

Hillar Aarelaid

You were born, on 31 December 1967, in Estonia, which was then occupied by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Even though you were a native speaker of Estonian, you attended a high school in which Russian was the language of instruction,

In 1990, after studying mathematics at the University of Tartu, you matriculated at the Paikuse Police School. In 1991, the year in which Estonia regained its independence, you joined the national Police Force, which posted you to a unit located in your old home town of Viljandi.



Logos of the National Police Force and CERT EE

For four years, you served as an ordinary constable. In 1996, however, after taking a course at the National Defense Academy, you began working in the field of computer security and cyber crime. In the two decades that followed, you were the senior officer within the National Police Service who dealt exclusively with these matters. As such, you found yourself at the helm a series of data protection agencies, each of which was larger than its predecessor.

On 1 March 2006, you took charge of the Computer Emergency Response Team of the Republic of Estonia. Also known as CERT-EE, this branch of the Interior Ministry fulfills three functions. First, it monitors the information security situation within Estonia. Second, it aims to promote, whether in government or the private sector, the use of measures that enhance information security. Third, it helps the National Police Force to investigate cyber crime.

CERT-EE works closely with similar organizations in other countries.