




WHAT ARE CTF COMPETITIONS?

(AND WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THEM.)

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A capture the flag (CTF) contest is a special kind of cybersecurity competition designed to challenge its participants to solve computer security problems and/or capture and defend computer systems.

1. Tokyo Westerns CTF



2. Hackcon



3. InCTF

When I ask people to pay Rs. 150 for participating in CTF, they know shit about



They called me a madman.

How a CTF Competition Works?

There are several variations on the capture the flag format. The most common formats are

1. Jeopardy style CTFs
2. Attack Defense CTFs

Jeopardy style CTFs

In a jeopardy CTF format, teams must complete as many cybersecurity challenges as they can from a given selection, testing their skills and knowledge on a diverse range of computer security categories in novel and creative ways.

Typical tasks are related to

Networking, Programming, Applications, Mobile, Forensics, Reverse Engineering, and Cryptography. For each challenge a team completes, a specific number of points is rewarded.

Attack Defense CTFs

In an attack-defense CTF competition, teams must capture and defend vulnerable computer systems, typically hosted on virtual machines in an isolated network. To gain points, a team can maintain ownership of as many systems as possible while denying access to the other competing teams.

The winner is usually the team or individual with the most points at the end of the game. Like many sporting events, prizes are commonly awarded for first, second and third place.

Why you should participate in them, CTFs.



Why you should participate in them, CTFs.

1. Practice Makes Perfect

Practical experience makes a huge difference in our abilities to do our jobs in infosec. If you're a programmer — you get familiarized with new ways to secure your code. If you're a security researcher — you can learn new techniques or just new ways to use the ones you already know.

(It's a light and fun way to keep you in shape)

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2. Get Exposed to Things You Wouldn't Learn Otherwise

Some challenges require that you learn something new that you have never met before. Maybe you've even heard about it, but you haven't planned to learn it or it wasn't on your priorities. Well, now you have no choice since it's holding you back from getting your points!

Points are important now, aren't they?

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3. Small Successes — Great Success!

If you just need to improve your self-confidence — small successes are your key! Break your final goal into pieces and get there, step by step. If it's still too hard, take one step back. Success keeps us motivated.

This is exactly what CTFs do. You have a small challenge. When you solve it — you go to the next one. you can choose a bigger one or a smaller one, whatever you want — it's up to you!

A random motivational quote.

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4. It's Flexible

Besides the flexibility in difficulties or the type of challenges, you can choose whether to participate by yourself or as part of a team — whatever works for you! Moreover, if you practice offline CTFs you are not tied to the CTF deadline and you can choose exactly when to work on it.

Team procrastinators, Assemble!

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5. It's Fun!

CTFs are super fun. But other than that, they allow you to meet interesting people from our amazing community, exchange notes and write-ups and get to know different points of view for the same issues.

So, everyone can (and should!) start doing CTFs! You can do it at any place, your class, labs, hostel, PG, anywhere.

Let's make a CTF club ~ community (/ctfuiet)

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If you decided to give it a try, that's great! Here are some good places to start with:

- RootMe
- Montehack
- r/securityCTF on reddit
- CTFTIME
- HackTheBox
- OverTheWire
- PicoCTF (Great for beginners)
- Google CTF Beginners track
- LiveOverflow on YouTube



What does it take?

To participate in a CTF you need:

- A team of people who can work together
- Will to learn
- Coffee
- Enthusiasm
- Some more coffee
- And seriously, a lot of coffee



THANKYOU!

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