

# Mapping Low Cost and Open Source Labs to the NICE Workforce Framework

Chris Simpson,  
Director National University Center for  
Cybersecurity



When I  
find a new  
lab



# Agenda

- Background
- Examples of free labs and how we use them
- Mapping Labs in Airtable



# Background

- Hands on labs are a critical component of any cybersecurity program and a requirement to become a Center of Academic Excellence
- Several ways to deliver lab content
  - Develop and deploy labs on internal or outsourced infrastructure
  - Utilize labs from external lab providers
  - Utilize free grant resourced labs
  - Use free and open source labs
- Managing an internal lab environment is expensive

# Challenges of Running an Internal Lab

- Help Desk
  - Academic vs Technical issues
  - Hours of operation
    - Student complete school work in the evening and on weekends
  - “Ticket Management”
- Admin access to systems
- Developing lab content
- Cost



# Finding Outsourced Labs

- “Word of Mouth”
- Textbook Vendors
- Vendor booths
- Google



# Challenges of Free Labs

- Downtime
- Support
- Updates
- No single vendor provides everything you need
- Publicly available answers
- Course coverage of lab content
- Faculty preparation
- Vendor lab changes



# Free/Freemium Providers

- Not an official endorsement from National University





# Providers

(No particular order)

Immersive Labs  
(Free)

NICE Challenge  
(Free)

Over the Wire  
(Free)

PicoCTF (Free)

Hack The Box  
(Freemium)

TryHackMe.com  
(Freemium)

Blue Team Labs  
(Freemium)

Haiku Pro  
(Freemium)





# Deploy in the Cloud

- Use Devops tools to deploy labs in the cloud
- Examples
  - Detection Lab
  - Mordor
  - CyberRange





@cybersteffie

🇯🇵 Japan

GLOBAL POINTS  
800

GLOBAL RANK  
8,000

RANGES COMPLETED  
10

## LEARNING PATHS

### PENDING



CEH Prep  
Complete the First 10 Ranges

8/10

- ✓ Silk Road, Part 1
- ✓ Brekko Takedown
- ✓ Cryptocowboy: Infiltrating the DAO
- ✓ IBF Investigation
- ✓ Cryptocowboy
- ✓ Swipe Left
- ✓ Yesterday World
- ✓ Swipe Right
- ✓ Drone Racing League

Feng Shui Codex

### COMPLETE



Getting Started  
Get familiar with Haku Pro

GOAL REACHED

6/6

## SKILLS

### OFFENSIVE




[VIEW ALL SKILLS >>](#)

# Mapping to Certs



RIKU PRO

DISCOVER / LEADERBOARD / PRICING / JOB CONNECT



PRO / JOB CONNECT /

RECOMMENDED JOBS

Your recommend positions based on a questionnaire and your skillsket from the ranges you've completed.

Take Questionnaire

YOUR TOP SKILLS ⓘ

DefensiveWiresharkCloudWebsecuritySecure Networks

Security Engineer - Insurance Planning Rakuten

2 Days Ago

Job Description: We are seeking a strong Cyber Security Engineer to drive continuous improvement in tool information using...

Tokyo, JapanFull-Time

2-7 Yrs\$ 76,000 per year

Secure NetworksEndpoint

Security Engineer - Insurance Planning Rakuten

2 Days Ago

Job Description: We are seeking a strong Cyber Security Engineer to drive continuous improvement in tool information using...

Tokyo, JapanFull-Time

2-7 Yrs\$ 76,000 per year

Secure NetworksEndpoint

Security Engineer - Insurance Planning Rakuten

2 Days Ago

Job Description: We are seeking a strong Cyber Security Engineer to drive continuous improvement in tool information using...

