



Organising monkeys or How to run a *hacking* club

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neko3

xorpse

Introduction



Marco Cova

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Tom Chothia

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~ 20 active members

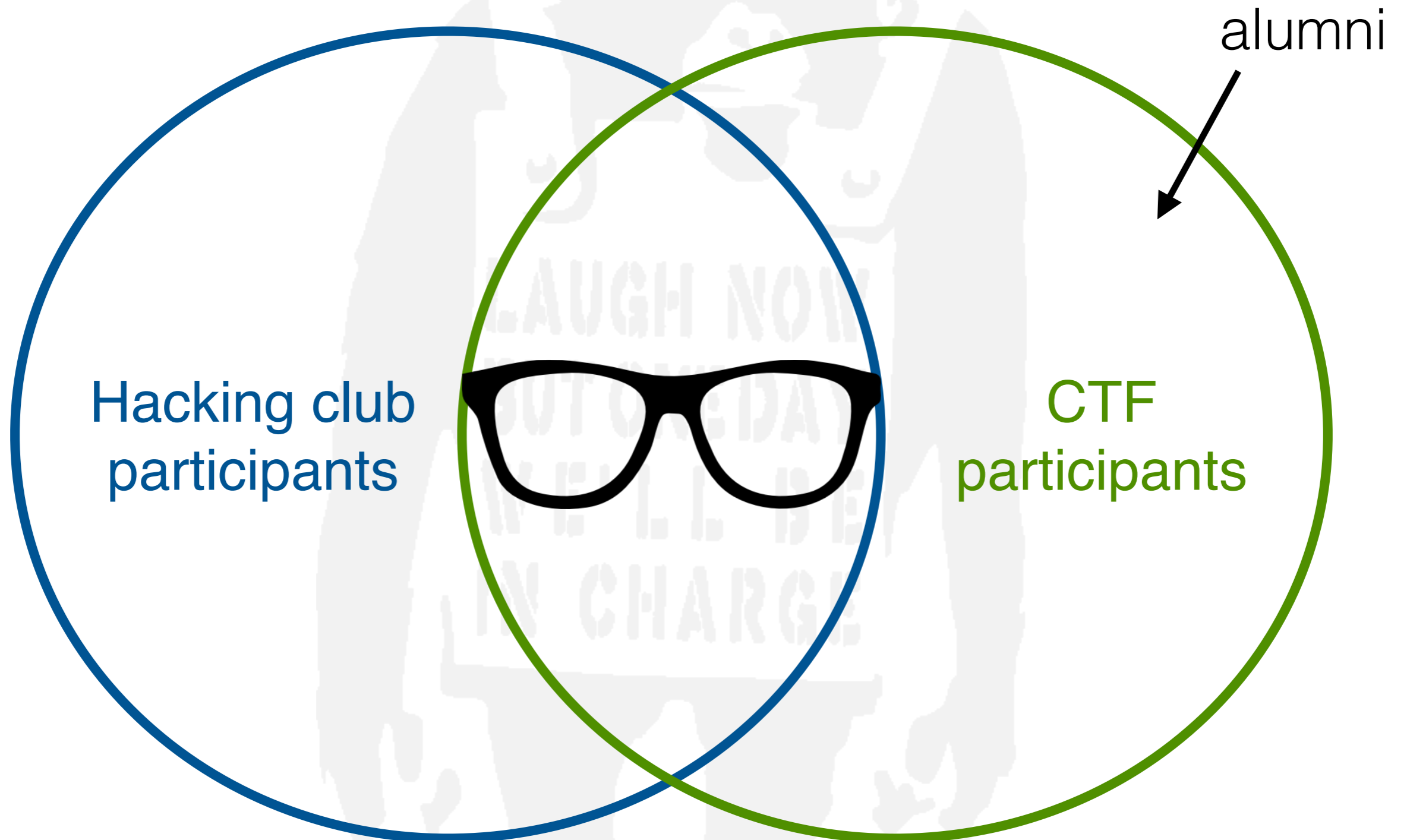
2014 CTF rankings:

