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# Applying lessons learned to real life

## **KPMG CHALLENGE:**

Creating cyber security awareness through gaming

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**M**ULTIMEDIA University (MMU) students came up tops in the recent KPMG Cyber Security Challenge in Kuala Lumpur.

Two of the competition's three top prizes went to students from MMU's Malacca campus, which was represented by the most teams in the event.

In the team category for university students, MMU's Grumpy Unicorn emerged the champions, while Wendy Goh Wen Yit was named the Best Female Cyber Professional.

In the individual category participated by working professionals, the champion was James Wong.

The competition comprised all sorts of challenges related to web and mobile application and cryptography, among others.

The participants needed to complete all the challenges within the given time frame. Points were awarded for every challenge solved. The first team/individual that scored the highest base points would be the winner in their respective category.

The participants were free to use the tools that they were comfortable with. No additional preparation was required as this challenge was meant to test the students' ability to apply the theoretical knowledge gained in university within a real-world situation.

Close to 160 students from various universities including

Asia Pacific University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, University Kuala Lumpur, University Technology MARA (Perlis), Universiti Teknologi Petronas and Universiti Tenaga Nasional joined the competition along with working professionals.

Team Grumpy Unicorn members, led by Raphael Ling Cong Xiang, were mostly participants in a previous cyber security competition by another party.

When they heard about the KPMG Challenge, they decided to continue based on their previous grouping.

"We took part in this event to gain more exposure on the cyber security field, and to train as well as to better equip ourselves to prepare for future cyber security threats," said Ling.

He said that although their preparation took place over a few weeks, they decided over the course of preparation to emphasise enjoying the process of learning and exploring in the domain of cyber security.

"Technical skills aside, effective communication and teamwork were the main factors that contributed to our team's success," he said.

Ling added: "Even though we did well, the journey to becoming an expert is still far ahead. We will continue learning, exploring and sharing, passionately."

As champions, the team which also included Pang Yat Ming, Nicholas Lee Ming Ze and

Chew Yee Jian as members, took home RM3,000.

The Best Female Cyber Professional, who would win a RM1,000 prize, could be picked from among the individual and team competitors.

Wendy Goh is a final-year student from MMU's Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons), Data Communications and Networking degree programme.

Although she did come from a security technology background, she received training from a coach and senior recommended by her lecturer.

Goh said she was keen to take part as a way to test her skills and also expand her experience in the realm of cyber security.

"It's a chance for me to learn more before I step into the industry," she said, adding that she also learned how to better manage her time. "This semester, I had to juggle between events, my final-year project and three competitions."

James Wong, a cyber security consultant within the industry, said he learned about the challenge from his professional circle of friends, and was attracted by the RM3,000 prize for the individual champion.

However, he said he wasn't expecting to win as his main intention of taking part was to make friends.

"I've only started my career in the industry not long ago. Now I've become friends with really

nice people from the event, and it's good to know that there are so many people who share the same interest," he said.

In terms of preparation, Wong said: "There is no such thing as preparation for a cyber security challenge. You just apply what you learned and practised everyday out of passion."

However, he has previously taken part in a few similar challenges online, and whatever work experience he has gained also helped.

"While this kind of challenge is not completely unfamiliar for me, it's my first time to be in one that was held for such a short amount of time and with a huge number of challenges," he added.

"Basically, focus is the key. I was fortunate to have picked the right challenges and managed to solve them in time that gave me enough points to be on the top."

KPMG Malaysia managing partner Datuk Johan Idris said that in view of the threats of cyber security in today's fast-paced and borderless technology-driven environment, there is a vital need to inculcate an early mindset among the youth segment especially students, undergraduates and professionals on the magnitude of managing personal information, and gaining a deeper insight into the intriguing and damaging effects of cyber security threats.



**Johan Idris**



(From left) **Wendy Goh Wen Yit**, KPMG executive director **Yordanka Michaux**, **James Wong**, **Ling Cong Xiang**, **Chew Yee Jian**, **Nicholas Lee Ming Ze** and **Pang Yat Ming** during the KPMG Cyber Security Challenge at Nexus Connexion in Bangsar South, Kuala Lumpur.



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