

Report on SCTechzest 2019

“SCTechZest” is an annual technical meet organised by the Department of Computer Science and Applications. Since its inception in 2016, “SCTechZest” aims to develop interest and encourage innovation in technology among students. This year the Department organised a one day workshop the 17th of April, 2019 which comprised of the following:

- a) A Talk on BUG BOUNTY by Sai Krishna Kothapalli
- b) A Panel discussion on Strategies and Trends in Cyber Security

The meet comprised more than 80 participants. At the Inaugural session, the Principal of the college Dr. Malloy Dey gave the welcome address which was followed by a keynote address by the Vice-Principal of the college, Mr. Kallol Dutta Roy. His address stressed on the need for the youth to be informed as well as concerned about the threats of cybercrime which is even more devastating in years to follow. He added that such a cause strengthens the imperative to implement advanced data security strategies and to do so efficiently, they need to understand what are the most significant threats to data as a whole.

The Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. P. Nicholas Jyrwa, lecturer of Computer Science and Applications.

Following the tea break, Mr. Sai Krishna Kothapalli the Chief Guest of the workshop, an alumnus of IIT Guwahati and founder of Hackrew spoke about the WHAT/WHERE/WHO/WHEN/HOW's of Bug bounty. He cited examples of how he worked with the Assam police in discovering vulnerabilities in their department. His finest work was exposing BSNL's weaklings on their login page which if hacked could have huge implications. According to him the data which was leaked contained a lot of valuable information not only of their employees but of the nation as well.

He recalled that his duty of reporting the problem to the different heads of the organisation as well as the Prime Minister wasn't paid heed to and he had to resort to the social media to put forward the problem. It was only after two years and with the help of a French national Mr. Elliot Alderson (the man who exposed flaws in Aadhaar, OnePlus & Paytm) that BSNL fixed the issue. Sai's concern was more about the 'brain-drain' and claims that the young talent pool of India resort to going abroad to earn money rather than staying back and helping their country.

Following the talk, an interactive session with the students was held whereby numerous doubts and questions were clarified by the Bug Bounty expert.

A short break took place and the stage was set for the second part of the program which was entitled “A Panel discussion on Strategies and Trends in Cyber Security”. Mr. Ialamlang Jyrwa a sub-inspector in the Meghalaya Police who has also worked in numerous cybercrime cases was the other resource person. The moderator of the session was a BCA 6th SEM student Mr. Ravi Deka. The session was a gruelling one as Mr. Deka had prepared a good number of questions which ranged from “Vulnerabilities of Aadhar Card”, “Incognito mode in Google”, “Skills required to become a Bug Bounty specialist” to “Personal Data Protection Bill.” The audience did listen to the discussion with great enthusiasm. A question from one of the participants (How do we know if our cell phone is hacked or not?) did puzzle the experts for a while but the reply from Mr. Ialamlang Jyrwa was praised by all.

The sunset of the workshop was marked by a short valedictory session whereby certificates were distributed to all the participants. On the whole it was an informative day where all of us did learn something about the importance of Cyber Security in modern Internet age. Growing cyber threats such as data theft, phishing scams and other cyber vulnerabilities demand that users should remain vigilant about protecting data. It is essential to understand the varied type

of risks and vulnerabilities that exists in the Internet world. For every user, it is important to think before connecting to someone using online medium. Users should also think prior to sharing any information with other users through the internet.



