

Case Study

Student placements – access to short term resource: Assuria Ltd



Key Facts

- Assuria Ltd is an IT security software developer, providing automated compliance and information assurance solutions to protect corporate and customer information assets from the threat of corruption, theft, abuse and poor controls, especially from insiders.
- Summer Enterprise Experience & Discovery (SEED) is an innovative, project-based internship scheme for University of Reading students which gives local employers access to a resourceful pool of talented students, whilst simultaneously providing students with valuable business based work experience.
- Assuria were launching a new product, the Assuria Auditor Remote Adaptor (RA) but as an immature pre-market software product, the RA suffered from errors common in prototype development and required an automated testing system.
- The SEED student was involved in the implementation of a new automated testing system as well as a graphical editing tool to manage the test suite and a document detailing installation, operation and development for the RA.
- The Assuria SEED student was the overall winner of the SEED Student Placement Scheme 2008.

The Partner

Assuria Ltd is an IT security software developer, providing automated compliance and information assurance solutions to major organisations in more than 60 countries. These solutions help to protect corporate and customer information assets from the threat of corruption, theft, and abuse - especially from insiders. Government, Defence, Financial Services and other commercial organisations around the world use Assuria solutions to maintain control over their IT configurations and to satisfy operational, regulatory and data security requirements.

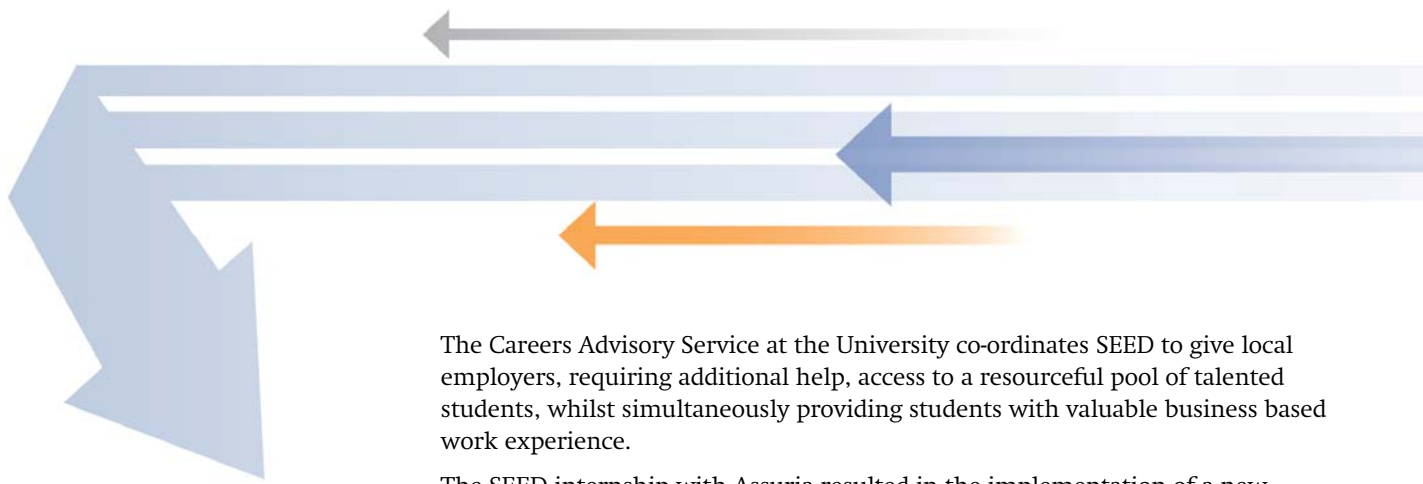
The Challenge

Assuria markets a computer security tool called Assuria Auditor which measures, manages and enforces security policies across a wide range of operating systems. Customers maintain protection from attacks to their network through vandalism, manipulation of financial records and theft of IP.

In response to customer demand the company has recently released a new product, the Assuria Auditor Remote Adaptor (RA), which is designed to carry out a security audit of a target computer over a network without the need to install software directly onto every computer. However, in the spring of 2008 the RA was in the early stages of development and needed comprehensive testing. Software testing can be very resource and people intensive. Assuria wanted to design, develop and implement an automated testing system to expedite RA's transition from an immature, pre-market software product to a stable and robust system comparable to the established Auditor product.

Solution

Summer Enterprise Experience and Discovery (SEED) is an 8 week summer internship scheme from the University of Reading which provides talented and enthusiastic students to local businesses and enterprises. Each student undertakes an individual and business specific project. Previous projects have included website design, creating marketing plans, setting up IT systems, scientific research in commercial field and environmental audits.



The Careers Advisory Service at the University co-ordinates SEED to give local employers, requiring additional help, access to a resourceful pool of talented students, whilst simultaneously providing students with valuable business based work experience.

The SEED internship with Assuria resulted in the implementation of a new automated testing system and a graphical editing tool to manage the test suite, as well as a document detailing installation, operation and development for the RA.

Benefits to the Partner

In exchange for only a one off management fee, the University oversaw all of the project administration, including recruitment of student, provision of a training allowance and a finale to showcase the project.

The SEED student designed and developed a proven and efficient testing system and associated tools that can be extended for wider use.

The new automated testing system has been designed to be flexible as well as extensible and has significantly reduced testing time and the resources needed together with increased product quality.

Benefits to the University

SEED internships help the University of Reading engage with local businesses and provide placement opportunities for a wide range of students.

The scheme also assists in the improvement of employable skills and 'real world' experience for University of Reading students.



'I feel that this SEED placement has been a positive experience for Jack and Assuria. Jack has been able to produce a project in a work environment and the company has gained an extremely useful piece of technology.'

Stephen Saxton
Assuria Ltd

University of Reading

The University of Reading is a world-class research-intensive university covering a broad spectrum of disciplines across the Life and Physical Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Henley Business School. Areas of particular strength include: Climate Systems Science, Preventative and Therapeutic Health Sciences, Sustainable Construction and Environments and Computational Science and Informatics.

The University works with businesses providing support for research and development, as well as access to expertise and equipment to solve business challenges. To find out how you can access the leading minds at the University of Reading please contact our Knowledge Transfer Centre.