Use of Free and Open Source Labs to Support Cybersecurity Education

Chris Simpson,
Director National University Center for
Cybersecurity

Agenda

- Background
- Examples of free labs and how we use them
- Tracking Objectives
- Sharing Objectives

Background

- Hands on labs are a critical component of any cybersecurity program and a requirement to become an NSA/DHS Center of Academic Excellence
- Several ways to deliver lab content
 - Develop and deploy labs on internal or outsourced infrastructure
 - Utilize labs from external lab providers
 - Utilize free grant resourced labs
 - Use free and open source labs
- Managing an internal lab environment is expensive

Goal

 Build a database that provides information on labs and learning outcomes, KST, KU's, and competencies associated with those labs.



Challenges of Running an Internal Lab

- Help Desk
 - Academic vs Technical issues
 - Hours of operation
 - Student complete school work in the evening and on weekends
 - "Ticket Management"
- Admin access to systems
- Developing lab content
- Cost

Finding Outsourced Labs

- "Word of Mouth"
- Textbook Vendors
- Vendor booths
- Google

Challenges of Free Labs

- Downtime
- Support
- Updates
- No single vendor provides everything you need
- Publicly available answers
- Course coverage of lab content
- Faculty preparation
- Vendor lab changes

Free/Freemium Providers

Not an official endorsement from National University

Providers (No particular order)

Immersive Labs (Free)

NICE Challenge (Free) Over the Wire (Free)

PicoCTF (Free)

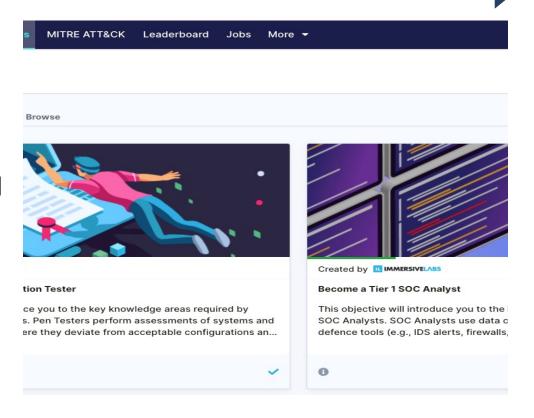
Hack The Box (Freemium)

TryHackMe.com (Freemium)

Blue Team Labs (Freemium)

Immersive Labs Digital Cyber Academy

- Available to students, Veterans, and Neurodivergent community
- Question based, virtual machine based and scenario based labs



Immersive Labs

Badging

Large variety of topics

Novice to "Ninja"

Knowledge + Hands on

Rankings



POINTS 2883620

1892245

1439130

1270940

1254385

1219620 1131050

1079800

931885

866940

812470

735380

Labs

Secure Code

and validate common

AVATAR

USER

Tech Vets

New York University

Edinburgh Napier University

University of South Wales

Dakota State University

Nanyang Polytechnic

Lancaster University

National University

Institute of Technical Education

National University Lviv Politechnic

Singapore Institute of Technology

DCA HSLU Lucerne University of Applied Sciences

League Table Leaderboard POSITION

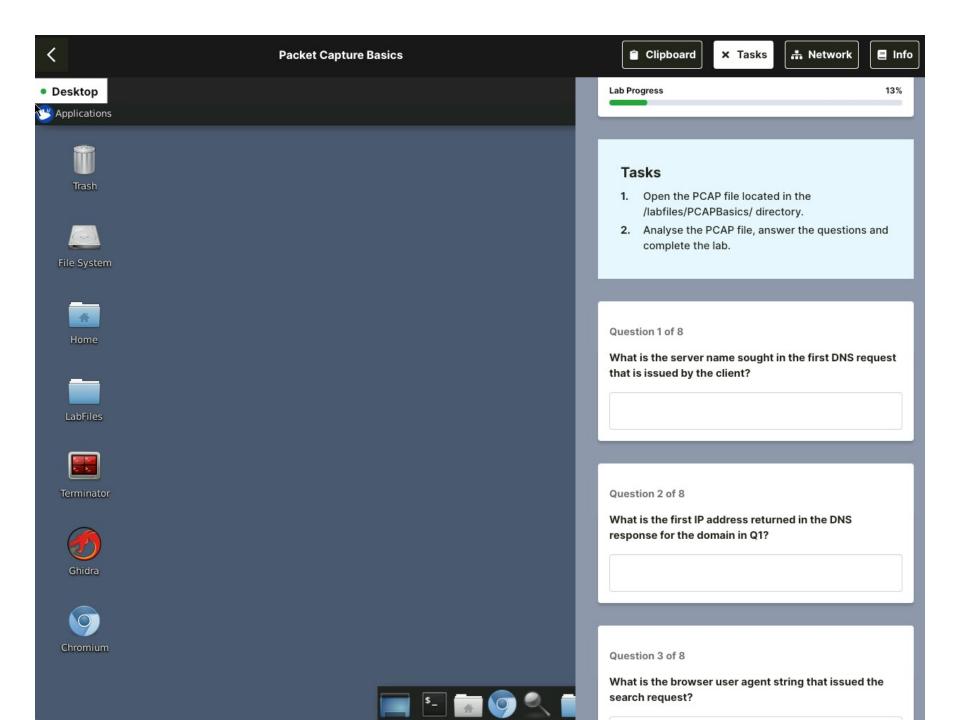
Our labs require research; we encourage analytical thinking, curiosity and problem solving. If you

