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

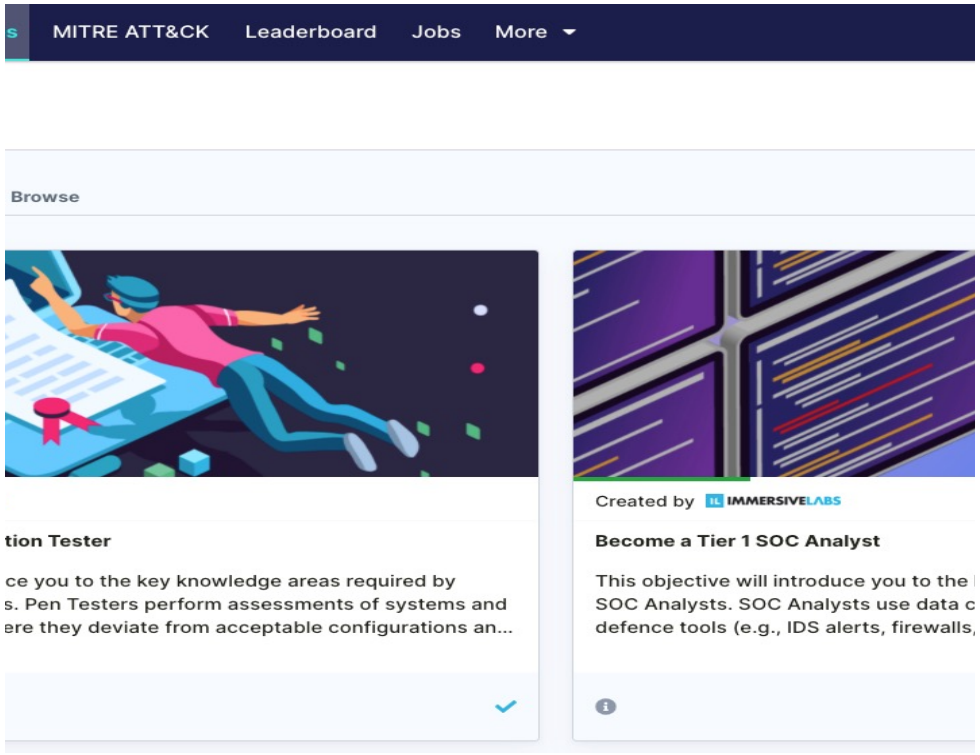
- Not an official endorsement from National University

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)

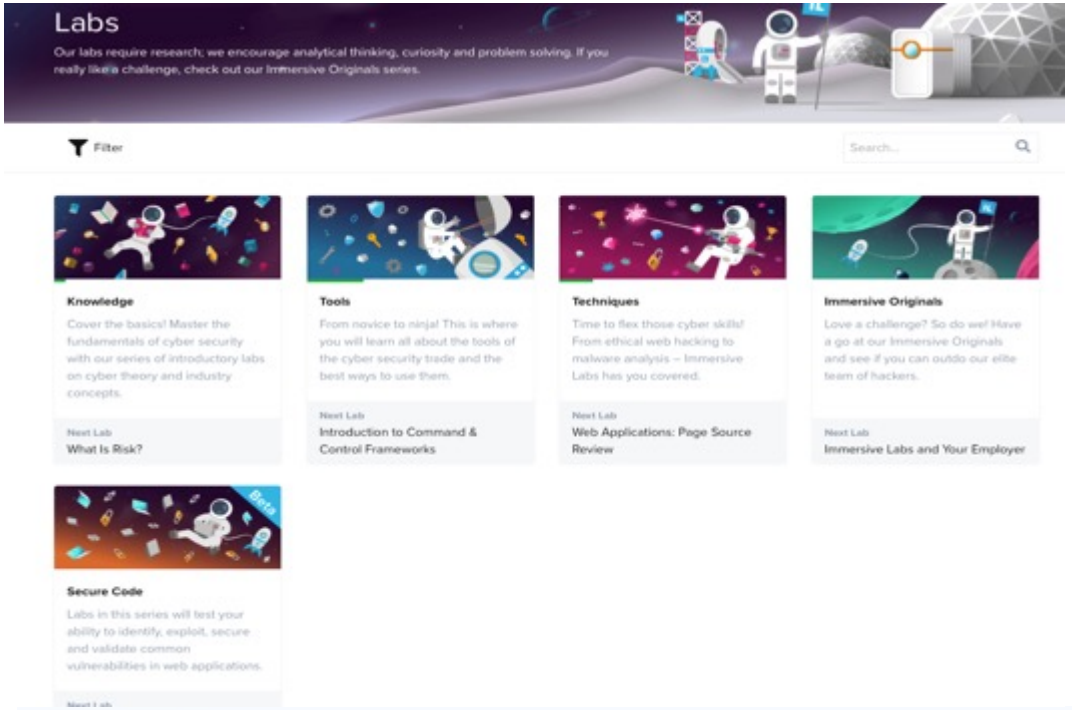
Immersive Labs Digital Cyber Academy

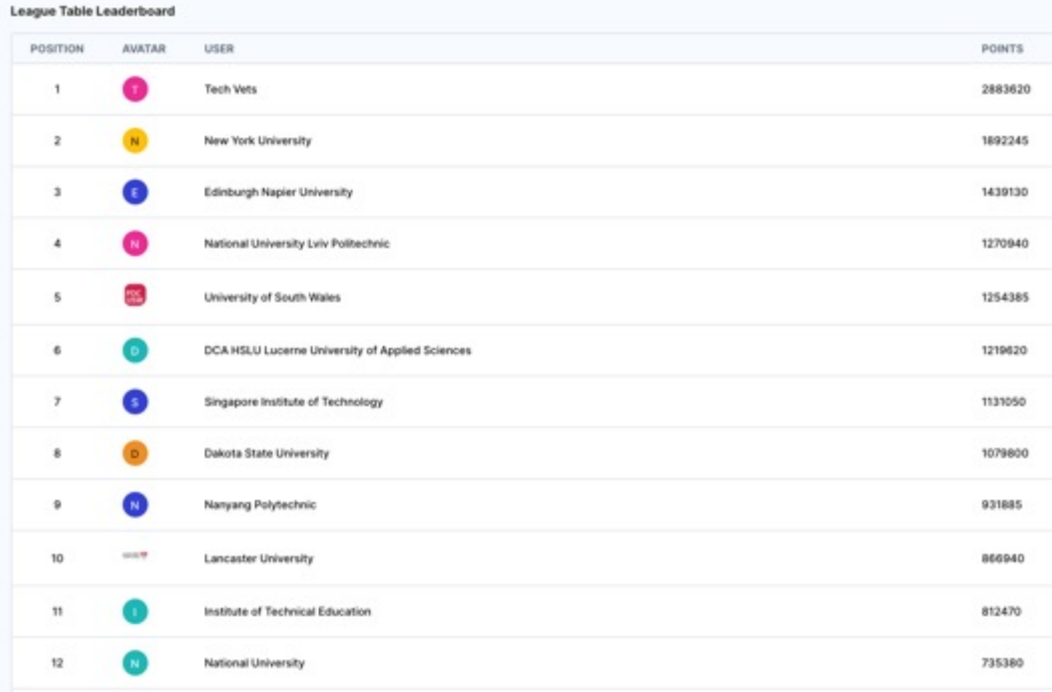
- Available to students, Veterans, and Neurodivergent community
- Question based, virtual machine based and scenario based labs



Immersive Labs

- Badging
- Large variety of topics
- Novice to “Ninja”
- Knowledge + Hands on
- Rankings





League Table Leaderboard

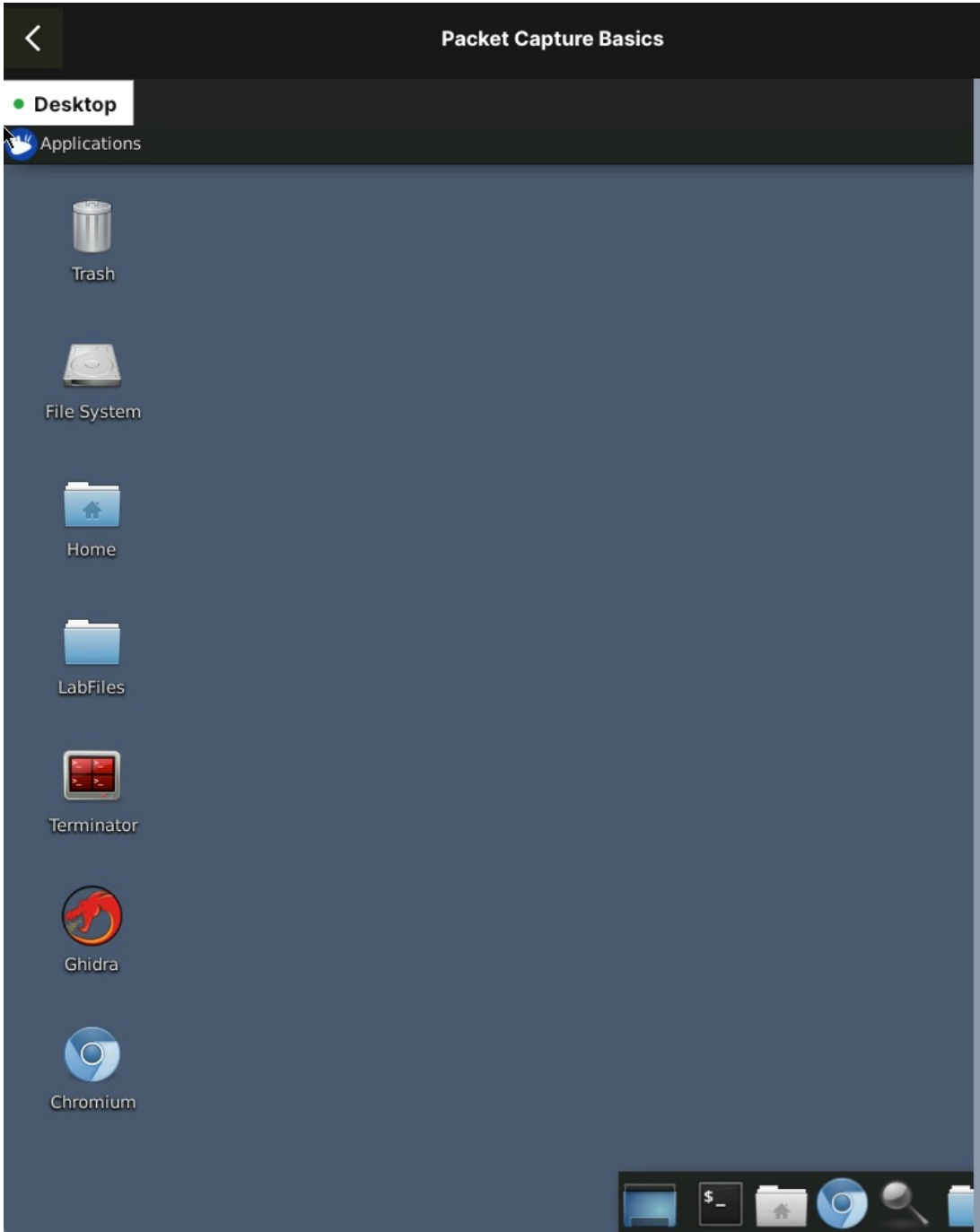
POSITION	AVATAR	USER	POINTS
1		Tech Vets	2883620
2		New York University	1892245
3		Edinburgh Napier University	1439130
4		National University Lviv Politechnic	1270940
5		University of South Wales	1254385
6		DCA HSLU Lucerne University of Applied Sciences	1219620
7		Singapore Institute of Technology	1131050
8		Dakota State University	1079800
9		Nanyang Polytechnic	931885
10		Lancaster University	866940
11		Institute of Technical Education	812470
12		National University	735380

Different difficulty Levels

Learning Outcomes

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

TITLE	POINTS	DIFFICULTY	LAB TYPE	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	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



Lab Progress 13%

Tasks

1. Open the PCAP file located in the /labfiles/PCAPBasics/ directory.
2. Analyse the PCAP file, answer the questions and complete the lab.

Question 1 of 8

What is the server name sought in the first DNS request that is issued by the client?

Question 2 of 8

What is the first IP address returned in the DNS response for the domain in Q1?

Question 3 of 8

What is the browser user agent string that issued the search request?

