

## **CrewCTF 2023 Sponsorship Packet**



**Thank you for your interest in sponsoring CrewCTF 2023!**

We invite you to join us for this exciting competition and help make it a success!

This packet contains sponsorship information for CrewCTF 2023. Enclosed, you will find details about our team (TheHackersCrew), the competitions we organize, and the sponsorship opportunities.

You can reach our team at [thehackerscrew@protonmail.com](mailto:thehackerscrew@protonmail.com) to discuss further details and work out a deal. Thank you for your kind consideration!

Sincerely,  
TheHackersCrew

## What is a CTF?

“CTF” is short for “*Capture the Flag*”, the concept behind many cybersecurity competitions. To score points, competitors must solve “*challenges*” (problems) and submit the corresponding “*flags*” (answers). CTFs are usually hosted by university clubs, top CTF teams, and conferences. Tech companies and government agencies also host them for recruiting purposes.

CTFs have a wide range of difficulties. Some CTFs may be targeted toward newcomers to cybersecurity while others may be targeted at professionals or graduate students. An easy challenge may be a basic forensics task that can be solved by following online tutorials and using open-source tools. A hard challenge may require one to perform advanced forensic analysis, discover vulnerabilities (sometimes even zero days) within a real-world application, and develop exploits for it.

A calendar and archive of most CTFs can be found at CTFtime - <https://ctftime.org/>. There are hundreds of CTFs throughout the year, with thousands of teams and participants actively competing. Large competitions like PicoCTF have over 100,000 competitors each year.

## Who are TheHackersCrew?

TheHackersCrew is a CTF team with members from all around the world, spanning 15+ countries across 6 continents. Our team of 30+ members comprises professionals (vulnerability researchers, security analysts, system architects, software engineers, etc.) and students (graduate and undergraduate levels). In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, online Capture the Flag competitions brought us together. Ever since April 2021, we have actively trained and competed together for nearly 2 years.

By putting each of our skills and strengths together, we have been able to consistently perform at a high level and succeed against the best of the best. Today, we are **ranked 7th** on CTFtime for 2023 out of 23,125 teams! You can check out the global leaderboard at <https://ctftime.org/stats/>.

In 2022, we

- Ranked 13th out of 38,240 teams overall on CTFtime
- Won 1st in 5 CTFs
- Won 2nd in 12 CTFs
- Won 3rd in 3 CTFs
- Placed top 5 in 26 CTFs
- Placed top 10 in 39 CTFs
- Hosted BSides Ahmedabad CTF 2022 and CrewCTF 2022

In 2021, we ranked 24th out of 36,830 teams, having won 1st in 8 CTFs, 2nd in 3 CTFs, and 3rd in 3 CTFs.

You can find the full list of our accomplishments at our website -

[https://www.thehackerscrew.team/accomplishments!](https://www.thehackerscrew.team/accomplishments)

## What is CrewCTF?

CrewCTF is the dreamchild of our team. Having competed in dozens of CTFs over the last two years, we would love to contribute to the community and host one of our own. Teams of students, young professionals, and hobbyists from around the world come together to compete for prizes and bragging rights.

CrewCTF also aligns with our mission of promoting the following values:

1. Cybersecurity Education
2. Ethical Hacking
3. Diversity in the Tech and Cybersecurity Industries

Whether a competitor is an experienced hacker or starting out, they will find plenty of opportunities to test their skills and learn from others. Our challenges highlight techniques and concepts that we have found important, interesting, and relevant. We also highlight some industry trends and new research. At the end of the competition, we will encourage contestants to publish their own writeups, sharing any unique insights or solutions. We will also release the official challenge sources and our solutions for competitors to learn from. Challenge containerization guarantees a safe, hands-on environment for all contestants.

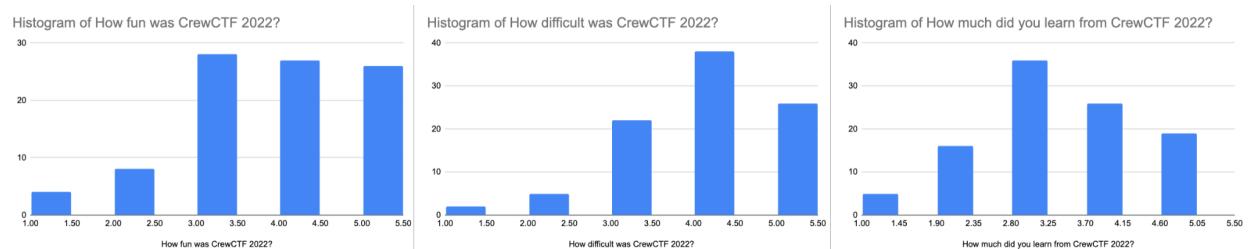
With the help of sponsors like you, we are proud to offer a free and open event that anyone with an internet connection can participate. For this year's edition, we are hosting CrewCTF from 5:00 UTC on July 8 to 17:00 UTC on July 9.

Each of the following categories will have roughly 4-6 challenges: Cryptography, Forensics, Reverse Engineering, Binary Exploitation (Pwn), Web (and Web 3) Exploitation, Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), and Miscellaneous. Web 3 and OSINT are two new categories we added. Under the miscellaneous category, we may feature some machine learning, networking, and hardware challenges.

