

Ethical hacking as an emerging career

MENDING LOOPHOLES What does it take to be a ethical hacker?
Rohit Aggarwal sheds some light on this up and coming field

Just as counter terrorism forces are structured to fight terrorism, we also need an army of equipped personnel who can fight hackers on cyberspace. This brings into the picture, ethical hackers. They are the fighters who work to ward off hack attacks for online systems of institutions, large agencies and companies.

With cyber security becoming a major issue, more and more institutions and companies today are boosting their ranks by hiring specialist ethical hackers who act as a foil to their malicious counterparts.

What is it?

As the name suggests, ethical hacking is a well-defined process where the person is bound to follow prescribed rules and regulation while breaching the system.

Unlike hacking, which is done out of malicious intent, the skill of ethical hacking is often used to mend the loopholes in the cyberspace of a system. The skill has been globally recognised up to the extent that interested persons can work towards a certification to become a Certified Ethical Hacker, or CEH. Interestingly, a large number of people from across the world are turning to India to learn ethical hacking.

India's well recognised IT prowess has played a crucial role in transforming the Indian economy and society over the past two decades. Not only has the sector maintained its hold on the global IT market, it has also successfully moved up the value chain over the years in both products and services domain.

In fact, software and IT companies across the world prefer India as

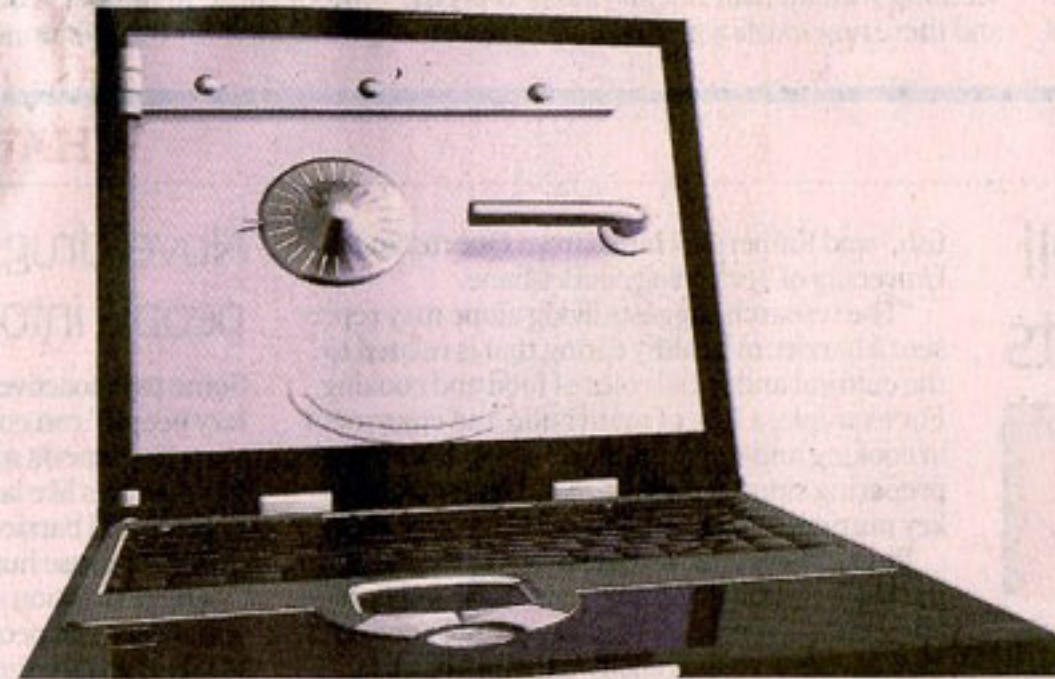
the destination for training their recruits or upgrading the IT skills of their employees.

Top destination

Ethical hacking is one of the recent revolutions in IT industry. Therefore, going with the pace, many IT institutes in India provide CEH courses at an affordable price. India has emerged as a favourite among students to gain a footing in ethical hacking. Students from Africa, Latin America, United States and Europe can be seen to be learning in various centres across the country.

With names like Ankit Fadia and Rahul Tyagi emerging in this field, ethical hacking has gained new identity, dimension and demand in the country as well as world. Ethical hacking enables the trained person to hack the system and

search for the weak points, which could attract the cyber criminals to hack the system otherwise. The information is then used by the organisation to improve the system security to minimise the probability of any potential attacks to nil.



In this regard, training for CEH reinforces the capabilities of an individual to safeguard enterprise networks against the innumerable vulnerabilities and threats of a network as well as thwart all attempts of illegal hacking by intruders.

Ethical hacking as career

With prevalence of internet in every occupation and lifestyle, ethical hackers have emerged to be a much-in-demand and valued. Today, every organisation, government or private, is roping in ethical hackers for preventive hacking of their websites to figure out the loopholes in the system. In a scenario where the despite the security strategies like passwords and locks, hackers have been successful in stealing personal information, ethical hacking comes as twisted form of next level of security measures.

Since the person is licensed to hack the system, the hacking lets him/her detect the loopholes that could provide a doorway to the black hat hackers. Ethical hackers are hired as a precautionary measure by the companies to prevent an attack on their system by cyber criminals. Giving respect to the job done by the ethical hackers, they are termed as "Cyber Cops" by many.

(the author is CEO, Koenig Solutions)