



# CTF: WTF?!

Capture The Flag für Einsteiger



Dr. Hubert 'hubertf' Feyrer  
Dezember 2024

38. Chaos Communications Congress (38C3), Hamburg

# Zusammenfassung

"Hacken" ist längst nicht mehr nur Hobby. WTF? CTF!

Was ist ein "Capture The Flag", wie passt das in die aktuelle Menge aus Security Buzzwords, welchen Nutzen kann ich daraus ziehen und wie fange ich an?

Es werden ein paar einfache Plattformen und Veranstaltungen zum starten und üben gezeigt. Dem folgen Spielarten, Wege "hacken" zu lernen, und ein Ausblick auf berufliche Möglichkeiten.

Der Vortrag richtet sich an Einsteiger.

# hubertf - Dr. Hubert Feyrer

fun Betriebssysteme (NetBSD), Open Source (pkgsrc),  
IT-/Information Security, Capture the Flag, Geocaching  
Erster 3C Congress Vortrag vor 20 Jahren

profit Cyber Security, Information Security, IT-Security  
Product Security

contact EMail: [hubertf@gmx.de](mailto:hubertf@gmx.de)  
Others: @hubertf / @huberteff / @hubertf@mastdodon.social



# Inhalt

Einführung - Sicherheit, Schutz

