NetNite Beirut

Building the technical community

@nellybaz

Abstract
Growing a membership base can be simple, however, creating and engaging a community can become a harder task. NetNite events showcase an example of how we created a technical community in Beirut that is shifting to determining and mapping expertise within the community.

Project Summary

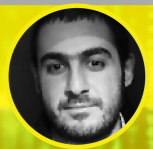
#NetNite is a series of events organized by the Internet Society | Lebanon Chapter, and happening monthly to provide knowledge and information on new technologies in the world related to the Internet.

Tackling several topics to reach and attract the technical community and engage them in a dialogue around the challenges we face today and what could be the possible solutions. The topics we raised where: IoT, the Dark Net, Freedom of Speech, IPv6, and working in an exponentially evolving world.

Net Nite by Internet Society Lebanon Chapter

On Monday
Feb 2017 **13**
Registration at 6:30 P.M.
Berytech Mathaf, Third Floor

Nathalie Trenaman
IPv6 Program Manager at the RIPE NCC

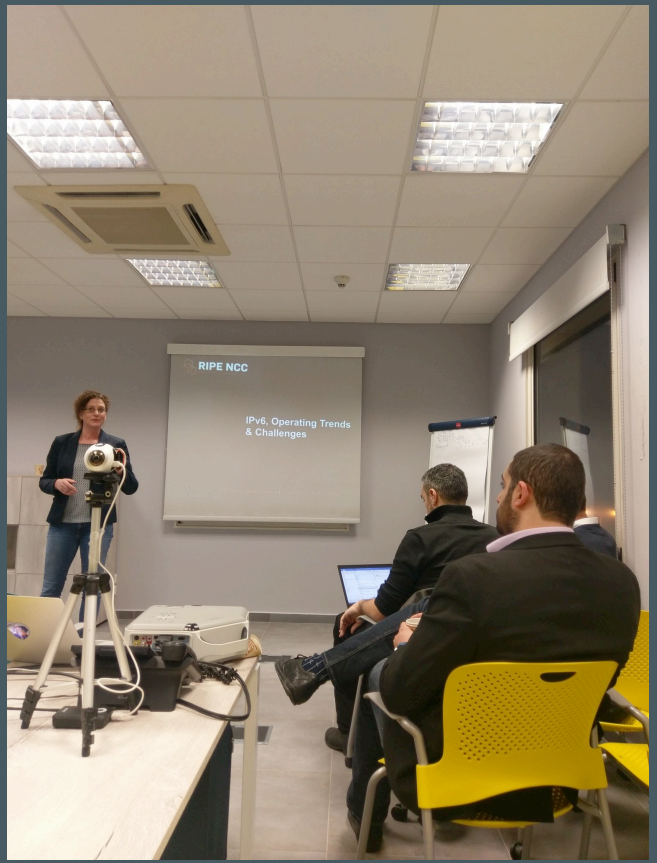


Jad El Cham
Certified IPv6 Trainer

IPv6
Operating Trends and Challenges

Meet new friends, discuss policies, explore digital rights, and know about new trends and challenges.

Networking over pizza and beverages will follow.



Net Nite
by
Internet Society
Lebanon Chapter
On Thursday
Jan
2017 19
Registration at 6:30 P.M.
BDD 1243 'The Base'
Meet new friends, discuss policies, explore digital rights, and know about telecom regulations.
Networking over pizza and beverages will follow.
the Digital
Legal Framework
Dr. Charbel Kareh
Juris Doctor | Attorney At Law–Managing Partner of e-lawyer Assistance Law Firm | President Of the BBA ICT Center.

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Net Nite
by
Internet Society
Lebanon Chapter
THE DARK NET
Meet new friends, discuss issues,
understand new technologies!
On December 29|6:30pm|BDD 1075 | Floor 1
Networking over pizza and beverages will follow.
Christian Karam
Director and Global Head of Cyber Threat Intelligence
at UBS | Former Head of the Cyber Research Laboratory INTERPOL.

Project Background and Purpose

Internet issues are many in Lebanon, ranging from lack of transparency & corruption to lack of public engagement. As the members were not motivated to take part in a lost battle, thus they didn't feel invited to take part of the change on a country level, so we wanted them to be welcomed to the multi-stakeholder decision making process that the Internet Society adapts.

The first step to acknowledge that change is needed by becoming fully aware of the situation from different perspectives. Creating and engaging the community was an essential element, but it has to be backed by capacity building.

The members need to be fully aware of the situation prior to engaging in an activity. We found that NetNite is a solution that would cover both aspects within its informative part with the talk/presentation and its networking and engagement aspect with the second part of the event.

Objectives

- Engaging members in technical and critical subjects.
- Creating awareness of ISOC Lebanon Chapter.
- Attracting new members to join our chapter.
- Spreading knowledge about Internet related topics.
- Engaging the community in a dialogue.

Topics Covered

>>> Oct 13, 2016 6:30 PM: #NetNite **IoT Networks** with Marc Nader
Attendees: 45

>>> Nov 24, 2016 6:30 PM: **Living and working in an exponentially evolving world** #NetNite with Tarek Dajani.
Attendees: 43

>>> Dec 29, 2016 6:30 PM: **The DARK NET** #NetNite with Christian Karam
Attendees: 299

>>> Jan 19, 2017 6:30 PM: **The Digital Legal Framework** #NetNite with Dr. Charbel Kareh
Attendees: 66

>>> Feb 13, 2017 6:30 PM: IPv6 Operating Trends and Challenges with Nathaly Trenaman and Jad El Cham.

Lessons Learned

• Online Marketing is essential for reaching to the widest audience available.

• Not everyone registered will show up (50% no shows) but it is essential to have attendees register for tickets to track attendance

• It seems that 3 factors influence the number of attendees: Speaker, topic, timing (holiday)

• Open the event to non-members even though non-members are a mix bag of people.

• The format of having (30 minutes) registration and post-talk gathering (60 minutes + pizza & beverages) is ideal to allow networking and to engage new members of the community

• Impact | Post-NetNite surveys revealed that100% are likely to attend another event, however number of new repeat attendees that become part of the community is very small

Recommendations

• Create follow up activities to deepen community engagement and increase the network of technical people (such as creating a national Networks Operators Group – NOG)

• Think of ways to make people work together for a common cause; ask ISPs to speak about a common problem.

•Collective intelligence is a powerful tool. The questions asked during the talks can reveal the next steps one should take.

•Post-event surveys are an essential foundation to build on top of what you have achieved.

•Always create a positive, transparent atmosphere.

•And keep in mind when you are leading a community, where do you want it to go and what is it that you want it to achieve.

NetNite
has been a success with the effort of all the board at the Internet Society | Lebanon Chapter.

Thank you all for your help.

Thank you.

Get in touch
nelly.baz@isoc.org.lb
@nellybaz