

Imperial Cybersecurity Society (CyberSoc) Constitution

1. Name and Association

- 1.1 The name of the society shall be the Imperial College Union Cybersecurity (or Cyber Security) Society, abbreviated to CyberSoc, hereafter referred to as “the society”.
- 1.2 The Union, Union, or ICU shall all henceforth refer to Imperial College Union, for brevity.
- 1.3 The society shall be a member of the Recreational Clubs Committee (RCC).
- 1.4 The society shall be recognised under the Knowledge Management Group.
- 1.5 A “Committee Quorum”, will henceforth refer to a democratic decision established by vote, in which more than **two thirds** of the committee members concur with the proposed motion.
- 1.6 A “Member Quorum”, will henceforth refer to a democratic decision established by vote, in which more than **half of participating** Society Members¹ concur with the proposed motion.
- 1.7 The terms “X Chair” and “X Events Officer”, refer to those roles on both the Academic and CTF branch, in one go, for brevity.
- 1.8 “In writing” refers to a document that may be handwritten or digital, so long as it is **written**.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The society shall hold the following as its aims and objectives. The society shall strive to fulfil these aims and objectives in the course of the academic year as its commitment to its membership.
- 2.2 To teach the basic skills required by members to be able to partake in CTF² challenges, through workshops, guides, walk-throughs, or other similar events.
- 2.3 To regularly³ run a wide variety of Talks and Workshops, ranging from easier, beginner content to harder, more technical content, encouraging inclusion of all levels of members.
- 2.4 To focus the vast majority (ca. 90% minimum) of all content to cyber-physical security, with the focus on cyber security, as per the name of the society (cf. Section 1.1).
- 2.5 To endeavour to hold talks and networking sessions with industry and guest speakers, to afford members the opportunity to engage with cyber security outside of academic interest.
- 2.6 To host and encourage discussion within a community of people interested in cyber security.
- 2.7 To provide a safe and controlled training environment for members to learn and practice cybersecurity-related techniques, setting clear boundaries for their hacking scope.
- 2.8 Where possible (time- and resource-permitting), larger, interactive challenges such as Puzzles, ARGs⁴, and various challenges will be developed and conducted by the society.
- 2.9 To discourage unsanctioned application of any and all potentially malicious techniques taught by the society. This is not to be neglected (cf. Appendix A).

3. Statement of intent

- 3.1 The constitution, regulations, management, and conduct of the society shall abide by all Union Policies, and shall be bound by the Union’s Constitution and Regulations.
- 3.2 The society stresses that it abides by the Imperial College Union Equal Opportunities Policy, and that society regulations pertaining to membership of the society or election to management of the society shall not contravene this policy.
- 3.3 The society shall also be governed by the RCC standing orders, regulations, and constitution.
- 3.4 The society Committee recognises the Code of Conducts issued by Imperial College London and the ICU, as their own, extended by the orders of conduct described in this Constitution.

4. Membership

- 4.1 The following shall be eligible to become members of the society:
 - 4.1.1 ICU Full Members
 - 4.1.2 ICU Associate Members
 - 4.1.3 ICU Life Members
- 4.2 Any society member who is a full member of ICU shall be a ‘full member’ of the society, all other members shall be ‘associate members’ of the society.
- 4.3 Membership to the society shall be free for all members, in perpetuity. Under the ideology that cyber security education should be free for all who seek it, and that help should always be given to those that ask for it (~ Dumbledore).

¹ To clarify, Committee Members are also Society Members. In matters requiring a Member Quorum, a Committee Members’ vote counts for exactly the same as all other votes.

² CTF = Capture-The-Flag, is a cybersecurity-oriented exercise, in which participants solve challenges in order to obtain text-based flags, which can be submitted in exchange for points.

³ Regular events are defined as taking place at a minimum of once every 2 weeks, even if they’re simple CTF participation.

⁴ ARGs = Alternate Reality Games, i.e. a fictitious situation is created, through which participants must navigate, solving cybersecurity-related challenges to progress through the game.

