# Tic-Tac-Toe

By Nathaniel Strout

## Rules

Suppose we have a $4 \times 4$ tic-tac-toe board. The board is divided into four $2 \times 2$ boards. You must fill out the cells one at a time. When we play an X in one of the corners, your next move must be in the corresponding $2 \times 2$ board (see below image for clarification.) Find, with proof, the maximum number of Xs that can be placed in this way such that 3 consecutive Xs do not exist.

## Example