TryHackMe SOC Role in Blue Team Assignment

Course: CEH

Date Assigned: 5-11-2025

Due Date: 4-11-2025

Student Name: Praveen Kumar

Batch/Section: Super30 Batch

Instructor: Nitish kumar

Summary

This lab provides practical insight into how a Security Operations Center (SOC) functions as the first line of defense in an organization's security posture. You begin by monitoring live security telemetry — logs from endpoints, servers, firewalls, SIEM dashboards, identity systems, and cloud services — to build an understanding of baseline network behavior and normal user activity. From there, you explore how SOC analysts detect threats in real time by triaging alerts, correlating logs, and using SIEM queries to identify suspicious behaviors, IOC matches, and anomalies that signal potential attacks.

You investigate simulated security events such as phishing attempts, malware execution, privilege escalation, lateral movement, and exfiltration to learn what patterns trigger alerts and why. Through hands-on threat hunting exercises, you practice pivoting across log sources, examining event timelines, mapping attacker activity to MITRE ATT&CK, and validating suspicious indicators. You also learn effective incident handling steps from alert verification and escalation to evidence collection, user communication, and documenting findings.

The lab covers essential SOC response workflows including account blocking, isolating compromised hosts, blocking malicious IPs/domains, and working with DFIR teams for deeper analysis. You gain understanding of playbooks, use cases, and rule tuning to reduce false positives and improve detection fidelity. Finally, you explore SOC collaboration practices, reporting, and strategies to harden the environment and stay ahead of adversary tactics. It’s a full SOC lifecycle experience: monitor, detect, analyze, respond, recover the same structured approach used to protect real enterprise environments.

