

Catch the QuBit

Capture the Flag Contest

Contest Instructions

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Prepared by



Prices by



1 Background

The CESNET association has been in direct competition with a rivaling company TENSEC Ltd. since the dawn of times. The CESNET researchers and engineers always had better results – satisfied users, faster network, more cutting edge publications with high impact factor, and more research breakthroughs. However, one day, the things have changed. TENSEC Ltd. flooded the market with products, which were recently finished in CESNET laboratories. Not once, not twice, but six times! CESNET executives are fairly certain that this can not be a coincidence and they are afraid of internal information leakage to competition. The security measures have been tightened and staff vigilance has been raised to the highest possible level in order to find the mole and stop the information leakage.

One day, an interesting fact was reported to the security team: one of the association's employees was obsessed with taking care of his flash drive – he was periodically checking whether the flash drive was still in his pocket and was very uneasy and cautious whenever he was using his flash drive. Oddly caring way too much about a cheap, low-end flash drive. Based on this clue, the security team has observed the user activities.

They managed to find out that the suspect employee has a box full of the exact same flash drives on the desk in his office. His coworker from the same office also noted, that the number of the flash drives in the box is continuously decreasing. It seems that a flash drive disappears each time the suspect goes to have lunch with some young lady instead of his coworkers. The ongoing investigation has shown that this young lady is no other than Emily Walker, the daughter of John Walker, who happens to be the head of the Research Unit at TENSEC Ltd.!

The security team was patient and waited until the suspect employee told his colleagues to go for lunch without him. After he left his office and was about to leave the building, he was asked to hand over his flash drive by the building security. He was neither protesting nor trying to run away. He was completely surprised or – maybe – he is pretty sure that nobody can find anything harmful on his flash drive. A bit copy (drive image) was acquired from the seized flash drive in order to perform forensic analysis. The flash drive is now stored in the company safe.

1.1 Involved companies

CESNET, a. l. e.

- Logo:



- Description: CESNET is an association of universities of the Czech Republic and the Czech Academy of Sciences. It operates and develops the national e-infrastructure for science, research and education which encompasses a computer network, computational grids, data storage and collaborative environment. It offers a rich set of services to connected organisations.
- Number of employees: approx. 150
- Main rival: TENSEC, Ltd.
- Rumors: CESNET has a secret departments, where crazy research projects are in progress.

TENSEC, Ltd.

- Logo:



- Description: TENSEC is an IT-research and services oriented company. It operates large experimental e-infrastructure used by government agencies and small research teams. It offers many services to connected organisations.
- Number of employees: approx. 90
- Main rival: CESNET, Ltd.
- Rumors: TENSEC has a lot of spies gathering technologies from other companies.

1.2 Involved individuals

Prof. Dr. Ethan Evilboy

- Age: 42 years
- Occupation: Researcher at CESNET, a. l. e.
- Phobias: Spiders, Network monitoring
- Hobbies: Guitar, Encryption and Steganography

Emily Walker

- Age: 32 years
- Occupation: Professional blonde (freelancer)
- Phobias: Spiders, Robot uprising
- Hobbies: Guitar, Spy Novels

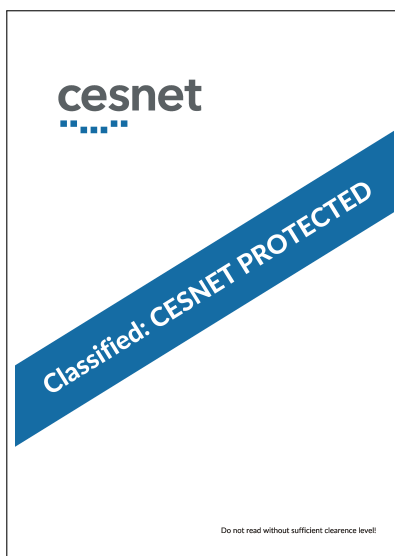
MSc. John Walker, MBA.

- Age: 64 years
- Occupation: Head of Research Unit at TENSEC Ltd.
- Phobias: unknown
- Hobbies: unknown

2 Instructions

CESNET Forensic Laboratory need your help with the case "Ethan's Flash Drive".

- Analyze the image of flash drive and check whether there are stored some classified documents.
- Classified documents you are looking for contain following first page:



- One of the classified document contains information how to claim the contest prize.