

# UBUNTU 24.04 LTS CYBERPATRIOT SCRIPT CHECKLIST

(Focus: CP image hardening + automation; adapt to README requirements)

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## 0. SCRIPT SAFETY / PRE-CHECKS

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### 0.1 Detect environment

- Script logic:
- Confirm Ubuntu 24.04:
  - Parse /etc/os-release for VERSION\_ID="24.04".
- Record hostname, date/time, and current user.
- Print a big warning header: "READ README BEFORE RUNNING".
- Optionally require a confirmation flag (e.g., --i-know-what-im-doing).

### 0.2 Logging for your script

- Create /root/cp-hardening-logs/ if not exists.
- Log:
  - Start time, end time.
  - Every change made (file edited, user removed, service stopped, etc.).
  - stdout/stderr for risky commands.
- Use tee or redirect all output to a timestamped log:
  - /root/cp-hardening-logs/hardening-\$(date +%F-%H%M%S).log.

### 0.3 Read README + forensics before changes

- Script should:
  - Prompt user to confirm they've answered forensics questions.
  - Optionally copy README and Forensics files to /root/cp-backup/ for reference.
  - DO NOT auto-delete anything mentioned in README as needed.

### 0.4 Backup critical config files before edits

- For each file you touch, create .bak copies once:
  - /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow, /etc/group, /etc/gshadow
  - /etc/sudoers, /etc/sudoers.d/\*
  - /etc/login.defs
  - /etc/pam.d/\*
  - /etc/ssh/sshd\_config
  - /etc/hosts.allow, /etc/hosts.deny
  - /etc/sysctl.conf and /etc/sysctl.d/\*
  - /etc/fstab
  - /etc/systemd/logind.conf
  - /etc/rsyslog.conf and /etc/rsyslog.d/\*
  - /etc/cron.\*, /var/spool/cron/crontabs/\*
  - Any service-specific configs (apache2, vsftpd, proftpd, vsftpd.conf, etc.)

- Convention:
    - cp yourfile yourfile.cpbackup-<DATE> if not already backed up.
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## 1. USER, GROUP, AND ACCOUNT HARDENING

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### 1.1 Enumerate all local users and groups

- Script actions:
  - List users: getent passwd
  - List groups: getent group
  - Save to /root/cp-hardening-logs/users-groups-<DATE>.txt.
- Mark suspicious users:
  - Any not in README users list.
  - Any with login shells who shouldn't log in (/bin/bash, /bin/sh, /bin/zsh, etc.).
  - Any with UID < 1000 that aren't standard system accounts.
  - Any duplicate UID or GID.

### 1.2 Remove unauthorized users

- Read authorized users from:
  - README or a file you create manually (e.g., /root/authorized\_users.txt).
- Script logic:
  - For each non-system user ( $UID \geq 1000$ ) not in authorized list:
    - Lock account (passwd -l USER) OR remove (deluser --remove-home USER), depending on how aggressive you want to be.
    - Always log removals.
  - Do NOT delete obvious system accounts (e.g., root, daemon, sys, sync, nobody).

### 1.3 Ensure only root has UID 0

- Script checks:
  - awk -F: '\$3 == 0 {print \$1}' /etc/passwd
  - If any UID 0 accounts besides root:
    - Change UID to safe value or lock them.
    - Document in /root/cp-hardening-logs.

### 1.4 Fix shells for system/service accounts

- Script checks:
  - For system accounts ( $UID < 1000$ ) that don't need login:
    - Ensure their shells are /usr/sbin/nologin or /bin/false.
  - For human users:
    - Ensure they have a real interactive shell (e.g., /bin/bash) only if allowed by README.
- Use usermod -s.

### 1.5 Group membership and sudo rights

- Script logic:
  - Determine admin group: "sudo" is typical on Ubuntu.
  - List members of sudo group: getent group sudo.
  - Cross-check with README:
    - Remove unauthorized admins: gpasswd -d USER sudo.
    - Add authorized admins: usermod -aG sudo USER.
  - Ensure regular users are not in privileged groups:
    - Groups to inspect: sudo, adm, lpadmin, docker, lxd, sambashare, etc.
  - Log all membership changes.

## 1.6 Ensure all human accounts have passwords

- For each human user ( $UID \geq 1000$  or specified by README):
  - Check for locked or empty passwords:
    - sudo passwd -S USER (or inspect /etc/shadow).
  - If password is empty or locked but account should be usable:
    - Set a strong password (e.g., standard team password like CyberPatriot1! if allowed).
- Script can force:
  - passwd --delete is dangerous; instead:
    - echo "USER:CyberPatriot1!" | chpasswd
    - chage -d 0 USER (force password change at next login) – only if not disruptive to scoring.

