

Empowering Syrian Undergraduates to Join MicroMasters
Programs (SYMPRO): Toward Career-Focused and Affordable
Graduate Studies (Short project)









## Outline

- Challenges of higher Education for vulnerable groups
- MicroMasters Programs
- Project Phases
  - Needs analysis and participants selection
  - Phase 1: Local empowerment/ conducted at Yarmouk University
  - Phase 2: MOOCs-Based empowerment/ taking a real MicroMasters courses
- Challenges in the project Implementation

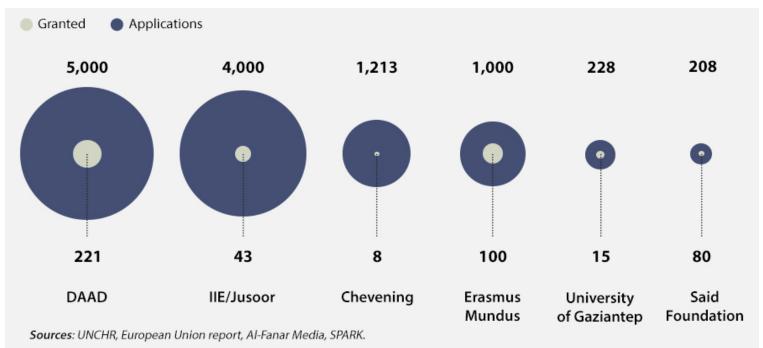






### Higher Education Challenges

 Syrian Students' demand for scholarships overwhelms available grants



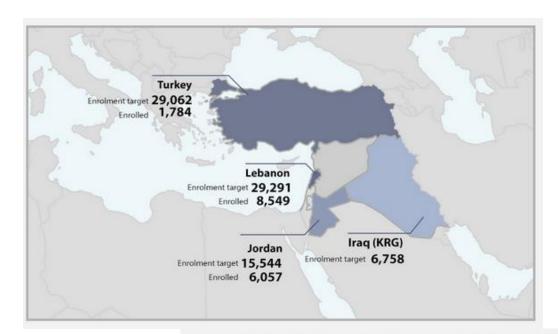






# Higher Education Challenges

 Accessibility and Cost: Fewer than 6% of Syrian youth ages between 18 to 24 are enrolled in the Universities



Sources: UNCHR, European Union report, Al-Fanar Media, SPARK.









# Higher Education Challenges

- Joining Post-graduate (Master Level) Programs
- Students need advanced skills to get scholarships program. Especially, for post-graduate courses
- Example Requirement
- "We will identify a highly talented and qualified cohort to participate in a special certificate program.
- "Applicants will be tested in both maths and English language skills prior to being accepted to the program"









# Response to Challenge 3

- A graduate level program that is
  - Accessible
  - Cheap
  - Bridge the Gap between education and the workplace
  - Counts towards getting a degree

### **MicroMasters**









# MicroMasters Programs

- A series of online graduate level courses from top universities designed to advance career.
- MicroMasters credentials bridge the gap between education and the workplace.
- Students may apply to the university offering credit for the MicroMasters certificate
- If accepted, can pursue an accelerated and less expensive Master's Degree.
- Once you've successfully earned a **MicroMasters** credentials(i.e. 50-60% of a master credits), you can apply to an on-campus program that recognizes the **MicroMasters** credits.
- If you're accepted, the digital credential counts as credit toward a portion of the degree, resulting in an accelerated and much more cheaper program.







### How it Works?





"The material I am learning in the MicroMasters program is useful every single day and has helped me become very effective in a leadership role."

Javier, Supply Chain Engineer,
 Google | United States











# Bridging the Gap between Education and the Workplace



CurtinX

### Internet of Things (IoT)

The IoT is leading a digital revolution for industries. Learn to design IoT solutions and

Current



#### THIS PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE GRANT SCHEME OF HOPES





AdelaideX

#### Big Data

Learn how to transform big data into business insights and solutions as you learn

Current





UMUC, USMx

#### Bioinformatics

Learn how to analyze biological big data to unlock the next big biotech discovery.

