

@HACK

2025  
Participant  
Guide

HEXPLOIT  
ALLIANCE

TECHNATION<sup>CA</sup>

CAREER  
READY  
PROGRAM

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# Welcome

Welcome to the second annual @Hack Capture-the-Flag (CTF) event!

It has been a long journey for the skilled organizers and volunteers who worked tirelessly for 10+ months to bring @Hack 2025 to life. You are one of over 800 participants taking part in this year's event, making this an amazing opportunity for you to make connections and compete with some of the brightest students in the Canadian cybersecurity space.

@Hack was conceived in 2023 with the purpose of building national cybersecurity awareness and durability by providing Canadian talent with an outlet for honing their skills. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, this year we have more exciting challenges, more participants, and an expanded track to introduce beginners to the world of cybersecurity.

This event is all about skill, strategy, and community. No matter your experience level, you're part of something bigger – a growing network of cybersecurity enthusiasts pushing their limits. So dive in, embrace the challenges, and enjoy @Hack!

- Hexplot Alliance and TECHNATION

# Theme

**This year's theme revolves around the problem of finding the initial conditions for particle collisions in the quantum world, intermeshed in an interaction with an AI system to solve it.**

**Roger, a PhD researcher in particle physics is proposing a new technique for solving this problem. His exceedingly rigorous supervisor, Dr. Dexter, does not support the research and sends Roger into a spiral. Amidst his despair, he turns to long-time friend Zain (aka Ned) and together they devise a plot for building an AI system - Jester - to solve the problem quickly and prove Dr. Dexter wrong.**

**Will it work? And what are the consequences? Find out through this years' videos, unlocked as certain challenges are completed. Narrative video releases will be announced on Discord as challenges are solved.**



**WATCH THE  
TEASER**

**LISTEN TO THE  
THEME SONG**

# Your Hosts



Hexploit Alliance is a graduate student-led cybersecurity group formed in 2023 at Concordia University. Our members specialize in a wide range of cybersecurity fields, including binary code analysis, exploit development, container security, intrusion detection, cyber-physical systems, fuzzing, threat hunting, and more.

We bring a diverse skillset to the table, encompassing computer science, engineering, and the arts. This unique blend of passion and expertise enhances our ability to organize and contribute to cybersecurity events.



Funded by the Government of Canada's Student Work Placement Program, TECHNATION's Career Ready Program supports businesses by financing their decision to hire a student for a work-term placement while providing access to an entire Work Integrated Learning (WIL) ecosystem.

The Career Ready Program hosts a variety of events for post-secondary students to provide educational and experiential learning opportunities in the tech sector.

# Partners and Sponsors

Thank you to our valued event partners and sponsors for making @Hack 2025 a reality.

## Challenge Champion



## Cyber Supporters



## Event Partner



## Shirt Sponsor



## Funding Partner



# Rules and Guidelines

## Code Of Conduct

For the full rules of engagement, please refer to the [@Hack website](#).

- To access the challenges you need to log in to CTFd - see page 8 for instructions.
- Do not share your solution, ideas, and flags with other teams.
- You might be asked to demo your solution during the hackathon or at judging time.
- Be respectful of other people's space and time.
- If you are not sure if something is cheating or not, ask the event organizers in Discord first.
- Brute forcing the flags on CTFd is not part of the challenge, so avoid it.
- Trying to hack the infrastructure hosting the challenges will get you disqualified from the event.
- Physical challenges can be accessed at MB 3.130 - more details on these will be given on CTFd.

## Designated Sleeping Areas

In the basement floor of JMSB, we offer room S1.115 as a female-only sleeping room, while anyone can sleep in S1.430 and S1.435.

These rooms are meant for resting only and must remain absolutely quiet. There is no eating, hacking, screen usage, music, or phone calls permitted in the resting rooms. You must bring your own sleeping equipment to these rooms.

## Photography/Videography Release

Each participant in the @HACK 2025 hackathon ("Hackathon") gives express permission to TECHNATION, Hexplot Alliance and Interac Corp. to photograph and video record them, their voice and statements in connection with their participation in the Hackathon and related activity ("Recording") and to reproduce, publish, display or otherwise use the Recording in any manner and media for promotional purposes without additional compensation.

