SIGPwny

General FA2025 • 2025-08-31

Introduction

SIGPwny Team

Overview

- What is SIGPwny?
- How to join SIGPwny?
- Who is SIGPwny?
- Women in CyberSecurity @ Illinois
- Ground Rules
- What does SIGPwny do?

What is SIGPwny?

Why were we yelling at you at Quad Day?

SIG • Pwn • y

Special Interest Group

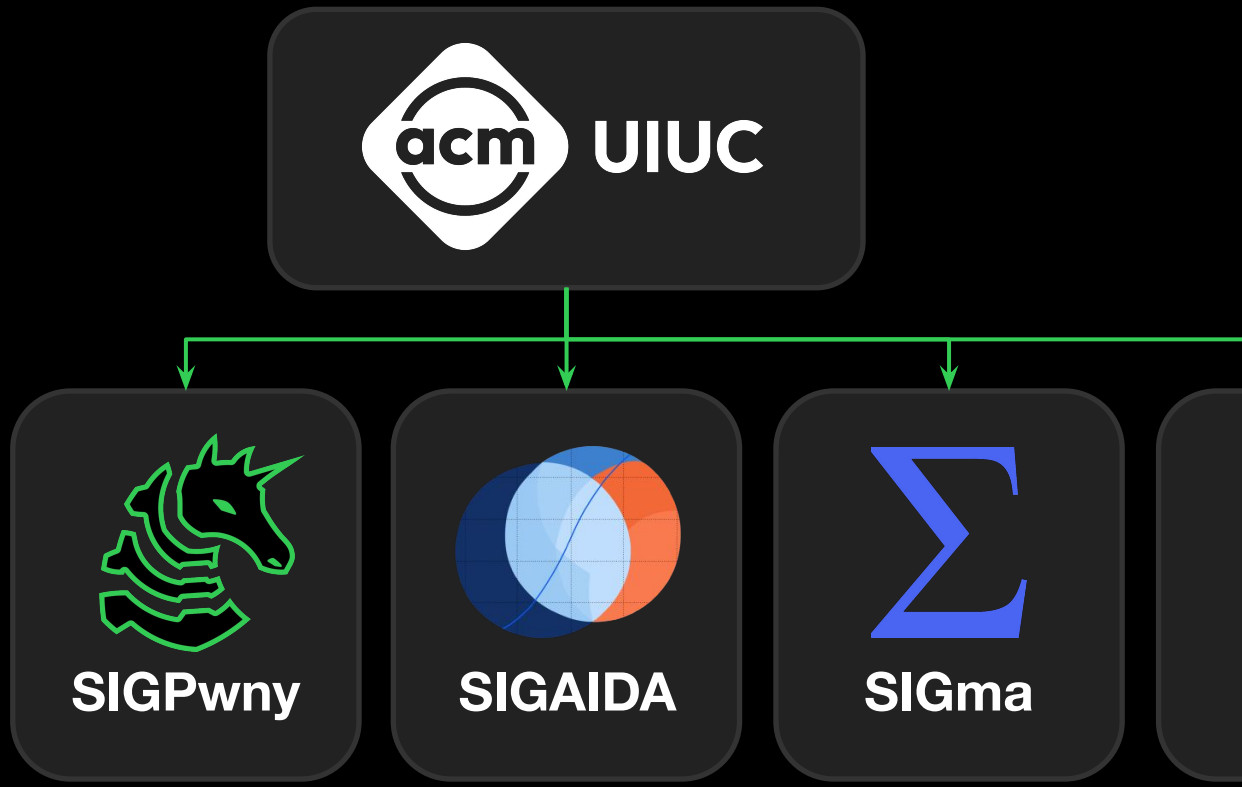
Hack or "own" (slang)

For cool logo

About Us

- We are the computer security/hacking club at UIUC

- SIGPwny is under the Association of Computing Machinery chapter at UIUC
  - We are the largest SIG in ACM!



SIGPwny is just one of many SIGs…

~~but it's the best one~~

How do I join SIGPwny?

You already have!

sigpwny.com/discord to join our Discord server

sigpwny.com/auth to receive the @UIUC role

Who is SIGPwny?

See sigpwny.com/about

Admin Team

Cameron Asher
@bigkirbs
SWE Intern @ Cypris AI

Minh Duong
@WhiteHoodHacker
Security Research @ MSFT

Akhil Bharanidhar
@akditch
SWE Intern @ Pinterest

Emma Hartman
@lukewarmdaisies
SecEng Intern @ Grainger

George Huebner
@shorden
Research @ UIUC

Jake Mayer
@henopied
SWE Intern @ Google

Julius White V
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SWE Intern @ Meta

Nikhil Date
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Security Research Intern @ Battelle

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Research @ UIUC

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Red Team @ Sandia

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SWE Intern @ NVIDIA

Henry Qiu
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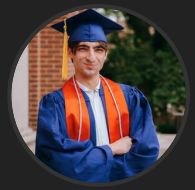
Juniper Peng
@32121
DV Intern @ Synaptics

Krishnan Shankar
@krishnans2006
Research Intern @ MITRE



Michael Khalaf
@notprincekay
Network Operations @ ITI

Swetha Karthikeyan
@sway_k
DSP @ Caterpillar

Suchit Bapatla
@suchit
Vulnerability Research @ REDLattice

Women in CyberSecurity

- Bring together those interested in cybersecurity
- Share knowledge, experience, networking and mentoring
- Host workshops, networking opportunities, and tech talks
- Beginner-friendly web dev + security projects

Connect with us!

Join our Discord

Get meeting updates

Sign up for emails

Board Applications!

Now, some ground rules.

Code of Conduct

1. Be respectful.
2. Be inclusive.
3. Nothing illegal.
4. Don't cheat.
5. No NSFW or suggestive content in Discord.
6. Don't spam in Discord.
7. Use common sense.

The full Code of Conduct is available at sigpwny.com/rules.