Current

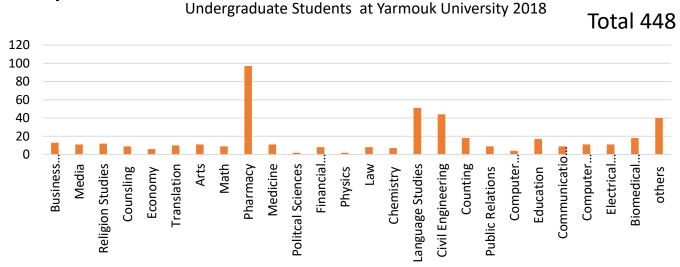






### SYMPRO Project: Objectives and Activities

- Aims at empowering Syrian and Jordanian undergraduate with skills needed to get a MicroMasters degree
- Two demanding fields: Data Science(analytics) and Cyber Security











# Empowerment Program for Syrians Undergraduate to Join Micro Masters

Needs Analysis and Surveying

 November 2017- End of January 2018

Empowerment
Program in Data
Science and Cyber
Security(Blended
Learning)

• February- June 2018

Empowerment
Program in real micro
masters programs
(Data Science and
Cyber Security)

June-December 2018







### **Trainee Selection**

Major	Number
<b>Computer Science</b>	4 (3 Jordanian+ 1 Syrian)
<b>Computer Engineering</b>	4 (Syrian)
Information Systems	4 (Jordanian)

Gender	Number
Male	5 Syrians+ 1 Jordanian
Female	6 Jordanians







# Phase 1

Training Module	Term
Fundamentals in Cyber Security	Spring 2018/ Yarmouk University
Introduction to Data Science	Spring 2018/ Yarmouk Universty
A micro-Master course in Cyber Security	Fall 2018/ EDX platform
A micro-Master Course in Data Analysis	Fall 2018/ EDX platform







### Weekly meetings with students





### Project Team

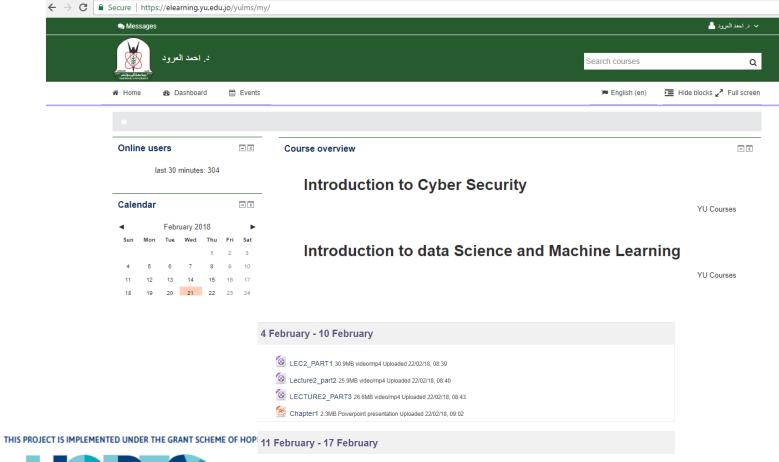
- 1. Dr. Ahmed AlEroud (PI and Instructor of cyber Security module)
- 2. Dr. Khaled Nahar (Co-PI and Data science Instructor)
- 3. Mr. Ahmed Zyout (Administrator/E-learning System)
- Mr. Abduallah Alzoubi (Lab Technician )







# Material Available on the E-Learning System



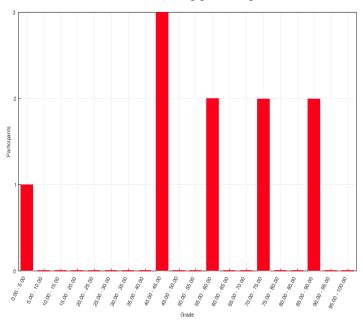






### Student's Evaluation

#### Overall number of students achieving grade ranges



**Samples of Student Answers** 

ID number	State	Started on	Grade/100.00	Q. 1 /50.00	Q. 2 /50.00
20158100 07	Finishe d	5 March 2018 9:00 PM	100	50	50
20138800 32	Finishe d	6 March 2018 1:41 AM	100	50	50
20139010 26	Finishe d	6 March 2018 8:19 AM	100	50	50
20139020 46	Finishe d	6 March 2018 10:54 AM	100	50	50
20139020 72	Finishe d	6 March 2018 10:54 AM	100	50	50
20138800 10	Finishe d	6 March 2018 11:06 AM	100	50	50
20139020 35	Finishe d	6 March 2018 12:05 PM	100	50	50
20138800 37	Finishe d	6 March 2018 12:57 PM	100	50	50
20178030 10	Finishe d	6 March 2018 3:27 PM	100	50	50
			100	50	50







