

Thanks for coming!

- We are KITCTF, a CTF team from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
- For the next **4 weeks** we will introduce you to Capture The Flag (CTF) competitions
- No prior knowledge required, just curiosity and willingness to learn
- Feel free to ask questions anytime!

What is CTF?

- **Capture The Flag** (CTF)
- You might be thinking of one of these:



But no...

- Instead, computer security competitions
- Origin in Attack-Defense (less common nowadays)
 - Teams **defend** their own vulnerable services while **attacking** others
 - Flags are secret strings stored on the services
- More common nowadays: Jeopardy-style CTFs
 - **Solve** challenges of different difficulties to get flags
 - Team with most flags wins

What the **flag**?

- Competitions about finding and exploiting security vulnerabilities
 - Sometimes also about solving puzzles
- A way to develop vulnerability research & exploitation skills
- Team based, mostly running for one weekend
 - International scoring platforms like **CTFTime** to track performance
 - Many opportunities to **travel and meet** other teams
- A fun way into the infosec community

What CTF is **NOT**

- Illegal
- A way to quickly learn "hacking"
- Using ready-made exploits and automated tools
 - Most advanced challenges require custom exploits and deep understanding
- Straightforward and super beginner-friendly :(

What are the challenges?

- No fixed rules, but common categories
- Really wide range of difficulty levels
- Always new stuff - that's why we are here

The big 4



- **Web** - Exploiting web applications (SQLi, XSS, JWT, etc.)
- **Pwn** - Binary exploitation (buffer overflows, ROP, etc.)
- **Reversing** - Reconstructing program logic from binaries
- **Crypto** - Abusing weaknesses in cryptographic algorithms or protocols
- Combinations of those are common too

The underdogs

- Blockchain, AI
- OSINT, Forensic
- Game hacking
- Scripting, competitive programming

A CTF event's lifecycle

- Some CTF team hosts an event
- **KITCTF** decides to participate
- During the event we collaborate to solve as many challenges as possible and become **first place**
 - Usually in-person at ATIS (online participation possible too)
- At the next meeting, solutions and interesting challenges get discussed

How do I get started

- Play CTF
- **Read writeups !!!**
- Be curious, there is no guide to CTF. Learning is part of the game
- Join the meetings, connect with others
- Our team depends on participation

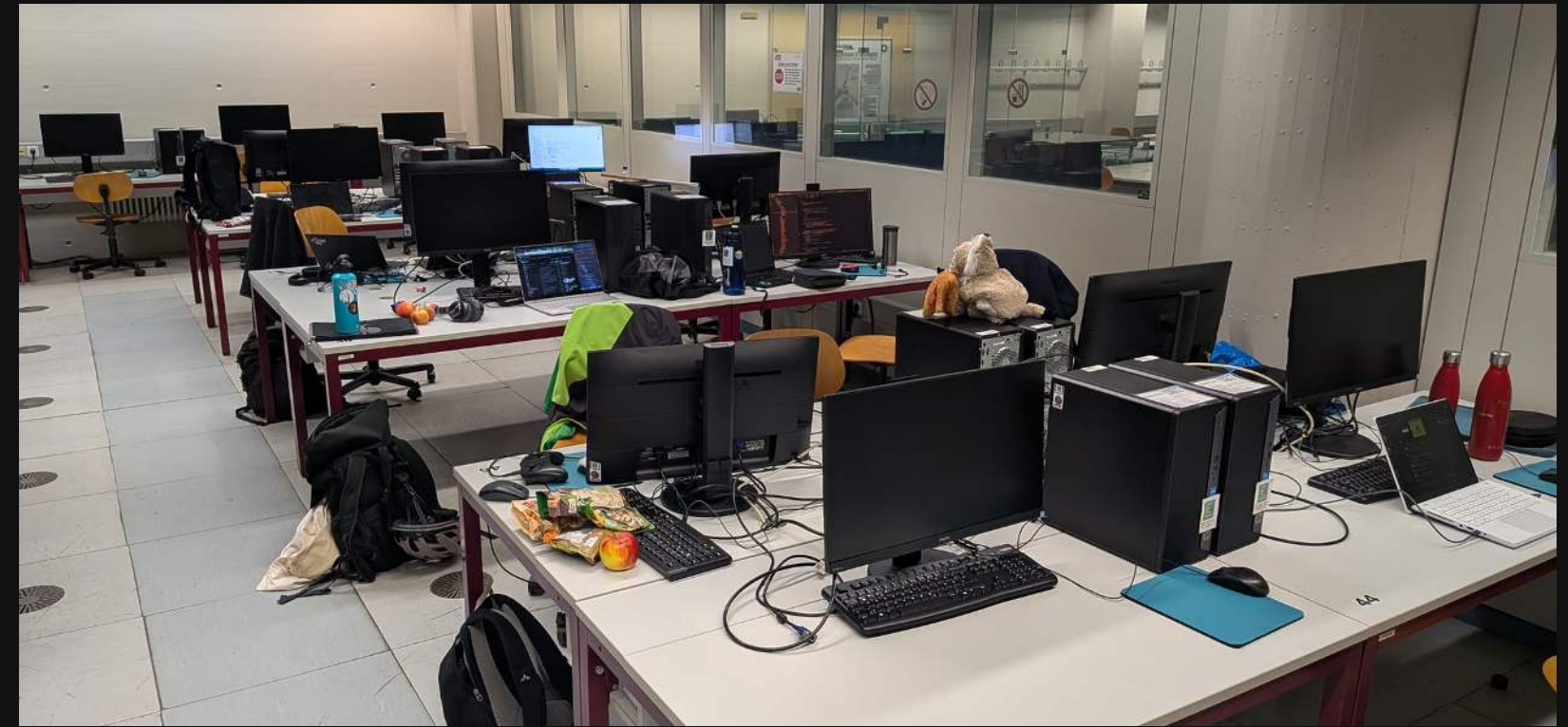
How do I get good?