The Contents of the Room

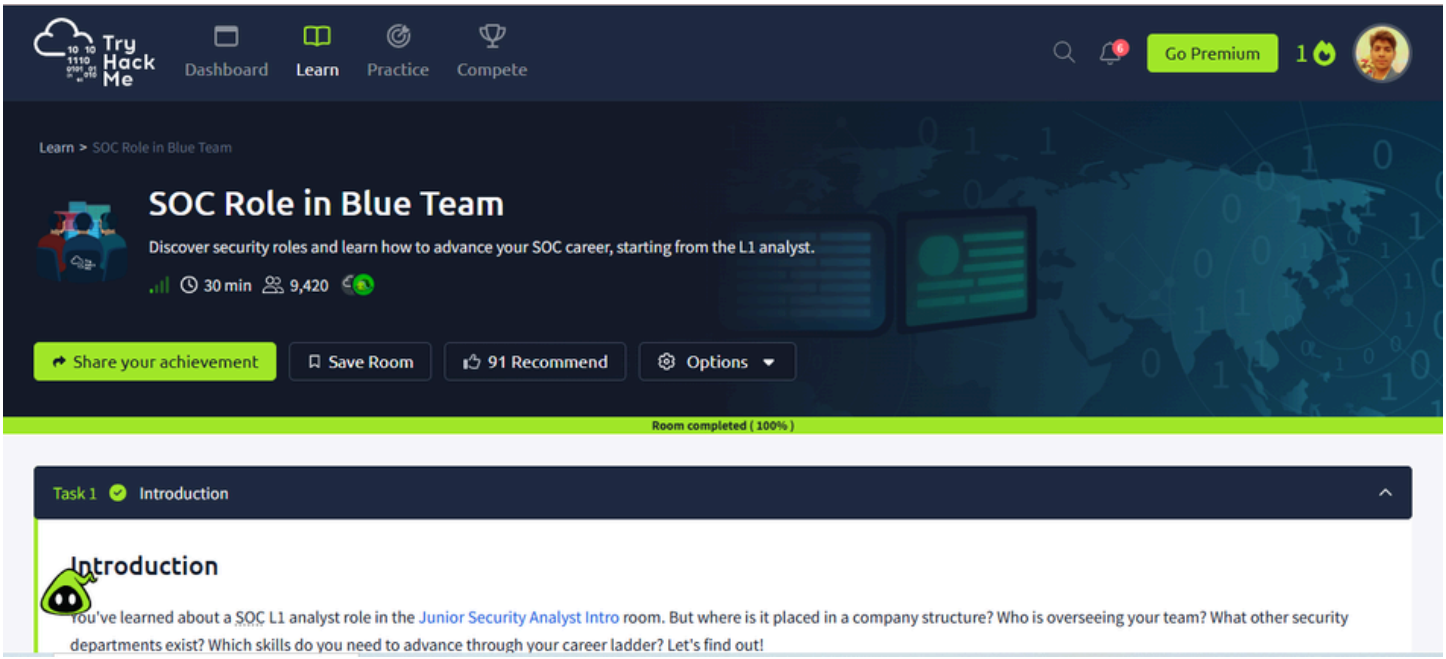
Task 1: Introduction to SOC

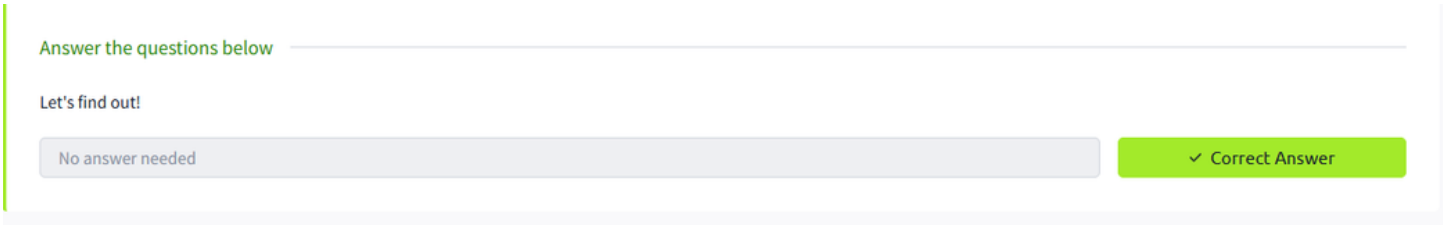
In your Junior Security Analyst Intro training, you learned the basics of what a SOC Level 1 analyst does in a team, such as monitoring alerts, investigating initial security incidents, and escalating suspicious actions. But merely learning the

duties of your role doesn't help much. To operate firmly and without hesitation in the real world as a professional, you must understand where a SOC stands in a business's security functions and how your role relates to the entire cybersecurity world.

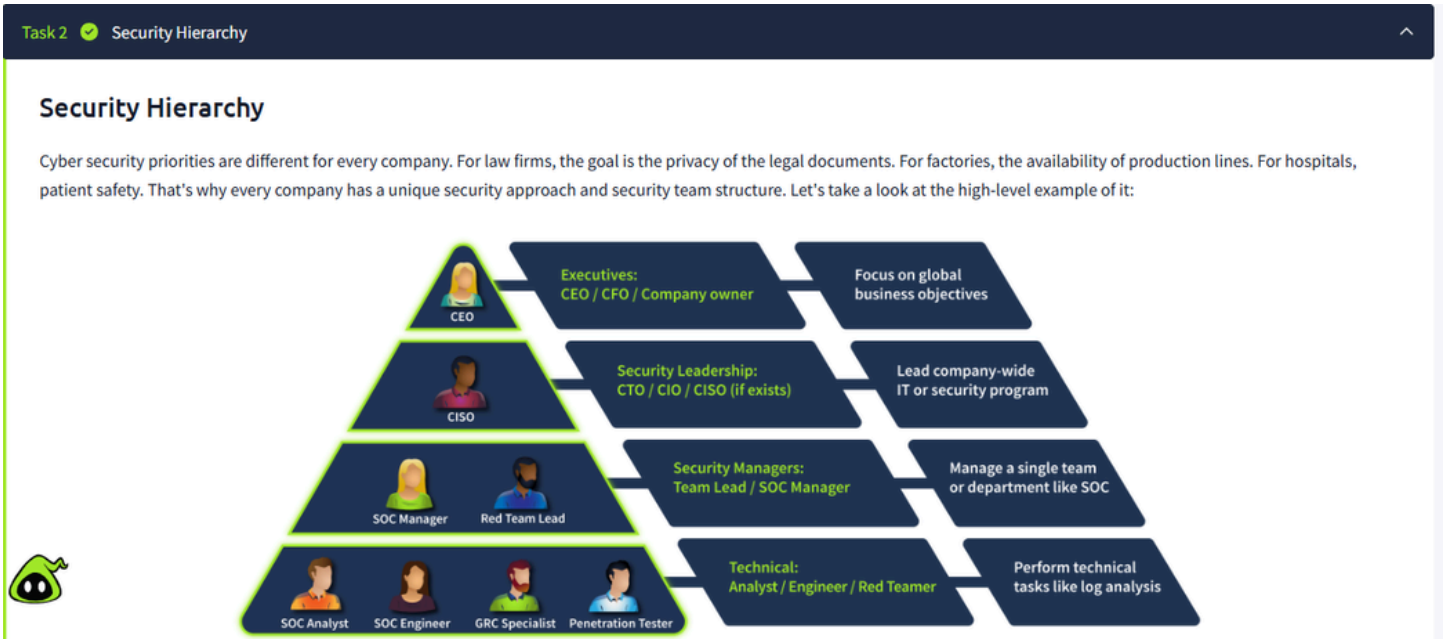
The SOC serves as the central cybersecurity defense operations hub within an enterprise. It is your job as a SOC L1 analyst to work in frontline defense, where you constantly oversee protective resources, SIEM dashboards, endpoint logs, and network alerts. You have your work guided by senior analysts and security managers and are responsible for the accurate management of incidents and decision-making.

