

Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Theme: Computer Security – Securing Web Applications

Time: 6.00 – 8.30pm

Location: Bedford College, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AH

Summary

For the second time within a few weeks, Bedford College students were again given the opportunity and, indeed, privilege to benefit from Geraint Williams' vast industry knowledge and experience in the realm of computer security. At extremely short notice, Geraint, Infrastructure Manager for the Computer Science and Technology department at the University of Bedfordshire, agreed to talk to a selected group of part-time evening class students and Foundation Degree students on Wednesday 15 June. The theme was Web Server Security and Web Scripting Issues.



Geraint is an exceptional speaker combining vast industry and academic experience with the unique ability to engage and enthral his audience. This was evidenced by the large number of very relevant and wide-ranging questions that came from the floor both during and after his talk.

Geraint began by setting the picture and emphasising the importance of security web applications using the recent Sony hacking incidents as an example. He then went back to basics explaining how important it is to start with a good understanding of the HTTP protocol, cookies and sessions. A description of common web server security problems was followed by a detailed explanation of the role of Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) and OWASP's top 10 security errors.



Geraint then covered web server testing explaining the methodology of penetration testing of web applications. The 'nuts and bolts' of web security and ethical hacking were covered by considering facets of web server configuration, and the talk was concluded by summarising a range of web server security principles. All in two hours!!

"It was a very interesting and intriguing talk and I was shocked at how unsecure some websites in general are. It was a definite eye opener!"

Geraint has kindly made the slides from his talk available for download (PDF 1,609KB).

You can view Geraint Williams' profile on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/geraintpwilliams>