SWISS CYBER STORM

Press Release

Start of the European Cyber Championship 2016

Starting Monday morning, things get serious for young Swiss hackers: the national qualifications phase for the European Cyber Security Challenge of 2016 opens. Young talents between the ages of 14 and 30 have the possibility of qualifying for the Swiss National Team and competing against other nations in the European finals in Düsseldorf. The competition is one of the most important ways of encouraging youth development in the field of IT security.

Zurich, 1 May 2016 – Tomorrow, 2 May at 9:00 am, the Swiss online qualifications for the European Cyber Security Challenge of 2016 open. The international competition's goal is to find the best young cyber talents in Europe. After the successful launch last year with six participating nations (Germany, Austria, England, Spain, Romania and Switzerland), the organisational committee is counting on still more participants this year. Every country carries out a national qualification round and sends its best talents into the European finals in Düsseldorf that will take place in November.

Competition in Two Phases

For young Swiss hackers, there are two hurdles on their path to glory: first, they need to collect as many points as possible in their national online qualification round. On a specially developed platform, they must complete assignments and turn in innovative solutions. Besides some basic technical knowledge, participants need skills such as creativity, perseverance and an urge to discover to succeed.

After qualifications end on August 15, the best cyber talents — 10 each from both categories juniors and seniors — will be invited to the Swiss finals. There, participants need to demonstrate not only technical skills: "Soft skills such as team spirit, leadership and presentation skills are at least equally important for an IT security expert in today's workplace. We want our competition to reflect today's challenges", explains Bernhard Tellenbach, President of Swiss Cyber Storm, who is conducting the Swiss elimination. The winners of the national elimination will then travel as a 10-person Swiss team to the European championship.

IT Youth Development: a Hot Topic

What sounds like a Computer Olympics is one of the most important instruments for youth development in the field of IT security. The increasing significance of information technology and its security along with the associated shortage of specialists, both nationally as well as internationally, makes this one of today's most explosive subjects. The development of the Cyber Security Challenge represents this trend: what started four years ago as a small-scale national competition has developed into a coordinated European championship.

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As the competition's goals are of high importance, Swiss Cyber Storm can count on support not only from the affected industry but also from the public sector: "We very much welcome the initiative of Swiss Cyber Storm in finding and training the IT security experts of the future. It was never in doubt that we would support the competition again this year", explained Pascal Lamia, Head of the Reporting and Analysis Centre for Information Security of the Federal Government (MELANI). Also on the list of supporters is the Swiss Academy of Technical Sciences (SATW) that is itself investing heavily in cyber-education.

Link to participate in the Cyber Security Challenge:
http://swisscyberstorm.com/challenges/

Further Information and photographic materials:
http://swisscyberstorm.com/press/

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Swiss Cyber Storm Association

Swiss Cyber Storm was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organisation with the purpose of advancing the cause of talented young persons in the field of cybersecurity and regularly holding cybersecurity events for professionals and business executives.

Swiss Cyber Storm fulfils the club's purpose, on the one hand, with the search and sponsorship of young cybersecurity talents in the form of the annual Cyber Security Challenge and the subsequent participation in the European Cyber Security Challenge. On the other hand, the club carries out the annual international Swiss Cyber Storm, an IT security conference that is geared toward cyberattacks and their defence.

The Club is engaged in youth development on a national as well as an international level. It strives, together with its partner organisations, to expand the European Cyber Security Challenge to other participating countries.

Swiss Cyber Storm is not trying to sign up many members. The Club needs to be composed only of members who support the Club's goals through active participation and who represent not only the interests of business and the public sector, but also education and research.