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CYBER SKYLINE

The National Cyber League
A Community Where Cybersecurity Is a Passion

Bradley Smith

NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game Scouting Report

Dear Bradley Smith,

Thank you for participating in the National Cyber League (NCL) Fall 2025 Season! Our goal is to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and your participation is helping achieve that goal.

The NCL was founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for collegiate students to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity skills in preparation for further learning, industry certifications, and career readiness. The NCL scenario-based challenges were designed around performance-based exam objectives of CompTIA certifications and are aligned to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

As you look to a future career in cybersecurity, we hope you find this report to be valuable in both validating skills and identifying areas for improvement across the nine NCL skills categories. You can use this NCL Scouting Report to:

- Validate your skills to employers in any job application or professional portfolio;
- Show case your achievements and strengths by including the Score Card view of your performance as part of your résumé or simply sharing the validation link so that others may view the detailed version of this report.

The NCL Fall 2025 Season had 8,520 students/players and 538 faculty/coaches from more than 490 two- and four-year schools & 200 high schools across all 50 U.S. states registered to play. The Individual Game Capture the Flag (CTF) event took place from October 24 through October 26. The Team Game CTF event took place from November 7 through November 9. The games were conducted in real-time for students across the country.

NCL is powered by Cyber Skyline's cloud-based skills evaluation platform. Cyber Skyline hosted the scenario-driven cybersecurity challenges for players to compete and track their progress in real-time.



To validate this report, please access: cyberskyline.com/report/95KPUQG5M327



Based on the performance detailed in this NCL Scouting Report, you have earned **7 hours** of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as approved by CompTIA. You can learn more about the NCL - CompTIA alignment via nationalcyberleague.org/partners.

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game! We hope you will continue to develop your knowledge and skills and make meaningful contributions as part of the Information Security workforce!

Dr. David Zeichick
NCL Commissioner



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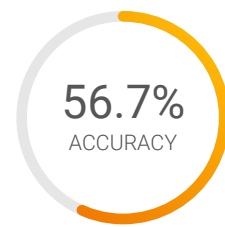
NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE SCORE CARD

