

Handbook

for the competition “Mārtiņa-CTF”

I. General provisions

1. The handbook determines the goals, duties and the organization of the competition “Mārtiņa-CTF” (hereinafter “CTF”), organised by the association “Datoriķi”, registration No. 50008338321, legal address Riga, Daugavgrīva street 74A-99, LV-1007, Latvia (hereinafter “Association”).
2. It is the duty of every participant of the CTF to read the notebook and follow its requirements.
3. The minimum age requirement of the CTF shall be 16 (sixteen) years old.
4. A single CTF participant may only be part of a single team.
5. A team participating in the CTF may only consist of one to five participants.
6. A single CTF team may only participate as part of a single flow.
7. CTF organizers reserve the right to alter the schedule of the CTF without prior notice.
8. The CTF infrastructure encompasses all the technical components which are necessary for the CTF competition. The infrastructure consists of:
 - 8.1. web-based task platform “CTFd” (hereinafter “CTFd”) which is used for flag submission and validation;
 - 8.2. a server in the instant messaging service “Discord” (link: discord.gg/X9mVUdXYYz), for facilitating communication between participants and organizers;
 - 8.3. the official website of the CTF (link: mctf.datoriki.org) where relevant information about the CTF, such as the proceedings and handbook, will be published;
 - 8.4. task hosting system (Ahaz) which provides an environment for CTF tasks;
 - 8.5. servers on which CTF tasks and supporting infrastructure is hosted on;
 - 8.6. other tools or platforms which are used for the registration process of the CTF, such as, “Nextcloud Forms”;
 - 8.7. resources of venues which are used to organize the event, for example, the in-person venue - H2O6, Aisteres hall.
9. The flag is a unique text string which acts as the proof that the participant has successfully solved the task. Each flag is unique to a single task and conforms to a specific format that is described by the regular expression `MCTF25{[a-zA-Z0-9_]+}`, for example, `MCTF25{Real_flag}`.
10. After obtaining the flag, the participant has to submit it in the task platform to be rewarded the points for the solved task.
11. Persons who have been involved in the creation of CTF tasks or in any other way have obtained information about task content are barred from participating in the CTF as a participant.

12. Persons who have obtained information about the content of CTF tasks or other related information have the responsibility to follow non-disclosure and confidentiality requirements.

II. Goals and objectives of the CTF

13. The primary goal of the CTF is to raise awareness of security in IT and offer its participants an opportunity to learn and fulfill their skills in problem solving both in the context of cyber security and general IT. Participating in the competition will give the participants an opportunity to learn relevant and necessary skills in cyber security, as well as meet representatives of the field and other cyber security enthusiasts.
14. The secondary goal of the CTF is to draw attention to cyber security and its relevance, as well as demonstrate its necessity in the Baltics.

III. Place, time and organizer of the CTF

15. The CTF will take place from 2025/11/21 17:00 to 2025/11/23 17:00. The CTF be held both remotely and in-person in "Aisteres zāle", Aisteres street 2, Riga, LV-1007. In-person tasks will be available on 2025/11/23 from 10:00 to 17:00.
16. The CTF is organized and led by the Association.

IV. CTF rules

17. The competition is held between teams in the context of a single prize category (hereinafter - "flow").
18. The CTF is organized into two flows - flow "A" (participation in the CTF only remotely) and flow "B" (participation in the CTF both remotely and in-person). The tasks do not differ between the flows, with the exception of flow "B" being able to access the in-person tasks. The 3 winning teams of each flow will receive prizes.
19. Teams sign up for a flow no later than until 2025/11/19 13:00 making their preference clear through either the registration form or by contacting the CTF organizers, using the communication platform "Discord" or the email martina.ctf@datoriki.org. After the deadline mentioned in this point, the teams can no longer change the flow they are participating in.
20. Teams can change their team members until the start of the CTF by contacting the CTF organizers using the communication platform "Discord" or e-mail martina.ctf@datoriki.org. After the deadline mentioned in this point, the team composition can no longer be changed.
21. Offensive or unethical usernames of participant accounts or team names are not allowed. The ethicality of a participant's username or team name is determined by the CTF organizers. The CTF organizers reserve the right to ban specific names which are determined to be unethical, rude or otherwise offensive. The decisions of the CTF organizers in these cases are non-negotiable.
22. The CTF organizers reserve the right to limit or otherwise refuse participation of teams belonging to countries which are subject to EU sanctions or otherwise considerable as a security risk to the event.
23. Participants authenticate to the CTF using accounts which are made by themselves in the task platform. Participants join their team on the task platform, which are made by the organizers in the CTF platform before 2025/11/21 16:00.

