



# COMP1300

## Introduction to Cyber Security

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

*School of Computing*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

with COMP6013

Unit description

This unit tackles cyber security as a multidisciplinary issue. It introduces information security and important technology concepts as well as cyber hygiene principles to remain safe in the digital world. It discusses cybercriminality (perpetrators and activities on the dark web) and its impact on society and prompts to critically think about the relationship between cyber security and privacy, from a legal standpoint. Finally, this unit provides insights into the cybersecurity risks faced by business and the role that risk management plays in addressing those risks in the context of corporate governance.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Demonstrate an understanding of technical concepts related to information security, computing, networking, and emerging technologies.

**ULO2:** Apply cyber hygiene principles to achieve personal security in the digital world.

**ULO3:** Report on cyber criminality (in terms of activities, perpetrators and their motives) as well as its impact on society.

**ULO4:** Critically evaluate the relation between cyber security and privacy in the context of a legal and regulatory framework.

**ULO5:** Identify cybersecurity risks faced by business and relate the management of those risks to the enterprise governance.

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment Task Release Dates:

**Assignment:** To be released no later than 3rd August

**Quiz:** Information to be released during the lecture of Week 6. NB. You must attend the SGTA you are registered in on e-student.

**Final Take Home Essay:** Specifications to be released no later than 26th October

### Late Assessment Submission Policy:

- **5% penalty per day:** If you submit your assessment late, **5% of the total possible marks** will be deducted for each day (including weekends), up to 7 days.
  - *Example 1 (out of 100):* If you score 85/100 but submit 20 hours late, you will lose 5 marks and receive **80/100**.
  - *Example 2 (out of 30):* If you score 27/30 but submit 1 day late, you will lose 1.5 marks and receive **25.5/30**.
- **After 7 days:** Submissions more than 7 days late will receive a **mark of 0**.
- **Extensions:**
  - **Automatic short extension:** Some assessments are eligible for automatic short extension. You can only apply for an automatic short extension before the due date.
  - **Special Consideration:** If you need more time due to serious issues and for any assessments that are not eligible for Short Extension, you must apply for Special Consideration

### Special Consideration

The Special Consideration Policy aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events

that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au).

### **Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted**

In this unit, late submissions will be accepted as follows:

**Assignment:** YES, Standard Late Penalties apply

**QUIZ:** NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted

**Final Take Home Essay:** YES, Standard Late Penalty applies

### **Requirements to Pass this Unit**

To be eligible to pass this unit, it is necessary to obtain a mark of at least 50% in the unit overall.

**NB. SHORT EXTENSION option is not available in this unit.**

### **AI in this unit:**

#### **AI Open and Observed (With AI Optional)**

##### **AI Open Assessments:**

- Are completed in unsupervised or unrestricted environments (for example, take-home or online tasks).
- Assume that students may use AI tools.
- Are typically designed *for* learning or *as* learning, supporting exploration and feedback.
- Provide opportunities to develop higher order skills such as analysis, evaluation, and problem solving, whether or not AI tools are used.
- Are where AI may be irrelevant to the task, e.g. fieldwork.
- The table below provides a brief comparison of AI Open and Observed (with AI Optional) assessments.

Assessments that fall under **AI Open in COMP1300/6013:**

**Assignment:** due 9/10/2026

**Final Take Home Essay:** 6/11/2026

**Please note: Use of Generative AI is permitted, but** you should use it in a manner that furthers your understanding rather than submitting the work of LLMs as your own. Note that we are marking you, and NOT the LLM. If you do not learn from doing the assignment yourself (even if with the assistance of GenAI), you will be unable to develop the skills required for the workplace and/or required in other units.

- Are completed in supervised environments (ideally in-person), where use of AI is controlled or not permitted.
- Assure learning where non-restricted use of AI would compromise the assessment of learning outcomes.
- Promote learning where non-restricted use of AI would hinder essential knowledge or skill acquisition.
- Are often thought of as invigilated exams, but there are many more options available.

Assessments that fall under Observed for **COMP1300/6013**:

**QUIZ:** Completed in your enrolled SGTA in week 7

ie. The Quiz is closed book.

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                  | Weighting | Hurdle | Due                              | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Quiz                  | 30%       | No     | Week 7 - In your registered SGTA | Individual           | No              | Observed    |
| Assignment            | 30%       | No     | 09/10/2026                       | Individual           | No              | Open        |
| Final Take Home Essay | 40%       | No     | 06/11/2026                       | Individual           | No              | Open        |

### Quiz

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Examination

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **Week 7 - In your registered SGTA**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will be assessed on your knowledge of the concepts covered in the lectures and SGTAs.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of technical concepts related to information security, computing, networking, and emerging technologies.
- Apply cyber hygiene principles to achieve personal security in the digital world.
- Report on cyber criminality (in terms of activities, perpetrators and their motives) as well as its impact on society.

- Critically evaluate the relation between cyber security and privacy in the context of a legal and regulatory framework.
- Identify cybersecurity risks faced by business and relate the management of those risks to the enterprise governance.

## Assignment

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Experiential task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Open

You will apply cybersecurity concepts in a practical setting by demonstrating your technical skills and theoretical knowledge.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of technical concepts related to information security, computing, networking, and emerging technologies.
- Apply cyber hygiene principles to achieve personal security in the digital world.
- Report on cyber criminality (in terms of activities, perpetrators and their motives) as well as its impact on society.
- Critically evaluate the relation between cyber security and privacy in the context of a legal and regulatory framework.
- Identify cybersecurity risks faced by business and relate the management of those risks to the enterprise governance.

