



## **Twenty-three People from 4 Countries Earn First Secure Programming Certifications SANS Launches Worldwide Testing Program**

(Bethesda, Maryland) October 9, 2007. The SANS Institute today announced that 23 people earned the GIAC Secure Software Programmers certification. By passing comprehensive examinations on August 14, 2007, in Washington, D.C., seven demonstrated mastery of secure coding in the C language and sixteen demonstrated that mastery in JAVA.

Developed in a joint effort involving the SANS Institute, CERT/CC, several US government agencies, and leading companies in the US, Japan, India, and Germany, the exams are an essential response to the rapidly increasing number of targeted attacks that are focusing on application vulnerabilities. They help organizations meet four objectives:

1. Identify shortfalls in security knowledge of in-house programmers and help those individuals close the gaps.
2. Ensure outsourced programmers have adequate secure coding skills.
3. Select new employees who will not need remedial training in secure programming.
4. Ensure each major development project has at least one person with advanced secure programming skills.

Beginning in early December, additional certification examinations will be conducted in eighteen cities around the world. In addition college and university partners are being named (University of North Carolina, Charlotte, is the first) where secure programming education is being embedded in the core curriculum and students will be able to sit for the GSSP exams on campus.

Large corporations and government agencies have access to an online version of the GSSP exam that enables them to test their staff but does not result in certifications.

At press time, the following 13 people out of a total of 23 recipients have given approval for their names to be disclosed. The new GSSPs include:

### **GIAC Secure Software Programmer Exam - Java**

Vinay Bansal, Cisco Systems  
Jim Horner, Arinbe Technologies, Inc.  
Frank Kim, Kaiser Permanente  
Pramod Nair, Unisys  
Ricardo Patino, Telus Security Solutions  
Darian Anthony Patrick, Criticode LLC  
Craig D. Williams, Cisco Systems  
Richard Wolf, Cisco Systems

### **GIAC Secure Software Programmer Exam - C**

David Ireland, DI Management Pty Ltd  
Aryeh Katz, Arinc  
Alex Muratov, TELUS Security Solutions  
Jonathan D. Pittman, The Mississippi State University Center for Computer Security Research (CCSR)

Alan Saqui, CGI Federal  
Jonathan Sharp, Siemens Research, Inc.  
Bill Hannold

Visit <http://www.sans.org/gssp/> for more information on the C and Java certifications and upcoming exams.

For access to sample exams, exam blueprints, future exam dates and locations, information on the college partners and enterprise partners program, and a complete description of the Secure Coding Initiative, email [spa@sans.org](mailto:spa@sans.org).

About SANS Institute. SANS Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization. Its programs reach more than 200,000 security professionals, auditors, system administrators, network administrators, chief information security officers, and CIOs who share the lessons they are learning and jointly find solutions to the challenges they face. At the heart of SANS are the many security practitioners in government agencies, corporations, and universities around the world who invest hundreds of hours each year in research and teaching to help the entire information security community.

Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC), a SANS affiliate, provides IT security professionals with certification in the areas of security administration, management, operations, legal, audit and software security. GIAC assures and validates that certified individuals have practical awareness, knowledge and skills in key areas of computer, network and software security.

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