Who is Mr Gu?

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In our previous articles we identified thirteen companies that this blog knows are a front for APT activity in Hainan. Following further analysis, we noticed a close association between these Hainan front companies and the academic world. Multiple job adverts for the the companies are posted on university websites. Hainan Xiandun even appears to operate from the Hainan University Library!



Hainan Xiandun registration details showing Hainan University library as its address **Gu Jian**

This company summary for Hainan Xiandun also provides a contact number: 13907545649. Cross-referencing this partial phone number and Hainan, we identified Gu Jian (顾剑) is a Computer Science specialist at Hainan University. We found Gu's name and phone number in this <u>list of projects</u> on the Hainan University website.

		海南省自然科学基金通知结题一览。				
非性	後年サ	用用名名	我去人	起土年月		
1	30614	中国结带海域有值污染器车物参复置水及机理研究	が持住	3007.1-3008.12	13976783770	开帕
2	90675	海南岛並智含斯爾查及GAP統並註本規程与模式的研 支	eran.	3007.1-3008.12	13976129033	环帕
3	80802	改进Monu Carlo 化学气相沉积综合或的求金明石的量 平尺寸效应研究	31-25	3007.1-3008.12	13976746296	MR
4	80606	海南地区南部丰壤掘市化企物的鉴定和分析	郑台市	2007.1-2008.12	13178923579	材化
5	80626	腐蚀环境对特化原的米力学性康药原有研究	地區	2007.1-2008.12	13707534537	粉化
6	90655	的水水钾淀粉(天然橡胶製造材料的研究	89.86	2006.9-2006.8	13389898782	616
7	30659	中國天然教授生产经营管理模据失策分析	RHT	2907.1-2908.6	13976928328	1218
	80477	海南张州等市管理理论与安证研究	例以中	2005/01-2007.12	13976928328	1518
9	80929	投資财务分析系统的建立与应用研究	传送中	3006.1-3007.12	13976928328	1215
100	80554	海南经济特区改施产权业风险松舶研究	中仁君	2005.1-2008.12	13976099515	经济
11	90553	始遊紀念品傳同设计开发平台关键技术研究	※44	2005.1-2007.12	13138907919	16.09
12	90648	各于生产。发展"的种单决定与性导机就及政策研究"	黄建宏	2007.1-2008.12	13136010675	30.00
13	80942	資体培养下兰将末或指种子发育适志的比较形态学研 安	20016	3086.1-3088.12	13005082258	87
14	90659	巴西橡胶化和原用间间源序列的直接与分析	双近年	3007.1-3008.12	13976491105	82
15	90543	马尼莱迈性多栅的提取,结构分析及近性研究	知石生	2086.1-2007.12	13648646301	食品
16	90621	表面活性剂(乳化剂)促进木槽杆菌分泌纤维者的机 理研究	王瑪林	3007.1-3008.12	13036092623	化品
IT	80824	海南家见海参多槽的分离特化及其性质研究	郑北平	3007.1-3008.12	13649616100	依肠
18	60201	编制+ (109) 表現+ (1910) 的標準計算	.0020	3083.1-3084.12	13907545649	41.8

List of Hainan University project titles linking 13907545649 to Gu Jian Here is Gu's CV:



Gu Jian's CV

And here is his biography from <u>his web page</u> at Hainan University's website showing his work history and interests, including as a former member of the People's Liberation Army.

所在位置: 首页 - 学者导航 - 顾剑



顾剑

职称: 教授

研究方向: 信息安全系

所属院系: 信息科学技术学院

成果数量: 32条, 属于本单位的个人成果32条

简介: 当过知青、解放军战士、省军区政治部干事、国企高级工程师、法国BULL公司北京代表处中方雇员(技术主管);曾任原中国人民建设银行"全国房改对公、储蓄系统"开发组特别技术顾问;国家重点工程"(北)京哈(尔滨)高速路四平长春段"收费系统设计负责人、主要设计人(公司方);国家、海南省重点工程"海南金融IC卡"系统技术负责

人、主要设计人、IC卡... 详细

Gu Jian's University biography

"[Gu Jian] worked as an educated youth, a PLA soldier, an officer of the Political Department of the Provincial Military Region, a senior engineer of a state-owned enterprise, and a Chinese employee (technical director) of the French representative office of the French company BULL."

