



Sri Lanka CERT to debut "Cyber Security Week" in Sri Lanka

Integrates itself into the wider ICT community of Sri Lanka

Today, we live in a society that is becoming increasingly dependent on Information Communication Technology (ICT) to help reduce our daily burdens. Some of the conveniences it offers us are bill payments, ticket reservations and correspondence. However, ICT used maliciously can also cause a lot of harm, such as credit card fraud, blackmail and intellectual property violations. Information has become an important asset, and its protection, essential.

The Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Response Team (SLCERT) is the apex body for Information Security in Sri Lanka. It is mandated with protecting the ICT resources belonging to its constituency from threats both foreign and domestic, and responding to and remedying such threats if they are realized.

In that regard, SLCERT is involved in proactively strengthening awareness of Information Security, by way of workshops, seminars, policy development, security assessments and security alerts. However, when such measures are compromised, and a security incident occurs, SLCERT performs its primary task of "incident handling" and assists in "digital forensics" to help understand the cause of such an attack.

Information Security remains very much a relatively unknown area. To address this lack of awareness, SLCERT is organizing its first "Cyber Security Week" in conjunction with the International IT Conference and Infotel Exhibition. It will run from the 27th of October to the 2nd of November, featuring several workshops, a conference and certain exhibits.

The month of October will begin with the launch of Poster and Essay competitions for schools and tertiary education institutions respectively. The workshops, running from the 27th to the 29th of October, will be conducted by both local and foreign consultants on Information Security related topics, and will target technically oriented individuals who are interested in further developing their security knowledge. The conference, to be held on the 30th of October will target a wide ranging audience from the technically savvy to those who want to understand the business side of Information Security. Speakers, both from Sri Lanka and overseas shall address the audience to give an understanding of the importance of Information Security, its practical implementation and challenges.

The week will be officially wrapped up with the presenting of awards to the winners of the poster and essay competitions at the Awards night to be held on 30th October 2008. Additionally, SLCERT will host a stall from the 30th of October to 2nd November, featuring Information Security technologies, techniques and products. It will also hold a presentation on 31st October for Students, touching on the progress of Information Security, career opportunities and growth.

SLCERT encourages all ICT users in Sri Lanka, from home users to developers to participate in these events to improve their understanding of Information Security, thereby making maximum use of ICT, safely.