Anticipating the learning path, you understand the functions of leadership and support personnel around you, such as SOC Managers, Incident Response (IR) teams, Threat Intelligence specialists, and the Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) function. Knowing their duties allows you to work within the framework of collaboration and align your role for the most productive advancement in your career.





Task 2: Security Hierarchy



Q1.Which senior role typically makes key cyber security decisions?

Answer : CISO

Q2.What is the common name for roles like SOC analysts and engineers?

Answer : Blue Team

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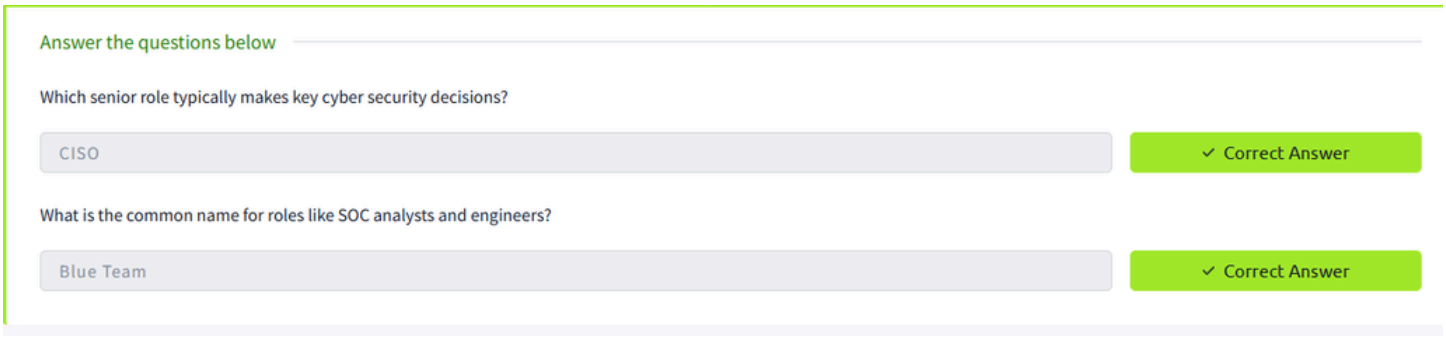

