When he was in Primary 1, Mr Kelvin Ang hacked into his school's computer to surf the Internet, which pupils were barred from using.

By the time he was a teenager, he was creating computer viruses and testing them out on his older sister's computer. "When I get to an area of restricted access, I have this curiosity and a tendency to want to circumvent it," admitted the Temasek Polytechnic graduate, 23.

But he is no criminal. On Thursday, he was one of 80 recipients of scholarships from the Ministry of Communication and Information and its agencies, such as the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) and Media Development Authority.

When he gets his computer engineering degree from the National University of Singapore, Mr Ang may work on security matters for StarHub, which is co-sponsoring him under the National Infocomm Scholarship scheme with IDA.