CS2107 Review & Final Exam Tips

Teaching Mode

- 13 Lectures
- 9 Tutorials
- 11 Self-exploration activities (self-exercised mini *labs*)
- Continual Assessment (55%):
 - 2 Assignments (25%): Do submit A2 before its deadline
 - 1 Mid-term quiz (15%)
 - 1 Group presentation on open-ended topic (5%)
 - Tutorial attendance (5%)
 - 1 LumiNUS online quiz assessment (5%)
- Final E-exam (45%): Open-book, Thursday 26 Nov, 09:00-11:00
 Please double-check the timing with CORS again!

Module Description

Objective

This module serves as an introductory module on information security. It illustrates the fundamentals of how systems fail due to malicious activities and how they can be protected. The module also places emphasis on the practices of secure programming and implementation. Topics covered include classical/historical ciphers, introduction to modern ciphers and cryptosystems, ethical, legal and organisational aspects, classic examples of direct attacks on computer systems such as input validation vulnerability, examples of other forms of attack such as social engineering/phishing attacks, and the practice of secure programming.

Outcomes

- Awareness of common and well-known attacks (e.g. phishing, XSS, SQLI, ...)
- Understand basic concepts of security (e.g. confidentiality, availability, ...)
- Understand basic mechanisms & practice of protections

(e.g. crypto, PKI, access control, ...)

Awareness of common pitfalls in implementation (Secure programming)

More Specific Intended Learning Outcome (ILO)

After completing the module, you will be expected to be able to:

- 1. Explain the C-I-A security requirements and recognize their breaches in recent security incident news
- 2. Describe *key concepts and basic mechanisms* of principal protection mechanisms in information security, such as encryption, authentication, and secure channel
- 3. Identify the *limitations* of classical cryptographic schemes, and recognize *well-known attacks* on vulnerable hosts, networks, and Web servers

More Specific Intended Learning Outcome (ILO)

- 4. Utilize some *basic security tools* (e.g. OpenSSL, Wireshark) and security-related *Linux commands* to perform encryption and network traffic analysis
- 5. Pinpoint flaws in programs due to common *insecure* programming practices, and suggest improvements using more secure practices instead

Some of the Terms Encountered in This Module

Secure channel, Alice, Bob, Eve, Encryption, Decryption, Key-space, Known-plaintext attack, Authenticity, Confidentiality, Availability, Authentication protocol, Man-in-the-middle, Passwords, Dictionary attack, Random IV, Kerckhoffs' principle, RSA, Certificate, Public Key Infrastructure, Digital Signature.

Side-channel attack, Timing attack, ATM skimmer, Social engineering.

SSL, TLS, HTTPS, Secure channel on the Internet.

DDOS, Syn flood, Wireshark, Spoofing, Sniffing, Cache poisoning, Tor.

Input validation, SQL injection, Secure programming, Buffer overflow, Stack smashing, Integer overflow, CVE.

Key-logger, virus*, worm*, rootkit, botnet.

Completed Lectures

Lecture 1: Encryption (a big multi-part lecture)

Security requirements, encryption/cryptography (classical ciphers, stream cipher, block ciphers) & attacks, key length, IV, Kerckhoffs' principle

Lecture 2: Authentication (Password/weak)

Lecture 3: Authenticity (MAC & Signature)

PKC, hash, MAC, signature, birthday paradox

Lecture 4: PKI + Channel Security

PKI, certificate, CA, hierarchical trust relationship

Lecture 5 : Secure Channel, TLS/SSL, Crypto Misc.

Strong authentication, key exchange & authenticated key exchange, SSL/TLS, authenticated encryption

Lecture 6: Network Security

Layering, naming issue (DNS attack), DDoS, firewall

Lecture 7: Access Control

Access control model, Linux/UNIX access control, privilege elevation

Lecture 8 : Software Security

Background on computer architecture, call stack, integer overflow, data representation issue, buffer overflow, security problem with scripting languages, counter measures

Lecture 9: Web Security

Web security issues & threat models, TLS/SSL issues, UI attacks, cookies & SOP, XSS, CSRF

Completed Tutorials

Tutorial 1: Introduction & Encryption

Security requirement, key length requirement, role of IV, tradeoff of usability & security