24. The organizers will inform the team captains about the access details of the team on the task platform until 2025/11/21 16:20.

V. Registering to the CTF and its proceedings

25. Teams register their participation in the CTF using the registration form.
26. Teams nominate one of their team members as a team captain who will serve as the point of communication between the CTF organizers and the team.
27. After a team registers to the CTF:
 - 27.1. the team will receive a confirmation of participation, which will be sent to the e-mail of the team captain no later than 12 (twelve) hours before the start of the CTF;
 - 27.2. the team captains of confirmed teams must join the CTF server of the communication platform "Discord" no later than 6 (six) hours before the start of the CTF (other team members may join, however, the team captain is obligated to join the server);
 - 27.3. the start of the CTF and the unveiling of tasks is announced in the CTF server of the communication platform "Discord";
 - 27.4. after the start of the CTF and the unveiling of the tasks, the participants are given permission to begin solving the tasks;
 - 27.5. 1 (one) hour before the end of the task solving time, the CTF organizers will inform the participants within the CTF server of the communication platform "Discord".
28. If during the CTF there are technical issues within the CTF infrastructure, task availability or other system issues, the organizers will inform the participants within the CTF server of the communication platform "Discord". Organizers do not have the obligation to give more time to solve tasks or compensate participants, if they have lost progress in tasks they began to solve before the CTF infrastructure issues arose.

VI. Rights and responsibilities of CTF participants

29. Participants are forbidden from using offensive language (both written and spoken) during the course of the CTF.
30. Participants must treat every CTF organizer, supporter and participant with care and respect.
31. Team captains are responsible for relaying information to team members in a timely manner.
32. Participants are forbidden from damaging and using the CTF infrastructure in unintended ways:
 - 32.1. if CTF organizers notices that a participant is damaging and/or using the CTF infrastructure in a malicious manner, the CTF organizers may disqualify the participant and the team the participant is a member of by prohibiting the access to the CTF infrastructure;
 - 32.2. if CTF organizers notice that a participant is damaging the CTF infrastructure in an unintentional way, they are given a warning. After a warning the participant must immediately cease the actions regarded as damaging the CTF infrastructure. If the participant does not stop their actions, they are given a second warning. If the actions do not cease after the second warning, the CTF organizers may disqualify the participant and the team the participant is a member of by prohibiting access to the CTF infrastructure;
 - 32.3. if the participant causes damage to the CTF organizers or other participants, intentionally or unintentionally damaging the CTF infrastructure, then it is the responsibility to cover the costs of the caused damage.

33. CTF organizers may establish rules of usage for the CTF infrastructure and systems and the participants are required to follow them.
34. Participants who are participating in the in-person part of the CTF are forbidden from disturbing the CTF organizers or other participants. Participants are forbidden from attempting to access other participants' and organizers' electronic devices without permission.
35. Participants may not share flags, task solutions or hints outside their own team and CTF organizers over the course of the CTF.
36. Participants are allowed to discuss task solutions and answers only within their own teams.
37. If a participant breaches the rules described in this handbook, the CTF organizers may disqualify the participant and the team the participant is a member of by prohibiting access to the CTF infrastructure.
38. If the CTF organizers suspect that a participating team is violating one of the rules described within the handbook, the organizer team may contact the team captain during the CTF and ask for an explanation. If the team captain does not answer within 15 (fifteen) minutes, then the CTF organizers may limit access to the CTF infrastructure until the suspicions are alleviated or the team is found guilty of wrongdoing, in which case it is disqualified and barred from accessing the CTF infrastructure.
39. After the end of the task solving time in the CTF, before awarding the winners, the CTF organizers may ask the highest-scoring three teams of each flow to provide task solutions and proof that they have solved it. If a team is unable to provide the aforementioned items, the team loses points for the specified task.
40. If a team loses points during the validation period, the result of which another team enters the top 3 teams of a flow, then that team may be asked to provide task solutions and proof that they have solved it.

