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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD RENOWNED HACKERS CONGREGATE IN ASIA PACIFIC

Malaysia's HITBSecconf2004 plays host once again to the most comprehensive home-grown hacking and deep-knowledge security conference in the region.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, (24th August 2004) – Hack In The Box (M) Sdn Bhd, organizers of Malaysia's first non-profit home-grown hacking and network security conference, is proud to announce that over 20 of the world's renowned hackers from around the globe, including Europe, UK, US, Canada, Australia and the Asia Pacific region, will be congregating at the 3rd Annual HITBSecConf2004 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from October 4th to the 7th.

Building on the success of the last two conferences, this year's event has been extended to cover a period of four days, kicking off on the 4th of October with a two-day hands-on technical training session, followed by the conference proper on the 6th and 7th. Featuring a total of three different tracks, namely Technical A, Technical B and Technical C, attendees are assured to find plenty of topics from which to choose from. The "Capture The Flag 'Live Hacking' Competition" will be the fourth CtF game to be held in Malaysia, after the hugely successful games held during HITB Security Conference in 2002, 2003 and INFOSEC 2003. The CTF will take place on the 6th and continue on till the 7th.

This year's event will also feature two very prominent keynote speakers, namely Mr. Theo De Raadt and Mr. John T. Draper (a.k.a Captain Crunch).

Mr. De Raadt, who will be presenting a paper entitled "Exploit Mitigation Techniques", has been involved with free UNIX operating systems since 1990. He then became one of the founders and prime developers of NetBSD.

In 1995 Mr. De Raadt created the OpenBSD project, creating a free Unix that focuses primarily on security technologies. A few years later he also started the OpenSSH project, the most deployed Open Source software in the world.

Mr. John T. Draper, who was one of the original members of the Homebrew Computer Club, has over 30 years of programming and security expertise. Widely known as the first security pioneer, Mr. Draper is credited with introducing, among others, Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs to the computing world, and a generation of hackers to the glorious concept of "phone phreaking", spawning the worldwide "2600" clubs.

His work with Jobs and Wozniak led him to become the 13th employee of Apple computers, where he designed telephone interface boards, as well as hardware and software for the Apple II.

"We are truly honoured that some of the greatest minds of the network security and computer industry have chosen to present their research papers at our event. As with last year's conference, attendees will be guaranteed a look at some of the latest attack and defence methods including new and previously unpublished exploits" said Dhillon Andrew Kannabhiran, Founder and Chief Executive Officer for Hack In The Box.

"This is truly a golden opportunity for the local network security vendors as well as members of the computer industry to come forward and gain first hand knowledge on the latest threats and attacks facing organizations as well as individuals and how best to deal with them" said Mr. Kannabhiran.

"We hope that through our series of conferences, we will help create an International platform for the discussion and dissemination of deep-knowledge technical information".

In addition to the keynote speakers, many other experts and specialists will be at the event as well including Ollie Whitehouse (Technical Director @Stake Limited UK), Adam Gowdiak (formerly from The Last Stage of Delirium Group), Joze Nazario (author of "Defense and Detection Strategies against Internet Worms"), Emmanuel Gadaix (Founder of the Telecom Security Task Force [TSTF]), Roberto Preatoni (Founder, Zone-H Defacement Archive), Fabio Ghioni and several others. The papers that have been announced include "Phreaking in the 21st Century", "Attacks and Counter Measures in 2.5G and 3G Cellular IP Networks", "Packet Mastering", "Asymmetric Warfare and Interception Revealed" and "The Art of Defiling: Defeating Forensic Analysis on Unix File Systems". Additional speakers as well as the other topics and titles will be announced as the conference date approaches.

"People need to be aware of important security issues which change on a daily basis," said Mr. John T. Draper, commenting on the importance of events like HITBSecConf.

"Our network infrastructure is very weak to all sorts of outside attacks. Al Qaeda already knows this and are constantly probing systems looking for weaknesses. Companies (like the one in Redmond Washington) need to pay more attention to security, and understand they have to put away their greed and contribute to the problem instead of being part of the problem."

"Spam is a very big issue, because it offers huge financial incentives for the creation of viruses, Trojans and other tools used to spread spam. This technology leaks over to other more insidious issues like large scale DDOS attacks, dictionary attacks etc. This results in a HUGE supply of infected hosts used by spammers and spam gangs which control more than a million PC's all of which can be used for large coordinated attacks on our networks," added Draper.

"These Trojans have to be identified and shut down and spam mail is the key because we use spam as a means of identifying these infected hosts so we can point them out to the network administrators so they can shut them down."

While there have been an increasing number of security conferences in the region, most of these are profit-oriented and hence many individuals and smaller companies cannot really afford to attend. Yet, it is equally important that these people acquire the knowledge to be gained from these events. The HITB series of security conferences is perhaps one of the few not-for-profit security events organized in the region.

“The addition of technical training sessions this time around will enable participants to not only get ‘hands-on’ training conducted by the experts themselves, but more importantly to gain an insight into a subject in which theoretical and text book knowledge are insufficient” said Mr. Kannabhiran.

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About HITBSecconf2004

The main aim of HITBSecConf2004 is to enable the dissemination, discussion and sharing of network security information. Presented by respected members of the mainstream network security arena as well as the underground or BlackHat community, this year's conference promises to once again give attendees and inside look at several new attacks as well as defence methods that have not been seen or discussed in public before.

About Hackinthebox.org

Hack In The Box is a network security portal designed to facilitate discussions on security related topics, create security awareness, and to try and provide a comprehensive database of security knowledge and resources to the public. We aim to make HITB a single place or community on the Internet where people and corporations can go to find security information and the latest news from the underground as well as from the computer technology sectors. The site provides access to security links and resources, including news, books, mailing lists, tools, products and security services. The staff at hackinthebox.org is committed to stimulating discussion between users and computer professionals to help Keep Knowledge Free.

HITBSecConf2004: <http://conference.hackinthebox.org>