

'Ethical Hacking Is A Booming Industry'

Chandigarh: (IANS) Cyber security expert Ankit Fadia, who prefers to call himself an "ethical hacker", believes every institution needs trained hands to ensure foolproof safety for their systems and this industry can offer huge job opportunities.

Fadia, 24, who has a bachelors degree in computer science from Stanford University in California, runs a consulting company called e-secure in Mumbai.

"In this hi-tech era when everyone is on one or the other social networking site and everything is available online, we cannot take internet secu-



rity for granted. Even our politicians and celebrities are not safe on the internet and in some cases it can also pose a serious national security threat," Fadia told IANS here.

"Therefore we have to take steps by disseminating knowledge about these hackers and about ways to pre-empt them. In the 21st century, we surely need a strong workforce of ethical hackers and we cannot afford to ignore it at any cost."

An ethical hacker is an expert in computer securities and network systems, and is hired to check the vulnerability of an organisation's computer system to an outside breach or hacking.

He uses the same techniques that an unscrupulous hacker may apply. He then identifies the problems or loopholes in the system and drafts a solution for it.

"Hackers are seeing India as an easy target because we are not paying much heed to this area as compared to other countries like China. In India we have good cyber laws but normally people are not aware about them and easily fall victims to

cyber attacks.

"Unfortunately our police personnel are also not conversant with the required skills," said Fadia, who has been consulted by the US authorities to decode an encrypted e-mail sent by associates of Osama bin Laden.

He said the industry of ethical hacking is growing at a tremendous pace and offers a plethora of lucrative job opportunities for youngsters.

Last year it was estimated to be a \$3.8 billion industry in the US alone.

"According to Nasscom findings, India will require at least 77,000 ethical hackers every year whereas at the moment we are producing only 15,000 in a year. Therefore it is still an unexplored field," Fadia said.

For Fadia it was a hobby to learn hacking, which has now transformed into full-time career. He started learning hacking on his own, through internet, when he was only 12 and at the age of 13 he had hacked the website of Chip magazine.

"I had changed the home page of Chip magazine. But I was afraid that it could land me in jail; therefore I immediately sent an email to the magazine editor and told him how prone his website was to hacking and I also provided him a solution for it," said Fadia.

"He was so impressed that he offered me a job. But when I told him that I was just 13, he said that he would wait for five years before hiring me," he said.

To educate people about the intricacies of hacking and to prevent their websites and e-mail accounts from being hacked, Fadia is also running a computer security training and certification course called 'Ankit Fadia Certified Ethical Hacker Program'

"Over the last three years, we have trained nearly 20,000 people in China and South Asia and our students have been placed in top companies like Infosys and Wipro."

Fadia is consultant on cyber security with various companies, government bodies and security agencies both in India and abroad.

"In 2001, the US government had consulted me for decoding an encrypted e-mail sent by some associates of Osama bin Laden. I had also assisted the ATS (Anti Terrorist Squad) men, to ascertain the origin of different mails and messages after the Mumbai terror attacks," said Fadia.

Facebook Security Flaw Revealed

London: (IANS) Social networking site Facebook temporarily disabled its chat system after a serious security flaw was revealed which allowed people to view chats and pending friend requests of their Facebook friends.

The security flaw, discovered Wednesday by technology website TechCrunch, related to a feature on Facebook that allows users to preview their own privacy settings, telegraph.co.uk reported.

"There is a major security flaw in the site that, with just a few mouse clicks, enables any user to view the live chats of their 'friends'. Using what sounds like a simple trick, a



user can also access their friends' latest pending friend requests and which friends they share in common. That's a lot of potentially sensitive information," the report quoted TechCrunch's Steve O'Hear as saying. In a statement, Facebook said: "For a limited period of time, a bug permitted some users' chat messages and pending friend requests to be made visible to their friends. Our engineers promptly diagnosed it and temporarily disabled the chat function. We also pushed out a fix. Chat will be turned back on across the site shortly."

The report said recent changes to the way Facebook shares its users information with other users and third parties have drawn criticism from privacy watchdogs and US senators.

