



PRESS RELEASE: 28.08.11

Competitive Hacking Website Puts Talent to Waste



Written by Verity Sleeman

RankMyHack.com is an underground competitive website which rewards hackers with 'points' for infiltrating online security systems.

The site was created by a British computer science student using the online alias 'SOlar', who actively encourages the disabling of vital online companies by stating, "The bigger the site, the bigger the points." But the British government offer hackers a better and more rewarding alternative.

The Cyber Security Challenge is a government sponsored scheme that sets out games and competitions designed to identify those talented enough to join the UK's cyber security profession.

Part of a £650m investment into national security, it provides an alternative and more profitable route for computer hackers.

IRM Security Consultant John Carroll gave his verdict on the RankMyHack's perverse online competition and said: "As a singular activity the hacking is destructive, but you also have to question who the owner of the website is - and of greater concern - what he or she is going to do with all the Internet security data that is being provided by hundreds of other hackers."

"This site is a good example of how hacking is perceived as a game. The average age of a computer hacker is between 16-24 years old, ages when you don't necessarily understand the consequences of your actions, or perhaps you don't even care."

"This is not the only site of its kind, and it's completely unproductive for anyone using it. Participants are not making any profit and are just wasting the obvious skills they have for computer science. They are also risking a criminal record and possible jail term by failing to develop a potential career constructively."

But these skilled hackers can now 'legally' take advantage of an increase in government funding of national security ... and get paid well for it too!

Visit <https://cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk/> to browse the challenges on offer.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Information Risk Management Plc (IRM) is a vendor-independent information security consultancy with 13 years experience working with large enterprises, helping our clients identify and mitigate the risks inherent in today's increasingly interconnected business environments. Today our portfolio includes a wide range of technical assurance services, complemented with a wealth of security management and risk assessment options, covering the full spectrum of our clients' information security requirements.

For further information, please contact IRM on:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 6420

Email: press@irmplc.com

Website: www.irmplc.com

Twitter: #IRM_tweet