

Event Proposal: The Pandemic That Never Happened

Introduction "The Pandemic That Never Happened" is an immersive cybersecurity and digital forensics event where participants must navigate through a fabricated global crisis, analyze digital evidence, and uncover the truth behind the misinformation campaign. The event will simulate a high-stakes investigative scenario in which teams will utilize forensic techniques, threat analysis, and cybersecurity skills to solve the mystery.

Objective The objective of this event is to:

- Provide hands-on experience in digital forensics and cybersecurity.
- Train participants in identifying misinformation, bot activity, and fabricated data.
- Encourage critical thinking and investigative skills in a simulated real-world crisis.
- Promote collaboration among cybersecurity enthusiasts, analysts, and ethical hackers.

Event Format The event will be structured as an interactive investigation with multiple stages, each providing digital evidence for participants to analyze. Teams will use forensic techniques to uncover hidden clues, detect cybersecurity breaches, and expose the truth behind the fictional pandemic.

Phases of the Event

1. Phase 1: The Initial Outbreak

- Participants receive a set of news articles, leaked emails, and social media posts about an emerging pandemic.
- Task: Identify inconsistencies in reports and trace the source of misinformation.

2. Phase 2: Digital Footprint Investigation

- Access to suspicious WHO and CDC website logs with potential cyber intrusions.
- Task: Perform forensic analysis to detect altered data and unauthorized access.

3. Phase 3: Network Traffic & Anomaly Detection

- Server logs, phishing emails, and malware-infected hospital databases are provided.
- Task: Analyze network traffic and trace back the cyber-attacks.

4. Phase 4: Social Media Manipulation

- Data sets of bot-generated posts, deepfake videos, and propaganda messages are given.
- Task: Identify bot networks, deepfake origins, and misinformation spread patterns.

5. Phase 5: Attribution & Threat Actor Identification

- Participants analyze financial transactions and intelligence reports.

- Task: Uncover the responsible organization/group and their motives.

6. **Phase 6: The Final Report & Conclusion**

- Teams compile a detailed forensic report with their conclusions.
- The best investigative report wins the event.

Tools & Resources Participants will have access to:

- **Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) tools** for tracking data sources.
- **Digital Forensic Kits** with pre-configured logs and cyber artifacts.
- **Network Monitoring Tools** to analyze traffic and detect anomalies.
- **Cyber Threat Intelligence Platforms** to study attack patterns and attribution.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants will develop a deeper understanding of misinformation, cyber warfare, and forensic investigation.
- Teams will enhance their analytical, problem-solving, and cybersecurity skills.
- The event will foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among cybersecurity professionals and enthusiasts.

Conclusion "The Pandemic That Never Happened" is designed to be an engaging and educational cybersecurity event that challenges participants to navigate a digital forensics investigation. By blending storytelling with real-world cyber threats, this event will provide a unique learning experience for all involved.