### **Universities Offer MicroMasters**

Australian National University (ANUx)

Columbia University (ColumbiaX)

**Curtin University (CurtinX)** 

Galileo University (GalileoX)

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPolyUx)

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMBx)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MITx)

Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPValenciaX)

Rochester Institute of Technology (RITx)

Université catholique de Louvain (LouvainX)

University of Michigan (MichiganX)

Wageningen University (WageningenX)



THIS PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE GRANT SCHEME OF HOPES



### **Recognition in Industry**

- Adobe Systems
- Bloomberg L.P.
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- •BYTE
- Carnegie Foundation
- Fidelity Investments
- Foley Hoag LLP
- Ford
- •GeneDx
- Hotel Icon
- •IBM
- Marketforce
- Mitchell International
- PayChex
- PwC
- Rethink Robotics
- Volvo
- •Walmart





# Phase 2: Students Registration in MicroMasters Credits

- Two courses
- A Micro Masters level course on Big Data analytics and Internet of things/ Offered as part of a micromasters program at Curtin University (CurtinX)/ Australia
- A microMasters level course on Cyber Security offered as part of a microMasters program in Cyber Security/ Rochester Institute of Technology (RITx)/USA









Course on Big Data and IOT (Data Analytics)

	Jordanian	Syrian
Males	0	3
Females	4	0

Major	Number of Students
Computer Information Systems	4
Computer Engineering	2
Computer Science	1









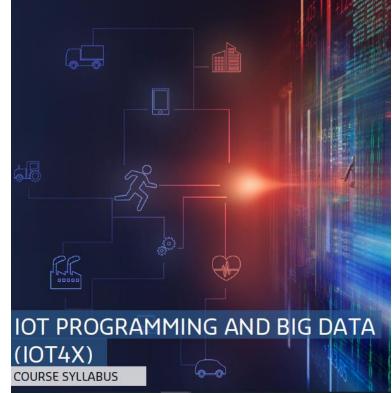
### **Course Information**

















### MicroMasters in IOT Curtin University

### MicroMasters in the Internet of Things (IoT)

### Welcome

Welcome to IOT4x - IoT Programming and Big Data, the fourth course in our <u>MicroMasters</u> in the Internet of Things program.

Complete, pass and earn a Verified Certificate in all six courses to receive your MicroMasters Credential.

- IOT1x Introduction to the Internet of Things (IoT)
- IOT2x IoT Sensors and Devices
- IOT3x IoT Networks and Protocols
- IOT4x IoT Programming and Big Data this course!
- IOT5x Cybersecurity and Privacy in the IoT
- IOT6x IoT Capstone Project





### **Course Lecturers**

#### Your Instructors:



#### Dr Johannes U. Herrmann

Hannes is a Senior Lecturer who teaches computing at Curtin University. He has worked at both the Sawarak and Bentley campuses of Curtin, as well as having worked for UWA, Murdoch and ECU in the past. He received his B.Sci (Hons) and MSc (Research) from UWA and his Ph.D. from Curtin. He is involved in several ongoing projects relating to the teaching of computing-related information using technology.



#### Dr Valerie Maxville

Valerie Maxville is an experienced educator who is passionate about technology and its potential. She enjoys making technology accessible - taking on the challenge of communicating complex concepts to diverse audiences.

Valerie lectures core units in Data Science and Computer Science at Curtin University, From 2007 to 2016 Valerie coordinated and

delivered training, internships, outreach and user engagement at the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre (iVEC) to increase awareness and uptake of computational science. Valerie holds a PhD in Computer Science (Software Engineering) and an Honours degree in Computer Science. As an industry volunteer, Valerie actively promotes careers in computing and local industry development. She is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and a Senior Member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).



#### Dr Aloke Phatak

Aloke is an engineer-turned applied statistician who obtained his BASc, MASc, and PhD from the University of Waterloo in Canada. He spent more than 20 years at the CSIRO, where he carried out research in applied statistics; worked with a wide range of industries and in diverse areas such as industrial statistics, biomarker discovery, and climate extremes; and developed short courses for practicing engineers and scientists.