1st UK academic team

33rd world-wide academic team

Monkeys s.t. $|\text{Monkeys}| < \aleph_0$

Hacking club vs CTF team

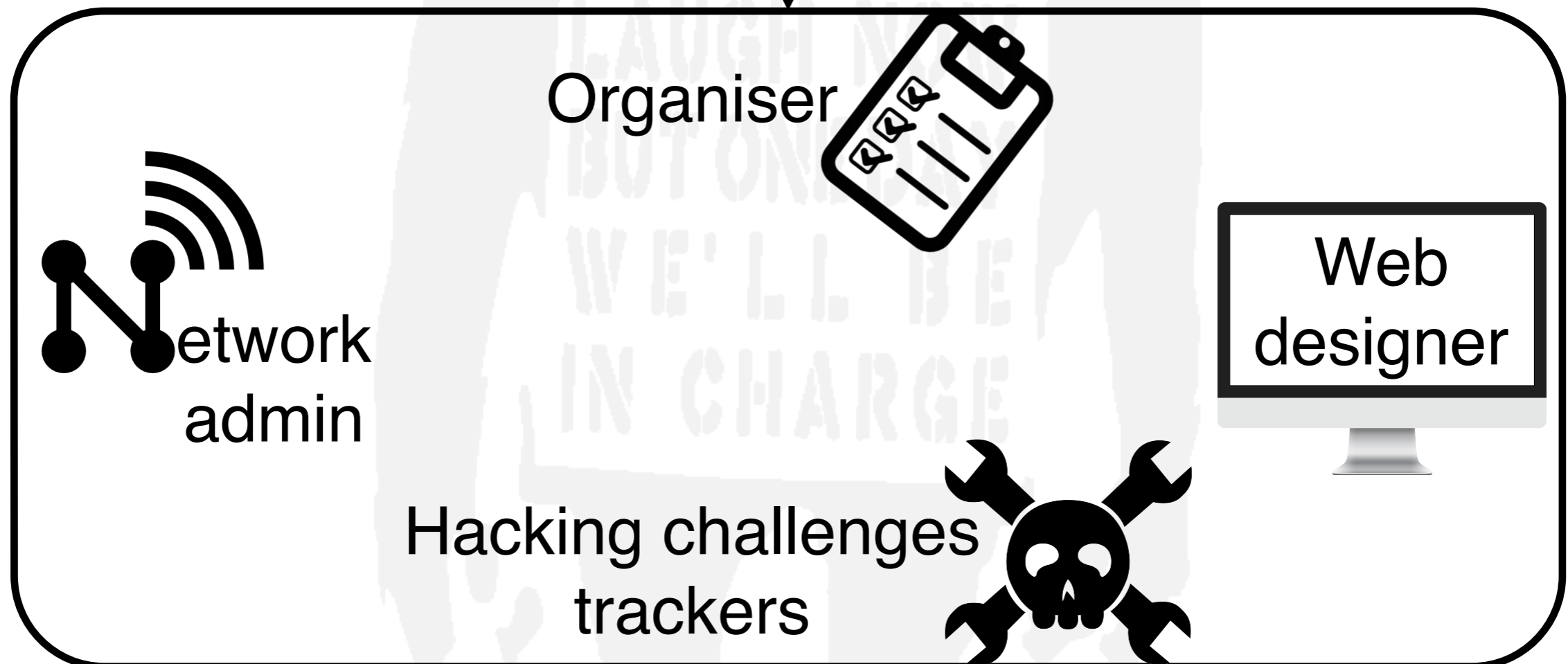




Hacking club



Organise the Monkeys



Meetings format

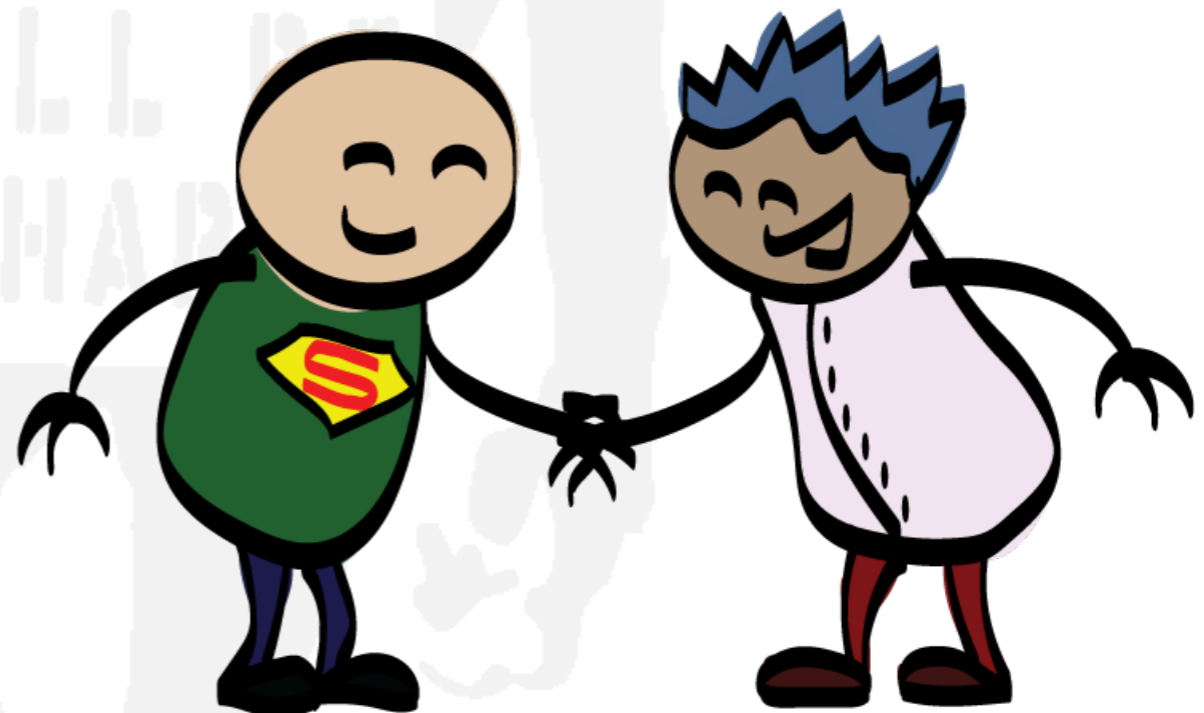
Weekly meetings ~ 2 hours, Friday afternoon
(best attendance rate is during term time)

Always send **notification** before the club meeting
(people forget / are busy elsewhere...)

Layout:

- Presentations (10-30 mins) : tutorials, write-ups
- Choose from the list of hacking challenges prepared

