

Students hack their schools

Hands-on learning for the next generation of cybersecurity professionals

At a glance

Challenges

- High demand for practically trained cybersecurity professionals
- Need to translate theoretical knowledge into real-world security work
- Motivating students to pursue cybersecurity careers

Benefits

- Hands-on training with real-world targets
- Promoting early awareness of security in software development
- Attractive qualification for the job market

Challenge and goal

The demand for qualified cybersecurity professionals is high – especially for those with practical experience identifying real vulnerabilities. Yet many academic programs struggle to provide hands-on opportunities to teach cybersecurity in a realistic and meaningful way. FFHS, an accredited university of applied sciences home to some 3,200 students and focused on digital education, wanted to change that. They looked for a partner to help implement a legally compliant and educationally effective learning format.

Hands-on learning with bug bounty

As part of the GOedu program, FFHS students are given the opportunity to act as “bug hunters” – applying their skills to real systems in a controlled and practical way. GObugfree provides the platform free of charge and supports implementation with technical know-how. Students who find and report valid vulnerabilities receive certificates from FFHS and may also earn rewards. The goal is to make cybersecurity tangible – not just teach it theoretically. That includes participating in real events like GOhack, where FFHS acts as both a founding and hosting partner.



“We want bug bounty programs like GObugfree’s to be used more widely – ultimately boosting security across companies.”

OLIVER ITTIG

Program Director for Computer Science and Cybersecurity



“Our partnership with GObugfree enables our students to gain real-world qualifications to become ethical hackers.”

TOBIAS HÄBERLEIN

Professor of Computer Science and Department Head



“Cybersecurity specialists are in short supply. Together with GObugfree we want to change this.”

DÉSIRÉE GUNTERN KREUZER

Director of Undergraduate Studies