At Curtin he co-ordinates the Data Science Major, carries out consulting with industry, and is always on the lookout for new ways of teachings statistics and data science.







# **Course Syllabus**

Assessment Type	% of Final Grade	Due Date
Module quizzes (x 3)	3 x 10% = 30%	12 November 2018 (23.30 UTC)
Final quiz	20%	12 November 2018 (23.30 UTC)
Practical task 1 (Module 1)	15%	12 November 2018 (23.30 UTC)
Practical task 2 (Module 2)	15%	12 November 2018 (23.30 UTC)
Practical task 3 (Module 4)	20%	12 November 2018 (23.30 UTC)

#### Course Schedule:

Module	Topic	Assessment
1	Introduction to Big Data from the IoT	Module 1 quiz (10%) Practical task 1 (15%)
2	Data at the Edge	Module 2 quiz (10%) Practical task 2 (15%)
3	Data in the Cloud	Module 3 quiz (10%)
4	Obtaining, Visualising and Analysing Data	Practical task 3 (20%)
5	Summary and assessment	Final quiz (20%)

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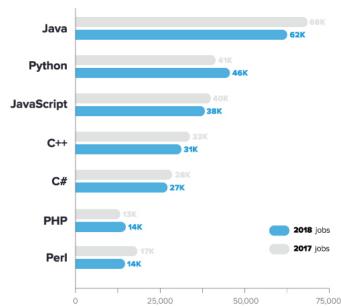




### Reasons For Selecting the Course

 Students will learn how to program in Python(Top in Job Posting)



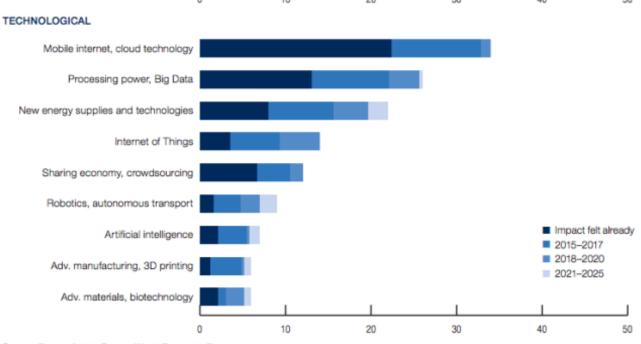








# Reasons For Selecting the Course(Big Data and



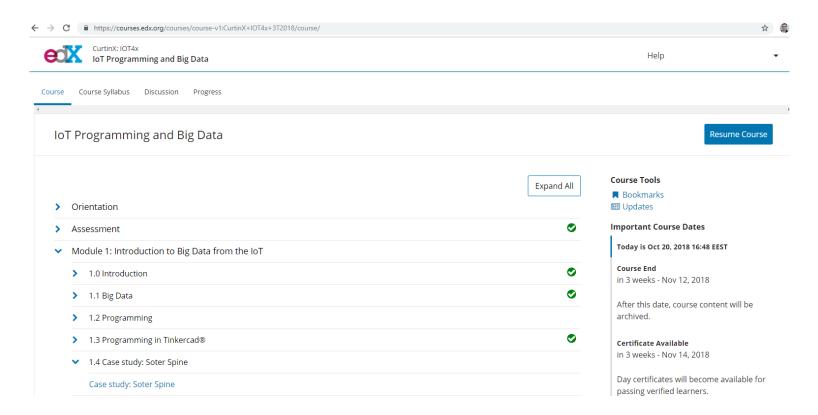
Source: Future of Jobs Survey, World Economic Forum. Note: Names of drivers have been abbreviated to ensure legibility.







### Course Interface on EDX









### Sample of Practical tasks

#### Programming in Tinkercad®

D Bookmark this page



**ACTIVITY: Programming in Tinkercad®** 

Now you will do two guided activities in Tinkercad®.

We strongly encourage you to work through both activities, as it will help you to complete your assessments for this course.

Tinkercad® is a web based application for making 3D designs and electronic circuits.

If you are already familiar with Tinkercad® from previous IoT courses, please download and follow the instructions below.

#### Activity 1

This activity introduces you to programming a microcontroller using code blocks to switch on an LED in response to pushing a button.