Task 3: Meet the Blue Team

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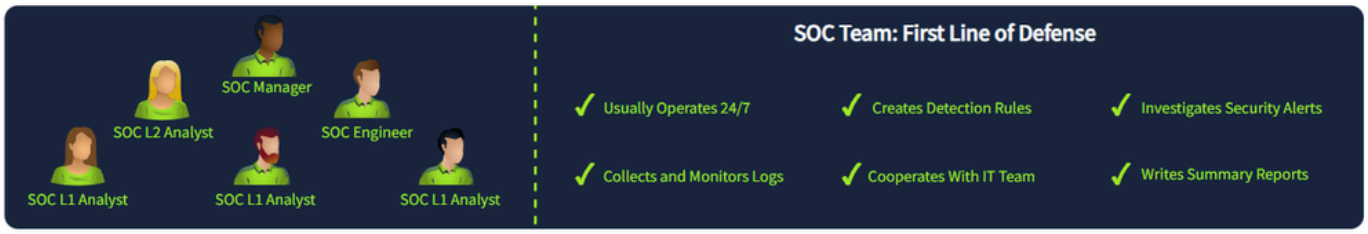
Blue Team is about defensive security, meaning it constantly monitors for attacks and tries to respond to them quickly. Depending on a company's size and sector, Blue Team can include a lot of different roles and subdepartments, usually counting 3 to 50 members total. Now, let's explore the most common Blue Team departments.

Security Operations Center (SOC)



That's where you are most likely to start your cyber security journey! SOC is the central hub for an organization's cyber security - they are the first line of defense, work with various alerts, and handle most attacks. You can read more about SOC structure in this room, but an efficient SOC is usually composed of the following roles:

- **L1 Analysts**: Junior members who triage alerts and pass complex cases to L2
- **L2 Analysts:** Experienced members who investigate more advanced attacks
- **Engineers**: Experts in configuring security tools like EDR or SIEM
- **Manager**: A person who manages the whole SOC team

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Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT)

If SOC expertise is not enough or the incident goes out of control, you urgently call the "firefighters" - CIRT, also called CSIRT or CERT. The members should have a broad knowledge of cyber threats and handle breaches without depending on tools like EDR or SIEM. A CIRT job is stressful and responsible, but also rewarding. Here are a few CIRT examples:

- JPCERT: Japan's CERT handling nation-wide breaches
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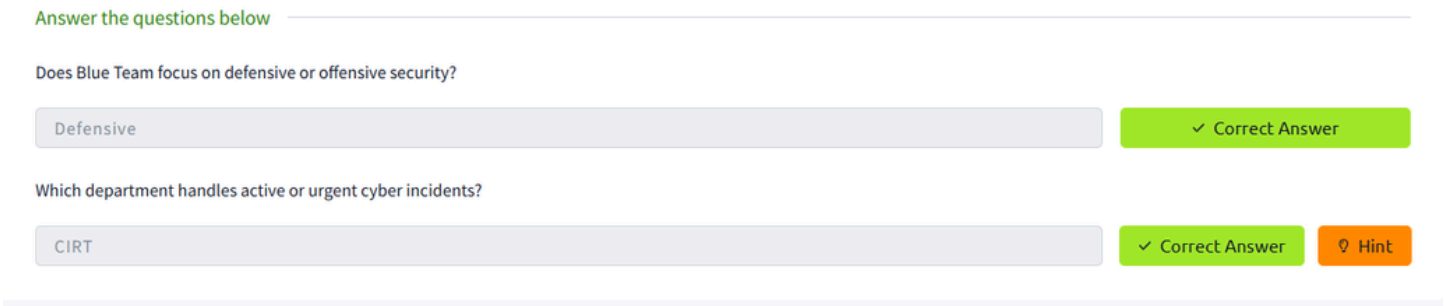
- Mandiant: A private team responding to global cyber incidents
- AWS CIRT: Investigates security incidents of AWS customers

Specialized Defensive Roles

Large companies, technology-focused startups, and government agencies often require narrow and specialized Blue Team roles - exciting and highly valuable, but requiring deep topic knowledge and broad experience in broader fields like SOC or IT. These narrow roles can include:

- **Digital Forensics Analyst**: Uncover hidden threats in disk and memory
- **Threat Intelligence Analyst**: Gather data about emerging threat groups
- **AppSec Engineer**: Maintain a secure software development lifecycle
- **AI Researcher**: Study AI threats and how to defend against them