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## 2. PASSWORD AND AUTHENTICATION POLICY (login.defs + PAM)

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### 2.1 Configure global password aging in /etc/login.defs

- Script edits (using sed or line replacement):
  - PASS\_MAX\_DAYS 90
  - PASS\_MIN\_DAYS 7
  - PASS\_WARN\_AGE 14
- Ensure no conflicting duplicate lines.
- For existing users:
  - chage -M 90 -m 7 -W 14 USER for each human account.

### 2.2 Ensure account lockout for brute-force protection (PAM)

- Identify PAM stack for auth:
  - For Ubuntu 24.04, typically use /etc/pam.d/common-auth and pam\_faillock or pam\_tally2 depending on configuration.
- Script recommendations (adjust if image already uses pam\_faillock):
  - Install pam\_faillock if missing:
    - apt-get install -y libpam-modules libpam-pwquality (if allowed by README).
  - Configure pam\_faillock in /etc/pam.d/common-auth and /etc/pam.d/common-account:
    - Deny logins after N bad attempts (e.g., 5).
    - Lockout time (e.g., 900 seconds).

- Important: Keep defaults moderate to avoid locking yourself out.

### 2.3 Password quality controls (PAM pwquality)

- Ensure libpam-pwquality is installed.
- In /etc/pam.d/common-password:
  - Reference pam\_pwquality.so or pam\_cracklib equivalent.
  - Set minimum length (e.g., 12), complexity parameters, and history (remember=N).
  - Avoid insane settings that block normal password changes.

### 2.4 Force password policies on all human users

- For each non-system user:
  - chage -I USER to verify.
  - If out of compliance:
    - chage -M 90 -m 7 -W 14 USER.

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## 3. FILESYSTEM, PARTITIONS, AND MOUNT OPTIONS (CIS-INSPIRED)

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Note: Many of these changes can break software if applied blindly. For a CP script:

- Implement checks.
- Print what would be changed.
- Optionally perform changes only if a --cis-hardening flag is provided.

### 3.1 Confirm separate or tmpfs partitions for key directories when present

- Use findmnt or lsblk:
  - /tmp
  - /dev/shm
  - /home
  - /var
  - /var/tmp
  - /var/log
  - /var/log/audit (if exists)
- If they're separate partitions or tmpfs:
  - Add secure mount options (nodev, nosuid, noexec where appropriate) in /etc/fstab.
  - Do not invent extra partitions if filesystem layout is simple; just document that step as manual.

### 3.2 Harden /tmp mount options if /tmp is separate or tmpfs

- In /etc/fstab for /tmp:
  - Ensure at least:
    - nodev (no device files),
    - nosuid (no setuid),
    - noexec (no binaries executed).

- Example options: defaults,rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime
- After editing:
  - mount -o remount /tmp
  - If /tmp not separate:
    - Script can print a warning and optionally create tmp.mount using systemd tmp.mount with tmpfs,
    - but do this only if safe and tested.

### 3.3 Harden /var/tmp mount options if separate

- Similar to /tmp:
- nodev, nosuid, noexec in fstab.
- Remount with new options.

### 3.4 Harden /dev/shm if separate

- For /dev/shm:
  - nodev, nosuid, noexec.
  - Remount after changes.

### 3.5 Optionally secure /home and /var partitions

- If /home has a separate partition:
  - At least nodev.
- If /var has a separate partition:
  - nodev, possibly nosuid (but be careful with some services).
- Again, script should default to audit/print and only auto-change with a serious hardening flag.

### 3.6 Disable unused or legacy filesystem kernel modules (careful)

- For a CP script, usually:
    - Optionally add blacklist lines to /etc/modprobe.d/:
      - e.g., blacklist cramfs, freevxfs, hfs, hfsplus, jffs2, udf, etc., only if not required by README.
    - Always check:
    - lsmod or modinfo before blacklisting.
    - Comment all changes in config files.
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## 4. SYSTEM UPDATES AND PACKAGES

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### 4.1 Update package lists and installed packages

- Script actions:
  - apt-get update
  - apt-get dist-upgrade -y (or apt-get upgrade -y if you want lower risk).
  - Respect README if it says not to upgrade certain packages.

- Log installed/updated packages:
- Save dpkg -l output to /root/cp-hardening-logs/dpkg-before.txt before updates and after.