Verteidigung - Checklisten, Technik

Angriff - Wozu, wie lernen

CTF - Wo anfangen? - Try Hack Me, Over The Wire, weitere & Veranstaltungen

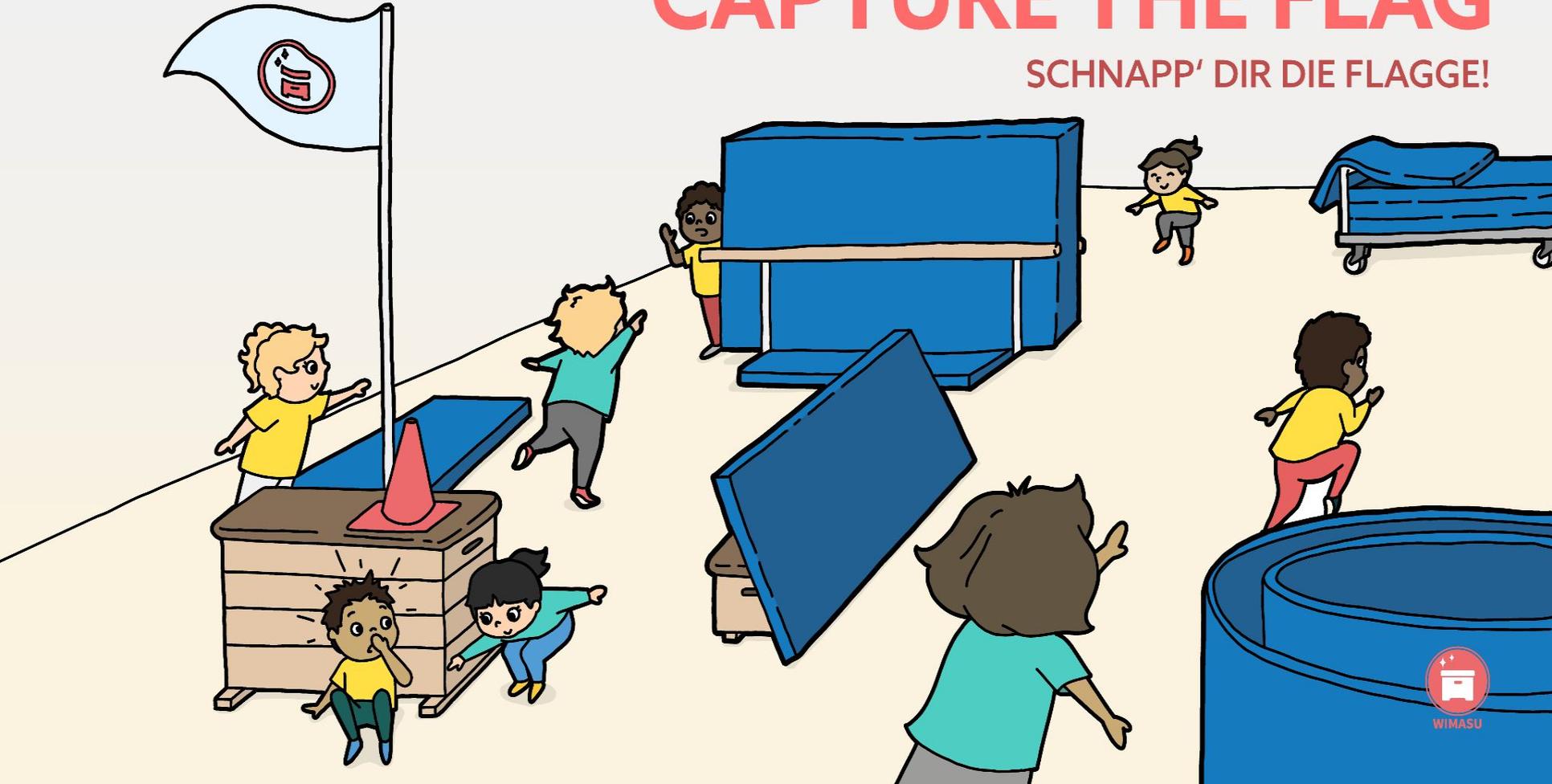
CTF - Arten, Tools

Was kommt dann? - Anfangen, Karrierepfade

# Einführung

# CAPTURE THE FLAG

SCHNAPP' DIR DIE FLAGGE!



# Einführung



# Einführung

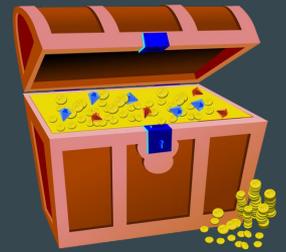


# Einführung - Sicherheit

Wert - Asset

Bedrohung

Schutz

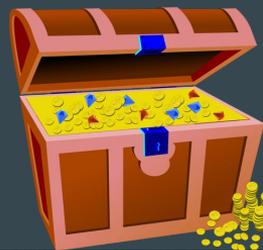
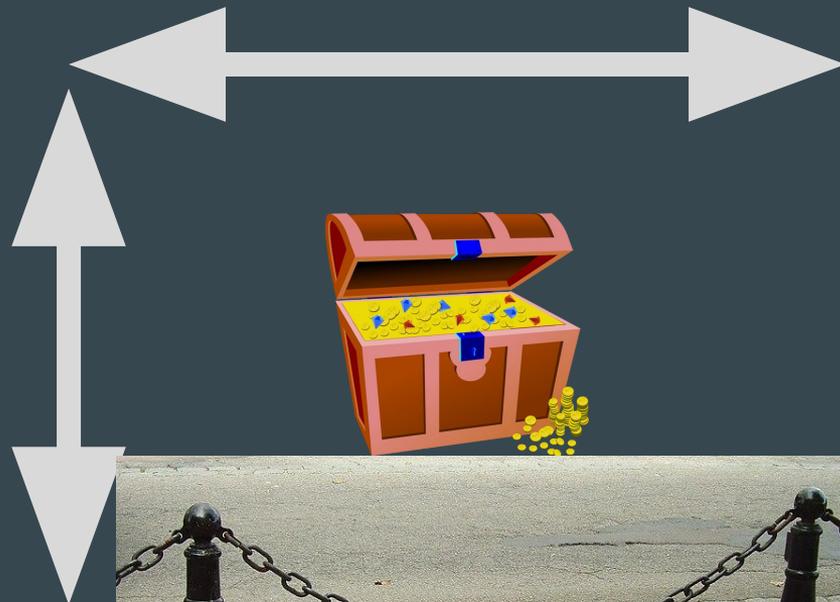


# Einführung - Schutz



Breite

Tiefe



# Verteidigung

# Verteidigung - Checklisten

Technik & (viel) Organisation

Gesetze      Datenschutz - DSGVO

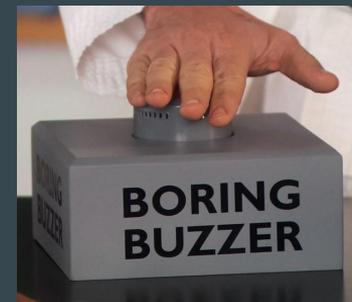
Kritische Infrastruktur - NIS-2

Produkte - Cyber Resilience Act

Standards      National: BSI Grundschutz, US NIST

International: ISO 27001

Organisationsintern - "Best Practice"



# Verteidigung - Technik

Erkennung - Logfiles

Auswertung & Analyse

Nachverfolgung

=> Cyber Threat Intelligence (TI/CTI)