Gu Jian, a Professor in the Information Security Department and former member of the PLA is now the *contact person for an APT front company which itself is linked to twelve other front companies*.

Hainan Xiandun Information Security Technology Competition

Mr Gu is closely involved with Hainan Xiandun. In September 2013, he posted on the Hainan University online forum about "The 2013 Hainan Network Information Security Technology Competition" saying that teams could enter and that there would be prizes. The posting indicated that more detail was available on xdaqjs[dot]com. This domain is an acronym from the Pinyin for Xiandun Security Competition Final (XianDun AnQuan JueSai – 仙盾安全决赛).



These links between Hainan Xiandun and Hainan University are seen again on the internal Hainan University discussion forum. A user name "xdaqjs" posted to encourage students from any specialism and in any year with an interest in cyber security to attend a session hosted by Hainan Xiandun in the auditorium of the information technology department on 9 September 2013.

The competition ran again in 2016, still using xdaqis as a title.



xdaqjs[dot]com

Mr Gu was not just advertising this competition for a company that he was involved in, he registered the domain.



Password cracking

A link to the malicious activity of the front companies can be seen when reading discussion forums about xdaqjs. Individuals purporting to represent the site <u>offered large sums of money</u> to people with password cracking skills outside the ordinary range of dictionary attacks and brute force.



Individuals from xdaqis offer money for password cracking skills

The opening post reveals that Mr Gu is seeking new ways of cracking passwords. The poster is aware of the common techniques, for example brute force or dictionary attacks, but is seeking new alternatives.

What makes this interaction increasingly strange though, is that a student posting on this thread said that Mr Gu is inexplicably wealthy and is offering a large amount of money to people able to provide new and inventive ways of cracking passwords. The original text is telling:

"Haha, I only want to know are these things actually crackable... From what I know about our teacher, he doesn't waste his words. Our teacher says if no-one can crack it this time, then he'll increase the money on offer, 200,000, 300,000, 500,000 RMB.

P.S. Believe it or not, our teacher has a lot of money..."

依然静谧 💪 2013-9-7 00:12



呵呵,我只是想知道这东西到底能不能破解,不用这么说吧,根据我对我们老师的了解程度,他是不会乱说话的,他上课的时候说如果这次没人破解的了, 那就再追加奖金,20W,30W,50W啥的。

PS: 我们老师很有钱的......信不信由你

Mr Huang

The Dean of Mr Gu's faculty is CCP member Huang Mengxing (黄梦醒). The questions we should ask are: How well does Huang know Gu? Does he know about his department's support for front companies for APT activity?

Most importantly, if he knew then should he have stopped it?

黄梦醒, 男, 1974年1月4日生于何南信阳, 研究生學历, 博士学位, 謝數 授; 现任海南大学信息學院计算机系主任, 硕士研究生导师。联系电话: 13876345398, Email: huangmx09@gmail.com。

2007年在西北工业大学自动化学院获系统工程工学博士学位,2007-2009年 在清华大学信息技术研究院完成计算机科学与技术专业博士后研究工作,主要 从事《决策支持支持系统》、《管理信息系统》、《知识工程》、《软件项目 管理》等专业课程的教学工作。在所从事的专业领域取得一定的成就。近5年来 以第一作者身份发表学术论文30余篇,其中SCI、EI、ISTP牧录近20篇次;参与 撰写专著及翻译著作各1部。主持和参与科研项目共12项:国家"十一五"科技计 划2项,"863"计划2项,国家公益性行业(农业)科研项目1项,铁道部基金1 项,北京市科技计划1项,横向课题5项;其中主持项目4项;现在研的各级各类 课期4回1.

主要研究方向: 數据与知识工程、信息系统、电子政务与电子商务、电子 农务、内容管理、物联网(物流与供应链管理)、系统工程等 被士招生专业: 计算机应用技术、农业信息化、电子与通信工程



In summary, Gu Jian, a former member of the PLA is an academic specialising in Information Security at Hainan University. He is also listed as the contact person for Hainan Xiandun, one of a network of front companies for APT activity.