IIMA Online Symposiums – IIM

Browse - Immersive Labs

immersivelabs.online/browse

Browse | Objectives | MITRE ATT&CK | Leaderboard | Jobs | News | Sign out

Browse

By Category (54) | By Labs (261) | By Role

Filters

Clear all

54 collections of labs

Status

- Not Started (18)
- In Progress (36)
- Completed (0)

Category

- Fundamentals (11)
- Offensive (18)
- Defensive (6)
- Tools (7)
- Cyber Threat Intelligence (4)
- Malware & Reverse Engineering (5)
- Challenges & Scenarios (8)
- Application Security (1)
- Cloud Security (2)

Difficulty Range

- Beginner (7)
- Intermediate (20)
- Expert (27)

Fundamentals (11)

Series | 150 | 2h 30m

Cyber Safety

Get to grips with all things cyber! Everything you need to know about the cyber world is covered here.

Series | 140 | 2h 20m

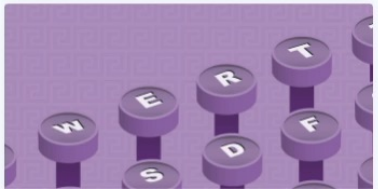
Staying Safe Online

A company is only as secure as its people! In this skill series, you'll learn everything required to keep both you and your...

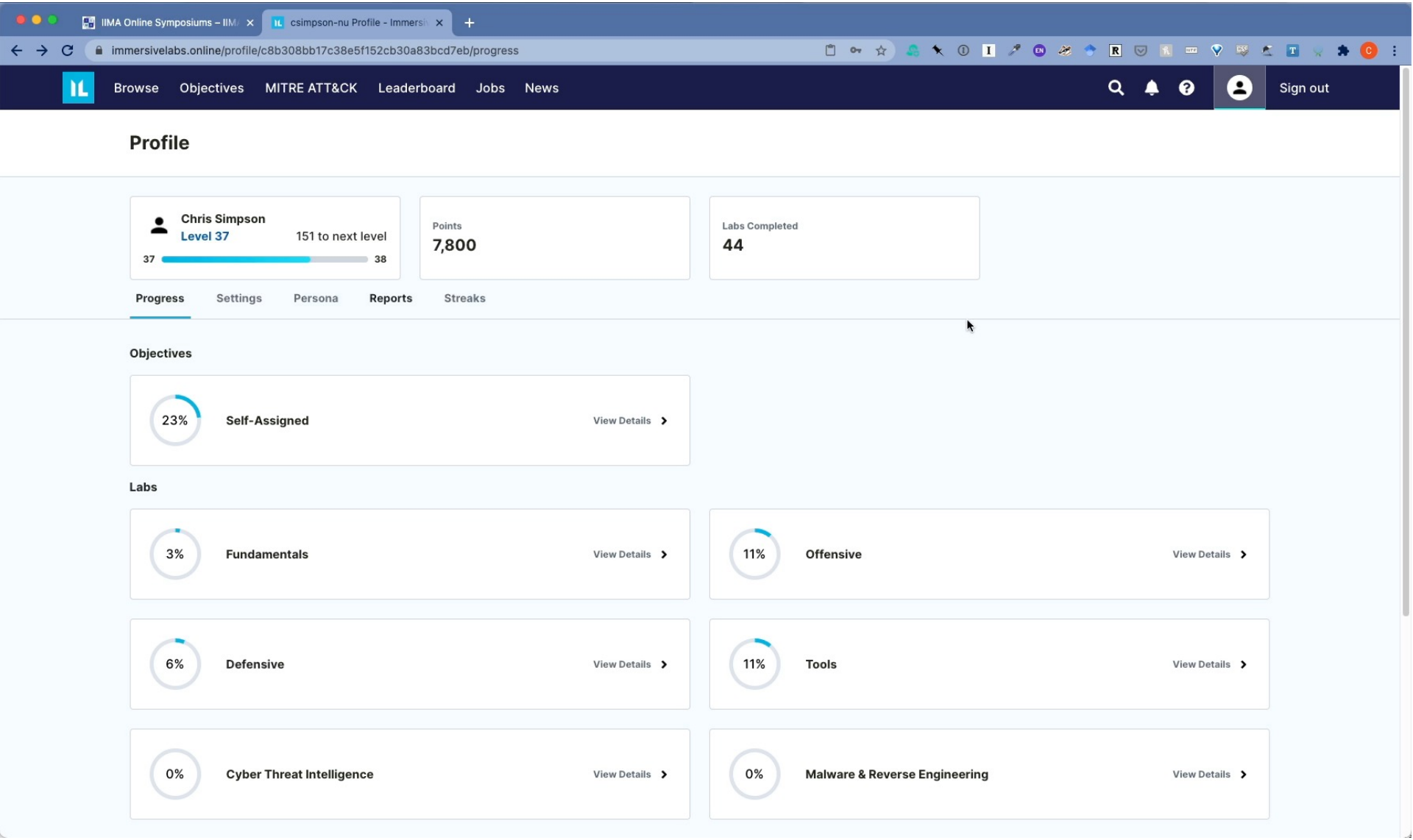
Series | 160 | 2h 33m

Cyber 101

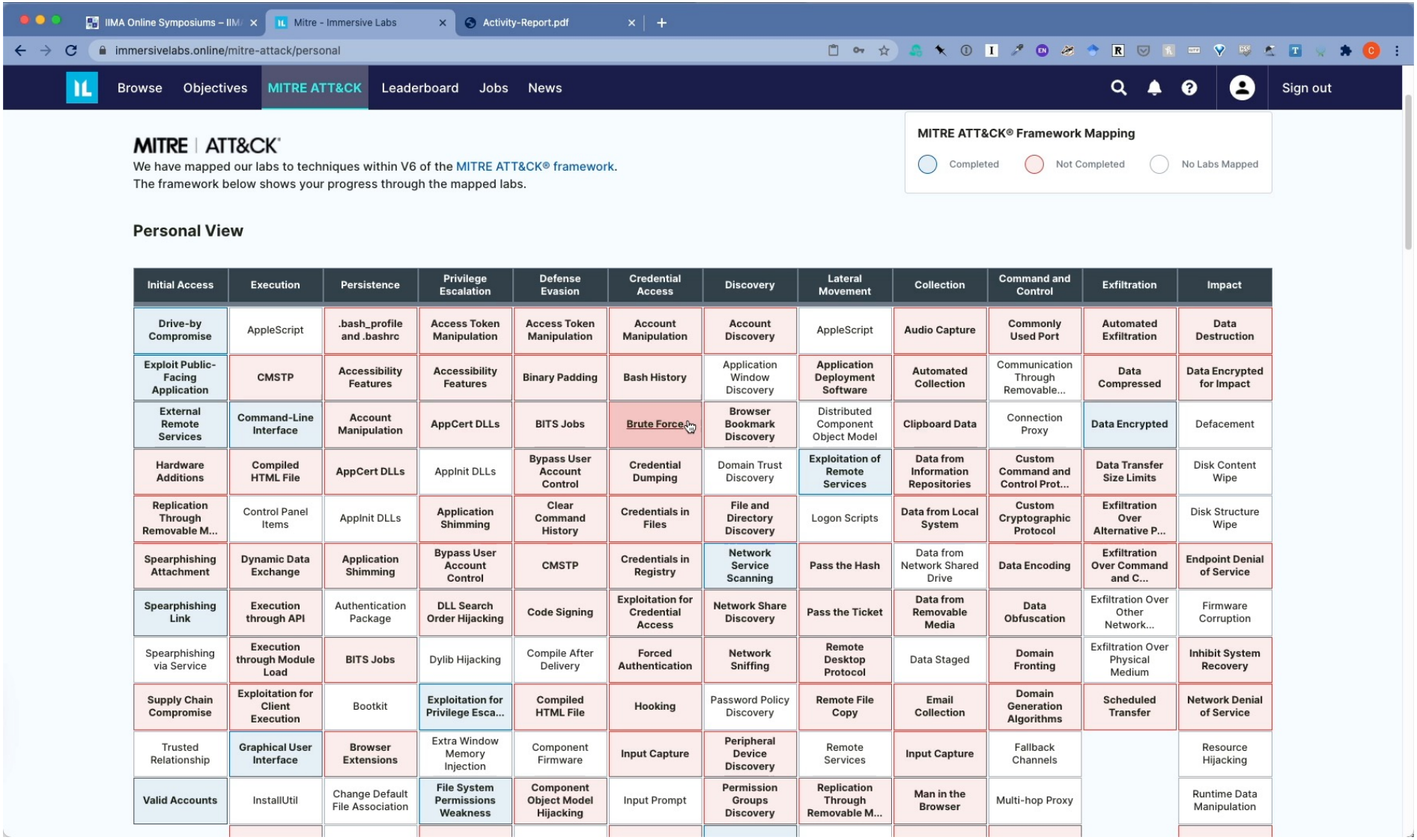
This skill series provides a strong cybersecurity knowledge base to anyone starting out in the industry. We'll take you...



https://immersivelabs.online/browse/category/knowledge/cyber-safety


IIMA Online Symposiums – IIM
csimpson-nu Profile - Immersi
immersivelabs.online/profile/c8b308bb17c38e5f152cb30a83bcd7eb/progress
Browse
Objectives
MITRE ATT&CK
Leaderboard
Jobs
News
Sign out
Profile
Chris Simpson
Level 37
151 to next level
37
38
Points
7,800
Labs Completed
44
Progress
Settings
Persona
Reports
Streaks
Objectives
23%
Self-Assigned
View Details
Labs
3%
Fundamentals
View Details
11%
Offensive
View Details
6%
Defensive
View Details
11%
Tools
View Details
0%
Cyber Threat Intelligence
View Details
0%
Malware & Reverse Engineering
View Details

