



SWISS CYBER STORM

Press release

Ethical hacking courses to counter skills shortage

Yesterday, a dozen young IT enthusiasts gathered in the Kirchenfeld secondary school in Bern to learn more about ethical hacking. Experts provided the pupils with an insight into current cyber threats and explained the importance of "good hackers". A series of events has thereby been launched which plays a significant role in promoting young talent for urgently needed IT specialists.

Bern, 25 June 2015 – "An introduction to ethical hacking", this was the title of the invitation which Bernese secondary school pupils and apprentices from vocational schools received at the start of June. A dozen young IT enthusiasts responded and took part yesterday in an event conducted for the first time in the Kirchenfeld secondary school in Bern. The participants got an insight into the risks involved in cyberspace today and in the approach of modern hackers. With the know-how obtained and under the supervision of IT experts, they were able to identify and eliminate security bugs in practical exercises.

The event was organised by the Swiss Cyber Storm Association, which is actively involved in promoting young talented IT specialists. President Bernhard Tellenbach explained that "it is important that we spread the message that hacking is not just a crime, but with the required knowledge even sensitive computer systems can be better safeguarded". Prejudice should thereby be eliminated and IT occupations should be made more attractive.

A lack of awareness-raising poses risks

The subject is highly topical. "There has been major professionalization among attackers in the last ten years. Companies, on the other hand, have difficulty recruiting sufficient IT security specialists. Awareness-raising and promoting young talent are thus topics of enormous importance," explained Pascal Lamia, Head of the Reporting and Analysis Centre for Information Assurance MELANI. "We really welcome the activities of Swiss Cyber Storm."

In future, the association wants to increasingly raise awareness among Swiss secondary schools of this topic and examine it in greater depth. Swiss Cyber Storm is supported by the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW). Dr Rolf Hügli, SATW Secretary-General, said that their commitment was driven by the fact that the topic of IT security had been scarcely dealt with in the past in secondary school education. "The lack of awareness-raising has led to the risks when dealing with electronic media being underestimated and promising young IT enthusiasts not being given enough support".



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Promotion of talent via international competition

Another platform is available for particularly dedicated youngsters: the Swiss Cyber Security Challenge, a competition to discover and support talented young IT specialists, is taking place this year for the third time. The winners will take part in the European finals, which will take place for the first time in 2015 and will be held in Lucerne. Both events are being sponsored by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Federal Department of Finance (FDF), the SATW and private companies from the IT sector. The organiser is the Swiss Cyber Storm Association.

Photos from the event at the Kirchenfeld secondary school on 24 June 2015

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m27gygbjn3eu3kw/AACAuUmlrQmiMIqXpXLiH0KLa?dl=0>

Source: (Sascha Hähni/Swiss Cyber Storm)

Further information

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Swiss Cyber Storm Association

The Swiss Cyber Storm Association was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organisation for the purpose of promoting young, talented cyber-security enthusiasts and regularly conducting cyber security events for specialists and managers.

Swiss Cyber Storm fulfils the association's purpose by seeking and supporting young, talented cyber security enthusiasts in the context of the annual Cyber Security Challenge and the associated European Cyber Security Challenge, and by holding the internationally oriented Swiss Cyber Storm IT Security Conference each year which focuses on cyberattacks and defence.

The association is committed not just nationally but also internationally to promoting young talent and strives, together with partner associations, to extend the European Cyber Security Challenges to other participating countries.

The association is not a members club in that it does not seek to have a large number of members. It is composed of members that support the purpose of the association by active collaboration and that represent the interests of business and the public sector as well as teaching and research.