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CYBER SKYLINE

The National Cyber League
A Community Where Cybersecurity Is a Passion

David Buehler

NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game Scouting Report

Dear David Buehler,

Thank you for participating in the National Cyber League (NCL) Fall 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 Fall 2025 Season had 8,520 students/players and 538 faculty/coaches from more than 490 two- and four-year schools & 200 high schools across all 50 U.S. states registered to play. The Individual Game Capture the Flag (CTF) event took place from October 24 through October 26. The Team Game CTF event took place from November 7 through November 9. 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/3A5FC0DM26MD



Based on the performance detailed in this NCL Scouting Report, you have earned **3 hours** of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as approved by CompTIA. You can learn more about the NCL - CompTIA alignment via nationalcyberleague.org/partners.

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Fall 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 FALL 2025 INDIVIDUAL GAME

YOUR TOP CATEGORIES

NATIONAL RANK

**1158TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873**

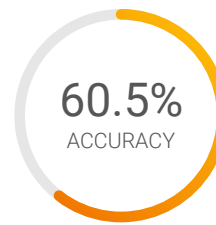
PERCENTILE

86TH

**OPEN SOURCE
INTELLIGENCE
95TH PERCENTILE**

**FORENSICS
91ST PERCENTILE**

**CRYPTOGRAPHY
90TH PERCENTILE**



Average: 61.0%

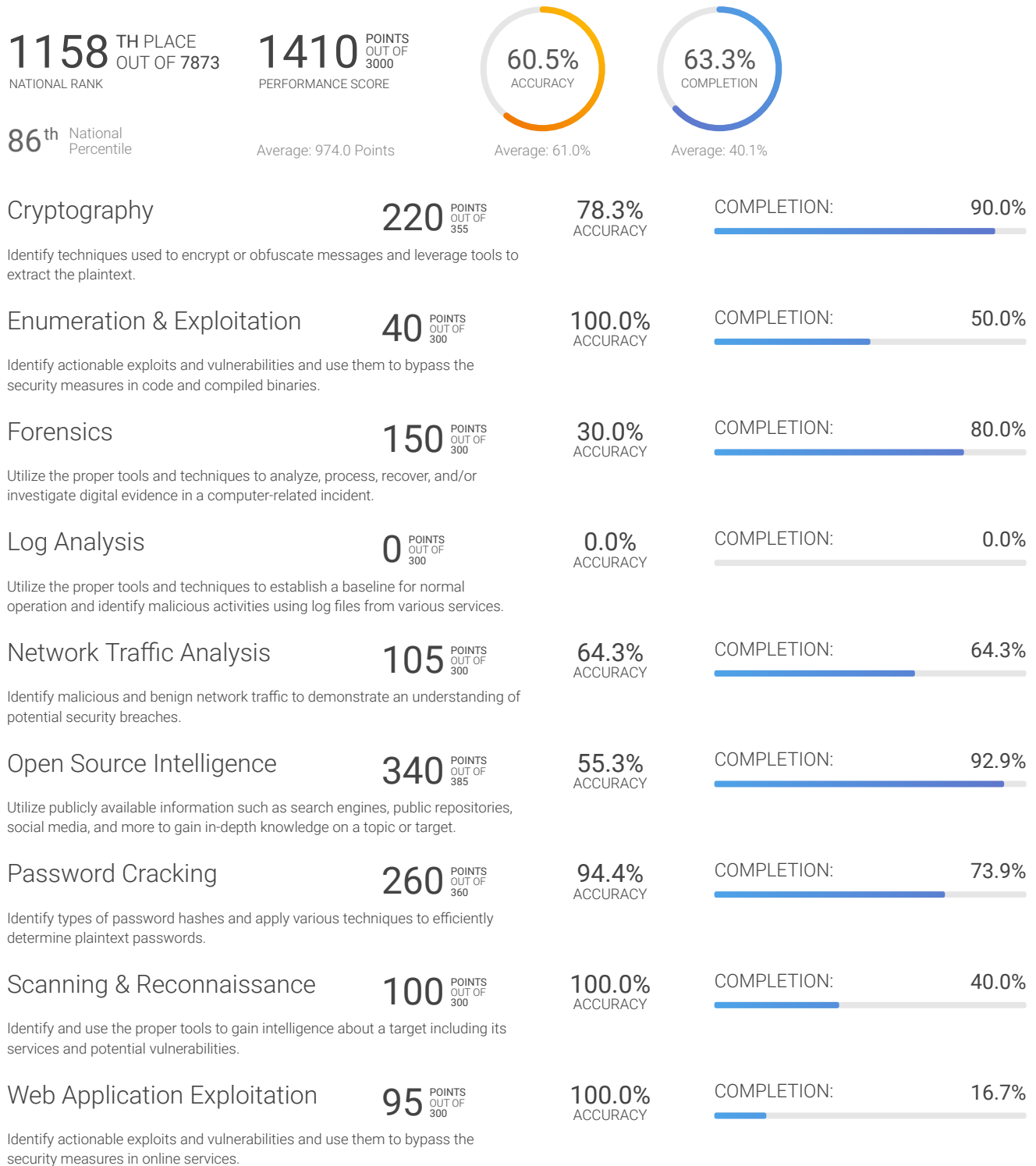
cyberskyline.com/report/3A5FC0DM26MD

Learn more at nationalcyberleague.org



NCL Fall 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.



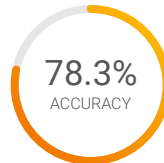


Cryptography Module

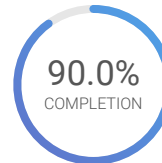
Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

794 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

220 POINTS
OUT OF 355
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 69.5%



Average: 58.2%

90th National
Percentile

Average: 157.0 Points

Baking Soda (Easy)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encoded with common number bases.

ROTTen domains (Easy)

45 POINTS
OUT OF 45

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain plaintext for messages encrypted with a shift cipher.

Convenience (Easy)

20 POINTS
OUT OF 60

66.7%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encrypted with Vigenère cipher.

01101011 01100101 01111001 (Medium)

40 POINTS
OUT OF 40

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Decrypt a message using an XOR key.

Squirtle (Medium)

45 POINTS
OUT OF 60

