

Reframing Cyber Security for the Next Generation of Digital Activists

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(Presentation by Joe)



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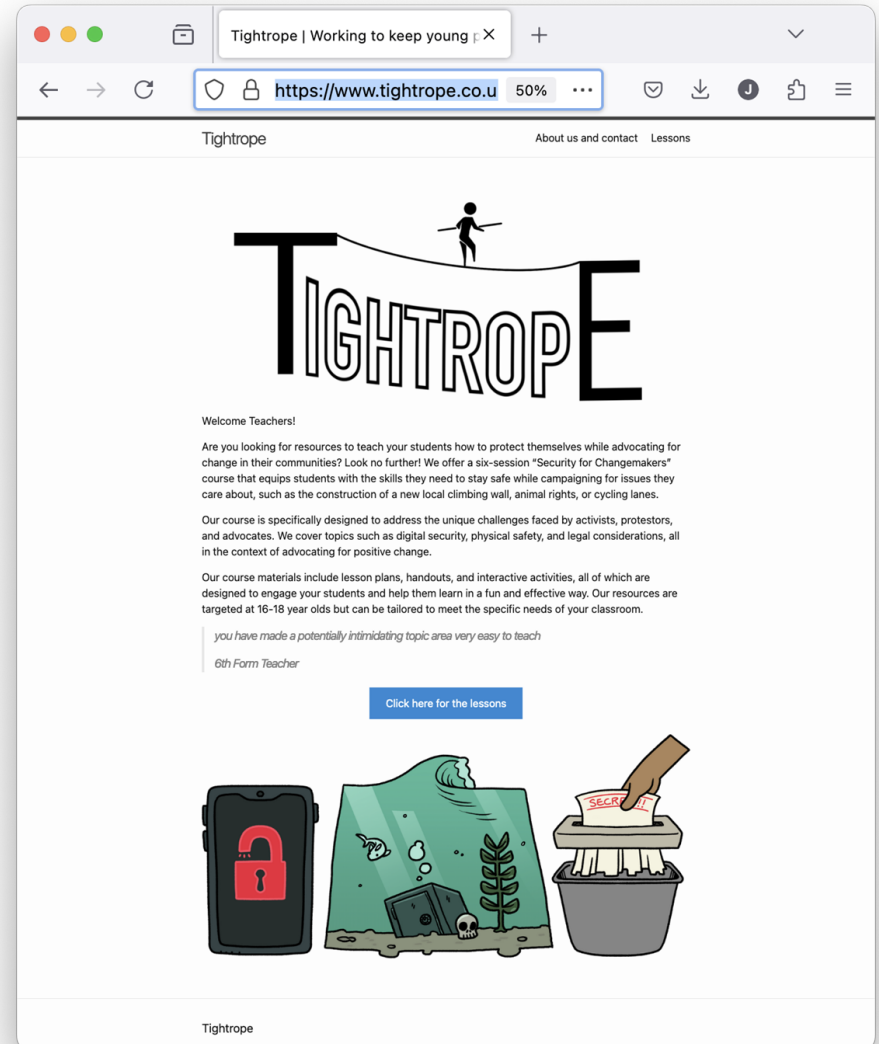
Tl;dr

1. Everybody hates us (Cyber Security)
 - Especially the people who would benefit the most
2. Young people are terrible at Cyber Security
3. So let's tailor a course exactly to people who are likely to hate us and maybe they'll learn something.



What we did

- Wrote some material
- Did two pilot studies in schools.
- Rewrote the material
- Put up a Website
- 39k visitors and 1.8k downloads of resources in first six months.



<https://www.tightrope.co.uk/>

Problem 2: Everybody hates us.[1]

- We've always been the no people.
- We're terrible for diversity [p4][p5].



- Conserve
- Keep
- Hold
- Maintain
- Watch
- Static
- Unchanging

So what's the opposite?

- Opposing control, authority and immobile?
- We probably want activism...
- ...and activists deal with security all the time.
- (also teenagers like rebellion[citation needed])



Six Lesson Course on social activism

1. Introduction
2. Information
3. Privacy and Threat Modelling
4. Cryptography =
5. Complex Systems
6. Scams, Magic, and Future Directions

Change cards

- Each exercise focused on a social change
- Students could use their own change for the whole course or different ones
- We provided 'change cards' for plausible deniability



Some experiences

- Students are very bad at cynicism
- You can't tell the teachers about the Cyber Security bit either.

Good questions

- Why is it called tightrope?
- Have you had any responses from schools who've used the lesson plans?
- What's in the 'complex systems' lesson?
- Who was that girl in the photo?
- Do you think everybody hates us because you are projecting your own self-loathing onto our much beloved field?

References

- [p1-n] see paper.
- [1] Crandall, K.S., Noteboom, C., El-Gayar, O.F. and Crandall, K., 2019. High school students' perceptions of cybersecurity: An explanatory case study.