

Lab 11: The Gauntlet

1 Introduction

The theory is over. The simulation begins.

We have taught you how to move unseen, how to break logic, and how to rewrite memory. Now, you must prove you can execute these skills under pressure.

The Consensus maintains a highly advanced combat simulator known as **picoCTF**. They use it to train their hunter-killer algorithms. **The Hidden** have hijacked a backdoor into this system. We use their own training grounds to sharpen our blades.

Your mission is simple: **Run The Gauntlet**.

You will be dropped into a series of live-fire digital exercises. Each challenge represents a different aspect of the Consensus's defenses: cryptography, web exploitation, forensics, and binary reversing. You must solve the puzzles, exploit the vulnerabilities, and capture the digital flags hidden within.

Survive the simulation. Capture the points. Prove you are ready for the real war.

2 The Resistance Code

Even in a simulation, discipline is paramount.

No Cheating. The Gauntlet is a test of *your* skill. Sharing flags or looking up walkthroughs (unless explicitly authorized as intel) defeats the purpose of the training. If you cheat the simulation, you will fail in the field.

The Platform Rules. You are a guest in this digital arena. Respect the infrastructure. Do not attack the platform itself (denial of service, account bruteforcing); only attack the specific challenge instances provided.

3 The Setup

To enter the Gauntlet, you must infiltrate the specific training grid controlled by our operatives.

3.1 Infiltration (Registration)

1. Navigate to the frequency: picoCTF.org.
2. Create a new account. **Note:** Use a username you are comfortable sharing.

3.2 Joining the Cell

Once you are inside the system, you must link your comms to our unit.

1. Locate the "**Classrooms**" tab on the dashboard.
2. Join the specific resistance cell using the following Invite Code:

Cz5UF3f90

3. Verify that you have successfully joined the classroom named:

ICYB-2025

3.3 Locating the Objectives

The standard training grounds are vast and distracting. You must focus only on the specific missions assigned by The Hidden.

To find your targets:

1. Navigate to the **Practice** menu in the sidebar and select **Assignments**.
2. Alternatively, access the mission board directly via this frequency:

play.picoctf.org/assignments

3. Ensure you are viewing the challenge list for the **ICYB-2025** classroom.

4 The Job

Once you have joined the **ICYB-2025** classroom, the simulation will activate.

You will be presented with a series of assignments. These challenges span multiple disciplines—Web Exploitation, Cryptography, Forensics, and Binary Exploitation.

Your Objective: Solve the assignments listed within the Classroom interface. For every security flaw you identify and exploit, the system will yield a "Flag" (a text string). Submitting this flag to the platform rewards you with points.

The Society is watching the leaderboard. Collect as many points as possible to prove your worth.

5 The Ledger (Deliverables)

Unlike previous missions, The Hidden does not require a written manifesto. We have direct access to the simulation's telemetry.

To claim your bounty, you must identify yourself so we can verify your score on the leaderboard.

Required Submission: Submit your **picoCTF Username** to the assignment on Canvas.

If you are operating as a cell (group), you must list the usernames of **all** operatives involved, separated by commas.

Group Submission Example:

username1, username2, username3

The simulation is live. Good luck, Agent.