



E-GUARDIAN: ECDL-F ENDORSED PARTNER PROGRAMME

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What are we about today?

- ECDL Foundation and Programmes
- Endorsed Partner Programmes
- e-Guardian Programme
- e-Guardian Programme Start and Perspective



ECDL-F and situation in region

- European Computer Driving Licence Foundation Ltd - the worldwide governing body and licensing authority for ECDL (*European Computer Driving Licence*) and ICDL (*International Computer Driving Licence*) programme, the global standard in end-user computer skills certification
- End Y2008, SCs issued: 42 140 in Lithuania, 7 387 in Estonia, 3 689 in Latvia
- ECDL tests available in Russian language countries (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan,...)



Programmes:

- e-Citizen (Lithuanian, Russian)
- ECDL Start, ECDL Core (Lithuanian, Russian, Latvian)
- ECDL Advanced:
 - Advanced Word Processing
 - Advanced Spreadsheets
 - Advanced Database
 - Advanced Presentation
- ECDL CAD (Lithuanian)
- ECDL WebStarter, ECDL ImageMaker, ECDL Health



Endorsed Partner Programme

- Product Endorsement Standard
- The Licensees seeking endorsement
- Categories of Product Endorsement Standards:
 - Syllabus standards
 - Assessment standards
 - Operational standards



e-Guardian Programme

- Training programmes which could be identified under the name of e-Parent
- The main purpose of e-Guardian programme is to directly help getting the needed knowledge to protect children from dangers on virtual world.
- Formal final ECDL Foundation level examination for the e-Guardian.



Covering areas of the e-Guardian

- Common means for safety assurance
- Malicious software
- Electronic messages
- Securable web browsing and paying on Internet
- Children safety



Test Engine for e-Guardian

Date: 27/June/2008

ATES Provider:

ATES Product Title:

ATES Version Number:

ATES Type:

Operating System:

Software Application Version:

IE/OE6, IE/OE7,...

ECDL Syllabus Version:

Lithuania

ECDL Lithuanian Test Engine (ECDLTE)

Ver.5.1 (Lithuanian, Russian)

Hotspot / MCQ

Win2000/XP, Vista, Linux

Office2000/.../2007, OpenOffice, IE/OE5,

Version 4



e-Guardian Pilot in Lithuania

- Current implementation
- Duration and test composition
- More large AQTB
- Master level IT students and other countries involved



e-Guardian Perspectives

- English and Lithuanian AQTB versions
- Courseware only in Lithuanian
- Cooperation with ECDL Cyprus
- Preliminary talks with Latvia and Poland
- Open for collaboration



Summary

- The number of Internet users is increasing among minors and teens
- The main purpose of e-Guardian programme is to help getting the knowledge to protect children from dangers of virtual world.
- Supplemental Agreement between ECDL Foundation and LIKS dated the 6th August 2009 (Endoresment of e-Guardian Programme)



Questions & Answers

Thank you for your attention

E-Guardian Programme for Certification of Skills in Children Protection on the Internet

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The Internet is getting increasingly prevalent in our daily life. We communicate and manage our bank accounts online, we use e-services, read the news, browse the Internet for different information, etc. Thus our ability to use the Internet safely and to protect our friends and relatives against potential threats is gaining in importance. The numbers of Internet users are rocketing. Moreover, the users are becoming younger. Alongside with the benefits provided by the Internet, it poses ever-greater risks for children and youngsters. At times evil-minded people crop up on the Internet. They are apt to exploit, ridicule, abuse the gained trust, spread viruses, steal and destroy information, to say nothing of the pornography business, which has literally flooded the Internet with content inappropriate for children. The worst of it is the availability of such content to the minors, who are highly sensitive to it although quite often they are not able or willing to discuss that with adults.

Safe work of children on the Internet requires due attention: children can contact with strangers through chat sites and e-mails (sometimes children agree to meet with their Internet contacts without suspecting that they may be very different from what they pretend to be). Another threat to the mind of a child or a youngster are the Internet sites with inappropriate content (promoting pornography, violence), which can have a negative effect on the development of the child's personality. We should also bear in mind the possibility of buying almost anything on the Internet. If a child can buy things on the Internet without the parents' or guardians' supervision, he/she can do it without clearly understanding the outcome.

Results of research conducted in different European countries show that half of all the Internet users are teenagers from 8 to 14. We have to acknowledge that number of users among the elderly is decreasing, but increasing among minors and teens. Most of the young Internet users browse the Internet free of any restrictions or control.

Although children and youngsters are frequently good in Internet technologies and understand the threats and possible ways to avoid them, they are not mature enough to recognise the potential threats they face. There are numerous educational and information programmes designed to deal with this problem. Frequently they are known under a common name of e-Parent programmes. Lithuania also has interesting works in this field [1, 2]. Their importance can hardly be overestimated. Safety of children on the Internet is among the prime concerns of the European Commission [3]. The main goal of e-Parent programmes is to help parents to gain the knowledge necessary to protect their children. Programmes are intended to give knowledge for adults, to become able to understand the situations, possibilities of actions and usage of tools for those actions to perform. The main purpose of e-Guardian programme is also to directly help getting the needed knowledge to protect children from dangers on virtual world. The main difference is that there is a formal final ECDL Foundation level certification proving the level of competency for employees of institutions dealing with children on daily basis.

The ECDL Foundation offers a large number of computer literacy certification programmes. Initially, the ECDL Foundation had only elementary and core computer skills certification programmes. At a later stage, specialised programmes were developed. Such programs are designed for skills and knowledge certification in specific fields. Lately, ECDL Licensees in different countries were allowed to create certification programmes addressing special requirements of specific target groups. Such programs are called ECDL Foundation Endorsed Partner Programmes. Endorsed Programmes are locally developed certification programmes which adhere to a high standard of content and operational administration. Adherence to these standards allows the developer use of the 'Endorsed by ECDL Foundation' logo in its promotion of the product. Although Endorsed Programmes are not owned by ECDL Foundation, the content,

structure and maintenance method is approved and validated against the ECDL Foundation Endorsed Programme Quality Assurance Standards.