Report misconduct to sigpwny.com/report.

You Will:

- Learn how to think with an adversarial mindset
- Explore the subcategories of security
- Develop practical security skills
- Find a community of friends and colleagues

You Will Not:

- Learn how to hack your friend's Instagram account!
- Become a 1337 hax0r (praise anonymous!!1!!)
- Break into computers without explicit permission
- Learn how to hack overnight

The "Don’t Get Arrested" Slide

Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)

- Attacking "protected" computers is **ILLEGAL**
- Anywhere between a fine and **TWENTY** years in jail
- If you don't have **EXPLICIT** permission, **DON'T DO IT**

Survey!

Please fill out this survey so we can plan our semester for you!

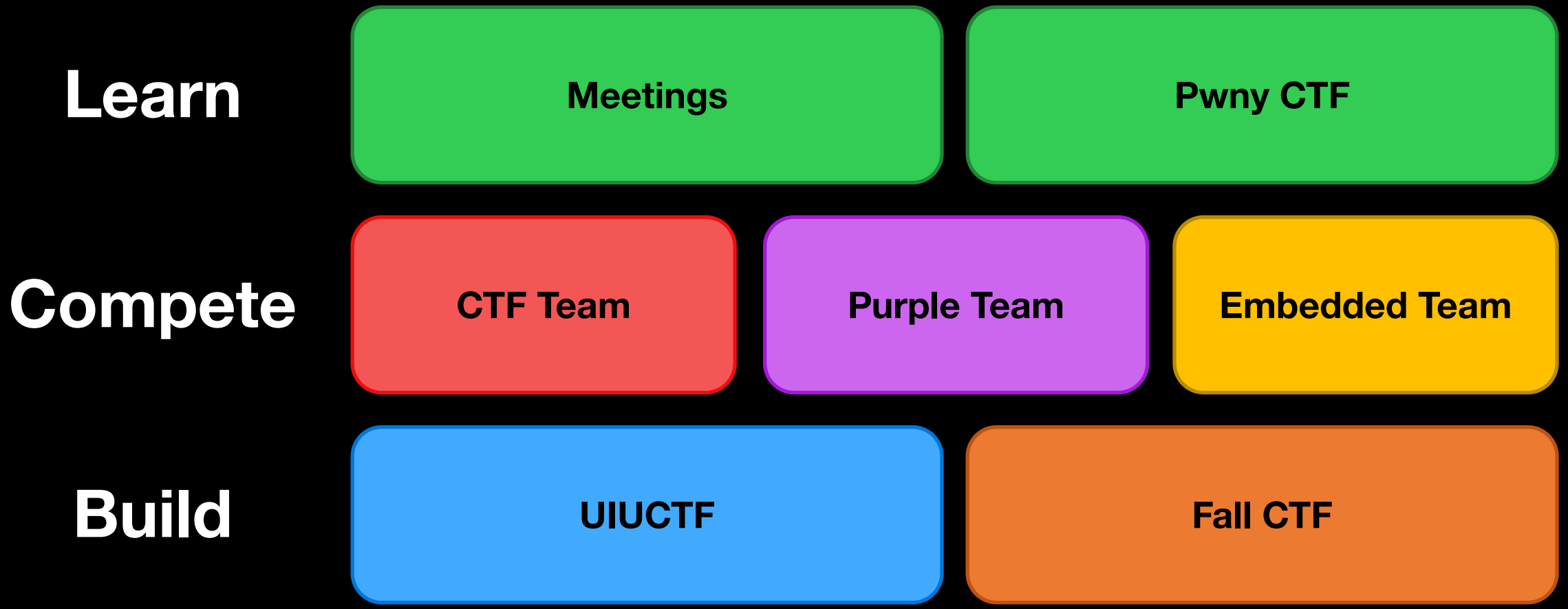
sigpwny.com/survey

What does SIGPwny do?

Learn

Compete

Build


Learn
Meetings
Pwny CTF
Compete
CTF Team
Purple Team
Embedded Team
Build
UIUCTF
Fall CTF

