



AUGUST 5-6, 2020
BRIEFINGS

Making an Impact from India to the rest of the world by
building and nurturing women Infosec community

Vandana Verma Sehgal

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS



Have you ever felt
You are **one** among 1000 people?



Have you ever felt
You needed a **mentor** and could not find **one?**



Have you ever felt
You wanted to **talk** but hesitant in **speaking**?

Lack of Role Models



Credit: Kyodo

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Unconscious Bias



Ref: media.sgff.io/

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Space to Openly speak



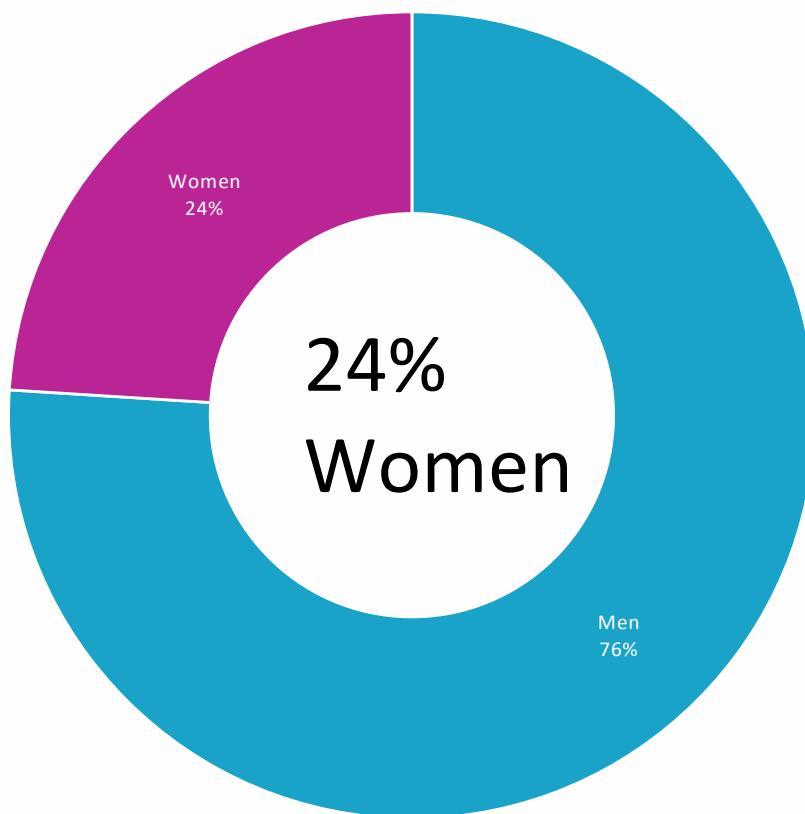
#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS



Social Commitments

10/10

% of Women in Cyber Security



(ISC)² released Report - 2019

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS



Motivation Behind Starting the Community



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Support for Women



<https://www.genderavenger.com/>

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

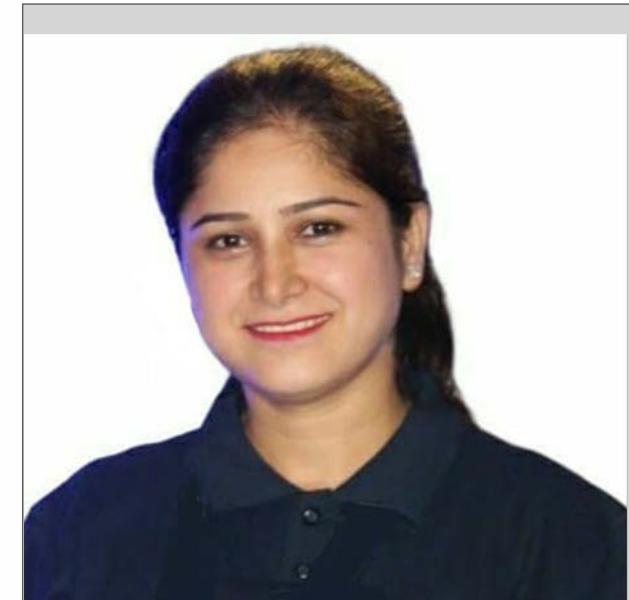


What Is This Talk About?

