

Snowden was very focused on learning hacking in India – Rohit Aggarwal, CEO for Koenig solutions

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden who shook the US intelligence machinery picked up crucial skills in India. He spent a week in New Delhi training in core Java programming and advanced ethical hacking at Koenig solutions. Rohit Aggarwal, the founder and CEO of this IT training and certification provider, revealed the details of Snowden's studies in an exclusive interview with the VoR.



1- What exactly did Snowden study with you?

He studied EC-Council Certified Security Analyst, which is an advanced level course on security, on how to protect your network from hackers and how to know whether it's secured enough.

2- Was he a good student?

He was a good student, he was very focused on his learning, he was very intelligent, very quick to grasp, had a good knowledge of networking and security.

3- Did he ask a lot of questions?

He was quick to learn and understand. He didn't ask too many questions.

4- Did anybody know who he exactly he was?

We knew he was the US citizen, that's all. We didn't know about all his plans. After all he studied with us in 2010.

5- So Bangalore as we know is known as the Silicon Valley of India. What is so peculiar about this location as far as information technology is concerned?

In the US the Silicon Valley is the source of most innovations, but not all the innovation. So likewise Bangalore is the heart of IT talents in India, but not all of them. The IT talents are spread across the country and there are a lot of them in Delhi.

6- Tell me, is there an international demand would you say at the moment for computer hacking?

There has been a lot of demand for this course. This is an advanced level course. Also there is a lot of people reading about our company now.

7- Tell us more about this advanced course you told us in the beginning. So you have to be quite advanced to take it then?

First you should have a basic course which was certified in networking and then you can do that course. The Basic Security course can be taken by those who know networking and Linux. So if someone doesn't have that knowledge, we also have a short course which teaches them the basics of networking and Linux. So anyone can do this course.

8- The burning question is – can anyone afford it?

Of course, it's very affordable and very valuable. These skills are very valuable for enterprises because security is absolute and everyone wants to protect their network and they require certified consultants will know how to protect networks. Security is a big issue right now.

9- Let me ask you personally were you shocked when the news was released about Edward Snowden, what he had done?

When the news was released at that time I didn't know that Snowden had studied with us because the trainer who trained him is a security person and he doesn't give out the news that often. But he saw Snowden's photo in a newspaper and recognized him as a student. He told about it to a manager and this technical manager informed me a few months ago. But I didn't give too much attention to it. It is good that someone who is now considered to be an expert in hacking and security was our former student, but it wasn't long ago that I heard the story. So, it was a surprise to us, that the media is so much interested in the story.

10- I presume media contact you a lot lately. Will you be using this as a kind of promotional thing – the fact that Snowden did train with you?

Media want to know more about what happened, why Snowden decided to study here here and what he did. So, we are providing this information. But we are not going to use it as a promotional thing.