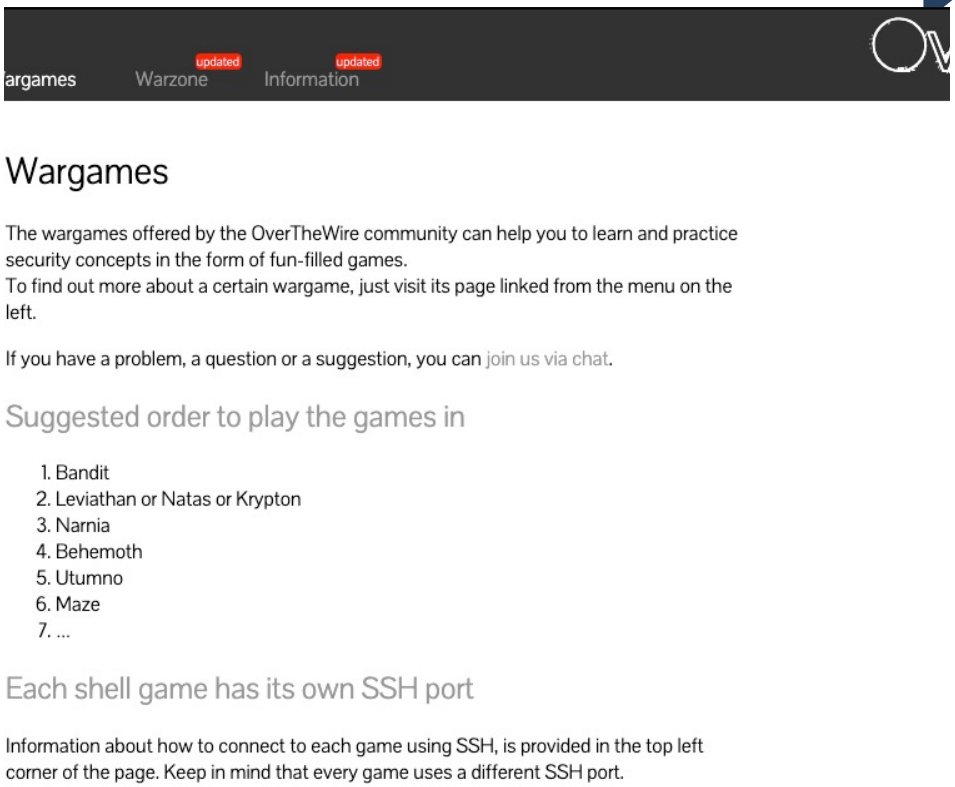
Reporting



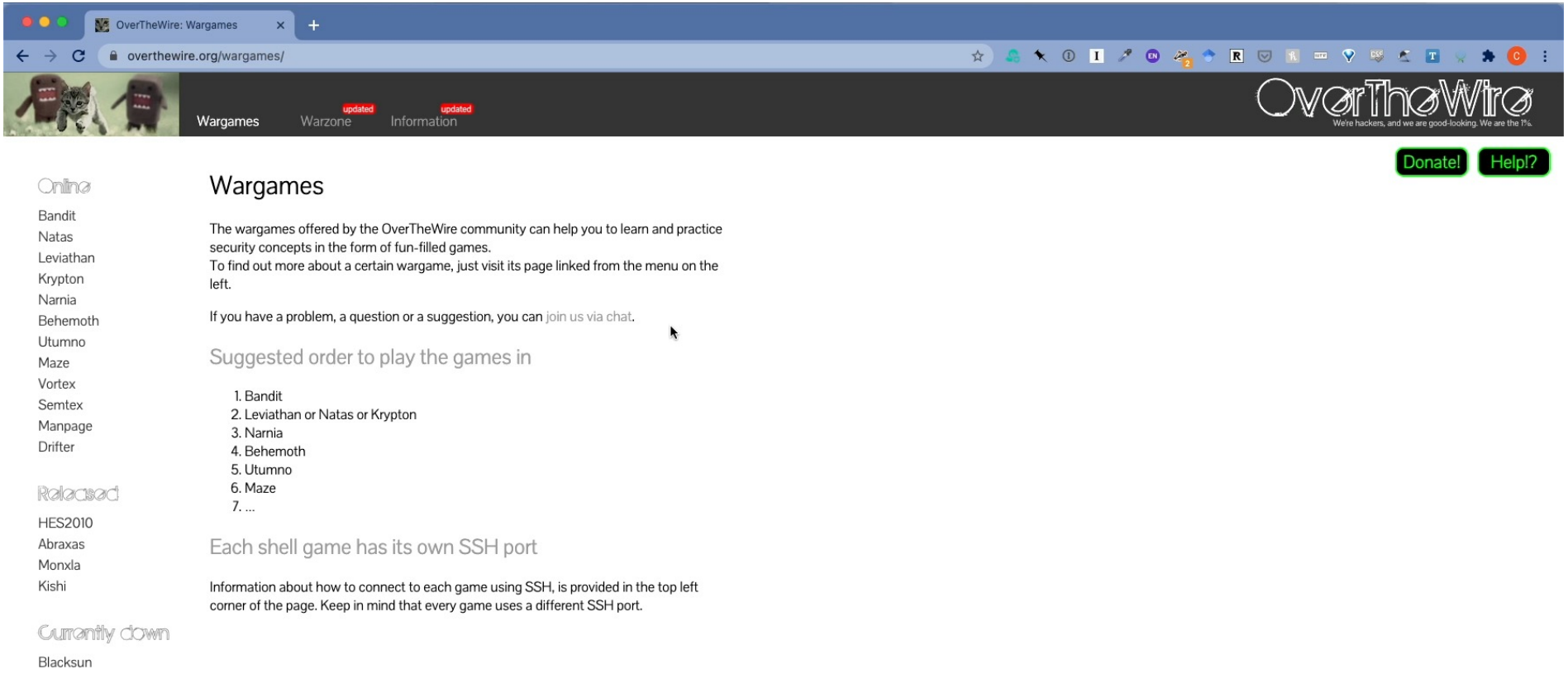
Mapping to Mitre Att&ck

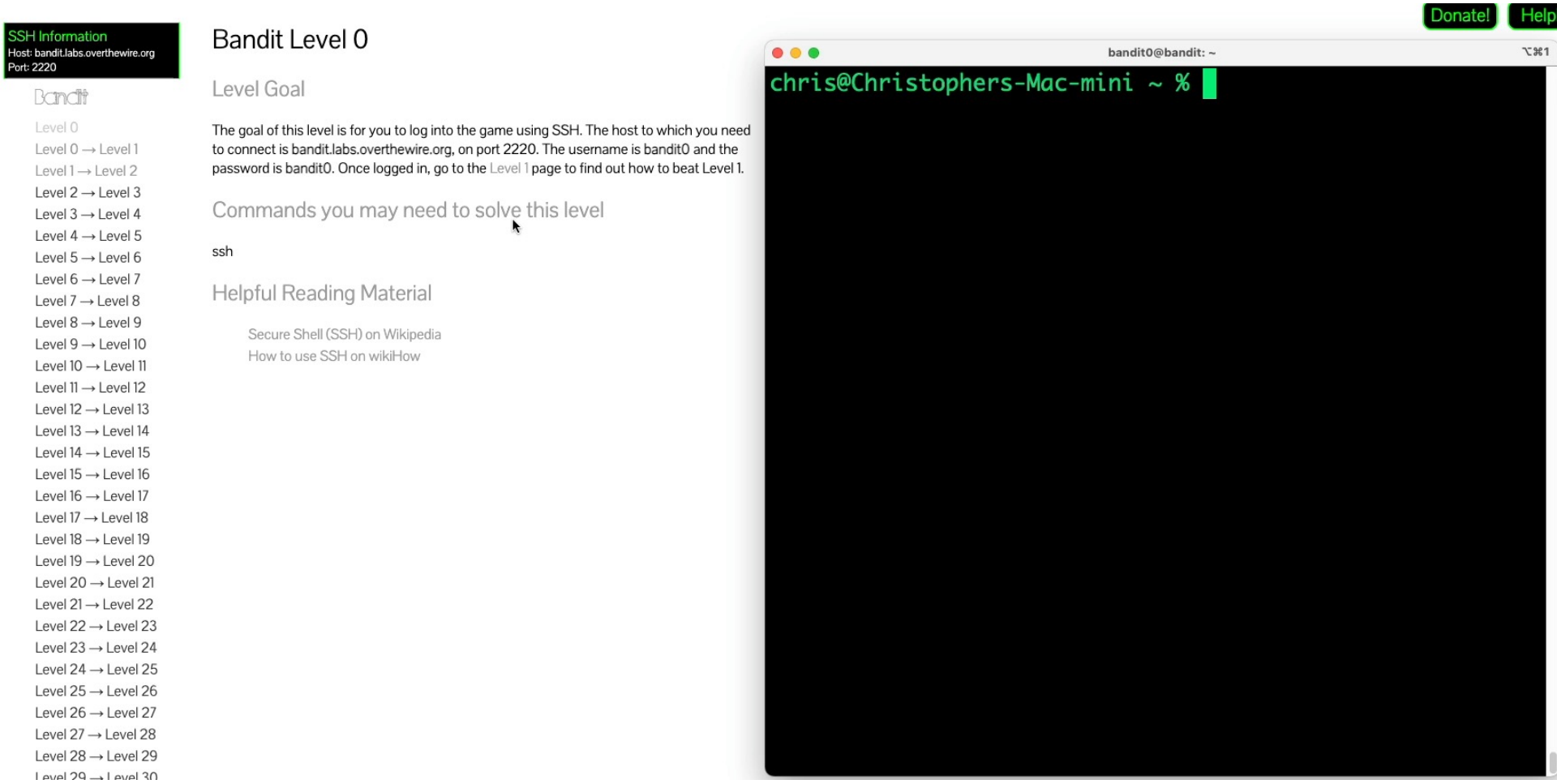
Over the Wire

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



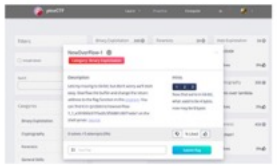
Over the Wire




SSH Information
Host: bandit.labs.overthewire.org
Port: 2220
Bandit
Level 0
Level 0 → Level 1
Level 1 → Level 2
Level 2 → Level 3
Level 3 → Level 4
Level 4 → Level 5
Level 5 → Level 6
Level 6 → Level 7
Level 7 → Level 8
Level 8 → Level 9
Level 9 → Level 10
Level 10 → Level 11
Level 11 → Level 12
Level 12 → Level 13
Level 13 → Level 14
Level 14 → Level 15
Level 15 → Level 16
Level 16 → Level 17
Level 17 → Level 18
Level 18 → Level 19
Level 19 → Level 20
Level 20 → Level 21
Level 21 → Level 22
Level 22 → Level 23
Level 23 → Level 24
Level 24 → Level 25
Level 25 → Level 26
Level 26 → Level 27
Level 27 → Level 28
Level 28 → Level 29
Bandit Level 0
Level Goal
The goal of this level is for you to log into the game using SSH. The host to which you need to connect is bandit.labs.overthewire.org, on port 2220. The username is bandit0 and the password is bandit0. Once logged in, go to the Level 1 page to find out how to beat Level 1.
Commands you may need to solve this level
ssh
Helpful Reading Material
Secure Shell (SSH) on Wikipedia
How to use SSH on wikiHow
Donate!
Help
bandit0@bandit: ~
chris@Christophers-Mac-mini ~ %

Bandit Demo

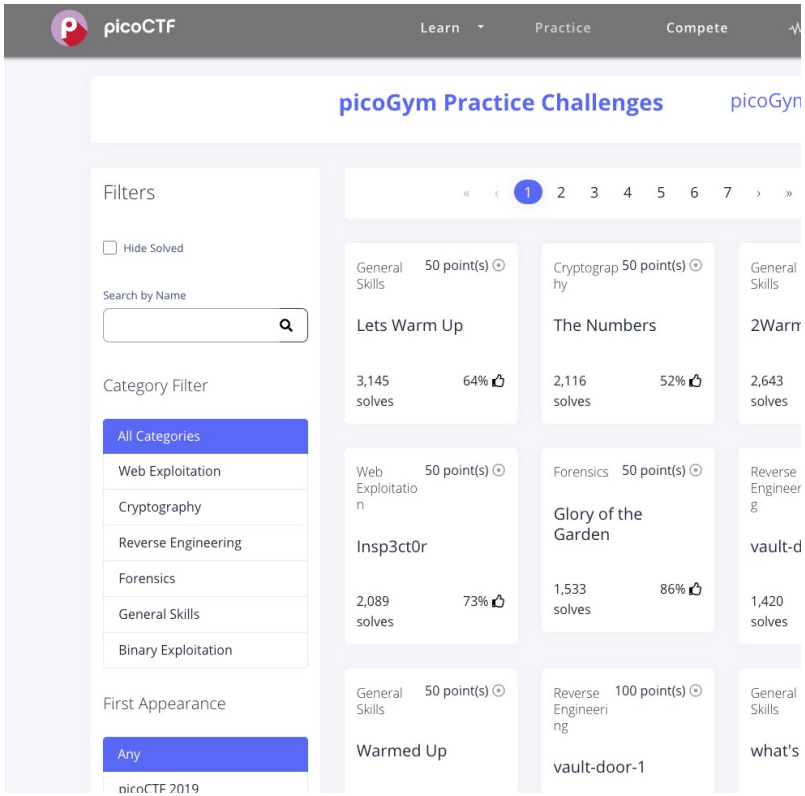
Introducing the picoGym



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.

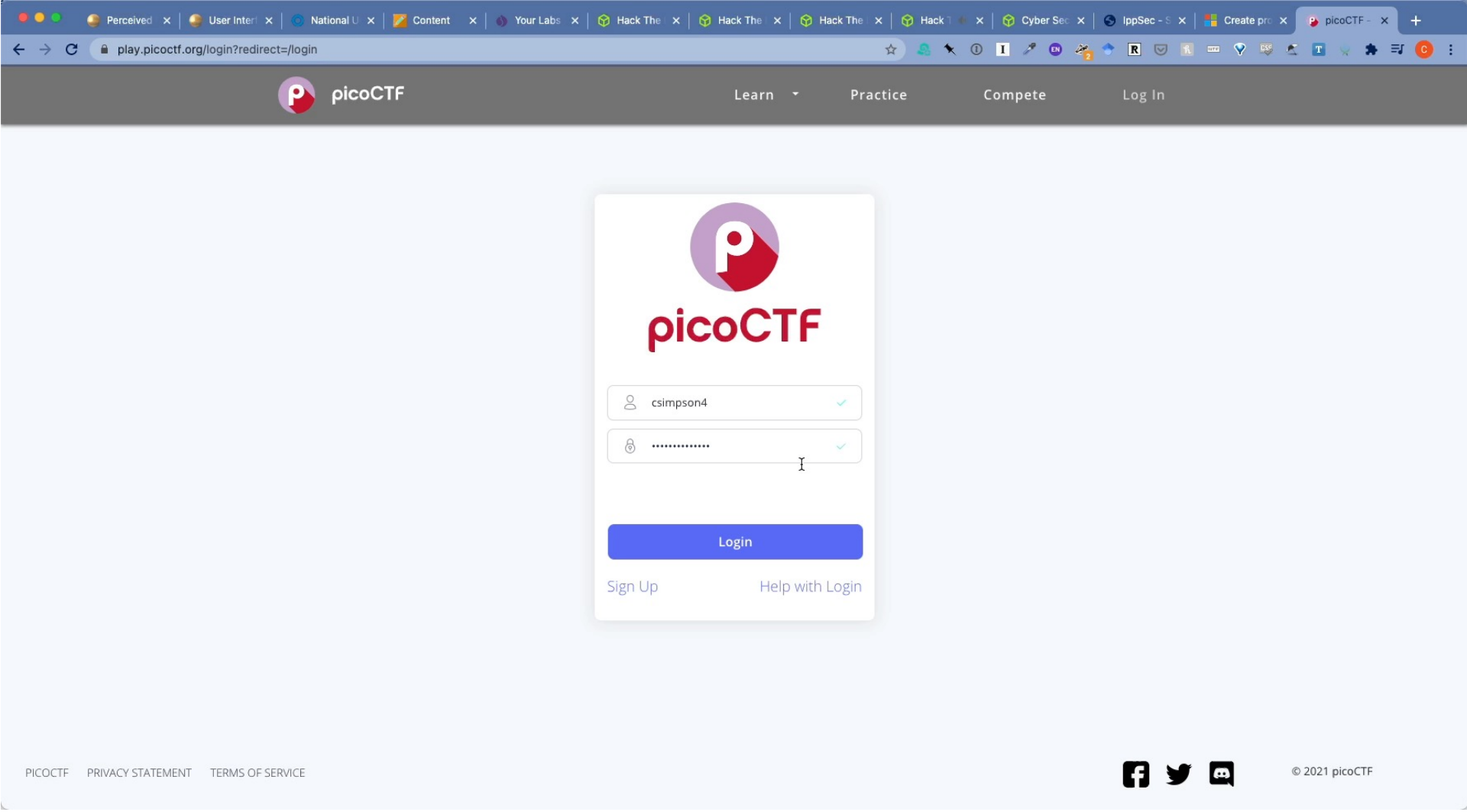
Whether you are a cyber security professional, competitive hacker or new to CTFs you will find interesting challenges in the picoGym that you can solve at your own pace. Team picoCTF will regularly update this challenge repository so visit the picoGym often.

