

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aussie first: Sovereign cyber businesses step up for Defence training

In an Australian first, a group of innovative, sovereign cyber companies collaborated to create a successful pilot of a fully online, collective cyber training program for the Australian Defence Force.

Australian businesses: Cydarm, Elttam, Penten and Retrospect Labs each with expertise in niche cyber technology came together to tailor a solution for Defence on FifthDomain's cyber training platform.

The aim of the Accelerated Defence Cyber Training (ADCT) Program echoes the current need for remotely accessible training programs while also addressing the requirement to rapidly increase cyber skills across Defence and industry.

The fully online training program was conducted from FifthDomain's headquarters in Canberra, and was delivered remotely to Navy, Army and Air Force personnel across the country over a three-week timeframe.

The program included a highly realistic virtual environment with simulated exercises. The trainees were grouped into virtual teams to remediate vulnerabilities and respond to simulated and real threat actors.

On the final day of the pilot, MAJGEN Marcus Thompson, Head of Information Warfare Division, ADF, visited FifthDomain's office in within UNSW's Launch Precinct to connect virtually with over 50 program trainees and congratulate the Australian consortium partners for their achievement.

"Building home-grown cyber capabilities is a team effort. In Defence, we're developing our capabilities in an increasingly connected world – which extends to the battlefield. The collaboration of local SME's to support the training progression of ADF cyber operators gives me great confidence that we're on the right track. I commend our partners Fifth Domain, Penten, Cydarm, Elttam and Retrospect Labs for contributing to the acceleration of ADF cyber training," said Thompson.

Michelle Price, AustCyber CEO, said this is a real-world demonstration of the strength of Australia's cyber security ecosystem.

"Seeing five sovereign cyber businesses come together to provide a virtual training platform for Defence is a great example of the strong cyber security sector in Australia and shows that Australian cyber businesses can provide the solutions Defence needs. A strong domestic cyber security sector is critical for Australia's competitiveness and reputation as a trusted place to do business."

Cydarm, a Melbourne-based business, deployed their case management platform and dashboard as a command and control system to coordinate team activities and provide oversight for the mentors. This enabled trainees in the cybersecurity operations teams to collaborate on responding to incidents while the mentors continually assessed their progress.

Vaughan Shanks, CEO of Cydarm Technologies is proud to be counted among the growing number of sovereign Australian cybersecurity companies, and grateful for the support of the ADF and our partners.

"Developing home-grown expertise is a key objective of the Australian government as it focuses on building sovereign cyber capability to generate jobs, defend Australia and export these solutions to the Asia Pacific region and around the world," said Shanks.

Elttam, an independent Australian security company which specialises in high-quality offensive and defensive security services, played the role of cyber threat actors for the ADF trainees.

Matt Jones, Director and Co-founder of Elttam said, "We were proud to tailor realistic adversarial scenarios for Defence based on industry experience. It was a pleasure to collaborate with the partnering Australian companies as part of the ADCT Program."

FifthDomain, the training project lead and provider of the platform, is a leading Australian specialist cyber operations workforce development and management development company based in Canberra.

Matt Wilcox, CEO of FifthDomain commented, "We are proud to be leading this sovereign capability to deliver this unique solution for Defence. FifthDomain's cyber ranges benefit by being able to integrate niche technologies from our partners to provide Defence the best of breed Australian cyber innovation. And within the context of COVID-19 limitations, the sovereign, remotely accessible platform enables Defence to overcome travel and supply chain challenges to successfully achieve this goal."

Penten, a Canberra based cyber technology company enjoyed the challenge of integrating their unique AI generated content and user behaviour on FifthDomain's cyber training platform.

Ben Whitham, Founder and Director of Penten said this is another example of sovereign capability and what we can achieved when we collaborate.

"Although this is only the first step working together, the combined solution of additional realism and automation will enhance the training outcomes, reduce the time taken to create the environments and improve the repeatability," said Whitham.

Retrospect Labs is building a cyber security exercise platform that takes the burden out of conducting cyber security exercises. The platform makes exercises easy to design, execute, and evaluate, so that organisations can continually practice - and perfect - their response to any cyber incident.

Jason Pang, CEO of Retrospect Labs is immensely proud to partner with our fellow Australian cyber security companies to deliver a leading, world class experience for our ADF personnel.

“What we did, together, showcases the awesome home-grown talent boutique Australian companies have to offer, and their ability to work so closely together in a way that rivals, and in many ways out shines, the offerings of many established, traditional cyber firms,” said Pang.

Delivery of this program closely aligns with Australia’s Cyber Security Strategy 2020, released in early August 2020, which commits A\$1.67b investment over ten years, and outlines a range of initiatives including the growth of the country’s cyber skills pipeline as one of its key recommendations.

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About Cydarm Technologies

<https://cydarm.com/>

Cydarm is a secure case management platform for cybersecurity operations that makes incident response better and faster. Cydarm uses best practice to enable SOC analysts to record and share information at different levels of trust, guided by workflow and playbooks. The platform integrates with existing enterprise and security platforms and enables evidence-based decision making around security controls, threats, and resourcing, through metrics capture and reporting. Cydarm is available as a hosted platform or deployed to the enterprise.

About Elttam

<https://www.elttam.com/#intro>

Elttam is an independent security company providing research-driven security assessment services - we combine pragmatism and deep technical insight to help our customers secure their most important assets.

Founded in 2015, Elttam was created with the mission to provide independent high-quality technical security services. Today, our team works closely with dozens of customers across numerous sectors and geographic regions that trust us to help protect their most important assets.

About FifthDomain

www.fifthdomain.com.au

FifthDomain is a leading Australian specialist cyber operations workforce development and management technology company, transforming the cyber training segment with its’ cyber operations individual and collective training and assessment platform. FifthDomain partners with government and industry to harness expertise in cyber security education, skills and workforce development to deliver secure, on-demand solutions to customers nationally and internationally from any internet connected computer. A key part of Australia’s sovereign capability in solving the global cyber security crisis, FifthDomain has been instrumental in evolving the vocational education sector’s cyber security curriculum and is working with the Australian Defence Force to further develop critical cyber skill sets and address the growing skills gap.

About Penten

<https://www.penten.com/>

Penten is a cyber technology company based in Canberra, Australia. The business started in 2014 and has since grown rapidly to over 85 staff.

Penten creates innovative, purpose-built cyber technology for Defence and Government users and exports its products globally. The business focuses on providing secure mobility and applied

artificial intelligence to government users to provide competitive advantage in the age of cyber warfare.

Penten's innovations have won high profile awards: 2018 Business of the Year at the Telstra Business Awards, Most Innovative Company at the AFR and Boss awards, 2019 and Cyber Business of the Year at the Australian Defence Industry Awards, 2019.

About Retrospect Labs

<https://retrospectlabs.com/>

Retrospect Labs makes organisations ready for a cyber security incident. Our founders have led some of the most significant responses to cyber incidents in Australia, and our experience in incident response is what makes us so passionate about exercises. If you haven't practiced how to respond to an incident, chances are you won't succeed. You won't be able to recover from an incident as quickly or effectively as if you were prepared. We make it easy for organisations and their people to practice and train how to respond to an incident, so they'll know exactly what to do when the real thing happens.

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