IoT4x Module1 Activity 1

#### Activity 2

This activity will instruct you in an example of using code blocks for more complex programming by reading from an input, storing the reading in a variable, and then adjusting that value before using it to control a device at the output.

IoT4x Module1 Activity2

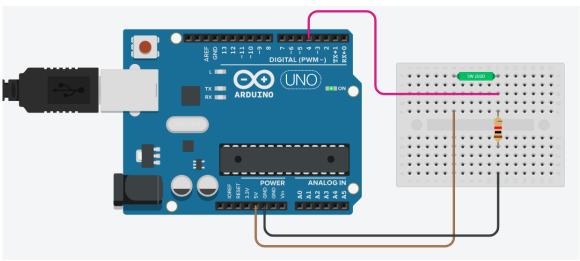
### Activity 1

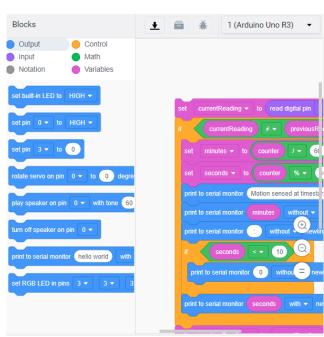






# Simulating Programming tasks











### **Quiz Questions**

Rank	Database Management System	Database Model
1	Oracle	Relational DBMS
2	MySQL	Relational DBMS
3	Microsoft SQL Server	Relational DBMS
4	PostgreSQL	Relational DBMS
5	MongoDB	Document store
6	DB2	Relational DBMS
7	Redis	Key-value store
8	Elasticsearch	Search Engine
9	Microsoft Access	Relational DBMS
10	Cassandra	Wide column store

#### **Question 1**

2.0/2.0 points (graded)

In the table above, how many of the top 10 most popular databases belong to the No-SQL family of databases?

0

0 1





#### Question 5 - Information

The whitepaper "Intel® IoT Gateways: Pulling Data from a Temperature Sensor Using a Python Script" is a getting started guide for working with Gateways and Python.

The code includes statements to delay the processing to reduce data traffic and storage. Study the following code and answer the question that follows.

```
#! /usr/bin/python
    import sys
    import datetime
    from time import time, sleep
   from Phidgets . Devices . InterfaceKit import *
   from Phidgets . Devices . TemperatureSensor import *
    TEMP SENSOR PORT = 6
8 # Define an error catching function so we can call it on "try...except" blocks
9 def LocalErrorCatcher( event ):
   print ( "Phidget Exception: " + str(e.code) + " - " + str(e.details) + ",
12 exit(1)
13 # Get the temperature sensor reading from port #TEMP_SENSOR_PORT of the Sensor Kit
14 def GetTemp( device , outfile , TEMP_SENSOR_PORT ):
15    current_time = datetime . datetime .now()
16 # Get the board temperature in Celsius by reading sensor input and applying
17 conversion formula
18 ambientTemp = ( device .getSensorValue( TEMP_SENSOR_PORT ) * .2222) - 61.111
19 # Write the data to the text file
20 time_and_temp = (str(current_time) + ", " + str(ambientTemp) + "\n" )
21 print ( "%s" % time_and_temp)
     outfile .write(time and temp)
     sys .stdout.flush()
24 # Clear and open the data file for writing
25   outfile = open( "phidgets_temperature_data.txt" , "w" )
26 # Write a header to the text file first thing
27 outfile.write( "Time Sensor Temperature (C)\n" )
```

#### Question 5

2.0/2.0 points (graded)

What change would be made to the code to sample the data every minute instead of every second?

- Line 7, change TEMP\_SENSOR\_PORT = 6 to TEMP\_SENSOR\_PORT = 60
- Line 39, change device.waitForAttach(10000) to device.waitForAttach(600000)
- Line 40, change device.setDataRate(TEMP\_SENSOR\_PORT, 4) to device.setDataRate(TEMP\_SENSOR\_PORT, 60)
- Line 49, change sleep(1) to sleep(60) 

  ✓







# **Student Certificates**





This is to certify that

### Abdullah Omar Almokdad

successfully completed and received a passing grade in

### IOT4x: IoT Programming and Big Data

a course of study offered by CurtinX, an online learning initiative of Curtin University through edX.