After-club : food/drinks



Organisational challenges

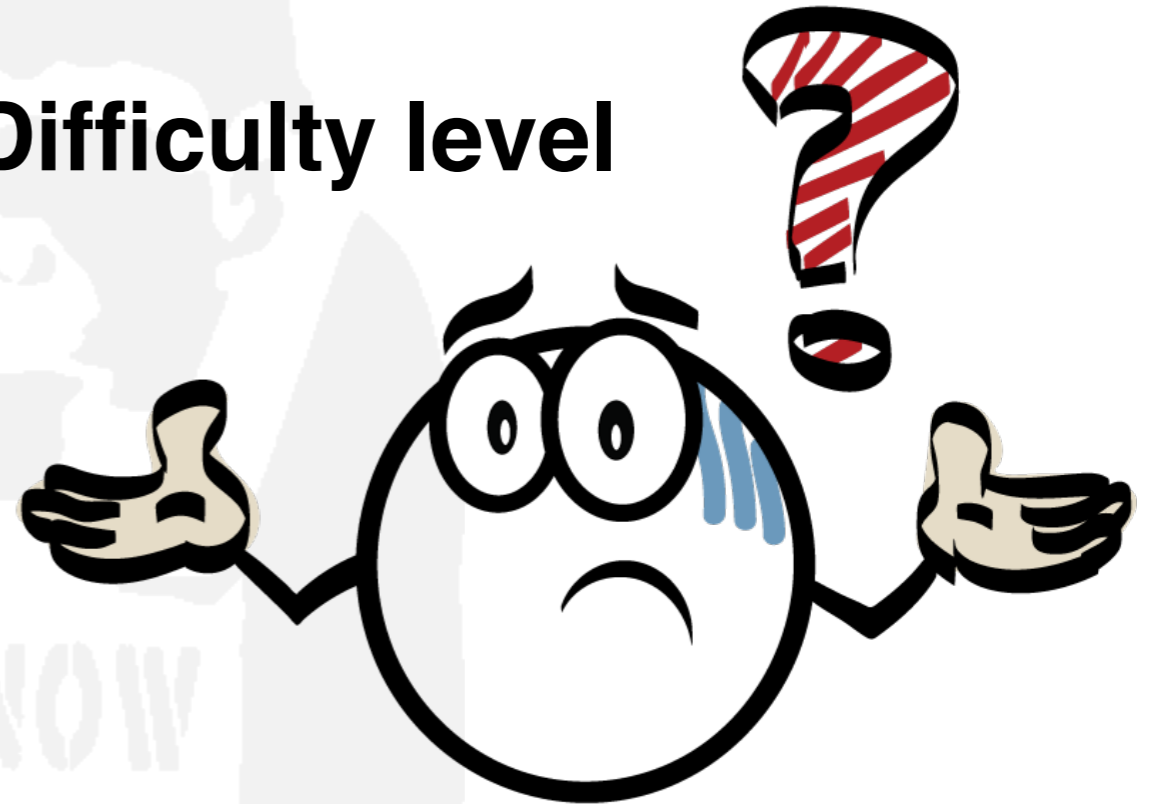
Hacking club attendance



VS

coursework
Starcraft
..... (?)

Difficulty level



Alumni engagement



Competition participation





CTF Competitions



#AFNOM

afnom.net

Capture-The-Flag (CTF) team

- Jeopardy CTFs
- Attack-Defence CTFs

ctftime.org

Tools and helpers:

- IRC
- Rizzoma
- mailing-list

Write-ups

Challenge	By	Competition
Community College	xorpse	Boston Key Party 2015