#### 4.2 Configure automatic updates (if not already set)

- Check:
  - /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
- Ensure:
  - APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";
  - APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";
- For CP, enabling automatic security updates usually earns points.

#### 4.3 Remove dangerous or unnecessary packages

- Script should look for and purge:
  - telnet, rlogin, rsh-client, tftp, ftp, vsftpd, proftpd, pure-ftpd (unless README requires).
  - netcat, nmap, zenmap, aircrack-ng, john/johnny, hydra, ettercap, wireshark (if prohibited).
  - bittorrent clients, P2P: transmission, amule, etc.
  - remote admin: vnc4server, tightvncserver, xrdp (if not required).
  - compilers and dev tools (optional CIS-like): gcc, g++, clang, make, etc., if not needed by scenario.
- Use: apt-get purge -y PACKAGE && apt-get autoremove -y.

#### 4.4 Verify no prohibited media or files

- Script can:
  - Scan user home directories for patterns such as:
    - \*.mp3, \*.mp4, \*.avi, \*.torrent, etc.
  - Log all findings.
- Optionally delete only if README explicitly says to remove.

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### 5. SERVICES, DAEMONS, AND FIREWALL

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#### 5.1 Enumerate all services

- Use systemctl:
  - systemctl list-unit-files --type=service
  - systemctl --type=service --state=running
- Save to /root/cp-hardening-logs/services-<DATE>.txt.

#### 5.2 Disable unneeded or dangerous network services

- For each service:
  - If not in README as required:
    - Stop and disable:
      - systemctl stop SERVICE
      - systemctl disable SERVICE

- Pay attention to:
  - apache2, nginx, lighttpd
  - vsftpd, proftpd, pure-ftpd
  - openssh-server (sometimes must remain enabled but locked down)
  - mysql, mariadb, postgresql
  - rpcbind, nfs-server, cups, avahi-daemon, samba (smbd, nmbd)
  - telnet, tftp, rsh, rlogin-related services.

### 5.3 Check listening ports and processes

- Script uses:
  - ss -tulnp or netstat -tulnp.
- For each listening socket:
  - Map port → process.
  - If service is not required:
    - Stop/disable the service.
- Log all decisions: which port, which process, action taken.

### 5.4 Configure UFW (Uncomplicated Firewall)

- Enable UFW:
  - ufw enable
- Default policy:
  - ufw default deny incoming
  - ufw default allow outgoing
- Allow only necessary services (e.g., SSH if remote login is required):
  - ufw allow OpenSSH or ufw allow 22/tcp if required.
- Optional: enable logging:
  - ufw logging on
- Note: On CP images, enabling UFW is usually a direct scoring item.

### 5.5 Enable TCP SYN cookie protection and basic network sysctl hardening

- In /etc/sysctl.conf or /etc/sysctl.d/99-sysctl-hardening.conf:
  - net.ipv4.tcp\_syncookies = 1
  - net.ipv4.conf.all.rp\_filter = 1
  - net.ipv4.conf.default.rp\_filter = 1
  - net.ipv4.conf.all.accept\_redirects = 0
  - net.ipv4.conf.default.accept\_redirects = 0
  - net.ipv4.conf.all.accept\_source\_route = 0
  - net.ipv4.conf.default.accept\_source\_route = 0
  - net.ipv4.icmp\_echo\_ignore\_broadcasts = 1
  - net.ipv4.icmp\_ignore\_bogus\_error\_responses = 1
- Apply:
  - sysctl -p or sysctl --system.

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## 6. SSH HARDENING (IF OPENSSH-SERVER INSTALLED)

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### 6.1 Confirm SSH usage

- If README says SSH must be enabled:
  - Keep service active but hardened.
- If not required:
  - systemctl stop ssh
  - systemctl disable ssh
  - Optionally apt-get remove --purge openssh-server.

### 6.2 Basic sshd\_config controls

- File: /etc/ssh/sshd\_config (and possibly /etc/ssh/sshd\_config.d/\*).
- Ensure:
  - Protocol 2 (if present).
  - PermitRootLogin no or prohibit-password (depending on scenario).
  - PasswordAuthentication yes/no according to README (often yes in CP).
  - PermitEmptyPasswords no
  - X11Forwarding no
  - AllowTcpForwarding no (unless needed)
  - AllowAgentForwarding no
  - UsePAM yes
  - ClientAliveInterval 300
  - ClientAliveCountMax 0 or small
  - MaxAuthTries 4 (or similar)
  - LoginGraceTime 30
  - MaxSessions small number (e.g., 10 or less)
  - MaxStartups limited (e.g., 10:30:60)
- Optionally:
  - Banner /etc/issue.net with proper legal warning text.

