

Google Capture the Flag 2025 Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. CONTEST IS OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE 50 UNITED STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND WORLDWIDE, EXCEPT FOR CRIMEA, CUBA, IRAN, SYRIA, NORTH KOREA, SO-CALLED DONETSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (DNR), SO-CALLED LUHANSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (LNR), and QUEBEC.

This Contest consists of two events: the first is a distributed, wide-area security exercise, whose goal is to test the security skills of the participants (the “qualification stage”). From this first exercise Google will select a number of finalists to compete in another distributed, wide-area security exercise (the “final stage”).

The qualification stage will consist of a set of challenges for participants to solve. Participants can achieve rewards by earning points for solving challenges within the contest time period – as described further below, teams earning the most points will receive cash awards and qualify to participate in a final stage contest where cash awards are possible too.

The final stage will consist of an on-site contest where selected teams will compete to solve another set of challenges in a fast-paced setting. The contest will be recorded and the recording will be published for educational purposes. Selected parts of the contest might be published live.

Term of qualification stage: The Contest begins at 18:00:00 (6:00:00 P.M.) UTC on ****June 27 2025**** and ends at 18:00:00 (6:00:00 P.M.) UTC on ****June 29 2025**** (“Contest Period”).

ENTRANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE CORRESPONDING TIME ZONE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.

Sponsor: Google LLC located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043 is the sponsor of this Contest (“Google”).

Eligibility: The Contest is open to individuals who are (1) over the age of eighteen (18) at the time of entry; (2) not a resident of Quebec, Cuba, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Crimea, and the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (“DNR”), and the so-called Luhansk People's Republic (“LNR”); (3) an individual who is not restricted by applicable export controls and sanctions programs; and (4) people

who have registered at capturetheflag.withgoogle.com. Current employees, interns, contractors and their subcontractors, officers, or directors of Google or Alphabet or their affiliates, are not eligible to participate in the Contest. Contractors and their subcontractors are only ineligible if they have non-public knowledge about the contest. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Google reserves the right to verify eligibility and to adjudicate on any dispute at any time.

NOTE: While eligibility is not restricted to residents of Russia and Belarus, payment transactions such as monetary prizes and travel reimbursement due to technical limitations can not be executed to Russian and Belarusian bank accounts.

How to Enter: Eligible participants may enter by registering at capturetheflag.withgoogle.com and completing the tasks as detailed on the site. Participants may enter only once. Participants may work in groups; however, the prize money will be awarded solely to the person whose email is listed on the team registration. It is the sole responsibility of the registrant to distribute any potential winnings. Google takes no liability for the distribution of payment to other group members.

Any entries, points or flags are void if they are in whole or in part illegible, incomplete, damaged, irregular, altered, counterfeit, produced in error, forged or obtained through fraud or theft. By entering you agree to be bound by these Official Rules and that all decisions of Google are final. If you are entering on behalf of your employer, these rules are binding on you, individually, and your company, and your company has consented to your entry and potential receipt of the Prize.

Rewards for Points Accumulated: There will be a scoreboard where points will be assigned at the end of the competition based on the challenges that were completed. Some challenges will have an amount of points based on the number of teams that solved it, while others will have a statically-set score. Winners will be selected based on the greatest number of points earned. In case of a tie, the team with the earlier submission of the last flag will be the winner.

At the conclusion of the qualification stage, Google will select the top 8 teams with the highest point scores. On or about **June 29 2025** these potential finalist(s) will be selected and notified by email. If a potential finalist does not respond to the notification attempt within **3** business days from the first notification attempt, then such potential finalist will be disqualified and an alternate potential finalist will be selected from among all eligible entries received based on the judging criteria described

herein up until the 50th place team is reached.

If no entries are received, no prize will be awarded. Determinations of the judges are final and binding.

Final stage: 8 finalist teams ("Participants") chosen from the qualification stage will be invited to participate in **the final event** from **October 2 to 4 2025** at a selected Google venue, where they will compete to solve more challenges.

The final stage will be split into three phases: Group Stage, Last Chance, and Single Elimination Playoffs.

Each phase consists of a number of Matches. Each Match will be time-limited to maximum 90 minutes (split between a preparation time and a live match with infrastructure access) and will be played by all Participants. Each Participant will have limited access to only a single machine capable of computational processing ("Participating Computer"), which will have access to the competition infrastructure during the live phase of the Match. Selected input and output of the Participating Computer will be recorded and transmitted live. Each Match will have exactly 1 winning Participant. The Match winner will be decided based on (in this order): number of points scored (higher number determines the winner); time of last challenge solved (lower time determines the winner); a coin toss.

In the Group Stage all participants will play a number of matches at the same time. On completion of this stage, Participants will be assigned a placement based on (in this order): overall number of points scored by the Participant (higher number determines higher place); sum of total times of Match completion of all Matches won by the Participant (lower total determines higher place); a coin toss. The top two Participants in the group will advance directly into the Single Elimination Playoffs phase. All remaining Participants move to the Last Chance phase.

The Last Chance phase will consist of the participants who, at the end of the Group stage, place in positions three through eight, and will consist of two rounds , each with 4 Participants playing at the same time. In the first round, participants in fifth to eighth places will play one game at the same time and will be assigned a placement based on their scores. . The top two Participants from round one will advance to round two, the bottom two are eliminated. In round two there will again be 4

Participants competing at the same time: the top two Participants from round one and the Participants that placed third or fourth in the Group stage. The bottom two Participants are eliminated from the competition. The top two Participants move on to play Single Elimination Playoffs.