Meetings

Thursdays, 6-7 PM

DCL 1310

- 15 minutes talking
- 45 minutes doing

Sundays, 5-6 PM

Siebel CS 1404

- 15 minutes talking
- 45 minutes doing

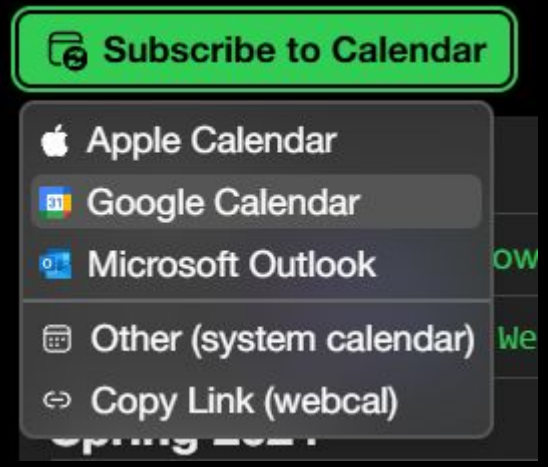
OR

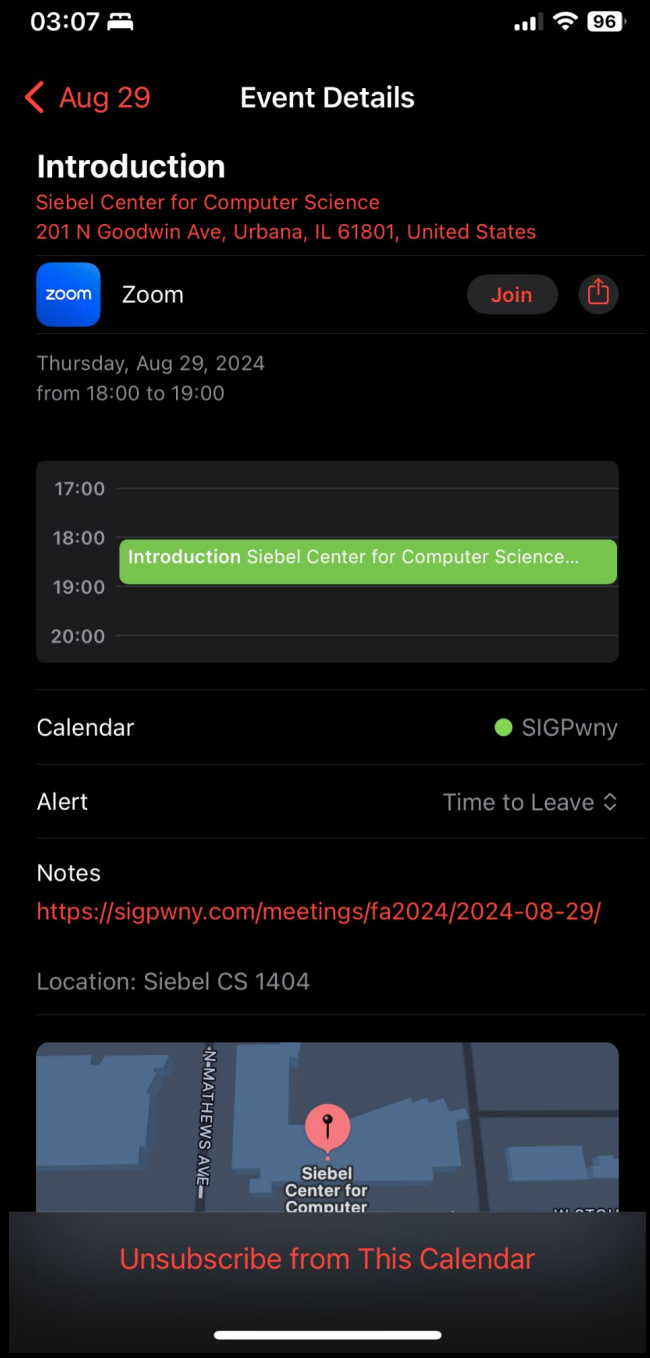
- 1 hour of extended lecture

All our meetings are at:
https://sigpwny.com/meetings/

Meetings

- Subscribe to our calendar!
- Add from sigpwny.com/meetings or directly using these links:
  - Apple Calendar: sigpwny.com/applecal
  - Google Calendar: sigpwny.com/gcal
  - Microsoft Outlook: sigpwny.com/outlook
  - Webcal: sigpwny.com/cal





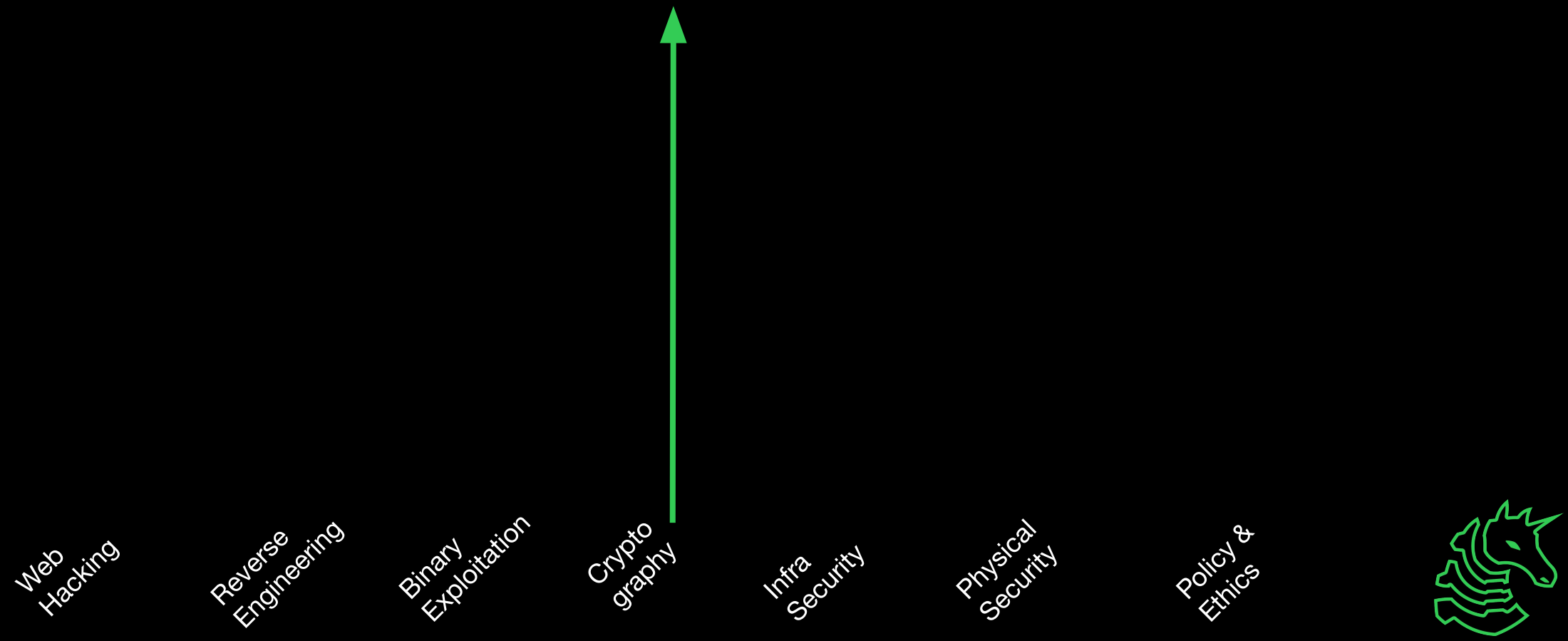
Teaching Philosophy

Cybersecurity is needed for every aspect of computer science!

