

ATHAQVA



EDITOR'S CORNER

-Farzeen Khan

Continuing with the zest, the month of October witnessed the hustle-bustle of various sessions and activities arranged by and for the students. Toiling at doing their assignments, the students made sure to not let it get in their way of organising numerous events throughout the month. The 21st National Seminar 2020 set the ball rolling for October. The topic was about embracing Agile practices to mould management in the virtual world. Apart from this, two major events were conducted this month viz. Mental Health Awareness Week and Cyber Security Awareness Month aka CSAM. Since the impact on mental health has drastically increased owing to everything moving online, celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week was a necessity. Cyber Security Awareness Month (CSAM) was a huge success this year even after it was conducted in online mode. Like every month, various guest lectures were arranged for the students. The first guest lecture for this month was on the subject of DevOps, owing to its demand amongst the students. The speaker addressed the students on Agile and DevOps and their ways of working. The next lecture was on the topic of 'Storytelling and Analytics in the Industry'. The session was mainly focused on how analytics is a driver of every industry and how important it is to capture the attention of the client through storytelling. Yet another guest lecture was arranged which aimed at Product Management. The speaker elucidated about product building, customer solutions, as well as the importance of a customer-centric approach. A lecture on launching careers in Data Science was also conducted. The final guest lecture for this month was about Third-Party Risk Management. The Web and Media Team presents the 41st edition of Atharva with great pride. Scroll through to know more about the happenings this month.

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-Abhisek Bhattar

Owing to the pandemic, the 21st edition of the National Seminar was hosted online this year. The host introduced the audience to the theme of the seminar i.e. 'Embracing Agile Practices to Mould Management Practices in the Virtual World'. He touched upon the burning topic of survival of the organizations by embracing agile practices. The session started with the Director Dr. Dhanya Pramod

Ma'am sharing her thoughts on the idea of National

Seminar and its theme. She added that every year the Seminar is conducted with an aim to address the current trends in the industry. Since the businesses are going online, owing to Covid-19, they have adapted agile practices to stay in the market.

The first speaker of the seminar wasbMr.Erdal Ozkaya who is a speaker, an author, a lecturer, and a technical expert. As we all know, the pandemic has not stopped the hackers and there are attacks happening. He imparted some knowledge regarding how to keep ourselves abreast of methods and how to be assured of our safety. He went on to Big Data and discussed three things that are intertwined i.e.1. How one started the journey 2. The current state and 3. The technology being used. Hence big data is needed to leverage insider security. With the ever-increasing data, now in petabytes, the main concern is to secure them. Better governance and controls are needed to mitigate and detect the unforeseen attacks. He concluded by encouraging the students to be aware of the past and with the amalgamation of knowledge and current technology, there can be a better future for all.

The next speaker was Ms Kamolika Peres who serves as director sales for Google cloud India and also a great orator. She comes with 20 years of experience in consulting, business and technology, transformation enterprise suite. She spoke about digital transformation and companies that morphed accordance with the new norms stood upright during pressing times. With the change in customer's behaviour the business processes were re-engineered and how business models changed. She mentioned that Google is not only confined to an infrastructure storage network but also includes collaboration with data and analytics, machine learning, AI, application development.

The session ended on a positive note. A vote of thank you was delivered by the host and event was a big success and insightful. It taught us the importance of agility and we should adapt to change.

CSAM'20

-Sudeepti Shukla

Like every year, the Cybersecurity Awareness Month (CSAM) is celebrated at Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology in association with ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association) to shield everyone from cyber-attacks and inform others regarding various aspects of security. CSAM'20 the flagship event of the team matrix came up with an interesting theme this year- CYBER SELF RELIANCE - IMMUNIZING AGAINST CYBER DECEPTION.

Dr. Dhanya Pramod, director SCIT inaugurated the event by greeting and welcoming all the guests. The Chief Guest for the keynote speech was Mr. Sudarshan Rajagopal. He is a Senior Information Security and IT Executive at Shell India Markets Pvt Ltd. with two decades of experience in Business Management and Security Consultant. Also, expertise in the fields of IT Security Strategy and IT Risk Management and Governance. He commenced the session by talking about Hacker Counter-measures, Cyber Deception & Security strategies i.e. three Lines of Defence in the industry and how these lines of defence works in real-time. He centres on- it is better to be safe than sorry. Later, he answered several questions of students regarding Cybersecurity.

