



POWERED BY  
**CYBER SKYLINE**

The National Cyber League  
A Community Where Cybersecurity Is a Passion

Andre Castillo

# NCL Spring 2025 Individual Game Scouting Report

Dear Andre Castillo,

Thank you for participating in the National Cyber League (NCL) Spring 2025 Season! Our goal is to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and your participation is helping achieve that goal.

The NCL was founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for collegiate students to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity skills in preparation for further learning, industry certifications, and career readiness. The NCL scenario-based challenges were designed around performance-based exam objectives of CompTIA certifications and are aligned to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

As you look to a future career in cybersecurity, we hope you find this report to be valuable in both validating skills and identifying areas for improvement across the nine NCL skills categories. You can use this NCL Scouting Report to:

- Validate your skills to employers in any job application or professional portfolio;
- Show case your achievements and strengths by including the Score Card view of your performance as part of your résumé or simply sharing the validation link so that others may view the detailed version of this report.

The NCL Spring 2025 Season had 9,216 students/players and 596 faculty/coaches from 510 two- and four-year schools & 288 high schools across all 50 U.S. states registered to play. The Individual Game Capture the Flag (CTF) event took place from April 11 through April 13. The Team Game CTF event took place from April 25 through April 27. The games were conducted in real-time for students across the country.

NCL is powered by Cyber Skyline's cloud-based skills evaluation platform. Cyber Skyline hosted the scenario-driven cybersecurity challenges for players to compete and track their progress in real-time.



To validate this report, please access: [cyberskyline.com/report/90TVM31WKBE7](https://cyberskyline.com/report/90TVM31WKBE7)

**CompTIA** Based on the performance detailed in this NCL Scouting Report, you have earned **10 hours** of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as approved by CompTIA. You can learn more about the NCL - CompTIA alignment via [nationalcyberleague.org/partners](https://nationalcyberleague.org/partners).

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Spring 2025 Individual Game! We hope you will continue to develop your knowledge and skills and make meaningful contributions as part of the Information Security workforce!

Dr. David Zeichick  
NCL Commissioner



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## NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE SCORE CARD

NCL SPRING 2025 INDIVIDUAL GAME

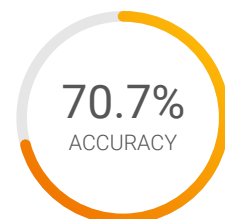
### YOUR TOP CATEGORIES

**NETWORK TRAFFIC  
ANALYSIS**  
94TH PERCENTILE

**SCANNING &  
RECONNAISSANCE**  
94TH PERCENTILE

**CRYPTOGRAPHY**  
93RD PERCENTILE

**NATIONAL RANK**  
**767TH PLACE**  
**OUT OF 8573**  
**PERCENTILE**  
**92ND**



Average: 66.8%

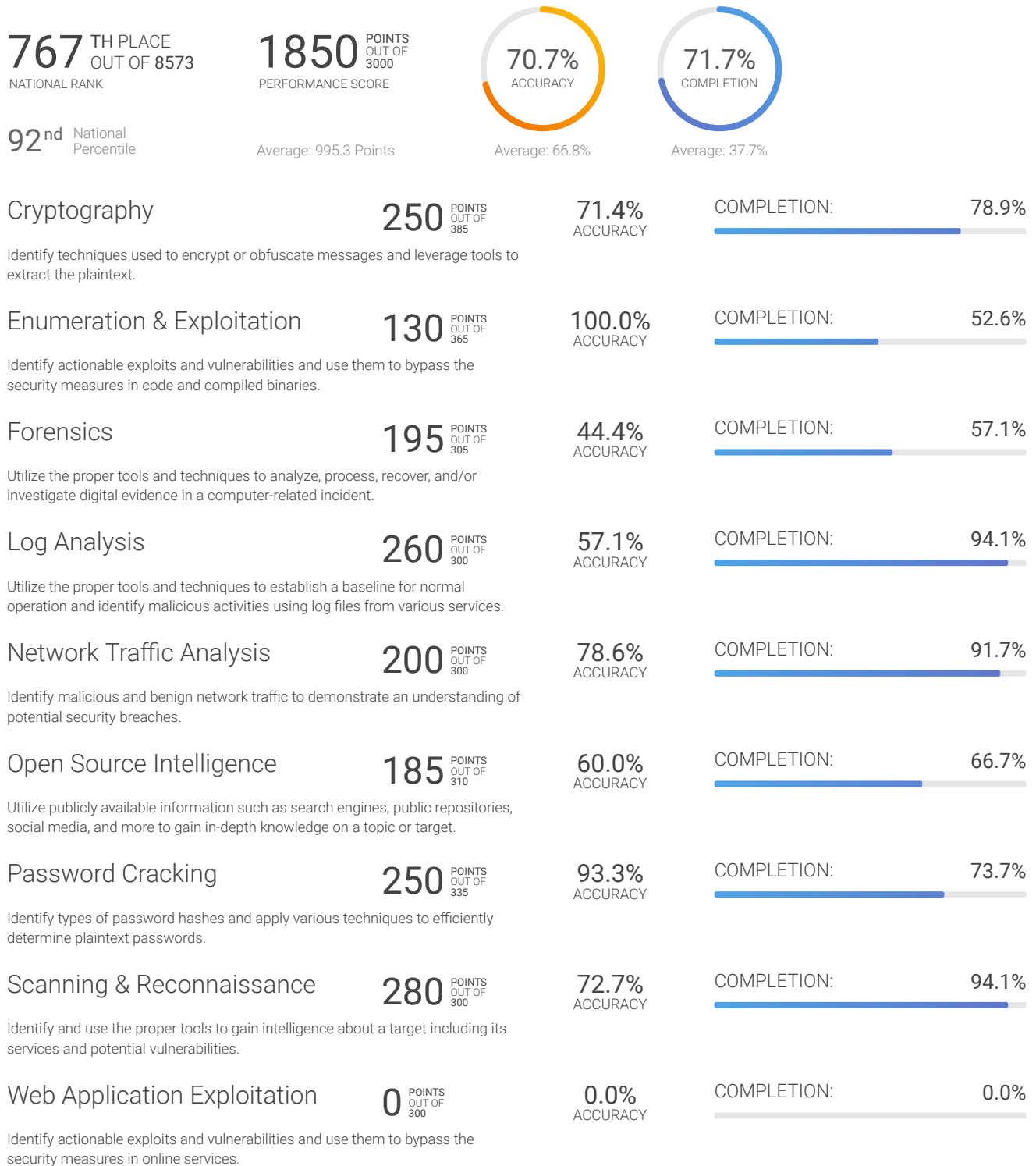
[cyberskyline.com/report/90TVM31WKBE7](https://cyberskyline.com/report/90TVM31WKBE7)