Websites	→	Web Security
Messages	→	Cryptography
Video Games	→	Binary Exploitation, Reverse-Engineering

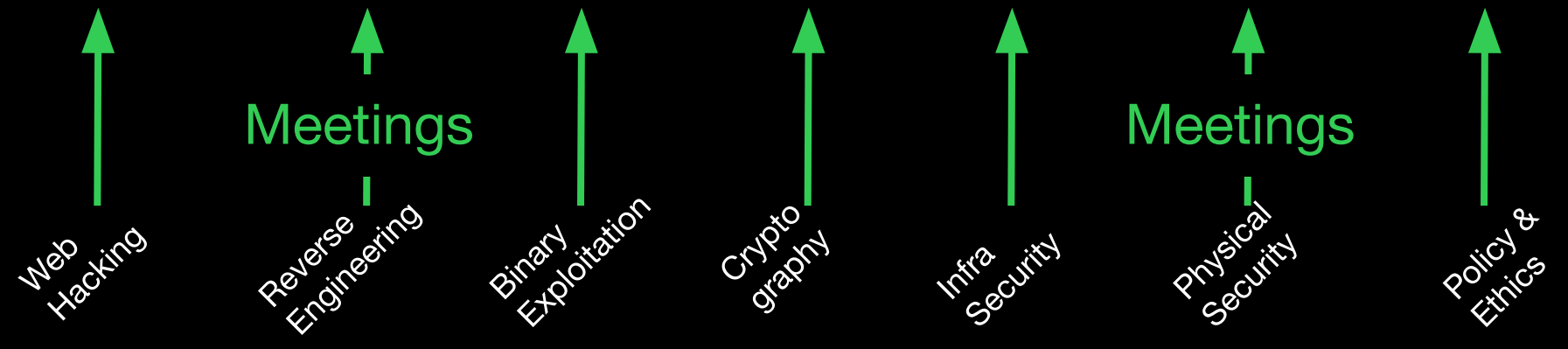
Teaching Philosophy

SIGPwny's goal is NOT to make you a master in any field…



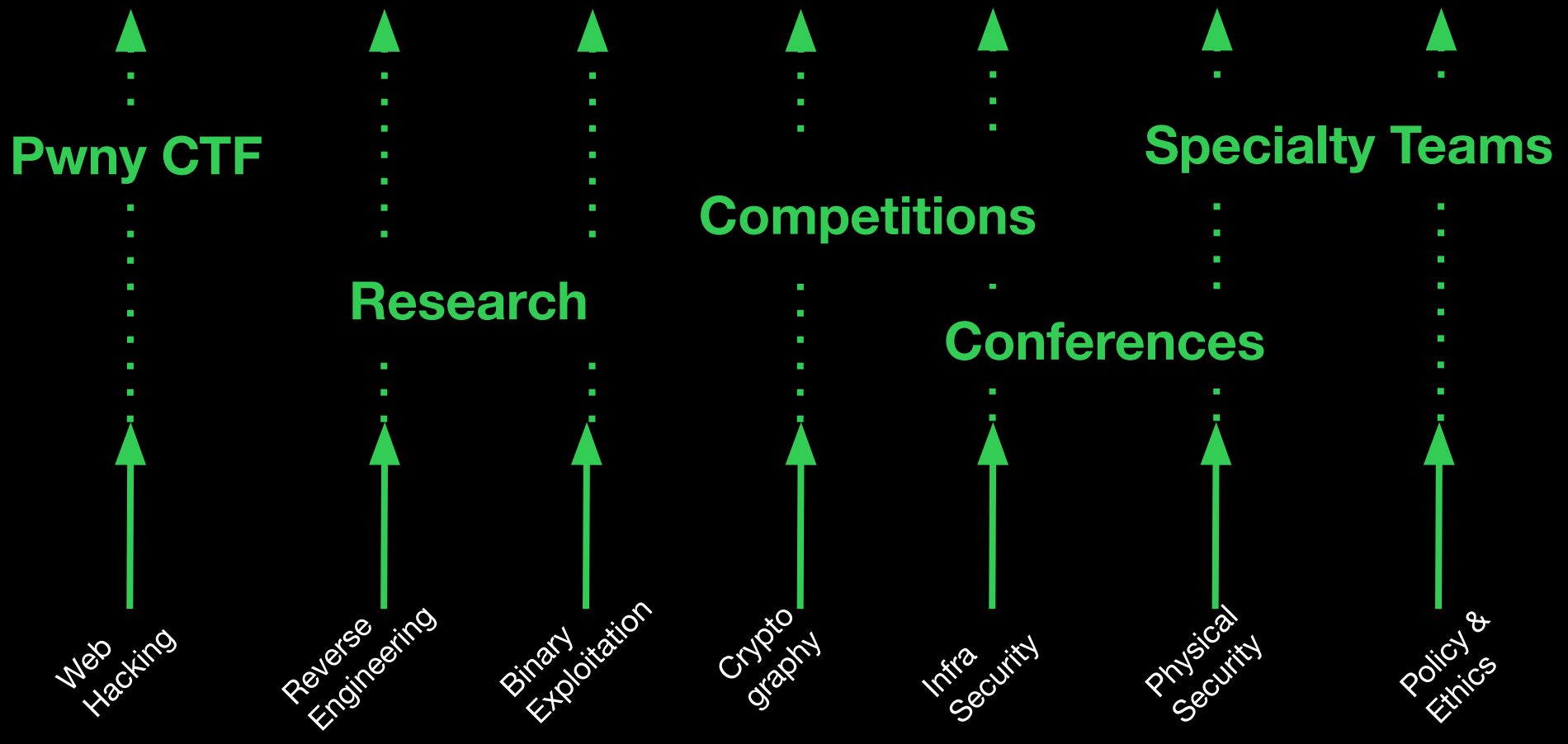
Teaching Philosophy

… but it is our goal to teach you the basics of every field...