71.4%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and exploit a DES encryption implementation using known weak keys.

Temet Nosce (Hard)

20 POINTS
OUT OF 100

50.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **50.0%**

Exploit a flaw in AES encryption to decrypt text with an unknown secret key.



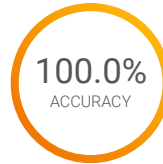


Enumeration & Exploitation Module

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

1815 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

40 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 60.4%



Average: 49.4%

77th National
Percentile

Average: 98.2 Points

Deno Finds a Way (Easy)

85 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Review source code and exploit a command injection vulnerability to escalate privileges.

Stacked (Medium)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Perform an HTTP-triggered stack overflow to retrieve critical information from the server.

Sewer System (Hard)

-45 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

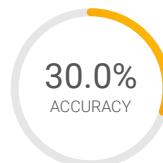
Exploit a race condition in software to return protected data.

Forensics Module

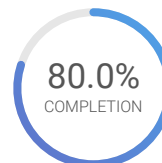
Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

757 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

150 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 45.9%



Average: 48.4%

91st National
Percentile

Average: 115.2 Points

Four & Six (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

42.1%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Use a forensics tool to examine unallocated space for files.

This Bytes (Medium)

55 POINTS
OUT OF 100

16.7%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **75.0%**

Research JPEG specifications to repair an image.

Stage Left (Hard)

-5 POINTS
OUT OF 100

33.3%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **33.3%**

Fix a corrupted SQLite database file and analyze the tables.



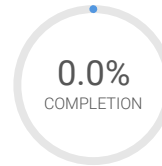
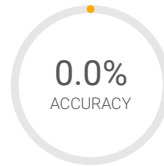


Log Analysis Module

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

3121 ST PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

0 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



61st National
Percentile

Average: 160.8 Points

Average: 55.3%

Average: 61.1%

Process This (Easy)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Examine parsed Sysmon JSON process tree logs to determine a chain of events.

Brute Force (Medium)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Identify a brute force attack by analyzing patterns of malicious actor behavior in web server logs.