Tokyo, JapanFull-Time

2-7 Yrs\$ 76,000 per year

Secure NetworksEndpoint

JOB SEARCH

Keyword

Location

Log In

On-Site/Remote

Job Type

Experience Level

Certification

Sort By

Search Results (Showing 10 out of 32)Clear All X

Paloalto Networks

Senior Security Customer Success Engineer

View Details

5-8 Yrs\$ 87,000 per yearSan Francisco, California, USAFull-Time

OWAP Top 10Web SecurityCloudSystems SecurityReverse EngineeringProgramming

1 Day Ago

Uber

Senior Security Engineer

View Details

7+ Yrs\$ 140,000 per yearSan Francisco, California, USAFull-Time

OWAP Top 10Web SecurityCloudSystems SecurityReverse EngineeringProgramming

1 Day Ago

Uber

Security Engineer II

View Details

7+ Yrs\$ 140,000 per yearSan Francisco, California, USAFull-Time

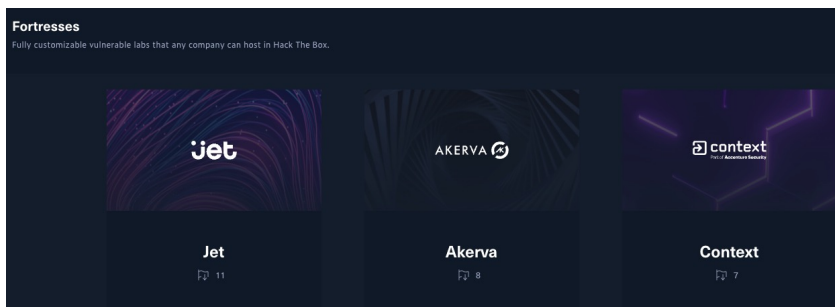
OWAP Top 10Web SecurityCloudSystems SecurityReverse EngineeringProgramming

1 Day Ago

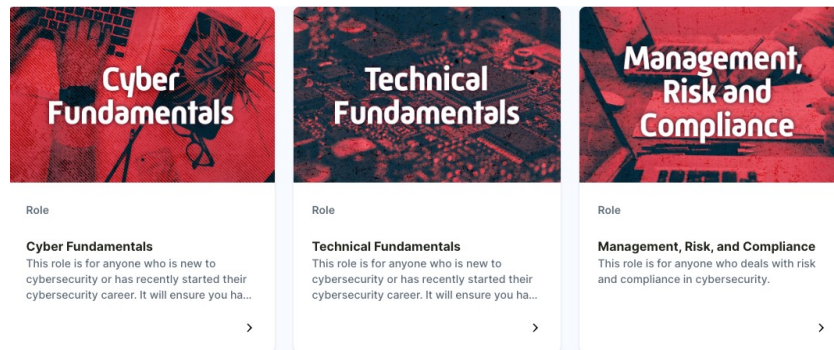
- Mapping to Jobs



## Working with Companies Hack the Box



## Mapping to Roles Immersive Labs



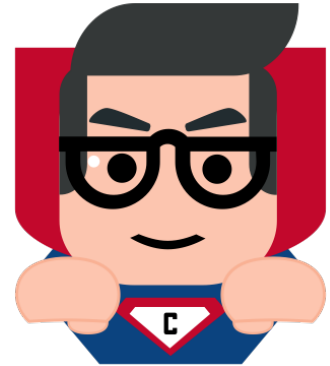
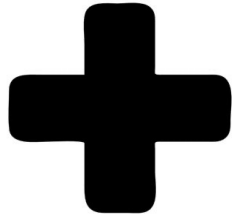




A word cloud shaped like a graduation cap, featuring terms related to education and learning. The largest words are 'KNOWLEDGE', 'OBJECTIVES', 'SKILLS', 'OUTCOMES', 'TASKS', 'LEARNING', 'COURSE', 'GOALS', 'COMPETENCY', 'ABILITIES', 'ROLE', 'JOB', 'UNITS', 'PROGRAM', 'SKILLS', 'TASKS', 'LEARNING', 'COURSE', 'GOALS', 'COMPETENCY', 'ABILITIES', 'ROLE', 'JOB', 'UNITS', 'PROGRAM'. Other visible words include 'LEARNING', 'OBJECTIVES', 'SKILLS', 'GOALS', 'KNOWLEDGE', 'TASKS', 'COURSE', 'OUTCOMES', 'COMPETENCY', 'ABILITIES', 'ROLE', 'JOB', 'UNITS', 'PROGRAM', 'SKILLS', 'TASKS', 'LEARNING', 'COURSE', 'GOALS', 'COMPETENCY', 'ABILITIES', 'ROLE', 'JOB', 'UNITS', 'PROGRAM'.