Practice picoGym



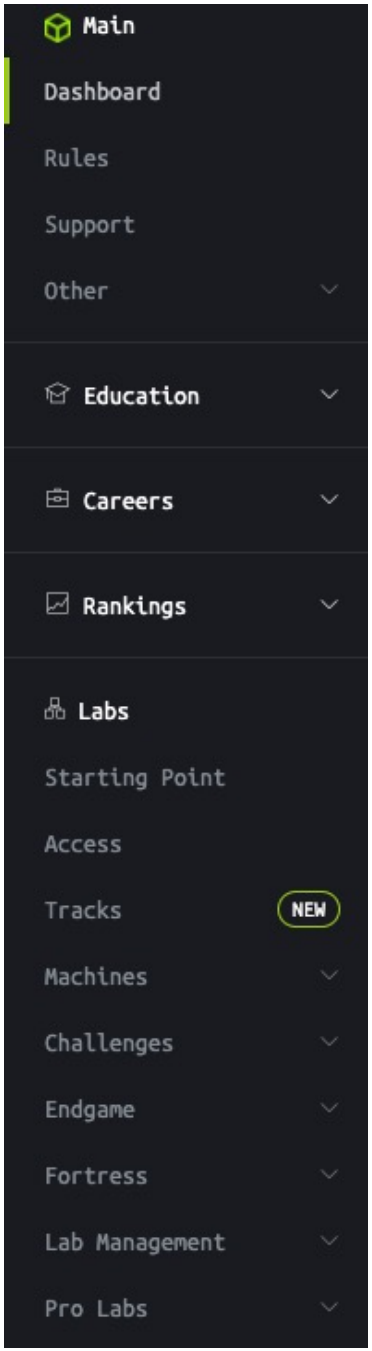
PicoCTF

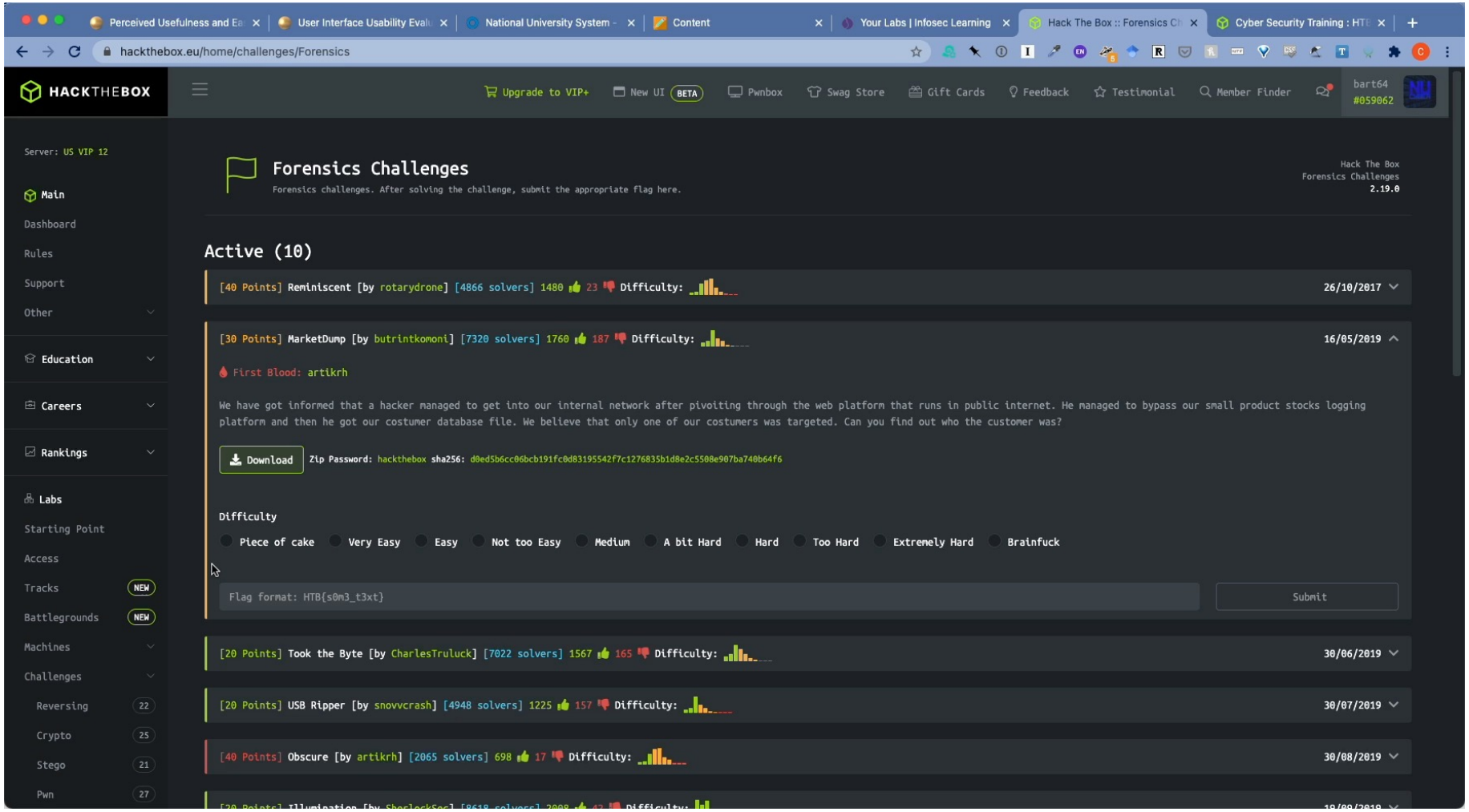
- Designed by Carnegie Mellon
- Designed for high school students
- Great for anyone new to cybersecurity


play.picoctf.org/login?redirect=/login
picoCTF
Learn
Practice
Compete
Log In
picoCTF
csimpson4
Login
Sign Up
Help with Login
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




Perceived Usefulness and Ea
User Interface Usability Evalu
National University System
Content
Your Labs | Infosec Learning
Hack The Box :: Forensics Ch
Cyber Security Training : HTB
hackthebox.eu/home/challenges/Forensics
HACKTHEBOX
Upgrade to VIP+
New UI BETA
Pwnbox
Swag Store
Gift Cards
Feedback
Testimonial
Member Finder
bart64
#059062
Server: US VIP 12
Main
Dashboard
Rules
Support
Other
Education
Careers
Rankings
Labs
Starting Point
Access
Tracks NEW
Battlegrounds NEW
Machines
Challenges
Reversing 22
Crypto 25
Stego 21
Pwn 27
Forensics Challenges
Forensics challenges. After solving the challenge, submit the appropriate flag here.
Hack The Box
Forensics Challenges
2.19.0
Active (10)
[40 Points] Reminiscent [by rotarydrone] [4866 solvers] 1480 23 Difficulty:
26/10/2017
[30 Points] MarketDump [by butrintkomoni] [7320 solvers] 1760 187 Difficulty:
16/05/2019
First Blood: artikrh
We have got informed that a hacker managed to get into our internal network after pivoiting through the web platform that runs in public internet. He managed to bypass our small product stocks logging platform and then he got our costumer database file. We believe that only one of our costumers was targeted. Can you find out who the customer was?
Download
Zip Password: hackthebox sha256: d0ed5b6cc06bcb191fc0d83195542f7c1276835b1d8e2c5508e907ba740b64f6
Difficulty
Piece of cake
Very Easy
Easy
Not too Easy
Medium
A bit Hard
Hard
Too Hard
Extremely Hard
Brainfuck
Flag format: HTB{s0m3_t3xt}
Submit
[20 Points] Took the Byte [by CharlesTruluck] [7022 solvers] 1567 165 Difficulty:
30/06/2019
[20 Points] USB Ripper [by snovvcrash] [4948 solvers] 1225 157 Difficulty:
30/07/2019
[40 Points] Obscure [by artikrh] [2065 solvers] 698 17 Difficulty:
30/08/2019

BATTLE LOBBY | CYBER MAYHEM | SERVER SIEGE | LAST TOURNAMENT RANKINGS

ATTACK/DEFENSE

Cyber Mayhem

HOW TO PLAY

0 PLAYING | 1 IN QUEUE

KING OF THE HILL

Server Siege

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

COMING SOON!

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Introduction to Battlegrounds

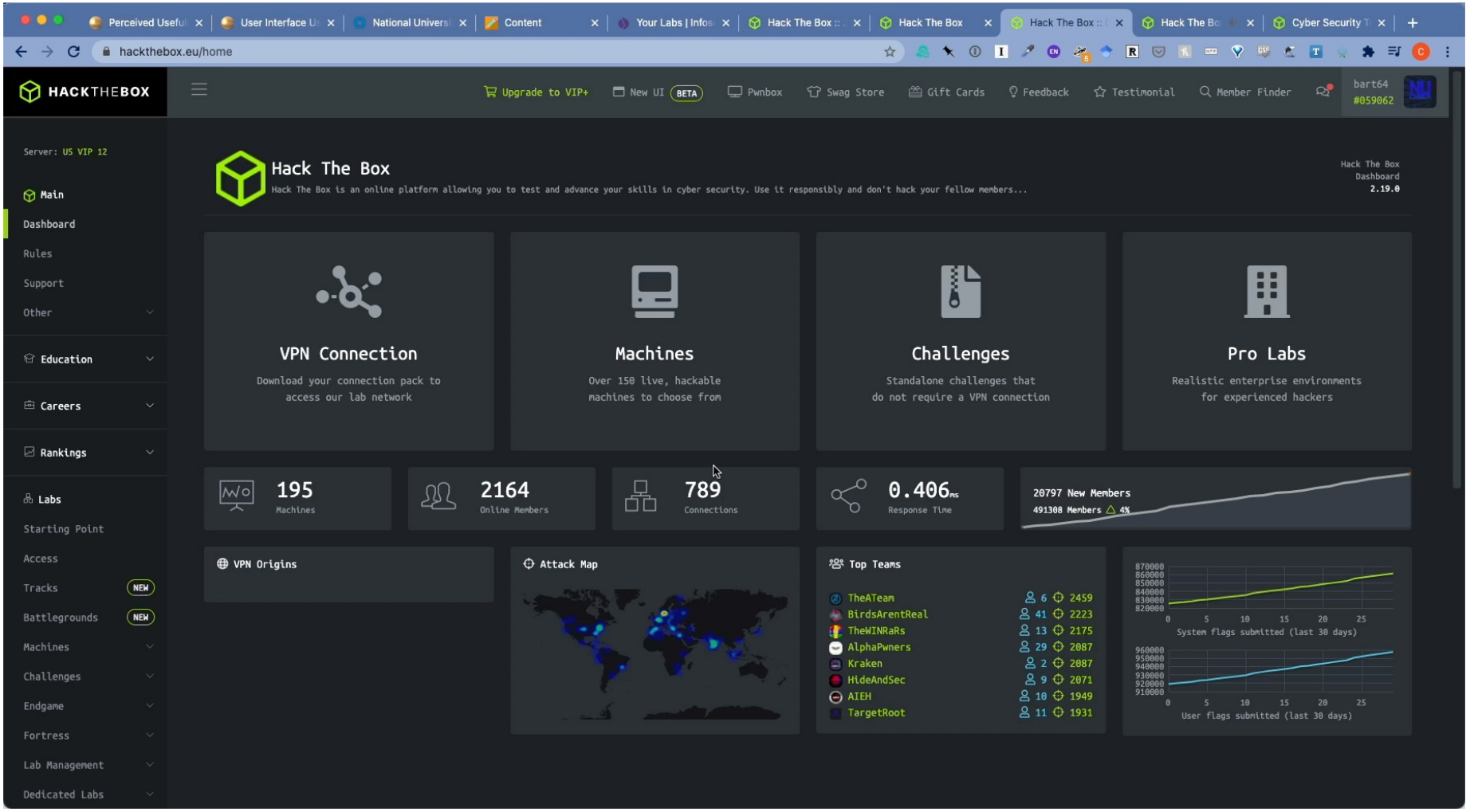
Everything you need to know to thrive in Battlegrounds.