5. The Club Committee

- 5.1 The Committee shall consist of the following roles, each of which is assigned to one of three committee branches (Central, Academic, or CTF) (cf. Appendix B):
 - 5.1.1 President (Central)
 - 5.1.2 Treasurer (Central)
 - 5.1.3 Secretary (Central)
 - 5.1.4 Technology Officer (Central)
 - 5.1.5 Academic Chair (Academic)
 - 5.1.6 Academic Events Officer (Academic)
 - 5.1.7 CTF Chair (CTF)
 - 5.1.8 CTF Events Officer (CTF)
 - 5.1.9 Publicity Officer (Central)
 - 5.1.10 Outreach Officer (Academic)
 - 5.1.11 Relations Officer (CTF)
 - 5.1.12 Space Officer (Central)
 - 5.1.13 Merchant (Central)
 - 5.1.14 Editor (Central)
 - 5.1.15 Puzzlemaster (Central)
- 5.2 Roles may be juggled, shared, merged, benched, or added (cf. Appendix C) within the year, as seen decided by Committee quorum, with exception of the following rules:
 - 5.2.1 President, Treasurer, and Secretary are Principal Committee Members as defined by the ICU, and thus each role **must** be filled, by **distinct** committee members.
 - 5.2.2 In addition to the Principal Committee Members, one role on the Academic branch and one role on the CTF branch must be filled, at the very least
 - 5.2.3 The Committee must consist of a minimum of five members at any time, otherwise, filling this quota should become a priority for the Committee
- 5.3 All Committee Members should be full members of the society.
- 5.4 No Committee Member should hold a majority of the roles, at any point in the academic year.
- 5.5 Office shall be held from August 1st to July 31st of each academic year.

6. Management and Role Descriptions

- 6.1 The President shall represent the society on the RCC, and shall be responsible for making sure that the society is run according to the society Constitution and Code of Conduct, as far as can be reasonably expected.
- 6.2 The Treasurer shall carry out the day to day financial duties of the society.
- 6.3 The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the society records in good order as well as carrying out publicity and society communication duties.
- 6.4 The Technology Officer shall be responsible for managing and maintaining the society's digital platforms, and, crucially, the security thereof (cf. Section 11).
- 6.5 Academic Chair shall lead⁵ the development, evaluation, and design of Academic Events, as well as sorting out the behind-the-scenes logistics, with the relevant Committee Members.
- 6.6 Academic Events Officer shall ensure that Academic events are thoroughly planned and executed to plan, essentially, taking event ideas and actually running these events.
- 6.7 CTF Chair shall lead⁵ the logistics, challenge creation, and competitive aspects of all CTF events, be that designing an internal CTF or participating in an external one.
- 6.8 CTF Events Officer shall ensure that CTF events are thoroughly planned and executed to plan, essentially, ensuring the smooth-running of CTF events, since their formats are fairly fixed.
- 6.9 Publicity Officer shall be responsible for the management of social media, including DMs, posts, and general advertising. They are also partially responsible for the society branding.
- 6.10 Outreach Officer shall be in charge of forging and maintaining relations with firms and institutions, in and outside Imperial, as well as handling sponsorships from these connections.
- 6.11 Relations Officer shall be in charge of forging and maintaining relations with societies, both within and without Imperial, as well as coordinating joint events with those connections.
- 6.12 Space Officer shall be responsible for booking and helping to choose venues for events of various sizes, as well as handling safety checks and filing Risk Assessments for events.
- 6.13 Merchant is responsible for managing⁶ the Design → Test → Order → Collect → Store → Sell workflow for merchandise, and for maintaining society branding and image (cf. Appendix D).
- 6.14 The Editor is responsible for writing, editing, and curating the Society Newsletter.
- 6.15 The Puzzlemaster has a more relaxed, informal role writing puzzles, all kinds of puzzles for various events run by the society, e.g. ARGs, challenges, CTFs, etc.

⁵ It is the X Chair's responsibility to create new events, as well as to evaluate and approve any new event types. Upholding Section 2.3 also falls under the X Chair's jurisdiction, i.e. ensuring regularity of events for their branch.

⁶ The Merchant may choose to delegate steps like "Design" to a competition held among Society Members, for example.