About Me

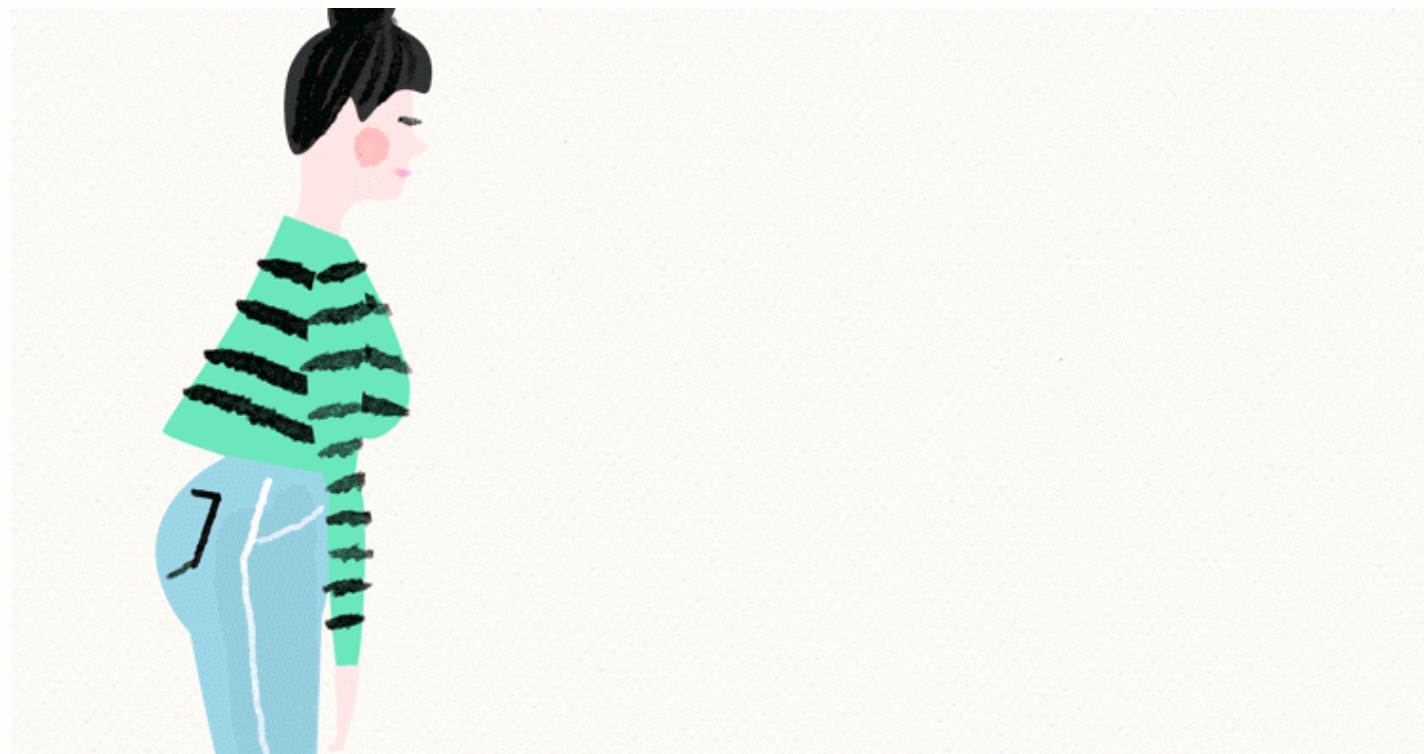
Vandana Verma Sehgal

- ❖ President -InfosecGirls
- ❖ OWASP Global Board of Director
- ❖ Award-winning Cybersecurity Professional
- ❖ Keynote Speaker, Inclusion Advocate



