



Lesson Plan*

LESSON TITLE: Fundamentals of Information Security

SUMMARY:

This module presents essential fundamentals of information security concepts including Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability, and non-repudiation. Various components of a typical information system will be presented including software, hardware, data, users, etc. The module will highlight the importance of humans as a central component of any system and how human errors are the typical cause of system compromises. The common saying that “humans are the weakest link of the security chain” will be expounded with several real-world examples. In such context, other cybersecurity concepts will be fully explained. The concept of Keep It Simple will be introduced as a technique that will help minimize human errors as participants will have a better understanding of the systems they need to defend. Additionally, when discussing various components of an information system, the concept of Defense in Depth will yield itself well. For example, the discussion will include an explanation of how various components can be viewed as different layers of security that attackers must then defeat to conduct a successful attack. Moreover, common attacker motivations will be discussed which will familiarize participants with adversary mindsets and introduce essential ethical aspects.

GRADE BAND:

K-2

6-8

3-5

High School

TIME REQUIRED:

minutes

LESSON LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

Outcome Examples

Design/Build	1. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the GenCyber Cybersecurity Concepts. 2. Evaluate and analyze the availability of information systems while achieving defense in depth against Internet frauds.
Test/Defend	
Compare/Contrast	
Apply/Use	
Explain/Discuss	
Identify/Describe	

Materials List (i.e., string, digital diary, raspberry pi, web link, drone):

Lab Computers
Internet Access
Account on GenCyber Coins system
Lab handouts

Describe any Previous Knowledge that may be Required:

Basic Math and problem solving skills.

How will you facilitate the learning?

- Describe the Warm-up Activity:

The instructor will explain the basic components of a typical Information system and discuss how we can protect these systems while making explicit links to the six GenCyber Cybersecurity concepts. Several examples will be used to hook the students on the discussion with emphasis on the 4 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical thinking).

- Describe the Focused Activity:

This module is designed to be taught in a highly interactive environment in which all attendees will be active participants in the learning process. To achieve this, one approach is to use a series of lab-based activities to enable students to "do it yourself" to enhance their comprehension of taught contents. Such lab activities include "Bug Bounty" and "Reconnaissance" from the GenCyber Coin Site. One other approach is to use mobile technology to enhance participant involvement using their phones (BYOD) to participate in interactive exercises such as online quizzes (Kahoot) and simulations.

Bug Bounty: This tool allows students to "think like an adversary" and attempt to find bugs in the GenCyber Coin game website. Secure coding concepts, ethical hacking, and human error will be discussed as students work through finding the bugs.

Reconnaissance: This game again encourages students to "think like an adversary" by conducting social engineering based research on the GenCyber faculty and staff. This activity provides a more in depth and hands-on look into how human error, and the human desire to share personal information, may cause breaches in security. This activity will be introduced in this module, and can be conducted during the remainder of camp.

- Describe the Teacher Instruction:

N/A

Mapping to GenCyber Cybersecurity First Principles:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domain Separation | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstraction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Process Isolation | <input type="checkbox"/> Data Hiding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Encapsulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Layering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modularity | <input type="checkbox"/> Simplicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Privilege | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimization |

Mapping to GenCyber Cybersecurity Concepts:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defense in Depth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Availability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Think Like an Adversary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep It Simple |

Assessment of Learning:

TYPE (Examples listed below)

NAME/DESCRIPTION

Quiz/Test	A number of assessment approaches will be adopted: 1- Regular observation of campers performance in the given tasks 2- Interactive competitive quizzes as discussed above. 3- Oral questions and walking around.
Presentation	
Project	
Writing Assignment	
Observation	
Walk Around	
Oral Questioning	
Other	

Accommodations: (Examples may include closed captioning for hearing impaired students; accommodations for students with disabilities.)

N/A

Describe any Extension Activities (i.e., ideas for further work):

Potential use and applications of the covered activities will be discussed so that students can use/apply these ideas and activities at their schools in programming, science and similar clubs. Students will also have access to the GenCyber Coin game indefinitely, and can continue learning and exploring on the site.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks for Ms. Lydia Taylor for her excellent contributions to the design and testing of this module's activities.

Many thanks to Dr. Vitaly Ford for the use of his interactive and engaging GenCyber Coin Game website.

*The GenCyber website may contain links to external websites that are not government-owned or government-sponsored provided as a convenience to our users. The National Security Agency does not exercise any editorial control over the information found at these locations. The hyperlinks are provided for general informational purposes only and the National Security Agency neither controls nor guarantees the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of any information contained in non-government website links. The National Security Agency neither endorses nor guarantees in any way the external organizations, services, advice, or products included in these non-government website links. All links are provided consistent with the mission of this website.