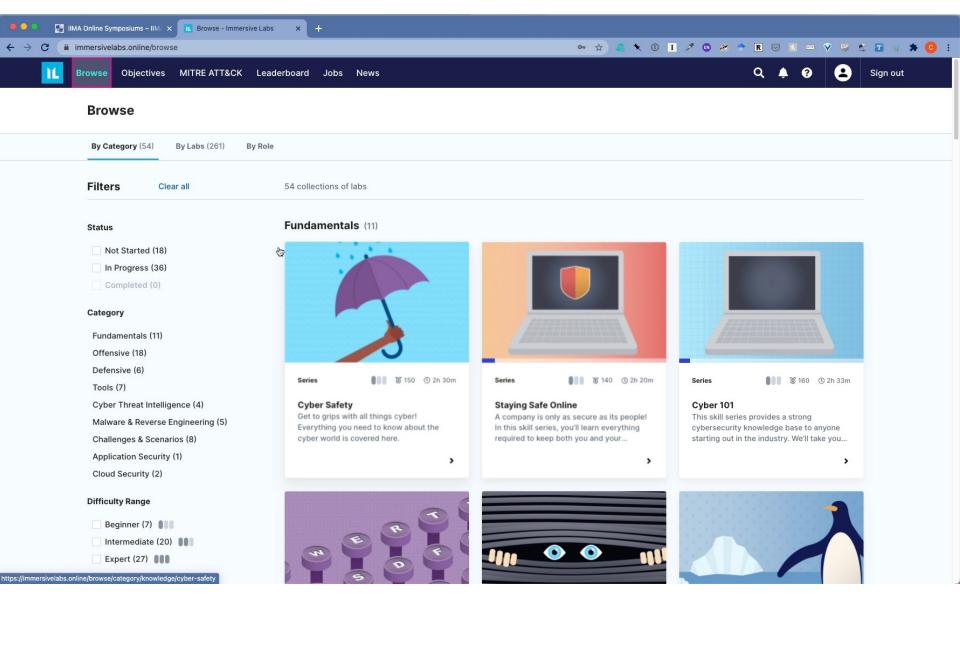
Different difficulty Levels

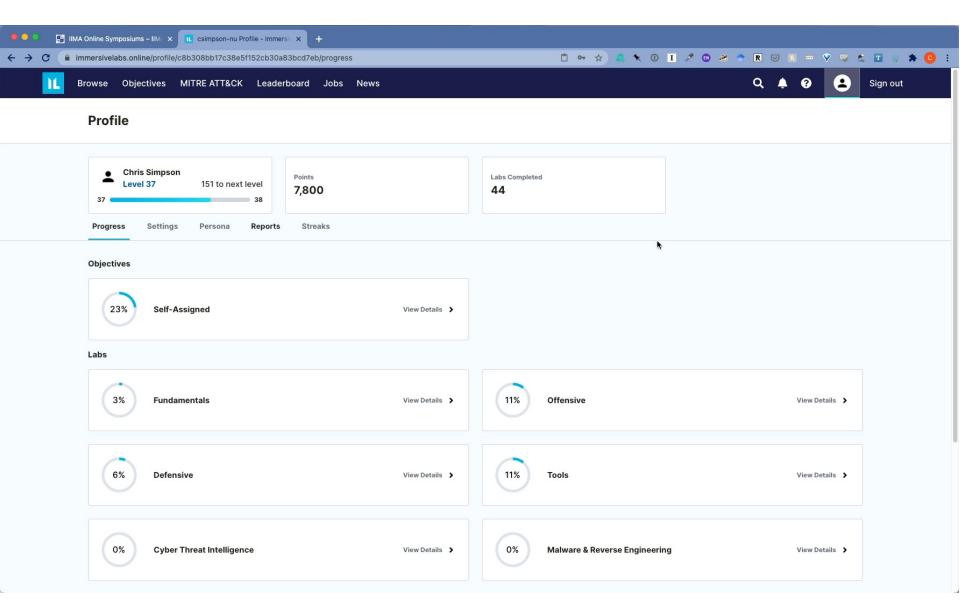
Learning Outcomes

- ✓ An understanding of common packet analysis tools
- ✓ Hands on experience using tools such as Wireshark and tcpdump