Tutorial 2: Encryption & Block Cipher

Block size, mode-of-operation, DES insecure usage, 3DES

Tutorial 3: Encryption & Password

Password, security questions, 2FA

Tutorial 4: Data-Origin Authentication

Birthday attack, hash, secure random number generation, implementation issue on secret key generation (which illustrates that hash doesn't produce truly random sequence)

Tutorial 5: PKI, SSL and Birthday Attack Variant

PKI, proxy-re-encryption, limitation of PKI, variant of birthday attack

Mid-term quiz discussion

Tutorial 6: Security Protocol - TLS and Its Renegotiation Attack

SSL/TLS, re-negotiation attack (which illustrates subtlety of protocol design)

Tutorial 7: Network Security + Privilege Escalation

Firewall rules (2-firewall setting, DMZ), setUID, privilege escalation

Tutorial 8: Software Security

Buffer overflow vulnerabilities, safe/unsafe C functions, integer overflow

Group project presentations (2 sessions)

Shared Self-Exploration Activities

Activity 1: Introduction, Classical ciphers

A look at malicious-executable creation difficulty in practice, substitution cipher cracking scripts

Activity 2: Classical ciphers & attacks

Scripts that implement & attack Shift/Caesar cipher, Vigenere cipher, One-Time Pad

Activity 3: Block ciphers, Pseudo-random numbers

OpenSSL for encryptions using block ciphers & modes-of-operation, pseudorandom numbers in Linux/UNIX

Activity 4: Authentication (Password)

Password & shadow files, password cracking using John the Ripper

Activity 5 : Authenticity (MAC & Signature)

OpenSSL for hash & MAC, SHA-1 collision attacks, RSA encryption scheme

Activity 6: PKI

Openssl for public-key pair generation, certificate inspection

Activity 7: TLS/SSL

OpenssI for TLS/SSL connection, TLS server configuration & certificate, TLS server & client check

Activity 8 : Network security

Wireshark, Nmap

Activity 9: Access Control

Linux access control

Activity 10: Buffer Overflow Vulnerability & Exploitation

Activity 11: Web Security

OS command injection, SQL Injection, XSS, bypassing anti-XSS input-sanitization

Assignments: CTF Style

- For gamification of hacking challenges: phased hint releases, possible task-completion dependency, etc.
- For **automated** challenge-submission **marking**: real-time & scalable checking of submission attempts, *mark scoreboard*
- Assignment 1: Cryptography, authentication
- Assignment 2: Network, software and web security
- Additional online quiz assessment via LumiNUS: for overall material review and final-exam practice

Ethical Use of Security Information

- We have discussed vulnerabilities and attacks
- Most vulnerabilities have been fixed, but:
 - Do not assume that all systems are patched/fixed
 - Some attacks may still cause harm!
- Purpose of our security modules:
 - Learn to prevent malicious attacks
 - Use your knowledge for good purposes
- Remember again:
 Computer Misuse and Cybersecurity Act (CMCA)
- Please observe the prevailing law

Hacking: It's Fun, **Do not** Cross the Yellow/Red Line



Singapore Cyber Landscape

Singapore Cyber Landscape Report

- Annual snapshot of cyber landscape in Singapore
- "Singapore Cyber Landscape 2019", by Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, 2020:
 - Global trends & local case studies
 - Upping the game on Singapore's cybersecurity
 - Looking ahead Cyber trends to watch: including Cybersecurity and COVID-19
- See:

https://www.csa.gov.sg/news/publications/singapore-cyber-landscape-2019

Cyber Threats in 2019



Spotlight on Cyber Threats: Malware

C&C Servers and Botnet Drones

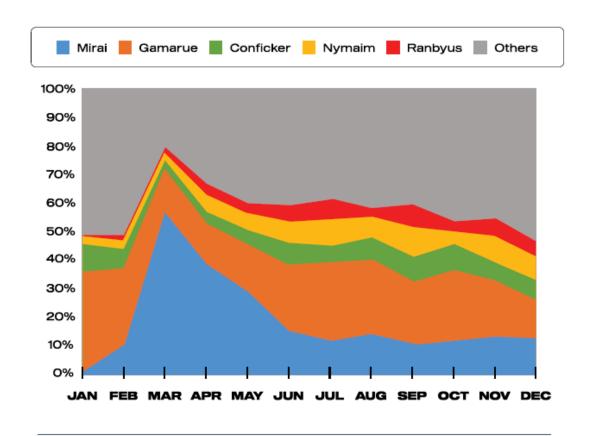
In 2019, CSA detected about 530 unique C&C servers in Singapore, a 73 per cent increase from 2018. On

