

DeepSec GmbH

✉Bräuhausgasse 32

✉1050 Wien - Austria

✉deepsec@deepsec.net

☎+43.676.5626390 📞+43.720.349387 📠+43.720.34938723

GSMK Cryptophone™ +807.911.52.401 (Office), +807.949.050.59 (Mobile)

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## Trace Labs OSINT Search Party for Missing Persons CTF

We have partnered with Trace Labs in order to conduct a search party for missing persons. The idea is to use crowdsourced open-source intelligence (OSINT) and combine it with a capture the flag (CTF) contest.

- **What is the Trace Labs OSINT Search Party for Missing Persons CTF?**  
The Trace Labs Search Party CTF is a non theoretical, gamified effort that allows for the crowdsourcing of contestants to perform a single task: Conduct open source intelligence operations to help law enforcement find missing persons. The search will be done in teams and supervised by a team of judges.
- **Team effort**  
There will be up to four members per team. This is like a traditional Search & Rescue (SAR) team. Working as a team provides many benefits which include the coaching of more junior members. It is often a great learning opportunity if you are able to pair up with OSINT veterans.
- **Finding „Flags“**  
This part works very similar to rescue searches. The Capture the Flag (CTF) event is a gamified version of what real trackers do. While the ultimate goal is to find the person, we do this through finding individual flags that often build a picture of where the missing person may be. This part is about collecting and assessing useful information. Every group submits all collected information at the end of the CTF.
- **Rules of Engagement**  
The event follows some strict rules. Since this is all about proper research and facts, there is no room for guesswork. We do not get involved nor theorize or speculate. We only do OSINT. We do not go after bad guys. We are not the police. Instead, we simply collect previous intelligence and provide this to the respective law enforcement so that can pursue the appropriate course of action.
- **Judging**  
The CTF contest is supervised by a group of judges. In order to ensure all submissions are high value and contribute to the location of the missing person, our community comes together to support each event with a judge panel that vets each submission.
- **Points, Prizes, and Badges**  
Beginners can score many low scoring easier flags while experts can go for the harder yet higher scoring points. At the end, all contestants get a badge of honor to show the community they participated in the event. In addition, there are prizes from DeepSec

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sponsors and the DeepSec conference organisation team. Trace Labs has compiled a [list of badges on their web site](#).

The capture the flag (CTF) contest will be conducted on the second day of the DeepSec conference. There will be short briefings on the first day and prior to the contest. You are encouraged to form groups that work together before the CTF starts. We also recommend to read the blog post titled [Things You'll Wish You'd Known Before Your First Search Party CTF](#). The article has some key takeaways which will help you.

Best regards,

René Pfeiffer,

Managing Director / Geschäftsführer / Gérant / Forretningsfører (DeepSec GmbH) (☎ +43.676.5626390),  
DeepSec Conference Organisation Team.