Sept. 17, 2015

UConn's Comcast Center of Excellence for Security Innovation Hosts 2015 CyberSEED Cybersecurity Challenge

University and college teams from across the U.S. are competing for more than $100,000 in prizes

STORRS, Conn. – The University of Connecticut, home to the Comcast Center of Excellence for Security Innovation (CSI), and Comcast, one of the nation's largest video, high-speed Internet and phone providers, are sponsoring their second annual Cybersecurity, Education & Diversity Challenge (CyberSEED) conference Oct. 29-30 at UConn's main campus in Storrs, CT.

The CyberSEED conference brings together top security professionals and scholars along with public and private sector leaders to discuss emerging cybersecurity trends and formulate best strategies for tackling current and future threats. More than 40 teams from universities and colleges across the country are expected to compete in cybersecurity challenges for more than $100,000 in prizes. Past participating schools include Brown University, Yale University, the University of Washington, Indiana University and the University of Delaware.

The theme of this year's conference is "*Emerging Cybersecurity Trends in the Cloud, Internet of Things, and Mobility*".

The 2015 CyberSEED competition will address critical parts of the computing infrastructure, including computer networks, software, hardware, and - possibly the weakest link of all - humans.

Challenges include a Capture the Flag contest in which teams play the role of hackers trying to penetrate a virtual corporate network; a Social Engineering battle in which teams exploit social networks to gather key bits of information to launch a spear-phishing attack; and an Internet of Things challenge in which

teams are encouraged to assess the security vulnerabilities of an electronic device such as a smart phone or set-top cable television box. The team with the best presentation wins the top prize.

Last year's conference featured more than 25 speakers, including Rear Admiral David Simpson (ret.), Chief of the Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; Cheri Caddy, Director for Cybersecurity Policy Integration and Outreach, National Security Staff at The White House; and Donna Dodson, Chief Cyber Security Advisor for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

This year, more than 38 speakers will be featured over two days including James C. Foster, Co-Founder and CEO of ZeroFOX; Nancy Davoust, Distinguished Engineer for Systems and Security Architect at Comcast; and Eric Craig, Senior Vice President and Chief of Technical Operations for Technology at NBCUniversal.

James Foster is a world-renowned thought leader on cybersecurity who has published more than a dozen books. Davoust is responsible for system security for all Wi-Fi, Internet, voice, and cloud technologies at Comcast. Craig oversees information security, engineering operations, service management, service delivery, and enterprise quality assurance for all NBCUniversal brands. Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, is also slated to address the group.

Students and teams must register by Sept. 18. Registration information can be found at www.csi.uconn.edu/cyberseed/. Questions should be emailed to cyberseed@engr.uconn.edu.

MEDIA CONTACT
Colin Poitras, UConn
(860) 486-4656
Colin.poitras@uconn.edu

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