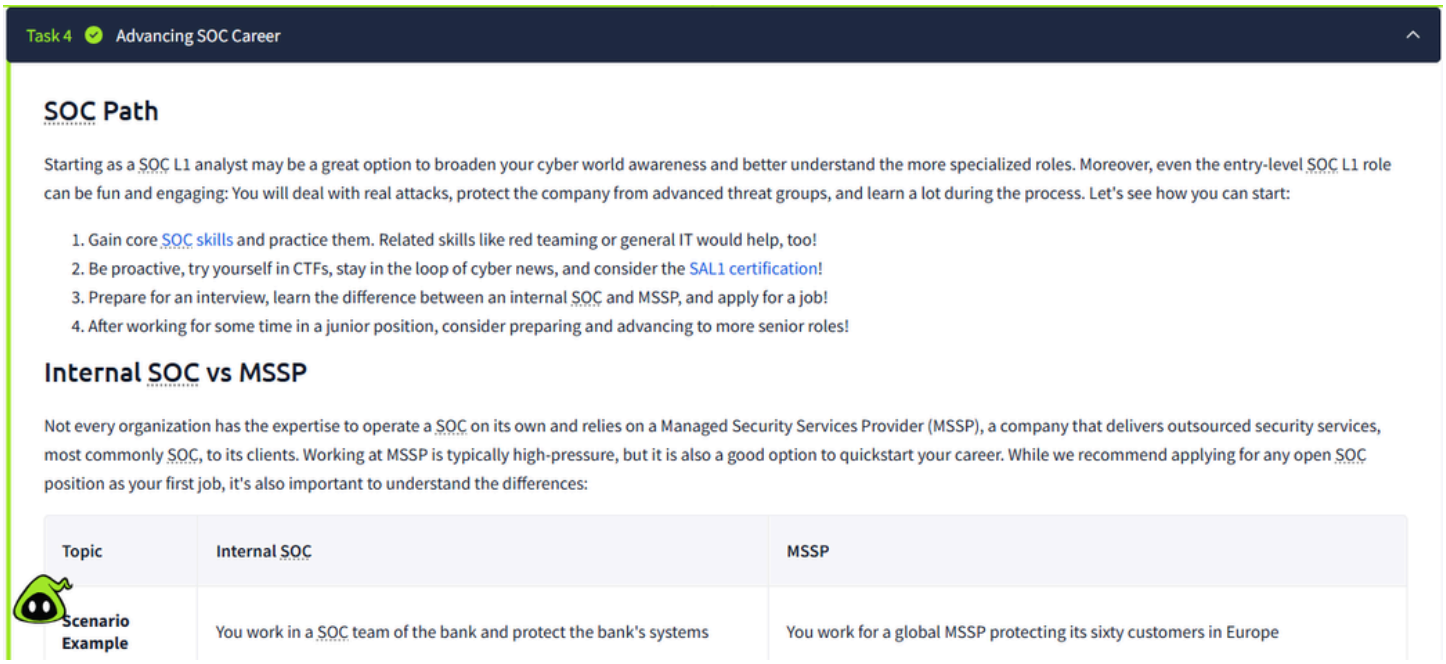
Q1.Does Blue Team focus on defensive or offensive security?

Answer: Defensive

Q2.Which department handles active or urgent cyber incidents?

Answer: CIRT

Task 4: Advancing SOC Career



Internal SOC vs MSSP

Not every organization has the expertise to operate a SOC on its own and relies on a Managed Security Services Provider (MSSP), a company that delivers outsourced security services, most commonly SOC, to its clients. Working at MSSP is typically high-pressure, but it is also a good option to quickstart your career. While we recommend applying for any open SOC position as your first job, it's also important to understand the differences:

Topic	Internal SOC	MSSP
Scenario Example	You work in a SOC team of the bank and protect the bank's systems	You work for a global MSSP protecting its sixty customers in Europe
Working Pace	You usually have calm shifts without too much time pressure	Your shift usually starts from a queue of urgent alerts to analyze
Security Tools	You work with just a few tools, but need to know them very well	You have to work with sixty diverse security tools and platforms
Incident Practice	You saw and learned from just two major cyber attacks last year	Every week, you deal with attacks and breaches, and can learn from it

Next Steps

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Your most natural next step after L1 is to become a SOC L2 analyst, but you are free to choose another path! While handling a SIEM alert, you might notice that engineering work appeals to you more. During a cyber attack, you may be fascinated by CIRT actions. You may also find yourself well-suited as a manager and build your path to the CISO role. No matter what, your first year or two is to get real work experience, and to spend this time effectively, follow the tips below!