Personal interests

Reading Books, Teaching, Cooking and Travelling



<https://emworkshop.co/blog/2018/3/8/we-rise-by-lifting-others>

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

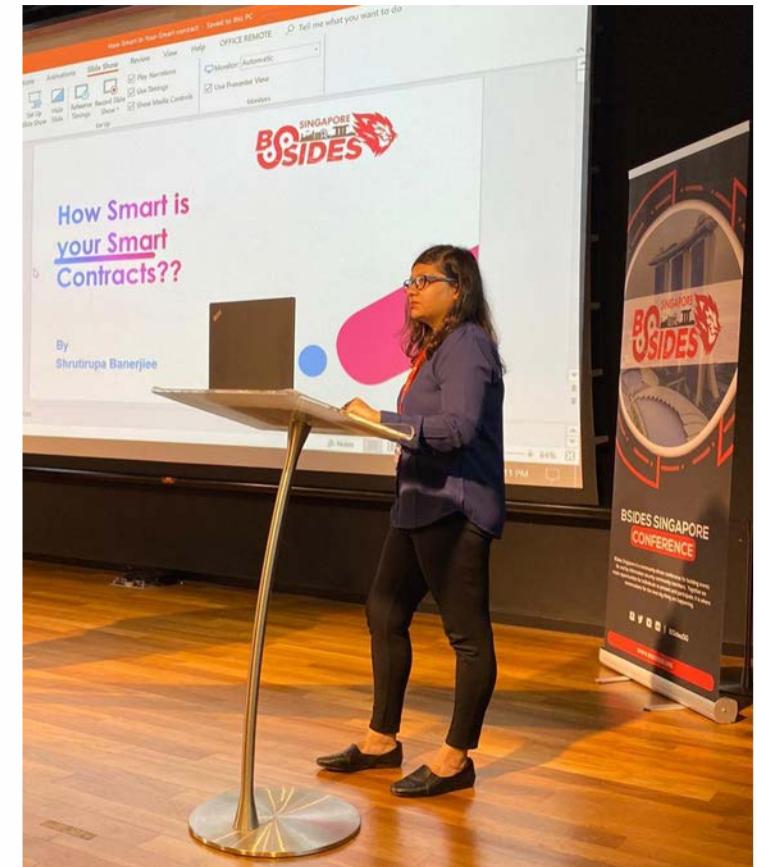
About



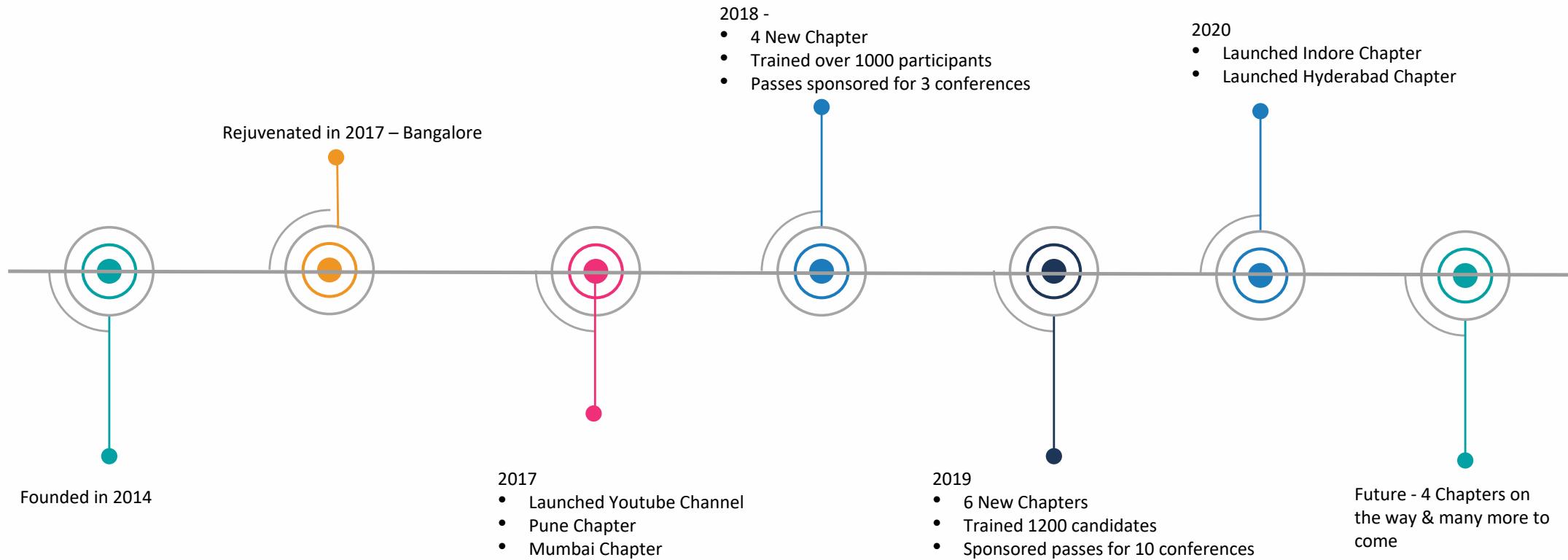
InfosecGirls****

Real Life Impact and People Benefit

- ❖ 20+ Jobs
- ❖ 10+ first time speakers on global Conferences
- ❖ 200+ women mentored in InfoSec (One to One)



Community Journey



Challenges Faced



Gathering People

- ❖ Sparking Initial Interest
- ❖ The family balancing
- ❖ Less number of women in security



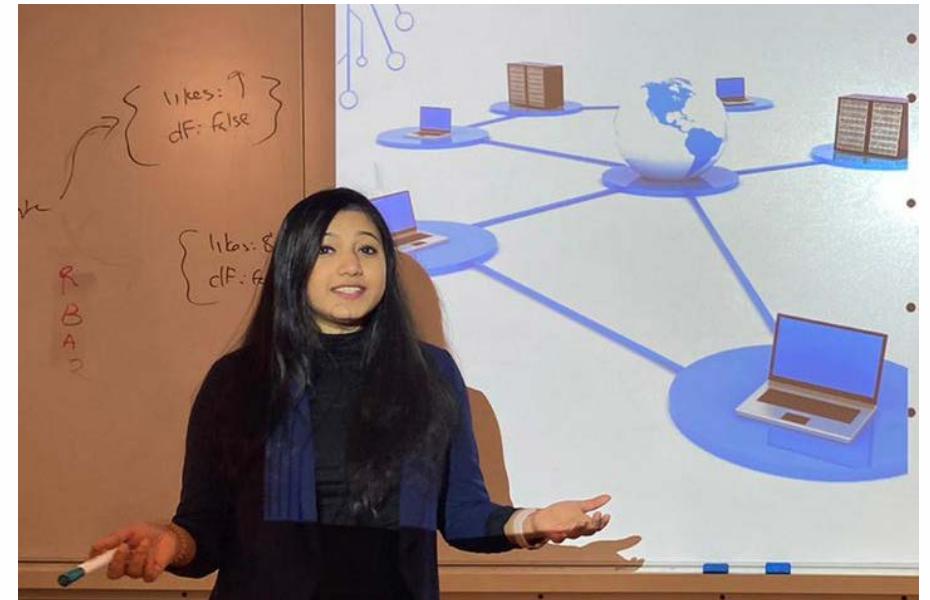
Place to Gather

- ❖ Finding the venue
- ❖ Facilities at the venue
- ❖ Sustainable location for all the participants



Speakers

- ❖ Preconceived notions
- ❖ Lack of awareness
- ❖ Apprehensions about speaking



Audience

- ❖ Less Outreach
- ❖ Just relying on word of mouth for publicity
- ❖ Relying on one social media



Sustainability

- ❖ Failures along the journey
- ❖ Survival in the longer run
- ❖ Staying motivated



Acceptance!!



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Acceptance

❖ People started trusting the cause

❖ Believing in us

Hacking their way to cyber-success

Parvi Malavasi
@flipkart.com



Updates

While Hollywood films and public perception has made "hackers" cool, the cyber and data security field has a dismal female representation of women ethical hackers. NCRB data for Gujarat in 2013 mentioned that there was 55% rise in overall cybercrimes while crime against women formed a significant part.

Prof Debraj Raykar, a Visakha based cyber security expert, said that after fraud, crimes against women in several cases prove less cybercrimes. "Over the years, these cases have increased. While arrest rates have increased, conviction rates are still poor," she said. In such a scenario, can better awareness and experts offer a commercial answer?

"It was this idea with which I started my journey. Vandana Verma had founded Indian Girls, educating the women in cyber security and connecting them. Gajanan Naik is a friend of mine who is a security researcher. So I thought that it would be good to have a platform where women can learn about cybersecurity," said Parvi.

"That is what we were looking for – we not only found the data breach and method, but also managed to link the incidents with the person in question," said Parvi Malavasi, an Andamans girl now working with a Mumbai-based firm as a security analyst. "In the final year of my computer engineering, my Facebook profile was hacked. The incident put me on track to pursue it seriously."