average, about 2,300 botnet drones with Singapore Internet

Protocol (IP) addresses were observed daily, a 20 per cent decrease from average daily observations in 2018. Close

to 370 malware variants were detected, with the top five

malware observed — Mirai, Gamarue, Conficker, Nymaim, and Ranbyus — accounting for over half of all observed infections. These malware are not new, with Ranbyus and Nymaim first detected in 2011 and 2013, respectively.



On average, five common malware accounted for over half the daily infections of computing devices in 2019.

Cyber Trends to Watch

Looking Ahead

Cybersecurity Trends to Watch

A Cloud of Crown Jewels



NEAR-TERM

Rise of the Machines
- Boon or Bane

WHAT IS IT?

Organisations are increasingly moving to the cloud to address their data storage and computing needs. For many businesses, the use of cloud services means significant cost savings, as they no longer have to invest heavily on software and hardware. Furthermore, the mobility and reliability of cloud services provide huge convenience to users, who are now able to work on-the-go as long as they are connected to the Internet.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Cloud security is a shared responsibility between Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) and its users. CSPs are generally only accountable for the security of the infrastructure or services in the cloud, while its users are responsible for securing their data residing there. A common misconception is that CSPs will take care of absolute security in the cloud. As a result, some companies may view investments in additional cybersecurity measures as unnecessary expenses, and consequently end up with inadequate protection for their assets. In addition, as businesses become increasingly dependent on the cloud, services which are essential to operations are also deployed on the cloud. Threat actors may target these cloud services to maximise their profit as the cloud becomes an aggregation point which enables them to target various companies.

WHAT IS IT?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) involves machines simulating human intelligence processes to reason and perform tasks. The workplace has been revolutionised with the introduction of AI, which has helped companies automate tasks to a large degree. Businesses can also become more efficient through AI, as their digital platforms get "trained" and become smarter, performing better in various tasks. AI can also enhance an organisation's cybersecurity posture, by analysing user behaviour, identifying anomalies, and pinpointing irregularities within a network. This, in turn, enables organisations to detect threats and vulnerabilities more swiftly

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

There is a lurking danger that AI may become weaponised by threat actors. Threat actors can possibly use AI to create malware that is capable of figuring out normal user behaviour patterns of the targeted network, and mimic the behaviour they have learnt to evade detection. In addition, threat actors can also use AI to execute attacks that can self-propagate over a targeted network by leveraging adaptive attack techniques based on network traits. Smart phishing is another AI-powered cyber threat which creates credible-looking lures specific to the victim, based on information gathered earlier about the target. AI will enhance the speed and success rate of cyberattacks by sophisticated threat actors. The key to defending against AI-powered cyber-attacks could lie in the effective use of AI for timely threat detection and response.

5th Generation (5G)

— The New Era of High
Speed Connectivity

WHAT IS IT?

5th Generation communications (5G) heralds a new era of faster speeds and greater bandwidth which will relieve network congestion and improve the mobile experience. Beyond just connecting people, 5G will unlock the potential of connectivity with Internet of Things (1oT) devices in multiple aspects of life, from home and industrial automation to autonomous vehicles. This will precipitate a major change in essential networks, which in turn, will have long-term impact on a large range of applications in smart

cities, manufacturing processes, and homes.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The transformative potential of 5G is made possible by its Software-Defined Networks (SDNs) and virtualisation technology. As such, the 5G telecommunication network can be subjected to cyber-attacks in traditional IT networks. Vulnerabilities can exist in SDNs like all software, and threat actors may leverage these software weaknesses in the 5G network to carry out malicious activities, such as surveillence and disruption of the network. Additionally, the versatility of 5G and its wide range of applications is expected to bring about a surge in IoT devices. This unfortunately creates a much expanded attack surface that threat actors can exploit to access targeted systems. There is a need to place greater focus on the security of mobile and IoT devices, as these are key to enhancing the cybersecurity

LONG-TERM

Quantum Leap into the Unknown



WHAT IS IT?

