UbuntuNet CONNECT 2018

Contribution ID: **47**   Type: **Presentation**

A National Platform for Augmenting Cyber Security 21st Century Competencies: Namibia National Cyber Security Competition

In October 2015 Namibia University of Science and Technology, then known as the Polytechnic of Namibia launched the first ever Namibia National Cyber Security Competition (NNCSC). Since its inception it has become a yearly event that brings together academia, students, industry and cyber security experts. A cyber security competition involves student teams that are either majoring or wish to specialise in cyber security disciplines. During the day of the competition the students defend their system from white hackers whilst being tasked to do normal day to day tasks. The competition is driven by three major objectives; provide students with real world hands on challenges that are experienced in typical corporate networks that cannot be simulated in a typical classroom, prepare students for real world scenarios and to provide a platform for industry, students and academia to come together in solving real world challenges. The cyber security competition has grown from strength to strength and has brought to the fore achievements that can be achieved when many stakeholders come together to solve a defined challenge. A typical challenge that gave birth to the competition was shortage of responsive national cyber security expertise development programs. This paper will highlight how the cybersecurity competition has opened doors for successful student placement after graduating, how student cyber security skills have been enhanced, how industry has leveraged their staff complement through active participation at the competition and how real cyber security challenges have been solved through the competition. This paper highlights how a multi-stakeholder collaboration involving industry, government, civil society and academia is addressing lack of technology expertise in Namibia, the region and the world at large.

Summary

Sub-Theme

SMART Teaching and Learning: Services and tools

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Session Classification: UbuntuNet-Connect