Professor Jill Downie
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic

Vice-Chancellor, Academic *Curtin University* 



VERIFIED CERTIFICATE
Issued November 14, 2018

VALID CERTIFICATE ID 6be6a6c2332849ab96f58c33ba8d0e09







## Course 2 on Cyber Security

- A MicroMasters Program on Cyber Security
- Offered by RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Courses



#### Cybersecurity Fundamentals

Learn cybersecurity fundamentals, including how to detect threats, protect systems and networks, and anticipate potential cyber attacks. View the Cybersecurity Fundamentals course Starts on January 8, 2019



#### **Computer Forensics**

Learn the process, techniques and tools for performing a digital forensics investigation to obtain data related to computer crimes.

View the Computer Forensics course

Starts on October 9, 2018



#### Cybersecurity Risk Management

Learn key principles of risk analysis, risk assessment and risk mitigation for information security using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. View the Cybersecurity Risk Management course Starts on October 9, 2018 (more dates)



#### Network Security

Learn the process of network security, including intrusion detection, evidence collection, network auditing, and contingency planning against attacks. View the Network Security course Starts on October 9, 2018



#### Cybersecurity Capstone

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired in the Cybersecurity MicroMasters Program.

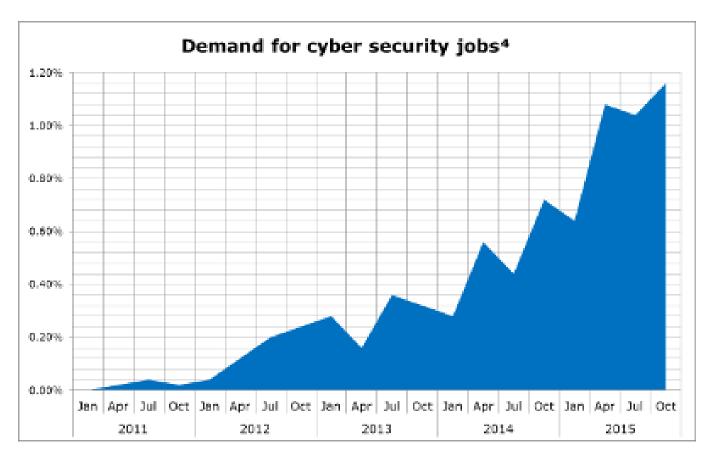
Starts on January 8, 2019 (more dates)







## **Demand in Cyber Security Jobs**









## **Network Security Course**

	Syrian
Males	5
Females	0

Major	Number
Computer Science	1
Computer Engineering	4







### Cyber Security MicroMasters Program

View Courses Meet the Instructors The MicroMasters Program



MicroMasters® A series of credit-eligible courses recognized by industry.

Gain the essential knowledge and expertise in network security and forensics needed for cybersecurity in enterprise environments.

In this Cybersecurity MicroMasters Program, you will learn:

- Fundamentals of networks;
- Systems administration;
- How to protect computer networks and other systems by mitigating vulnerabilities and monitoring intrusions;
- How to perform digital forensic analysis of cybercrime by gathering information on the nature and
  extent of the attack for presentation in a court of law, as well as assessing the extent of the damage
  to an organization;
- · Techniques of risk analysis;
- · Risk assessment and vulnerability assessment.

The MicroMasters Program capstone experience for verified learners entails practical demonstration of these skills.

course  Number Of Courses: 5 Courses in Program  Subject: Computer Science  Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology  Institution Offering Credit: Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English			
course  Number Of Courses: 5 Courses in Program  Subject: Computer Science  Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology  Institution Offering Credit: Rochester Institute of Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.	9	Average Length:	8 weeks per course
Subject: Computer Science  Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology  Institution Offering Rochester Institute of Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.	<b>2</b>	Effort:	10-12 hours per week, per course
Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology  Institution Offering Rochester Institute of Technology  Credit: Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.		Number Of Courses:	5 Courses in Program
Technology  Institution Offering Credit:  Rochester Institute of Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD):  \$\frac{12200 USD}{12200 USD} \$1080 USD} \text{ for the entire program.}	8	Subject:	Computer Science
Credit: Technology  Language: English  Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.	<u></u>	Institution:	
Video Transcripts: English  Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.	<u></u>	_	
Price (USD): \$1200 USD \$1080 USD for the entire program.	Q	Language:	English
the entire program.	<b>■</b>	Video Transcripts:	English
	•	Price (USD):	