# Tracks

Teams must select one track in CTFd to compete in before the start of the event (see the following page for details on this). You may not change your track once the event has begun. Challenges are the same for both tracks but will be scored on separate scoreboards.

## Beginner Track

The beginner track is reserved for participants who have not competed in a CTF event before.

## Regular Track

The regular track is for participants who have previous experience with CTFs.

# Prizing

## Beginner Track

**FIRST PLACE:** up to \$1,200 per team  
(\$300 per person)

**SECOND PLACE:** up to \$1,000 per team  
(\$250 per person)

**THIRD PLACE:** up to \$800 per team  
(\$200 per person)

## Interac Beginner Prizes

**FIRST PLACE:** Raspberry Pi 5

**SECOND PLACE:** Hak5 \$100 USD gift card

**THIRD PLACE:** Raspberry Pi Zero 2W Kit

## Regular Track

**FIRST PLACE:** up to \$6,000 per team  
(\$1,500 per person)

**SECOND PLACE:** up to \$4,000 per team  
(\$1,000 per person)

**THIRD PLACE:** up to \$3,000 per team  
(\$750 per person)

## Interac Regular Prizes

**FIRST PLACE:** Flipper Zero

**SECOND PLACE:** Raspberry Pi 5

**THIRD PLACE:** Hak5 \$100 USD gift card

## Interac Lockpicking Prizes

**FIRST PLACE:** Night School - Tuxedo Ed. Set (Sparrow Lock Pick)

**SECOND PLACE:** Tuxedo Set (Sparrow Lock Pick)

**THIRD PLACE:** Kickstart Lock Picks (Sparrow Lock Pick)

Interac prizes are awarded to the teams who score highest on the Interac-sponsored challenges. Each member of a winning team will get 1 of the prize items listed above.

The lockpicking prize is awarded to the team (in either the beginner or regular track) who are fastest on the lockpicking challenge.

Teams who win the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes in each track are not eligible to also win the Interac prizes.

# Emergency Contacts

In emergency situations, call 911.

The event team is equipped to handle non-urgent situations. In case that you are unable to locate someone on-site, please use the following contact numbers for immediate assistance:

- **Concordia University Security:**  
514-848-3717  
(Dial 1 for urgent situations and dial 2 for non-urgent situations)
- **Emergency Services: 911**

You must advise the event organizers immediately if you have called 911 or Concordia Security.

# How to Access CTFd

CTFd is the platform we use for the competition. This is where you will get access to challenges, submit flags, and see the scoreboard in real-time!

For the beginner track, go to:  
<https://ctfd-beginner.athackctf.com>

For regular track, go to:  
<https://ctfd.athackctf.com>

You will authenticate through Discord. Click on “Login” and follow the SSO authentication process. Make sure you authenticate with the Discord account that you used to join the @HackCTF server; and also make sure you have verified your ticket (#verify-your-ticket channel. You should have the “Participant” role on Discord: open a ticket (#support channel) if that is not the case.

CTFd is also the place where you will create your team. At first, only one person in your team should login to CTFd and click on “Create Team”. Choose a team name and a strong password. The other members should click on “Join a Team” and use the password you would have shared with them.

# Connecting to the Internet

SSID = AtHackCTF2025

Password = BackToTheAtHack!



# Timeline

## MARCH 1

7:00 - 9:15 AM	Check-in & Breakfast @ Hall Building [H110]
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Opening Ceremony @ Hall Building
11:00 AM	Hacking Begins @ JMSB
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Workshops @ MB 2.210
2:00 - 6:00 PM	Career Fair @ MB Atrium [floor RC]
5:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner @ MB 3.130
7:30 - 9:00 PM	Capture The Crowd @ MB 1.210 [CTF is paused from 7:30 to 9:00 PM]

## MARCH 2

3:00 - 6:00 AM	Support Closed
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Breakfast @ MB 3.130
12:00 PM	Scoreboard Closes
2:00 PM	Hacking Ends
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Closing Ceremony @ Hall Building

# Workshops – March 1

All workshops take place in MB 2.210 and have limited capacity. Arrive early to make sure you have a spot.

