

SecTor conference adds awards for year three

For its third year as Toronto's security conference, next month's [SecTor](#), is adding awards to the mix, a new way to continue the show's stated goal of recognizing and expanding the Canadian security community.

Brian Bourne, co-founder of SecTor and president of Toronto-based solution provider [CMS Consulting](#), said the security conference saw an awards recognition program as the next logical step in its ongoing quest to promote and develop the Canadian solution provider community, but wanted to keep the awards simple.

This year, the awards will include three categories, for best free security tool, best commercial security tool, and best overall security solution. For all of the above, Bourne said the qualifications include being based in Canada, and having a solution that is both relevant and practical.

"It's the next evolution of supporting and being part of that security community, Bourne said.

The awards, to be presented at the event October 6 and 7 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, will also come with a nice reward for the winners, an "Infiltrator: SecTor Edition" netbook, the return of the built-for-penetration-testing netbooks assembled by [Metasploit](#) founder HD Moore.

"HD's a rock star in the space, and for him to put together a netbook with all the tweaking that you'd spend hours on, all done by the guy who can do it perfectly, is very cool," he said.

But perhaps more than the customized and much-sought-after netbook prizes, the awards are about building the awareness of the amount of Security talent and the security innovation going on in this country, Bourne said.

"Recognizing Canadian talent in space is important, it's just one of those things that doesn't get enough shout-out," he said.

SecTor is accepting nominations for the awards through end of day on Friday, September 18. More information is available on the [SecTor Web site](#).

Keeping in the "practical and relevant" themes mentioned earlier, Bourne said the content and speakers for this year have been focused on those two keywords as well, with the intention being to add more sessions that add particular value and have a clear takeaway. The show has also slightly changed format, going with three keynotes per day instead of the previous four to allow time for more breakout sessions.

The 2009 SecTor agenda also sees an expansion of the hands-on aspect of the show. Last year, the organizers introduced the Lockpick Village, a chance for attendees to try their hands and getting through the most basic bit of physical security. This year, Bourne said the show would include a hardware hacking village to "introduce the concepts of playing with hardware and firmware," as well as the new Enterprise Labs section, hosted and run by MSP SentryMetrics. In essence, the Enterprise Labs offers a complete simulation of an enterprise network, offering gear from sponsors of the show, in an environment where attendees can play with it and take advantage of it. Sponsors will also provide technical staff to answer questions and to help attendees develop scenarios.

Bourne said the development of more hands-on components came from the unique nature of the SecTor attendance, which is not "the usual trade show," he said. It's a continuation of SecTor's goal of "taking away

the marketing fluff and learning how this stuff works.”

“We don’t have people walking the floor looking for pens, these are people who’ve paid a substantial fee and know their security,” Bourne said. “We’re taking that learning to the next level.”

SecTor 2009 runs at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre October 6 and 7. More information is available on the [show's Web site](#).