How would you call a cyber security company providing SOC services?

MSSP ✓ Correct Answer

Which role naturally continues your SOC L1 analyst journey?

SOC L2 Analyst ✓ Correct Answer

Q1.How would you call a cyber security company providing SOC services?

Answer: MSSP

Q2.Which role naturally continues your SOC L1 analyst journey?

Answer: SOC L2 Analyst

Task 5: Final Challenge

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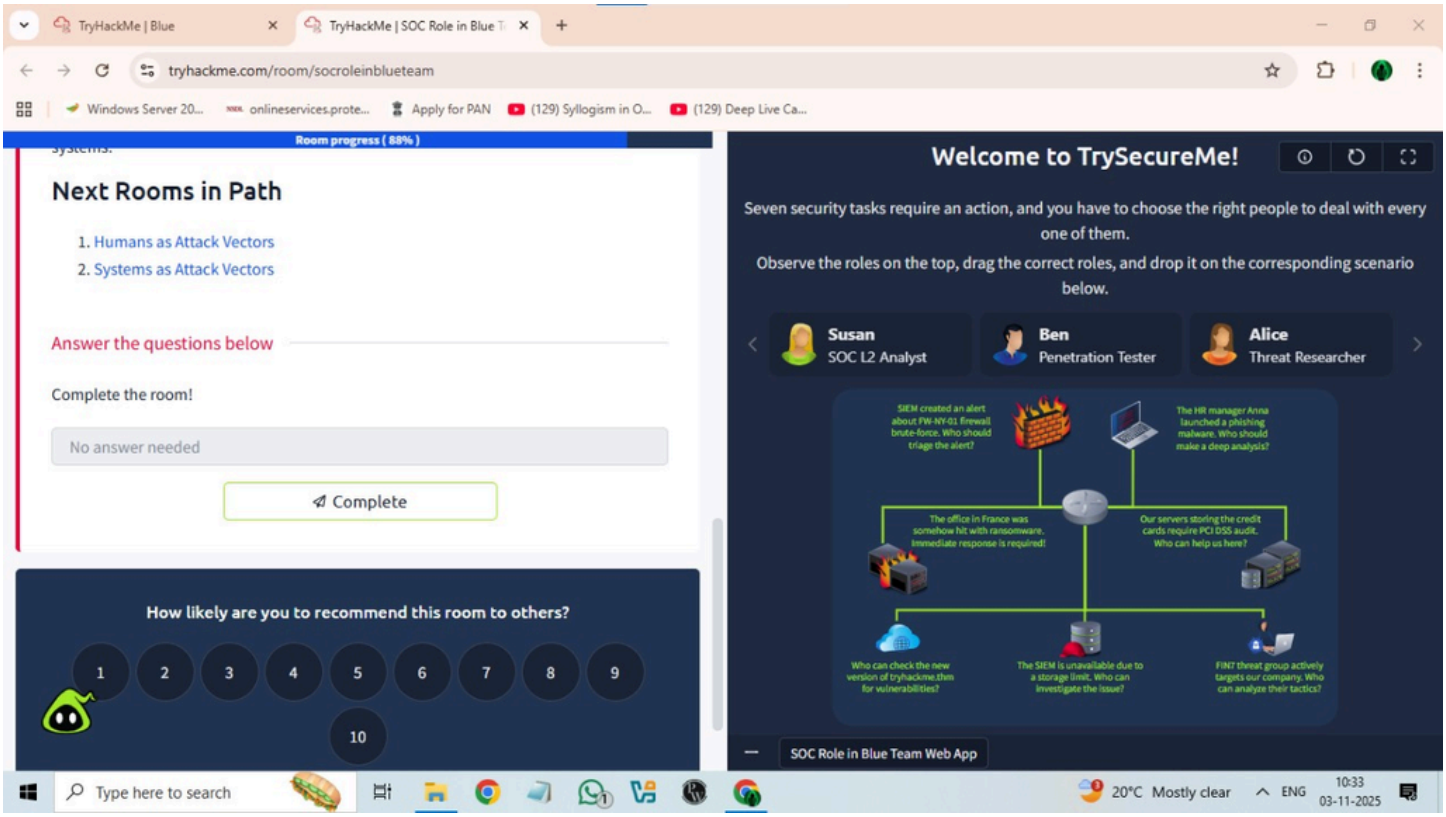
Final Challenge