Stolen Swipe (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

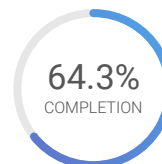
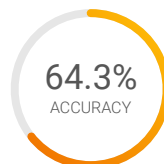
Parse and correlate ATM and EMV Field 55 logs (ISO 8583 standard) to identify a fraudulent transaction.

Network Traffic Analysis Module

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

1538 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

105 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



81st National
Percentile

Average: 112.2 Points

Average: 51.6%

Average: 45.0%

RMM Tool (Easy)

85 POINTS
OUT OF 100

62.5%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze DNS packet requests and responses to identify a suspicious download.

Drive-by Download (Medium)

20 POINTS
OUT OF 100

66.7%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **66.7%**

Identify details of a drive-by-download attack and de-obfuscate JavaScript.

The Insider (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Reconstruct a file from UDP packets and decode VBA script.



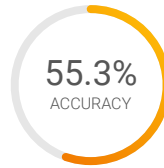


Open Source Intelligence Module

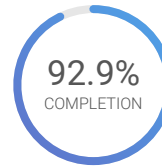
Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

449 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

340 POINTS
OUT OF 385
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 58.5%



Average: 65.3%

95th National
Percentile

Average: 213.9 Points

Rules of Conduct (Easy)

30 POINTS
OUT OF 30

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL.

Cooking Breakfast (Easy)

45 POINTS
OUT OF 45

22.2%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Parse Chef (esolang) code to determine what input it requires.

NotPetya (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

88.9%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Gather key information on NotPetya malware.

Flamed (Medium)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 55

28.6%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Use open source tools to find patterns between GPS locations.

Material (Medium)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 80

37.5%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **60.0%**

Use the EDGAR database to filter 8-K filings.

I Cee Stuff (Hard)

65 POINTS
OUT OF 75

62.5%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Use ICS/OT OSINT tools do passive recon on infrastructure.



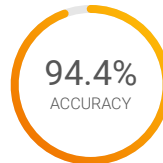


Password Cracking Module

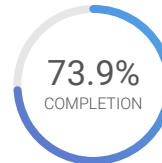
Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

854 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

260 POINTS
OUT OF 360
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 86.3%



Average: 50.2%

90th National
Percentile

Average: 163.6 Points

Hashing (Easy)

40 POINTS
OUT OF 40

80.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Generate hashes for passwords with the MD5, NTLM, and SHA256 hashing algorithms.

Crack You One More Time (Easy)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack MD5 and SHA1 password hashes using password cracking tools.

Oph the Dome (Easy)

60 POINTS
OUT OF 60

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack Windows NTLM password hashes using rainbow tables.

Redacted (Medium)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack an insecure password for a protected PDF file and recover redacted information.

Maskquerade (Medium)

60 POINTS
OUT OF 60

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

Enterprise (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Build a wordlist to crack passwords not found in common wordlists.



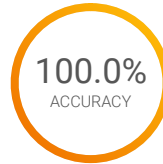


Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

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

1551 ST PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

100 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 72.9%



Average: 58.2%

81st National
Percentile

Average: 152.1 Points

Portscan (Easy)

Use nmap to scan a machine and discover open ports.

90 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Chain (Medium)

Enumerate SMB to locate and retrieve a private SSH key.

10 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **20.0%**

I'm TXT (Hard)

Enumerate a DNS service to discover hidden files in DNS TXT records.

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

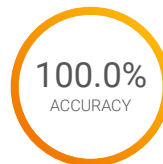
COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Web Application Exploitation Module

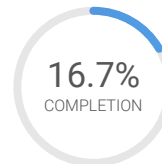
Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

1994 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

95 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 73.0%



Average: 31.8%

75th National
Percentile

Average: 120.0 Points

Browser (Easy)

Exploit a client-side validation weakness in a web application.

95 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Ersatz Motel (Medium)

Perform a SQL Injection Union attack to retrieve information.

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Micro Fail (Hard)

Access sensitive files on a webserver by chaining together a prototype pollution attack with an XML external entity injection attack.

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

