

In the UCF Horse Plinko Cyber Challenge I participated on Saturday October 5th, 2024, on a 3-man team as one of our team members did not show up. Despite being a man down my team managed to get 13th place out of 22 teams in the event because of our considerable teamwork and effort. This challenge put my team and I in a fast-paced environment where we had to simultaneously protect and repair multiple boxes given to us while also doing various time limited challenges known as injections given to us during the event. I learned more about how to use Remote Desktop Connection, Server Manager, Windows Security, Computer Management, Linux, various protocols like ftp as a prominent example, general safe security practices, VNC's, and how to quickly and effectively research and find solutions, and how to use these skills in a real life, time-based, team environment. This not only helped me grow my hard technical skills but also my soft team skills and how to effectively communicate with teammates, create plans, and divide work to progress as fast as possible. I was not able to save anything from what I did in the event as I did not want to risk getting disqualified as it was mentioned in the rules to not copy data, and I did not want to mistakenly save something not allowed.