After that, the panel discussion was started, which consisted of various esteemed experts including Mr.Muslim Koser, Mr. Shyam Sundar Ramaswami, Ms. Neelu Tripathy, and Ms. Mrudul Uchil working across various roles in the security field. The Moderator for Panel Discussion was Mr. Kushaagra Mehra, Senior Solution Specialist at Smokescreen. The theme of the Panel Discussion was REARMING THE SEEDS OF CYBER DEFENCE – A 360-degree approach to IT Security. The panel discussion began with the concern of the increasing number of cyber-attacks that have taken place in the pandemic and various approaches to mitigate these attacks. Each panel member put a distinct and interesting point during the whole discussion. The panellists spoke about the word 'free' and various negative outcomes related to the price of it because hackers over the globe fascinate the users by providing free services on the internet, and that open backdoors for the hackers. The malware spam in the Covid times has been increased by up to 70% approximately. One of the experts talked regarding the value of Zero Trust Architecture which means that companies should not trust anybody even inside or outside the organization nowadays. The panel emphasized the value of proper and effective policies being implemented to fight with attackers and at the same time they should be followed by every person in the organization. Security concerns during Work from home has increased, can be minimised by innovate and bring intelligence into the security. Panel also spoke about Automation, ML and AI can bring a lot of changes in security areas. The discussion ended with an exciting Q&A session.

After the panel discussion, Prof. Vidyavati Ramteke thanked the panel and the attendees for their enthusiastic participation. Learning cybersecurity through exciting events like Tug of Words, Internet of Crimes, CTF – Capture the Flag, and CyberQuest was organized to make all the participants aware of the diverse aspects of Cyberworld. These events gave a floor to all the participants to showcase their abilities. All these events provided a boost to skills like time management, leadership, creative thinking, and innovation to solve problems in the participants. The team matrix made the overall event a grand success with the united efforts from the Management, faculty members, and the attendees.



Guest Lecture

Story telling and Analytics in the Industry

-Ruchi Kandpal



The speaker Sheshank Kumar, a lead strategist in Data Insights in Google, on 8th October spoke about 'Storytelling and Analytics in the Industry'. He briefed on how analytics is a driver of each and every industry. He spoke about the important aspect of capturing the attention of the client through storytelling. Storytelling is important for the decision–makers to understand the most complex things in a simple way. It's important to capture the attention, as people lose interest in seconds and then it is difficult to get the task done. In the real world, managers need to convince stakeholders so storytelling with numbers is something in huge demand. If the interest of people is lost it is really difficult to get in good books and get them to do what you want them to do.

The speaker emphasized on problems to solve in the pharmaceutical industry. He informed how vaccines need to be stored and transported at a certain temperature. The common problem faced is that initially the product is patented but after some time there are replicas of the product. The pharmaceutical companies are spending thousands of dollars for the research and development. In the transition from generic to branded, the pharmaceutical companies are using analytics to understand what would be the best methods to create vaccines at the right cost for the right disease and get back all of their revenue spent on R&D. At the same time, they should be able to sell drugs in the new market. The supply chain cost is going to be high as the cost of inventory management, training of the people administering the drug will be added to the cost of the drug.

Analytics can also be used to accelerate drug discovery and development for clinical trials set up. It can help to have better insight into patient behavior to improve drug delivery, its effectiveness and healthcare outcomes. Also, to gain improved insights for marketing and sales performance. Many companies are using design thinking to get in the shoes of the customers to understand what they actually want. They use multivariate analysis that expands into things which look into multi-perspectives.

All concepts used related to different movies as he related to how everybody is a character in the process. It was indeed a fun and engaging session.

AGILE AND DEVOPS WAY OF WORKING

-Farzeen Khan

Owing to the popularity of Agile and DevOps amongst the students, a guest lecture was arranged on the same. The speaker, Mr. Rituraj Patil, works as a Senior Analyst at Tetra Pak and has over 10 years of experience as a Scrum Master and Agile Coach. Apart from having worked on Agile, Design Thinking & DevOps Oriented Development, Delivery and Ways of Working for Cloud & IoT Based IT Products and Services, he has also completed various certifications like Project Management Professional (PMP), SAFe 5.0 Agilist, Scrum.org Certified Professional Scrum Master, ITIL, and ISTQB.