The Single Elimination Playoffs consists of 3 Matches. In the first two (Semi-Final) Matches each Participant qualified to this phase plays 1 match against another qualified Participant. The losing Participants are eliminated from the competition and are considered to have achieved third place (There are two 3rd-place finishers). The winning Participants play one Match (Final) against each other. The losing Participant is considered to have achieved second place. The winning Participant is considered to have achieved first place and to be the contest victor.

Semi-Final and Final Matches' time limit may be extended by 30 minutes if, at the end of regulation time, no challenge is solved by either Participant and a Match winner would have to be determined with a coin toss. In the Extended time the Participant that solves any single challenge first is considered the match winner. If at the end of the Extended time a winner has not been decided, the winner is decided with a coin toss.

Privacy: Google will be collecting personal data about participants when they register and enter the Contest. Google will treat this data in accordance with its privacy policy, located at <http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>.

Qualification Stage Prize: First place winner will receive **12 345** US dollars. Second place winner will receive **5 432.1** US dollars, and the third place winner will receive **3 210** US dollars. Prizes may be subject to terms, restrictions and conditions imposed by Google.

Final Stage Prize: First place winner will receive **7 331** US dollars. Second place winner will receive **3 133.7** US dollars. Third place winners will receive **1 337** US dollars each. Prizes may be subject to terms, restrictions and conditions imposed by Google. Further, all prize winners will need to provide all requested personal (and if applicable, company) information to prove residence eligibility and that they are not restricted by applicable export controls and sanctions programs.

Google and its affiliates, subsidiaries and related companies, or their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents will not be liable for unsuccessful efforts to notify a winner.

Prize winners will be notified within 60 days after the conclusion of the contest with instructions on how to claim their winnings. No prize transfer, assignment or substitution by winner permitted except at Sponsor's sole discretion. If the prize becomes unavailable, Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value. All federal, state and local taxes, fees and surcharges on prizes are the sole responsibility of the winner. If a potential winner declines the prize, does not respond to the prize notification, fails to claim the prize, is unavailable for prize fulfillment, fails to abide by the Official Rules, or is ineligible, Google may select the next highest scoring team as the winner.

Publicity: By entering, entrant agrees and consents to permit Google and its agencies to use his or her name, photographs and/or likeness, code and any provided or recorded/streamed video for advertising and promotional purposes without additional compensation.

Intellectual Property Rights: By submitting a code in this Contest, the entrant warrants and represents that the code, including the programming and related material, is open source and is released subject to the Apache License 2.0 or any suitable BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution) license and not subject to the proprietary rights of any person or entity.

Warranty, Indemnity and Release: Entrants warrant that their codes are their own original work and, as such, they are the sole and exclusive owner and rights holder of the submitted code and that they have the right to submit the code in the Contest and grant all required licenses. Each entrant agrees not to submit any code that (1) infringes any third party proprietary rights, intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, personal or moral rights or any other rights, including without limitation, copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, privacy, publicity or confidentiality obligations; or (2) otherwise violates the applicable state or federal law.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, each entrant indemnifies and agrees to keep indemnified Google at all times from and against any liability, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs and expenses resulting from any act, default or omission of the entrant and/or a breach of any warranty set forth herein. To the maximum extent permitted by law, each entrant agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Google from and against any and all claims, actions, suits or proceedings, as well as any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys fees) arising out of or accruing from (a) any code or other material uploaded or otherwise provided by the entrant that infringes any copyright, trademark, trade secret, trade dress, patent or other

intellectual property right of any person or defames any person or violates their rights of publicity or privacy, (b) any misrepresentation made by the entrant in connection with the Contest; (c) any non-compliance by the entrant with these Rules; (d) claims brought by persons or entities other than the parties to these Rules arising from or related to the entrant's involvement with the Contest; and (e) acceptance, possession, misuse or use of any prize or participation in any Contest-related activity or participation in this Contest.

Entrant releases Google from any liability associated with: (a) any malfunction or other problem with the Contest Site; (b) any error in the collection, processing, or retention of entry information; or (c) any typographical or other error in the printing, offering or announcement of any prize or winners.

Right to Cancel: If for any reason the Contest is not capable of running as planned, including tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, printing errors, or any other causes which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest, Google reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. Google further reserves the right to disqualify any entrant who tampers with the submission process or contest, cheats, deceives, abuses, annoys, threatens any other entrants or Judges, or otherwise violates any law or behaves in an unfit manner as determined by Google.

Limitation of Liability & Disclaimer of Warranties: IN NO EVENT WILL GOOGLE OR ITS AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES AND RELATED COMPANIES, OR THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES AND AGENTS, BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST OR FOR ANY ACTION OR OMISSION MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTEST. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, EVERYTHING IN THESE RULES AND IN THIS CONTEST, INCLUDING THE PRIZES AWARDED, IS PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. SOME JURISDICTIONS MAY NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR EXCLUSION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES SO SOME OF THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. CHECK YOUR LOCAL LAWS FOR ANY RESTRICTIONS OR LIMITATIONS REGARDING THESE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS.

Governing Law. This Contest is governed by the laws of California without regard to the conflict of laws provision.

Winners List. The list of winners will be made available on ctftime.com under the GoogleCTF 2025 entry, after the contest ends.