Learn more at [nationalcyberleague.org](https://nationalcyberleague.org)



## NCL Spring 2025 Individual Game

The NCL Individual Game is designed for student players nationwide to compete in realtime in the categories listed below. The Individual Game evaluates the technical cybersecurity skills of the individual, without the assistance of others.



Note: Survey module (100 points) was excluded from this report.



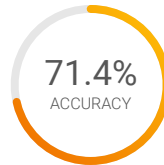


## Cryptography Module

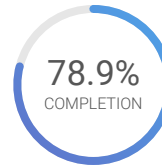
Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

**645** TH PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**250** POINTS  
OUT OF 385  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 65.0%



Average: 44.2%

**93<sup>rd</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 143.1 Points

### The Bases (Easy)

**45** POINTS  
OUT OF 45

**60.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from messages encoded with common number bases

### Super Shifty (Easy)

**55** POINTS  
OUT OF 55

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext for a message encrypted with a shift cipher

### Pizza Time (Easy)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext for a message encrypted with the rail fence cipher

### Signed (Medium)

**45** POINTS  
OUT OF 60

**42.9%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **75.0%**

Identify tampered files by verifying PGP signatures

### Altered Clouds (Medium)

**55** POINTS  
OUT OF 55

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Verify the integrity of files by computing HMAC values

### Zugzwang (Medium)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 60

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Decode a hidden file by implementing a decoder for a custom encoding scheme

### Kracken (Hard)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 60

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Break XOR encryption using a bruteforce attack with a known crib



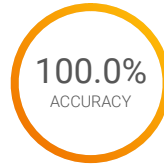


## Enumeration & Exploitation Module

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.

**827** <sup>TH PLACE</sup>  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**130** <sup>POINTS</sup>  
OUT OF 365  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 67.9%



Average: 41.6%

**91<sup>st</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 111.7 Points

### Not Affine (Easy)

**75** <sup>POINTS</sup>  
OUT OF 75

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Perform code analysis on C source code to reverse a series of bitwise operations

### CrackMe (Medium)

**25** <sup>POINTS</sup>  
OUT OF 90

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **50.0%**

Perform static analysis on a binary program and extract an image encoded within the binary

### Hardware Discovery (Hard)

**0** <sup>POINTS</sup>  
OUT OF 100

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Follow a hardware schematic to interpret raw signal data that is encoded using pulse width modulation

### Escalate (Hard)

**30** <sup>POINTS</sup>  
OUT OF 100

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **40.0%**

Identify and exploit a vulnerability in a compiled C binary to read data from unclosed file descriptors





## Forensics Module

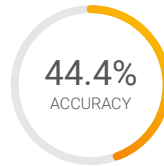
Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

**866** TH PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**195** POINTS  
OUT OF 305  
PERFORMANCE SCORE

**90**<sup>th</sup> National  
Percentile

Average: 144.7 Points



Average: 58.4%



Average: 48.4%

### Overused (Easy)

**70** POINTS  
OUT OF 105

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **66.7%**

Use Binwalk or other file carving tools to analyze and extract embedded files

### Oops (Medium)

**75** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**16.7%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **50.0%**

Utilize forensics tools to perform file recovery on a deleted image

### Absence (Hard)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **50.0%**

Recover a corrupted G-code file by correcting errors and fixing gaps within the file