VII. CTF scoring and winner awarding

41. CTF teams obtain flags for successfully solving tasks, which may be submitted to the task platform to obtain points affirming that the team has solved the task.
42. Teams are scored and compared with only their own flow's teams.
43. The amount of points awarded by a task is adapted according to the difficulty of the task, which is calculated using a mathematical formula based on the amount of solves the task has.
44. Tasks provide from 10 to 1000 points.
45. Task point value is determined by the amount of teams which have solved the task and is calculated after the end of the CTF. All teams receive the same amount of points for solving the tasks. Teams do not receive extra points for solving a task before an another team.
46. The specific formula used to determine the point value of tasks will be published no later than 24 (twenty four) hours before the CTF competition starts.
47. In the case that the scoring system cannot be done due to technical difficulties, tasks will be given a static point value based on the difficulty of the tasks as assessed by the organizers.
48. If multiple teams have the same amount of points, then the teams are ranked based on which team obtained the point amount first.
49. The winners of a CTF flow are three teams which have obtained the most points and were able to prove to the organizers that they have obtained the points in a fair manner.
50. Each flow awards the top three teams that have obtained the most points within the flow.

51. The awarding ceremony will take place in the closing ceremony of the CTF on 2025/11/23 “Aisteres zāle” Aisteres iela 2, Rīga, LV-1007. If one of the winning teams is unable to send any representative to receive the awards, the CTF organizers will contact the team captain to determine a time to receive the awards in Raiņa bulvāris 19, Riga.
52. Any winning team in the CTF may refuse to receive the award or a part of it. In this case, the award or its part will remain within the ownership of the Association.

VIII. Personal data processing

53. The following personal data may be processed over the course of the CTF: name, surname, Discord username, contact information (for example, e-mail address, phone number) of the team captain, as well as other data which is necessary to ensure participation and communication with the organizers.
54. Personal data is processed with the goal of identifying participants, organizing them into teams, ensuring the proceedings of the CTF, communication, as well as making sure that the CTF organizers may contact the award winners.
55. The personal data given by participants (for example, name, surname, username, e-mail) may be visible to other CTF participants in communication platforms (for example, Discord server, e-mail) which are used to organize the CTF. Organizers may not disclose the data to third parties, except in cases in which the participant has given them clear permission or they are required to conform with legal demands.
56. Personal data will be stored on the CTF organizer's computer for 60 (sixty) days after the announcement of the CTF results. From the time the team registers until the end of the CTF, personal data will be stored in a database on the servers that will ensure the CTF (the servers are located in the European Union). After the storage period, personal data will be deleted.
57. CTF organizers provide the necessary technical and organizational precautions to ensure safe processing of personal data.
58. The results of the CTF may be published on the social media of University of Latvia Faculty of Sciences and Technology student council and the CTF website (link: mctf.datoriki.org).
59. By registering to the CTF, the person agrees to the processing of their personal data over the course of the CTF.
60. By attending the in-person part of the event, the participant agrees that they are willing to be photographed or filmed and that these materials may be published on the social media of University of Latvia Faculty of Sciences and Technology student council, as well as used in materials published by the CTF. The participant has the right to retract their agreement by writing to the organizers on the aforementioned forms of contact. The retraction does not impact the legality of the processing of the data before the retraction.
61. The participant has the right to
 - 61.1. obtain information on the processing of their data;
 - 61.2. access their personal data and request their modification or deletion, if allowed by legislation;
 - 61.3. request the limitation or cessation of the processing of their personal data, if allowed by legislation;
 - 61.4. object to the processing of personal data, if not done on the basis of legitimate interest;

- 61.5. receive their data in a structured, machine readable format (right to data portability);
 - 61.6. retract agreement, if data processing is based on agreement (for example, photographing, filming)
 - 61.7. demand cessation in violation of their data processing rights;
 - 61.8. submit a complaint about the processing of their data to the Association, writing to the e-mail address dati@datoriki.org, as well as submitting a complaint to the Data State Inspectorate.
- 62.** By registering their participation in the CTF, the participants affirm that they have read and understood the handbook. Organizers are not responsible if the participants have not read and understood the handbook.
- 63.** The Association is responsible for the processing and storage of data. In case of questions, please contact the Association by writing to the e-mail address address_dati@datoriki.org.

IX. Contact information of CTF organizers

- 64.** In case of uncertainty or questions regarding the handbook or the event, please contact the CTF organizer representative via e-mail address martina.ctf@datoriki.org.