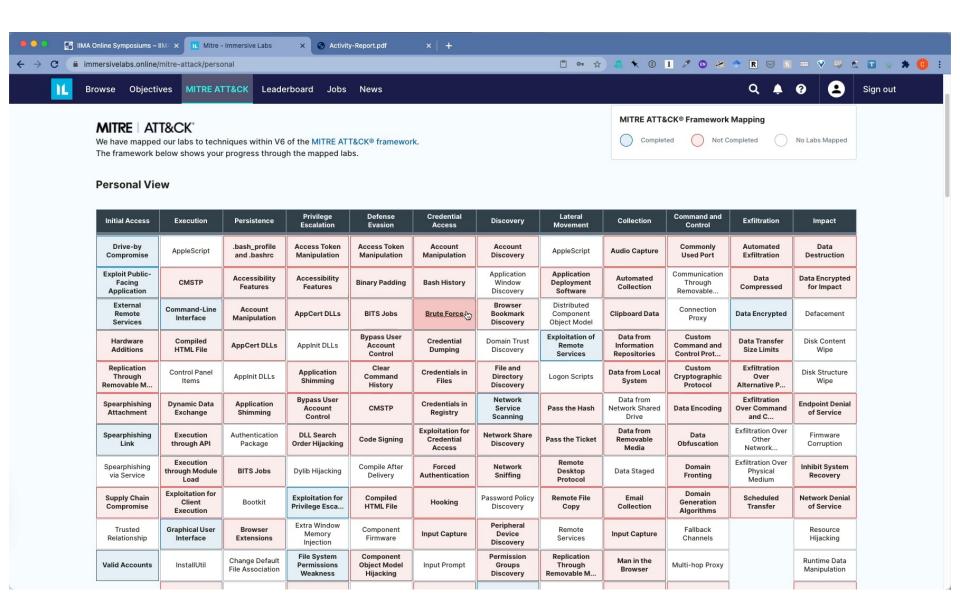
					Q	
TITLE ^	POINTS ^	DIFFICULTY *	LAB TYPE A	TIME REQUIRED ^	PUBLISHED ON ^	STATUS *
Intro to Wireshark	100	Difficulty 4	▼ Practical Lab	60 Minutes	1/5/2018	In Progress
Packet Capture Basics	100	Difficulty 4	▼ Practical Lab	60 Minutes	8/25/2017	Completed
Wireshark Display Filters - An Introduction	100	Difficulty 4	T Practical Lab	60 Minutes	1/5/2018	In Progress
tcpdump	200	Difficulty 5	▲ Practical Lab	60 Minutes	4/20/2018	Not Started
Wireshark: Stream/Object Extraction	200	Difficulty 5	▲ Practical Lab	60 Minutes	1/16/2018	Not Started







Reporting



Mapping to Mitre Att&ck

Over the Wire

- Community built labs
- Different games and levels
- Command line based
- Bandit great for learning Linux
- Under the Wire for PowerShell



Wargames

The wargames offered by the OverTheWire community can help you to learn and practice security concepts in the form of fun-filled games.

To find out more about a certain wargame, just visit its page linked from the menu on the left

If you have a problem, a question or a suggestion, you can join us via chat.

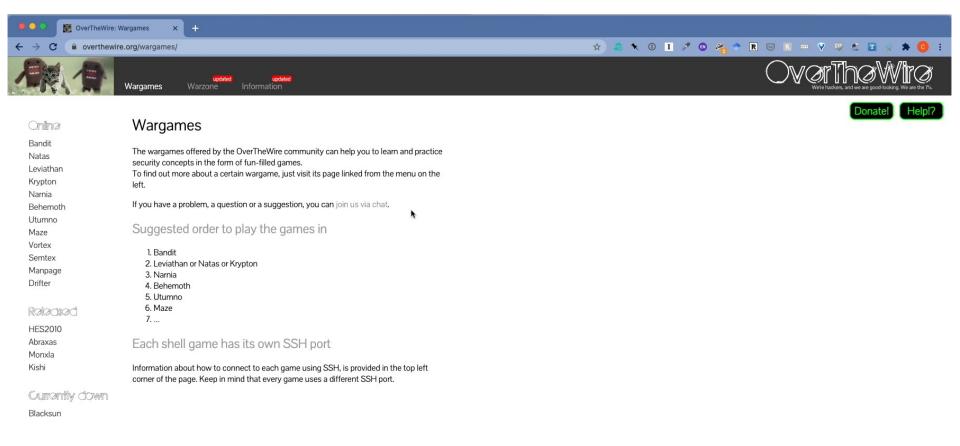
Suggested order to play the games in

- 1. Bandit
- 2. Leviathan or Natas or Krypton
- 3. Narnia
- 4. Behemoth
- 5. Utumno
- 6. Maze
- 7. ...

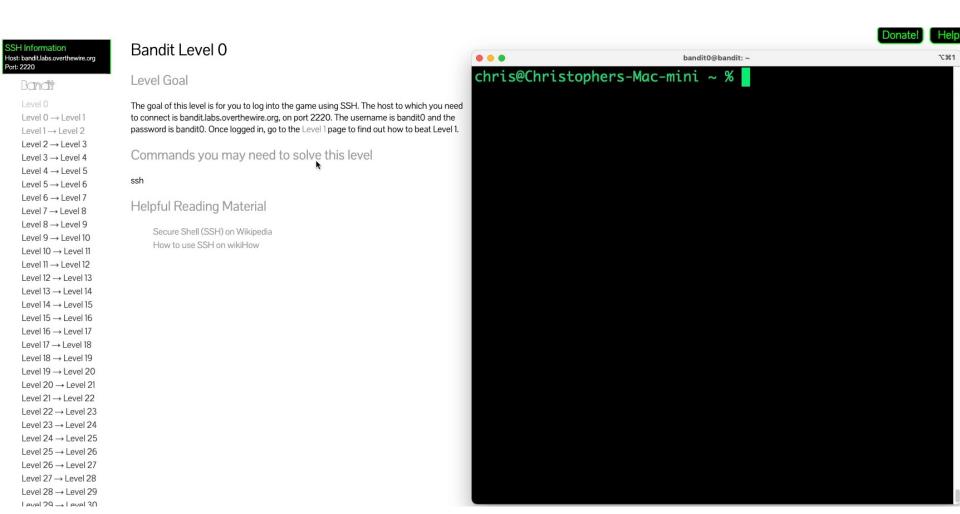
Each shell game has its own SSH port

Information about how to connect to each game using SSH, is provided in the top left corner of the page. Keep in mind that every game uses a different SSH port.