- 6.16 The President and Treasurer shall sign an ICU Financial Responsibility form, and shall be aware of the ICU Financial Regulations.
- 6.17 X Chair and X Events Officer are synergetic roles, so should one of those roles see temporary setbacks, the other role (of that branch) is to step-in and help out, within reason.
- 6.18 The management of the society shall be vested in the Committee.

7. General Meetings:

- 7.1 A General Meeting is run by the Committee, and may be called by the President, Committee Quorum, or by **twelve** members of the society submitting a proposal to the President in writing, which must be held within 10 college days from receipt of the proposal.
- 7.2 A General Meeting may also be called within the society, without Presidential or Committee approval. This General Meeting, also known as a Revolution (cf. Appendix E), requires a petition signed by at least a **quarter** of society members, to be carried out.
- 7.3 General Meetings may only be held during undergraduate term time.
- 7.4 At least five college days notice of a General Meeting must be given to the Society Members.
- 7.5 All members of the society may vote at General Meetings.
- 7.6 Decision shall be reached by a simple majority (more than half) of the attending members.

8. The Annual General Meeting and Elections

- 8.1 The AGM shall be held during the second term of the academic year, and shall have as its main business:
 - 8.1.1 The presentation of Committee Reports for the past year, which will consist of either a Presentation or a written Report of what each member has done in the past year.
 - 8.1.2 The Election of the Committee for the next session (cf. Section 8.5)
- 8.2 An agenda giving notice of the AGM must be circulated to all society members at least ten college days in advance.
- 8.3 Nominations for society officers must be posted at least ten college days in advance of the AGM and closed before the meeting.
 - 8.3.1 Each nomination shall require one proposer and **two** seconders who shall be full members of the society, all three parties must be distinct entities.
 - 8.3.2 AGM motions shall be passed by Member Quorum.
 - 8.3.3 In the event of there being no nomination for a post within the stipulated time then nominations may be accepted at the AGM.
- 8.4 In the event that no person is voted in to a post or of resignation from a position, the Committee will undertake the duties until such time as the post is filled.
 - 8.4.1 Elections to fill such a vacant post should take place at a General Meeting and shall be subject to the same rules as per AGM.
 - 8.4.2 Nominations for such Elections, however, require only **one** seconder.
- 8.5 Elections should be carried out via the ICU system, using either the Manifesto-Vote system or the Hustings system (cf. Appendix F), as decided by the Committee before the AGM.

9. Finance

- 9.1 The society may receive a grant from Imperial College Union and shall administer this in accordance with the Imperial College Union financial procedures.
- 9.2 The society Treasurer will provide the Honorary Junior Treasurer of the RCC with a detailed, expected budget for the following academic year during the second half of the Spring term.
- 9.3 Budgets for large, irregular⁷ events shall be taken to the DP(F&S) for inspection and approval.

10. Health and Safety

- 10.1 The society acknowledges its duty of care to its members and will abide by Imperial College Union's Health and Safety policy.
- 10.2 By being members of the society, society members agree to abide by Imperial's [Student Code of Conduct](#), regardless of whether or not they are students.

11. Society Platforms and Hacking Scope

- 11.1 All internally-built society platforms and systems must be open-source and their code by publicly accessible on sites such as GitHub.
- 11.2 The Committee has a responsibility to monitor Pull Requests and Issues for these systems, should those systems be actively deployed in service of the society.
- 11.3 In matters regarding externally-built systems used by the society, the society will endeavour to use open-source systems where possible (except GitHub systems, for obvious reasons⁸).

⁷ i.e. large events not covered in the society's annual event proposals. "large" describing an attendance exceeding 50 people.

⁸ Despite being closed-source itself, GitHub is currently the best place to host open-source content.

