

CTFs are Intimidating & Overwhelming...Where do I even start?!

Getting Started Plan

1. Think about your goals, time, personality, competitive level
2. Form or join a team based on those
3. Pick a CTF (or 3)
 - a. Read the rules.
4. Try a challenge from each category at least once
 - a. Take notes: what you liked, what you tried, what tools you used
 - b. Be respectful to the organizers
5. Celebrate!
6. Look for writeups
 - a. What tools did they use?
 - b. What techniques did they use?
 - c. How does it compare to your notes?
7. Research, practice with those tools/techniques (this is how you build your toolkit)
8. If you feel called to specialize, specialize
9. **Repeat! Consistency is powerful**

Knowing is half the battle

- Know thy goals
 - Skillbuilding? Competition?
- Know thy self
 - Do you need community? Do you thrive on competition?
 - What kind of puzzles do you like to work on? Do you like to specialize?
 - Who do you like to play with?
- Know thy limits
 - Okay to stop when it stops being fun!
- Know thy tools
 - The best tool for the job is the one you understand best
 - It will take practice & experimentation

Good CTFs to start (there are many more)

- PicoCTF, <https://picoctf.org>
- Tryhackme <https://tryhackme.com/>
- National Cyber League [fall&spring. fee] <https://nationalcyberleague.org/>

Getting Started Guides

- <https://jaimelightfoot.com/blog/so-you-want-to-ctf-a-beginners-guide/>
- <https://tinyurl.com/CTFfornoobz>
- <https://trailofbits.github.io/ctf/intro/>
- <https://clark.center/c/nccp>

Career Guides

- <https://www.cyberseek.org/>