

SUCCESS STORY

SOPRA STERIA HACKING CHALLENGE

A unique way to tackle
cybercrime



Developing strong partnerships with leading security schools to build capabilities aligned with the high level of cyber security expertise expected by industry today

The Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge aims to help industry stay on top of increasingly smart cyber attacks in the face of an ongoing IT security skills shortage.

The Challenge

Cybercrime is big business. Estimates suggest that financial loss due to hacking activity runs at more than \$110 billion a year (2012 Norton cybercrime report).

Although cyber criminality and attacks are challenging ecosystems in both public and private sectors, there is a shortage in the skilled manpower required to prevent and detect these attacks. In short, the number of experts has not increased in line with the threats.

Sopra Steria recognises that cyber security should not solely rely on the transformation of information systems. Human skills also play an important role in countering cyber attacks. Sopra Steria's challenge is to find ways of fostering IT security talent to help clients stay on top of the threats despite scarce skills in the market.

At the same time Sopra Steria aims to investigate new ways to create career opportunities and interest in cyber security amongst today's IT students.

Key Points

- Innovative event to foster partnerships with leading security engineering learning institutions
- Developing IT security competencies through an involvement at the earliest stages of education programmes
- Stimulating students to discover new cyber security attack techniques

Our solution

Sopra Steria has recognised security know-how with major references in all business sectors. Its 650 security experts in Europe have extensive knowledge and experience of working with several security standards.

In response to the skills challenge, Sopra Steria has leveraged high-level expertise to come up with an exciting solution: a Capture the Flag competition.

This unique competition attracts the most talented and enthusiastic IT security students. It is focused on the acquisition and maintenance of advanced skills in cyber defence and security. The students must solve 25 challenges from the top domains in cyber security:

- Cryptography: unravelling encrypted messages
- Cracking: breaking through program defences
- Forensic: assessing the incident response to a crime scene
- Steganography: finding messages hidden in images, data files and movies
- Web: by-passing web applications security
- System and networks: accessing remote systems.

How we worked together

Sopra Steria has committed relationships with seven top level security engineering schools in France: EPITA, EPITECH, ESIEA, Telecom Sud Paris, EISTI, EFREI and INTECH'INFO. These relationships are aimed at developing IT security talent at the earliest stages of education programmes.

The Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge has further strengthened the relationships with these schools to create a unique high-value partnership. The students taking part are at the forefront of cyber security.

The Challenge is the result of Sopra Steria's commitment to innovation within its own business. Conceived by the

company's Security, Marketing and Human Resources teams, it was the winner of Sopra Steria's internal Group Innovation Contest in 2012. This contest recognises creative ideas and the collaboration required to bring them to fruition.

In the case of the Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge, the three Sopra Steria teams worked hand-in-hand to create a unique scenario in which to test the students.

The first Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge was held in March 2013. Twenty teams, involving 97 students from the seven partner schools took part.

The contest confronted the young 'ethical hackers' with challenges related to business and technology issues faced by Sopra Steria's clients. This ensured that it was fully in tune with constantly evolving cybercrime trends.

Results and benefits

The first Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge was a great success. It was won by a team from EPITA in Paris. A second Challenge is being organised in France, with plans for more in the UK, Norway and Germany.

It demonstrated to the students the huge potential for pursuing careers aimed at addressing growing security challenges. The benefits and value derived by students, Sopra Steria and its clients alike included:

- The chance for students to challenge themselves, discover the latest techniques and showcase their competencies

“The first Hacking Challenge was such a hit with our students that I've no doubt another group of participants will be eager to take part in the second competition. A real success for Sopra Steria.”

LAURENT TREBULLE,
Enterprise Relationships
Manager, EPITA Group

- The opportunity for schools to benefit from high quality training and to spot gaps in the competencies needed by industry today Réduction globale des coûts IT du portefeuille applicatif grâce à des processus partagés, standardisés et optimisés
- Allowed schools to identify specific IT security challenges that their learning can address
- Gave Sopra Steria's clients access to a deep talent pool aligned to their business challenges.

As both a market leader and recruiter in cyber security, Sopra Steria is keen to develop student skills and attract the best talent in this vital area. The Sopra Steria Hacking Challenge is its innovative approach to this.

The Challenge places Sopra Steria at the forefront of implementing the measures needed to offset the gap between today's cyber challenges and the lack of leading-edge competencies.



About Sopra Steria

Sopra Steria, European leader in digital transformation, provides one of the most comprehensive portfolios of end to end service offerings in the market: Consulting, Systems Integration, Software Development, Infrastructure Management and Business Process Services.

Sopra Steria is trusted by leading private and public organisations to deliver successful transformation programmes that address their most complex and critical business challenges. Combining high quality and performance services, added-value and innovation, Sopra Steria enables its clients to make the best use of information technology.

With 37,000 employees in over 20 countries, Sopra Steria had pro forma revenue of €3.4 billion in 2014.

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