:

1. Further empirical examination of the ISMP Model and/or expanding the ISMP Model to fit several businesses in an inter-organisational environment.
2. I find the relationship between the two concepts information confidentiality and information availability is interesting since the concepts somehow are dialectical. A theoretical as well as an empirical investigation may be fruitful. For example, how is the co-ordination between businesses’ policies for knowledge management and information security management carried out?