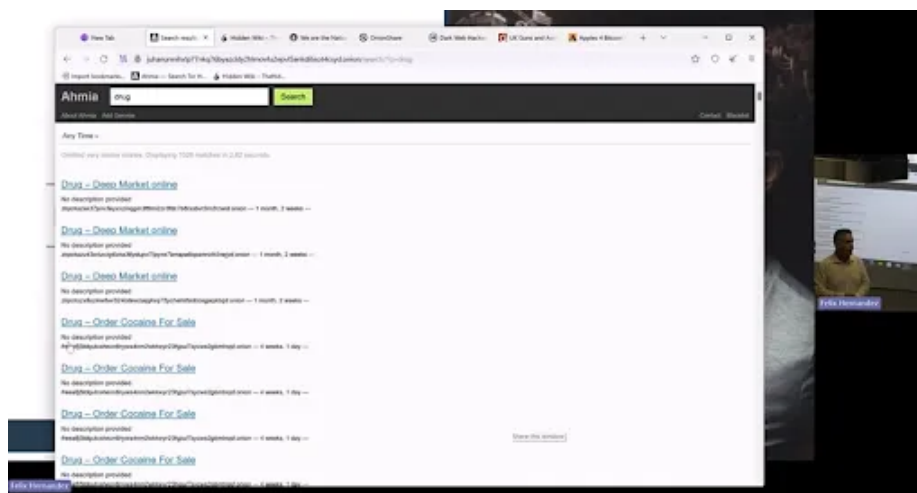


Dr. Hernandez's Dark Web Tech Talk Starts Cybersecurity Tuesdays

September 9, 2024 | College News



Emree Jensen

Information Technology Students of America (ITSA) launched their Cybersecurity Tuesdays for the fall 2024 semester with a Tech Talk on the dark web by Dr. Felix Hernandez, on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 2 to 3:15 p.m. in B-1500.

“You’re not going to break the bank by doing one particular service with these individuals [on the dark web], but you will break the bank having to pay bail to get yourself out of jail,” Hernandez chuckles while displaying a hacker marketplace site on the dark web.

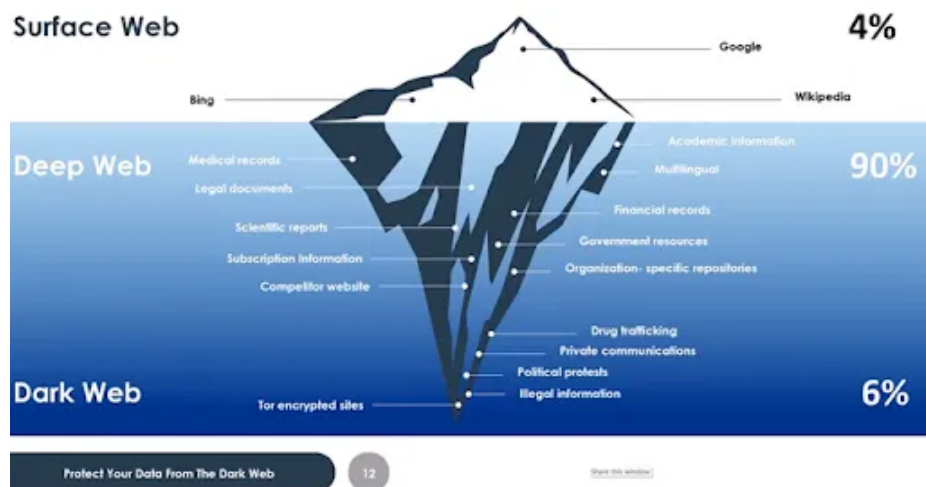
His presentation topics of discussion includes (1) The Three W’s, (2) Data In The Wrong Hands, (3) Dark Web Legality, (4) Why Use The Dark Web – Live Demo, (5) Keep Data Off The Dark Web, and (6) Q&A.

“There’s a lot of things that you’re going to see today that I don’t want you to solicit. This is more for educational purposes only,” warns Hernandez before diving into the topics.

Hernandez breaks down the main uses of popular sites like OnionShare, an encrypted dropbox platform, and Ahmia, a general search engine. He also presents numerous other sites available on the dark web such as a UK guns and ammo store, an apple products for bitcoin marketplace, and even the CIA.

“Don’t even go on the dark web, because if you don’t have all these protections in place that I mentioned, you’re probably going to be attacked by these people who are hosting these set sites,” advises Hernandez.

The Three W’s are the surface web, the deep web, and the dark web. Hernandez explains the percentages of each web compared to the whole internet with the surface web at 4%, the deep web at 90%, and the dark web at 6%.



“The legal aspect of it is to use it for more of educating yourself of what’s available out there...you may want to go there just to have an understanding of it. So, legally, yes, you’ll go on there to do that. Ethically, you’re not going to interact with anything on the dark web...if you try to contact the site owner, that’s that. You’re going to lead yourself into a rabbit hole that you can’t get out of both legally, ethically, morally, etcetera,” Hernandez responds to a student participant’s question.

The basic steps for accessing the dark web includes (1) install a VPN, (2) install TOR browser, (3) find dark web URLs, (4) explore dark web websites, and (5) use tails OS for added security.

“Once you...go to the VPN...open up the TOR browser, you’re going to try to find some dark web URLs. You do that through what’s called the hidden wiki. There’s a site that you can go to called TheHiddenWiki.org that will give you a breakdown of the more popular dark web websites,” explains Hernandez in his section on the basic steps for accessing the dark web.

Hernandez wraps up his presentation with a Q&A as well as action items such as five ways to protect data from hackers and keep it off the dark web: (1) use strong, unique passwords, (2) enable two-factor authentication, (3) regularly update software and devices, (4) training on cybersecurity awareness, and (5) limit data sharing and use encryption.

For any further questions, email Dr. Hernandez at fhernandez7@ggc.edu.

Date: 08/20/2024
 Day: TUESDAY
 Time: 2:00 pm-3:15 pm
 Location: B 1500



Tech Talk Presents!
Kick Off for the Cybersecurity Tuesdays:
Demonstration on the Dark Web
By Dr. Felix Hernandez,
Assistant Professor of IT at GGC!
DIT, CISSP, CISM, CCSP, CEH, CDPSE,
PMP, ITIL

Topics of Discussion



For more information Contact: Dr. Madhushri Banerjee at mbanerje@ggc.edu OR Dr. Karen Benso at kbenson4@ggc.edu

Dr. Felix Hernandez is an assistant professor of information technology (IT) at GGC. Hernandez owned three businesses before joining GGC, is the author of two books, and has over 24 years of IT and security experience. His certifications include Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP), Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer (CDPSE), CompTIA Security+, Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), Project Management Professional (PMP), Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) and various others from Microsoft, Cisco, Citrix and VMWare. During October, ITSA will be having Cybersecurity Month according to GGC's event calendar. Meetings begin Tuesday, Oct. 1 and occur every Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3:15 p.m. in B-1500 when no classes are scheduled.

"The goal of ITSA is to improve understanding of the nature and uses of information technology", according to ITSA's Instagram.

ITSA is a Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) registered student organization (RSO). Students do not have to be cybersecurity majors to participate.

For more information about Cybersecurity Tuesdays, contact Dr. Madhushri Banerjee at mbanerje@ggc.edu or Dr. Karen Benson at kbenson4@ggc.edu.