LEARN MORE

BATTLEGROUNDS PARTY

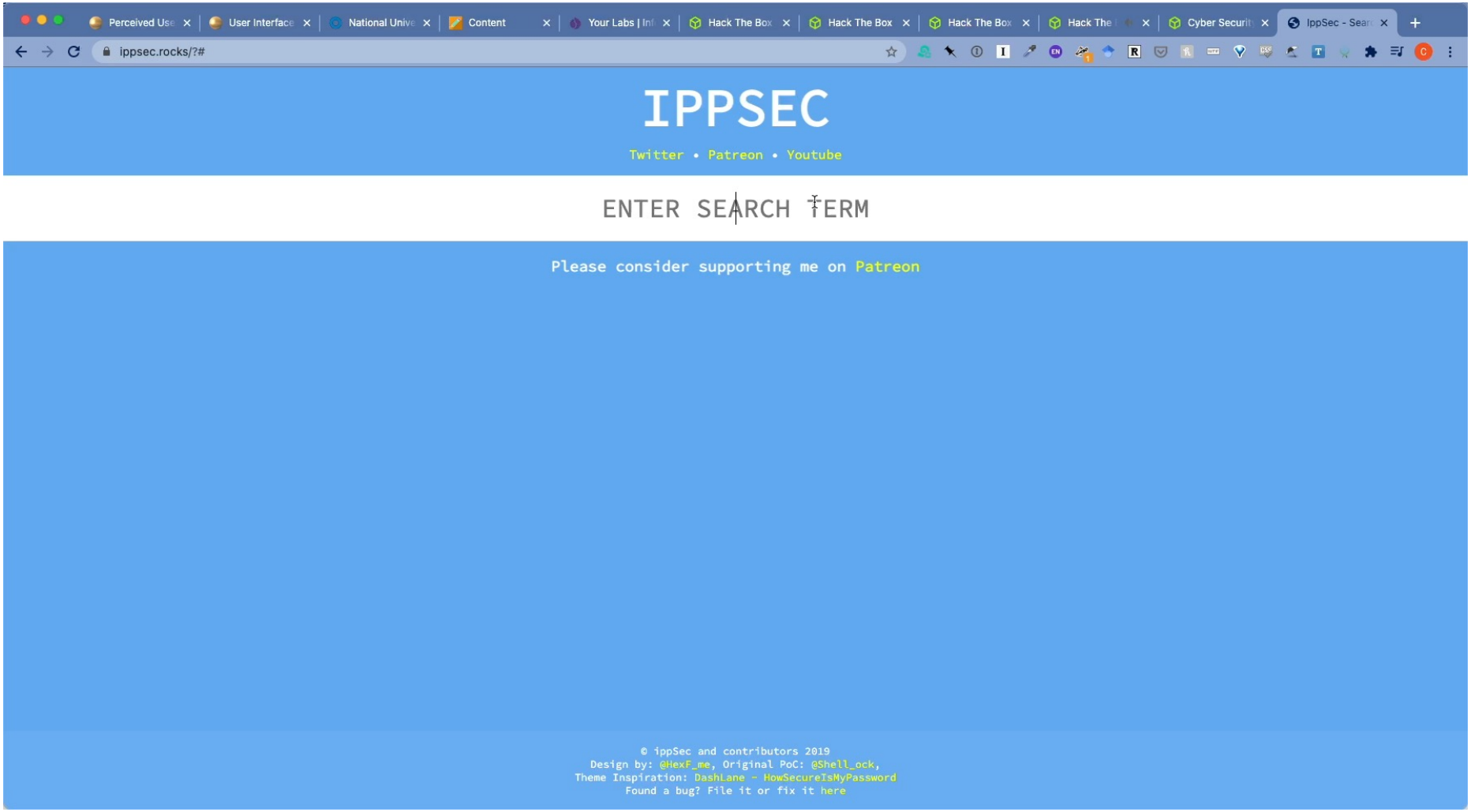
5 GAMES LEFT THIS MONTH

PLAY BATTLEGROUNDS


Perceived Useful
User Interface Us
National Universi
Content
Your Labs | Infos
Hack The Box ::
Hack The Box
Hack The Box ::
Hack The Bo
Cyber Security T
hackthebox.eu/home
HACKTHEBOX
Upgrade to VIP+
New UI
BETA
Pwnbox
Swag Store
Gift Cards
Feedback
Testimonial
Member Finder
bart64
#059062
Server: US VIP 12
Main
Dashboard
Rules
Support
Other
Education
Careers
Rankings
Labs
Starting Point
Access
Tracks
NEW
Battlegrounds
NEW
Machines
Challenges
Endgame
Fortress
Lab Management
Dedicated Labs
Hack The Box
Hack The Box is an online platform allowing you to test and advance your skills in cyber security. Use it responsibly and don't hack your fellow members...
Hack The Box
Dashboard
2.19.0
VPN Connection
Download your connection pack to
access our lab network
Machines
Over 150 live, hackable
machines to choose from
Challenges
Standalone challenges that
do not require a VPN connection
Pro Labs
Realistic enterprise environments
for experienced hackers
195
Machines
2164
Online Members
789
Connections
0.406ms
Response Time
20797 New Members
491308 Members △ 4%
VPN Origins
Attack Map
Top Teams
TheATeam 6 2459
BirdsArentReal 41 2223
TheWINRaRs 13 2175
AlphaPwners 29 2087
Kraken 2 2087
HideAndSec 9 2071
AIEH 10 1949
TargetRoot 11 1931
System flags submitted (last 30 days)
User flags submitted (last 30 days)

Videos and Tutorials

- Twitch.TV
  - https://www.twitch.tv/r00k_infosec/
- YouTube - Ippsec
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa6eh7gCkpPo5XXUDfygQQA


Perceived Use
User Interface
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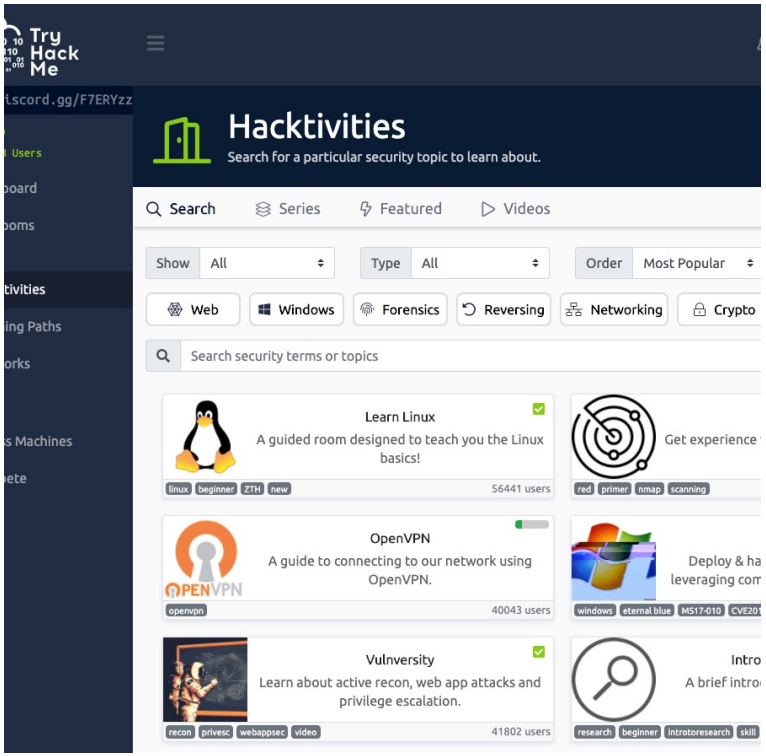
Content
Your Labs | Inf
Hack The Box
Hack The Box
Hack The Box
Hack The
Cyber Securit
IppSec - Sear
ippsec.rocks/?#
IPPSEC
Twitter • Patreon • Youtube
ENTER SEARCH TERM
Please consider supporting me on Patreon
© ippSec and contributors 2019
Design by: @HexF_me, Original PoC: @Shell_ock,
Theme Inspiration: DashLane - HowSecureIsMyPassword
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 Recon

Scan and learn what exploit this machine is vulnerable to. Please note that this machine does not respond to ping (ICMP) and may take a few minutes to boot up. This room is not meant to be a boot2root CTF, rather, this is an educational series for complete beginners. Professionals will likely get very little out of this room beyond basic practice as the process here is meant to be beginner-focused.

Deploy

Art by one of our members, Varg - THM Profile - Instagram - Blue Merch

#1 Scan the machine. (If you are unsure how to tackle this, I recommend checking out the room RP: Nmap)

No answer needed | Completed | Hint

#2 How many ports are open with a port number under 1000?

Answer format: * | Submit | Hint

#3 What is this machine vulnerable to? (Answer in the form of: ms??-???, ex: ms08-067)

Answer format: ******** | Submit | Hint

Task 2 Gain Access

Task 3 Escalate

Task 4 Cracking

Task 5 Find flags!

TryHackMe

Try Hack Me

Dashboard | Learn | Compete | Develop | Other

0

Hacktivities

Find a security topic to learn about.

378
Public Rooms

Overview | All Rooms | Series

Learning Paths

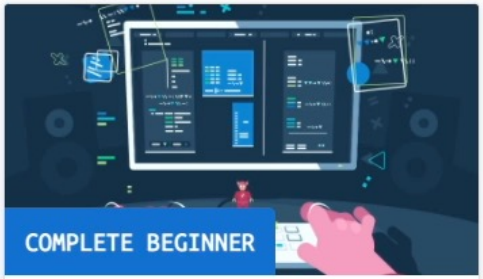
Work your way through a structured learning path

