



## **PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487

### **Canyon High School Students Participate in National Computer Security Competition**

May 15, 2013 (Orange, CA) - The Orange Unified School District is pleased to announce that Canyon High School ranked 11th in picoCTF's Toaster Wars High School Hacking Competition.

Under the direction of Canyon High School Video Game Pathway teacher Ms. Susan Damon, "Team (void)0" included Priyank Patel (Senior), Jonathan Zepnick (Junior), Roy Chang (Sophomore), and Dylan Nguyen (Freshman).

The nationwide computer security competition for high school students involved multiple categories of challenges with increasing difficulty. Teams used the programming and problem solving skills in a race to be the first to solve the most number of problems.

In computer security, a CTF (Capture the Flag) competition is designed to serve as an educational exercise to give participants experience in securing a machine as well as conducting and reacting to the sort of attacks found in the real world. Reverse-engineering, network sniffing, protocol analysis, system administration, programming, and cryptanalysis are all required skills.

"Certain pieces of information (called flags) are placed on servers, encrypted, hidden, or otherwise stored somewhere difficult to access. During the competition, different challenges are released which allow the participants to reverse engineer, break, hack, decrypt, and do whatever it takes to capture that flag," according to the picoCTF website. "CTFs are a great way to learn a wide array of computer security skills in a safe, legal environment, and are hosted and played by many security groups around the world for fun and practice."

Event sponsors included the National Security Agency, Symantec, Carnegie Mellon's Entertainment Technology Center (ETC-Global), Intel, and Microsoft. Approximately 2,000 high school teams and thousands of high school students participated in the 11 day event.

For more information, please visit <https://picoctf.com>.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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