What Students Need to Know Before They Get There

Students can attend WACTF without any prior knowledge of how a CTF occurs, however they will need to be willing to do a lot of self learning over the weekend. WACTF will hold an introductory session on day 1 with some tips and tricks for first timers & it is highly recommended you encourage first timers to attend this session.

The event is a 2 day event, however CTF players are welcome to come and go as required. Hence students are still able to participate even if they are unable to attend for the full 2 days.

Limited food is provided. It is recommended that you encourage the students to bring their own food – especially if they are on a special diet.

> **WACTF Organiser note: There will be water, and likely softdrinks (including energy drinks) provided so you may wish to caution your students on consumption of the latter if you consider necessary.

Student Supervision at the CTF

Students at the event are not supervised by WACTF. The event is attended by adults from the cybersecurity industry, university students as well as high school students. People registered for the CTF are free to come and go as they require. Any student supervision required should be organised by the school.

Creating Your CTF Teams

Anyone student interested can make their own CTF team, or you may choose to group your students into teams. A team is made up of 4 people, and if you have beginners it is useful to team them with more experienced players, or students with existing programming and / or Linux skills, as collaboration outside of a team is not encouraged.

A couple of useful skills for selecting team members CTFer's include:

- The ability to used Google … well. Although the students will not find the answers to the WACTF online, there are many sites dedicated to CTFs, and these may give some hints of techniques to help them try and find the flag.
- Some experience in a text based programming language. This is not essential, however will help them with some challenges.
- Knowledge of some Linux commands – and the ability to google search for more. Many CTF questions are best solved using Linux.
- Persistence & a love of problem solving. The flags of many challenges are only stumbled upon using by trial and error, and hence involve significant time, self-motivation, energy & sometimes much frustration!

Student Computer Requirements

If students are bringing their school devices, it is helpful for them to be unlocked sufficiently so that students can freely download additional software from the internet. Some challenges may be easier to solved using free software available over the internet. If the computer is locked, so that only an

administrator can download the software, this will hinder the student's ability to solve some problems.

> **WACTF Organiser note:** This is critical. If students are unable to download and install software, it will make it very difficult to complete many of the challenges. Administrative rights to the laptop is recommended.

A few software programs that are highly recommend to be downloaded prior to coming to the CTF are in Ryan's introduction to CTF guide, which a link is found on the WACTF front page. As a minimum it is recommended that they have full access to Kali Linux.

If students are using school devices, it is recommended that they attempt some different types of practice CTFs prior to attending the WACTF to ensure they can access all the required software and the different features. Over The Wire (Bandit) gives a good introduction to Linux, and hence will help identify some issues.

Practicing at School – Some Challenges

It is a great idea to do some practice sessions with your students at school, prior to coming to WACTF, however there is often issues with accessing the practice CTFs on the school networks. A great beginners CTF is PicoCTF. This CTF has its own shell so you do not need to download Kali Linux to attempt this, however many school networks will block access to this site.

Allowing students access to the required sites and tools is one of the biggest challenges in preparing students for a CTF at school. Hence it is recommended that prior to commencing your CTF practice, you spend some time with the IT Co-ordinator / Network Administrator in order to arrange access for the students.