=> Indicators of Compromise (IoC)

=> Threat Hunting (TH)

=> Incident Response (IR)

=> Security Operations Center (SOC)



# Angriff

# Angriff

- Finden und ausnutzen von Schwachstellen -> Technische Tiefe
- Wozu?
  - Angriffe erkennen -> Blue Teaming, Threat Hunting
  - Angriffe verhindern / verfolgen -> Sicherheit, Cyber Crime, Attribution
  - Produkte verbessern -> Pentesting
- Wie lernen?<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Lesen -> passiv, behavioristisches Lernmodell = gut für einfache Themen
  - Üben -> aktiv, konstruktivistisches Lernmodell = gut für komplexe Themen
  - Übungen: Cyber Ranges, Capture The Flag (CTF)



[1] Feyrer: System Administration Training in the Virtual Unix Lab, 2008; <https://www.feyrer.de/vulab/>

# CTF - wo anfangen?

# Anfangen: Try Hack Me



Try Hack Me Dashboard Learn Compete Other Go Premium 2

## Hey Hubert Feyrer!

Let's jump in!

Join our community  
Join the Discord server

### 50 Questions

Answered this week



### My Learning

Current Recent Saved

Pre Security 76%

**What is Networking?**  
Begin learning the fundamentals of computer networking in this bite-sized and interactive module.

**Intro to LAN**  
Learn about some of the technologies and designs that power private networks

**OSI Model**  
Learn about the fundamental networking framework that determines the various stages in which data is handled across a network

**Packets & Frames**  
Understand how data is divided into smaller pieces and transmitted across a network to another device

**Extending Your Network**  
Learn about some of the technologies used to extend networks out onto the Internet and the motivations for this.

View path Resume Learning

### Your Stats

Go to profile

hubertf Level 7 [0x7]

2 162435 3852 36 7

### Friends

Add friends

- 14394 0 Yea...
- hubertf 3852 2 Pyt...
- 376 0 Adv...

Task 6 Enumerating Telnet  
Task 7 Exploiting Telnet

**Types of Telnet Exploit**  
Telnet, being a protocol, is in and of itself insecure for the reasons we talked about earlier. It lacks encryption, so sends all communication over plaintext, and for the most part has poor access control. There are CVE's for Telnet client and server systems, however, so when exploiting you can check for those on:  

- https://www.cvedetails.com/
- https://cve.mitre.org/

A CVE, short for Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures, is a list of publicly disclosed computer security flaws. When someone refers to a CVE, they usually mean the CVE ID number assigned to a security flaw.  
However, you're far more likely to find a misconfiguration in how telnet has been configured or is operating that will allow you to exploit it.

**Method Breakdown**  
So, from our enumeration stage, we know:  

- There is a poorly hidden telnet service running on this machine
- The service itself is marked "backdoor"
- We have possible username of "Skidy" implicated

Using this information, let's try accessing this telnet port, and using that as a foothold to get a full reverse shell on the machine!

**Connecting to Telnet**  
You can connect to a telnet server with the following syntax:  
telnet [ip] [port]  
We're going to need to keep this in mind as we try and exploit this machine.

**What is a Reverse Shell?**  
A "shell" can simply be described as a piece of code or program which can be used to gain code or command execution on a device.  
A reverse shell is a type of shell in which the target machine communicates back to the attacking machine.  
The attacking machine has a listening port, on which it receives the connection, resulting in code or command execution being achieved.

**Answer the questions below**

Okay, let's try and connect to this telnet port! If you get stuck, have a look at the syntax for connecting outlined above.

No answer needed Correct Answer

Great! It's an open telnet connection! What welcome message do we receive?

SKIDY'S BACKDOOR. Correct Answer Hint

# Anfangen: Try Hack Me

The screenshot shows the TryHackMe website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the TryHackMe logo, links for Dashboard, Learn, Compete, and Other, a search icon, a notification bell, a 'Go Premium' button, a '2' badge, and a user profile icon. The main content area has a dark blue header with the word 'Practice' in large white text. Below this, a dark blue button says 'Reinforce what you're learning'. A sub-header reads 'Put your knowledge into practice with gamified cyber security challenges.' To the right of the text is a circular diagram with an open book icon at the top and a circular arrow icon at the bottom, with the word 'Practice' in the center. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Learn', 'Practice' (highlighted), and 'Search'. The main content area is titled 'General' and 'Series'. Under 'Based On Your Experience', there are four challenge cards: 'Forensics' (Hard), 'StuxCTF' (Medium), 'GoldenEye' (Medium), and 'Mr Robot CTF' (Medium). Under 'Featured', there are four challenge cards: 'Disgruntled', 'Expose', 'Opacity', and 'Services'.