## Achieving Operational Excellence with Site Reliability Engineering - “Enhancing Reliability and Efficiency in IT Operations”

Ibrahim Ozbekler - Global DevOps Lead Coach, FDM  
Time: TBD - will be announced over Discord

## Let’s Build an Infrastructure

Hexplot Alliance  
Time: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

## Packet Capturing and Password Cracking

Kody Clark & Adam MacGilivray, Interac  
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

# Maps

## CAMPUS MAP

@Hack events will take place in the following buildings:

### Hall Building (HB)

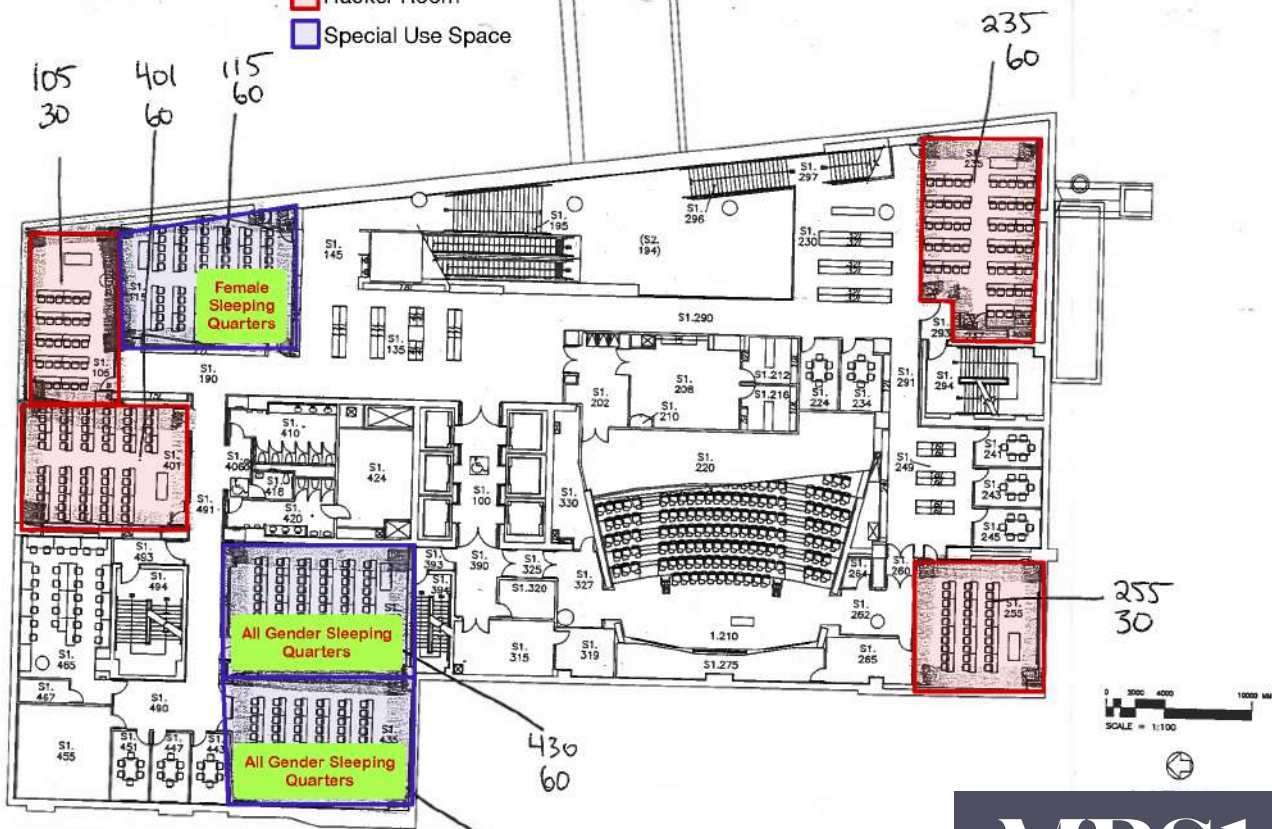
1455 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest

### John Molson Building (JMSB / MB)

1450 Guy Street

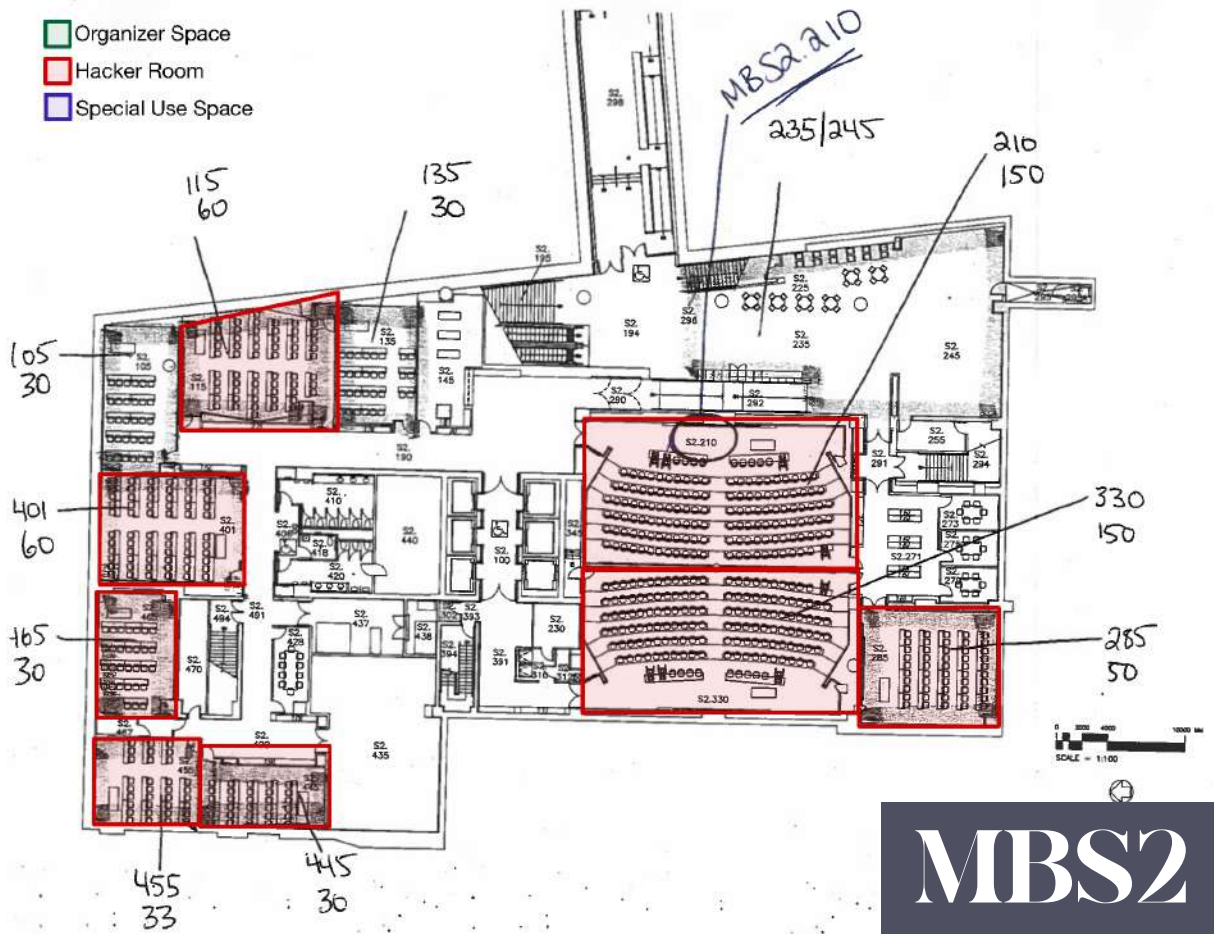


- Organizer Space
- Hacker Room
- Special Use Space



# MBS1

- Organizer Space
- Hacker Room
- Special Use Space



# MBS2





- Organizer Space
- Hacker Room
- Special Use Space

### MB 9ABCDEFG + LOUNGE + LOBBY



# MB 9ABCDEFG + LOUNGE + LOBBY

# Meals and Snacks

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1

**Breakfast** includes coffee, fruits, croissants and sweet breakfast treats, served near the check-in area starting at 7:00 AM.