Atthough quantum computing is still at a nascent stage of development, they are strongly predicted to disrupt and impact how industries operate. 2019 saw many breakthroughs in quantum computing, with Google's experiment taking 200 seconds to perform a task that would take the fastest supercomputer 10,000 years to complete. Quantum computers have the potential to become exponentially more powerful than today's supercomputers. Unlike the current binary model of computing adopted by classical computers, quantum computers work on millions of computations in parallel, which drastically

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Quantum computing has the potential to break modern cryptographic systems that currently underpin cybersecurity. Hence, there are increasing concerns that quantum computing could pose a major security issue if leveraged by threat actors. A potential scenario would be threat actors capturing and storing encrypted data that is presently available, in the hope that quantum computers can decrypt the data in future. Reports have suggested that quantum computers that are capable of breaking conventional cryptographic algorithms within hours will likely exist by 2030.

Singapore's Safer Cyberspace Masterplan 2020

- "Singapore's Safer Cyberspace Masterplan",
 Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, 2020,
 https://www.csa.gov.sg/news/press-releases/safer-cyberspace-masterplan-launch
- From its executive summary:
 "As Singapore embarks on its digital transformation toward a Smart Nation and Digital Economy, Singaporeans and our enterprises will also face increasing cyber threats as more of our citizens and businesses go online.

 Cybersecurity will be a critical enabler of our push toward digitalisation. Without robust cybersecurity in place, our systems and networks remain open and vulnerable for malicious threat actors to exploit our digital assets and data."
- It comprises the following *three thrusts*:
 - Securing our core digital infrastructure
 - Safeguarding our cyberspace activities
 - Empowering our cyber-savvy population

Safer Cyberspace Masterplan 2020: Why?

Prevention - Better than cure?

With technology touching all parts of our lives today, cybercriminals have many opportunities to make a quick buck. What if we could make it more difficult for threat actors to commit malicious cyber activities in the first place, and can swiftly detect and respond to an incident after it happens? This is the approach of the Masterplan, which focuses on upstream measures to prevent and detect malicious cyber activities.

An analogy from the physical world parallel to cyberspace would be preventive healthcare. Doctors advocate a healthy lifestyle and regular health screening in order to nip diseases in the bud before they become severe. The cyber equivalent of preventive health needs to be implemented, to better protect Singapore and Singaporeans in the digital domain. While there will inevitably be events that we cannot foresee in the cyber and the health domains, taking early preventive measures will avoid a vast majority of unpleasant and costly events from happening later on. In addition, just as how we are encouraged to go for regular health check-ups to detect the onset of

health conditions early, we want to adopt the cyber equivalent of detecting and responding to malicious cyber activities swiftly when they arise.

The analogy further extends to the roles of the Government, community, enterprises and the public. To encourage good preventive health habits, the Government puts in place community exercise corners and works with the food industry to reduce the amount of sugar in our food products, to make it easier for individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Yet individuals continue to bear the responsibility to exercise and consume food and beverages with healthier food labels.

This is parallel to cybersecurity — the Government will put in place upstream measures to make it more difficult for actors to conduct malicious cyber activities on us, but the community, enterprises and individuals must continue to take personal responsibility for their safety and security in the digital domain.

While the initiatives in the Masterplan will make our cyberspace more secure over time, it is unrealistic to expect that all malicious cyber activities can be prevented. With the contours of cyberspace constantly changing, new threats will emerge, and unknown vulnerabilities will be found. The Government will play its part to support a safe and secure cyberspace, but the community, enterprises and individuals need to remain vigilant in cyberspace and continue adopting practices to keep themselves safe and secure online. Ensuring the cybersecurity of our digital assets and data is our collective responsibility.



Individuals and businesses remain exposed to malicious cyber activities



of Singaporeans surveyed said they were victim to at least one cyber incident in 2019⁵

Almost of all cyber incidents in Singapore

SGD 18.9 MILLION

(USD 13.8 MILLION)

is the estimated loss to a large enterprise from a cyber-attack. The average cost to a medium-sized enterprise is \$26,000.7

58% of enterprises that use the Internet for work have no cybersecurity measures⁸

Singapore is highly dependent on the digital domain for business and our daily lives

Households with Internet access?