Max Power Collection

# Mapping Labs To Objectives

Build a catalog of  
labs mapped to the  
NICE Framework  
and CAE KU's

Student project  
mapping  
TryHackMe

Using AirTable

# What is Airtable

- “Our powerful, visual platform connects data, people and workflows across the organization, so everyone's using the same source of truth. It's easy to start building on Airtable, and endlessly extensible: anyone can create and automate apps that perfectly fit their needs.”
- [Airtable About Page](#)

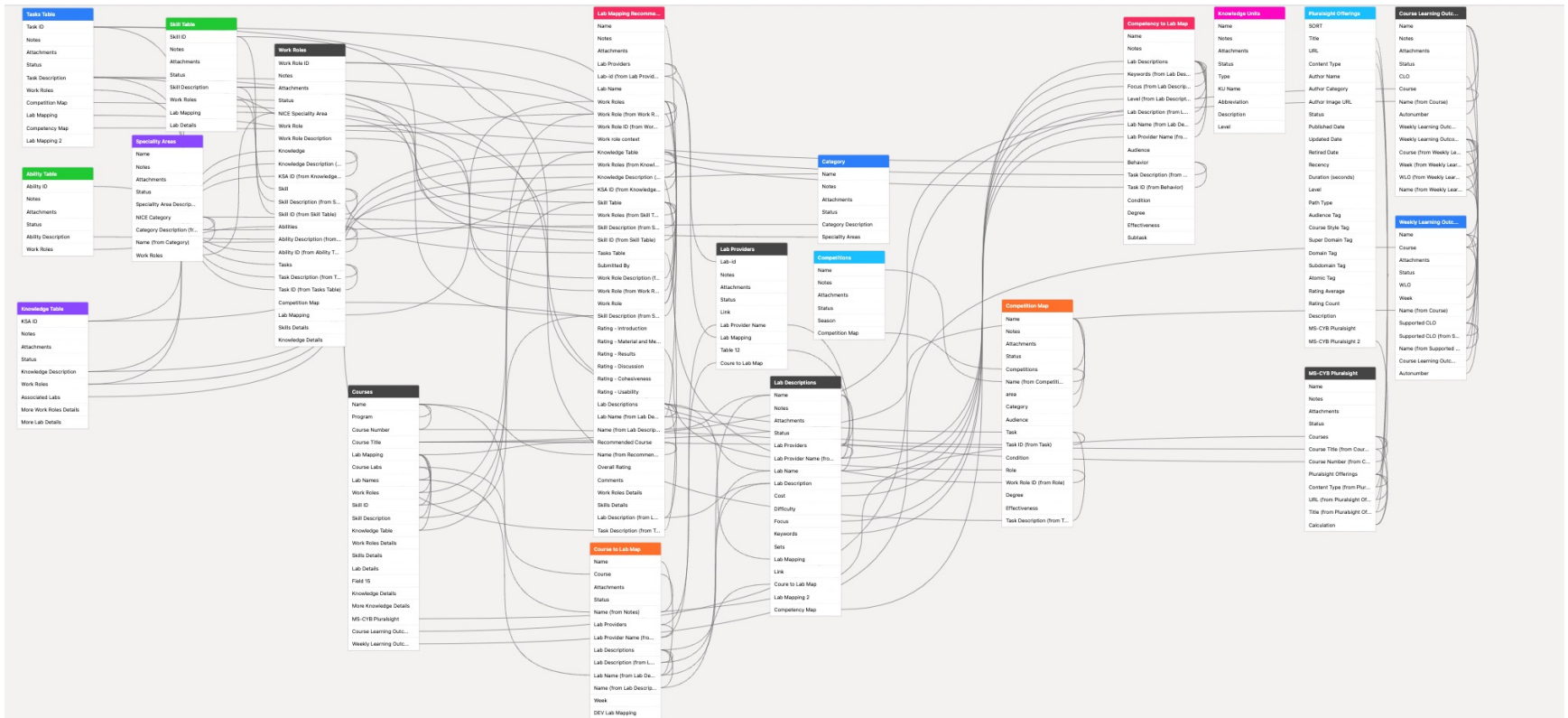


# Airtable

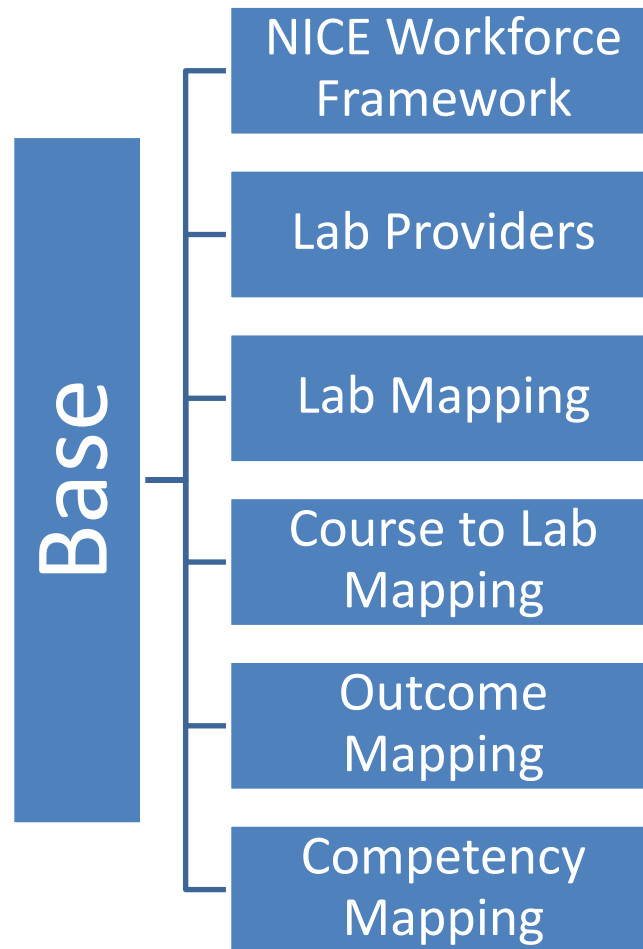
- Visual way to build complex databases and easily display the data
- Easy to connect data and join tables
- Easy import



# Structure



# Structure



# Student Mapping to NICE Framework

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Name (from Lab De...	Tasks Table	Knowledge Table	Skill Table	Submitted By
1	Active Directory Basics	thm-Active Directory Basi...	T0054 T0063 T0136 T0	K0001 K0003 K0004 K0	S0033 S0043 S0076 SC	Shaun
2	Active Directory Basics	thm-Active Directory Basi...	T0152 T0162 T0305	K0004 K0001 K0020 K0	S0042 S0037	Joseph
3	Core Windows Processes	thm-Core Windows Proce...	T0050 T0051 T0071 T0	K0001 K0002 K0004 K0	S0005 S0027 S0050 SC	Chris