CYBER DEFENSE

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 | 38 Rooms



COMPLETE BEGINNER

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

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

64 Hours | 31 Rooms

OFFENSIVE PENTESTING

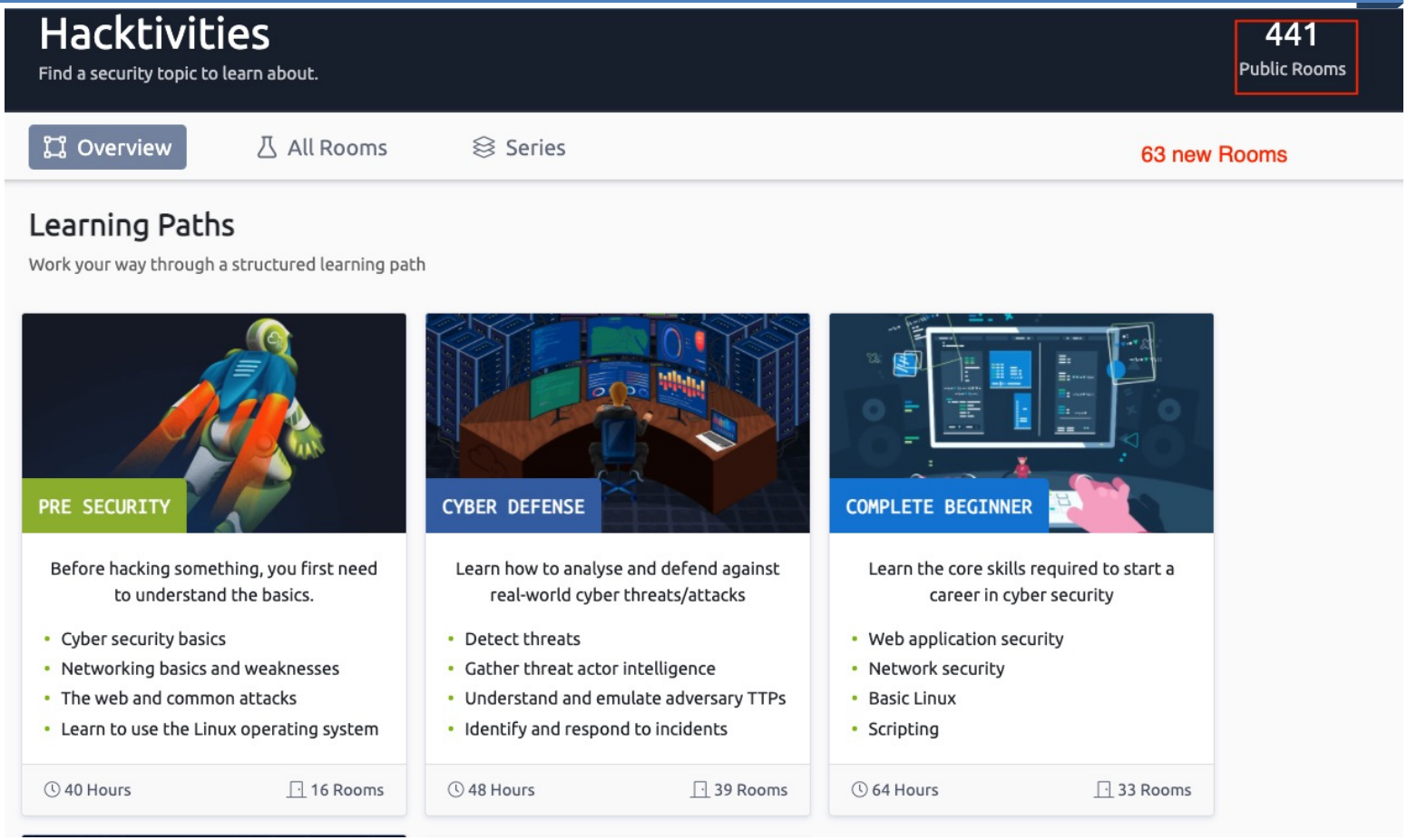
Prepare yourself for real world penetration testing:

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

47 Hours | 25 Rooms

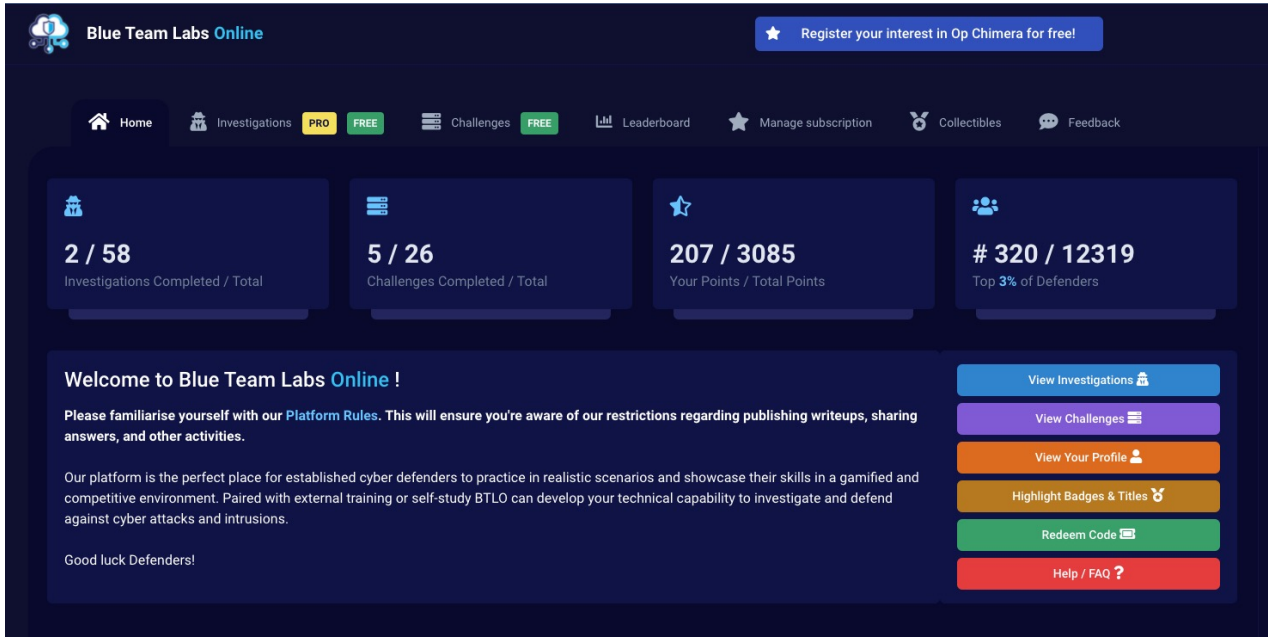
https://tryhackme.com/path-action/beginner/join

Pre Security



Blue Team Labs (Hack the Box for Blue Teams)

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



Blue Team Labs Online

Register your i

Home | Investigations PRO FREE | Challenges FREE | 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

Start Investigation

Points 50 | Difficulty Medium | Solves 91 | OS Linux

First-Blood

Created By

Scenario

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

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

What is the process that has been called by the

Format: processname.extension

Knowing the payload name and process name,

msfvenom Payload Type

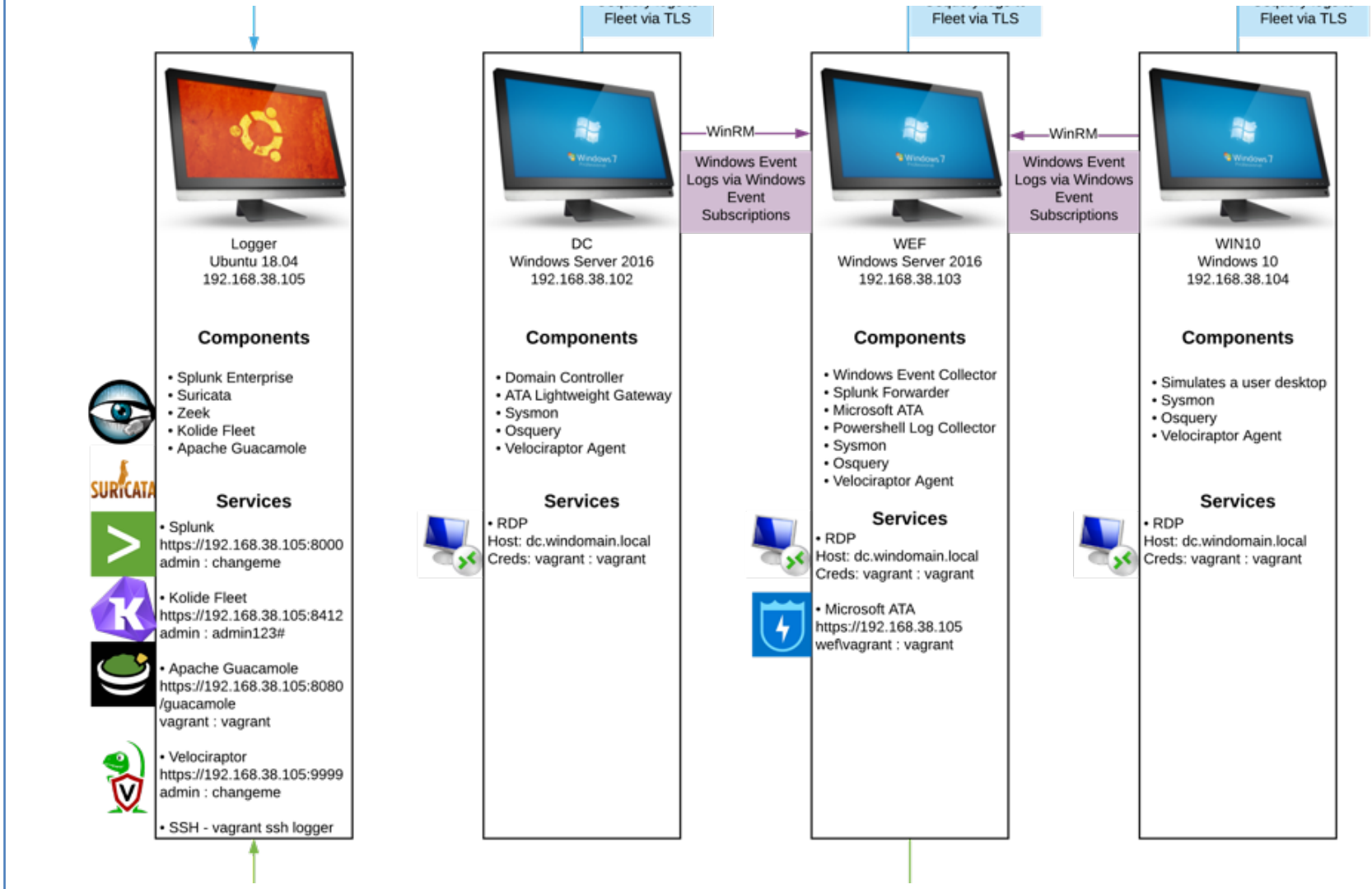
Blue Team Labs

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.network/


Fleet via TLS
Fleet via TLS
Fleet via TLS
WinRM
Windows Event Logs via Windows Event Subscriptions
WinRM
Windows Event Logs via Windows Event Subscriptions
Logger
Ubuntu 18.04
192.168.38.105
Components
• Splunk Enterprise
• Suricata
• Zeek
• Kolide Fleet
• Apache Guacamole
Services
• Splunk
https://192.168.38.105:8000
admin : changeme
• Kolide Fleet
https://192.168.38.105:8412
admin : admin123#
• Apache Guacamole
https://192.168.38.105:8080
/guacamole
vagrant : vagrant
• Velociraptor
https://192.168.38.105:9999
admin : changeme
• SSH - vagrant ssh logger
DC
Windows Server 2016
192.168.38.102
Components
• Domain Controller
• ATA Lightweight Gateway
• Sysmon
• Osquery
• Velociraptor Agent
Services
• RDP
Host: dc.windomain.local
Creds: vagrant : vagrant
WEF
Windows Server 2016
192.168.38.103
Components
• Windows Event Collector
• Splunk Forwarder
• Microsoft ATA
• Powershell Log Collector
• Sysmon
• Osquery
• Velociraptor Agent
Services
• RDP
Host: dc.windomain.local
Creds: vagrant : vagrant
• Microsoft ATA
https://192.168.38.105
wef\vagrant : vagrant
WIN10
Windows 10
192.168.38.104
Components
• Simulates a user desktop
• Sysmon
• Osquery
• Velociraptor Agent
Services
• RDP
Host: dc.windomain.local
Creds: vagrant : vagrant

Project Mordor

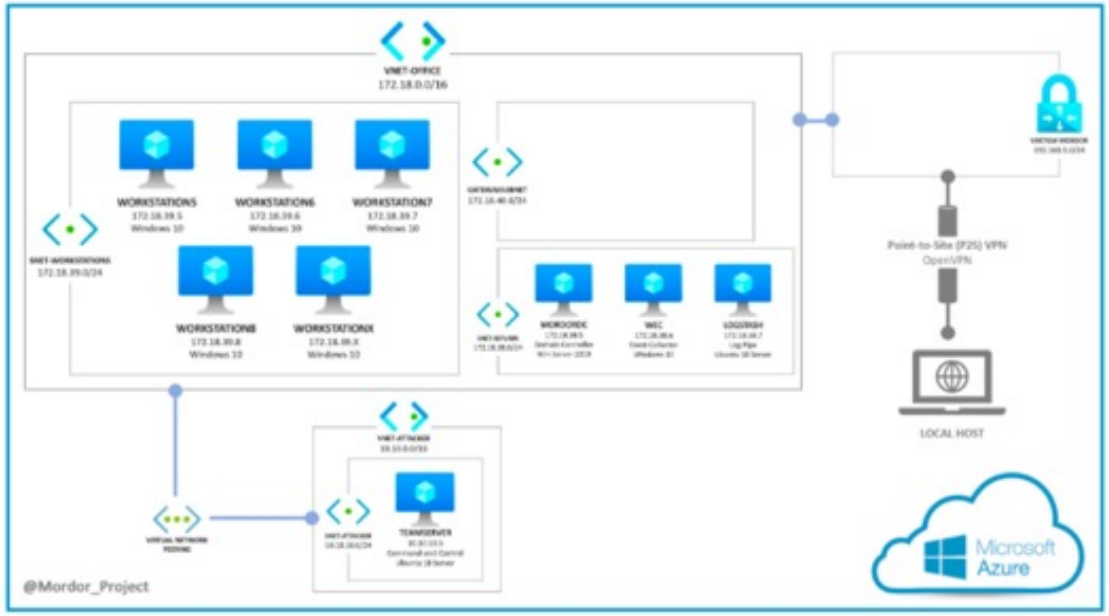
- The Mordor project provides pre-recorded security events generated by simulated adversarial techniques in the form of JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) files for easy consumption.
- The pre-recorded data is categorized by platforms, adversary groups, tactics and techniques defined by the Mitre ATT&CK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

