SkillsUSA Maryland State Championship
Cyber Security State Competition Update (3/6/24)

Cyber Security

Thank you for participating in the SkillsUSA Maryland Cyber Security competition on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**. This year, there will be four distinct sections of the competition:

Sections:
1. Technical Exam (Multiple Choice Questions)
2. Cisco Packet Tracer Challenge
3. Wireshark Challenge
4. Technical Interview Challenge

Schedule (Subject to Change):

08:00 – 08:10 am	Orientation
08:10 – 08:40 am	Technical Exam
08:40 – 12:00 pm	Competition Performance
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Competition Performance
1:00 – 1:30 pm	End of Contest/Contest Debrief

Equipment and Materials:

Supplied by each contestant (each team member should have):
- Resume
- Writing instrument
- Laptop or desktop computer capable of running Cisco Packet Tracer and Wireshark
    - Minimal software needed on laptop or desktop for contest:
        - Cisco Packet Tracer version 8.2.1 (as of this writing)
        - Wireshark version 4.2.3 (as of this writing)
        - Ability to access Google Suite including Google Forms & Google Docs

Competition Details:

The technical exam portion of the state competition (section 1) will be completed via Google Forms with paper backups should there be any technical difficulties. **_Both_** team members will **_separately_** be completing the technical exam and then added together to comprise the team score. This testing will be separate from any of the testing students completed in the SkillsUSA online testing system prior to the start of the competition.

Students can have one or both team-members log on to access and download the Packet Tracer material from their contestant Google Drive folder (section 2) **_using their own laptop_** on the CCCTC public Wi-Fi. Please check to ensure your equipment is functional prior to the competitive event. Students will also need at least one member to **_create a free Cisco NetAcad_** username and password. Please visit www.netacad.com for a free account. It is also **recommended** that you sign-up and practice on the Intro to Packet Tracer free course to become familiar with the software prior to the event. **_End devices, switches, routers, firewalls, and servers_** may be configured during this challenge.

Students can have one or both team-members log on to access and download the Wireshark PCAP material from their contestant Google Drive folder (section 3) **_using their own laptop_** on the CCCTC public Wi-Fi. Please check to ensure your equipment is functional prior to the competitive event. Wireshark will only be used for analyzing pre-captured PCAP data and students **_will not_** have to capture live traffic on their laptops.

During the morning competition performance time, students will have a scheduled technical interview (section 4) with a panel to mimic a real-life scenario meeting similar criteria specified in the "Professional Activities Station" on the Cyber Security SkillsUSA National Technical Standards. Students will be given 10 minutes to provide a verbal response to a prompt and answer follow-up questions.

FAQs:

Q: "I have a couple questions regarding the SkillsUSA Cyber Security competition. The update stated that the students will need to bring their own laptops to event. What specs are required for the competition? Will they be required to download anything? Will they need to be able to install software? We are one-to-one but the laptops have the computing power of grain of rice. They are also heavily restricted, so I want to make sure they have access to the equipment they need to be successful. I had previously been told that there were workstations available to the students."

A: The laptops must be able run Packet Tracer and Wireshark software and be able to navigate the internet. They will not need special applications to compete. I highly recommend installing Packet Tracer AND Wireshark PRIOR to the competition.

Q: "I have some students competing in Cyber Security. Could you give us some more insight? Will their laptops need to have admin rights?"

A: Admin rights are **not** required AFTER installing Packet Tracer and Wireshark. No additional software will be required as the only other accesses needed will be Google Suite tools such as Google Forms or Google Docs.

Note:

Specific written test or challenge questions, including the specific assessment items in the Packet Tracer, Wireshark PCAP, or technical interview will not be addressed by the Chair prior to the competitive event. Please reference the Cyber Security SkillsUSA National Technical Standards for further guidance of what subject matter students should be expected to perform within.

Additional Questions?:

Please email arthurbridder@gmail.com and CC
SkillsUSA Maryland State Director Chuck Wallace at charles.wallace@maryland.gov with any queries regarding the competitive event. Responses will be compiled and shared with competing students and instructors via the State Conference webpage.

Brad Ridder
SkillsUSA Maryland Cyber Security Contest Chair