Over the Wire



1



Bandit Demo

Introducing the picoGym

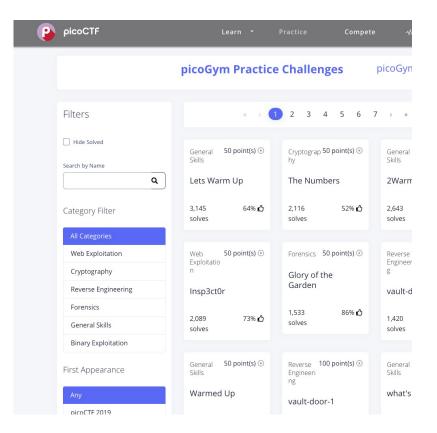


picoGym is a noncompetitive practice space where you can explore and solve challenges from previously released picoCTF competitions, find fresh never before revealed challenges, and build a knowledge base of cyber security skills in a safe environment.

Whether you are a cyber security professional, competitive hacker or new to CTFs you will find interesting challenges in the picoGym that you can solve at your own pace.

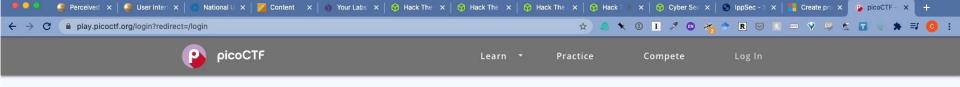
Team picoCTF will regularly update this challenge repository so visit the picoGym often.

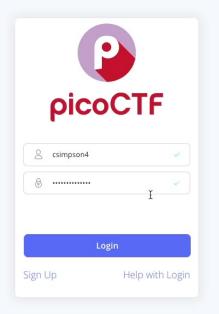
Practice picoGym



PicoCTF

- Designed by Carnegie Mellon
- Designed for high school students
- Great for anyone new to cybersecurity





PICOCTF PRIVACY STATEMENT TERMS OF SERVICE

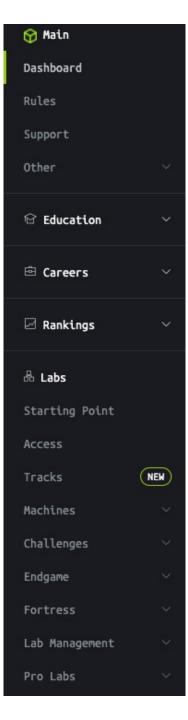


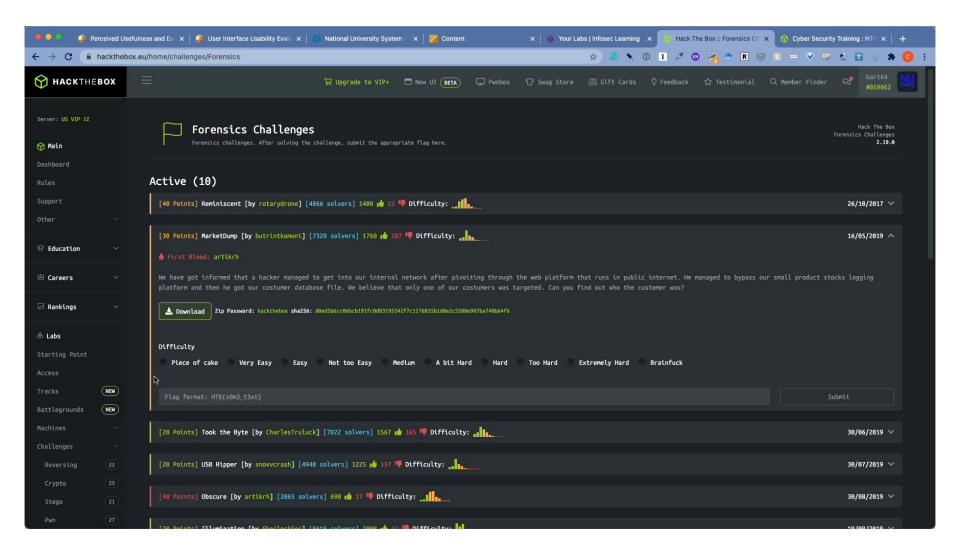


© 2021 picoCTF

Hack the Box

- Freemium model
- Vulnerable hosts
 - Active
 - Retired
- Challenges
- Scenarios
- "Hack" into hosts
- Linux and Windows
- Difficulty ratings
- Ranking system
- Active and Retired Machines
- Can share answers for retired machines
- Set of challenges
- Beginner to expert













KING OF THE HILL

Server Siege

One set of machines is spawned and two teams compete over who hacks the machines



KNOWLEDGE BASE

Introduction to **Battlegrounds**

Everything you need to know to thrive in Battlegrounds.