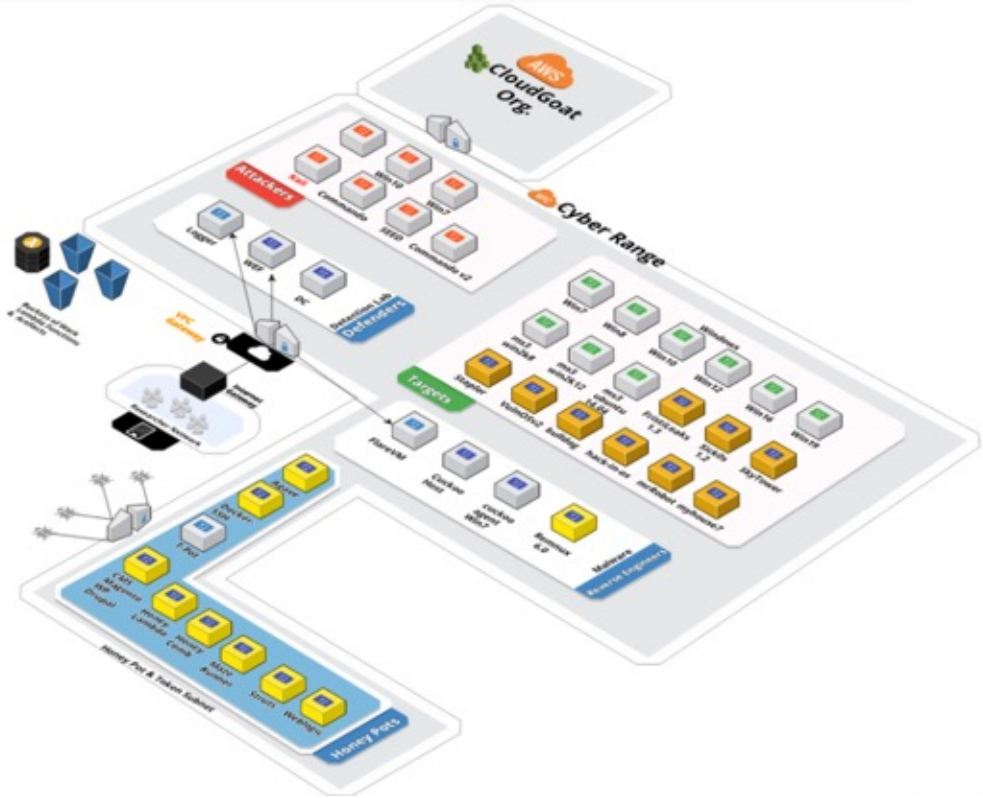
Template for Azure deployment

Project Mordor

Deploy to Azure | Visualize

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

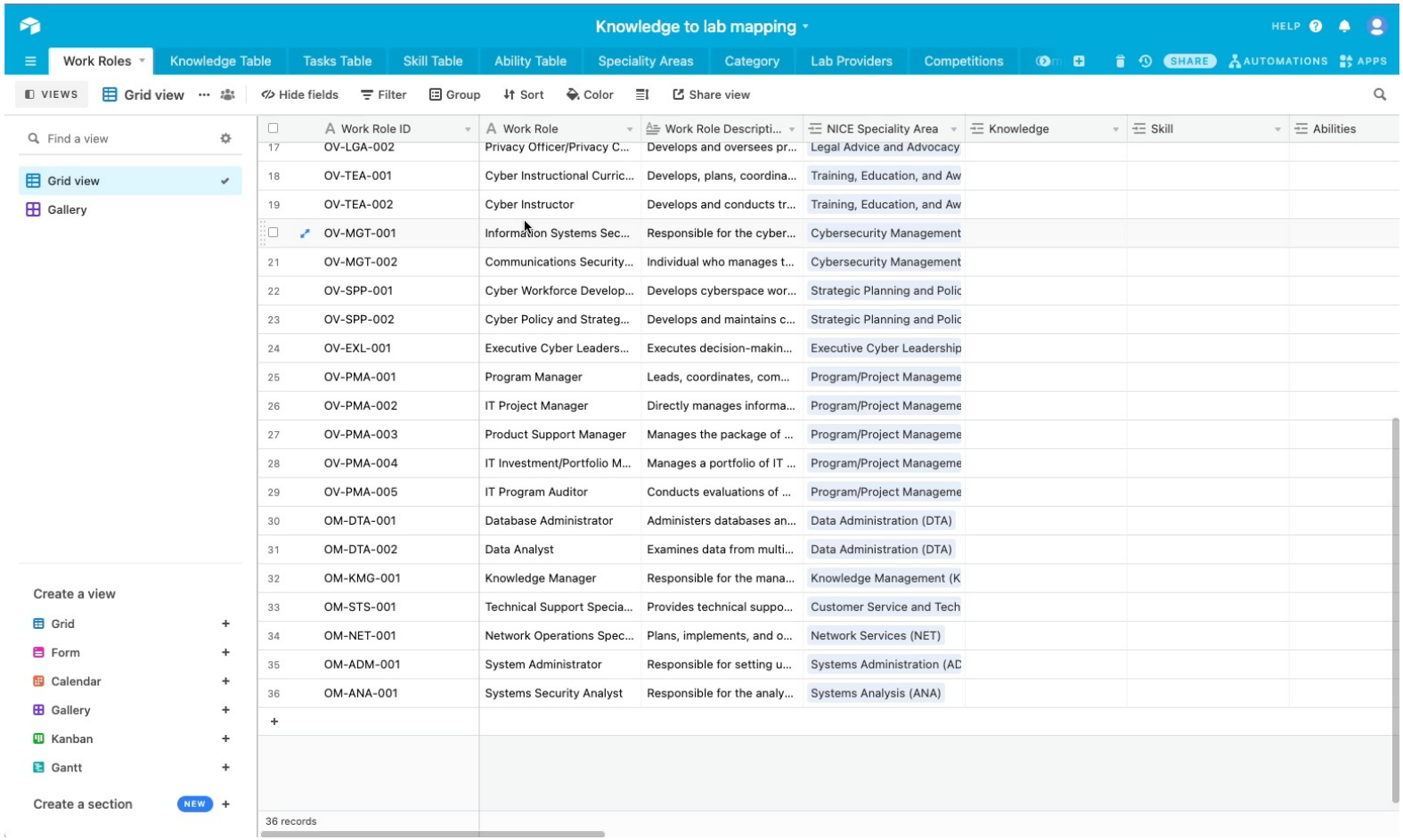
Mapping Labs To Objectives

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

Student project mapping TryHackMe

Using AirTable

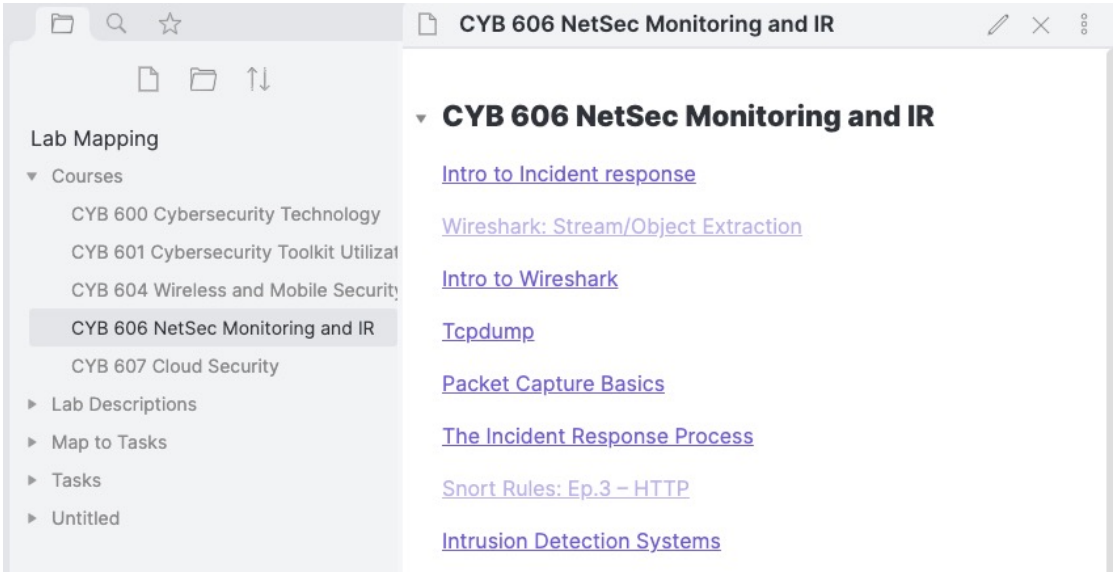
Airtable Demo




How do we share?