Business Broadband Adoption³

SGD 37 BILLION

Singapore's estimated Internet Economy in 20254

- Indicomm Media Development Authority. antimus acurry on proceedings of the Commission of the Commissio

- nasek/Bain. e-Conomy SEA 2019", 3 Oct 2019. https://blog.google/documents/47/SEA_Internet_Economy_Report_2019.pdf
- security Threat Landscape in Asia Pacific: Securing the Modern Enterprise in a Digital World*, 17 May 2018, https://news.microsoft.com/

Safer Cyberspace Masterplan 2020: Threat Actors

WHO ARE WE DEFENDING AND WHAT ARE WE DEFENDING AGAINST?

Since the inception of the Cybersecurity Act in 2018, we have made significant progress in ensuring that our ClIs that support essential services are robustly defended. We are focusing our attention now on developing a more detailed and concrete plan to ensure that other users of our cyberspace are sufficiently defended. These users include ordinary users, enterprises (especially small and medium ones), and organisations. For many of them, the Internet is an inextricable part of their lives and work, but more can and should be done to help ensure that their experience on the Internet is a safer and more secure one. If they are unable to protect or defend themselves against cyber-attacks, many of them may suffer distress

or even financial loss. While CSA has conducted extensive outreach and engagement efforts in the past, our survey results suggest that this group remains vulnerable to cyber threats.

In addition, as the level of digital activity increases, the types of malicious cyber threat actors and the methods that they employ have also become more diverse and sophisticated. These actors deploy a variety of tactics to seize control of devices, gain access to personal data, or in severe cases, cause disruption of services. These range from sending phishing e-mails, directing individuals to malicious websites, to deceiving users to download malware-laden software.



Cyber Threat Actors Targeting Singapore and their Motivations







Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs)

APTs operate stealthily and with sophistication, often hiding in networks for prolonged periods to plan their targeted attacks. APTs — which may refer to the type of attack, or the threat actor or group — are also often state-sponsored. Their motivations include disruption of services and operations, espionage to gather privileged information, and financial gain.

Hacktivists

Hacktivism involves hacking (i.e. breaking into a computer system) and defacing webpages to promote a political or ideological message. Online activism through hacking has become an increasingly attractive alternative to conducting physical street protests, as the Internet affords hacktivists anonymity and wider reach.

Cybercriminals

This group of threat actors typically adopt social engineering techniques to lure their victims, predominantly for financial gain. Cases include online cheating, cyber extortion and unauthorised access to computer material and data. The anonymity provided by the Internet and borderless nature of cyberspace allow cybercriminals to operate freely, and law enforcement agencies need to work closely with the public to collectively tackle the scourge of cybercrime.

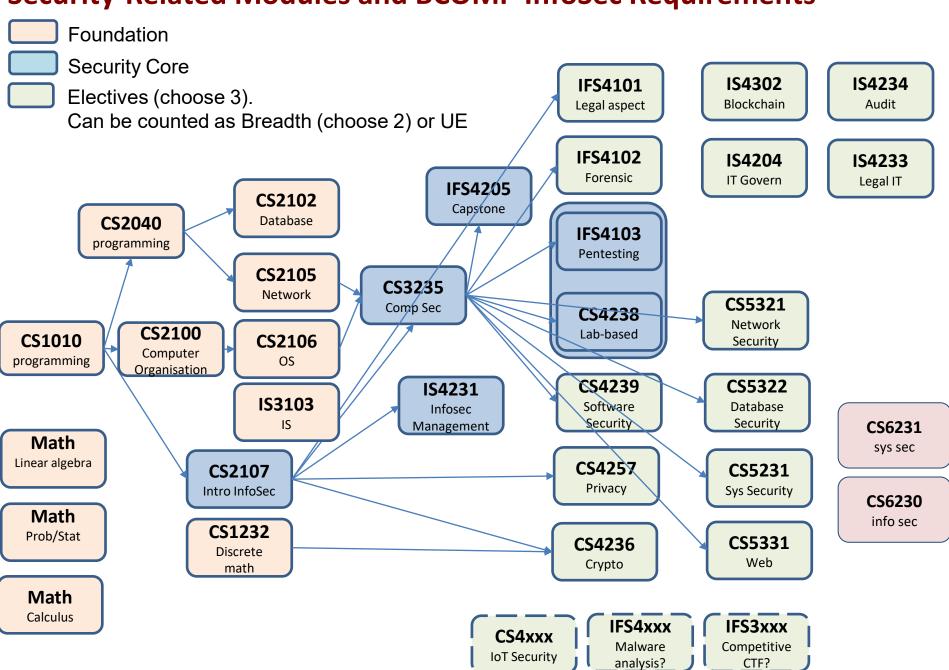
Safer Cyberspace Masterplan 2020: Conclusion

