Cyber Defense Competitions provide a hands-on environment for students to learn about practical information assurance in a fast-paced and real-world environment. Competitors have several weeks prior to the competition to build and secure a network that provides required services. A team (Red Team) of security practitioners from a wide spectrum of industries across the Midwest then attack these networks. **We welcome employees from companies to participate as a member of the Red Team during the Saturday attack phase.** The goal of the Red Team is to compromise the student networks. Real-time scoring is based on the security of their networks, quality of their documentation, usability of their systems (as scored by competition guests on the Green Team), and their participation in other fun events during the competition. The CDC starts at noon on Friday, where the students finish their setup. At 8 am on Saturday, the competition starts and Red Team begins their attack. The competition ends around 4 pm on Saturday.

Iowa State’s Information Assurance Center hosts four collegiate CDCs every year: two ISU-only; a community college competition; and a national competition, in which teams from other schools along with the top teams from ISU and the community college competitions compete. The ISU-only CDCs typically have close to 150 students from various academic departments participating. The Information Assurance Center has opportunities for you to support the student-centered activities. The generous support of our sponsors enables the Center to provide real-world educational opportunities through cyber defense experiences. Before COVID-19, it would cost about $60,000 per year to run the four CDCs. Sponsorship money supports the student organizers and provides food and prizes for the student participants.

**CDCs and COVID-19**

COVID-19 has led us to host the next two CDCs virtually. As a result, we do not have as high a cost as we traditionally would. If you would still like to contribute, your donation will be used for future CDCs in addition to whatever costs come with the virtual CDCs. Additionally, we are still exploring ways for students and sponsors to network with one another, as we traditionally dedicate Friday evening and parts of Saturday to sponsor-student interaction. During virtual CDCs, the Red Team will connect/attack remotely. **Again, we welcome company Red Team members to join.**

**CDC Sponsorship**

We offer two sponsorship levels for our four collegiate CDCs. Sponsors are encouraged to showcase their employment opportunities. Traditionally, gold-level sponsors have may present on Saturday during one of the break times. We are still exploring ways to do this. Companies may provide items for random drawings during the competition.

- Gold Level (All four collegiate CDCs): $3,000
- Cardinal Level (A single collegiate CDC): $1,000

**2020-2021 CDC Dates (Tentative)**

- *Virtual* ISU CDC: October 2-3, 2020
- *Virtual* Community College CDC: December 4-5, 2020
- National CDC: February 5-6, 2021
- ISU CDC: March 26-27, 2021

**Please Contact**

For additional information or to become a sponsor, please contact:

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