

Focus on CSIR

Cyber Security Awareness

The CSIR Cyber Defence research group developed a Cyber Security Awareness (CSA) programme to educate people in using the internet and social networks, in order to strengthen the user's awareness level.

This programme is not a computer literacy course, but rather a **self-defence course for surfing the web** using training presentations and fun games.

In an effort to prevent innocent internet users from becoming victims of cyber attacks, the CSA programme has been developed to educate novice internet and technology users with regard to basic cyber security. This programme has been active since 2009, in collaboration with the University of Venda.

Technological advances have changed the manner in which ordinary citizens

conduct their daily activities, for example, by using the internet and mobile phones. This increased access to the internet leads to a rise in vulnerabilities and the associated probability of cyber crime. CSA is therefore the first line of defence against cyber attacks.





CSA topics addressed

- Internet trends and threats
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- Physical computer security
- Physical mobile security
- Password protection
- Computer malware
- Cookies
- Surfing the web safely
- Email security
- File sharing and copyright
- Internet banking
- Phishing attack avoidance
- Social engineering
- Social networking
- Identity theft
- Cyberbullies

Specific modules for specific audiences

- Primary school children
- Secondary school children
- Further Education Training college students
- Universities (students studying both technical and non-technical courses)
- Community centres
- Educators and teachers
- Support staff

CSA Success Stories

The motivation for this awareness project is to educate all South Africans on the safe use of the internet, in order to strengthen the cyber defence levels of the general public.

More than 90 student volunteers trained as CSA trainers

- University of Venda
- University of Pretoria
- University of Walter Sisulu
- Broadband-4-All Village Operators

More than 600 community members trained

- Vhembe, Limpopo
- Nkangala district, Mpumalanga
- Bohlabela district, Mpumalanga
- Mamelodi, Gauteng
- Education Week Expo 2011
- National Education Week 2012
- Makhado ScienceTube 2012

Collaboration Benefits

- Cyber-savvy and safer communities
- Security for personal systems and individual finances
- Direct contribution to national information society
- Being part of the larger network of South African National Security initiative.

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