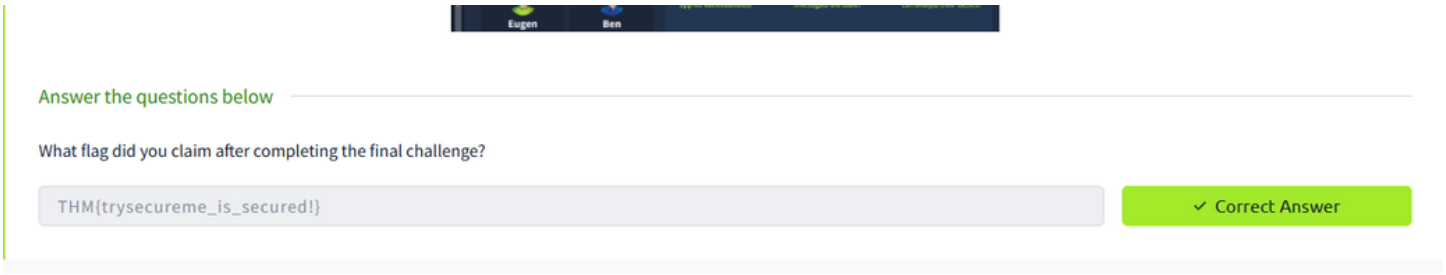
For this task, imagine yourself as a CISO of TrySecureMe, a big multinational company. You oversee multiple departments and deal with incidents every month. This time, as many as seven incidents are happening at the same time, and you have to choose the right people to deal with every one of them. Do you know security roles well enough to complete this challenge?

Website Instructions

View Site

Open the attached website by clicking the **View Site** button above and consider resizing or opening it in full screen for a better view. Then, drag and drop the roles from the left to the incidents on the right. If your choices are correct, claim your flag and complete the task! You can reset the website at any time by clicking the **Reset** button.