LEARN MORE

BATTLEGROUNDS PARTY

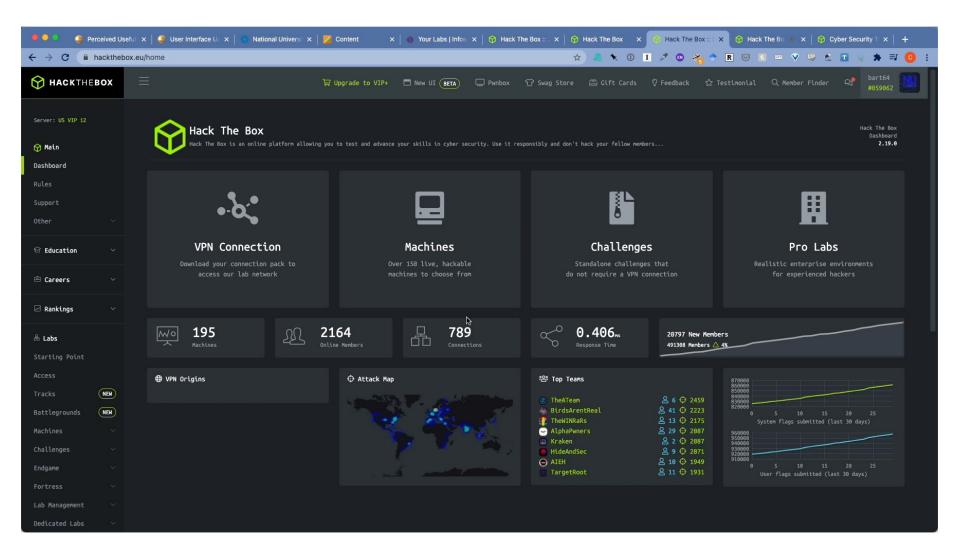
89 0 PLAYING





👌 5 GAMES LEFT THIS MONTH

PLAY BATTLEGROUNDS



Videos and Tutorials

- Twitch.TV
 - https://www.twitch.tv/r00k_infosec/
- YouTube Ippsec
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa6eh7gCk pPo5XXUDfygQQA



ENTER SEARCH TERM

Please consider supporting me on Patreon

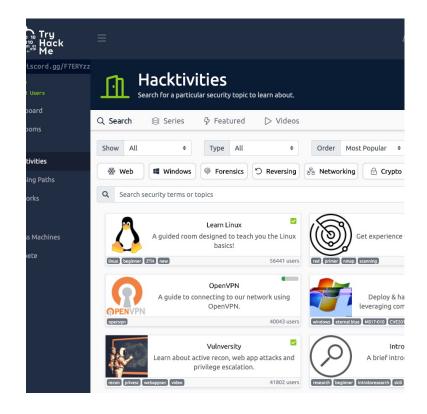
6 ippSec and contributors 2019

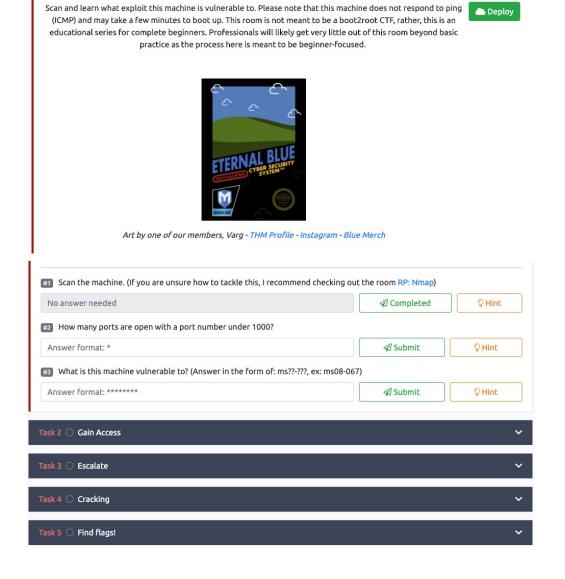
Design by Special accontributors 2019

Design by: @HexF_me, Original PoC: @Shell_ock,
Theme Inspiration: DashLane - HowSecureIsHyPasswor
Found a bug? File it or fix it here

TryHackMe

- Community Built
- Variety of topics
- Room Concept
- East to build your own VM and upload
- Clone and customize rooms





Task 1 O Recon

TryHackMe



















Hacktivities

Find a security topic to learn about.

378
Public Rooms







Learning Paths

Work your way through a structured learning path



Learn how to analyse and defend against real-world cyber threats/attacks

- Detect threats
- · Gather threat actor intelligence
- Understand and emulate adversary TTPs
- · Identify and respond to incidents



Learn the core skills required to start a career in cyber security

- Web application security
- Network security
- Basic Linux
- Scripting

() 64 Hours





Prepare yourself for real world penetration testing:

- Utilise industry standard tools
- · Learn realistic attack scenarios
- · Train in offensive security
- Supporting exercises & resources

(1) 47 Hours

25 Rooms

https://tryhackme.com/path-action/beginner/join

Pre Security

Hacktivities

Find a security topic to learn about.

441 Public Rooms

□ Overview

∆ All Rooms

⊗ Series

63 new Rooms

Learning Paths

Work your way through a structured learning path



Before hacking something, you first need to understand the basics.