## Log Analysis Module

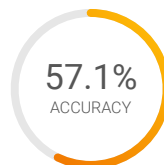
Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

**707** TH PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

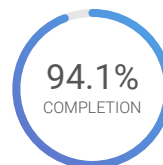
**260** POINTS  
OUT OF 300  
PERFORMANCE SCORE

**92**<sup>nd</sup> National  
Percentile

Average: 164.5 Points



Average: 56.8%



Average: 59.9%

### Ancient History (Easy)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**77.8%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze HTTP access logs to calculate statistics and identify trends in web traffic

### Leaked (Medium)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**38.5%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze a SQL backup log file and calculate statistics on user data

### Logins (Hard)

**60** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**66.7%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **80.0%**

Parse a binary log and perform anomaly detection to identify a compromised user based on GeoIP data



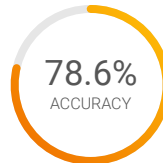


## Network Traffic Analysis Module

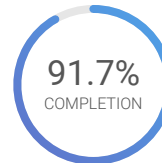
Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

**553** RD PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**200** POINTS  
OUT OF 300  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 66.3%



Average: 56.9%

**94<sup>th</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 124.6 Points

### Lost in Resolution (Easy)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**66.7%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze a packet capture with DNS traffic to identify DNS queries and responses

### Wifi (Medium)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze a packet capture of WiFi network traffic and crack the password to the WiFi network

### Exfil (Hard)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Analyze a packet capture to identify and extract exfiltrated data that was encoded within x.509 certificate SAN fields



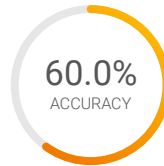


## Open Source Intelligence Module

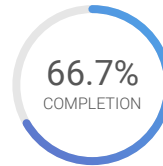
Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

**2745** TH PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**185** POINTS  
OUT OF 310  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 70.9%



Average: 66.8%

**68<sup>th</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 196.4 Points

### Rules of Conduct (Easy)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL

### Honor (Easy)

**20** POINTS  
OUT OF 30

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **66.7%**

Analyze an image to obtain data from metadata and file properties

### Controversial Challenge (Medium)

**30** POINTS  
OUT OF 30

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Perform a reverse image search to discover open-source information about a subject

### Nostalgia (Hard)

**20** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**25.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **66.7%**

Utilize open source tools to analyze and geolocate a photo

### Meow Meow Meow (Hard)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Extract an image from an EML file and then perform a reverse image search to discover information about a target

### GitHub in Action (Hard)

**15** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**50.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **33.3%**

Investigate public GitHub repositories to trace connections between user actions and their social media accounts



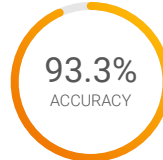


## Password Cracking Module

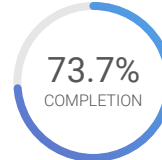
Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

**903** RD PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**250** POINTS  
OUT OF 335  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 86.9%



Average: 50.0%

**90<sup>th</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 165.3 Points

### Hash me outside! (Easy)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Generate password hashes using MD5, SHA1, and SHA256

### We Will Rockyou (Easy)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack MD5 password hashes for password found in the RockYou breach

### Oph the Grid (Medium)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack Windows NTLM password hashes using rainbow tables

### Totally Safe PDF (Medium)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack the insecure password on a protected PDF file

### put On th3 ma5k (Medium)

**50** POINTS  
OUT OF 50

**75.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Build a wordlist or pattern rule to crack password hashes of a known pattern

### Dice (Hard)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 85

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Build a custom wordlist to crack passwords by augmenting permutation rules using known password complexity requirements





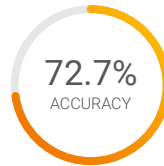


## Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

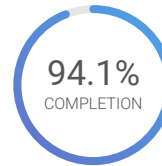
Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

**582** ND PLACE  
OUT OF 8573  
NATIONAL RANK

**280** POINTS  
OUT OF 300  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 72.8%



Average: 54.2%

**94<sup>th</sup>** National  
Percentile

Average: 171.8 Points

### Portscan (Easy)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**100.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Perform a port scan and identify services running on a remote host

### Dig (Medium)

**100** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**87.5%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Utilize DNS services to gain information about an organization's Intranet resources

### School Directory (Hard)

**80** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**50.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **83.3%**

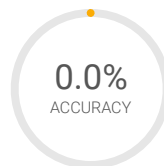
Conduct reconnaissance on an LDAP server

## Web Application Exploitation Module

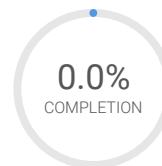
Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

**N/A**  
NATIONAL RANK

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 300  
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 61.9%



Average: 39.4%

Average: 123.1 Points

### Liber8Dogs (Easy)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Find and exploit a path traversal vulnerability in a web application

### Liber8tion\_Login (Medium)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Manipulate headers to exploit improper authorization checks in middleware found in CVE-2025-29927

### dogstagram (Hard)

**0** POINTS  
OUT OF 100

**0.0%**  
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Bypass data sanitization on a login form and exploit a server side request forgery vulnerability

