



## IATAC Success Story

### Cyber Security Education for Kids

<http://iac.dtic.mil/iatac>

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| <b>Customer:</b>  | U.S. Army G6 & National Science Center Cyber Education Program, Ft. Gordon, GA   |
| <b>Challenge:</b> | According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 10 million (14%) of America's 69 million children are now online. Children are particularly susceptible to online threats through video games, e-mail, and social media because they have little understanding of their online actions. Given this danger, the National Science Center (NSC) embarked on a mission to develop an educational program that teaches children to be safe online, make good decisions about their online behavior, and use technology responsibly. NSC did not have any such existing educational program nor have an understanding of educational platforms which would ensure content appeal and knowledge transfer. They also did not have the capability to develop the programs in-house.  |
| <b>Approach:</b>  | With its extensive experience in cyber security and information assurance, IATAC began by conducting a gap analysis to identify shortfalls in existing cyber security educational programs and products. IATAC provided NSC with existing data and made recommendations of target audience age groups, content areas and product types. Based on its research and analysis, IATAC also recommended the development of two web-based products for students in grades 6-9: an instructional module and accompanying game on the topic of Malware. IATAC interviewed leaders in the cyber education field, identified recognized areas associated with cyber education and developed specific questions that would guide development of the modules. IATAC data analysis defined the program framework, and guided subsequent decisions about curriculum design, development, implementation and delivery of the Malware Instructional Module and Malware Mystery Game. |

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| <b>Value:</b> | If 100 U.S. schools used the materials, it would result in a development cost savings of \$35 million. More importantly, it meets a critical need for cyber security education for our children. The program teaches youth about the dangers on the Internet and serves as an example of how IATAC is contributing to the DoD AT&L Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM) mission—to inspire, develop, and attract STEM talent essential to delivering innovative solutions for the Nation’s current and future challenges. The modules are available at <a href="http://www.nscdiscovery.org/CyberOps/cyberops.aspx">http://www.nscdiscovery.org/CyberOps/cyberops.aspx</a> . |
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