



RITSEC Alumni Newsletter January 2022

Recap

Club Update

Obviously it's been a while since one of these newsletters has been sent out, so we'd like to take this opportunity to update everyone on how the club is surviving in this post-pandemic era. Even though our attendance numbers dwindled during the thick of the pandemic, people still masked up, tuned in on Twitch, and recorded presentations to ensure the show went on. We would like to thank the RITSEC 2020-21 Eboard for making certain the club survived, even in the face of a global pandemic.



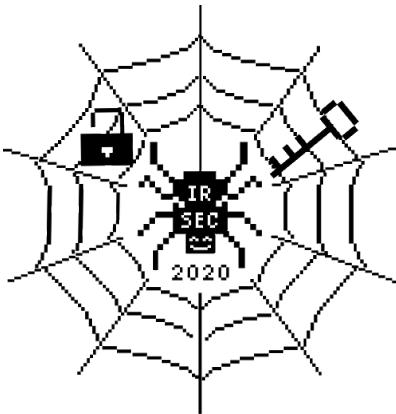
This year, we are happy to announce that our average meeting attendance is 76 members strong! Our interest groups/programs, mentorship, and competitions are in full-swing and we are all very excited to be back.



IRSeC 20/20.5

2020 was a new year for all of us. We were all dealing with the new and harsh realities of COVID-19. In April of 2020, for the first time, an iteration of IRSeC was forced abruptly online by the closure of campus as the reality of the pandemic set in. While this was unfortunate for all the contestants, black team, and our morale, the show had to go on. Later that year, things were looking ever more positive. Some students came back to campus, and RITSEC resumed in-person meetings. The new semester brought quite a few changes on campus. But there was one more - we moved IRSeC to November, effectively switching the CTF and IRSeC. We did this for several reasons, but mainly to give our black team a rest after ISTS.

So on Halloween of 2020, for the second time that year, IRSeC 2020 Sp00ky Edition was run. However, due to the challenges of the year 2020, the competition would be run remotely again. This created new challenges for our team, such as how sponsor interaction would work and how blue teams would be able to communicate. We had to make sure our infrastructure was solid, as we would have a full attendance of 13 teams hammering those servers hard. Our Ops lead Kyle Schleich led the charge in upgrading a lot of our older infrastructure, creating a solid, stable Openstack platform that ran flawlessly day-of. We ripped out all of our hard drives for solid state drives, which improved the competition experience tremendously. Our black team had worked tirelessly getting the competition put together, and we worked hard to make it work. It was amazing to see our black team's teamwork even in difficult, uncertain times. We managed quite a few in person meetings as well,



essentially running the competition in person the day of. While we got to a finalized state later than planned, what competition doesn't? Our final deploy happened around 5:00 the day prior from one of the classrooms in Golisano known to us as OPSEC-1. Red Team deployed their tooling, and amazingly, the competition was ready to start on time. While a few blue teams hung out in labs, the competition was mainly remote. We ran the competition out of OPSEC-1, and did our best to run the competition in a way that gave the in person teams a taste of what an in person competition was like. While we had a few glitches, overall everything ran smoothly. A pandemic can't stop IRSeC, even though it may have tried.

ISTS 21

ISTS 21 followed a Cyberpunk 2077 theme with the Samurai and Ninja battling it out to win glory for their Daimyo. They defined their territories, managed business affairs, quested for treasure, and commanded their armies fearlessly. Although the competition was remote, everything went amazingly. RIT took first place, followed by UC Riverside and UCF respectively. The remote nature allowed us to focus on writing strong infrastructure code and procedures ready for future competitions. Of course this was all backed by a rock solid black team which led to a smooth running competition and the CA, Daniel Szafran, the only one to not sleep (not for lack of trying). Thanks to everyone who participated in any capacity and we hope to see you at ISTS 22!



IRSeC 21

IRSeC '21 was a fantastic success! With over 125 signups for 75 blue team slots, the community was very excited for the first in person competition since ISTS 20. Hosted in the new GCI conference room, and leveraging the Cyber Range as a base of operations, the competition ran in early October! An all new Black Team put together an exciting competition based on Greek Mythology! Redteamers brought out a collection of old and new tools, and also featured a handful of alumni!

Red Team

The RIT Redteam has increased by 14 new members, a 70% increase! Last semester, we got the chance to challenge the blue teams at IRSeC, UB Highschool, UB Lockdown and CCDC Mini comp. The team has developed some new tools (DiscordGo, BravoSix, etc.) and is also in the process of bringing alumni tools up to date. Finally, we are in the process of creating a publicly accessible wiki that showcases our public tools and how to use them. More announcements will be sent out in the discord further into the semester.





WiCyS

WiCyS has increased our membership through the pandemic with a focus on in person meetings. We were glad to see our alumni at the annual conference in September, and are looking forward to the March conference. We would like to thank Susie Heilman for donating tickets to WiCyS members for ShmooCon. Our major focuses this year are deepening and diversifying our technical skills, as well as providing guidance for career success.

Goodbye Megan!

We would like to say a final thank you to Megan, who left RIT last week. RITSEC will not be the same without her, as she was crucial in helping build up the club and always putting others before herself. As sad as it is to see her go, Megan will be working for a Non-profit in the Rochester area and we look forward to seeing her thrive in her new position.



Coming Up

ISTS 22

ISTS 22 is on track to be held March 4-6th at the new GCI. Alumni are welcome to come visit! (Proof of Vaccination and masks required) Also, check out our redesigned website <https://ists.io>!



RITSEC CTF 22

The RITSEC CTF will be running from Apr 1, 2022 to Apr 3, 2022 ! This year we are theming our challenges around a Secret R&D Company! We will be featuring the following types of challenges: Bin/PWN, Reversing, Stego, Forensics, Web, Crypto, and OSINT! If you are interested or have any questions, reach out to Jason Howe (jbh3464@rit.edu, p0nt14c#6159)!



Shmoocon

RITSEC will have a table at Shmoocon on March 24th! Come by our table to say hello and see what we've been up to. We're also forming an RITSEC Hackfortress team, (lookout alumni) and we're coming to win! The Shmoocon RITSEC alumni meetup is still TBD as we constantly adjust to the rapidly evolving Covid-19 situation, so please keep a lookout in the discord for more information.



Hackerthon

The Hackerthon is back! This year's theme is sleep. Okay, just joking, but the Hackerthon has been modified from 24 hours to 12 hours this year as we are working hard to promote healthy habits. We are welcoming all alumni to come speak virtually at the Hackerthon, so please reach out to Jason Howe (jbh3464@rit.edu, p0nt14c#6159) if you would like to participate!

Graduation

RITSEC Graduation will be held on April 15th 2022 at 4pm. Please join us to celebrate our graduating members and (hopefully) have a cookout/hang out at Genesee Valley Park! Following the graduation at the GCI conference room, we will be taking pictures, making teary speeches, and cementing memories for the years to come. *Please note, graduation will be held following the 2nd day of our elections and alumni are respectfully asked to arrive after elections at 4:00 for graduation.*