TryHackMe Dashboard Learn Compete Other

Practice

Reinforce what you're learning

Put your knowledge into practice with gamified cyber security challenges.

Learn Practice Search

General Series

### Based On Your Experience



**Forensics**

This is a memory dump of compromised system, do some forensics kung-fu to explore the inside.

Hard



**StuxCTF**

Crypto, seralization, priv scalation and more ...!

Medium



**GoldenEye**

Bond, James Bond. A guided CTF.

Medium



**Mr Robot CTF**

Based on the Mr. Robot show, can you root this box?

Medium

### Featured



**Disgruntled**

Use your Linux forensics knowledge to investigate an incident.



**Expose**

Use your red teaming knowledge to pwn a Linux machine.



**Opacity**

Opacity is a Boot2Root made for pentesters and cybersecurity enthusiasts.



**Services**

At your service.

# Anfangen: Try Hack Me



StuxCTF

Crypto, serealization, priv scalation and more ...!

Medium 0 min

THM AttackBox

## Target Machine Information

Title	Target IP Address	Expires
StuxnetCTF	10.10.77.45	33min 9s



Add 1 hour

Terminate

Task 1  StuxCTF

Read user.txt and root.txt

Start Machine

Answer the questions below

user.txt

Answer format: .....

Submit

root.txt

Answer format: .....

Submit

What is the hidden directory?

HINT:  $g^a \bmod p, g^b \bmod p, g^c \bmod p$

first 128 characters ...

Answer format: .....

Submit



Terminal



Tools



Additional Tools

```
root@ip-10-10-80-76: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@ip-10-10-80-76:~# ping 10.10.77.45
PING 10.10.77.45 (10.10.77.45) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.10.77.45: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.31 ms
64 bytes from 10.10.77.45: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=3.52 ms
^C
--- 10.10.77.45 ping statistics ---
2 packets transmitted, 2 received, 0% packet loss, time 1003ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 2.315/2.917/3.520/0.604 ms
root@ip-10-10-80-76:~# nmap 10.10.77.45

Starting Nmap 7.60 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-17 19:29 BST
Nmap scan report for ip-10-10-77-45.eu-west-1.compute.internal (10.10.77.45)
Host is up (0.00045s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
MAC Address: 02:5A:26:1E:3C:7D (Unknown)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.76 seconds
root@ip-10-10-80-76:~#
```

# Anfangen: Over The Wire



Wargames

Rules

Information <sup>updated</sup>

OverTheWire  
We're hackers, and we are good-looking. We are the 1%.

Donate!

Help!?

## Online

Bandit

Natas

Leviathan

Krypton

Narnia

Behemoth

Utumno

Maze

Vortex

Manpage

Drifter

FormulaOne

## Offline

Semtex

## Released

HES2010

Abraxas

Monxla

Kishi

## Wargames

The wargames offered by the OverTheWire community can help you to learn and practice security concepts in the form of fun-filled games.

To find out more about a certain wargame, just visit its page linked from the menu on the left.

If you have a problem, a question or a suggestion, you can [join us via chat](#).

### Suggested order to play the games in

1. Bandit
2. Leviathan or Natas or Krypton
3. Narnia
4. Behemoth
5. Utumno
6. Maze
7. ...

### Each shell game has its own SSH port

Information about how to connect to each game using SSH, is provided in the top left corner of the page. Keep in mind that every game uses a different SSH port.

Bandit: Unix/Linux Shell, ssh, cron, git  
Natas: Web, PHP  
Krypton: Kryptographie  
Leviathan: Reverse Engineering  
Utumno, Maze: Binary Exploits

# Anfangen: Over The Wire - Bandit



Wargames

Rules

Information <sup>updated</sup>

OverTheWire  
We're hackers, and we are good-looking. We are the 1%.

Donate!

Help!?

