

Tools for Training White Hat Hackers

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 The Internet2 Technology Exchange (TechEX) is a premier technical event aimed at the global research and education (R&E) community. The 2024 edition took place from December 9 to 13 in Boston, Massachusetts, bringing together experts, engineers, IT leaders, and security professionals from academic institutions, national research networks, and industry partners.





- Hacker do Bem Program Goals
- R&D Program Lifecycle
- R&D Working Groups
- Next steps and Final Remarks

Understanding the Brazilian Context





11 million young people aged 15 to 29 in Brazil were neither studying or working (IBGE)

Brazil faces a gap of 300 thousand cybersecurity specialists (ISC2)

Higher education courses often fail to align with the demands of cybersecurity companies

The growing number of security and privacy incidents highlights the significant risks

Our motivation is to offer free learning opportunities for young students, enabling them to become skilled cybersecurity professionals!



Implemented under Softex's National Priority Innovation Program, the initiative is executed by the

RNP and Senai São Paulo, with support from ICT Law resources (5,6 million USD – 3 years).

This program aims at cybersecurity and privacy skilled human resource development through training actions using intensive experimentation environments, cybersecurity simulators, and technological residencies **RD&I** actions and (ii) (iii) Establishment of a National Cybersecurity Hub RNO FEDE MINISTÉRIO DA Softex SENAL



CIÊNCIA. TECNOLOGIA

INOVACÃO

Defined Goals



- Management and Governance of the Program (advisory board)
- Development of training infrastructure (Gamified Virtual Learning Environment)
- Development of cybersecurity skills content (leveling, basic, fundamental, specialized)
- Foster the cybersecurity innovation ecosystem (R&D projects, hackathons, CTFs, cybergames)

Establishment of a National Cybersecurity Hub

• It is a space for connection and synergies among actors in the cybersecurity ecosystem.



MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E INOVAÇÃO



GOVERNO FEDERAL

Training program and key results





Training program



Specialized



GRC - Governance, Risk, and Compliance



BlueTeam



RedTeam





Incident Response and Forensics

DevOps/ DevSecOps

Program Milestones





March 2023 – Launch of the Program



July 2023 – First Open Call for R&D projects



August 2023 – 1st Workshop on Cybersecurity Training



December 2023 – Opening of Training Registrations



January 2024 – Launch of the Teaching Platform (Leveling Module) and start of R&D projects



March 2024 – 1st CTF



September, 2024 – First group of students concluded the specialized certification



November 2024 – Demo day



129,938 registered users

The registrations have been suspended since March 2024

Gender distribution of the registrations







** Non-binary or others

Regional distribution of the registrations







Certification of the training





Specialized Training





653 students specialized in cybersecurity

100 students will begin their technological residency in Abril 2025



Organizing and hosting events to strengthen connections among cybersecurity ecosystem actors...

Events to strengthen connections







Event Planning for 2025







R&D Program Lifecycle



To foster the development of innovative **educational tools**, such as simulators, games, digital platforms, and others, that contribute to practical and high-quality training in cybersecurity, especially for participants of the Hackers do Bem Program.

R&D Program Lifecycle



Preparation and Publication of Open Call for Proposals

Evaluation of the Received Proposals

Contracting of Scholarships and Cloud Resources

Periodic Monitoring of Project Deliverables

Specialized training and mentoring to enhance entrepreneurial capabilities

MVP v1 – DEMO DAY

User Evaluation and MVP v2 (extension period - 6 months)





1st R&D Cycle

• 1 year (2024)

- 6 months user evaluation (2025)
- 7 R&D projects

2nd R&D Cycle

- 1 year MVP (2025)
- 6 months user evaluation (2026)
 - 4 R&D projects





Open call for R&D proposal (2023)

Received 40 proposals.

7 working groups (WGs) focus on developing open-source solutions

43 scholarships - only 8 are females



Most tools are in Portuguese.



