

Rapperswil, 16. Juni 2008

Hackers from Rapperswil awarded

The business idea of Compass Security AG, a company specialising in "hacking on request", based in Rapperswil St. Gallen, has been awarded third price in this year's economic and innovative contest "KMUPrimus" offered by the St. Galler Kantonalbank. Out of about 30 applications Compass Security AG managed to succeed and received a prize sum of CHF 10'000.- in the Pfalz Keller in St. Gallen on 16 June 2008.

Compass Security AG

Compass Security AG is a company specialising in Ethical Hacking, Penetration Testing and Forensic Investigations located in Rapperswil SG. The team of Compass Security AG consisted of 20 employees on 01.01.2008. The company was founded in February 1999 by Walter Sprenger and Ivan Bütler and has been growing continuously since then.



The Compass Security Team

Compass Security simulates the malicious "**hacker**" and tries to get unauthorised access to E-banking or other critical systems. To achieve this, specific attacks are performed, viruses and Trojans are programmed to test the security measures of the client. As a result, the customer receives a security report from Compass, which describes vulnerabilities and proposes steps for remediation. Compass Security mainly works for the finance and insurance sector in Switzerland and abroad. The skills of Compass are even recognised internationally; in August 2008, Ivan Bütler will give a speech on the topic "SmartCard security" at the **BlackHat in Las Vegas**, one of the most renowned security conferences worldwide. The Compass employees distinguish themselves by creativity and explorative skills. This enables them to search for weaknesses in computer systems, which may be exploited by real hackers. The typical employee has a degree in information technology FH/ETH and several years of practical experience as a developer, system administrator or network technician. All our staff is checked according to international banking standard (Cobit) and has an immaculate reputation.



In December 2004 Compass Security was the winner of the SF DRS hacking contest "Everything under control" and received the prize of 1 kilogram of gold.

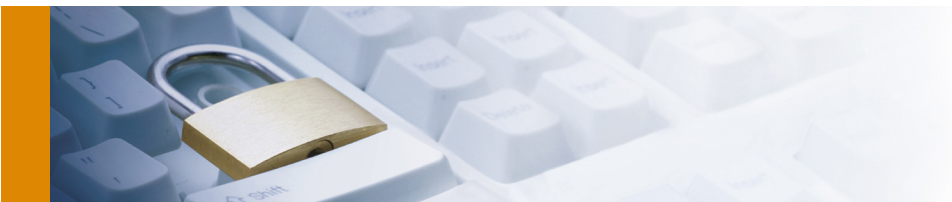
Wargames

In autumn 2007 Compass Security conducted the first Wargame (hacking riddle) of Switzerland in the assembly hall of the University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil. The Wargame was very well frequented with over 130 participants and an absolute success for Compass. A second performance of the Wargames is planned for spring 2009. Again more than 100 participants are expected.

With the start of the internet age, computer crime has been increasing steadily. The criminals organise in groups and develop tools which become easier and easier to operate. The attacks become more and more specific. At the beginning broad spreading attacks were launched to attract attention, but in the meantime the criminals aim at individual companies or persons and try to gain money from their attacks. Whether on websites, in online business or insider cases, computer crimes may lead to a great damage of the reputation and to economic losses.

The need for safe electronic IT solutions demonstrated itself with the upcoming E-commerce phase in 1999. IT security became an increasingly essential factor for success. As a consequence, huge amounts of money were invested into security products, such as Anti-Virus, Firewall or encrypting software. The question of the effectiveness of such investments created the market for Penetration Tests and Ethical Hacking.

The significance of IT security has been emphasised by the recently published attacks on government offices in Berne. Hacker attacks are getting more and more target-oriented! What can you do?



KMUPrimus - the entrepreneurial award of SGKB

The St. Galler Kantonalbank annually decorates companies who feature outstanding innovation and sustainability and contribute substantially to the attractiveness of their area. The prize is awarded to companies whose economic activities are also of social relevance thus serving the well-being of the region and its population: economically, ecologically and socially. The prize carries a total value of CHF 50'000. The jury consists of Josef Keller, minister of economy of the canton of St. Gallen, Roland Ledergerber, president of the board of St. Galler Kantonalbank, Felix Keller, delegate of the commercial associations of St. Gallen and Appenzell, Dr. Kurt Weigelt, director of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce St. Gallen - Appenzell (IHK) as well as Gret Zellweger, vice president of the commercial association of Appenzell and president of the exhibition of free-time creations of Appenzell apprentices.

http://www.sgkb.ch/main.jsp?oid=9518&segment=kmu_firmen

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