- Cyber security basics
- Networking basics and weaknesses
- The web and common attacks
- · Learn to use the Linux operating system



Learn how to analyse and defend against real-world cyber threats/attacks

- Detect threats
- · Gather threat actor intelligence
- Understand and emulate adversary TTPs
- · Identify and respond to incidents

(48 Hours



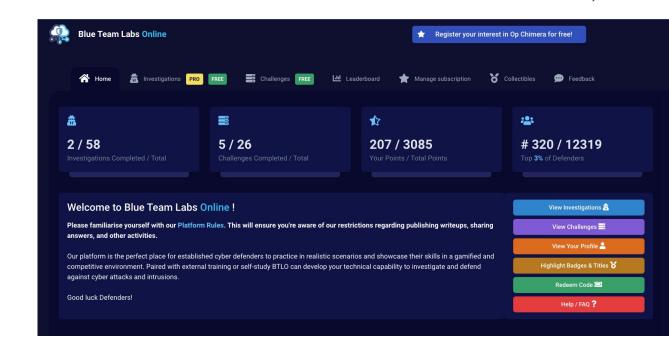
Learn the core skills required to start a career in cyber security

- Web application security
- Network security
- Basic Linux
- Scripting

() 64 Hours

Blue Team Labs (Hack the Box for Blue Teams)

- Community Built
- Variety of topics
- Room Concept
- Ranks and badges
- Deploys VM's





Home



Investigations









Leaderboard



Manage subscription



Sam

Samuel (Sam) is a Neatnik, when it comes to cleanliness and hygiene. Find out if he also follows cyber hygiene. An incident has been reported stating "Sam has lost his SAM". It's your job to figure out what has happened. You are provided with sysmon logs, network traffic, and a memory dump.

Linux CLI (Wireshark Volatility2

Blue Team Labs

Scenario

Samuel (Sam) is a Neatnik, when it comes to cle SAM". It's your job to figure out what has happen

Investigation Submission

What is the attacker IP, and what is the port that

Format: IP, port

What's the name of the malicious file that gave

Format: filename.extension

Format: processname.extension

t investigation

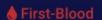
Media

91

Linux

Knowing the payload name and process name, i

msfvenom Payload Type





Deploy in the Cloud

- Use Devops tools to deploy labs in the cloud
- Examples
 - Detection Lab
 - Mordor
 - CyberRange

Detection Lab

- "DetectionLab is a repository containing a variety of Packer, Vagrant, Powershell, Ansible, and Terraform scripts that allow you to automate the process of bringing an ActiveDirectory environment online complete with logging and security tooling using a variety of different platforms.
- https://www.detectionlab.net work/

acOS: Deploy using Virtualbox or VMwar

findows: Deploy using Virtualbox or VMw

nux: Deploy using Virtualbox or VMware

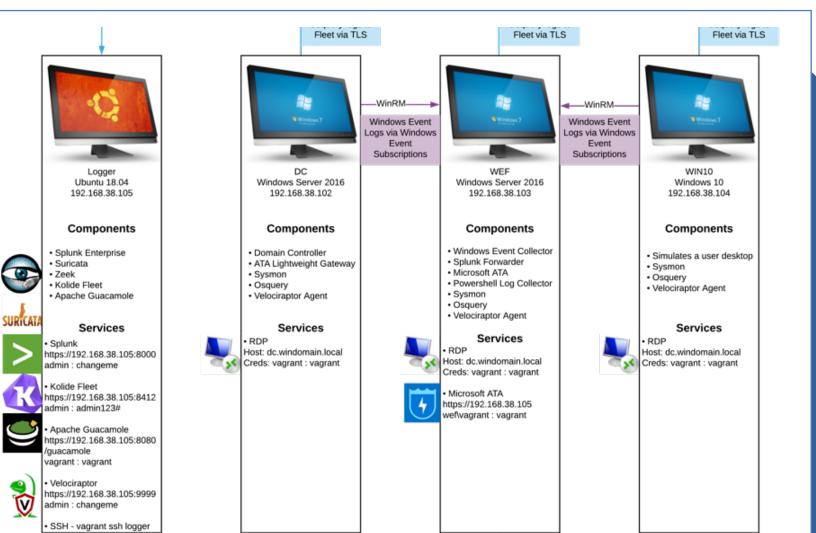
NS Deployment

zure Deployment

SXi Deployment

yperV Deployment

bVirt Deployment



Project Mordor

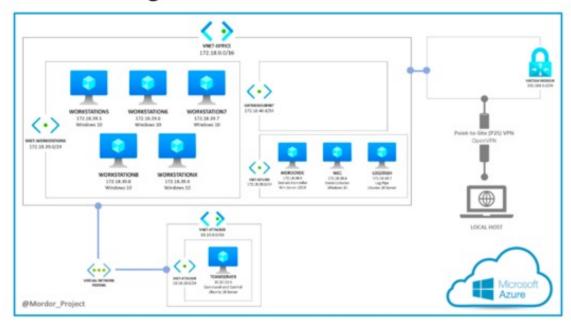
- The Mordor project provides prerecorded security events generated by simulated adversarial techniques in the form of JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) files for easy consumption.
- The pre-recorded data is categorized by platforms, adversary groups, tactics and techniques defined by the Mitre <u>ATT&CK Framework</u>.
- The pre-recorded data represents not only specific known malicious events but additional context/events that occur around it.
- https://mordordatasets.com/introducti on.html

Template for Azure deployment

Project Mordor



Network Design





Cyber Range

- This project provides a bootstrap framework for a complete offensive, defensive, reverse engineering, & security intelligence tooling in a private research lab using the AWS Cloud.
- This project contains vulnerable systems and a toolkit of the most powerful open-source / community edition tools known to Penetration testers, Developers, Malware Analysts, Forensic/Reverse Engineers, ThreatHunters, & more.