11.4 As a Cyber Security Society, it is important to define the scope of permitted hacking outside of events:

- 11.4.1 In general, for all society members, hacking with malicious intent, regardless of the ownership of the system, is strictly prohibited and may be punishable by dismissal, or even **legal action** as per the [Computer Misuse Act 1990](#), depending on the situation.
- 11.4.2 Hacking for fun or for vulnerability discovery is permitted, **however**, only on infrastructure owned by the society (cf. Appendix G).
- 11.4.3 Should a committee member give permission for members to hack something, for which no permission can be given, responsibility is shared or assigned by situation⁹.
- 11.4.4 Any and all discovered vulnerabilities must be disclosed as soon as possible only to the Committee, at first, preferably in proper [CVE format](#).
- 11.4.5 Should the Committee fail to respond or take proper actions to address the vulnerability within twelve college days, the vulnerability may be disclosed publicly, for members to try and patch themselves via Pull Requests.

12. The Constitution

- 12.1 The Constitution shall only be altered by consent of two-thirds majority of the full members present at a general meeting. The RCC shall approve any such alterations.
- 12.2 The Constitution is binding on the society Committee and members from 27th February 2025.
- 12.3 As of 27th February 2025 all other Cybersecurity Society constitutions are hereby revoked.

Appendix

Appendix A: Misuse of Cyber Security Content

It is the duty of those delivering society content, the supervising committee members, and the society members, to make it clear to any attendees that the content taught at these events is not to be used on any system not legally **owned** by themselves, unless explicit permission has been provided, in writing.

The society does not take responsibility for the behaviour of members in the wider cyber-space, but is willing to participate in and facilitate punitive action for society members that misuse society content.

Appendix B: Committee Branches

There are 3 defined Committee Branches: Central, Academic, and CTF. These are established to better divide the roles and responsibilities of the Committee Members, as to prevent one branch from massively affecting the running of the other.

The Central branch, as one may expect, consists of the Principal Roles, as well as roles that don't really specialise between Academic and CTF activities. The Academic branch and CTF branch, operate to deliver events on Academic and CTF events, respectively, though there may be overlap in some cases.

Appendix C: Committee Roles and their Alterations

To re-iterate, of the 15 roles described in 5.1, only the Principal Committee roles (cf. 5.2.1) must remain completely immune to being benched/added.

Among the other 12 roles, "Roles may be juggled, shared, merged, benched, or added":

- juggled: one committee member may juggle/assume multiple roles
 - This usually implies a deficit and should signal a search for new committee members
- shared: multiple committee members may choose to share a particular role
 - Can be paired with juggling of other roles, or just reduce the workload on those parties
- merged: 2 or more roles may be merged into a single role
 - e.g. the Outreach and Relations Officer roles can merge into a single Central-branch role handling external relations, with both companies and other societies
- benched: if it's decided that a role isn't as important that year, it can be temporarily dropped
 - it is believed that all 15 roles will be important in time, but this may fluctuate, e.g. at the time of writing we have no Merchant, as we do not yet have merchandise to peddle
- added: if a job description not fitting the described roles is required, new roles can be created
 - though careful thought has gone into the proposed roles, they may not be perfect

⁹ Honest mistakes can happen, and malicious actors may feign innocence, so no blanket statement can be applied here.

Should any of the Role Descriptions defined in Section 6 require amendment, an amendment proposal accepted by Committee Quorum is sufficient to override¹⁰ these descriptions, external to this Constitution. Amendments to this Constitution can only be made in line with Section 12.1, for bureaucratic reasons. That new role description may be followed by the assuming member, so long as that new description is public, and well sign-posted via the [CyberSoc website](#) or other avenue.

Appendix D: Society Branding and Image

This refers to the outward-facing appearance of the society: the style of styled communications (e.g. posters, ads, etc., not text-based notifications), the style of content and challenges created by the society, and, of course, the society logo and aesthetics.

The term also encompasses implicit branding communicated by the running of the society, such as the type of events, and organisation thereof, but this is outside of the jurisdiction of individual committee members to manage and not part of any Role Descriptions.