A Tribe Of Women Cyber Security Experts Is Growing In Gururur

Her representation is minuscule. "It's lack of exposure and lack-

NAMMA WOMEN

Globally, there is growing awareness that women's contributions and achievements in STEM, short for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, have been overlooked. Nearly 200 years ago, the first person to be what we now technically call a coder was a woman — English mathematician Ada Lovelace. The second Tuesday of every October is observed as Ada Lovelace Day.

Vandana Verma began her career 14 years ago, developing skills to understand sophisticated attack vectors and building defences. "The job requires you to find vulnerabilities within the system and execute exploits before a malicious

actor can find them," she says. Vandana followed the 2017 breach at Equifax, a consumer credit reporting agency. Data of 143 million consumers was exposed through a web server vulnerability. "When I started reading about it, I thought it could have been a career option, especially for women. When I told my mother I work as an information security professional for a government, she thought I was a security guard," says Vandana.

MALAVASI MALAVASI

systems using a virtualisation software and virtual machines on top of it," she says. Vandana is part of a number of platforms that focus on cybersecurity: IBM WISE (Women in Security Excellence), OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project), where she is on the global board of directors, InfoSec Girls, WoSec (Women of Security), and Null. The recognition didn't come easily. "I had to prove myself at every step," she says. "But it's like asking money in exchange for energy," she says. Charging stations generate vehicle data, such as location, and hackers can misuse it.

Though women are not adequately represented in STEM, things are changing. Divya says the percentage of women in India's IT sector has increased over the past decade, so has the percentage of women in cybersecurity. "There is more awareness about cybersecurity, and it now figures in the curriculum of engineering institutions; this wasn't the case when I was studying. This is a huge opportunity. Once the technology will enable greater relevance in gender ratio of cybersecurity professionals."

So, what's the advice for women entering the field? "Be heard, be seen, and network all you can," says Vandana.

Bug report: The female hackers keeping your WFH systems safe

Cybersecurity Pros Bookmark An Important Moment For Women In IT

Vandana Verma hacks flagging systems, vulnerabilities that black hat hackers are always looking for. With a large part of the community organised software logging in from home, her work, especially in the current scenario, is critical. As cyber-criminals devise attacks, has assumed more importance and urgency.

Vandana Verma, an architect at GSI Labs, IBM India Software Labs, and a member of an inspired community of female ethical hackers and cybersecurity researchers, who, like women in most industries, are challenging stereotypes. "When I started reading about it, I thought it could have been a career option, especially for women. When I told my mother I work as an information security professional for a government, she thought I was a security guard," says Vandana.

large scale is challenging. But this is what motivates me to push for the change," says. She describes ethical hackers as detectives. "My job is to protect customers and Flipkart from data breaches and privacy breaches. The key is to integrate security gates in every phase of the product life cycle," she adds.

Anjana Sathyan, a security analyst with digital risk monitoring platform Cloud adoption in the IT landscape has become dangerous with the evolution of the Dark Web, where operators there use it to sell illegal products and services. She participates in capture the flag competitions and checks for when smartphones are attacked. Flaws in facial recognition software are a major focal point.

In recent times, facial recognition was deceived with infrared light; even the most efficient algorithms are tricked. With artificial intelligence becoming mainstream, attackers are trying to inject bad data to alter the learning process. They can even teach AI models to behave differently.

Anjana Sathyan, an ethical hacker at Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions, looks for security gaps in embedded systems of automobiles. With growing interest in self-driving vehicles,



ES CITY

Bug report: The female hackers keeping your WFH systems safe

Cybersecurity Pros Bookmark An Important Moment For Women In IT



Percentage of women in Indian IT sector has steadily increased, so has percentage of women in cybersecurity.

Divya John
Cybersecurity Analyst
MICROSOFT INDIA

Vandana Verma
Software Engineer
MICROSOFT INDIA

Anjana Sathyan
Security Analyst
ROBERT BOSCH

Aranya Saha
Ethical Hacker
ROBERT BOSCH

Vandana Verma
Software Engineer
MICROSOFT INDIA

Anjana Sathyan
Ethical Hacker
ROBERT BOSCH

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS



How Infosec Girls Contribute?



Meetups

- ❖ Sharing technical knowledge
- ❖ Connect over lunches post conferences
- ❖ Collaboration on ideas



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

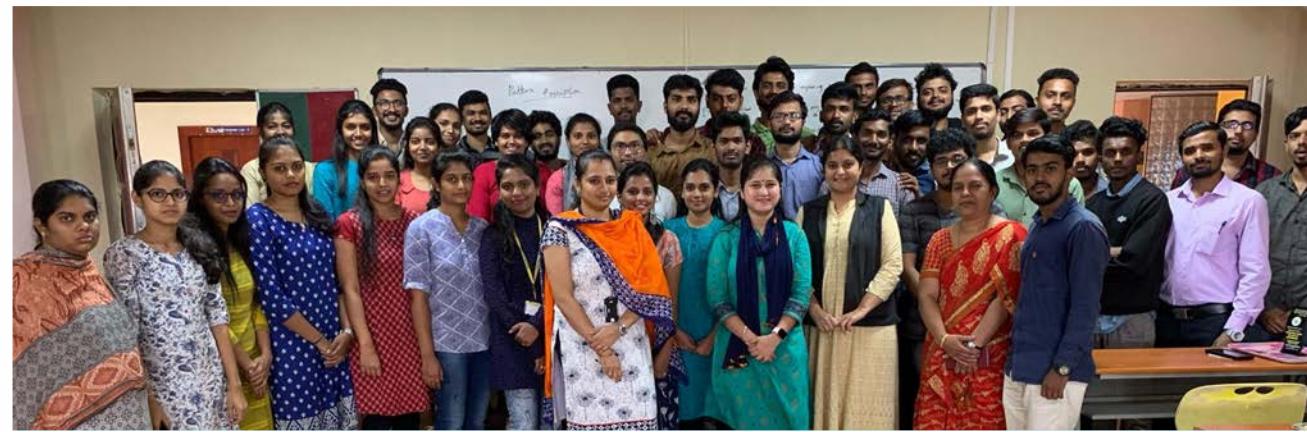
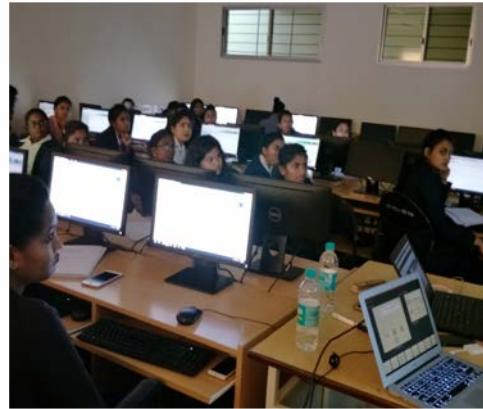
Virtual Meetups