Mr. Patil kick-started the lecture by introducing the students to some statistics which indicated that the industry has been severely affected by the pandemic. Later on, he also mentioned some statistics that were on the positive side. The speaker then went ahead to explain the difference between Waterfall Model and Agile Model. He said that the Waterfall model has quite a few drawbacks such as no behind-the-scenes for customers, no changes mid-cycle, and 6 months to 1 year for final delivery.

Moving on, Mr. Patil said that DevOps is a methodology/mindset/culture where the Scrum team can use DevOps to make sure that automation is done, continuous development and continuous delivery is ensured, deployment and build are done faster, and efficiency and productivity are increased. DevOps can also be classified as a collaboration between the development team and the operations team. It is all about small deployments in addition to agile and automation for the operations team. The speaker also portrayed DevOps as a three-stage conversation which consists of People, Process and Products.

The speaker then spoke about how bottlenecks can cause hindrances which affect the potential. For example, the development team while handing over a code, a document, or a product to the operations team leads to bottlenecks due to a wall of confusion in between. The lecture ended with a Question and Answer session where the speaker enthusiastically answered all the queries in great detail. All in all, it was an informative session that proved beneficial to the students

Guest Lecture

BREAKING INTO PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

-Abhisek Bhattar



Mr. Venugopal, is presently filling in as a technical product manager at 605, New York. Preceding that, he has additionally worked in organizations like Viacom, CBS, and Cablevision, where he had fabricated a refreshed item guide to deliver plans with savvy objectives in multiple businesses and basic applications. In Accenture, he has done a great deal of counseling work around programming design. In the end, he moved into JPMorgan Chase, and now deals with automotive finance, web reports.

He began by sharing his excursion and how he got fascinated by his past organizations in product management. He clarified product management is somebody that is the mentor as an afterthought line, that sees all that is occurring. Also, they will likely lead the team to progress and at last affecting the corporate organization objectives that exist. They may not be on the field consistently. However, it's what they find in a mentor which is incredibly significant to the general accomplishment of any group. He clarified the whole cycle from the beginning of the item by the architects to deal with advertising and as a product manager one makes the most marvelous item that makes that worth and addresses the issue of the client. At that point characterizing who the client is and what is the issue that should be fathomed, how to build up an item vision, the correct open doors utilizing both information and instinct, and to work together with a cross-utilitarian group, including engineers, fashioners to get the correct item constructed. These all to be managed without overseeing individuals. An item supervisor must convey an item utilizing delicate impact, powerful correspondence, authority, and trust and get the best from others and have trust among the group.

He referenced how significant is to deny the clients and not generally be an accommodating person however in a conciliatory manner. Likewise with next to no assets and individuals, satisfactory consideration should be given to significant things as the client's desire is ever-developing and evolving. The session concluded with questions asked by the curious students. He addressed all with much eagerness. All things considered, it was an educational session that demonstrated help to the students.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN DATA SCIENCE

-Supria Deka

As the e-GL series continues evolving, the students experienced another wonderful session on the topic 'Launch your career in Data Science' on 28th October 2020 addressed by Miss Dnyanada Arjunwadkar. She has completed her Masters in Computer Science and Engineering, from the State University of New York, Buffalo. She began her career as a Data Scientist at Veritas Technologies, California, where she worked for almost two years and is currently working at Google as a Technical Solutions Engineer focusing on Big Data platforms. Miss Dnyanada Arjunwadkar started her lecture by introducing about the recent trends seen on digitalization transformation taking place everywhere due to latest pandemic.