### 6.3 Restrict which users can SSH

- Use AllowUsers or AllowGroups in sshd\_config to restrict remote login to:
  - Known admins or remote users from README.
- Reload SSH after changes:
  - systemctl reload ssh.

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## 7. LOGGING, AUDIT, AND TIME

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### 7.1 Ensure a single logging system in use (rsyslog or systemd-journald)

- On Ubuntu, journald is always present; rsyslog is usual.
- Script should:

- Check if rsyslog is installed:
  - systemctl status rsyslog
- If present, ensure:
  - systemctl enable rsyslog
  - systemctl start rsyslog
- If other loggers exist, ensure they're not fighting each other.

## 7.2 Secure log file permissions

- Ensure /var/log and subdirectories:
  - Owned by root (or appropriate service account).
  - Not world-writable.
- Specific checks:
  - chmod 640 /var/log/\*.log
  - chmod 600 sensitive logs (auth.log, secure equivalents, etc.).
  - chown root:adm or root:syslog as appropriate.

## 7.3 Log rotation

- Confirm logrotate is installed and configured:
  - /etc/logrotate.conf
  - /etc/logrotate.d/\*
- Ensure:
  - Reasonable rotation frequency.
  - Use of "compress", "missingok", "notifempty", etc.

## 7.4 Auditd (optional but CIS-like)

- If auditd available on the image and not prohibited:
  - apt-get install auditd audispd-plugins
- enable and start:
  - systemctl enable auditd
  - systemctl start auditd
- Ensure basic rules exist or at least service is running.
- CP images don't always require this; treat as optional.

## 7.5 Time synchronization

- Ensure timesyncd or chrony is active (depending on default for Ubuntu 24):
  - systemctl status systemd-timesyncd or chronyd.
- Enable and start whichever is used by default.
- Consistent time helps logs and sometimes scoring.

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## 8. CRON, AT, AND SCHEDULED TASKS

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### 8.1 Verify cron service is enabled

- Ensure cron is active:
  - systemctl enable cron
  - systemctl start cron

## 8.2 Audit cron/at jobs

- Inspect:
  - /etc/crontab
  - /etc/cron.hourly, /etc/cron.daily, /etc/cron.weekly, /etc/cron.monthly
  - /etc/cron.d/\*
- per-user cron: crontab -l -u USER
- at jobs: atq
- Remove any malicious or suspicious jobs:
  - Unknown scripts in /tmp, /home/\*/.local, etc.
  - Network backdoors, Bitcoin miners, weird Python/Perl one-liners.

## 8.3 Lock down cron and at access

- Use /etc/cron.allow, /etc/cron.deny:
  - Typically:
    - Create /etc/cron.allow with only specific users if needed (e.g., root).
    - Empty or remove /etc/cron.deny.
  - Similarly for /etc/at.allow and /etc/at.deny.
  - For CP, just ensure no obviously insecure wildcard access.

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# 9. FILE PERMISSIONS, SUID/SGID, WORLD-WRITABLE

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## 9.1 Critical system files permissions

- Script should enforce:
  - /etc/passwd: root:root, mode 644
  - /etc/shadow: root:shadow or root:root, mode 640 or 600
  - /etc/group: root:root, mode 644
  - /etc/gshadow: root:shadow or root:root, mode 640 or 600
  - /etc/sudoers: root:root, mode 440
  - /etc/ssh/sshd\_config: root:root, mode 600 or 640
  - /boot/grub/grub.cfg (or equivalent): root:root, 600 or 640
- Fix with chown/chmod as needed.

## 9.2 Find and review SUID/SGID binaries

- Commands:
  - find / -xdev -type f -perm -4000 -o -perm -2000 2>/dev/null
- For each SUID/SGID binary:
  - Decide if it's required (ping, sudo, su, passwd, etc. usually needed).
  - For obviously unnecessary or risky ones:

- chmod u-s or g-s to remove SUID/SGID.
- Log all modifications.

### 9.3 Find world-writable files and directories

- Directories:
  - find / -xdev -type d -perm -0002 2>/dev/null
  - Exclude known safe locations (/tmp, /var/tmp, /dev/shm) but check they have the sticky bit:
    - chmod +t /tmp /var/tmp /dev/shm
- Files:
  - find / -xdev -type f -perm -0002 2>/dev/null
  - Remove world-write where not needed:
    - chmod o-w FILE
  - Log all changes, especially in /home.