- ❖ Connecting virtually to have global audience
- ❖ Bridge to connect with global speakers



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Connect with Schools, Colleges or Universities



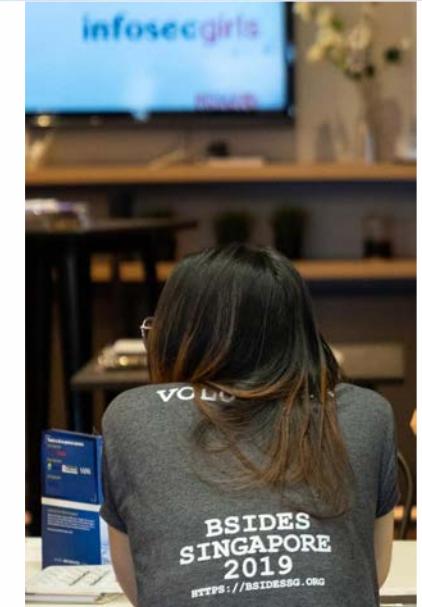
#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Diversity Scholarship

- ❖ Sponsoring the conference passes
- ❖ Sponsoring the travel
- ❖ Delivering free trainings
- ❖ Joining hands with other communities and organizations



InfoSec Girls



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Free Trainings/Workshops



<https://www.proschoolonline.com/blog/skill-yatra-the-inquisitive-case-of-skill-gap-in-india>

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Free Trainings/Workshops



Workshop on Web Application Hacking in Kerala - 2019



Workshop on Python with Security - 2020



Training at OWASP Seasides - 2020



Workshop in Mumbai (Offensive Security) - 2018



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Training

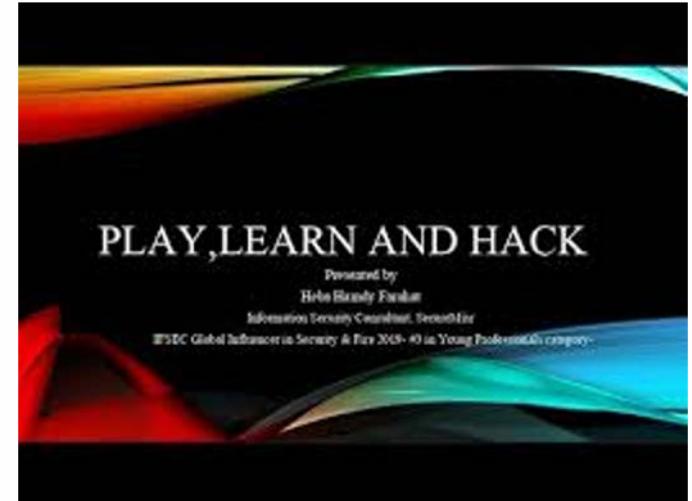
Here is the link for the Web Application Hacking training for the people to get started with their Application Security Journey

Training URL:

<https://infosecgirls.gitbook.io/infosecgirls-training/>

Supporting Capture the Flags (CTF's)

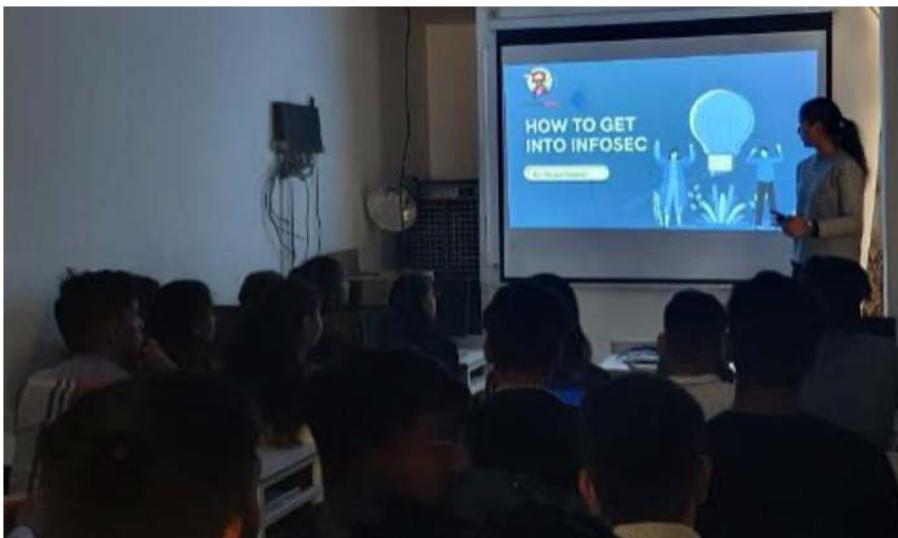
- ❖ Team Matric CTF – Symbiosis University
- ❖ Cairo University Egypt
- ❖ Sec Army CTF for Juniors



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Recruitments /Job Search

- ❖ Help in finding the jobs
- ❖ Mentorship for the freshers or college students to get a job
- ❖ Career Guidance



Pic Courtesy: amandakassner

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Stories from the Community



Testimonials

"It was really an amazing experience to learn and explore various topic at infosecgirls. By connecting with the infosec people we get to learn and get inspired from each other's. Infosec girl also gave me a platform to come forward and share my knowledge to the audience, which help me to overcome my stage fear. And the best thing about infosecgirls is they are started sharing knowledge from very basic level to advance level. So, that college student or a newbie to this community can learn from very basic level.