## SSH Information

Host: [bandit.labs.overthewire.org](https://bandit.labs.overthewire.org)  
Port: 2220

## Bandit

Level 0

Level 0 → Level 1

Level 1 → Level 2

Level 2 → Level 3

Level 3 → Level 4

Level 4 → Level 5

Level 5 → Level 6

Level 6 → Level 7

Level 7 → Level 8

Level 8 → Level 9

Level 9 → Level 10

Level 10 → Level 11

Level 11 → Level 12

Level 12 → Level 13

Level 13 → Level 14

Level 14 → Level 15

Level 15 → Level 16

Level 16 → Level 17

Level 17 → Level 18

Level 18 → Level 19

Level 19 → Level 20

Level 20 → Level 21

Level 21 → Level 22

## Bandit Level 0

### Level Goal

The goal of this level is for you to log into the game using SSH. The host to which you need to connect is **bandit.labs.overthewire.org**, on port 2220. The username is **bandit0** and the password is **bandit0**. Once logged in, go to the [Level 1](#) page to find out how to beat Level 1.

### Commands you may need to solve this level

ssh

### Helpful Reading Material

[Secure Shell \(SSH\) on Wikipedia](#)

[How to use SSH on wikiHow](#)

Flag - oft: `flag[.+}`

# Anfangen: Over The Wire - Natas



Wargames

Rules

Information <sup>updated</sup>

OverTheWire  
We're hackers, and we are good-looking. We are the 1%.

Donate!

Help!?

## Natas

Level 0

Level 0 → Level 1

Level 1 → Level 2

Level 2 → Level 3

Level 3 → Level 4

Level 4 → Level 5

Level 5 → Level 6

Level 6 → Level 7

Level 7 → Level 8

Level 8 → Level 9

Level 9 → Level 10

Level 10 → Level 11

Level 11 → Level 12

Level 12 → Level 13

Level 13 → Level 14

Level 14 → Level 15

Level 15 → Level 16

Level 16 → Level 17

Level 17 → Level 18

Level 18 → Level 19

Level 19 → Level 20

Level 20 → Level 21

Level 21 → Level 22

Level 22 → Level 23

Level 23 → Level 24

## Natas

Natas teaches the basics of serverside web-security.

Each level of natas consists of its own website located at <http://natasX.natas.labs.overthewire.org>, where X is the level number. There is **no SSH login**. To access a level, enter the username for that level (e.g. natas0 for level 0) and its password.

Each level has access to the password of the next level. Your job is to somehow obtain that next password and level up. **All passwords are also stored in /etc/natas\_webpass/**. E.g. the password for natas5 is stored in the file /etc/natas\_webpass/natas5 and only readable by natas4 and natas5.

Start here:

Username: natas0

Password: natas0

URL: <http://natas0.natas.labs.overthewire.org>

← → ↻ ⚠ Nicht sicher [natas0.natas.labs.overthewire.org](http://natas0.natas.labs.overthewire.org)

# NATAS0

You can find the password for the next level on this page

← → ↻ ⚠ Nicht sicher [view-source:natas0.natas.labs.overthewire.org](http://view-source:natas0.natas.labs.overthewire.org) ☆ ⓘ ⋮

Zeilenumbruch

```
1 <html>
2 <head>
3 <!-- This stuff in the header has nothing to do with the level -->
4 <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/css/jquery-ui.min.css" />
5 <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/css/jquery-ui.min.css" />
6 <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/css/jquery-ui.min.css" />
7 <script src="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/js/jquery-1.9.1.min.js" />
8 <script src="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/js/jquery-ui-1.9.1.min.js" />
9 <script src="http://natas.labs.overthewire.org/js/wechall.js" />
10 <script>var wechallinfo = { "level": "natas0", "pass": "natas0" };
11 <body>
12 <h1>natas0</h1>
13 <div id="content">
14 You can find the password for the next level on this page
15 <!--The password for natas1 is 0nZ<div id="password">
16
17 </div>
18 </body>
19 </html>
20
```

Flag - oft: flag[+]

# Plattformen

## Kommerziell:

- Try Hack Me, Hack The Box -> "Premium" Content
- Kommerzielle Cyber Ranges - [Ueberblick](#)
- SANS, ISC2, ISACA -> viel Organisatorisches, Zertifizierungen

## Weitere CTF Plattformen:

- PicoCTF.org -> Lernen & üben
- Pwn.college -> Binary Exploits

## Verwandte:

- HackerOne, YesWeHack, Intigriti -> Bug Bounty (und Pentests etc.)
- LetsDefend.io -> Blue Teaming

# Veranstaltungen

Wochenende:

- Meist, z.B. [Hack.lu/CTF](https://hack.lu/ctf)
- hxp 38C3 CTF - <https://2024.ctf.link/>



Längere Einzelveranstaltungen:

- Try Hack Me: Advent of Cyber
- Hasso Plattner Institut: Potsdam Cyber Games
- SANS: Holiday Hack Challenge

Meta-Info: <https://ctftime.org>

CONGRESS

**CTF - wasn' das?**

Youth Operation Center

hanemile

28. Dezember um 16:00

GF1 Saal 5

## Team rating

2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015  
2014 2013 2012 2011

Place	Team	Country	Rating
1	<a href="#">kalmarunionen</a>		1602,209
2	<a href="#">thehackerscrew</a>		1064,050
3	<a href="#">The Flat Network Society</a>		866,858
4	<a href="#">r3kapig</a>		862,180
5	<a href="#">Blue Water</a>		810,653
6	<a href="#">C4T BuT S4D</a>		728,510
7	<a href="#">if this doesn't work we'll get more for next year</a>		728,438
8	<a href="#">Project Sekai</a>		710,108
9	<a href="#">idek</a>		660,133
10	<a href="#">organizers</a>		619,684

[Full rating](#) | [Rating formula](#)

## Upcoming events

Aztec Labs is looking for Protocol Security Engineers in the CTF community (especially among cryptographers)

## Past events

With scoreboard [All](#)

### Blue Water CTF 2024

Okt. 14, 2024 02:00 UTC | On-line | [Weight voting in progress](#)

Place	Team	Country	Points *
1	<a href="#">organizers</a>		0,000
2	<a href="#">CyKOR</a>		0,000
3	<a href="#">Super Guesser</a>		0,000

[83 teams total](#) | [Tasks and writeups](#)

### Securinets CTF Quals 2024

Okt. 13, 2024 19:00 UTC | On-line | [Weight voting in progress](#)

Place	Team	Country	Points
1	<a href="#">kalmarunionen</a>		191,180
2	<a href="#">thehackerscrew</a>		127,817
3	<a href="#">The Flat Network Society</a>		97,251

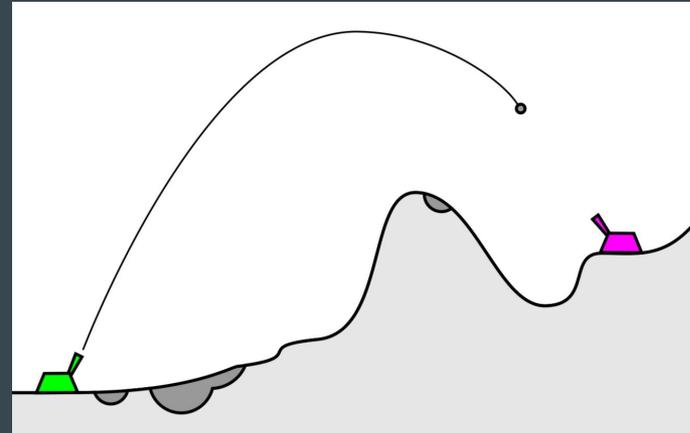
[89 teams total](#) | [Tasks and writeups](#)

