

Headline	Students to exercise hacking skills ethically		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	15 Nov 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	30,557
Page No	10	Readership	97,836
Language	English	ArticleSize	181 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 373
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 1,119



## Students to exercise hacking skills ethically

IPOH: Thirty-eight teams from 17 institutions of higher learning throughout the country will exercise their hacking skills ethically at the Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) HAX National Hacking Competition 2014 (UTP-HAX'14).

The hacking competition is organised by UTP in collaboration with CyberSecurity Malaysia, KPerak Implementation and Coordination Corporation, Fortinet, Yayasan UTP and Alumni UTP.

UTP Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof Ir Dr Ahmad Fadzil Mohd Hani said UTP-HAX'14 aimed to highlight teamwork spirit, mental toughness, speed and accuracy in providing solutions to enable the participants to test their skills on computer networking and security as the problem set presented would be of real-world everyday scenario.

"Initially hacking is deemed as a negative word but now it is important to our future in a networked, information-dependent world that we have come to grips with them.

"Thus, it brings to the realization and fulfilment of the idea of UTP-HAX'14," he said in his speech at the opening of the competition here, today. CyberSecurity Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab officially opened the event.

Dr Ahmad Fadzil said UTP-HAX'14 was an avenue for students to exercise their hacking skills ethically to gauge their knowledge the vulnerability of a computer system.

"With the loopholes that they encounter, they should be able to later design a more secure system, very much like developing an antivirus to existing and prospective computer virus," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Amirudin said cyber threats had been increasing in sheer scale, sophistication and frequency.

The rapid proliferation of smart mobile devices that were connected to the Internet only increased the avenues for hackers to launch their cyber-attacks, he added.

"Increasingly, it is clear that we need more than just tools and solutions to protect against hackers. There must, in particular, be better training of security administrators of networks or those entrusted with safeguarding computer networks. The cyber security personnel have to know how to anticipate the nature of threats from hackers," he said.

Universiti Selangor, Multimedia University, Universiti Teknologi Mara (Dungun, Jasin and Shah Alam branches), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Asia Pacific University and Politeknik Seberang Perai were among the contestants.

The two-day event held in UTP at Seri Iskandar here is a multi-tiered and team-based hacking competition, modelled after the Cyberlympic Hacking Competition.

The competition, which offers a RM10,000 cash prize and medals, acts as the preliminary round for all Malaysian teams to advance to the Regional Asia and World Hacking Competition. - Bernama