## Final Take Home Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Open

You will demonstrate your understanding of contemporary issues in Cyber Security, engage with scholarly references, and communicate your insights effectively.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of technical concepts related to information security, computing, networking, and emerging technologies.
  - Apply cyber hygiene principles to achieve personal security in the digital world.
  - Report on cyber criminality (in terms of activities, perpetrators and their motives) as well as its impact on society.
  - Critically evaluate the relation between cyber security and privacy in the context of a legal and regulatory framework.
  - Identify cybersecurity risks faced by business and relate the management of those risks to the enterprise governance.
- 

<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

<sup>3</sup> An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

## Delivery and Resources

### Teaching and Learning Strategy

COMP1300 is taught via Live lectures (in class) and streamed via Echo. SGTA is taught via live classes on campus. The feedback that you receive in SGTA plays also a crucial role in your learning.

Lectures are used to introduce new material, give examples of the advances in Cyber Security and technologies and put them in a wider context. The unit is an introduction which in turn will be explored further in other units at Macquarie University.

SGTA classes are small group classes which give you the opportunity to interact with your peers and with a SGTA instructor who has a sound knowledge of the subject. This also gives you a chance to practice your soft skills.

You have many opportunities to seek for and to receive feedback. During lectures, you are encouraged to ask the lecturer questions to clarify anything you might not be sure of.

### Week 1 classes

SGTA classes start in week 1 and the Lectures start in week 1. Week 1 lecture will be on Wed 29th Jul 2026

Each week you should:

- Participate in live lectures, take notes, ask questions
- Participate in your SGTA classes and seek feedback from your SGTA instructor on your work
- Read assigned reading material, add to your notes and prepare questions for your lecturer or SGTA instructor
- Start working on any assessments immediately after they have been released.

Lecture notes are made available each week but these notes are intended as an outline of the lecture only and are not a substitute for your own notes or reading additional material. We release material usually in blocks of 2-3 weeks to not overwhelm students.

### **Classes**

Each week you should participate in two hours of live lectures and a one hour SGTA class (on campus).

### **Methods of Communication**

We will communicate with you via your university email and through announcements on iLearn. Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board or sent to the unit convenor via the contact email on iLearn.

### **Textbook**

Being a fast paced ever evolving unit, it was deemed that a textbook would not validate the complexity of Cyber Security.

### **Technology used and required**

Echo

Digital recordings of lectures are available.

COMP1300 makes use of the following software in the lab:

- Microsoft Windows 10 +
- Microsoft Office 2016 +
- Edge or Mozilla Firefox or Chrome or Opera

### **Website**

The web page for this unit can be found at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

### **Student Support Services**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

### **Assumed knowledge**

Basic computer use skills.

# Unit Schedule

| Week                                                        | Lecture Topics/Events                                                 | SGTA/Assessment                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                           | When... not if... Intro to Cyber Security unit. (NB)                  | <b>SGTA Workshop Week 1</b><br><b>Lectures start in week 1</b>                                                                      |
| 2                                                           | Cyber Hygiene –How clean are you? (NB)                                | SGTA Workshop Week 2                                                                                                                |
| 3                                                           | The Human Factor (NB)                                                 | SGTA Workshop Week 3                                                                                                                |
| 4                                                           | Basics of Protection and Computing Basics for Cyber Security (NB)     | SGTA Workshop Week 4                                                                                                                |
| 5                                                           | Cryptography (NB)                                                     | SGTA Workshop Week 5                                                                                                                |
| 6                                                           | Cyber Security Management and Ethics Basics (NB)                      | SGTA Workshop Week 6                                                                                                                |
| 7                                                           | Cybercrime / Cybercriminals (MM)                                      | SGTA Workshop Week 7<br><b>Quiz: in your SGTA you are designated on estudent.</b>                                                   |
| 8                                                           | Societal Security (MM)                                                | SGTA Workshop Week 8                                                                                                                |
| <b>Mid Semester Break 21st September - 5th October 2026</b> |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                     |
| 9                                                           | Impact on Business and Cyber Governance – Who's loses their job? (MM) | SGTA Workshop Week 9<br><b>Individual Assessment (Project) Due: 9/10/26</b>                                                         |
| 10                                                          | IoT and Emerging Tech (MM)                                            | SGTA Workshop Week 10                                                                                                               |
| 11                                                          | Industry Experts Panel (MM)                                           | SGTA Workshop Week 11                                                                                                               |
| 12                                                          | The Future – How is Cyber Security going to impact us (MM)            | SGTA Workshop Week 12                                                                                                               |
| 13                                                          | Discussion about the Final Report (MM/NB)                             | Wrap up + Release of Final Essay Question.<br>SGTA Workshop Week 13<br><b>Assessment (Individual Take Home Report) Due: 6/11/26</b> |

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes from Previous Offering

We value student feedback as an important part of continually improving the quality of our teaching and learning. Students are encouraged to provide constructive feedback through the University student surveys, directly to the teaching team, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link available in iLearn.

Feedback from the previous offering of COMP1300 was very positive. Students particularly appreciated the clear assessment expectations, the organisation of the unit, and the support provided by the teaching team. Based on this feedback, no major changes to the overall delivery of the unit are planned. However, we remain committed to continuously enhancing the learning experience by refining our teaching practices, maintaining a high level of student support, and fostering an engaging and inclusive learning environment.

## Changes since First Published

| Date       | Description                                            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 08/07/2026 | Saw a mistake in the dates in the Unit Schedule. Fixed |

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Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)