AART	Pegasus	Ghost in the Shellcode 2015
Lost in Time	xorpse	Ghost in the Shellcode Teaser CTF 2015
Advanced RISC Machine	Corax	SECCON Quals 2014
jspuzzle REA-JUU	Pegasus	SECCON Quals 2014
Shuffle Choose the Number Get the Key	Break	SECCON Quals 2014

After CTFs, the members do write-ups for the challenges they solved.

Latest CTFs: VolgaCTF 2015 Quals, Boston Key Party 2015
Ghost in the Shellcode 2015, SECCON CTF 2014 Quals

CTF Challenges

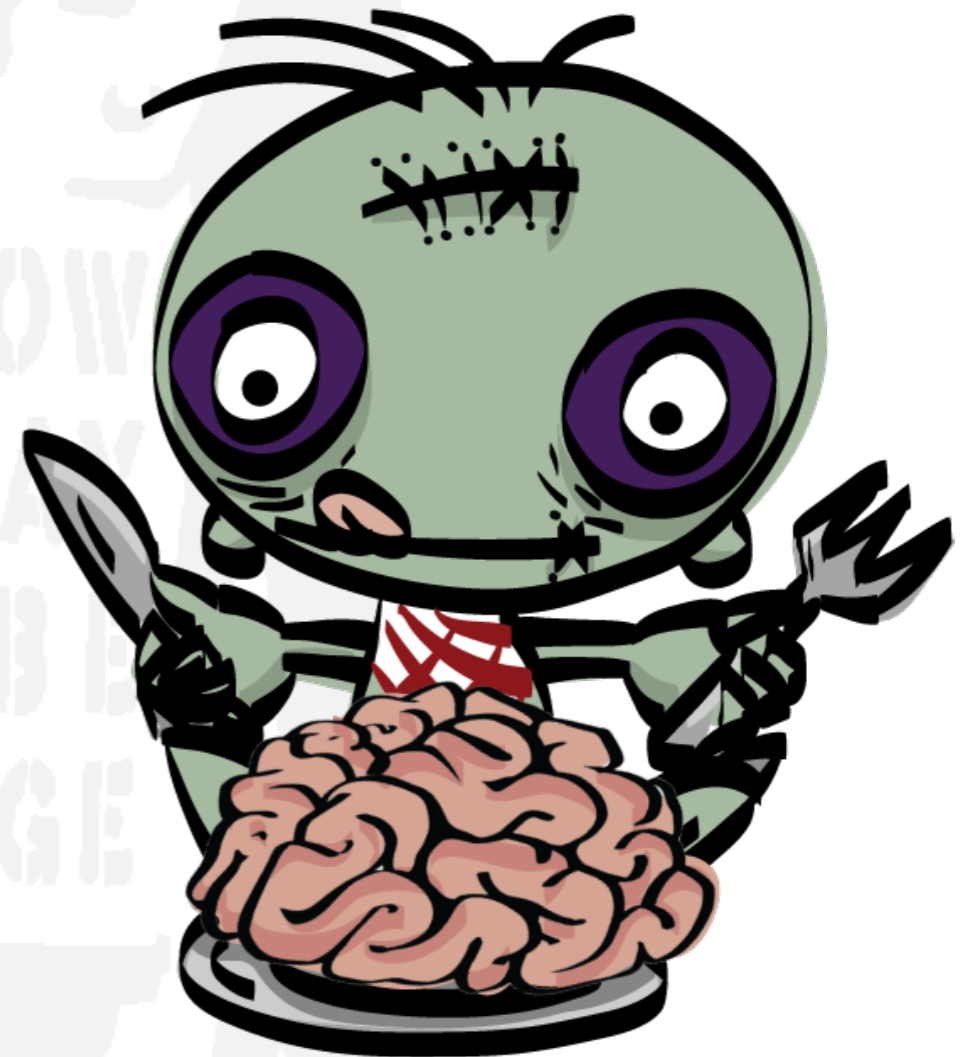
Diverse categories:

- Cryptography
- Exploitation
- Reverse engineering
- Web-based

Tools used for solving:

- WireShark
- IDA Pro
- OllyDBG
- Burp Proxy

But, main tool will always be
the **BRAIN**

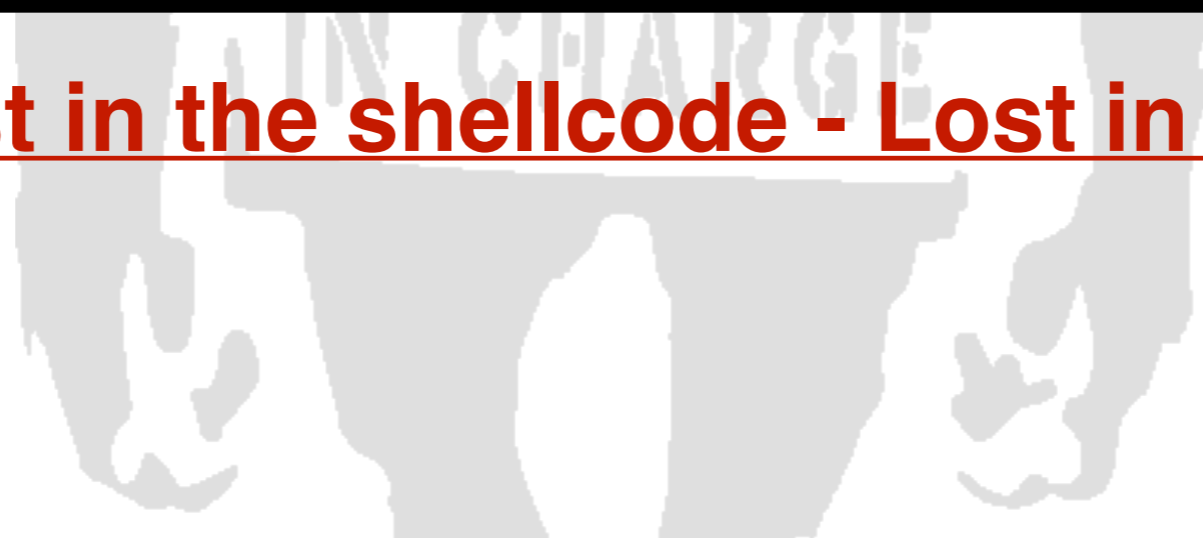


(preferences differ)



Demo

[Ghost in the shellcode - Lost in Time](#)



Conclusion

Teaching defensive security is important, but offensive security is just as important

There is no set successful formula for running a hacking club
... but enthusiasm and perseverance are the key to success!

Our advice for starting a hacking club:

- Informal works great
- Setup meetings
- Advertise the club (in security-related modules)
- Practice on challenges (many available online!)
- **Do not give up!** Keep meeting even if only few students attend. Keep participating in CTFs, even if you score low.





Q & A (?)

