

FSKTM Champions Cyber Security Awareness Across Sarawak Schools

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From the Frontlines: Securing the Digital Frontier

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, the digital landscape offers immense opportunities but at the same time, introduces various complex cybersecurity challenges. As educators and researchers, our faculty's mission extends far beyond the traditional lecture hall; we bear a societal responsibility to safeguard and educate the next generation of digital citizens.

With great pride, we highlight the resounding success of our recent community outreach initiative in Sarawak: The Young Digital Defender Program (Program Digital Defender Muda). Funded by the UMCares Community Grant (CAKNA) and led by our project leader, **Hannyzzura Pal @ Affal**, this initiative brought experienced cybersecurity expertise directly to secondary school students, equipping them with the vital knowledge and practical skills. These skills are needed to navigate the digital world safely, ethically, and securely especially in the era of rising of scamming activities.

Meet the Digital Defender Muda Team

Representing the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT), the enthusiastic Digital Defender Muda delegation brought together a multidisciplinary team with expertise in cybersecurity, digital enabled technologies, and community engagement. The combining effort that comes from diverse skills and professional backgrounds and experiences is hoped to ensure a successful event outcome.



The Digital Defender Muda (DDM) Team to Sarawak

First Stop: Inspiring Brilliance at SMK Three Rivers, Mukah, Sarawak

On April 28, 2026, the team made its first official stop at SMK Three Rivers in Mukah. The event brought together 100 enthusiastic students from Forms 1, 2, and 3. The energy in the room was palpable from the outset. The students proved to be exceptionally responsive, well-behaved, and eager to learn. Rather than delivering a dry, conventional lecture, our technical team captivated the audience by conducting live hacking demonstrations. Examples given were designed to be practical and thrilling.

This thrilling, hands-on approach allowed students to witness the mechanics of cyber threats firsthand. The curriculum targeted the most critical vulnerabilities faced by teenagers today, focusing heavily on:

Password Security:

Crafting impenetrable digital keys and breaking bad habits of creating simple and easy to guess passwords.

Packet Sniffing:

Understanding how data can be intercepted on unsecured public networks.

Phishing Campaigns:

Spotting deceptive emails, malicious links, and social engineering traps that ended up with monetary loss in large amount.

Oversharing of Social Media:

Protecting personal identities and digital footprints from malicious actors that jeopardize personal privacy and security.

Pn. Mas Idayu Sabri engineered interactive activities, ensuring the atmosphere remained charged with knowledge and at the same time fun, excitement, and healthy peer competition.



Students of SMK Three Rivers enthusiastically participating in the interactive activities throughout the Digital Defender Muda programme.

Expanding the Footprint: Next Stop, SMK Tinggi Sarikei, Sarikei, Sarawak

Building on the incredible momentum generated in Sarikei, the Young Digital Defender team embarked on the next leg of their mission to Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tinggi Sarikei. Welcoming 161 enthusiastic students, the programme continued its mission of empowering young digital citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate today's increasingly inter-connected digital world.

Replicating the same high-impact learning experience, the faculty delivered its proven digital literacy framework through live hacking simulations, gamified cyber defense activities, and guided enrolment into the CyberSafe platform. The overwhelming participation and enthusiasm of the 161 students reflected the growing awareness of cybersecurity among young learners. An initiative of this

scale is only possible through dedication and collaboration of committed individuals. We extend our appreciation to the schools for their warmth, unwavering support, and invaluable partnership throughout the programme. The team would like to express its sincere appreciation to **Prof. Ts. Dr. Nor Badrul Anuar bin Juma'at** for his invaluable guidance, encouragement, and support throughout the development of this practical initiative.



Students of SMK Tinggi Sarikei actively engaging in the hands-on activities designed to enhance cybersecurity awareness and digital literacy.

A Heartfelt Appreciation



Participants of DDM from SMK Three Rivers and SMK Tinggi Sarikei

We are grateful to Cikgu Donny Dahlan, Cikgu Hanisa, Cikgu Jessie, and Cikgu Rinting at SMK Three Rivers, Mukah. Also sincere thanks to Madam Ong Yew Ming, Cikgu Wong Siew Kee, Cikgu Wong Kiong Kiong, and Cikgu Lau Ling Hie at SMK Tinggi Sarikei. Our gratitude also extends to all 261 participating students, whose enthusiasm, curiosity, and active participation made the programme both meaningful and memorable.

Finally, congratulations to the entire DDM team for proudly representing FSKTM in Sarawak. Through their passion, expertise, and commitment to community engagement, they have empowered a new generation of digitally responsible citizens and strengthened the faculty's mission of advancing cybersecurity awareness beyond the university. As this journey continues, we look forward to seeing the next communities inspired by our **Digital Defenders**.