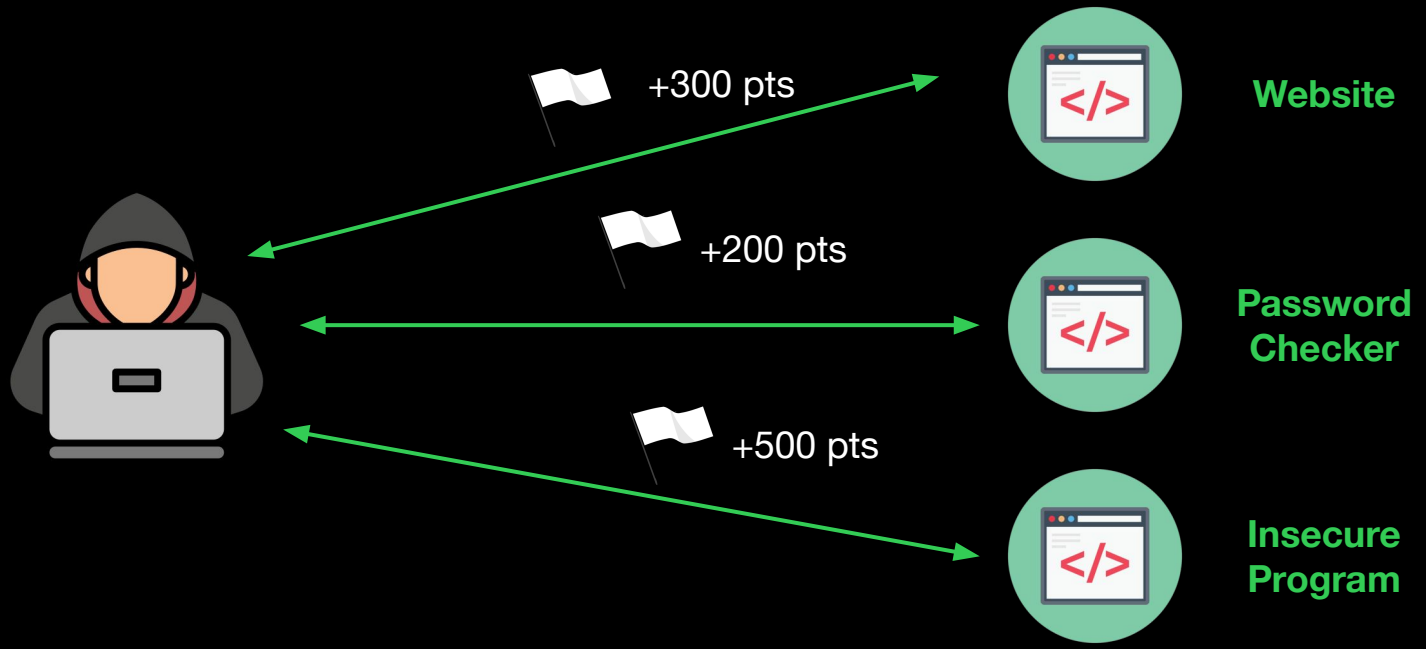
Teaching Philosophy

… and provide opportunities for **you** to master your interests!



What is Capture the Flag (CTF)?

- A CTF is a cybersecurity competition
- Compete against other teams
- "Jeopardy style" - hack the most (and hardest) things to win