### 9.4 Local interactive user dotfiles

- For each human user:
  - Inspect ~/.bashrc, ~/.profile, ~/.bash\_profile, ~/.ssh/authorized\_keys.
  - Ensure dot files are not world-writable.
  - Remove suspicious aliases or PATH modifications that pull from /tmp or untrusted dirs.
- Script can:
  - chmod go-rwx ~USER/.ssh/\* where appropriate.
  - Ensure ~/.ssh directory is 700, authorized\_keys 600.

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## 10. BOOTLOADER AND PHYSICAL SECURITY (OPTIONAL)

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### 10.1 Secure GRUB configuration (only if safe in CP)

- Check /boot/grub/grub.cfg (or /boot/grub/grub.cfg.d).
- Optionally:
  - Set a GRUB password:
    - Use grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 and configure in /etc/grub.d/40\_custom.
    - Regenerate GRUB config with update-grub.
  - This is advanced; often optional for CyberPatriot. Consider leaving as manual step.

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## 11. DESKTOP/LOGIN ENVIRONMENT (IF IMAGE HAS GUI)

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### 11.1 Disable guest login (if applicable)

- On modern Ubuntu with GDM, guest session is usually off by default.
- If guest is present:
  - Configure GDM to disable automatic guest login or guest sessions:
    - gsettings or GDM config files (varies by version).

- Ensure auto-login is disabled except possibly for competition user as directed by README.

## 11.2 Configure login warning banners

- Files:
  - /etc/issue (local console)
  - /etc/issue.net (remote SSH banner)
- Insert approved legal warning text (short and generic, not competition-breaking).

## 11.3 Screen lock and idle timeouts

- Set system-wide idle lockout:
  - For GNOME:
    - gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.session idle-delay <seconds>
    - gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.screensaver lock-enabled true
  - Or use dconf/gsettings via script for each user if necessary.
- For CP, this is usually low priority but safe.

## 11.4 Disable automatic mounting of removable media (optional)

- For GDM/GNOME:
  - Tweak settings to prevent auto-mounting of USB drives if consistent with scenario.
  - Usually more CIS-hardening than CP-scored; treat as optional.

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## 12. ANTIVIRUS AND MALWARE SCANNING

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### 12.1 Install and configure ClamAV

- Commands:
  - apt-get update
  - apt-get install -y clamav
  - freshclam (update virus DB)
  - clamscan -r -i / (or target home directories, e.g., /home)
- This may take a while; script can:
  - Run clamscan in background and log results to /root/clamav-scan.log.
  - Remove infected files ONLY if clearly malicious; otherwise log for manual review.

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## 13. CHECKS FOR DUPLICATES AND ACCOUNT CONSISTENCY

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### 13.1 No duplicate UIDs, GIDs, usernames, or group names

- Script steps:
  - Use awk and sort/uniq to detect duplicates in /etc/passwd and /etc/group.
  - For each duplicate:
    - Log issue and optionally prompt for manual fix.

- This aligns with the idea that every account and group should be unique.

### 13.2 Root path integrity

- Inspect root's PATH environment:
  - Ensure no '.' (current directory) in PATH.
  - Ensure no world-writable directories in PATH.
  - Prefer /usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin.
- If modifications needed:
  - Adjust in /root/.profile, /etc/profile, or /etc/environment.

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## 14. FINAL AUDIT / REPORT

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### 14.1 Summary report for the team and scoring

- At the end of script execution, print and save:
  - List of users and groups after changes.
  - Services still running and their status.
  - UFW status and rules.
  - Any suspicious files or directories left for manual review.
  - Any operations skipped because of README or high risk.

### 14.2 Dry-run mode (recommended)

- Support a --dry-run flag:
  - Instead of making changes, only show what WOULD be changed.
  - Helpful for testing on CP practice images.

### 14.3 Exit codes

- Exit non-zero if:
  - Critical steps failed (e.g., editing /etc/passwd or /etc/shadow had errors).
  - Otherwise, exit 0 and clearly state "HARDENING COMPLETED (check logs)."

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## NOTES FOR SCRIPT CREATION

- Always check the README FIRST; some services/files MUST remain as-is to earn points.
- Don't blindly apply all CIS-style options in an auto script:
  - Use comments and flags (e.g., --cis-level1) for more aggressive steps like extra mount options,  
kernel module blacklisting, or GRUB hardening.
- Keep every destructive action reversible:
  - Use backups, logs, and minimal changes to maintain stability.
- Test your script thoroughly on training images (Ubuntu 22, Mint 21, etc.) before live CP rounds.