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# BEARCATCTF 2025: WORLD TOUR

HIGHLIGHTS, WINNERS AND MORE



# SUMMARY

BearcatCTF 2025: World Tour was a 24-hour cybersecurity capture-the-flag competition hosted by Cyber@UC Club. Cyber@UC is a student-run cybersecurity organization at the University of Cincinnati. BearcatCTF 2025 was the second annual edition of this CTF and was once again hosted at the 1819 Innovation Hub for students to compete in-person.

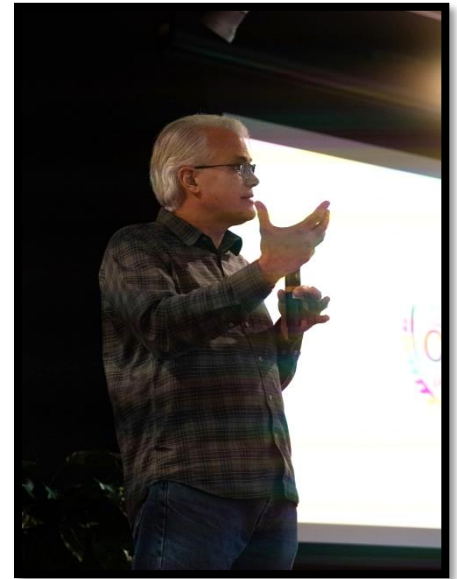
Over 700 students competed from across the globe on 436 different teams and solved a combined 1,633 problems. In-person participants took home a collection of prizes worth almost \$2,000 and had the opportunity to take home swag from our sponsors!

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## Keynote Speaker – Mike Schuetter

Mike Schuetter, CISO local to Cincinnati, dedicated his Saturday morning and afternoon to kick off BearcatCTF 2025. With his talk “Not All Who Wander, are Lost”, Mike shared with students the importance of thinking outside the box and learning outside of the classroom. He shared experiences back from his networking days that taught him to think about things from various perspectives. Mike ended the keynote by pointing out that events like CTFs are great opportunities to train your brain to think this way.



## Sponsor Expo

Before the event kicked off, students had the opportunity to connect with our corporate sponsors at the Sponsor Expo, where they explored cybersecurity job opportunities in the Cincinnati area, gained industry insights, and learned how to jump-start their careers. Not only were they able to network with companies but also other passionate cybersecurity students! Our sponsors make running an event of this magnitude possible and their willingness to support is always greatly appreciated.



## CTF 101 Session

After the keynote, club members Sean Huggins and Sage Reiman presented “CTF 101”. During this session, they discussed with students what a Capture-The-Flag is, the different categories they might encounter, and the tools that they will need to get started. This gave beginners the opportunity to ask questions and learn about cybersecurity in a hands-on manner.

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# COMPETITORS & CHALLENGES

BearcatCTF 2025: World Tour welcomed over 700 participants from around the world with a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. Students from 5 different local universities competed in person, and over 60 Universities around the world competed in the remote bracket. Across all competitors there was a total of 5532 total flag submissions.

