

## Academy Orientation CCDC

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy has proudly supported the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) since 2016 and will do so again in 2019. Our Cybersecurity Academy team believes student cybersecurity competitions are a great way to reinforce technical learning and build the soft skills necessary for effective teamwork.

Per the National CCDC Web site: “CCDC competitions ask student teams to assume administrative and protective duties for an existing “commercial” network – typically a small company with 50+ users, 7 to 10 servers, and common Internet services such as a web server, mail server, and e-commerce site. Each team begins the competition with an identical set of hardware and software and is scored on their ability to detect and respond to outside threats, maintain availability of existing services such as mail servers and web servers, respond to business requests such as the addition or removal of additional services, and balance security needs against business needs. Throughout the competition an automated scoring engine is used to verify the functionality and availability of each team’s services on a periodic basis and traffic generators continuously feed simulated user traffic into the competition network. A volunteer red team provides the “external threat” all Internet-based services face and allows the teams to match their defensive skills against live opponents.”

In 2018, through our National CCDC umbrella support agreement, Palo Alto Networks provided the following in-kind support to all regional CCDC competitions: 1) PA virtual firewall appliance for teams to use to protect both their private cloud and public cloud network environments; 2) PA 3050 hardware appliance for teams to use as their premise gateway device for onsite regional CCDCs; 3) access to CCDC 2018 Moodle course so students could learn how to deploy and configure the PA firewall appliance to protect their networks; 4) technical assistance to help regional CCDC black teams set up the PA firewall appliances and 5) site representation during onsite regional CCDC competitions. We will provide the same level of in-kind support for onsite regional competitions this year through our National CCDC umbrella support agreement. We have also offered to provide in-kind support for regional CCDC qualifying competitions in 2019.

If you have any questions about our CCDC support please contact Jim Boardman, email: [jboardman@paloaltonetworks.com](mailto:jboardman@paloaltonetworks.com), mobile: 607-382-1214.