- Just start playing & read writeups
- Play for a team (hopefully us)
- Don't get intimidated
- Follow kitctf.de/learning/howto

What is KITCTF?

- CTF team at KIT, founded in 2014
 - Ended 2025 on **#6 in Germany** and **#74 globally**
- Weekly meetings every **Thursday**
 - General exchange about security & non-IT banter
- Irregular competitions during weekends
 - The occasional international competition
- We also run our own CTF once a year at **Gulaschprogrammierenacht** (GPN)
 - Last one had over **600 competing teams**
 - Next one: **GPN24, June 4–7, 2026**

What does playing for KITCTF look like?




Other teams

- **FluxFingers** - Uni Bochum
 - FluxKITtens :3 - Merger between FluxFingers and KITCTF for Google CTF 2025
- **RoyalRoppers** - Sweden
 - Karls Royale - Merger between RoyalRoppers and KITCTF
- ENOFLAG - TU Berlin
- FAUST - FAU Erlangen
- Platypwnies - Hasso-Plattner-Institut
- Sauercloud - German merger team
- Flagbot / P0lyglots - ETH / EPFL
- Organizers - Swiss merger team
- Kalmarunionen - Nordic merger

Team rating




[2026](#) [2025](#) [2024](#) [2023](#) [2022](#) [2021](#) [2020](#) [2019](#)
[2018](#) [2017](#) [2016](#) [2015](#) [2014](#) [2013](#) [2012](#) [2011](#)

Place	Team	Country	Rating
1	TeamH4C		944,533
2	RubiyaLab		862,657
3	H-T8		758,552
4	Infobahn		705,534
5	tjcsc		643,263
6	W4llz		602,526
7	0xFUN		580,103
8	sarrus		529,484
9	z0d1ak		490,186
10	Ch0wn3rs		475,656

[Full rating](#) | [Rating formula](#)

Upcoming events

Open [Academic](#)

Format	Name	Date	Duration
  On-line	THCon 2K26 CTF	Do, Mai 07, 11:00 — Fr, Mai 08, 11:00 UTC	1d 0h 118 teams
	PHONIX VIPER NOVA CTF#2	Fr, Mai 08, 10:00 — So, Mai 10, 17:00	2d 7h

Now running

RAZER CTF 2026

 On-line 57 teams
 Di, Mai 05, 2026 06:30 — Mi, Mai 06, 06:30 UTC (0d 11h more)

Past events

With scoreboard [All](#)

UniVsThreats 26 Finals CTF

Mai 03, 2026 15:00 UTC | Timisoara, Romania | [Weight voting in progress](#)

Place	Team	Country	Points *
1	RubiyaLab		0,000
2	The WiWiWi		0,000
3	SelfwashRO		0,000

14 teams total | [Tasks and writeups](#)

KubSTU CTF

Mai 02, 2026 19:00 UTC | On-line | [Weight voting in progress](#)

Place	Team	Country	Points *
1	GR3B0M4		0,000
2	Beavers0		0,000
3	paparatz kvetka		0,000

766 teams total | [Tasks and writeups](#)

MCTF 5.0

Mai 02, 2026 07:00 UTC | Algeria, Algiers

Real World CTF, for credits!

- **Real-world Vulnerability Discovery** practical course
- Find and report **real 0-day vulnerabilities** in real software
- Responsible disclosure, CVE assignments, the whole deal
- Self-directed research with support and tips at our meetings
- Very flexible: start searching, register when you find a bug, plenty of buffer before end of semester
- **4 ECTS**, Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Wressnegger (KITCTF)
- **Kick-off: Mon, May 11, 14:00–15:30** (in 4 days!)

What's next?

- Intro Talks
 - Web security (**07.05.**) - **you are here**
 - Reverse engineering (**21.05.**)
 - Binary exploitation (**04.06.**)
 - Cryptography (**18.06.**)