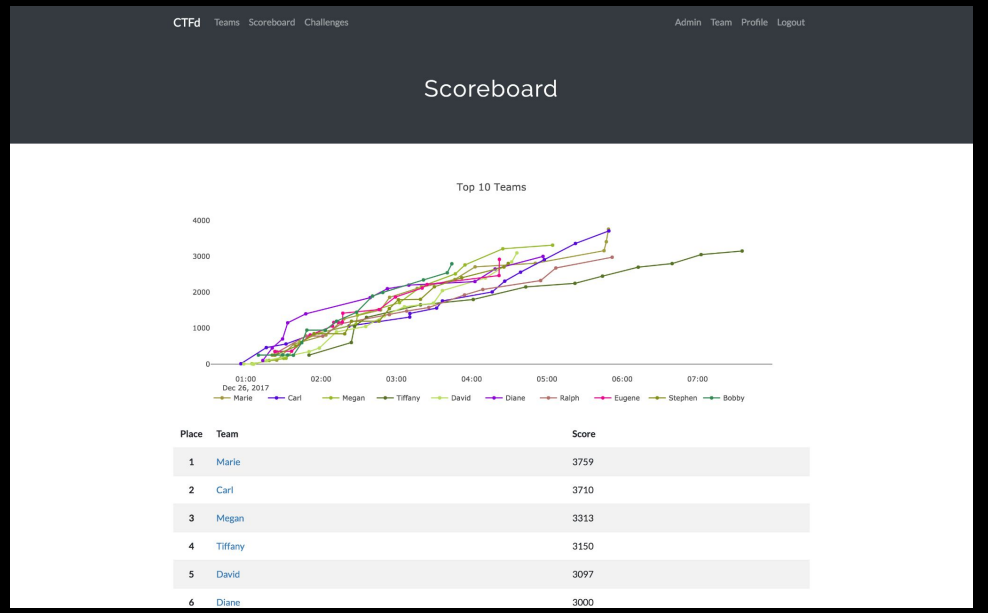


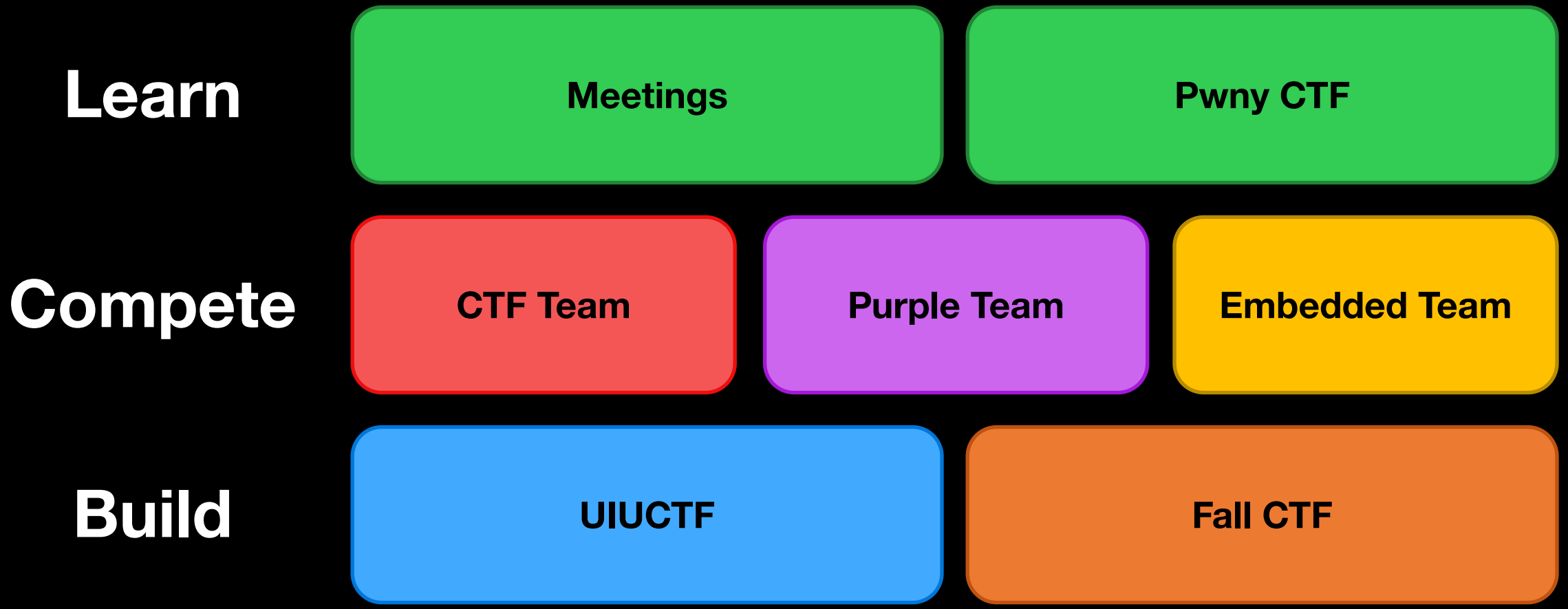
Pwny CTF

- The best way to practice your security knowledge!
- Pwny CTF is our internal, 24/7/365 CTF with a leaderboard to compete with friends!

ctf.sigpwny.com

Sign up now!

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CTF Team

- We participate in various CTFs hosted by other teams
- CTFtime is a global leaderboard that tracks team placement in CTFs and provides ratings

CTFTIME

Overall rating place: **300** with **77.673** pts in 2019

Country place: **31**

Overall rating place: **136** with **174.389** pts in 2020

Country place: **19**

Overall rating place: **80** with **243.217** pts in 2021

Country place: **12**

Overall rating place: **48** with **346.020** pts in 2022

Country place: **6**

Overall rating place: **107** with **282.130** pts in 2023

Country place: **11**

Overall rating place: **88** with **344.702** pts in 2024

Country place: **11**

overal rating place: **1** with **9999** pts in 2025
country place: 1

CTF Team

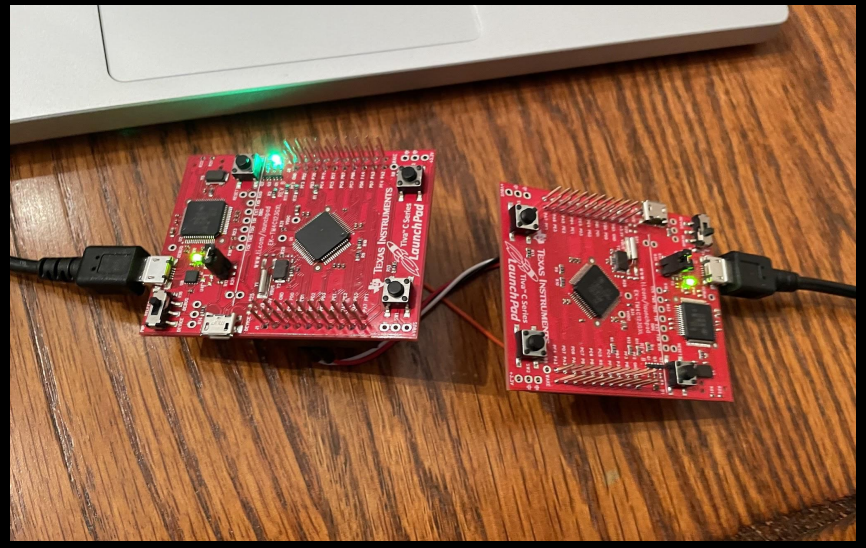
- Everyone is welcome to join CTF team!
- Our normal Thursday/Sunday meetings prepare you for CTFs!
- Most CTFs are usually a weekend long - we will have a dedicated room for people to collaborate and solve challenges. Plus, free food :D