Thanks to the Vandana Verma for helping this community to grow and connecting us with an amazing people.

Also, Thanks to our Mumbai lead Ashwini Varadkar for arranging the meet every month."



-Jasmin Shaikh

Testimonials

"It was really great to see the connection between Infosec girl audience, who they are starting from student or a

Thanks to the team for an amazing job. Also, Thanks

"Dedicated to all Infosec girls team,

What an amazing visualisation, preparing and implementation for making the Lockdown memorable learning experience.

Each one of us are / will be better with one feather of learning up our sleeves than what we were earlier.

Speakers come in front chose and give their domain excellence thorough knowledge fare.

The objective is really wonderful got to learn a lot. The commitment and passion from all the speakers is mind-blowing also the innovative ideas and communication strategy social

for woman.

The hard work behind this success can be seen worth unity of team.

secgirls. By each other's. to the infosecgirls is that college

ting us with every month."



-Jasmin Shai

Testimonials

"It was really great to see the connection between Infosec girl and the audience, whether they are starting their career as a student or a professional."

Thanks to the speakers for an amazing interaction. Also, Thanks to the organizers.



-Jasmin Shai

"Dedicated to all Infosec girls to help them grow."

What an amazing visualisation, memorable learning experience.

Each one of us are / will be better than we were earlier.

Speakers come in front chose a topic.

The objective is really wonderful. The interaction with the speakers is mind-blowing all the time. It's a great opportunity for women.

The hard work behind this success is commendable.

Lastly the zeal to learn and teach is commendable. I am grateful for me this has become a technical skill. I would do whatever I can do for the community. I got a platform to share knowledge.



"I came to know about the InfosecGirls from my Business Partner. She introduced me to the InfosecGirls community. I still remembered the first InfosecGirls meeting that I attended. I can't forget the warmth and the vibe I got in my first interaction with the community."

There were talks on various topics the same day, OSINT Open Source Intelligence, A Day of The SOC analyst, and Red Team and Blue Team. I was amazed with the varieties of the topics covered in the meet. This community accepts anyone irrespective of the age group or knowledge of the subject. You will find College Students, Working Professionals and Entrepreneurs part of this esteem group. I gelled with them so effortlessly the first day itself as if I was knowing all of them for a long time.

"There is no ending since my first InfosecGirls Meet to acquire the knowledge about cyber security. Information Security is a continuously evolving field and a much happening field . InfosecGirls community is a bridge for me to connect to the latest happenings in the cybersecurity world. It is my privilege to be part of the group."



Manisha Chougule
Director, DigiSec360

Testimonials

**"It was really
the connecti**

"Dedicated to all Infosec girls to "I came to know about the InfosecGirls from my Business Partner. She introduced me to the InfosecGirls community. I still remembered the first InfosecGirls meeting that I attended. I

“InfosecGirls

A place where you learn & grow,
A platform where every girl makes you feel special and
Here, ideas are nurtured,
freshers are welcomed,
the experienced helps through their experiences.
A highly motivated team.
Great initiative by Vandana Verma
Well managed Mumbai Chapter by Ashwini Varadkar"



-Shifa Cyclewala|

**Open Source Intelligence, A Day of
fazed with the varieties of the
one irrespective of the age group or
Working Professionals and
em so effortlessly the first day itself**

quire the knowledge about cyber field and a much happening field . the latest happenings in the group."

Testimonials

"It was really "Dedicated to all Infosec girls to "I came to know about the InfosecGirls from my Business Partner. She introduced me to the InfosecGirls community. I still remembered the first InfosecGirls meeting that I attended. I interaction with the community.

"InfosecGirls

A place where you learn & grow,

A platform where every girl makes you feel special and helps you bring out the best in you.

Here ideas are nurtured

It helped me to brush up my knowledge and also meet elite hacker girls...

Improvements are always better just be up to date...

And come up with latest talks and knowledge.

😊😊😊 otherwise the initiate of Infosec girls is very good.. and give strength to girl power then they can do anything.



-Hina Raval

Open Source Intelligence, A Day of mazed with the varieties of the one irrespective of the age group or Working Professionals and them so effortlessly the first day itself

uire the knowledge about cyber field and a much happening field . the latest happenings in the oup."

Testimonials

"About the wonderful community came to know from my Kavita ma'am. Who told me about this energetic group.

Infosec girl Mumbai concept was very excited to me. All girls will give a blaster knowledge of concept to enhance everyone idea .

First meet was took place Infosec girls Mumbai it was excited. Marvellous experience was there on that day. We all had got new knowledge as well as motivation about new ideas and lots of technology. All the speakers had done outstanding work. Learner was engrossed to listen something new as well as special. All are waiting for next infosec girls "meetup" in Mumbai.

Afterwards two section of infosec girls Mumbai took place.

Combined OWASP Mumbai & InfoSec Girls Meetup was excellent idea. New technology going to know and many people are coming together to give more knowledge. In that I had deliver presentation on the topic as speaker it superb experience and motivation is very important given by Ashwini Varadkar.

