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Available
Join & Compete in the
DARPA Cyber Grand Challenge (CGC)

CALL TO ACTION

Michigan cyber-patriots from academia, small business and industry… team-up and become a competitor in this DARPA-sponsored automated security systems competition.

Excerpt from a June 3, 2014 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency News Release:

A first-of-its-kind cyber defense tournament seeks to drive automation revolution in information security. DARPA's Cyber Grand Challenge takes aim at an increasingly serious problem: the inadequacy of current network security systems, which require expert programmers to identify and repair system weaknesses - typically after attackers have taken advantage of those weaknesses to steal data or disrupt processes. Such disruptions pose greater risks than ever as more and more devices, including vehicles and homes, get networked in what has become known as "the Internet of things."

"DARPA's series of vehicle Grand Challenges were the dawn of the self-driving car revolution," said Mike Walker, DARPA program manager. "With the Cyber Grand Challenge, we intend a similar revolution for information security."

To help accelerate this transition, DARPA launched the Cyber Grand Challenge, the first computer security tournament designed to test the wits of machines, not experts. The Challenge plans to follow a "capture the flag" competition format that experts have used for more than 20 years to test their cyber defense skills. That approach requires that competitors reverse engineer software created by challenge organizers and locate and heal its hidden weaknesses in a live network competition.

Competitors can choose one of two routes: 1) an unfunded track in which anyone capable of fielding a capable system can participate, 2) and a funded track in which DARPA awards contracts to organizations presenting the most compelling proposals.

As of today, 35 teams from around the world have registered with DARPA to construct and program high-performance computers capable of competing in the Cyber Grand Challenge. Most competitors have entered on the "open track" available to self-funded teams. A parallel "proposal track" consists of teams invited and partially supported by DARPA to develop automated network defense technology. Those teams represent a mix of participants from industry and academia and will receive seed funding from DARPA until their performance is tested in open competition involving all teams at a major qualification event scheduled for June 2015. Additional teams may register to participate through November 2, 2014.

The final portion of the competition will be held in conjunction with DEF CON
More "DARPA CGC" info at: http://www.cybergrandchallenge.com

The wining team from the CGC finals would receive a cash prize of
$2 MILLION
with second place earnings of
$1 MILLION
and third place taking home
$750,000

Funding support requests for Michigan teams can be found at:

www.MichiganDARPA.org
(Click) MD.challenge support tab
Application for Challenge Funding Assistance

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