

NEWS RELEASE

Businesses need to invest in cyber skills to step up their war against cyber crime, says IBITGQ

Germany, 28 July, 2014 – [The International Board for IT Governance Qualifications](#) (IBITGQ), a not-for-profit organisation offering international information security qualifications, has reported that it will be concentrating considerable efforts on promoting the information security profession and to help businesses fill the skills gap.

A series of recent high-profile data breaches, including Butler University, Code Spaces, Domino's Pizza, Target and others, demonstrate that organisations are either too complacent about their cyber defences or lack the ability to deal with the magnitude of cyber risks, or both.

Nora Clifford, Chair of the IBITGQ Examination Panel, says, "Whatever the reasons for the success of these data breaches, the availability of in-house skills and understanding of the constantly evolving cyber threat landscape, in the context of any business challenges, are fundamental for an organisation's effective cyber security defences."

The SecureWorld Insight Survey 2013 revealed that 43% of cyber security professionals rate their position as the most difficult in the organisation.

Clifford continues, "Businesses that underestimate the role their staff plays in the effective implementation of processes and technology are clearly making themselves easier targets to cyber criminals."

According to a recent report from [Burning Glass Technologies](#), the demand for cyber security professionals in the US has grown more than 3.5 times faster than the demand for other IT jobs over the past five years, and more than 12 times faster than the demand for all other non-IT jobs. Current staffing shortages are estimated between 20,000 and 40,000, and this trend is expected to continue for years to come.

Moreover, the results from the The Enterprise Strategy Group (ESG) 2014 survey revealed that 25% of all organisations surveyed claim to have a "problematic shortage" of information security skills.

Clifford says, "Savvy organisations will be investing in tried and tested training programmes that are supported by formal qualifications to boost their staff skills and enhance a positive culture as an added benefit. IBITGQ for example has developed a structured qualification scheme to help address the skills shortage and different business needs."

IBITGQ offers [qualification programmes](#) with structured learning paths from Foundation to Advanced levels in the key topics associated with international standards, including ISO27001, PCI DSS and ISO22301. Training courses are designed to develop the skills necessary to enable delegates to deliver best practice in their organisation, and to obtain industry-recognised qualifications that enhance their career opportunities in the future.

By deploying its [ATO \(Accredited Training Organisation\) Programme](#), IBITGQ recruits suitable training companies globally and provides them with the resources to deliver IBITGQ training courses and exams in their respective sales regions.

IBITGQ has successfully completed a pilot phase of an ATO development plan, which has resulted in the creation of partnerships with [IT Governance Ltd](#) in the UK and [3SC Technologies](#) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. We are now seeking new partners in all regions (except the UK) who can meet IBITGQ's high standards in delivering our courses and exams.

For companies that would like to become an IBITGQ Accredited Training Organisation (ATO), please download, complete and return the [IBITGQ ATO Enquiry form](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The International Board for IT Governance Qualifications (IBITGQ) is a not-for-profit association dedicated to the provision of training and the continued professional development of information security, business resilience and IT governance professionals. Founded in 2011, IBITGQ helps improve and standardise the range and quality of training for IT governance professionals. IBITGQ defines and awards qualifications built around the implementation and audit skills required for management standards that include ISO27001, ISO27005, ISO22301, ISO38500 and PCI DSS. More information is available at www.ibitgq.org