NCL FALL 2025 INDIVIDUAL GAME

YOUR TOP CATEGORIES



NATIONAL RANK
772ND PLACE
OUT OF 7873
PERCENTILE
91ST



Average: 61.0%

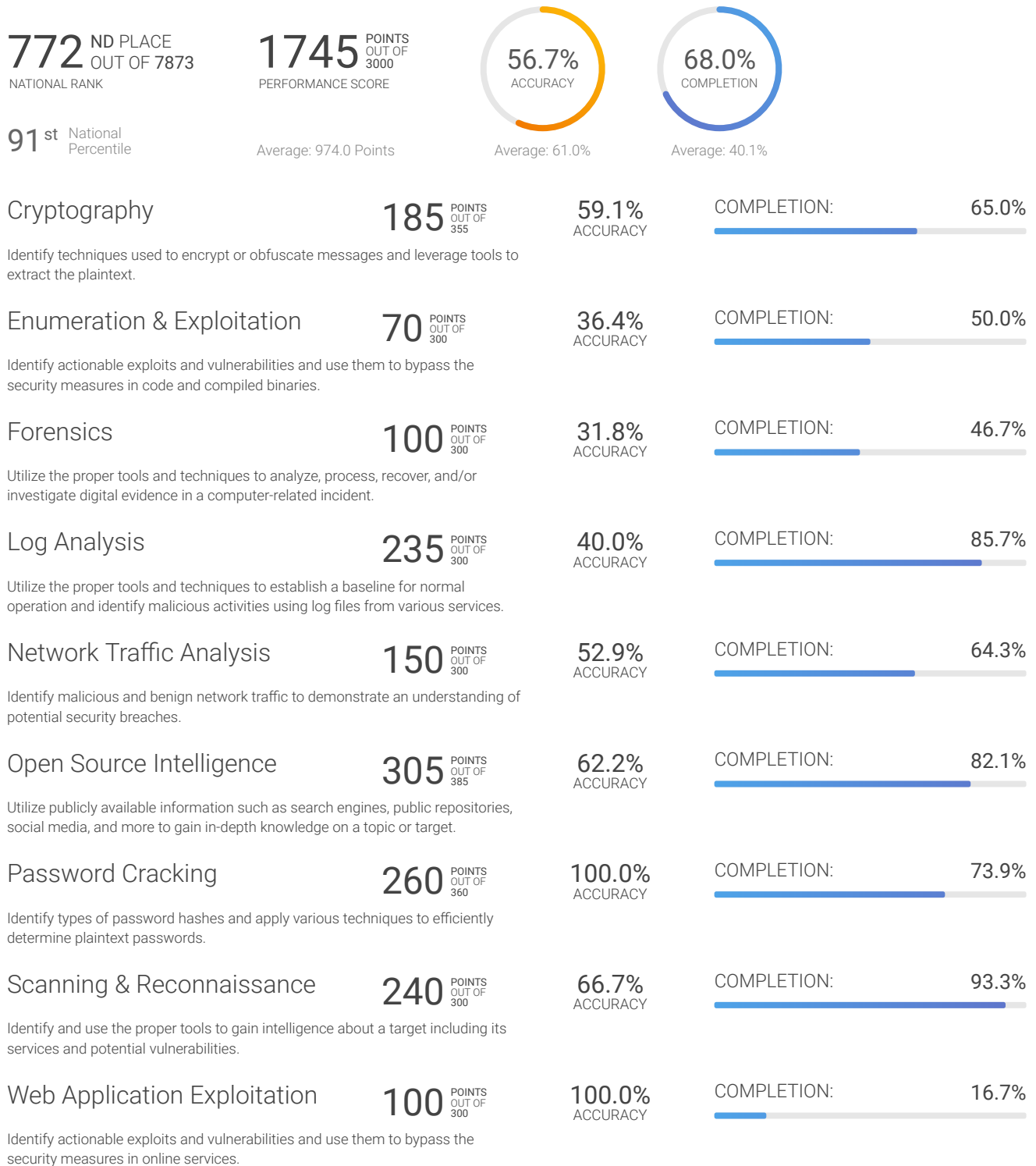
cyberskyline.com/report/95KPUQG5M327

Learn more at nationalcyberleague.org



NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game

The NCL Individual Game is designed for student players nationwide to compete in realtime in the categories listed below. The Individual Game evaluates the technical cybersecurity skills of the individual, without the assistance of others.



Note: Survey module (100 points) was excluded from this report.





Cryptography Module

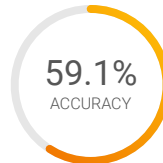
Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

1473 RD PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

185 POINTS
OUT OF 355
PERFORMANCE SCORE

82nd National
Percentile

Average: 157.0 Points



Average: 69.5%



Average: 58.2%

Baking Soda (Easy)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encoded with common number bases.

ROTTen domains (Easy)

45 POINTS
OUT OF 45

60.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain plaintext for messages encrypted with a shift cipher.

Convenience (Easy)

60 POINTS
OUT OF 60

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encrypted with Vigenère cipher.

01101011 01100101 01111001 (Medium)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 40

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Decrypt a message using an XOR key.

Squirtle (Medium)

30 POINTS
OUT OF 60

42.9%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **60.0%**

Analyze and exploit a DES encryption implementation using known weak keys.

Temet Nosce (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

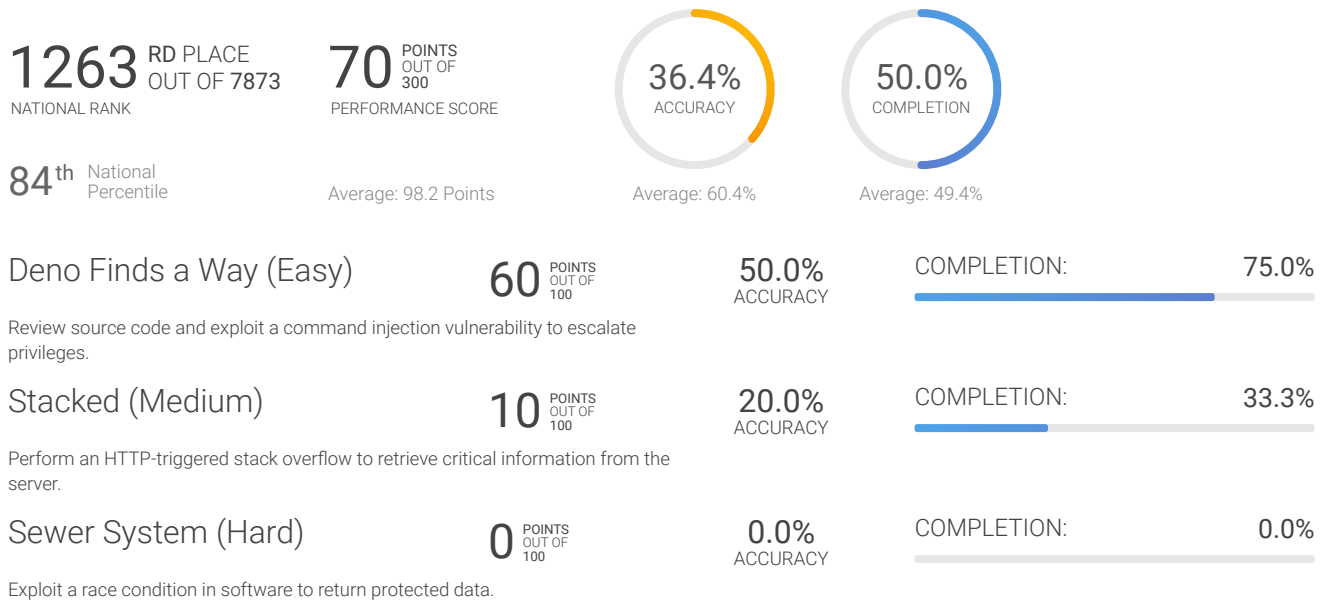
Exploit a flaw in AES encryption to decrypt text with an unknown secret key.