WG-EXSS

Prof. Igor Moraes (UFF)

https://gtexss.uff.br/







- Three key learning pillars
 - o Exploitation
 - o Identification
 - o Mitigation



†‡† Iniciante -

HACKERS

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Página Inicial

Introdução

XSS Refletido

XSS Armazenado

XSS DOM

Aqui você encontra os melhores produtos para se manter protegido contras ameaças digitais





R\$ 30.00

Saiba mais





R\$ 40.00

Saiba mais







Prof. Jeferson Nobre (UFRGS)

https://www.inf.ufrgs.br/gt-impacto/









- Train security professionals on the technical and economic aspects of cybersecurity
- Effective financial planning is crucial for cybersecurity strategies, avoiding wasting resources
- Gap of training tools that address the economic perspective







WG-HIKARI

Prof. Lourenço Pereira (ITA)

https://hikari-edu.github.io/



Overview



- Focusing on Threat Hunting
- Multi-staged: Logs and difficulty increase dynamically in runtime (timely or event-oriented)
- CTF-like: Engages with the language of the community for fun and profit
- Challenges
 - Network Scanning, Web Exploits, EDR Analysis, Ransomware Behavior, etc.





- Empower students with the knowledge and skills needed for effective defense
- HIKARI Platform for blue-team training
 - o Platform flexible to adapt to different business needs.
 - Realistic environment for SIEM threat-hunting
- Target: students who aim to enhance their defensive capabilities



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WG-HackInSDN



Cybersecurity Laboratory as a Service (LABaaS)

Prof. Leobino Sampaio (UFBA)

https://hackinsdn.ufba.br/docs/Index/index.html



Overview



- A set of tools that offer a comprehensive environment for training in advanced security topics through network programmability (RNP testbed)
- Loosely coupled architecture
- Dashboard for better user experience (UX)
- MininetSec: IDs, Firewalls, attack tools and threat intelligent databases.









An environment that provides real and distributed computational resources and services to support cybersecurity training (in Kubernetes-based clouds)

HackInSDN Dashboard









WG-CRIVO

Prof. Italo Cunha (UFMG)

https://gt-crivo.dcc.ufmg.br/



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Overview



- Innovative approach for managing vulnerabilities
- Identify the most critical vulnerabilities using the AI ranking model
- Prioritize threats with the highest potential impact on the business.







- Develop a solution for prioritizing security vulnerabilities based on an organization's specific context and business needs.
- Create an AI-based solution that integrates technical and strategic factors.
- Help security teams in focusing efforts on the most critical and relevant risks.
- Align mitigation actions with organizational goals and business impact.





WG-Malware Datalab

Prof. Diego Kreutz (UNIPAMPA)

https://malwaredatalab.github.io







- Hands-on training in Generative AI to combat AI threats
- Promoting ethical "white hat" practices
- Generation of high-quality synthetic data
- Supports innovative solutions and training in Android malware detection

Empower White Hat Hackers with cutting-edge synthetic data technologies to tackle the critical challenge of securing Android users.







WG-ETSC

Emulator for Cybersecurity Training

Prof. Edmar Gurjão (UFCG)

https://cyberedu.com.br/







- Develop a virtual learning environment integrated with physical components for analyzing and testing network security.
- Provide hands-on experience with vulnerability assessments, threat analysis, and risk mitigation tools.
- Support holistic learning of key cybersecurity concepts and practices





HACKERS DO BEM



DEMO DAY November, 29 2024







NEXT STEPS

6 months for evaluation and improvements



6-month extension (recommendations)

- User evaluation (3 months)
- Implementation of the MVP 2.0 (3 months)
- Promote and release of the seven open-source tools

Four Projects Approved for Cycle 2



✓ WG-LFI (Learn From Incidents): Teaching-Learning System, Gamification, and

Classification Based on Incidents

Prof. Rodrigo Sanches Miani (UFU)

 ✓ WG-CASTLE: Learning Environment for Cybersecurity Assessment, Simulation, and Training

Prof. André Ricardo Abed Grégio (UFPR)

✓ WG-IR (We Got Hacked): Training Simulator for Incident Response Learning

Prof. Luciano Ignaczak (UNISINOS)

✓ WG-ViTuRi: Intelligent Tutor Videobot

Prof. Danielle Rousy Dias Ricarte (UFPB)





The **demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals** is rapidly increasing. To meet this need, we must enhance our training programs with **innovative strategies**.





Active methodologies in education empower students to learn independently, applying concepts through practical tools that link learning to real-world problem-solving.