Appendix E: Society Revolutions

- E.1 It is important to note that a Revolution is exactly the same as a General Meeting, except that the restriction that a committee member must be present is relaxed, and therefore the running of the meeting is now the responsibility of the proposer of the Revolution.
- E.2 As per Section 7.2, a quarter of official society members (as recognised by the Union) must sign a petition to call for a Revolution, this is to reduce abuse of this power on the side of the members, but still permit overhauls, should the Committee be deemed unfit by the members.
 - E.2.1. Revolutions prevent the society from being driven into the ground by a subpar Committee, when there is still sufficient interest in the society, from its members.
- E.3 The Guardian is henceforth defined as Pierce Wiegerling, the writer of this constitution, and the most willing and able of the Founding Members to respond to society concerns.
 - E.3.1. The Guardian has no special powers to influence or revoke decisions made in line with this Constitution, merely the authority to enforce such decisions.
- E.4 No member of the Committee is permitted to silence or censor the required petitions or discussions around Revolutions, if evidence of such actions are provided to the Guardian, the committee member in question may be dismissed from their role, or from the society, entirely.
 - E.4.1. That being said, repeated abuse of this rule, with evidence provided to the Guardian, is also punishable by dismissal of that member from the society.
- E.5 To clarify, the quarter of signatures is the requirement to **call** a Revolution, to which the Committee **must** still be notified, in writing, to give them ample opportunity to join, it's just that a Revolution is permitted to continue regardless of Committee attendance.
 - E.5.1. Failure to properly notify the Committee at least ten college days before the meeting takes place, renders that Revolution null and void, regardless of the outcome.
 - E.5.2. Committee members need not respond to notifications for them to count, so long as an earnest effort has been made to contact all committee members in some way.
- E.6 In situations of doubt and uncertainty, surrounding Revolutions and failures of the Committee, the Guardian may be contacted to enforce the terms stated in this Constitution.

Appendix F: Election Systems

There are two Election systems currently accepted by the Union:

- An online Nomination, Manifesto, and Voting system, currently delivered automatically via the Union's eVoting system three times an academic year, once a term.
- An offline Hustings, whereby all potential candidates are invited to a General Meeting, where manifestos may be delivered, and a general 'vibe' can be gathered for each candidate. Before voting takes place, also facilitated by the Union's eVoting system.

Which system is chosen, is up to members that are running the Election. A hybrid of the two, with an online election used for some positions and offline election for others, perhaps those requiring more presentation and people skills, is also a fantastic alternative.

- F.1. Should roles not have been filled by Elections, as per [Union rules](#), new committee members may also be Co-Opted into position by Committee Quorum.
 - F.1.1. Co-Opting must follow the rules set out by the Union in the supplied document.
- F.2. Should Section 5.2.3 no longer be fulfilled and no Union election currently taking place, either a General Meeting must be called, or a Co-Opt process must be started, post-haste.

¹⁰ But should a description or role become sufficiently outdated, then a constitution amendment is encouraged.

Appendix G: Hacking Scope

Sites, platforms, and infrastructure **owned** by the Cyber Security Society and only this society are eligible for hacking by society members. E.g. in its current state, the [society website](#) may be hacked, to the extent that members may try to mess with our forms, attempt to access URLs that aren't linked, etc., **but** unless otherwise permitted by GitHub rules, members are strictly forbidden from attacks on the underlying infrastructure, such as by DoS attacks or injection attacks, since the site is hosted on GitHub Pages. If one does wish to hack GitHub, please refer to [their bug bounty page](#).

An example of a page that may be misconstrued as to be owned by us, but is strictly off-limits, is our [Union page](#), which is hosted and operated entirely by the Union.

However, in all situations, before hacking a system owned by the society, members must first refer to the most up-to-date [hacking scope page](#) available on the society website, for a strict whitelist of what may and may not be attacked: if that page doesn't say it can be hacked, don't hack it.

Appendix H: Current State of Affairs (at time of writing)

It's worth mentioning that, at present, we have only 6 active Committee Members, with the majority of the roles described in Section 5.1 being counted as "benched" or being "juggled" by the Society President. So, this constitution has been written, thinking of the future of the society and optimistically taking into account the growth of both the Society and the Committee.

This constitution has been adapted from the Imperial College Union Parkour and Free Running Club's constitution from 12th February 2007, for lack of easily-accessible resources provided by the Union. This constitution has been approved in accordance with 12.1, above, and accepted as the constitution for Imperial Cybersecurity Society, signed:

Pierce Wiegerling
27th February 2025
Society President

{name}
{date: 1st March 2025?}
{Union position}