4	Core Windows Processes	thm-Core Windows Proce...	T0027 T0397 T0398	K0001 K0060	S0062	Joseph



Knowledge to lab mapping CONT

Course to Lab Map

Competency to Lab Map

Knowledge Units

Pluralsight Offerings

MS-CYB Pluralsight

Course Learning Outcomes ▼

Weekly Learning Outcomes

↔ 10 hidden fields

≡ Filter

📅 Grouped by 1 field

↕ Sort

🎨 Color

☰

🔗 Share view

<input type="checkbox"/>	<span>fx</span> Name <span>▼</span>	<span>≡</span> Course <span>▼</span>	<span>🔍</span> Name (from Course) <span>▼</span>	<span>≡</span> CLO <span>▼</span>
<div><div>COURSE</div><div><span>▼</span> <b>CYB 600</b> <span>Count 4</span></div></div>				
1	CYB 600-CLO-1	CYB 600	Cybersecurity Technology	Explain fundamental concepts of the cybersecurity discipline.
2	CYB 600-CLO-2	CYB 600	Cybersecurity Technology	Analyze techniques to mitigate malicious software attacks.
3	CYB 600-CLO-3	CYB 600	Cybersecurity Technology	Demonstrate how authentication is used with cryptography to secure information access.
4	CYB 600-CLO-4	CYB 600	Cybersecurity Technology	Evaluate the use of ethical guidelines to control professional behavior.
<div><div><span>+</span></div></div>				

