

# A day @ HACKDAY

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University of Cagliari

CyberChallenge Workshop – July 8, 2025 – Turin, Italy





Lorenzo Pisu (PhD Student @ UniCa) CyberChallenge 2019



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## Sardinia Cyber Camp (Srdnlen CTF Finals)

# We are organizing our first onsite CTF and conference

- Where : Cagliari
- When: 25-26th of September 2025





## HACKDAY Quals



### **Dream Team**

Luca Minnei



#### Nicholas Melis



#### Lorenzo Pisu





Davide Sechi



Diego Oliva



**Matteo Chiesa** 





## HACKDAY Overview

- French cybersecurity competition for higher-education students
- Comprehends 2 phases



#### Qualification



#### **Finals**

Online qualification stage in teams of 4-6 people. The first 25 teams will qualify for the final. Final of the HACDAY challenge, lasting 24 hours and taking place within the ESIEE Paris school.



## **CTF** categories



#### Jeopardy style



## Qualification





#### HackDay 2025 - Qualifications

Fri, 24 Jan. 2025, 20:00 UTC — Sun, 26 Jan. 2025, 20:00 UTC 🛗

On-line

A HackDayCTF event.

Format: Jeopardy

Official URL: https://hackday.fr/

This event's future weight is subject of public voting!

Future weight: 20.29 3

Rating weight: 20.29 2

Event organizers 😧

HackDayCTF

#### Scoreboard

Place Team

坐 1 Squid Proxy Lovers

2 Srdnlen

3 BlackBox





#### **Congratulation !**

Dear team,

You made it, you have been qualified for the final !

Consider this email your official invitation to join us at **ESIEE Paris**, **France** and be a part of the exciting HackDay Final. Please read to the end and confirm your attendance

#### About the HackDay final

Get ready for the in-person HackDay Final, a 24-hours event kicking off on Friday, 28 March at 6 p.m and wrapping up on Friday, 29 March.

Join us earlier on Friday, 28 March at 9:30 A.M for technical conferences open to all, featuring presentations by experts, researchers, and more. Your presence is more than welcome!



## HACKDAY Finals



- The entire event was held in the **ESIEE Paris engineering school**.
- Before the actual CTF, there were some talks available for all the Paris students and for all the teams about cybersecurity topics.





- 25 teams from different parts of the world were put in this room for 24 hours.
- Each team has its own table for the entire match.





- For all the CTF, we had the admins available in the center of the room
- We got multiple services for eating and drinking during the match.
- Some teams brought pillows and everything necessary to sleep there.







# **CTF First blood**

- For every first blood, the whole room got illuminated.
- The robotic voice starts saying First blood made by a team.
- The team that made the first blood had its bulb illuminated in green light, while the others were in red.





# Social Engineering challs

"Amateurs hack systems; professionals hack people." Bruce Schneier



## What is social engineering

The art of manipulating people to divulge confidential information or perform actions that compromise security.

#### **Key Techniques**

- **Pretexting**: Invented scenarios to gain trust
- **Baiting**: Offering something enticing in exchange for access



https://www.kaspersky.it/resource-center/definitions/what-is-social-engineering



# Edgar the lying psychologist

- The first challenge was about Edgar, a famous worldwide psychologist.
- What we have to do is make an appointment for therapy with him.
- The problem is that it accepts only people who are **rich and famous.**





Modify our WhatsApp profile to impersonate a famous person.



It works!!! We managed to take the appointment.



## Illuminati are coming back

- In the second challenge, we have to discover, during the therapy session, which website Edgar usually uses.
- To solve the challenge, we aimed to gain his trust by asking him to show us some relaxing photos on his computer. We noticed a website in the favorites bar that was the goal of the challenge.





#### Find out the truth...

For this challenge, we need to organize a meeting with Edgar, whom we have discovered is part of a sect. Our goal is to infiltrate his sect and gather more information.

It seems straightforward, but when we first attempt this, we are discovered, which presents us with a binary decision. As a result, **we end up dying**, and we **must redo everything from the beginning**.





#### Find out the truth...

After that, we had just one shot because the CTF was ending, and we needed to make another appointment while impersonating an important figure.

In the end, we discovered that Edgar would find us out anyway. Ultimately, we realized that our only choice was to forget it. By doing that, we managed to solve the challenge.





### The Victory



#### i generi (è del 67% il valore l'86,7% sono contratti a ter-corre riportare al centro del Fanzecco. Università. Studenti primi nella gara sulla sicurezza informatica | San Gio I futuri ingegneri vincono a Parigi Un d

È una squadra di studenti della facoltà di Ingegneria dell'Università cagliaritana la vincitrice dell'Hackday, una competizione sulla sicurezza informatica che si svolge in Francia. Ad aggiudicarsi il trofeo è stato il team "Srdnlen", guidata dal professor Davide Maiorca, del dipartimento di Ingegneria elettrica ed elettronica. La squadra, composta da Lorenzo Pisu, 26 anni, Luca Minnei, 24, Matteo Chiesa, 22, Davide Sechi, Nicholas Meli e Diego Oliva, tutti 19enni, ha conquistato il primo titolo internazionale per l'Ateneo nell'ambito cybersicurezza. Alla competizione partecipano eccellenze da tutto il mondo. Nato nel 2022 grazie all'operatore Opengate e all'associazione Esieespace, con il stitomoltonelsettore. Lo scor- ne, ma per risolverla rischiail concorso è riservato agli stu- del nostro team hanno portadenti di istruzione superiore. to l'Italia al secondo posto agli Dopo una selezione online, soinnovazione tecnologica nile». ring.

annunciato la nostra vittoria teggi è stato congelato». Minero entusiasta: i ragazzi se lo nel svela un episodio curioso: sono meritati. «Abbiamo inve- «Abbiamo trovato una soluzio-



I vincitori dell'Hackday

vamo di rivelarla ai vicini. Ci supporto dell'azienda Sifaris, so anno», aggiunge, «tre sardi siamo spostati, ma qualcuno noi. Nonostante questo, abbia-Europei e una nostra studenmo vinto». Anche la resistenlo 25 squadre accedono alla fi- tessa è stata l'unica italiana nale, ospitata dalla Scuola di scelta per la nazionale femmiva. «Il viaggio ci ha stancati, Esiee di Parigi. La gara, lunga I membri della squadra sono ma poche ore di sonno sono 24 ore, è divisa in otto catego- emozionati. «È stata una monbastate» spiega Meli. 11 segre-

rietracuihardware, crittogra- tagna russa», rivela Chiesa. to? «Caramelle ed energy fia, forensic e social enginee- «Non avevamo grandi aspettadrink», rivela Oliva. tive», aggiunge Pisu, «c'erano «È stata dura, fisicamente e più di 150 team alle qualifica-Tra due settimane il team psicologicamente», racconta zioni». L'adrenalina è rimasta parteciperà a una gara imporil professor Maiorca: «Siamo alta fino all'ultimo: «Nelle ultiannunciato la nostre vittoria ci ha dato la metre ore il tabellone dei pun-

tante: «Se ci qualificassimo, carica», conclude Oliva.

Federica Perri RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

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#### **Pros:**

- The overall competition was a good experience.
- They propose an **intriguing category**, "**Social Engineering**", which could be further explored in new CTFs.

#### Cons:

- Some of the **challenges proposed were unsolvable** due to poor testing, so after reaching one point, they had to give us the flag manually.
- The challenge of social engineering wasn't 100% deterministic.

# Thanks for the attention

Thanks to all members of the Srdnlen team!