

# AUTISTIC CYBER SECURITY TALENT POOL

This project is the development of a platform to attract and identify a cyber security talent pool within the autistic community. A consortium has been formed and is progressing the creation of the courseware for the platform.

The project consortium includes BHP, Splunk, DXC, La Trobe University, Curtin University, Forage and Untapped. The project is being funded via a grant from AustCyber with matching funding from consortium members.

We believe this will be of interest as a potential collaboration with other commercial and educational organisations.

## Course scope

The course – to be known as ‘An Introduction to Cyber Security’ – is an introductory cyber security syllabus that is accessible and understandable by neurodiverse individuals with minimal or no prior knowledge of cyber security. It is geared towards people who may be interested in further learning or commencing a career in cyber security and ethical hacking. The course will provide a foundation syllabus in an inspirational and understandable manner that is intended to spark interest and the pursuit of further learning.

This course is intended to provide insight into the life of a cyber security professional and provide an understanding of what the work encompasses. The syllabus covers the basic components of the related technologies, an overview of the current cyber-crime landscape, cyber-attack methods commonly utilised, potential career pathways of ethical hackers and case studies of historical cyber-attacks.

BHP

DXC  
technology

LA TROBE  
UNIVERSITY

Curtin University

Forage

untapped.

NEURODIVERSITYHUB

TRIDENT  
INTELLIGENCE

AustCyber  
Australian Cyber Security Growth Network

## Platform training objective

The objectives of developing the training material platform are:



To identify a cyber security talent pool within the neurodiverse community. This is to be achieved by providing a foundation level of cyber security training that is easily and reliably accessible.



To build a level of interest and motivation in neurodiverse individuals such that they consider taking further cyber security training through academic institutions or supported entry level roles in commercial or government organisations.



In conjunction with motivation, there is a requirement that a level of aptitude towards cyber security is assessed through testing related to the training. It is important that, further to creating the motivation, individuals achieve a foundation knowledge of cyber security such that they are not set up for failure at a later point.

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## Module outline

**1**

Introduction to cyber security

**2**

Threats and exploits - introduction to the risk of cyber threats

**3**

Networks - fundamental aspects of data communications

**4**

Digital forensics - identification, recovery and analysis of data from electronic devices

**5**

Cyber security tools - basic scripting for cyber security environments

## Intended outcomes

There are a number of intended outcomes from the learning:

- 1** To lead people, who have no prior cyber security knowledge or skills, through a work-centric learning experience to equip them with the most essential knowledge and skills employers expect from trainee cyber security professionals
- 2** To gain a basic overview of cyber security that could lead to further opportunities to develop knowledge through professional qualifications
- 3** To develop an understanding of how devices communicate across a network
- 4** To identify a range of threats and vulnerabilities

## Course audience

The target audience for this course should be considered as:

- Any neurodiverse individual interested in joining the cyber security workforce or learning about cyber security in a greater level of depth through further education
- Those having no prior cyber security knowledge, education or experience
- Individuals willing to commit to complete all course modules

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## Course delivery

The course will be hosted and delivered on-line through the 'Forge' virtual internship platform. As well as text-based information, the content will include narrated presentations, visualisations and case studies. The content will be assessed for accessibility for people that have varied learning requirements.

To ensure the uptake of learning, there will be integrated knowledge checks and a final quiz and end of course assessment of potential capability.

An individual's minimum time commitment to the learning is 4-6 hours which can be managed through the Forge platform at an individual's own pace.

## Timing

The scheduled implementation of the platform is quarter 1, 2021.

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