The standards are grouped into three categories:

- Syllabus standards relate to the specification of the certification's skills/knowledge domain
- Assessment standards relate to the rationale behind and development of the mechanisms for deciding to certify a candidate
- Operational standards relate to rules around the administration of the programme and ensure the on-going high quality of the certification's operation

Once launched in one country, the Endorsed Programmes can be introduced in other countries. ECDL Lithuania has completed the works of e-Guardian certification programme realisation.

In April 2008, the content of the e-Guardian programme was developed and the questionnaire was drawn up in pursuance of the ECDL Foundation requirements [4]. This questionnaire, accompanied by the application form of the adherence to the Endorsed Programme standards, was submitted to the ECDL Foundation. After the questionnaire was approved at the end of 2008, the e-Guardian Automated Question and Test Base (AQTB) was produced. The AQTB was again submitted to the experts of the ECDL Foundation. Numerous corrections were made in the light of their comments and ultimately in 2009 a pilot test was launched on the test system of ECDL Lithuania. In response to the requirements of the ECDL Foundation experts, the pilot tests were run in several European countries (Lithuania, Latvia, and Bulgaria). Feedback was received from over 60 experts in safety online. Currently (in August 2009) the e-Guardian testing system has a complete Endorsed Programme Licence from the ECDL Foundation. It has been recognized to adhere to the Endorsed Programme Standards.

E-Guardian offers certification covering areas:

- Common means for safety assurance – understanding benefits of computer system updates, need of user accounts and passwords, standart OS integrated security means, data protection and backups, etc.
- Malicious software - understanding different malicious software, threats of malware infected emails, securable usage of instant messaging, knowing security software to protect systems against malware, etc.
- Electronic messages.
- Securable web browsing and paying on Internet – understanding Internet browsing threats, tools that ensure safety, encryption keys, distinguishing safe/genuine online transaction/commerce sites from unsafe , being able to perform online transaction using credit or debit cards, etc.
- Children safety – understanding that open communications between parents and children is important to keeping children safe, knowing about online predators, financial scams, malware, cyber-bullying and the pervasiveness of pornography on the Internet, being able to use software to control children use of Internet, knowing about children protection software, defensive software, quality anti-virus, anti-spyware, spam blocker, etc.

To pass the e-Guardian certification test, at least 80% of the answers to 30 questions must be correct. The questions are picked out from the Automated Question and Test Base using a special random selection algorithm. The question base includes questions from all five aforementioned sections.

Below you can find two sample questions from the e-Guardian test. As required by the ECDL Foundation experts, the questions are in English. This is also helpful when the e-Guardian test is introduced in other countries.

Question 1.

You configure parental controls on your computer for your child's user account. How can you ensure that your child cannot access inappropriate Web sites?

Configure Web sites you approve of in the list of Trusted Sites of Microsoft Windows Internet Explorer

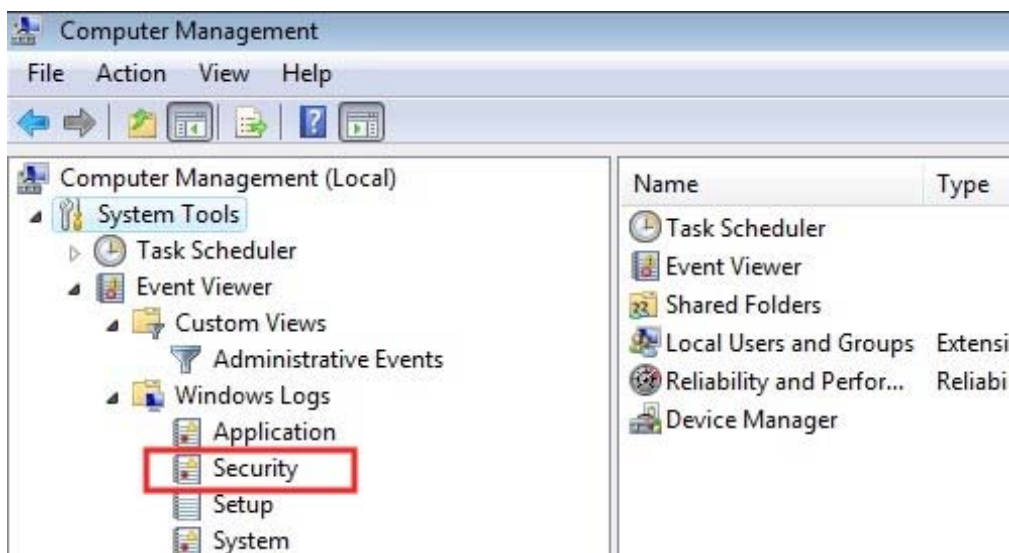
Use password protection for all user accounts

Disable the default administrator account

Enable Microsoft Windows Firewall

Question 2.

You want to view which users have been connected to a Windows Vista computer. What do you have to click?



After a candidate passes the test, e-Guardian certificate with 'Endorsed by ECDL Foundation' logo is issued. It certifies that the person can properly protect data, computer software and hardware, and children who use Internet systems in particular.

References:

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Apsaugokime save ir vaikus internete at:

<<http://ekursai.langasiateiti.lt/cms/app?service=external/index&sp=6123&sp=5422>>;

ePractice.eu: Prague Declaration on 'Safer Internet for Children' at:

<<http://www.epractice.eu/en/library/289517>>;

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