## Course Learning Outcomes



# Lab to Course Mapping

COURSE		Count 44					
▼	CYB 606						
28	Intro to Incident response	CYB 606	iml	Week 1	Intro to Incident response	How incident response teams react to threats is critical to business survival, but what are the processes of an incident response plan?...	Immersive Labs
29	Wireshark: Stream/Object Extraction	CYB 606	iml	Week 1	Wireshark: Stream/Object Extraction	Wireshark allows analysts to examine packets at the 'application layer' through the use of 'streams'. Wireshark also recognises 'objects' which can be extracted and used to reconstruct...	Immersive Labs
30	Intro to Wireshark	CYB 606	iml	Week 1	Intro to Wireshark	Wireshark is a free, open-source packet analyser. A network packet analyser attempts to capture network packets and displays the data in a format that offers as much detail as ...	Immersive Labs
31	Tcpdump	CYB 606	iml	Week 1	Tcpdump	This lab will cover some of the basics of using tcpdump. You will be provided with a PCAP file and then asked to enter some simple commands in order to get acquainted with the tool.	Immersive Labs



# Competency Example

Task ID (from ...)	Task Description (from Behavior)	Condition	Degree	Effectiveness	Lab Descriptions	Audience
T0163	Perform cyber defense incident triage, to include determining scope, urgency, and potential impact, identifying the specific vulnerability, and making recommendations that enable expeditious remediation.	Given a network traffic capture and the network analysis tools: Wireshark, TCPDump, and TSHark.	The student will correctly answer 10 of 11 questions about the network traffic within two hours.	The student will use commonly accepted network analysis techniques.	btl-Web Shell	Grad Student Junior



A Progr...	Course Number	Course Title	Lab Mapping
CYB	600	Cybersecurity Technology	Hacking with Powershell Regular expressions Bash Scripting Investigating Windows
CYB	601	Cybersecurity Toolkit Utilization	Linux Strength Training Linux Strength Training Burp Suite SQL Injection Lab Hacking with Powershell Hacking with Pov
CYB	602	Threat Modeling & Intel.	Hacking with Powershell Regular expressions

## Course Labs

# Lab List

Knowledge to lab mapping									
<div>CONTACT SALES</div> <div>SHARE</div> <div>HELP</div>									
<div>Learning Recommendations</div> <div>Lab Descriptions</div> <div>Courses</div> <div>Course to Lab Map</div> <div>Competency to Lab Map</div> <div>Knowledge Units</div> <div>Pluralsight Offerings</div> <div>MS-CYB Pluralsight</div> <div>Course Learning Outcomes</div> <div>Weekly Learning</div> <div>AUTOMATIONS</div> <div>APPS</div>									
<div>1 hidden field</div> <div>Filter</div> <div>Group</div> <div>Sort</div> <div>Color</div> <div>Share view</div>									
	Name	Lab Provider Name ...	Lab Name	Cost	Lab Description	Difficulty	Focus	Keywords	
1	thm-0day	TryHackMe	0day	Free	Exploit Ubuntu, like a Turtle in a Hurricane.	Medium	Exploits	CVE, kernel exploit, shell	
2	thm-25 Days of Cyber Security	TryHackMe	25 Days of Cyber Security	Free	Get started with Cyber Security in 25 Days - Learn ...	Easy	Challenge	beginner, christmas, cha	
3	thm-Active Directory Basics	TryHackMe	Active Directory Basics	VIP	Learn the basics of Active Directory and how it is u...	Easy	Learning	security, active directory	



# How much data in Airtable

- 607 Labs with descriptions
- 200 Weekly Learning Outcomes
- 16 classes
- NICE Workforce Framework
  - Roles
  - Knowledge
  - Skills
  - Tasks



# Links and Videos

<https://www.nucsia.org/2022/05/cae-symposium-links/>



Center for Cybersecurity

[HOME](#) [CENTER LEADERSHIP](#) [PROGRAM INFORMATION](#) [CYBER TEAM \(NUCL3@R\)](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CYBER NEWS](#) [BLOG](#)

## CAE Symposium Links

Posted on [May 15, 2022](#) by [csimpson](#)

These are the links that I mention in my talk titled "Mapping Low Cost and Open Source Labs to the NICE Workforce Framework"

### Tools

- [Airtable Website](#)
- [Clark Center](#)
- [Security Datasets](#)

### Airtable Data

- [List of Labs](#)
- [Course to Lab Mapping](#)

### Lab Environments\*

- [Blue Team Labs](#)
- [Hack the Box](#)



# Collaboration

- Happy to share access
- Welcome to enter data
- Evidencing Competency Working Group 2
  - Evaluating Tools



# Questions?

- Email: [csimpson@nu.edu](mailto:csimpson@nu.edu)

