

For Immediate Release

## Education may be driving gender gap in cybersecurity

### Secondary schools better prepare young men than women to enter critically important industry: Raytheon UK survey

LONDON (October 19, 2016) – Secondary schools are doing a much better job of preparing men than women for cybersecurity careers, according to a new, global survey commissioned by Raytheon Company and the U.S. National Cyber Security Alliance.

The survey found that 46 percent of young men said their secondary school prepared them to pursue a career in cybersecurity. Only 25 percent of women were able to make the same observation. The gap is being keenly felt in the cyber field, where UK companies and government agencies are struggling to fill positions in cybersecurity.

“There is huge opportunity for women looking to launch a career in the cyber security industry, but more career advice and secondary education is needed to encourage women into the sector,” said Graham Le Fevre, Raytheon UK. “To attract women into the cybersecurity industry schools need to address cyber skills and promote interest among all students from an early age.”

Among the other findings from the survey:

- 52 percent of men surveyed knew what tasks are involved in the cybersecurity profession, compared to only 33 percent of women.
- 66 percent of the women surveyed said that no teacher or careers advisor talked to them about a career in cyber.

- Parents are the most influential figures in providing career advice to young adults, more so than friends, teachers or other adults; however, millennials, especially women, are not confident in their parents' ability to advise them about cyber careers.
- 37 percent of young women are confident or very confident their parents would know how to guide them towards cybersecurity jobs, compared to 54 percent of young men.

“This lack of female talent in the cybersecurity industry could take up to two decades to fill,” Le Fevre said. “Much more education is required across all age groups to increase the number of women following a career in cybersecurity or related areas”.

The good news is that millennials have increased their awareness of cyber threats in the world around them in the last year. Fifty-one percent had read or heard a news account of a cyber attack compared to 26 percent the previous year. However, their awareness may be increasing because they are being victimised directly, as the computers of 20 percent of those surveyed had been infected by malware in 2015, but in 2016 this had increased to 29 percent.

For more details and analysis of the survey findings, please visit: [www.RaytheonCyber.com/TalentGap](http://www.RaytheonCyber.com/TalentGap).

## MAIN ENDS

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