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INTRODUCTION

In late 2019, I received direction from the US Army Cadet Command to begin a Cyber Security program within the high school Junior ROTC program I commanded. Within just a few short weeks, I discovered many students with the skill sets required, but with no outlet for those aptitudes. These unique students quickly sought me out and began to join the training sessions.

As an experienced trainer from my time in the military, I immediately realized that there must be the same capabilities in every school but precious few programs to support them. Thus, the origins of C Cubed Training.

Our stated mission: "Reach and engage middle school and high school aged students with cyber security training and competitions".

METHODOLOGY

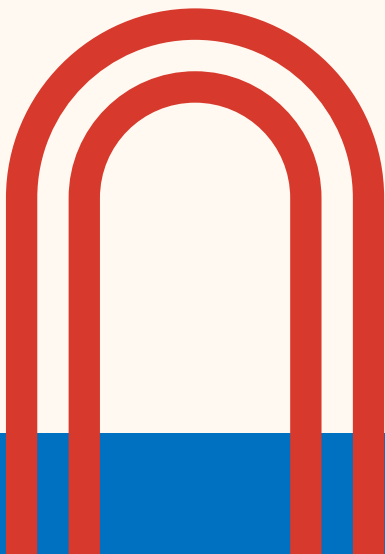
We use myriad cyber competitions as a platform to provide training that might otherwise be seen as boring or too complicated. Most of our students begin hesitant and inexperienced, unsure where to begin. But it doesn't take many training sessions to establish where their aptitudes lie. Some will eventually become cloud engineers; some will excel in pentesting or forensics.

As the teams begin to form and compete together, they learn to rely on each other's strengths to place themselves high on the leader boards.

While it is true that these are just games, "capturing the flag" will, in time, become "protecting the network" in real world situations.

Our team competitors have gone on to prestigious universities such as Colorado University in Boulder, the University of Southern California, and Colorado State University in Pueblo; all with significant scholarships.

Others earn industry certifications and NCL "Scouting Reports" that land them employment within just a few months of high school graduation.



KEY FINDINGS



KEY FINDINGS #1

Students with significant capabilities are unable to find outlets for these aptitudes in the average middle and high school curricula.



KEY FINDINGS #2

Most teachers are not trained or prepared to take on the additional role of cyber coach. They can be intimidated without encouragement.



KEY FINDINGS #3

An outside force, that brings computers and other assets to the table can change the dynamic in one visit, making the challenge seem manageable.

CONCLUSION



C Cubed Training is in position and capable of engaging students and teachers across Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. We have the skillset, the assets, and the experience to bring schools and school districts into the “CyberSpace”.

TAKEAWAY #1

Students that have the aptitudes congruent to cyber security training should be identified and engaged in middle school. They should be encouraged to continue cyber training throughout their school careers. Often a non-district entity can assist teachers and counselors in this endeavor.

TAKEAWAY #2

Many schools in southern Colorado do not have the funding levels that allow for cyber competition and cyber training equipment. IT departments in the districts are extremely limited in size and availability.

TAKEAWAY #3

At the correct funding levels, C Cubed can engage and influence counselors and teachers to recruit cyber teams and train them. Industry certificate programs make these programs extremely attractive to parents and guardians.