Nice Challenge

Excellent set of challenges

Mapped to NICE Framework

Free

Reservations required

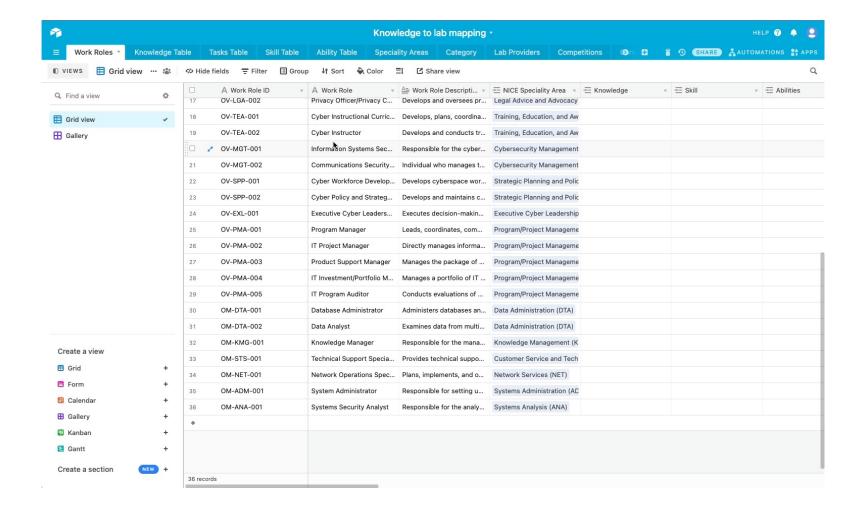
Mapping
Labs To
Objectives

Build a catalog of labs mapped to the NICE Framework and CAE KU's

Student project mapping
TryHackMe

Using AirTable

Airtable Demo





Obsidian

- Multi platform notetaking app with wiki like capability
- Based on Markdown



Workflow

1

Build view in AirTable

2

Export view to CSV

3

Clean up columns

4

Run Python script that creates markdown files for each row

5

Copy to Obsidian

Lab Mapping

Courses

CYB 600 Cybersecurity Technology

CYB 601 Cybersecurity Toolkit Utilizatio

CYB 604 Wireless and Mobile Security

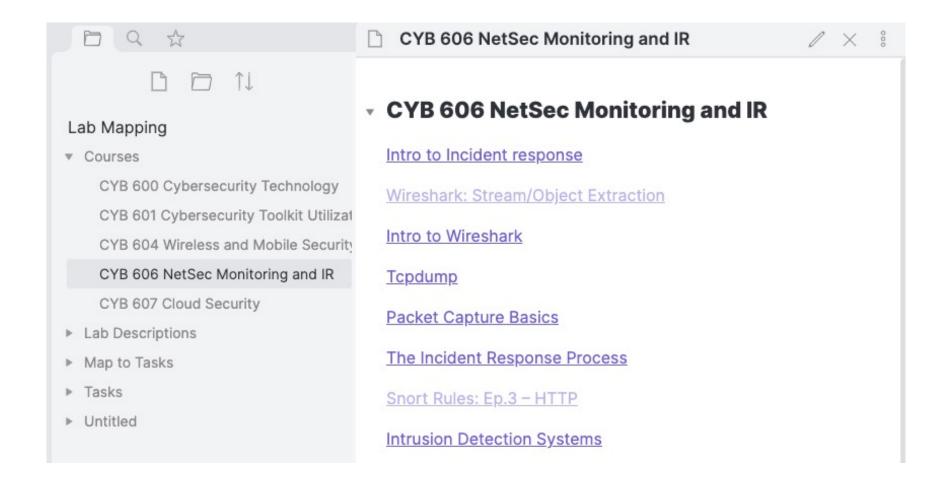
CYB 606 NetSec Monitoring and IR

CYB 607 Cloud Security

Lab Descriptions

0day

- Vulnerabilities Exercise 1 Conduc
- 1. Vulnerabilities Exercise 2 Conduc
- Vulnerabilities Exercise 3 Define
- 7. Types of Scanning Exercise 1 Scan



