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Dynetics Sweeps AF ISR Agency “Capture the Flag” Competition

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Feb. 26, 2010 – Demonstrating their skills in penetrating a computer network, Dynetics security and information technology (IT) professionals won the top three spots in a Capture the Flag (CtF) competition sponsored by the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AF ISR Agency) / A6 Det 4 at its recent annual conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

Network penetration testing involves an active analysis of a system for potential vulnerabilities that may result from poor or improper system configuration, hardware or software flaws, or operational weaknesses in process or technical countermeasures. This analysis is carried out from the position of a potential attacker and can involve active exploitation of security vulnerabilities. The system owner receives a report of security issues that are found, along with an assessment of their impact, and often with a proposal for mitigation or a technical solution.

The intent of a penetration test is to determine feasibility of an attack and the amount of business impact of a successful exploit, if discovered. Network penetration testing is the next step in a security assessment after a vulnerability assessment. A vulnerability assessment identifies potential vulnerabilities that could possibly be exploited; a penetration test takes the additional step of identifying which of those vulnerabilities can actually be exploited.

The objective of the CtF challenge is for individuals or a team to capture digital flags on systems by penetrating a network and retrieving the flags in the shortest period of time to earn points. The challenge is not intended to teach the audience penetration techniques, but to allow an opportunity for IT professionals to demonstrate their skills among their peers.

Scoring for the San Antonio competition was based on a measure of the number of flags found and the total time taken to collect the most flags. No denial of service (DoS) attacks, distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, viruses, worms or trojans, including Fast-track and AutoPwn, were allowed. Contestants were given a list of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses allowed to be scanned/penetrated, a laptop with the BackTrack collection of tools and a network connection.

Cyber Capture the Flag competitions first became popular at DEFCON, the world's largest hacker conference, held annually in Las Vegas since 1993.

“Dynetics leverages its certification and accreditation (C&A) services and Information Assurance (IA) certification training programs to regularly support Capture the Flag, hacker challenges and computer network defense competitions as competitors, sponsors or judges,” said Don Faint, manager of the Dynetics Network Security and Technology Division. “Participation in these types of events supplements our accreditation and penetration testing experience. These competitions enhance the Dynetics penetration testers’ skills and assist them in maintaining their proficiency and professional certifications.”

Dynetics performs penetration testing and various other security services for multiple Department of Defense (DoD) and commercial companies including medical, insurance, financial and utility organizations.

About Dynetics

Dynetics Inc., with headquarters in Huntsville, Ala., and offices throughout the United States, has delivered high-quality, high-value engineering, scientific and information technology solutions to customers within the U.S. government and a range of other market segments since 1974. Our mission is to bring expertise, integrity and tenacity to every relationship and to demonstrate our commitment to customers by providing powerful solutions to their technical challenges in Intelligence, Missiles, Aviation, Cyber and Space. Visit www.dynetics.com for more details.

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