Broccoli May Help Treat Breast Cancer



London: (IANS) A component found in broccoli may hold a key in the fight against breast cancer, a new study has said. A research team from University of Michigan has found that sulforaphane targets and kills cancer stem cells as well as prevents new tumors from growing.

Current chemotherapy does not work against cancer stem cells. The researchers believe eliminating the cancer stem cells is the key to controlling cancer.

"Sulforaphane has been studied previously for its effects on cancer, but this study shows that its benefit is in inhibiting the breast cancer stem cells," Duxin Sun, the author of the study, was quoted as saying by telegraph.co.uk.

"This new insight suggests the potential of sulforaphane or broccoli extract to prevent or treat cancer by targeting the critical cancer stem cells," Sun said.

During the study, researchers took mice with breast cancer and injected varying concentrations of sulforaphane from the broccoli extract. They then used several established methods to assess the number of cancer stem cells in the tumours.

These measures showed a marked decrease in the cancer stem cell population after treatment with sulforaphane, with little effect on the normal cells.

The findings revealed cancer cells from mice treated with sulforaphane were unable to generate new tumours. The researchers then tested sulforaphane on human breast cancer cell cultures in the lab, finding similar decreases in the cancer stem cells. They are currently developing a method to extract and preserve sulforaphane. The tests involved higher concentrations of sulforaphane than are available by simply eating broccoli.

Common White Flower May Harbor Leukemia Cure



London: (IANS) A common white flower could revolutionize the treatment of leukemia, researchers have said.

An extract from the white flower commonly known as Baby's Breath has been found to boost the efficiency of anti-cancer drugs by a million time. They found that molecules called saponins, extracted from the Gypsophila paniculata plant, appear to break down the membrane of cancer cells, which makes it easier for antibody-based drugs, known as immunotoxins, to attack the cancerous cells.

The research was carried out at the newly refurbished Simon Flavell Leukaemia Research Laboratory at Southampton General Hospital.

"I am usually careful about the words I use with things like this but this discovery could truly revolutionise the way these antibody-based drugs work and it will save lives," telegraph.co.uk quoted Dr. David Flavell as saying. "And this doesn't just apply to leukaemia, there is a really big possibility this can be used for many cancers too."

Magnets Can Help Ease Depression



London: (IANS) Magnets may cure depression in people who have not responded earlier to drugs, a new study has said. A research team from Medical University of South Carolina, US, has revealed that people who had magnets attached to their heads to activate certain parts of the brain were more likely to report relief from depression than those treated with a similar device without a magnet.

The study involved 190 people, of which just under half were randomly assigned to receive the transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy.

These people had to wear a helmet like device that applied a magnetic current to the front section of their brain for around 37 minutes a day for three weeks.

The others wore the same helmet for the same duration but the magnetic field was blocked.

The findings revealed 14 percent of those who received the real magnetic treatment reported relief from depressive symptoms, compared with five percent who received the sham treatment.

"The results of this study suggest that prefrontal repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation is a monotherapy with few adverse effects and significant antidepressant effects for unipolar depressed patients who do not respond to medications or who cannot tolerate them," Dr Mark George, lead author of the research, was quoted as saying by telegraph.co.uk.

Pediatricians Tend To Miss High BP Among Kids

Washington: (IANS) Pediatricians and nurses may be missing the development of hypertension and its serious consequences even when they read a child's blood pressure, warn researchers.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines call for regular BP checks in children three years and older to screen for elevated BP.

They say elevated BP on three consecutive medical visits qualifies as hypertension. Even a single episode of high BP can indicate hypertension and should trigger repeat measurements during the visit and subsequent doctor visits, the AAP says.

The problem is that measuring a child's BP is far more complicated than it is in adults and requires interpreting each individual measure against a reference table for age, gender and height, says lead investigator Tammy Brady, nephrologist at Hopkins Children's Hospital in the US. Researchers at Hopkins analyzed 2,500 records of visits to the pediatrician's office. Medical staff did not check BP in 500 cases.