Course Page

Active Directory Basics

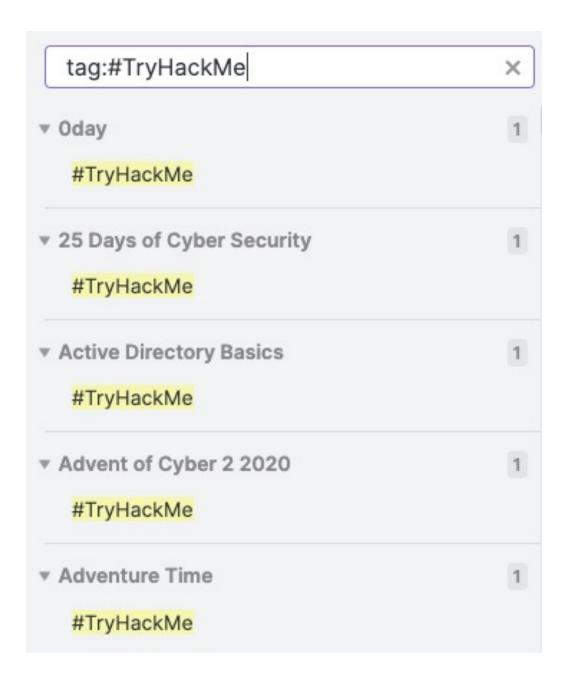
VIP

Learn the basics of Active Directory and how it is used in the real world today.

Easy

#TryHackMe

Tags



Bash Scripting

A Walkthrough room to teach you the basics of bash scripting.

T0027

T0286

T0342

T0361

T0677

T0349

T0383

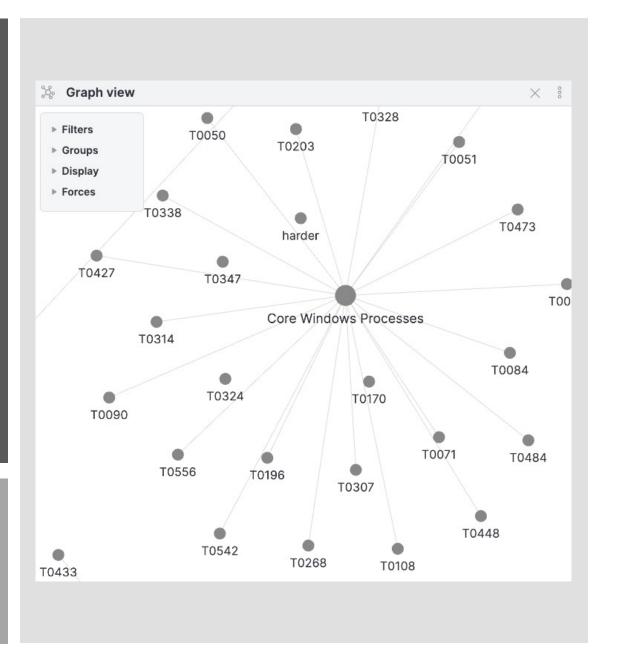
T0403

T0404

• Links go to tasks

Labs to Tasks

Visualization



Wireshark: Stream/Object Extraction Intrusion Detections of Analysis 2 File Command acket Capture Basics Intro to Wiresh 0008 Order of VotatilityAll in One Log Finder o Incident response Sport Rules: Ep.3 Snort Rules: Ep.2 - DNS T0241 Tcpdump CYB 606 NetSec Monitoring and IR Splunk: Ever IR: Ep.1 - Suspicious Email SMTP Log Analysis arsing PST ISO27001 Clipboard I T0182 T0014 Snort Rules: Ep.1 Intro to Splunk -EARTH-HARDEN BY-FARTernative Protocol Validating SIEM Results The Incident Response Process

Introduction to Forensics

Visualization

Cyber Competition Coach and Mentor Training

SoCal Cyber Cup Mentor Training

Home

Modules

Syllabus

People Assignments

Discussions

(8)

Ø

Ø

Ø

Quizzes

Grades

Pages

Files

Outcomes

Rubrics

Settings

Conferences

Collaborations

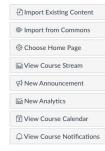
New Analytics

Announcements Ø

BAY DIPENDED

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIP

Welcome Everyone to the SoCal Cyber Cup Mentor Training. This training course includes a set of 20 different modules to help you learn and understand what it takes to become an Outstanding Mentor. There are four different types of modules that you will be experiencing and each provides you with different tools that you need to provide the leadership and mentorship for your Cybersecurity student teams. The modules are grouped by area including Mechanics (background needed to understand the competitions), Team/Collaboration/Ethics, Topical/Technical Training, and free resources. It is our intent to provide you with tools that you and your team can use in preparation for the competition. Since we all come in with a variety of skill sets, you do not need to feel obligated to go through every module or even in the order that they are listed but use these modules as you have questions or need information to help you and your teams be successful. Have Fun, Good Luck, and remember YOU ARE NOT IN



To Do

Nothing for now

Recent Feedback

Nothing for now

Questions? Volunteer to help? Email: csimpson@nu.edu

Links

- https://www.immersivelabs.com/digital-cyber-academies/
- https://overthewire.org/wargames/
- https://underthewire.tech/
- https://www.hackthebox.eu/
- https://www.picoctf.org/
- https://tryhackme.com/
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa6eh7gCkpPo5XXUDfygQQA
- https://www.twitch.tv/r00k_infosec/
- https://www.detectionlab.network/
- https://mordordatasets.com/introduction.html
- https://medium.com/aws-cyber-range
- https://clark.center/home
- https://github.com/carnal0wnage/weirdAAL
- https://github.com/RhinoSecurityLabs/cloudgoat
- https://rhinosecuritylabs.com/aws/assume-worst-aws-assume-role-enumeration/
- https://obsidian.md/