



VMWARE IT ACADEMY—BUILDING IT EXPERTISE IN THE DIGITAL FUTURE

The VMware IT Academy Program provides students with the skills and education needed to succeed in a software-defined future. IT Academy creates a collaborative relationship with approved academic institutions around the world and provides them with software content, labs, and course materials developed by VMware. This enables their students to become knowledgeable on VMware technology and equipped with technical skills so they can obtain VMware certifications and jump-start their careers.

“Our relationship with VMware IT Academy gives our students a very real connection with people who can help them build confidence in their abilities, gain a deeper knowledge of computers and virtualization technologies, and spark new curiosity in the increasingly important realm of cybersecurity.”

—BRIGADIER GENERAL BERNIE SKOCH
(USAF, RETIRED), NATIONAL COMMISSIONER
OF CYBERPATRIOT

Inspiring Students to Pursue Careers in Cybersecurity

CyberPatriot partners with VMware IT Academy to deliver the virtual networks required for national cybersecurity educational programs and competitions

Addressing a glaring educational problem

In 2009, the Air Force Association (AFA) came to the stark realization that the United States was suffering from a very real deficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) capabilities—with the country ranking unacceptably low on a global scale. At the same time, cybercrime began a significant uptick in both types and occurrences, with cybercrime diverting 1% of the global economy and 25% of all American families being impacted by cybercrime of one sort or another.¹

To help address these countrywide challenges, the AFA initiated *CyberPatriot*—a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on national security, including defense, social policies, and much more. The program launched in 2009 in Florida, with eight teams of students competing to defend a virtual computer system against cyberattack.

Today, the program has expanded to nearly 7,000 teams from across the country, and it now provides curriculum for students in grades K–12 as well as specialized programs for senior citizens age 65 and older:

- **CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition**—Year-long team-based competition; teams compete in online challenges throughout the year, where they vie for recognition; finalists receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the national competition in Maryland.
- **AFA CyberCamp**—Five-day summer camp sessions.
- **Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative (ESCEI)**—Game-like software modules for K–6 students.
- **CyberPatriot Literature Series**—Books for early readers.
- **CyberGenerations**—Cybersecurity initiative for senior citizens.

A common thread across all CyberPatriot programs is the virtual network provided by the VMware IT Academy. By aligning with a large and growing IT leader, CyberPatriot can ship the VMware virtual network to each team or participant, which they use to complete all online challenges, modules, and courses. In addition to using the VMware virtual network to learn the ins and outs of cybersecurity, students also receive the added bonus of joining the leading edge of digital transformation by gaining expertise in software-defined infrastructure.

“CyberPatriot is much more than a program for students. It’s a program for anyone interested in learning how to protect themselves, their family, their community, their business, and their country against cybercrime. It’s about providing the tools people need to navigate our increasingly cyber-connected world—which unfortunately makes us more vulnerable to cybercrime.”

—BRIGADIER GENERAL BERNIE SKOCH (USAF, RETIRED), NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF CYBERPATRIOT

“At CyberPatriot, we feel that for every basketball team at every high school across the country, there should also be a CyberPatriot team. That way, we might be able to keep pace with the ever-growing demand for trained cybersecurity experts.”

—BRIGADIER GENERAL BERNIE SKOCH (USAF, RETIRED), NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF CYBERPATRIOT

Leading positive change in the world

CyberPatriot is designed to deliver benefits to every person who engages in the program.

FOR STUDENTS	FOR PARENTS
<p>Become aware of how pervasive cybersecurity is today; learn that cybersecurity is no longer a profession for “geeks”; and understand that mobile phones, laptops, and the public infrastructure are all impacted by cyberassaults.</p> <p>Discover a new and interesting career path; help alleviate the dire shortage in cybersecurity professionals in the public and private sectors.</p> <p>Learn about and adopt cyber ethics.</p>	<p>Know their children are getting the training they need as teenagers, to better prepare them at every stage of adulthood.</p>
FOR COACHES	FOR MENTORS
<p>Work with students who are “hooked” on the technology from the moment they walk in the door.</p> <p>Help students learn things they can’t learn anywhere else.</p>	<p>Engage students by providing curriculum and subject matter that is relevant in the real world.</p> <p>Provide interactive hands-on labs and online challenges that are both exciting and educational.</p>

VMware’s “best-kept secret”

The VMware IT Academy has been operating on a global level for many years. Up until now, it’s been VMware’s best-kept secret. With the growing success of the IT Academy program at organizations like CyberPatriot, however, more people are talking about the value of the IT Academy:

- Training students, mentors, and coaches with a proven program
- Offering complete curriculum, as well as setting up hands-on labs, at minimal cost
- Fueling broader technology labs to be delivered to students; for example, one VMware license on a laptop can run Red Hat Linux, enabling students to learn that technology, too
- Providing local program support to institutions through Regional IT Academies, offering training to instructors at other area institutions
- Educating and empowering tomorrow’s digital leaders, entrepreneurs, and cybersecurity experts with required skills today

Learn more

Discover more about how VMware IT Academy students can lead in the digital future by visiting vmware.com/company/research/it-academy.html.

¹ News.Gallup.com, “One in Four Americans Have Experienced Cybercrime,” December, 2018.