For me as a fresher it was outstanding experience of energetic community that is my Infosec Girls Mumbai.

Give a lots of clap to superstar audience that we got to help everyone.

Thank you so much to all in Infosec Girls Mumbai we are going to be rock ✨ star."



Shivani Mohit

I know about the InfosecGirls from my Business Partner. She introduced me to the girls community. I still remembered the first InfosecGirls meeting that I attended. I still remember the energy of the girls and their interaction with the community.

It helps you bring out the best in you.

super girls...

give strength to girl power

Open Source Intelligence, A Day of crazed with the varieties of the one irrespective of the age group or Working Professionals and them so effortlessly the first day itself

uire the knowledge about cyber field and a much happening field . the latest happenings in the group."

What did we achieve so far?

Reaching further

15 Chapters
around the globe



Encouraging talent

80 percent
first time speakers

Upskilling people

Trained
over 3000+ Women

Winning Prizes

Program of the year
Award at RSA

Spreading awareness

25+ college events



Keep it open
& accessible

Sessions available on
Youtube

Start at beginning

Trained
over 500
School students

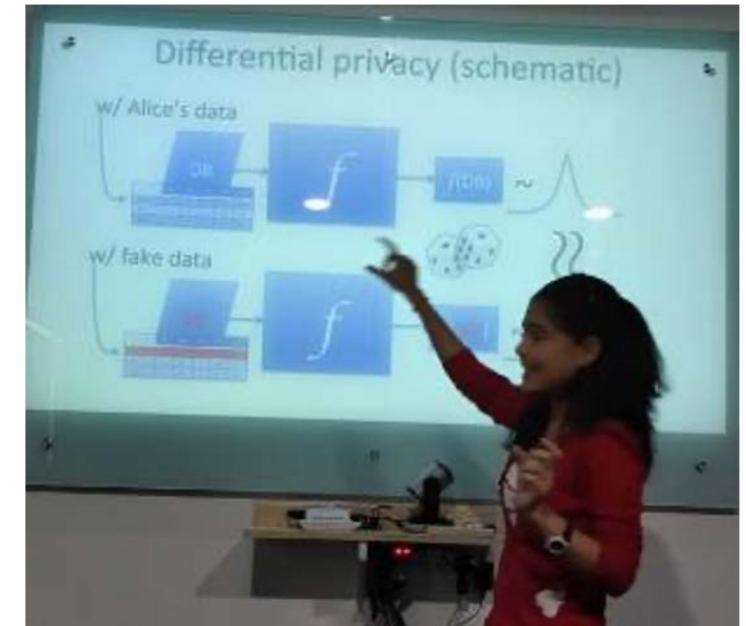
Connecting consistently

10- 15 meetups
Per Month

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

United We Stand!!

- ❖ Being there for each of us, beyond just infosec
- ❖ Knowledge and individual hard work of
- ❖ Aims at exploring new horizons for infosecgirls



Efforts Behind the Scenes - Chapter Leaders

- ❖ Creatives (Banners, posters, etc.)
- ❖ Finding new speakers
- ❖ Grooming budding speakers
- ❖ Experiment with new venues
- ❖ Experiment with formats like streaming platform, workshops, quizzes.



Chapter Leaders Around the World

Pune Lead



Shrutirupa

Mumbai Lead



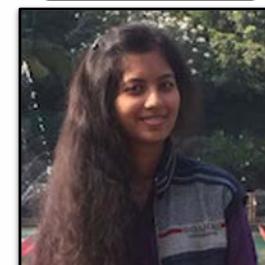
Ashwini

Hyderabad Lead



Shivani

Bhopal Lead



Shreya

Chandigarh Lead



Priyam

Italy Lead



Loredana

Delhi Lead



Saman

Delhi Lead



Aarti

Jaipur Lead



Rupika

Nagpur Lead



Megha

New York Lead



Aastha

New York Lead



Zoe

Community's Opinion

❖ Community members Expectation



❖ Fresh ideas from the community members

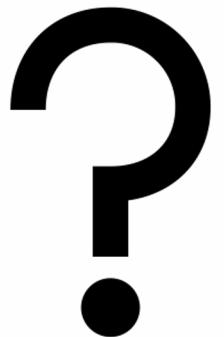


❖ New learning opportunities



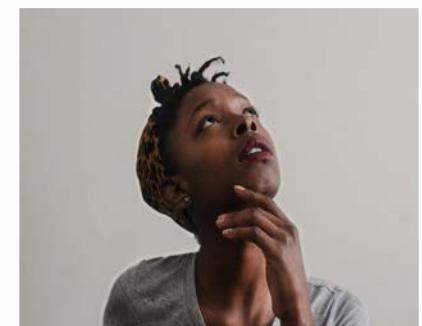
❖ keeping a tab on the pulse of community by active feedback





Should I start a community of my own
or

Should I contribute to an existing community?