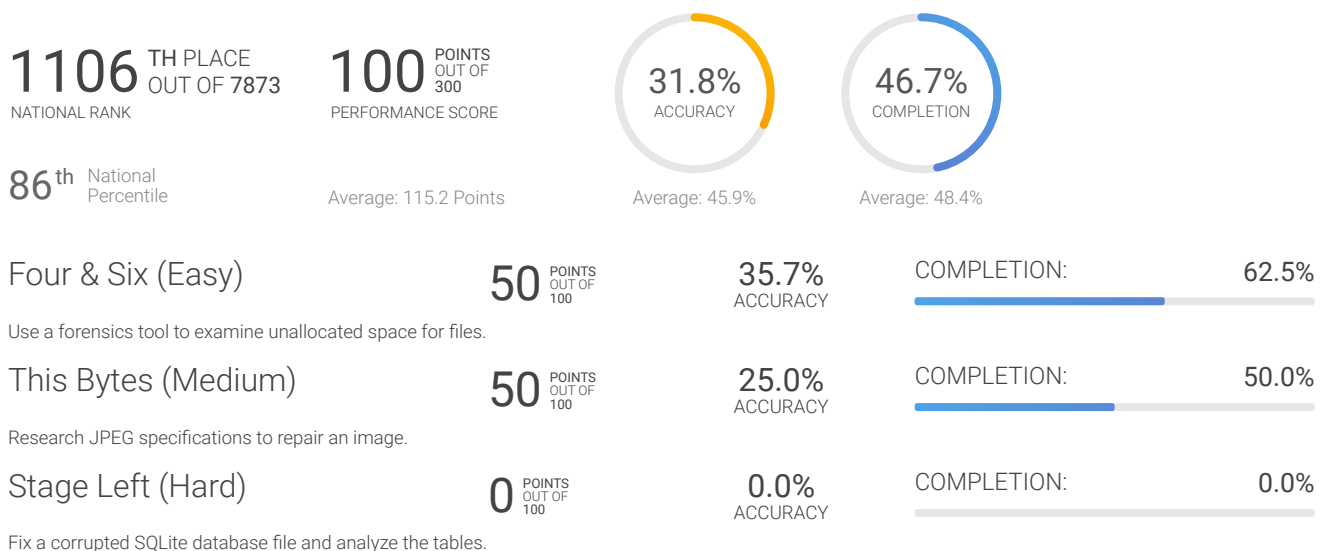
Enumeration & Exploitation Module

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.



Forensics Module

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.



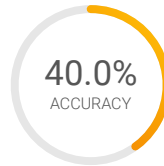


Log Analysis Module

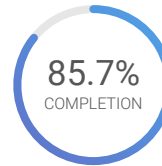
Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

658 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

235 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 55.3%



Average: 61.1%

92nd National
Percentile

Average: 160.8 Points

Process This (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Examine parsed Sysmon JSON process tree logs to determine a chain of events.

Brute Force (Medium)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

55.6%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify a brute force attack by analyzing patterns of malicious actor behavior in web server logs.

