

Exhibit A

Contest Rules

1. **Participants and Teams:** Participants must participate in a group of Participants (a group of Participants participating together referred to as a “Team”; a Participant participating individually also qualifies as a Team). Participants participating individually or in Teams must complete a Team registration form that the Host will make available to all Participants. Each Team must identify a designated representative with which the Host will communicate, known as the Team Captain. Individual Participants also will qualify as the Team Captain for his/her/their Team. The Host may communicate with other Team members. Every Participant on the Team must complete the Team registration form and join the team Slack channel that the Host makes available to Participants. All Contest communications will take place on the Contest Slack channel. Participants remain responsible at all times for joining and monitoring the Contest Slack channel for Host and Contest communications.
2. **Contest Period and Phases:** The Contest begins at 17:00:00 UTC on March 5, 2025, and ends at 17:00:00 UTC on April 16, 2025 (“Contest Period”). PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE CORRESPONDING TIME ZONE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTION. This Contest consists of one Phase:
 - a. Participants must electronically “attack,” i.e., use electronic, physical, or software means to extract sensitive information from the design(s) from the concurrent student eCTF or to otherwise cause the design to behave in a manner violating the security requirements, and obtain information electronically concealed in another Participant’s environment (a “Flag” or “Electronic Flag”). (the “Attack Phase”).

The Attack Phase begins on March 5, 2025. During the Attack Phase, Participants will be given the designs of Participants in the student eCTF as they enter the Attack Phase.

Points may be earned in the Attack Phase:

 - i. By attacking the designs of other Participants and successfully compromising security requirements in the form of flags embedded in the system;
 - ii. By completing other challenges that the Host announces at the beginning of the Contest.
3. **Points:** A Participant or a Team must explain to Host how the Participants or Teams obtained a Flag via the Host-identified Slack workspace. Host in its sole discretion as judge of the Contest retains the right to attribute or revoke points for any reason, including, but not limited to, absent or insufficient explanations. On or about April 25, 2025, the Host will announce the Participant’s entitled to Prizes (defined below) based on satisfaction of certain criteria in participating in the Contest.
4. **Award Ceremony:** Near the end of the Attack Phase, the Host will invite certain Participants to present at the award ceremony, which is scheduled to take place on or about April 25, 2025. The exact number of Teams invited is at the discretion of Host. In the event that the award ceremony has an in-person component, some invited Participants in Host’s sole discretion may be awarded scholarships to subsidize travel to the event based on a combination of performance and need. At the Award Ceremony, the final scores and prizes will be revealed. Attendance at the Award Ceremony will be subject to separate terms and conditions.
5. **Prizes:** No prizes are available for the Contest.