Date: 20 December 2024

Subject: Invitation to participate in the Student-Solutions Challenge at Cybersecurity4D2025 Conference

Dear Colleague,

The Pan African Information Communication Technology Association (PAICTA) and the Cybersecurity4D2025 Conference Organizing Team are excited to invite students from your institution to participate in the Student-Solutions Challenge, a highlight of our upcoming conference in Gqeberha, South Africa, from August 17 – 22, 2025.

About the Student-Solutions Challenge

The Student-Solutions Challenge aims to

1. **Expose Students to Real-World Cybersecurity Challenges**
   - Empower students to tackle pressing cybersecurity problems and develop innovative solutions using their creativity and critical thinking.
2. **Discover Promising Cybersecurity Talent**
   - Identify and support future leaders in cybersecurity by providing opportunities to showcase their skills and potential.
3. **Promote Cybersecurity Innovation and Growth**
   - Drive the development of cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions tailored to Africa's unique needs.
   - Build a network of passionate students, universities, and professionals dedicated to advancing the field across the continent.

Who Should Apply and Team Composition?

- Students interested in cybersecurity, problem-solving, and innovation.
- Teams are limited to 3 members if all members are of the same gender; otherwise, teams can have up to 4 members.
- The Student Challenge is open to all registered undergraduate and postgraduate students from any tertiary educational institution on the African continent.
- All participants should register using their student-assigned email from the respective institutions.

Student Challenge Structure

1. **Pre-conference workshops (Virtual)student-assigned**
   - Host webinars on AI, IoT, and cybersecurity fundamentals.
   - Guest speakers from the industry share insights on current cybersecurity trends in AI and IoT.
2. **Pre-conference challenges round (Virtual)**
   - Student Challenges – CTF Online
   - The pre-conference challenges will be run during May – June 2025.
   - Top 10 teams will be invited to the conference round and will be notified by the end of April 2025.
3. **Conference challenge round (In-Person)**
   - 2-Day industry challenge round (20 and 21 August 2025)
   - Teams are allocated a Cybersecurity challenge specific to the African continent.

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- Deliverables
  - Documentation detailing the solution
  - Demo video presenting their solution and explaining how it works.
  - Prototype – GitHub Repo

Benefits for Participants

- Exposure to real-world cybersecurity challenges.
- Opportunities to collaborate with experts and like-minded peers.
- Recognition as part of a growing network of cybersecurity innovators in Africa.

Where to register your team

- If your university or student team is ready to make an impact in the cybersecurity landscape, we invite you to express your interest and join this transformative journey.
- Registrations close on 31 March 2025.
- Register your university team here or scan the QR code below:

Please contact the technical organising committee if you require any further information at student-challenge@paicta.co.

Looking forward to seeing you at Cybersecurity4D2025.

Cybersecurity4D2025 Student-Solutions Challenge Organising Committee

Sincerely,

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Chairperson
Cybersecurity4D Organising Committee

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Technical Co-Chairperson
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