**Snacks** will be available throughout the day, with a fruit and vegetable platter at 2:30 PM at MB 3.130 and includes Halal/Vegetarian options.

**Dinner** consists of Dominos Pizza, served from 5 - 7 PM at MB 3.130 and includes Halal/Vegetarian options. Participants will be called for dinner by last name.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 2

**Breakfast** will be served at MB 3.130 starting at 10:00 AM, and includes a warm breakfast omelet croissant/english muffins/tofu wrap. This meal is first-come-first-serve and includes Halal/Vegetarian options.

## SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Several restaurant locations will provide discounts during the event for those who wish to purchase their own food. Show your @Hack badge to receive the price reduction, or use the provided discount code where applicable.

- Kebab Burger & Fries (KBF), 20% [Show badge]
- Patty Slaps, 20% [Use Code @Hack20]
- Boustan, 20% [Show badge]
- Poulet Rouge, 10% [Show badge]
- Burger King, 15% [Show badge]

Thank you to these restaurants!

# QR Code Badges

Please wear the badge given to you at registration and do not lose it.  
The purpose of your badge is to:

- A) assist sponsors in accessing your CV during the career fair,
- B) access special discounts at surrounding restaurants,
- C) facilitate networking through visible names,
- D) help organizers understand the meal and check-in trends, guiding spending for next year's event.

For Dinner on March 1st, you will be called down based on your last name as found printed on your badge (if you have multiple names, we will always refer to the very last one on your badge).

# Discord Communications

Communications with participants will take place primarily over Discord in the official @Hack server. [Join the server here](#) or scan the QR code.

Please keep an eye on the #announcements channel for important updates during the event.

Volunteers can be reached through Discord to assist with any issues or questions during the event. For technical issues with challenges, open a ticket on the #support channel for assistance.





# Social Challenges

Take on one or both of the social media challenges for the chance to win bonus prizes!

## #HackToTheBeat

Want to win awesome prizes and get featured? Here's your chance. Show off your creativity using the official @Hack 2025 theme song.

- Create a 30-second to 1-minute video using part of the official @Hack theme song (dance, montage, creative edit – anything goes!).
  - Method 1:** Download the song here, then edit your video with any application, including the song.
  - Method 2:** Find the audio on Instagram here and save it. It will now be in your saved audio folder on Instagram to use in your video.
- Upload your video to Instagram (reels preferred) – no other social media platform will be considered.
- Tag @athackctf and @riskydiablo (the artist's Instagram handle) in your caption.
- Use the hashtag #HackToTheBeat so we can find your entry!
- Make sure your account is public so we can see your video.

### Prizes:

- Artist's Choice (\$100 Gift Card) – Anthony, the artist, will personally select the most creative entry.
- Most Liked Video (\$100 Gift Card) – Of the remaining videos, the one with the most likes wins!

## #HackTillDawn

27 hours. Zero sleep? Full focus. We want to see how you power through! Whether you're crushing challenges, running on caffeine, or fighting off sleep, document your journey.

- Film your CTF experience (solo grinding, team moments, sleep-deprived chaos – get creative!)
- Post it on Instagram with the hashtag #HackTillDawn and tag @athackctf.
- Use text, voiceovers, or memes to tell your hacking survival story.
- Bonus points for storytelling! Show different moments (e.g., "Hour 1 vs Hour 20" or "POV: You've been hacking for 24 hours").
- Need ideas? Show your caffeine intake, team discussions, crazy debugging moments, or the exact moment your brain shuts down at 4 AM.

### Prize:

- Most Viral Video (\$50 Gift Card) – The video with the most likes wins!

@HACK  
INSTAGRAM

## Rules:

- **Deadline:** All entries must be posted by 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 2.
- One entry per participant for each social challenge; posting two or more versions will disqualify you.
- Keep it appropriate! Videos must align with Instagram's guidelines and the event's professional standards.
- Winners will be announced during the closing ceremony.

