

SkillsUSA Maryland Cyber Security State Competition

Compiled Responses to Questions Received (3/21/25)



Reminders:

- **PLEASE** verify you have Cisco Packet Tracer and Wireshark downloaded and installed **PRIOR** to day-of competition. This software will **NOT** be provided by the contest chair or site day-of. These are industry recognized, de-facto tools necessary to meet the Cyber Security SkillsUSA National Technical Standards.
- **Please also ensure the computers to be brought are able to join a guest WiFi network outside the school system they were setup in.** This includes verifying no proxy server is configured on the device that could prevent competitors from internet access. The site will not be able to troubleshoot your device the day of, so please work with your school system's IT staff in advance if needed.
- **The computers competitors will bring with them will NOT be used for any live data collection.** All files are pre-captured to be analyzed during the competition.

Q: "For station 1 on the technical standards, it says, 'Competitors will take either the CompTIA Security+ or ETA ITS Certification exams for professional certification.' I would like to know if we would be awarded the industry certification if we pass the test with the requirements per CompTIA Security+ or if it's exclusively for competition points."

A: For the 2025 SkillsUSA Maryland state Cyber Security contest, competitors will be completing a CompTIA Security+ technical exam representative of the SYO-701 certification competencies to be taken via Google Forms. At the SkillsUSA Maryland state level, this station is exclusively for competition points. At the national level for the first-place team that advances from our state contest, historically, national competitors do take the CompTIA Security+ exam as part of contest performance and potentially awarded industry certification upon receiving a passing score.

Q: "I have a question about the 4th session of the State Competition in Cyber called "Log Analysis." What software are they using to capture and bring up the logs itself?"

A: The text log file for section 4 will be provided **pre-captured** and therefore students will not be capturing any log files as part of the challenge. The "free web browser-based command line tool" mentioned in the section 4 description of the contest update is the first link under the "Equipment and Materials" section, <https://bellard.org/jslinux/>, to be able to leverage Linux command line text tools in the browser to extract details of interest from a text log file. While competitors are welcome to use a computer with the Linux operating system installed to use command line tools for this challenge, it is **not** required, nor is using command line tools to analyze the pre-captured text log file. Any text editor of choice may also be used, should that be the competitor's preference for this challenge.