# CTF - Arten, Tools

# CTF Arten

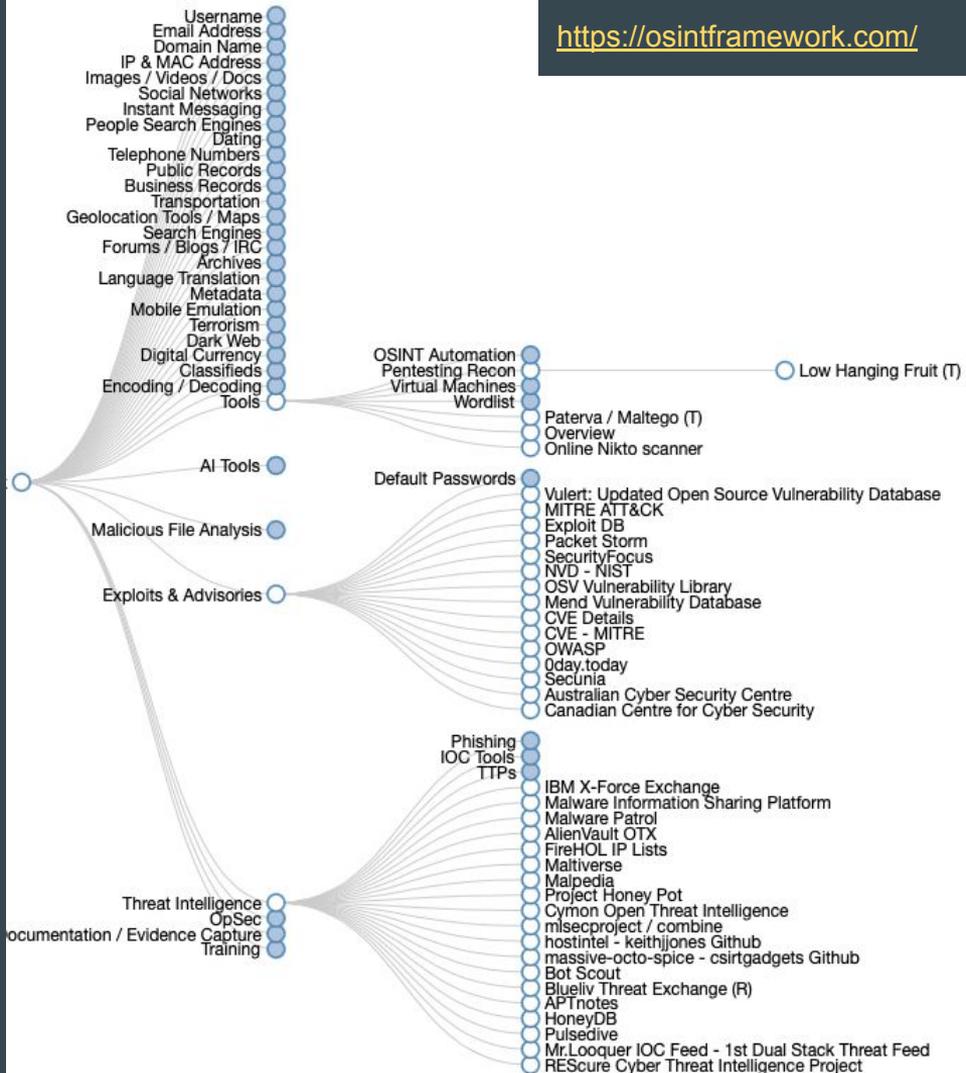
- Jeopardy - Kategorien:  
Web, OSINT,  
Reverse Engineering,  
Binary Exploits, ...
- Attack & Defense,  
King of the Hill

THE DINOSAURS	NOTABLE WOMEN	OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY	NAME THAT INSTRUMENT	BELGIUM	COMPOSERS BY COUNTRY
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000



# CTF - Tools

- Kali Linux
- Unendlich viel mehr:
  - Windows, Linux Bordmittel
  - Netzwerk - nmap, nessus, wireshark
  - Web - curl, burpsuite
  - SQL Injections - sqlmap
  - Reverse Engineering - ghidra, cutter
  - Binary Exploits - pwntools



# CTF - Lernen

- Das übliche - Bücher, Videos, Internet, Vorlesungen, MOOCs, Studium  
z.B. Jon Erickson: Hacking- The Art of Exploitation (2nd ed. 2008)
- Writeups
  - <https://ctftime.org/writeups>
  - Google: ctf site:medium.com

# Was kommt dann?

# Karrierepfade

## 6 Types of Cyber Security Jobs



Security Analyst



Security Engineer



Security Architect



Ethical Hacker



Chief Information  
Security Officer



Digital Forensics  
and Incident Response



# CTF - machen

Anfangen!

-> [OverTheWire.org](https://www.overthewire.org/)

-> Bandit (Linux)

-> Natas (Web/PHP)

-> Leviathan (Rev. Engineering)

-> Maze, Narnia (Binary Exploit)

-> [TryHackMe.com](https://tryhackme.com/)



Üben, üben, üben!

# Zusammenfassung

Einführung - Sicherheit, Schutz

Verteidigung - Checklisten, Technik

Angriff - Wozu, wie lernen

CTF - Wo anfangen? - Try Hack Me, Over The Wire, weitere & Veranstaltungen

CTF - Arten, Tools

Was kommt dann? - Anfangen, Karrierepfade

# Danke! Fragen?

Danke & Grüsse an

- die Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen
- das Mad Monday CTF Team :-)



Kontakt: EMail: [hubertf@gmx.de](mailto:hubertf@gmx.de)

Others: @hubertf / @huberteff / @hubertf@mastodon.social