# Organizing Committee

## Hexploit Alliance



**Ali-Moussa Darkallah**  
LEAD FINANCE /  
TREASURER



**Alireza Toghiani**  
LEAD APP DEV /  
VICE-PRESIDENT



**Anis Lounis**  
LEAD CTF  
DESIGN



**Anthony Andreoli**  
LEAD LOGISTICS /  
PRESIDENT



**Luna Etihad**  
LEAD MARKETING  
& DESIGN



**Hugo Kermabon**  
LEAD CTF  
DESIGN



**Dhiaa Elhak Rebbah**  
LEAD WEB DEV



**Jeremy Frandon**  
LEAD INFRA



**Sofiane Benahmed**  
LEAD INFRA

## TECHNATION



**Amina Meharzi**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
COORDINATOR



**Hayley Blake**  
DIGITAL MARKETING  
& EVENTS  
COORDINATOR



**Tim Sidock**  
PROGRAM MARKETING  
& DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER

# Team Members & Volunteers

Sohaib Daami - SOCIAL GAME  
Yanis Djeridi - SOCIAL GAME  
Yassine Ibhira - SOCIAL GAME  
Karim Mawji - SOCIAL GAME  
Arina Sabzevari - WEB DEV  
Sassan Ghazi - WEB DEV  
Aathira Dineshan - CTF  
Chit Chit Myet Cheal Zaw - CTF  
Jeslyn Sorotsky - CTF/BODYGUARD  
William Charron-Boyle - CTF  
Abdussamad Syed - CTF/APP DEV  
Hussein Olleik - CTF/ACTOR  
Constance Prevot - CTF  
Kalyani Batle - CTF  
Aniket Agarwal - CTF  
Lauren Reeve - MARKETING  
Viocelyne Valbonard - MARKETING  
Vikas Sharma - CTF  
Paria Jafarian - MARKETING  
Shafayat Hossain Majumder - LOGISTICS  
Piyush Adhikari - LOGISTICS  
Ali Sher - LOGISTICS  
Jamal Abu Assi - MARKETING  
Hossam Khalifa - APP DEV  
Serban Alin Caia - CTF/BODYGUARD  
Azamat Ochilov - APP DEV  
Boisghur Shishani - CTF  
Ahmed Housseem Boualem - CTF  
William Mailhot - CTF  
Priyang Patel - CTF  
Massimo Caruso - CTF/BODYGUARD  
Dana Abousharbin - CTF/BODYGUARD  
Isabella Guddemi - CTF  
Tomas Navarro - CTF  
Meetkumar Kalariya - APP DEV

Asifur Rahman - VOLUNTEER  
Meetkumar Kalariya - VOLUNTEER  
Gift Ayibiowu - VOLUNTEER  
Khanh Huy Nguyen - VOLUNTEER  
Syed Nafis Ashraf - VOLUNTEER  
Yangtianyi (Alice) Zhang - VOLUNTEER  
Ankur Sahu - VOLUNTEER  
Rasha Bashir - VOLUNTEER  
Salma Sahmad - VOLUNTEER  
Catalina Tipa - VOLUNTEER  
Sumit Kumar - VOLUNTEER  
Harini Sivakumar - VOLUNTEER  
Wassim Mouhajer - VOLUNTEER  
Golnaz Mirzaei - VOLUNTEER  
Christa Abou-Arraje - VOLUNTEER  
Albert - VOLUNTEER  
Jade Delisi - VOLUNTEER  
Arefe Emrani - VOLUNTEER  
Xiaojie Lin - VOLUNTEER  
Janmitsinh Panjrolia - VOLUNTEER  
Grady Songe - VOLUNTEER  
Wafa Shahid - VOLUNTEER  
Jordana Weinberger - VOLUNTEER

## Staff Advisor

Ricardo Vazquez Guy - Concordia  
Hospitality



# Special Thanks

Hexploit Alliance and TECHNATION extend their heartfelt gratitude to you, the participants, for your pivotal role in making @Hack a success.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the visionary figures who have been instrumental in this journey: Dr. Mourad Debbabi, Dr. Aiman Hanna, and Dr. Carol Fung.

Our appreciation also extends to the administration at Concordia University and the dedicated volunteers whose unwavering support has been crucial in orchestrating the event.