

## Navigating the Cybersecurity Landscape



IN today's world, our daily lives are intricately woven with the digital fabric. From online banking and shopping to connecting with friends and family and accessing information, technology has become an indispensable part of our day-to-day affairs. However, this interconnectedness comes with a hidden vulnerability – cybersecurity.

More so in this day and age where scamming and hacking are becoming rampant and causing havoc in the lives of people, the importance of cybersecurity increases by the day. As rightly put by Yap Li Qing, who completed her Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) in Information Security and now working as a cybersecurity professional in a financial institution, who said:

“Nowadays, our online activities generate a vast amount of data, which some organisations collect and utilise without our full knowledge or consent. This raises concerns about privacy infringement and the potential misuse of personal data. As a cybersecurity professional, I have to be mindful in adopting proactive measures to significantly minimise the risks associated with cybersecurity threats.” Yap who graduated in 2021, recalled how challenging it was when she first began her degree programme.

“I was initially overwhelmed, lacking a foundational understanding of IT and cybersecurity concepts, although I have the passion to study IT. Nevertheless, this deepened my passion to study and motivated me to put in the extra effort to understand what I was learning. “I spent sleepless nights alongside my teammates, debugging complex issues and overcoming obstacles in our cybersecurity projects. It was like a never-ending loop of challenges, but I am grateful that my team and I not only succeeded in completing the projects but our understanding of cybersecurity and its importance deepened,” she shared.

On top of this, she also highlighted how TAR UMT's strong network with the industries has helped her gain valuable knowledge and experience. “On top of theory knowledge, working on practical projects involving the industries was also very important in my learning process. What I have learned in theory, I put into practice for these industry projects and this also helped me inculcate valuable skills. As for my favourite subjects, I would say Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing because although they were difficult subjects to understand, the ability to understand them gave me great motivation and I find this experience fulfilling.”

Recalling how far she has come after graduating, Yap said, “After graduating, I was a bit worried in terms of securing employment, but with my degree qualification and the experience gained from my six months internship, I secured a job without much difficulty. The fundamentals of cybersecurity, networking and programming have become my stepping stone in my job as what I have gained is applicable to the current company I am working in. This relieves my supervisor from having to guide me step-by-step in doing my work.”

TAR UMT is recognised as one of the country's premier digital tech institution recognised by the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), for the university's consistency in fostering awareness among students about the promising career prospects in cybersecurity, among others. As the demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to grow, universities such as TAR UMT are playing a crucial role in equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to combat cyber threats.

For more information about TAR UMT's computing and information technology programmes, call 011-1075 8554 or log on to [www.tarc.edu.my](http://www.tarc.edu.my) for information about TAR UMT and to apply online. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.