

THE START OF IT ALL...



Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Defence Mr Zaqy Mohamad (centre) announced the launch of the Sentinel Programme on 20 Jan 2024 with representatives of the Digital and Intelligence Service (DIS), and partners from the Defence Technology Community and the Ministry of Education.

Cybersecurity is a clear necessity in an era where our lives are entwined with the digital realm.

Recognising the need to engage Singaporeans from a young age on the importance of digital defence, Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Zaqy Mohamad launched the Sentinel Programme on 20 January 2024.

This inaugural issue of the Sentinel newsletter is particularly special as we look back on the highlights of our first year, celebrating the milestones we have achieved together.

From the launch of the programme to the first ever Sentinel Challenge, the past year has been a testament to the power of collaboration and shared vision.

And this is just the beginning. The future holds even more opportunities to strengthen our digital resilience, and we're excited to share this journey with you!

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to groom the next generation of cyber defenders for our country.

Highlights of 2024

Secondary Programme

- Holiday Workshops
- Code-Along @ CDDC
- Sentinel Challenge

Post-Sec Programme

- Holiday Workshops and Classes
- CTF Exercise @ CDDC
- Cyber Sports Day

x *Clarence*

COL Clarence Cai
Defence Cyber Chief
Digital and Intelligence Service (DIS)



Students from different schools come together to learn with like-minded peers.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Secondary 1 Sentinel students made the most of their term break by participating in holiday workshops from 29 to 31 May 24 and 18 to 19 Nov 24, where they were introduced to web development and the world of cybersecurity.

They learnt basic programming (e.g. HTML, JavaScript), and cybersecurity concepts such as debugging, spam detection and more! They also used their new-found skills to programme an image-safe in a capstone project!



Workshops are conducted with interactive lessons, hands-on exercises and capstone projects.



Interactive Kahoot quizzes and prizes are part of the fun during Sentinel workshops!

CODE-ALONG @ CDDC

Students participated in a code-along workshop to learn how to solve Capture-the-Flag (CTF) challenges at the Cyber Defenders Discovery Camp (CDDC), at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre on 12 Jun 24. As beginners to CTFs, they were given a step-by-step walkthrough in a guided activity. A highlight for many was also the interactive game booths at the Brainhack Tech Showcase where they learnt about latest defence technologies!



Students participating in a drone activity in the Brainhack Tech Showcase.



Students attempting to solve CTF challenges in teams, with guidance from mentors.



More than 340 students participated in Sentinel Challenge 2024 that was held at Raffles Institution on 20 Nov 2024.

SENTINEL CHALLENGE 2024

After a year of skill-building (and not forgetting lots of fun), students put their skills to the test at the Sentinel Challenge competition on 20 Nov 24, showcasing their problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and determination in tackling real-world cyber challenges.

Congratulations to winners and participants for getting through their first Sentinel competition!



Teams raced against time to solve challenges and climb the leaderboard for the top spot!



Students having fun with like-minded friends during the challenge.



Teams strategised to solve challenges with their digital skills, teamwork, and creativity.



The Champion team, 33Burning, receiving their award from COL Clarence Cai (far right).



Team-bonding activities were conducted to foster interactivity between students from different schools.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

Post-Secondary students from Junior Colleges (JCs), Polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education (ITEs) learnt topics such as Python programming and network forensics. They also completed exciting capstone projects, where they built a search engine, and investigated a simulated bank breach!



Students worked in teams to complete capstone projects.



Students completed a holiday workshop on Network Forensics with smiles and a sense of accomplishment!



Regular hands-on exercises helped students to learn and apply new skills.



A student sharing his exercise solution with his class.

CTF EXERCISE @ CDDC

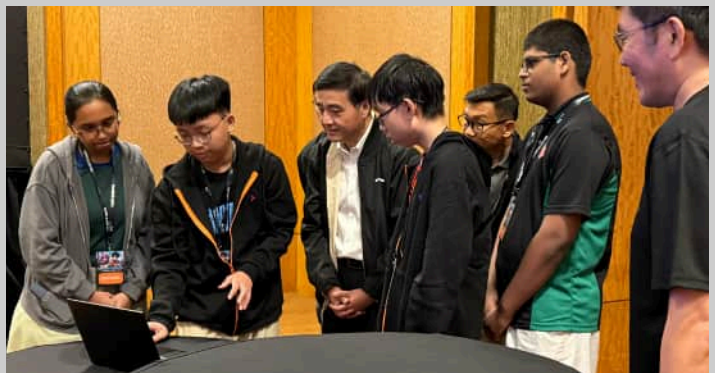
Students participated in a Cyber Defenders Discovery Camp (CDDC) Capture-the-Flag (CTF) Exercise at Sands Expo & Convention Centre on 13 Jun 24. For many, it was their first experience solving CTF challenges, and they left better prepared for future CTFs!



Students working on the challenges as a team.



Students interacting with then-Defence Cyber Chief, BG Edward Chen (left) during the event.



Students sharing their learning takeaways with Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How (centre).



Post-Secondary students from Polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education participated in Cyber Sports Day 2024 with representatives from the DIS and the Defence Technology Community on 30 Nov 24.

CYBER SPORTS DAY 2024

It was a day of competition, collaboration, and networking.

Students formed teams and competed in a CTF competition during Cyber Sports Day 2024, where they worked to solve a series of cybersecurity challenges designed to test their skills.

They also gained valuable career insights from representatives from Defence Cyber agencies, learning about scholarship and career opportunities in the field. The event wrapped up with a networking lunch with mentors from Defence Cyber agencies, where they learned about cybersecurity professions and received guidance about careers in this field.



Students fully engrossed in solving the challenges.



Students at a DIS career booth to find out more about scholarship and career opportunities.



Students working in teams during the Cyber Sports Challenge competition.



Students interacting with a mentor over lunch, learning about career pathways and experiences in defence cyber.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 INTAKE ARE NOW OPEN!

Do you have a strong interest in IT/Math/Science and have an aptitude for logical reasoning and problem solving? Are you passionate about protecting important data and safeguarding the digital world?

If you are (or know someone who does), don't miss this opportunity to join the Sentinel Programme! Applications are now open to Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents who are Year 1 students of Secondary Schools, JCs, Polytechnics, and ITEs in 2025.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

You will get to learn essential skills and gain practical experience in cybersecurity, meet like-minded peers, and test your skills through various challenges and competitions.

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAMME?

Sentinel is a 4-year programme for students who sign up in Secondary 1, and a 2-year programme for Pre-University 1 students. Secondary school students who complete the 4-year programme can continue with the programme when they are in Pre-University education institutions, subject to meeting the qualifying criteria.

KEY DATES

Education Level	Secondary 1	Junior College 1	Polytechnic / ITE 1
Application Deadline	16 Mar 2025	02 Mar 2025	18 May 2025
Programme Start Date	03 Jun 2025	17 Mar 2025	18 Jun 2025

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY AT [GO.GOV.SG/SENTINEL](https://go.gov.sg/sentinel)

Come join us!