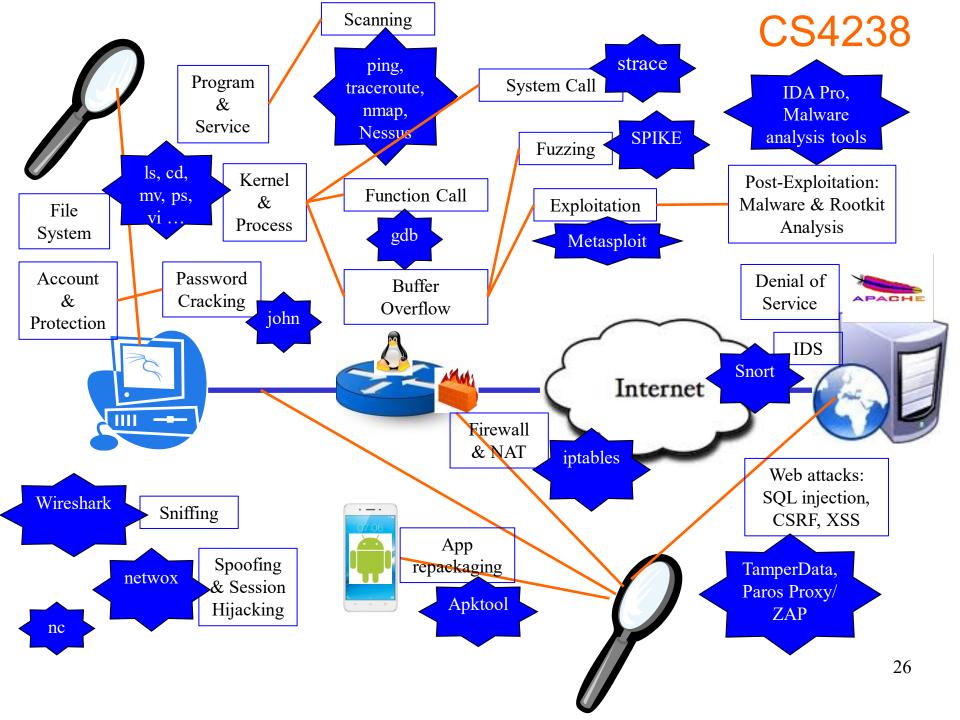


Your Next Steps

cores in InfoSec degree **Security-Related Modules in SOC** Electives in InfoSec degree (choose 3) CS6230 CS6231 info sec sys sec Security Area Focus (choose 3) Sem 1 Sem 2 Sem 2 Sem 2 Sem 2 Sem 1 Sem 2 **CS 5231** CS 5331 CS 5321 CS 4239 **IFS 4102 CS 4257 IFS 4101** Sys Sec Web Sec **Network Sec** software Forensic Privacy **Legal Aspects** Sem 1,2 Sem 1 Sem 1 **IFS 4205** Sem1,2 IS4231 **CS 3235 CS 4238 CS 4236** Capstone Info Sec Comp Sec Lab Crypto Project Management **IFS 4103** Pentest **CS 2107 CS 2106 CS 1232 CS 2105** Network OS Intro to Sec math Sem 1,2 Note: Mounting plan may change. Requirements differ for different cohorts. See SoC's website CS 1010 or for latest info. equivalent

Security-Related Modules and BCOMP InfoSec Requirements





Recent News Items (2017)



National servicemen could also be selected for cyberdefence vocations as the army seeks to bolster itself against infocomm threats.

Posted 03 Mar 2017 12:44 Updated 03 Mar 2017 22:32



Channel News Asia, Mar 3, 2017







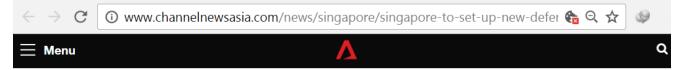








Recent News Items (2017)



The Cyber Defence Group consists of a security monitoring unit, an incident response and audit unit as well as the Cyber Defence Test and Evaluation Centre (CyTEC). Opened in 2015, CyTEC facilitates network security testing and conducts training, among others.

