

CASE STUDY: UTC Reading and Thales; in partnership to support Cyber Security

UTC Reading is committed to building a talent pipeline of young cyber security specialists, and this year, along with other industry partners, we have been supported by Thales.

Thales' Chief Cyber Consultant, Dr Alex Tarter, and his team, provided us with a series of talks, and at the end of the academic year, our cyber students were given the opportunity to attend a series of six half-day technical workshops on subjects such as Linux crash course, IP networking, scanning and enumeration, open source intelligence and online security, pen testing walkthroughs and simulated exercises on VMs. The students were also given some guidance on exploitations using Kali Linux.

Jared Henderson, a Cyber Security Consultant at Thales, worked with our students to create a bespoke programme. This enabled our beginners students to get on the first rung of the ladder and accelerate their understanding of the cyber world, whilst our advanced students took a look under the bonnet of some key tools and functions.

Ilyas, a Year 10 student who has been self-learning cyber security on the Immersive Labs platform at UTC Reading since September 2017, added: "Working with someone from industry makes the subject much more interesting, and the workshops were really useful for practical skills, which I couldn't have done on my own. Jared was always really helpful and patient if I or my classmates needed some support, and I feel I have made lots of progress in these last 6 weeks."

Robert Bradley, computing teacher at UTC Reading, and cyber lead, enjoyed the workshops as much as the students. He said: "teaching is made to look easy by professional teachers. For first timers it is daunting and difficult. Jared's professionalism, preparation and passion for the topic all helped him run these fantastic workshops that enthused and engaged the students."

Jared's subject knowledge is excellent and I am amazed at how much additional work he put in to ensure these workshops were a success."

Dr Alex Tarter said: "Thales Cyber & Consulting is honoured and pleased to support the UTC Reading cyber program. As an industry we are significantly lacking in skilled people, which is why it is so gratifying to see such strong potential in our technical colleges. It is impressive to see the passion and skills of UTC Reading students up close and to help foster their interest in a subject that is so important to Thales and the UK as a whole."



WORKING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT IS HUGEY REWARDING, AND AS A NEW ACTIVITY FOR ME IT HAS HELPED ME TO DEVELOP NEW SKILLS THAT WILL NO DOUBT SUPPORT MY CAREER.



Jared Henderson,
Cyber Security Consultant at Thales