Miss Arjunwadkar spoke about the different roles that are within the domain of Data Science and shared insights on four such roles, namely data scientist, data analyst, data engineer and business intelligence developer. She addressed to the students that these roles may be different in definition. Still, in real practice, the majority of organizations do not have dedicated positions or teams that will only focus on one. Therefore, we should be flexible enough to take up any additional tasks, be it in data engineering or BI developer or data analyst, as these roles go hand in hand. However, there are huge organizations wherein they do have and focus on the dedicated team, even in such provision, we should not limit ourselves but step out of our comfort zone. Miss Arjunwadkar shared her insights on the skills such as coding skill, database, data warehouse, data pipelines, essential tools and languages such as SQL, python and R which is very important that needs to be learned and practised and gain expertise.

Miss Arjunwadkar concluded the session by encouraging the students to take up a few online courses and get skilled on visualization tools, to work with big data such as Hadoop etc., as its implementations can be beneficial for the aspiring data scientists. On a concluding note, the session was overall insightful for all the students, and the event ended with a few Q&As where the speaker has answered all the queries from the students.

Guest Lecture

THIRD PARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

-Akash Sagar



In today's business scenario, companies are increasingly focusing on their core competencies and outsourcing other activities to the appropriate third parties; this aspect of outsourcing however, functions as a double-edged sword; giving many advantages and throwing up security concerns at the same time. Thus, it is essential for companies to have a robust and efficient third-party management practice in place, which serves to mitigate the impact posed by third party risks. In order to further the students' understanding of the topic, a guest lecture was held on 31st October at SCIT. The speaker of the session was Mr. Subramanian N., Executive Director, KPMG.

The session started off by bringing students up to speed with some key statistics regarding the percentage of data breaches caused by third parties (53%) and the percentage of organizations that have experienced a third-party breach (80%). This was followed by a detailed breakdown of how business relationships are valuable to firms and the corresponding definitions of vendors and third parties.

The speaker further shed light on the fact that even if a cyber- attack occurs due to the vendor, the customers will still blame the organization that enlisted the services of the vendor. This necessitates the need for a comprehensive third-party risk management (TPRM) program in the organization, this program must incorporate three dimensions of TPRM which are as follows: Third Party Coverage, Risk Domain Coverage and Regulatory Coverage. The session further focused on the various challenges that a firm is bound to face in the third-party ecosystem such as lack of visibility and absence of onsite assessments to name a few. The speaker covered key focus areas of a Third-Party assessment so as to provide a complete understanding of how to go about implementing a TPRM Program. The speaker provided examples of third-party risk assessments from various industries and provided students a learning path for launching their careers in this domain. The session concluded with a question and answer session, with the speaker providing detailed answers to all the students queries.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

-Ruchi Kandpal

Dr. Girija Mahale on the behalf of Symbiosis Centre for Emotional Well-being discussed Mental Health with the panel experts Dr. Bhama Venkataramani, Harish Shetty, Dr. Avinash De Sousa and Mridula Apte.

Mental health is a very diverse topic which has both positive aspects and negative aspects.

The discussion started with Mridula Apte talking about how mental health was seen in the past, how it is in the present and also the future of mental health. Despite having the internet these days mental health awareness is still a problem. The seriousness of the profession is increasing and psychologists are valuing their profession more than they used to before. Both the percentage of people approaching for help and the percentage of people needing help has increased over the years. Now people talk openly about their problems. The word psychiatrist is known now. Even parents are open to taking their children to the psychiatrist. When we talk about mental illness there are early subtle signs in 7th or 8th grade like no self-esteem and mood swings. At a young age of 10–12 years children start developing anxiety problems. Even neurodevelopmental disorders like ADHD can cause depression and anxiety. The most vulnerable age for onset is the adolescents. There needs to be an awareness so the early signs can be identified. Initially there were no councillors, now schools have 4 to 5 councillors.

There's ambiguity with mental health because of this ambiguity people don't want to go to a psychiatrist. The ambiguity revolves around when it is mental illness and when to go to a psychiatrist. One out of every 7 people have mental illness. Not supporting the mental health issues could destroy a family. There can be preventive steps that can be taken like parents' counselling and family-life education.

The panelists also agreed on how without funding from philanthropists and the government, awareness was not possible. Recently recovered patients can advocate mental health awareness through word of mouth. Social media can be an ally and give the power of escalation. Twitter can help frame policies, Facebook goes to family, YouTube can be used for Blogging about mental health and Instagram helps spread the message. Mental health abhiyan can be integrated with other policies.