## What is our track record as organizers?

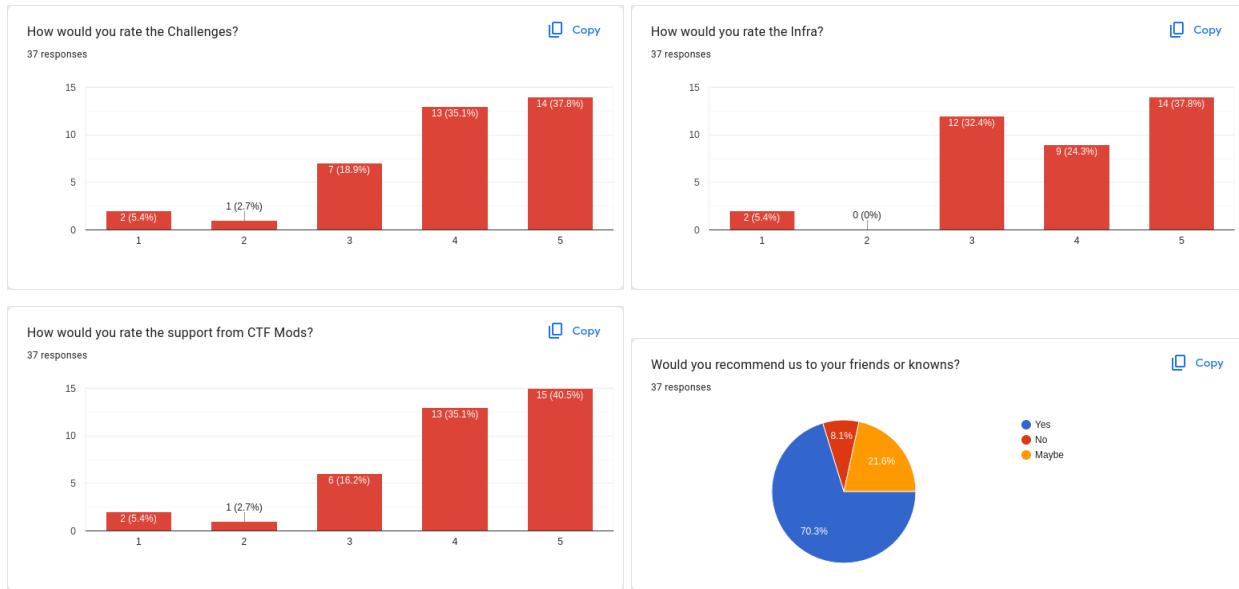
We held the first edition of CrewCTF last year in April 2022. Our CTF website had over 10,000 unique visitors from all around the world with over 1,500 registered accounts forming 889 teams. Our website competition interface was built on the CTFd open-source library. With Google's sponsorship, our challenge deployments, monitoring, health checks, and load balancing were hosted on the Google Cloud Platform in accordance with their Kubernetes kCTF framework. This setup worked well and our competition infrastructure was stable for the entire 48 hours with the ability to handle many multiples more of peak traffic.

As seen in the image below, we received positive feedback that challenges were fun and enjoyable, though on the harder side. Most participants also stated that they learned something new from taking part.



In October 2022, in collaboration with the Security BSides organization, we hosted an in-person CTF (7 hrs) at the BSides Ahmedabad Conference. Limited to attendees, this was on a smaller scale with around 280 participants forming 160 teams. The competition ran smoothly. While we did not conduct a survey, we received great verbal feedback from several competitors at the conference.

In June 2023, we collaborated with Security BSides to host an online CTF (24 hrs) awarding tickets to their new BSides Indore Conference for the top 10 competitors. In total, we had 1,203 participants. Here is the feedback we received:



## What sponsorship opportunities are there for CrewCTF 2023?

Given the fact that our team is currently at the top of the global leaderboard and performed well consistently over the last two years and developed a track record as competition organizers, we are expecting a very exciting, competitive event with even more teams, participants, and viewers! We also hope to work with more sponsors for greater reach, prizes, and opportunities.

Currently, we are looking for companies that would like to support our event by sponsoring prizes, whether monetary or in-kind. We understand that the current economic conditions may be limiting and we would be glad to work with you. Whether you are a large corporation or a small business, we are committed to finding a sponsorship package that fits your needs and budget. We are flexible with preferences, such as specific amounts allocated for placement prizes, writeup prizes, or other prize ideas you have. If you have any challenges that you would like us to host in our competition, please let us know ASAP and we can set that up together.

By sponsoring our event, not only would you promote cybersecurity education and support the growth of the cyber industry, but you would also increase your brand awareness to a highly skilled and engaged audience. Some sponsors have reached out about potential recruiting opportunities. We provide a voluntary form for competitors that are looking for internships and jobs and the responses would be forwarded to the corresponding sponsors. We are also open to sharing any application links with competitors.

As a sponsor, your company's logo and link would be prominently featured on the front page of the competition and in promotional materials, such as flyers, certificates, merchandise, and dedicated social media posts.

We are truly grateful for all of the amazing sponsors who make CrewCTF possible each year! Our email is open at [thehackerscrew@protonmail.com](mailto:thehackerscrew@protonmail.com).