

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January I took part in the Cyber Security Challenge; the first Face to Face which took place at the QinetiQ Farnborough Offices in Hampshire. Suffice it to say my Team won! (Go Team Red!!).

So what is the Cyber Security Challenge and how did I get to be a part of it? Well I'll tell you.

The Cyber Security Challenge UK is a non for profit organization based in the UK. They run a national programme of competitions, which are designed to attract and inspire new Talents into the UK cyber Security profession but have to be EU Citizens resident in the UK. Its no secret that there is a shortage of Cyber Security professionals worldwide and the UK is no exception.

To be a part of it, you must first register to play the online virtual games/competitions, which are run throughout the year. Once signed up, select a game of interest from the list and read the instructions to start playing.

During the summer there is the Cyber Camp, which is mainly a series of learning events over a few days by sponsors (BT, PWC, Raytheon, QinetiQ, GCHQ, etc.) These events run for a few days with some exercises.

After the various rounds of virtual games online, well performing members get invited to a face to face event usually sponsored and held at the sponsor's site. This year's first face to face was sponsored by QinetiQ at their Farnborough offices in Hampshire and saw 20 of us in teams of 5 go head to head to identify vulnerabilities in a provided network, suggest remediation of the vulnerabilities found using a set of provided tools like nmap, Nessus, metasploit etc. We also had to take control of one of the client's machine that was infected with a malware, analyze it, try to explain how it got in and then shut down the command and control. In the end we made a presentation to management about our findings and what each of us contributed towards the task, my major contribution was using metasploit to take control of the client machine which helped us find the malware and helped us win. So we are through to the next round (Masterclass) with some 5 other contestants who really did well within their teams

As winners we got some books, a microprocessor and an amazon gift voucher and everyone got some pretty great stuff from the sponsor QinetiQ.

MasterClass will be held in London from March 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2015. Wish me luck and fingers crossed