People are realising mental health is important and digital addiction is common. Now there is a telehealth option, where people can access mental health doctors. Counselling helps to put one's emotions on the table to see them clearly.

At the end of panel discussion, various directors of SIU acknowledged mental health awareness. Students suffering from symptoms expressed how counselling helped them see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Faculty Blog

IT'S ABOUT WE......AND NOT ME! -Prof. Apoorva Kulkarni



Being full – time employee, it is quite obvious that I see my colleagues more than I see my family and friends. Many of us do end up spending long hours at the office and the support structures that we have in place at work play a very important role as these help us to reach our individual and professional potential.

When was the last time you shared some words of encouragement for your colleague? When was the last time someone pat you on the back for the good work you had done? Yes, getting a word of encouragement from our workmates always brings out a smile. It makes us feel warm, happy and encourages us towards excellent work performance again and again – it really cheers one up! (If you don't believe this, try it out right away!) So, who is a workmate?

A Workmate is one who creates a good and relaxed atmosphere around you. Always has the time to help, in addition, he or she provides an excellent approach to not only technical but also human-related matters.

Humans are social by nature. At SCIT, there are 'social butterflies' in our team who see work as a great place to make friends and enjoy what they do, as well as the ones who prefer to 'keep to themselves' at the office. The crux remains that getting on well with your co-workers is important, both for emotional wellbeing and for the quality of work.

I do agree with the fact that conflicts do occur bearing in mind that each individual is conditioned with a different way of thinking and expressing as well. However, as long as there are healthy and non-discriminating deliberations and discussions that do not target anybody in specific, it does work as a part of the culture.

It has been 9 years and still counting at SCIT and the culture at SCIT has always been that of teamwork. We do also have a mix of "social butterflies" and some "keep to themselves colleagues". All of us at SCIT experience, a roller coaster ride of joy, sorrow, fun-filled trips, all work – no play situations, differences, a blend of views and opinions on either side, professional ethics, personal bonds, team spirit and above all a human connect occasionally.

And hence I reiterate, it is always about We and less of Me....

Mighty Might SCIT!

Star Alumni

MONIKA MALIK

-Suraj Shrivastava



Our Star Alumni for this month is Monika Malik, who is presently working in KPMG India as an Associate Director. She has experience of working in the management consulting industry within which she has worked for various sectors like Banking, Private and Government. Skilled in various area and has her expertise in the same, skills like Project Management, Business Process Reengineering, Policy Analysis, Functional Requirements Analysis, ERP and Business Development. Monika pursued her Engineer's degree (Honors) in Information Technology from Kurukshetra University from 2001 to 2005. Next to this, in Aug 2005 she started working as Executive at Computer Concepts for a year and a half. In the year 2007, she went on to pursue an MBA in Information Technology from Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology, Pune. The Onset of the post MBA she started working and led her career in a progressive path.

She has over 12 years of splendid corporate experience including Big4. Post-MBA she started working as Manager at Vakrangee Software Limited for a year then she joined KPMG INDIA in February 2011 as Associates Consultant. While working as Associates Consultant, she has received Kudos Award for exceptional performance in May 2012 later, in February 2013 she became Consultant and continued working till November 2014, again she got Kudos Award twice- one in September and another in October 2014. Progressing her career, she joined Capgemini Consulting as Senior Consultant in December 2014 and worked for a year till November 2015. Now, transcending career growth she moved back to KPMG INDIA in November 2015 as Assistant Manager in IGH (Infrastructure, Government and Healthcare) department related to Government Advisory. Working as an Assistant manager she has received two awards (a) Super Team in April 2016 (b) Above and Beyond Award in September 2016. Became Manager in the Same IGH on May 2017 and remained till March 2019, again during this tenure she got three awards (a) Above and Beyond Award in September 2017 (b) Super Team Award in September 2018 and (c) Above and Beyond Award in September 2018. With benevolent 9 years of KPMG India work experience, she became the Associate Director in April 2019 which she is continuing till now. With the desire to excel in career and making her success story a blueprint for others a learning curve, we are extremely proud to call Monika Malik our star alumni of this month.

Team Web and Media

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