WANTED: CYBERDEFENDERS

The SAF has also created a new cyberdefence vocation for both full-time and operationally ready national servicemen. Those who have demonstrated their abilities at cyber competitions, as well as those currently working in the cybersecurity industry, may also be selected and identified to be "cyberdefenders".

"Our cyberdefenders will need to possess a high level of skill given the increasing frequency and complexity of cyberattacks," said Second Minister for Defence Ong Ye Kung, "They will be entering a very selective and demanding vocation, comparable to the commandos or naval divers."

In their vocation, which will be implemented from August, they are expected to perform roles such as monitoring networks and systems, responding to incidents and forensic analysis. As a pilot project, they may also be deployed to support the Cyber Security Agency to defend critical information infrastructure supporting Singapore's key networks.

MINDEF also announced that the Headquarters Signals and Command Systems, which includes the SAF training institute for cyberdefence, will sign a memorandum of understanding with Singapore Technologies Electronics (Info-Security) and Nanyang Polytechnic this month.

- CNA/jo

Mar 3, 2017









Channel

News Asia.

Recent News Items (Oct 2016)

NUS, Singtel launch \$43 million cyber security laboratory



The NUS-Singtel Cyber Security Research and Development Laboratory, hosted by the NUS School of Computing, is the 10th laboratory supported under the Laboratory@University scheme by the NRF. PHOTO: ST FILE

Irene Tham Tech Editor (mailto:itham@sph.com.sg)

The Straits Times, Oct 24, 2016

Recent News Items (Oct 2016)

THE STRAITS TIMES

Strengthening our cyber defences

Cyber security = job security for Singapore grads



Oct 23, 2016

The Straits Times,

From left: Mr Ang Yihan, 25, Mr Winwin Lim, 26, Mr Ian Yeo, 28, Mr Kelvin Tan, 28, and Mr Lee Wei Yan, 27, at the Kaspersky Lab headquarters in Moscow. The fresh graduates were in Russia for a one-year IT security attachment and training programme. PHOTO: KASPERSKY LAB

() PUBLISHED OCT 23, 2016, 5:00 AM SGT

From Singapore to Moscow, such is the demand for professionals in this sector that the sky's the limit

The Rest of the Semester: Final Exam



Examination Matters

- 1. SoC has prepared **E-exam SOPs** for students, please refer to the guide: https://mysoc.nus.edu.sg/academic/e-exam-sop-for-students/
 - Please ensure that you read thru and set up what you need before the exam date.
- 2. You should sit for the exam in insolation in a quiet environment with all the required hardware and software. If there's any extenuating circumstances that require you to attempt your exams in campus, please email your request to socexams@comp.nus.edu.sg by 09 November 2020, Monday latest.

Final Exam

- Open book, 2 hours, NUS approved calculators, total: 45 marks
- Thursday 26 Nov, 09:00-11:00 morning (please double-check time again!)
- Format:
 - Q1: Security Terminology (10 marks)
 - Q2: MCQs (10 marks)
 - Q3: Structured-based questions (25 marks)
- Covered materials: all lectures and tutorials, which also include:
 - Cryptography
 - Authentication & authentication protocol
 - Network security
 - Firewall rules
 - Access control
 - Secure programming
 - Web security



CS2107 — INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION SECURITY

(Semester 1: AY2020/21)

Time Allowed: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

- This assessment paper contains THREE questions and comprises FIFTEEN printed pages.
- 2. Answer ALL questions.
- 3. Write your answer within the given box in each question on this question paper.
- 4. This is an **OPEN BOOK** assessment.
- You may use NUS APPROVED CALCULATORS.
 Nonetheless, you should be able to work out the answers without using a calculator.

| Student Number: | |
|-----------------|--|
|-----------------|--|

This portion is for examiner's use only:

| Question | Full Marks | Marks | Remarks |
|----------|------------|-------|---------|
| Q1 | 10 | | |
| Q2 | 10 | | |
| Q3 | 25 | | |
| Total | 45 | | |

Thanks! (And Please Congratulate Yourself Too!)



Extra: Video on Careers in Cybersecurity - Advice