# DEFCON SYLVENT TOWN HALL MEETUP

#### **AGENDA**

- Introductions
- The DEF CON Groups (DCG) Team
- Minimum Requirements & Core Values
- Current Obstacles & Planned Improvements
- Changes to the Naming Convention
- Point of Contact (POC) Verification
- Open Discussion / Questions



#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **DEF CON Groups:**

- adam915
- Alethe
- Jayson E. Street
- deviled\_3gg
- polomaster

#### **DEF CON Staff:**

- The Dark Tangent
- Nikita
- Sleestak

Department Lead
Department Second
Global Ambassador
Volunteer Coordinator
Tech Operations

Our Fearless Leader Director of Content Primary Liaison



#### **DEF CON GROUPS (THE DEPARTMENT)**

- The "DCG Board" label is a misnomer.
- Goon position like any other DEF CON department.
- Meet Weekly outside of Con.
- Tasked by DEF CON to organize, support, & foster growth of the DCG program.
- Ensure DCG's meet minimum requirements.
- Protect the DEF CON and DCG brand.



#### **CORE VALUES**

Community-Driven Autonomy - Local groups self-organize & lead with flexibility

Inclusivity & Accessibility - Open to all skill levels and backgrounds.

Hacker Ethics & Responsible Exploration - Curiosity with respect, legality, & purpose.

Transparency & Trust - Clear communication and minimal data collection.

Collaboration Over Gatekeeping - Knowledge sharing & mutual support over exclusion.



#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS -

- Adhere to the DEF CON Code of Conduct (CoC)
- Maintain a Verified POC that Lives in the Area they are Representing
- Hold Regular In-Person Meetups (Once per Quarter)
- Annual Check-In with DEF CON Groups
- Ensure Meetings are Free & Inclusive
- No Illegal Activity or Commercial Exploitation
- Follow Brand & Media Guidelines



#### **CURRENT OBSTACLES**

- Communications Barriers
- Lack of existing records
- Lack of Access
- Inactive / Unresponsive Groups
- Inability to contact or locate POCs

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS

- Better Overall Communications
- Quarterly Town Halls
- POC Only Discord Channel
- New Website & Hacker Tracker
- Speaker Resource Pool



#### **CHANGES TO THE NAMING CONVENTION**

# Existing Groups are Allowed to Continue Using their Current Group Name & Identity

#### CHANGES TO THE NAMING CONVENTION

- Direct result of outgrowing the US dialing code system
- International Dialing codes don't fit the original model
- Provides Consistency & Searchability
- Allows more groups to coexist in close proximity
- Allows meaningful names to be used

DCG Brisbane vs. DCG 011617A



#### **CHANGES TO THE NAMING CONVENTION**

- Introduction of "Group Types" accommodate different areas of interests
  - Community
  - Academic
  - Government
- Additional Requirements for Academic & Government Groups
- New applications and name requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis



#### **Verifies:**

- First and Last Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Information collected is for internal DEF CON use only



- DEF CON is no longer a party; it's evolved into a Community.
- With growth comes responsibility.
- Members of our community automatically perceive a POC as a representative of DEF CON.
- Bad actors continuously try take advantage of this DEF CON endorsement.
- This verification process protects our community from these bad actors who attempt to leverage DEF CON brand recognition for personal financial gain.



- Let's be 100% honest!
- YES! It most certainly protects the reputation of DC & the DCG Community.
- The actions of one has the potential to impact all.
- This change is NOT being made to punish or control groups.
- Does not change the way groups currently operate.
- Change was NOT made as a result of the recent lawsuit.



#### Things we've learned:

- Reports of fake DEF CON Conferences
- Reports of serious misconduct
- POC role automatically carries credibility and leaderships in our community.
- POC misconduct goes unreported due to intimidation.

Is it acceptable to not know the identity of a POC in charge of a group that DEF CON is promoting under their brand?



- Direct result of complaints received from our Global community.
- Changes and potential solutions were discussed for many months as a team.
- Sought and received feedback from current POCs.
- Ultimately our recommendations were brought to DC Staff and approved by DT.
- Difficult choice, but the DCG Team chose Human First, Hacker Second.



### **Open Discussion**

## Thank you!