Stolen Swipe (Hard)

35 POINTS
OUT OF 100

6.7%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **33.3%**

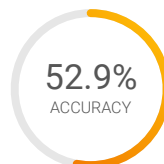
Parse and correlate ATM and EMV Field 55 logs (ISO 8583 standard) to identify a fraudulent transaction.

Network Traffic Analysis Module

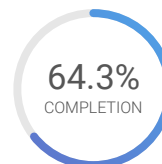
Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

1089 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

150 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 51.6%



Average: 45.0%

87th National
Percentile

Average: 112.2 Points

RMM Tool (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

55.6%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Analyze DNS packet requests and responses to identify a suspicious download.

Drive-by Download (Medium)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 100

50.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **66.7%**

Identify details of a drive-by-download attack and de-obfuscate JavaScript.

The Insider (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Reconstruct a file from UDP packets and decode VBA script.



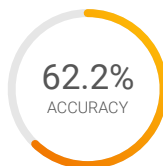


Open Source Intelligence Module

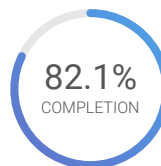
Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

896 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

305 POINTS
OUT OF 385
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 58.5%



Average: 65.3%

89th National
Percentile

Average: 213.9 Points

Rules of Conduct (Easy)

30 POINTS
OUT OF 30

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL.

Cooking Breakfast (Easy)

45 POINTS
OUT OF 45

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Parse Chef (esolang) code to determine what input it requires.

NotPetya (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

88.9%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Gather key information on NotPetya malware.

Flamed (Medium)

55 POINTS
OUT OF 55

33.3%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Use open source tools to find patterns between GPS locations.

Material (Medium)

25 POINTS
OUT OF 80

28.6%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **40.0%**

Use the EDGAR database to filter 8-K filings.

I Cee Stuff (Hard)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 75

42.9%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **60.0%**

Use ICS/OT OSINT tools do passive recon on infrastructure.



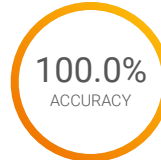


Password Cracking Module

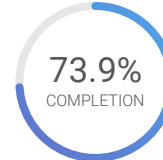
Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

506 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

260 POINTS
OUT OF 360
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 86.3%



Average: 50.2%

94th National
Percentile

Average: 163.6 Points

Hashing (Easy)

40 POINTS
OUT OF 40

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Generate hashes for passwords with the MD5, NTLM, and SHA256 hashing algorithms.

Crack You One More Time (Easy)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack MD5 and SHA1 password hashes using password cracking tools.

Oph the Dome (Easy)

60 POINTS
OUT OF 60

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack Windows NTLM password hashes using rainbow tables.

Redacted (Medium)

50 POINTS
OUT OF 50

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Crack an insecure password for a protected PDF file and recover redacted information.

Maskquerade (Medium)

60 POINTS
OUT OF 60

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Build a wordlist or pattern rule to crack password hashes of a known pattern.

Enterprise (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Build a wordlist to crack passwords not found in common wordlists.



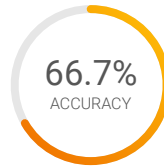


Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

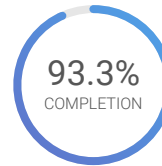
Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

656 TH PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

240 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 72.9%



Average: 58.2%

92nd National
Percentile

Average: 152.1 Points

Portscan (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Use nmap to scan a machine and discover open ports.

Chain (Medium)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

71.4%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Enumerate SMB to locate and retrieve a private SSH key.

I'm TXT (Hard)

40 POINTS
OUT OF 100

44.4%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **80.0%**

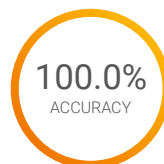
Enumerate a DNS service to discover hidden files in DNS TXT records.

Web Application Exploitation Module

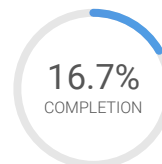
Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

1491 ST PLACE
OUT OF 7873
NATIONAL RANK

100 POINTS
OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



Average: 73.0%



Average: 31.8%

82nd National
Percentile

Average: 120.0 Points

Browser (Easy)

100 POINTS
OUT OF 100

100.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Exploit a client-side validation weakness in a web application.

Ersatz Motel (Medium)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Perform a SQL Injection Union attack to retrieve information.

Micro Fail (Hard)

0 POINTS
OUT OF 100

0.0%
ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **0.0%**

Access sensitive files on a webserver by chaining together a prototype pollution attack with an XML external entity injection attack.

