

Tournament & Secure Coding Month

Getting started guide



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THIS IS A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO PLANTING THAT SECUREFLAG, TOURNAMENT STYLE!

So, you are the chosen one, responsible for delivering the most exhilarating in-house activity of the year!

There will be digital bug-blood spilt, inter-ballistic bytes invisibly flying by as tears of frustration and elation cascade over keyboards hot from dancing fingers... and a competitive camaraderie like no other!

You will be run off your feet on Tournament day, but rest assured, if you allocate ample preparation time in advance by following the steps below, the moving parts of organized chaos will coalesce, as our platform takes care of the rest!



1. LAY THE GROUNDWORK

A Tournament fosters friendly competition among the team, allowing them to show off their newly acquired secure coding skills!

To make sure this all goes off without a hitch, you'll need the following:

- ▶ Estimate how many people will participate in advance:
 - Minimum of 10
 - Maximum of 'sky, or bandwidth, is the limit'
- ▶ If you are hosting the Tournament in a physical location:
 - Determine whether you have an amply sized room at your premises, or whether you require an external space
 - Coding combatants require sustenance – make sure they have sufficient refreshments during the Tournament
 - Deploy a large, visible screen displaying the leaders and countdown clock
 - Ensure the internet connection has enough bandwidth for all your participants
- ▶ For online Tournaments:
 - Setup a communication channel (e.g. Slack or Discord) and enlist admin(s) to maintain order and provide support.
- ▶ Schedule the Tournament on the SecureFlag platform
- ▶ Prepare your prizes and swag
 - Winners expect flashy things to accompany glory
 - Prepare a post Tournament email with the results
- ▶ Prepare a schedule for the day's events:
 - Arrival time (at least an hour before the start time!)
 - Opening & closing ceremony
 - Tournament Start / End Time
- ▶ Prepare your internal promotion to rally the troops
- ▶ Prepare your post-mortem for lessons learned



2. RALLY THE TROOPS

How will the combatants (a.k.a. your colleagues!) know to prepare for the Tournament if they haven't received the call to arms?

- ▶ Emailing and communicating the details several weeks in advance is essential to ensure sufficient prep time:
 - Tournaments are a spectacle, place posters in hallways and consider dank memes in your mails
 - Leverage social media and internal chat channels like Slack
 - Involve Executive Sponsorship to convey the importance of secure coding practices
 - Prize Teasers
- ▶ Clearly communicate the following:
 - Why participants should join
 - The Tournament date & time
 - The physical and/or virtual location(s):
 - » reminder emails and calendar invites gain commitment
 - The programming languages of the challenges
 - The duration: Tournaments of several hours are recommended, although they can be structured to span days depending on necessity.

Contact your Customer Success Manager for communication material and posters to make your Tournament promotion quick and simple.

- ▶ Leverage the best network of all – the participants – word of mouth goes a long way!



3. JUDGEMENT DAY

It's all systems go and time for your preparation to pay off. Stay calm and organized and enjoy the day.

Kick-off your planned agenda:

1. Registration
 - » Remember, ensure participants arrive well in advance
2. Opening Ceremony
3. Rules, Guidelines, and Admin point of contact
4. Setup Time
 - » Ensure all participants are logged into the Tournament
 - » Final equipment check (Leaderboard display/network connectivity)
6. Completion! All patches down!
7. Closing Ceremony
 - » All hail the Cyber Commander!
 - » Distribute Swag
 - » Enjoy a refreshment

***Hot Tip:** Get feedback from the participants before they head out the door.



4. LESSON LEARNED

Lessons learned lead to improvement; combine your notes and the participants' feedback and start prepping for round two!

- ▶ Ensure you are welcoming of constructive feedback.
- ▶ If it helps, write a post-mortem drawing from your notes, identifying which steps could have played out better and why.
- ▶ Once you've compiled the feedback and completed your Tournament assessment, distribute your findings to the participants.

***Hot Tip:** Eat, sleep, code, repeat... now start planning for the next!.

5. SECURESWAG

Ok ok, so you're not a shirt vendor, but who doesn't expect some neat swag when they fight for coding supremacy?!

- ▶ SecureFlag doubles as both a quality training provider and a connoisseur of fine swag. Contact us ahead of time to arrange!

***Hot Tip:** Running a Tournament is a highly rewarding challenge so long as you're well prepared and you communicate effectively.

And if you run into any issues before, during, or after the event, we are here to help, so don't hesitate to get in touch with your Customer Success Manager!



6. SECURE CODING MONTH

A Secure Coding Month is a 30-day competition in which the participant with the most points scored by the end of the month wins the challenge and the grand prize!

To ensure that everyone has a fair chance of claiming some of the glory, all those that complete a Learning Path within the duration of the competition will be in the running to win the draw prize!

Consider running a Secure Coding month to boost completion of assigned training activities. Reach out to your Customer Success Manager to organize a Secure Coding Month!

How it differs from a Tournament:

- ▶ Reduced management and organizational effort
- ▶ Motivates users to complete assigned training through recognition and prizes
- ▶ Runs for a longer period of time allowing users to participate on their own schedule
- ▶ To keep engagement high, leaderboards are not available to end users, program managers can monitor in real-time from the management interface or the weekly email report

Communication