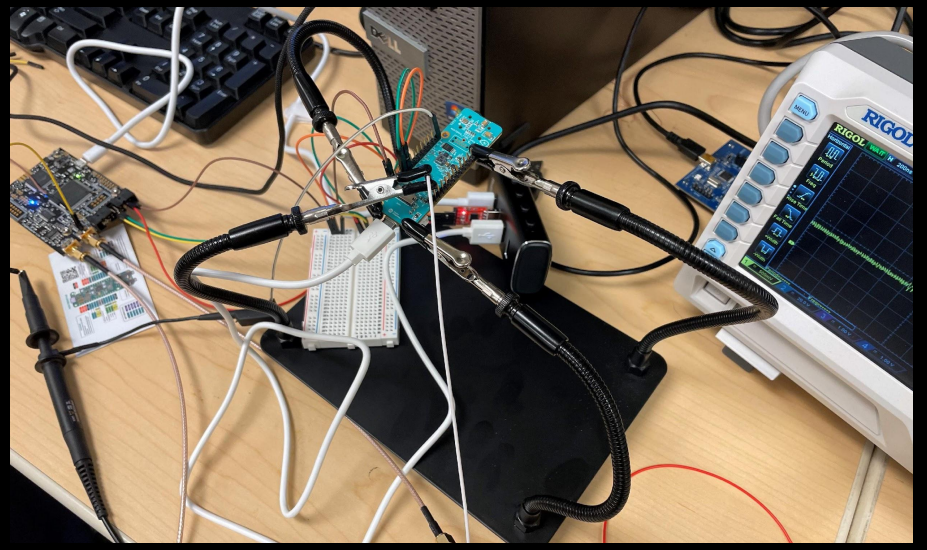
How to join CTF Team:

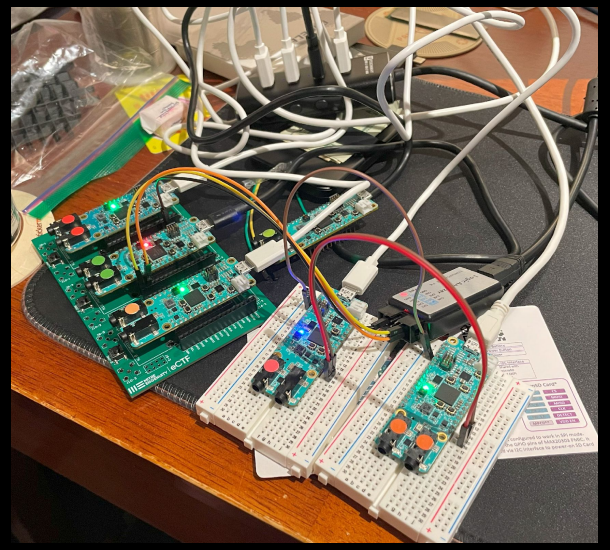
- Use the command `/ctfs optin` in our Discord. You need to have the `@UIUC` role first!

Embedded Team

- We teach you how to design secure embedded systems!
- We run attacks against embedded systems + IoT devices!
  - Microcontrollers, firmware bugs, side-channel analysis, fault injection!
- You will learn: ARM assembly, C, and Rust

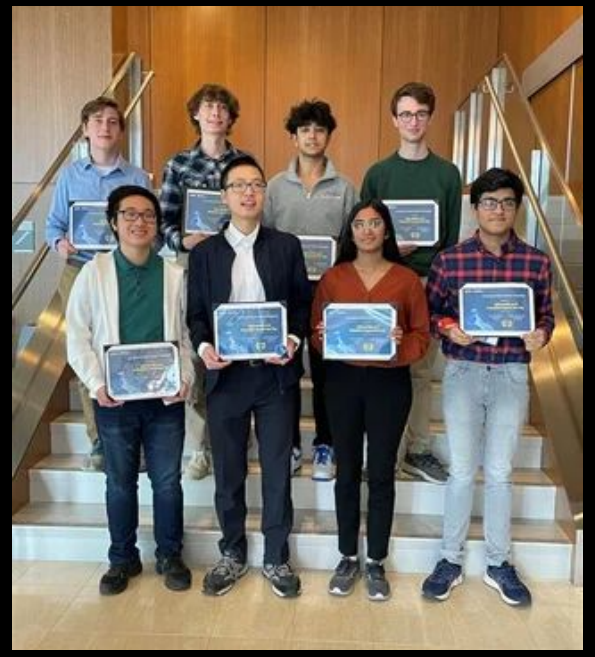






Embedded Team

- Our main competition is MITRE eCTF in the spring semester
- This fall semester, we will be holding weekly meetings on Mondays to teach you embedded security!

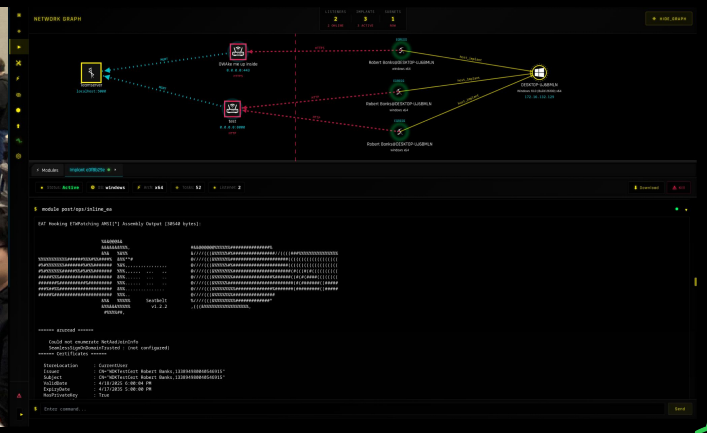


eCTF 2023 - 3rd Place

eCTF 2024 – 2nd Place

Purple Team

- **Red teaming** - break systems
  - Find problems before threat actors find them
- **Blue teaming** - protect systems
  - Fix problems before threat actors take advantage of them
- **Purple teaming** is the intersection of these two fields!