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

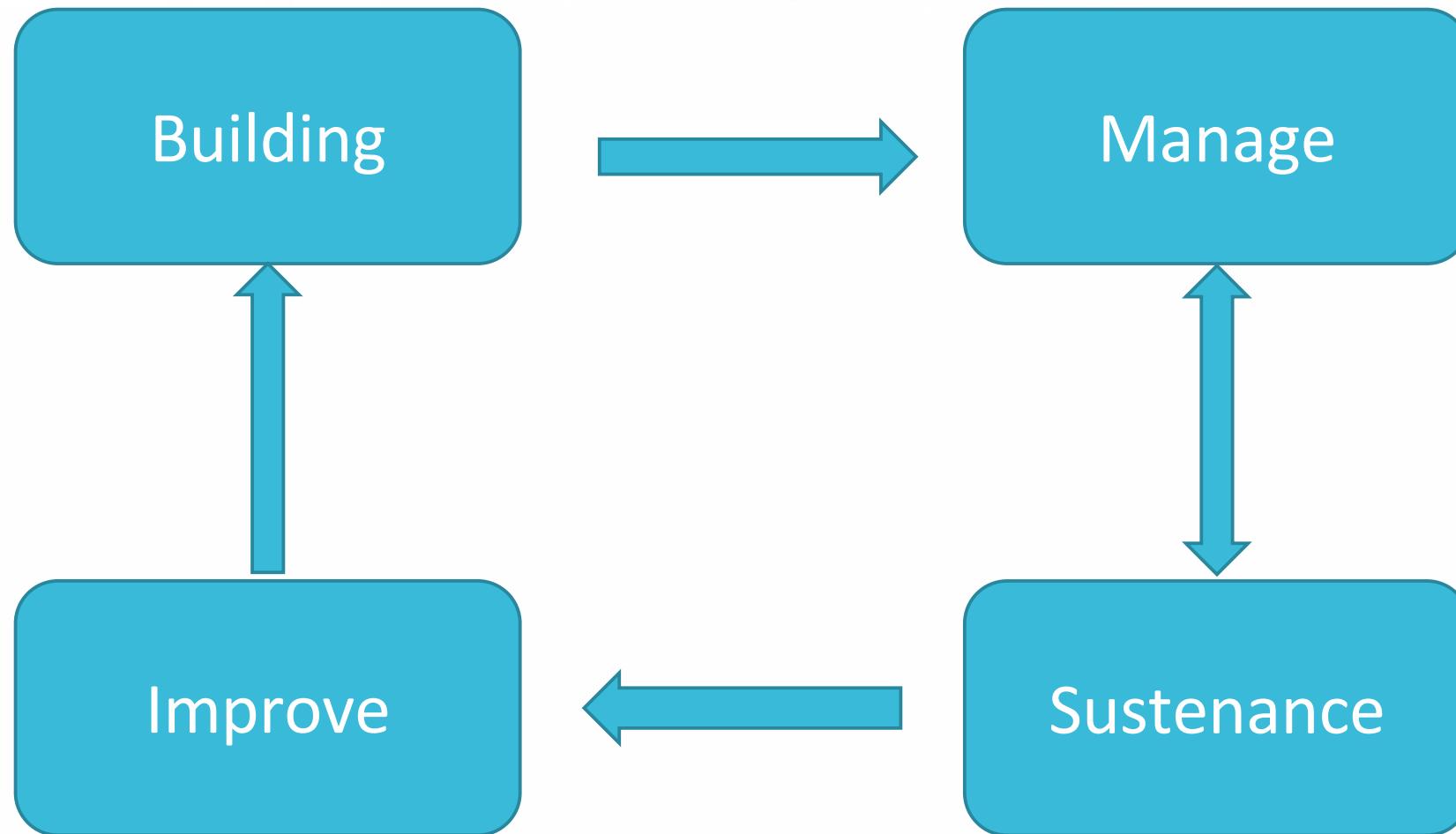


Framework to Build a Community



#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

Framework to Build a Community

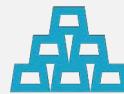


Framework to Build a Community - Build

Build



Name the community



Find a venue



Plan the meetings



Find the speakers



Create the mailing list and social media handles



Announce the meeting

Framework to Build a Community - Manage

Manage



Partner with a venue providers



Find Co-leads



Plan the frequency of the meet-ups



Finalise the date in advance for the meet



Announce the meet on Website, Mailing list, Twitter, Facebook, etc



Code of conduct

Framework to Build a Community - Sustenance

Sustenance



More Leads or co-leads



Venue Related Issues – Discuss them out



Buddy system



Never Shy away in asking for help



Knowledge base that we are working on



In case no local meets, then we have online sessions.

Framework to Build a Community - Improve

Improve



Ask for community feedback



Implement the feasible feedback



Experiment with the different types of formats



Adapt to situations



Hold the highest standards of integrity in all of our actions

Ethos of a Community



The community and its members are always ready to help.



Community should always be giving more than sum total of what is provided.



Dedication towards imbibing interest in infosec among new professionals.



Community is inclusive of everyone i.e. right from a common college student who is interested in infosec to the a professional who wants to learn something new



Community is inclusive of everyone i.e. right from a common college student who is interested in infosec to the a professional who wants to learn something new



The enthusiasm and encouragement given to each other.

Future Roadmap

- ❖ Sustainable Community for next 10 years
- ❖ More Chapters around the world
- ❖ Host free conferences for the community
- ❖ Encourage participation of candidates from unsung areas
- ❖ Focus on educating under represented categories



KEY TAKEAWAYS



PAY IT FORWARD



POSITIVE
DIFFERENTIATION



SECURITY MUCH
MORE SECURE



PARTNER WITH
ORGANIZATIONS



We are making an impact....

YET, We Have a Long Way to Go!!



"Our greatness comes when we appreciate each other's strengths, when we learn from each other, when we lean on each other." - Michelle Obama

Special Thanks.....



Akash Mahajan



Lubaina Rangwala

Reach Us!!

- ❖ Website : <https://infosecgirls.in>
- ❖ Email: hello [at] infosecgirls [dot] in
- ❖ Twitter: [@infosecgirls](https://twitter.com/@infosecgirls)
- ❖ Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/infosecgirls/>
- ❖ YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/InfosecGirls>
- ❖ LinkedIn:- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/infosecgirls/>
- ❖ Mailing list :
- ❖ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/infosecgirls>



Thank You