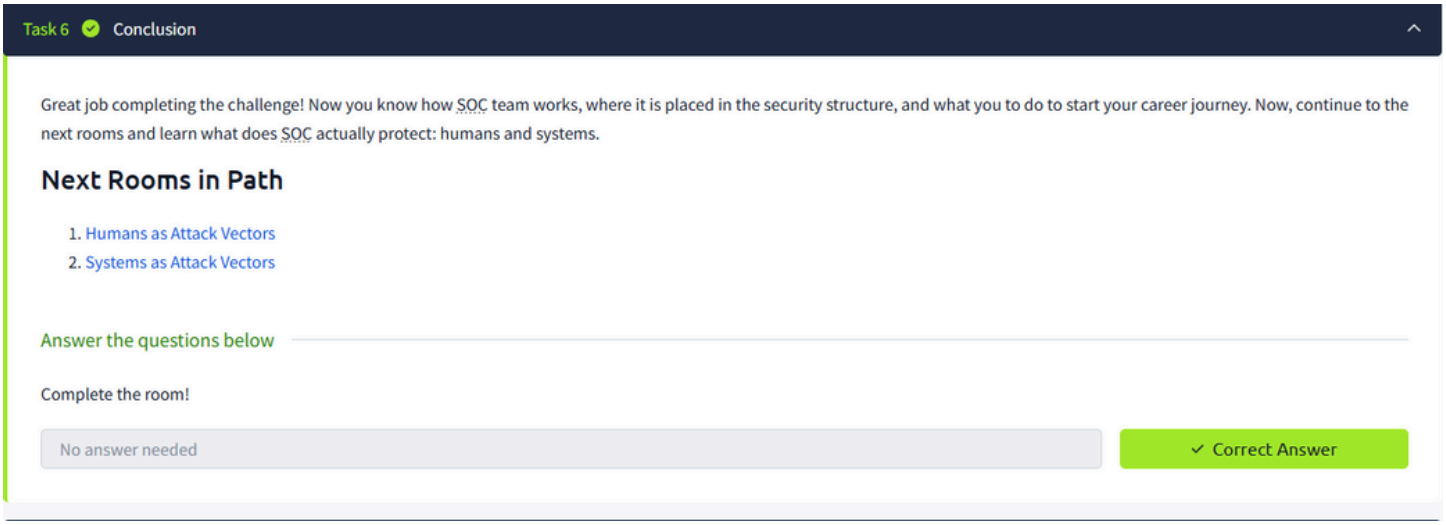


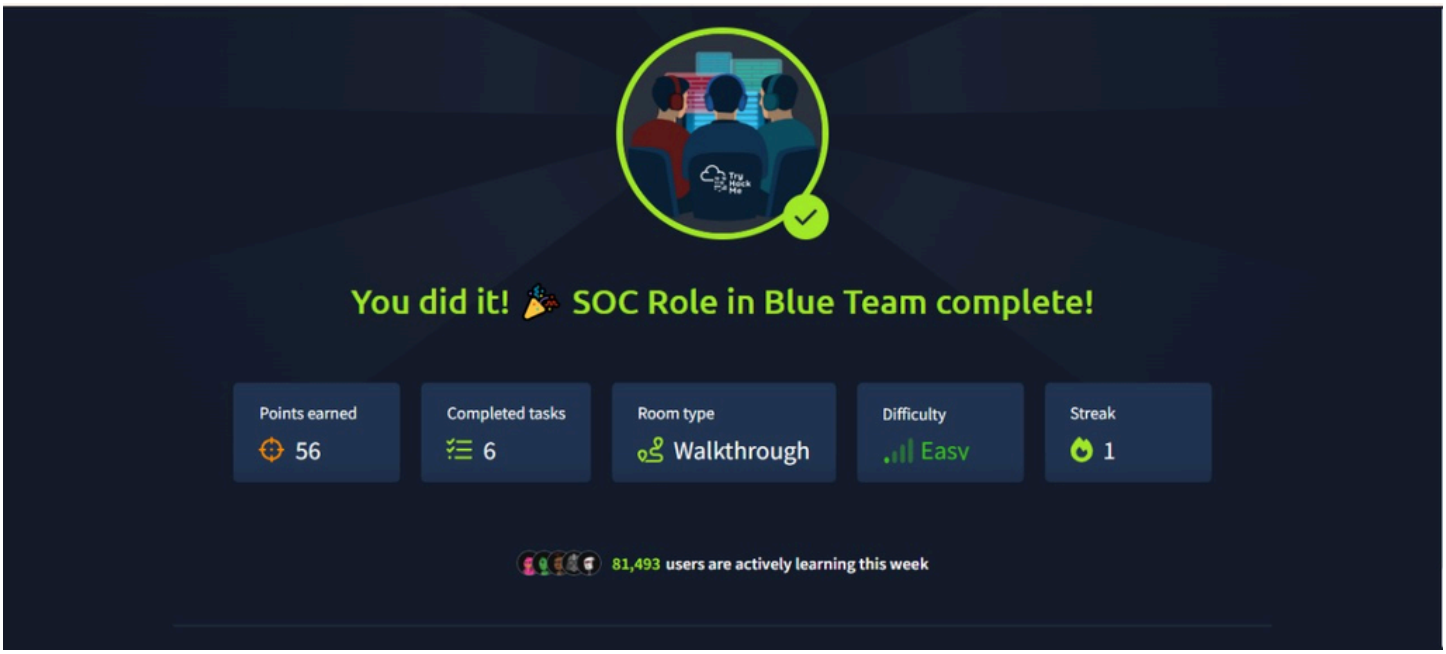


Q1.What flag did you claim after completing the final challenge?

Answer: THM{trysecureme_is_secured!}

Task 6: Conclusion





Declaration

I declare that this work is my own and completed without unauthorized assistance.

Signature: Praveen Kumar

Date: 5-11-2025