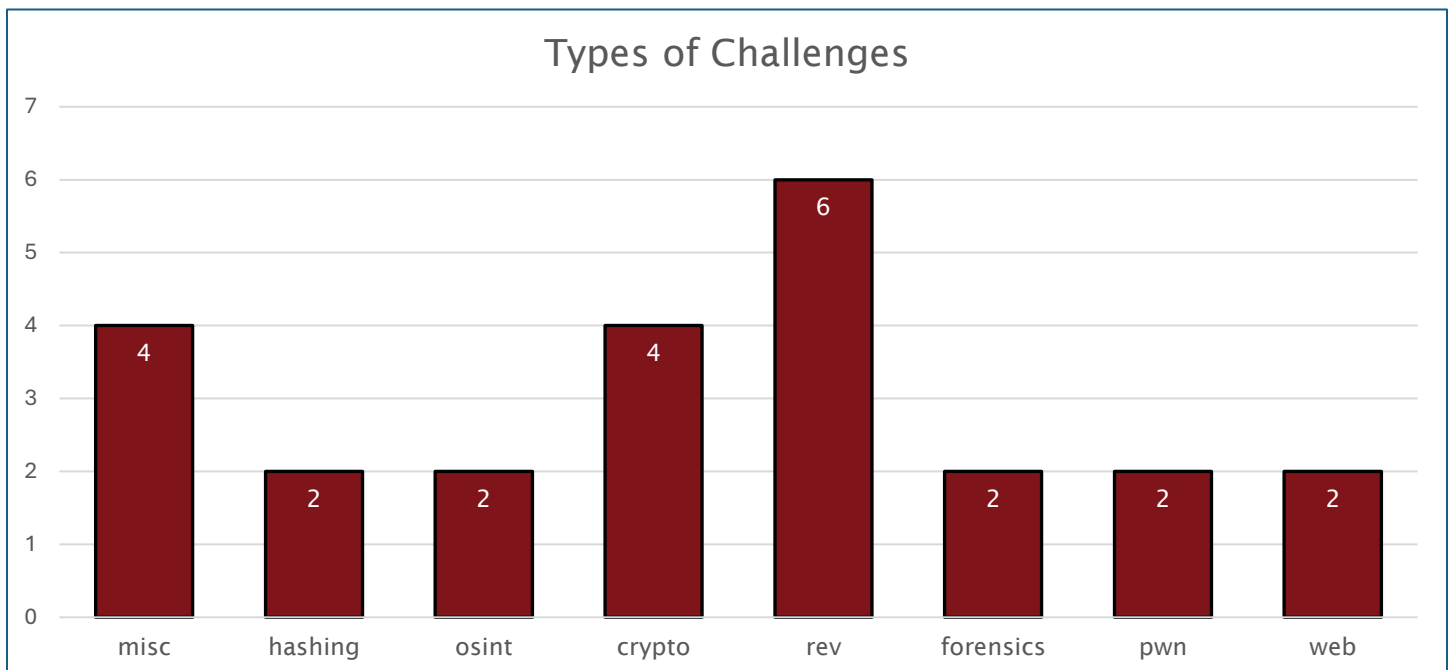
## In-Person Placements

Over 50 teams from local universities competed in-person at the 1819 Innovation Hub. The top 3 in person teams scored 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> respectively on the worldwide scoreboard, and over 15% of in-person teams were in the top 50 on the worldwide scoreboard. Members of the top 3 teams won the following prizes:

- 1) Flipper Zero
- 2) Raspberry Pi 5
- 3) USB Rubber Ducky

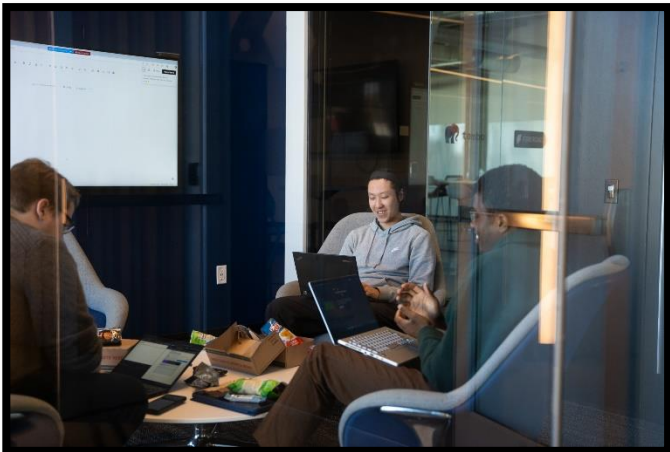
## CTF Challenges

BearcatCTF 2025 consisted of 24 unique challenges for participants to solve. Challenges were spread over multiple categories to give participants the chance to prove or hone their skills in different cybersecurity concepts. Each challenge is made by Cyber@UC club members and takes months to fine tune and publish.



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# PHOTO GALLERY



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