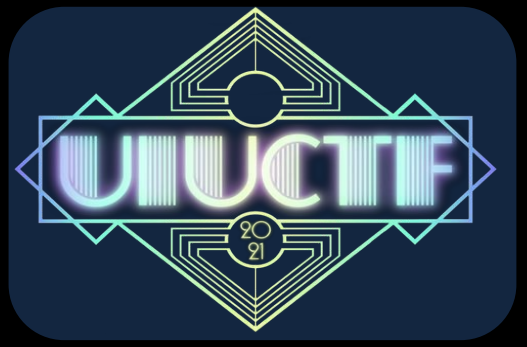
Purple Team

- Learn how to attack and defend enterprise networks
  - Red side: Offensive fundamentals, malware dev, evasion, & more!
  - Blue side: Hardening, digital forensics, live response
- Competitions: CyberForce, CCDC, TracerFIRE & more!
- Tentatively: 7PM Tuesday/Thursday

- If you have cyber defense or offense experience, contact us!
- Red Team Lead: Ronan Boyarski | ronanpb2@illinois.edu
- Blue Team Lead: Michael Khalaf | mkhala6@illinois.edu

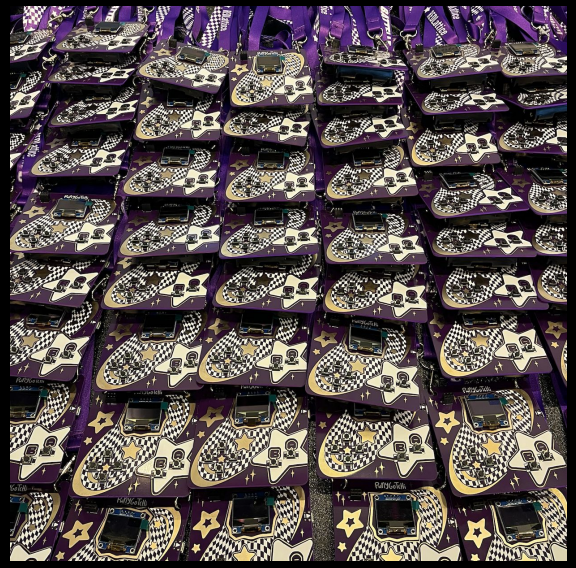
UIUCTF (Spring/Summer 2026)

- Our global CTF event for the international security community!
- Design challenges for hundreds of people to solve
- Show off what you've learned and contribute to security education



Fall CTF 2025

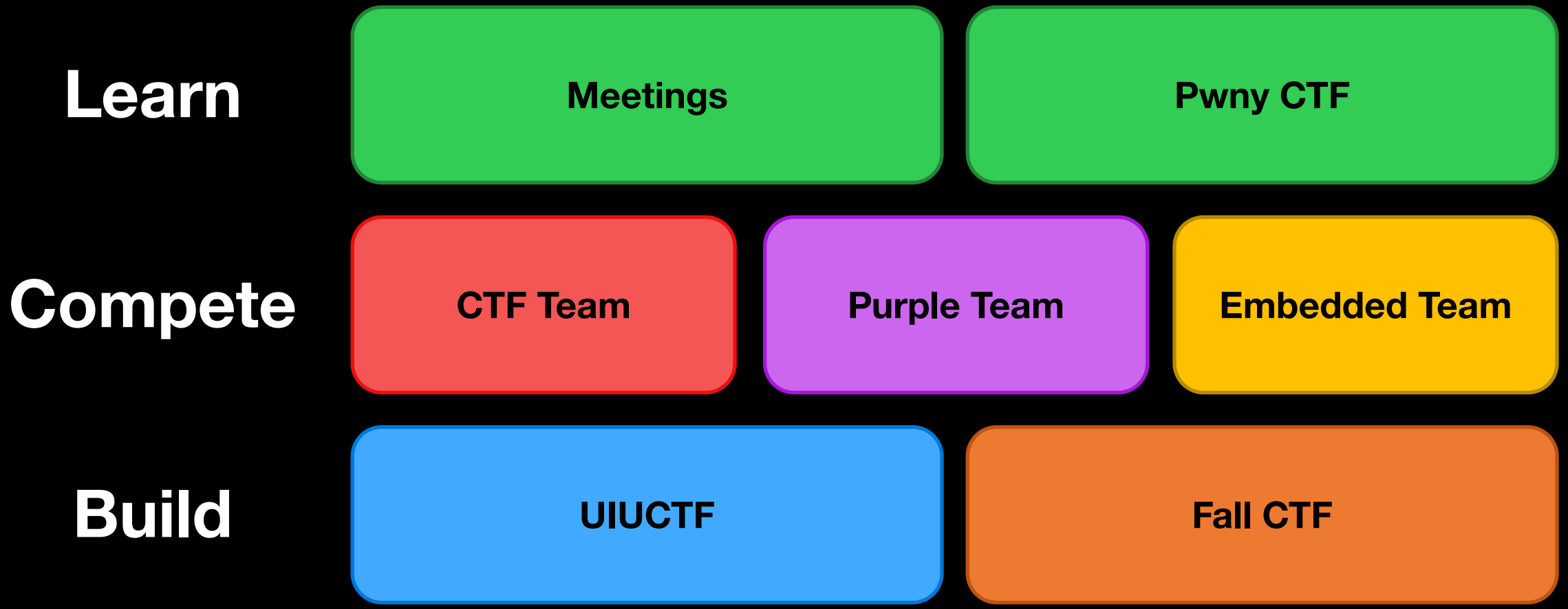
- Save the date: September 21st!
- Fall CTF is a beginner CTF that SIGPwny runs exclusively for UIUC students and made for people new to cybersecurity!
- Free food, shirt, PCB badge, and prizes!



Fall CTF 2025

Register now to reserve your shirt and badge!

sigpwny.com/fallctf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Next Meetings

2024-09-02 • **This Tuesday**

- ACM Open House!
- 6 PM @ CIF 0027/1025

2024-09-04 • **This Thursday**

- Setup Meeting + Intro to Terminal
- Bring your laptop!
- 6 PM @ DCL 1310

2024-09-06 • **This Saturday**

- Picnic, chalk, and board games!
- 3 PM @ Main Quad/Illini Union

sigpwny.com/gcal

sigpwny.com/discord

Thank you! Any questions?

Meeting content can be found at sigpwny.com/meetings.

SIGPwny