## Course Syllabus

- Unit 1: Packet Sniffing
- Unit 2: Password Cracking
- Unit 3: Port Scanning
- Unit 4: Exploits and Exploiting
- Unit 5: Access Control Lists
- Unit 6: Snort
- Unit 7: DHCP, DNS, and Switch Attacks and Mitigations
- Unit 8: Man in The Middle Attacks and Mitigations









### **Course Evaluation**

- Weekly Readings
- Analyze attack/defend scenarios and determine the effectiveness of particular defense deployments against attacks.
- Weekly quizzes







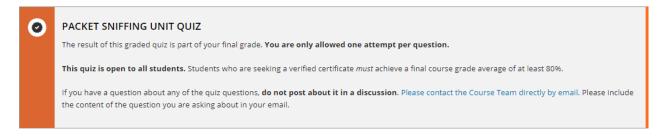


## Weekly Quizzes

✓ Previous	Next >
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#### **Packet Sniffing Unit Quiz**

☐ Bookmark this page



#### Unit 1 Question

1/1 point (graded)

When an encrypted SSL/TLS segment is sent, can a packet sniffer still read the source and destination IP addresses of the packet?

Never	
Only if the private key is installed	
Only if the public key is installed	



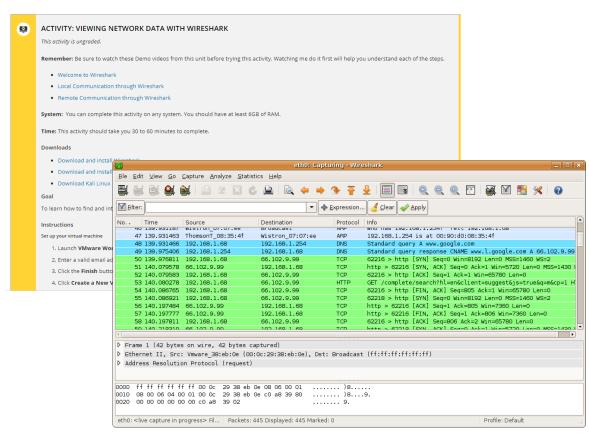




# Weekly Activities

Activity: Viewing Network Data with Wireshark

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This is to certify that

### **Mohammad Saed Al REFAE**

successfully completed and received a passing grade in

CYBER504x: Network Security

a course of study offered by RITx, an online learning initiative of Rochester Institute of Technology through edX.

David C. Munson fr.

David C. Munson Jr.

President

Rochester Institute of Technology



VALID CERTIFICATE ID
212387f8819c43e39f416d43f0e33b44







# EDX Piloting(trial) Phase

- 5 Students are registered in a course on Cyber Security to get familiar with the environment
- Communication with Students

Ahmed Aleroud <ahmed.aleroud@yu.edu.jo> Sat, Jun 9, 2018 at 1:24 PM To: Islam ALomari <islamalomari56@gmail.com>, sawjamil@yahoo.com, momani.hebah2196@gmail.com, hlaalnaamneh@gmail.com, 2015802018@ses.yu.edu.jo, Mohammad Tarrab <aleppo80@gmail.com>, mousaali2277@gmail.com, mousa ali <mousa.91.m@gmail.com>, mohamed khaled <mohamed9797khaled@gmail.com>

السلام عليكم

ارجو العلم بأن محتوى الوحده الأولى متوفر على موقع edx كما ارجو منكم الدخول الى الموقع ومن ثم الى المساق

https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:RITx+ CYBER501x+2T2018/course/