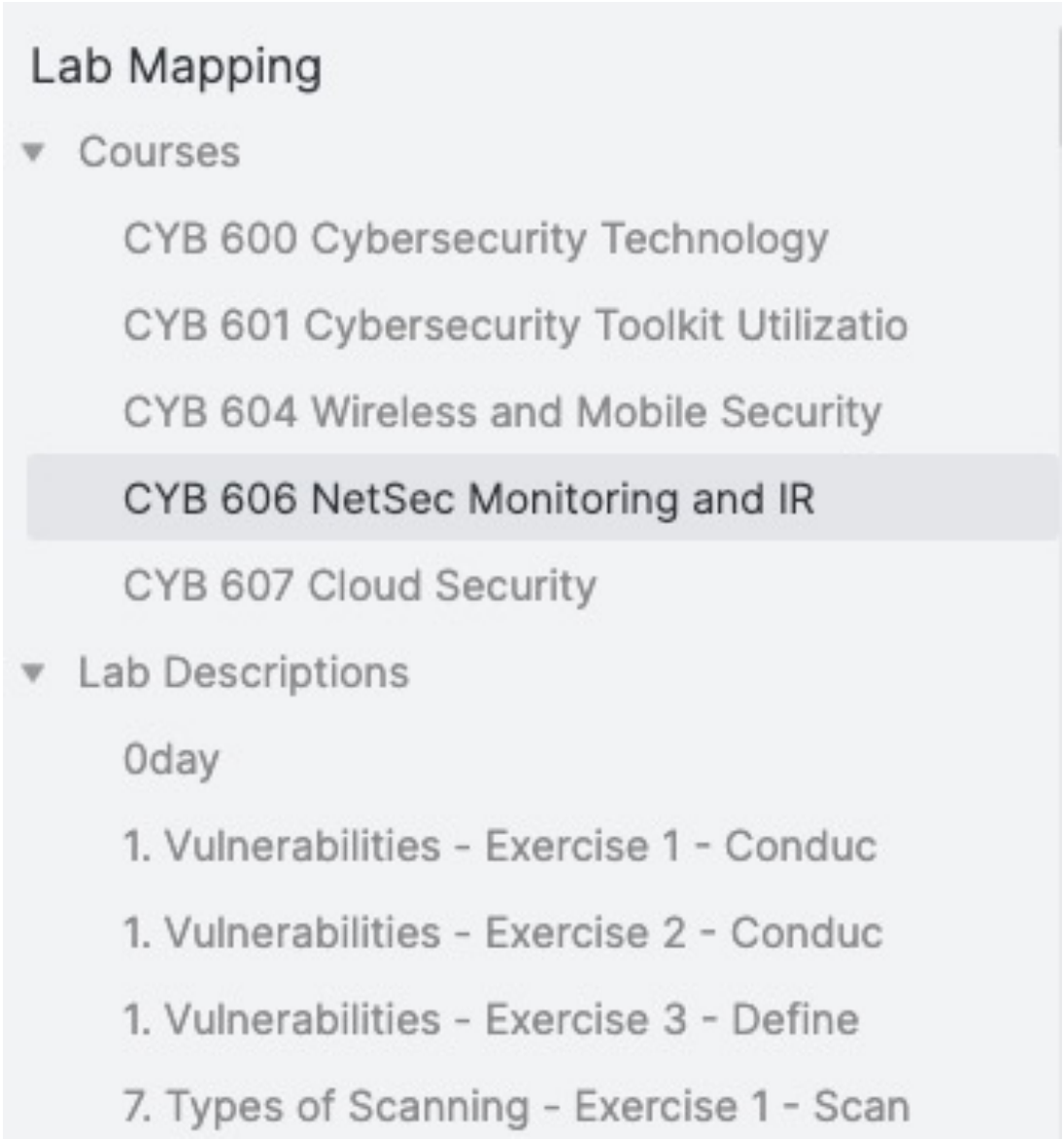
Obsidian

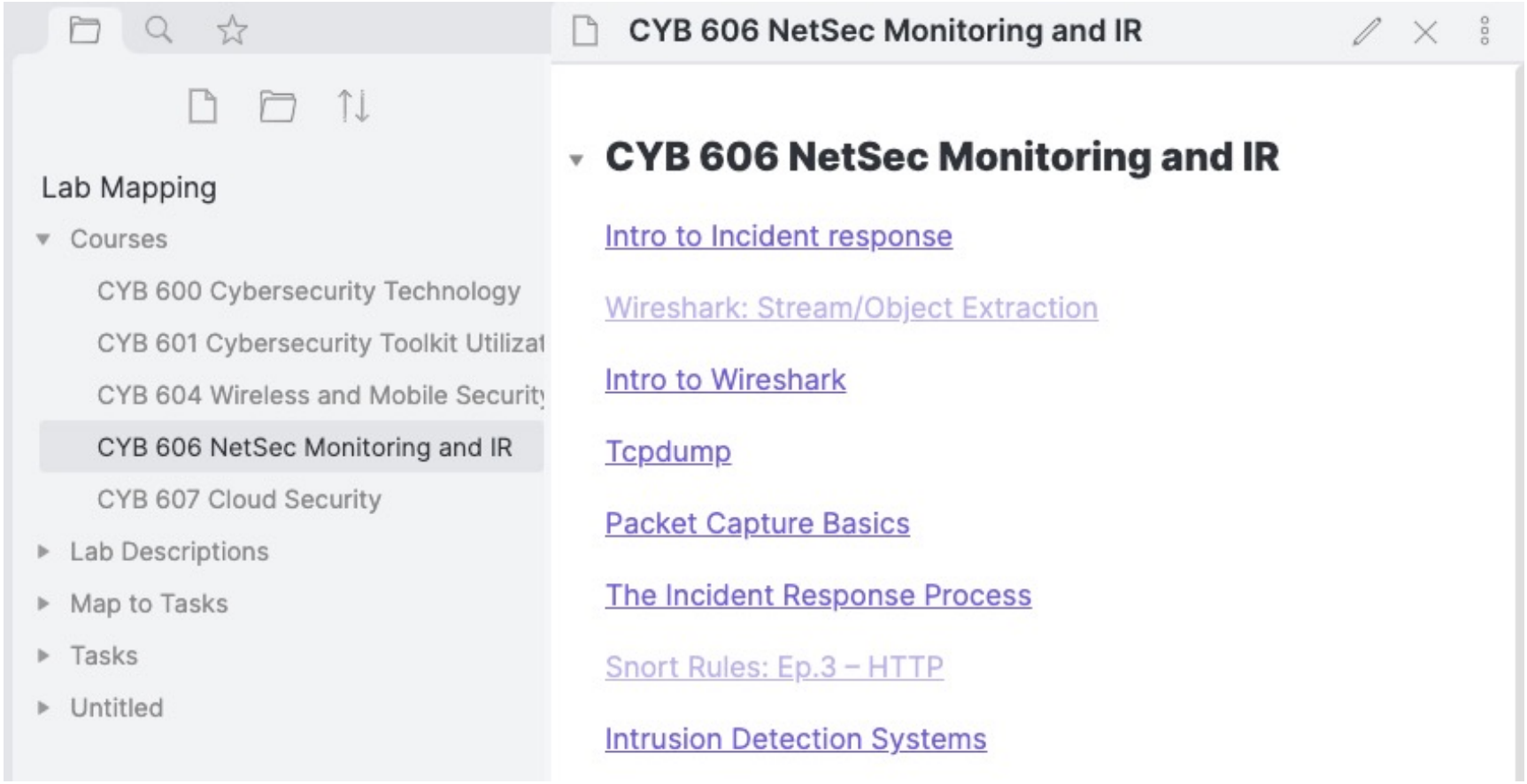
- Multi platform notetaking app with wiki like capability
- Based on Markdown



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


CYB 606 NetSec Monitoring and IR
Lab Mapping
Courses
CYB 600 Cybersecurity Technology
CYB 601 Cybersecurity Toolkit Utilizat
CYB 604 Wireless and Mobile Security
CYB 606 NetSec Monitoring and IR
CYB 607 Cloud Security
Lab Descriptions
Map to Tasks
Tasks
Untitled
CYB 606 NetSec Monitoring and IR
Intro to Incident response
Wireshark: Stream/Object Extraction
Intro to Wireshark
Tcpdump
Packet Capture Basics
The Incident Response Process
Snort Rules: Ep.3 – HTTP
Intrusion Detection Systems

Course Page

Active Directory Basics

VIP

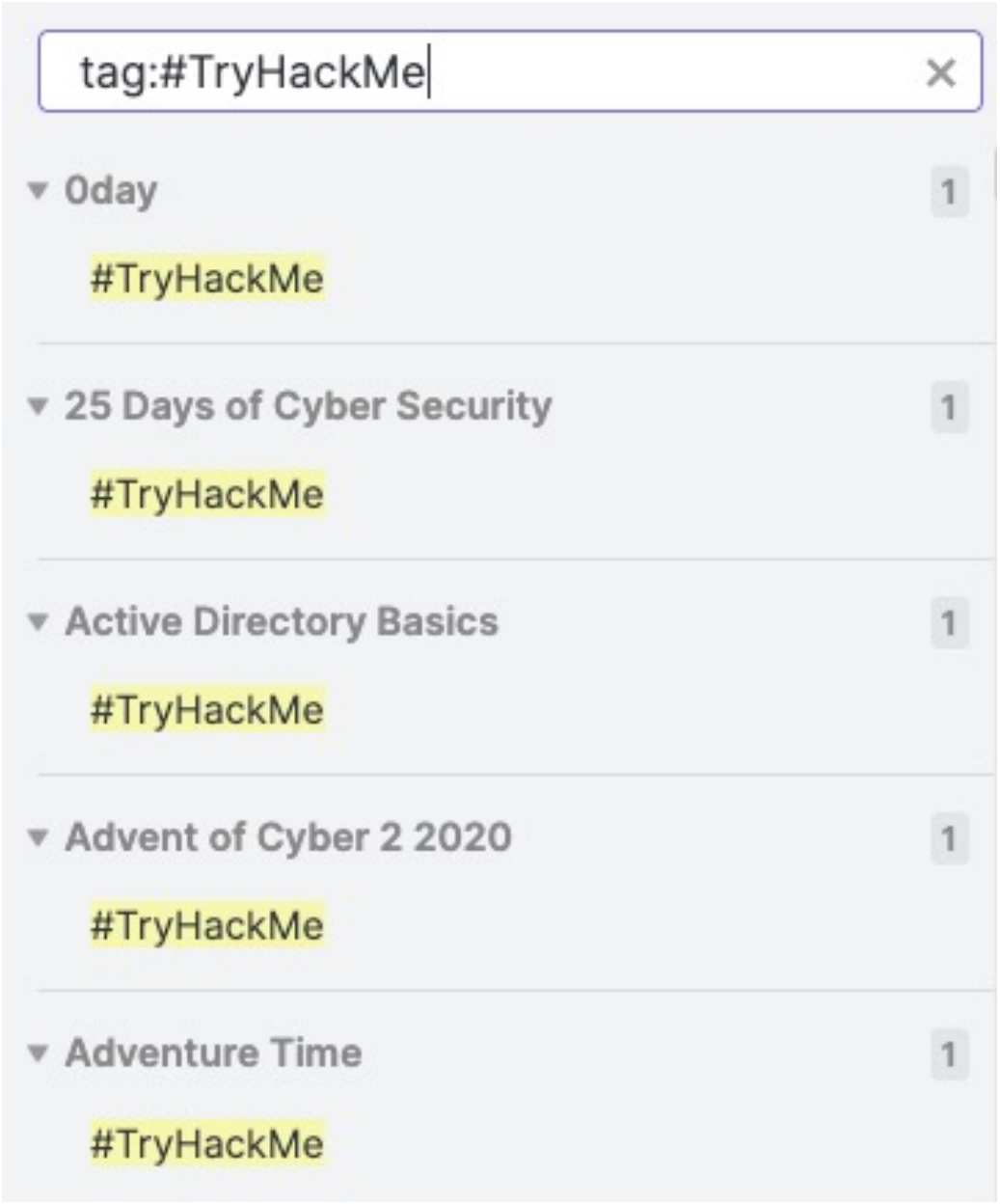
Learn the basics of Active Directory and how it is used in the real world today.

Easy

#TryHackMe

Lab Page

Tags


tag:#TryHackMe
0day
1
#TryHackMe
25 Days of Cyber Security
1
#TryHackMe
Active Directory Basics
1
#TryHackMe
Advent of Cyber 2 2020
1
#TryHackMe
Adventure Time
1
#TryHackMe

Bash Scripting

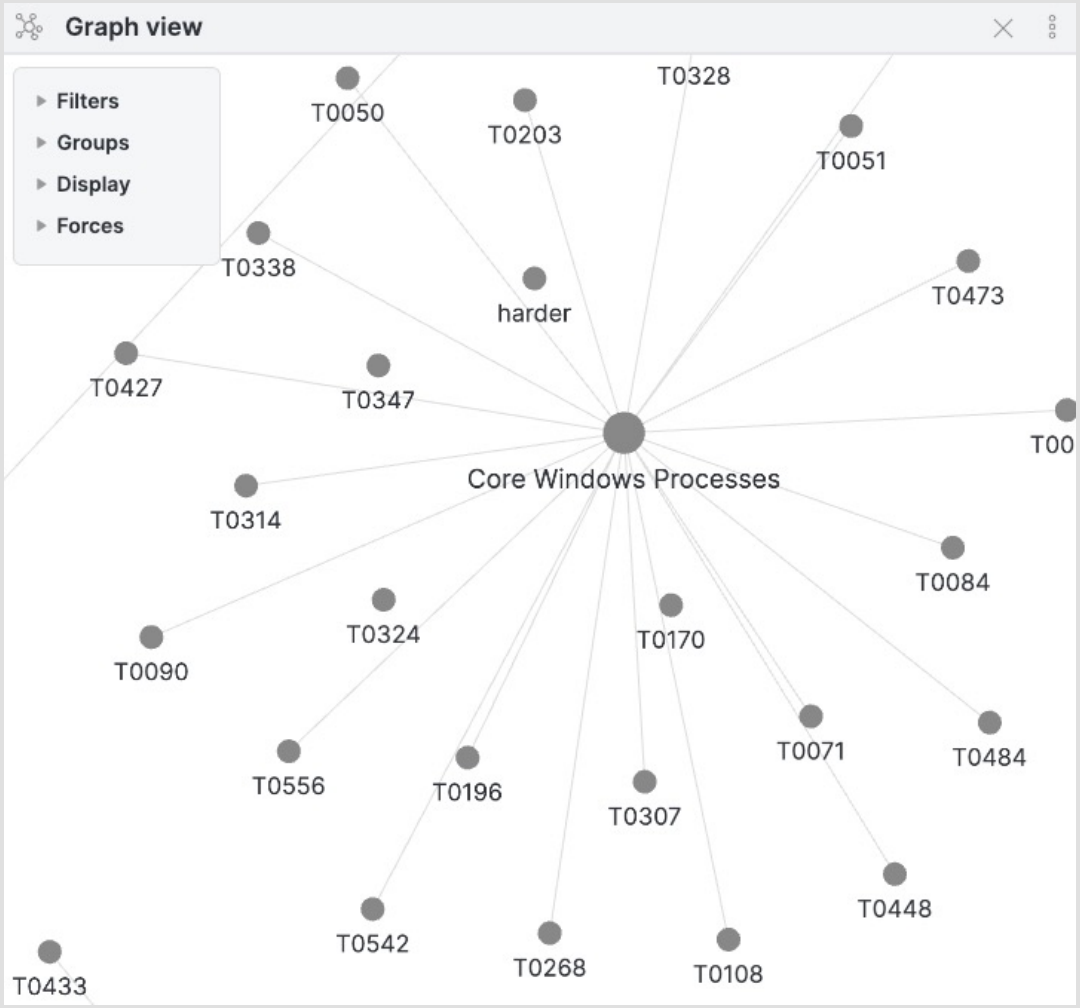
A Walkthrough room to teach you the basics of bash scripting.

T0027
T0286
T0342
T0361
T0677
T0349
T0383
T0403
T0404

- Links go to tasks

Labs to Tasks

Visualization



Visualization

Cyber Competition Coach and Mentor Training

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/