#### وعمل التالي

1. التعريف بانفسكم باللغه الإنجليزيه My name is ... and I am interested in Cyber Security التعريف اعلاه عام وتستطيعون التعريف بانفسكم بطريقه اخرى ..حتى اللحظه فقط 3 طلاب قاموا بالتعريف بانفسهم داخل المساق علم مجموعه من الفيديو هات لشرح الوحده الأولى "مقدمه الى الامن السيبراني " وتحتوي الفيديو هات الكثير من الامثله الواقعيه لعمليات اختراق حدثت على مستوى العالم الفيديو مرفق في هذا الإيميل بملف اسمه "محتوى الوحده الاولى، بالتالي لكم خيار الاطلاع على الفيديو او الاطلاع على النص في ملف "محتوى الوحده الاولى، بالتالي لكم خيار الاطلاع على الفيديو او الاطلاع على النص في ملف "محتوى الوحده الاولى 4. بعد نهاية فيديو الوحده الاولى مجموعه من القراءات الذاتيه اغلبها مواقع الكترونيه تتحدث عن موضوع الاختراق. مثال بشرح المدرس كيفية التجسس على كاميرات لاتحتوي نظام حماية من الاختراق . ويعطى مثال حى على احد هذه المواقع كالتالي



## **EDX Piloting Phase**

Verified track (150 USD)



- Paid for two students
- One student received the certificate







# Certificate (MicroMasters Cyber in Security)



 $R \cdot I \cdot T$ 

This is to certify that

### Islam Alomari

successfully completed and received a passing grade in

### CYBER501x: Cybersecurity Fundamentals

a course of study offered by RITx, an online learning initiative of Rochester Institute of Technology through edX.

David C. Munson fr.

David C. Munson Jr.

Rochester Institute of Technology



VERIFIED CERTIFICATE
Issued August 2, 2018

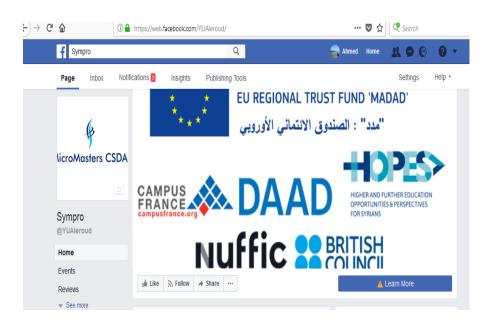
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# **Project Dissemination Activities**





### Done in Collaboration with the Refugee Center at Yarmouk Universities

























## Challenges

- Running the project with small budget (8000 Euros). 25% of them are overhead cost
- Students can only take a course once
- The cost of an entire MicroMasters Programs is 1500-2000 USD per student. Not that expensive!!
- It is given our small budget
- Time of offering courses is not always convenient for every student









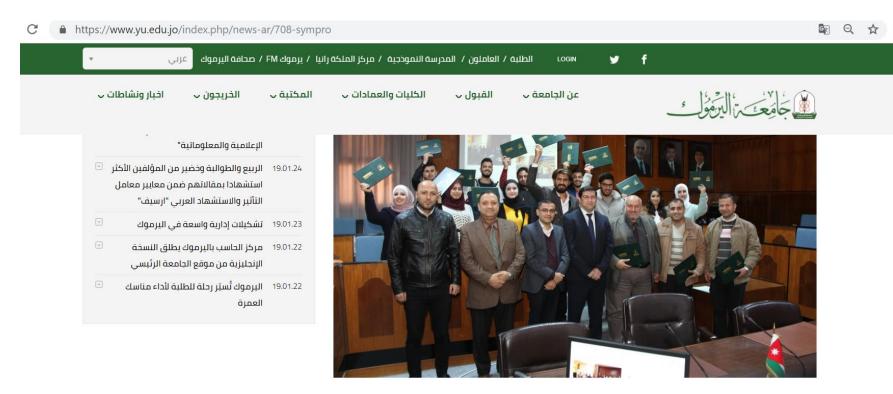
Yarmouk University in Northern #Jordan, very close to the border. Good talk w/ Syrian undergrad IT students, gaining their master credits thanks to #HOPES funded initiative involving MOOCs & short class courses







# Dissemination activities



رعى مدير دائرة العلاقات والمشاريع الدولية في جامعة اليرموك الدكتور موفق العتوم حفل تخريج طلبة الجامعة من الطلبة الأردنيين واللاجئين السوريين المشاركين في مشروع SYMPRO, والذي نفذته الجامعة بدعم من الصندوق الائتمانى الاوروبى بقيمة 8 الآف يورو.

وقدم مدير المشروع الدكتور أحمد العرود من كلية تكنولوجيا المعلومات وعلوم الحاسوب في الجامعة عرضا توضيحيا جوار المشروع قال فيوران المشروع بحرض الستأجيا الطلبة الأبدنيين والسورين الالتجاة سيامد



