

DEF CON GROUPS (DCG)

Hitchhacker's Guide to DEF CON Groups



AGENDA

- Introductions
- DEF CON Groups (DCG) Department
- DEF CON Groups
- Get Involved in DEF CON Groups
- DEF CON Groups Origin Stories
- Keep the Spirit of DEF CON Alive
- Q&A

INTRODUCTIONS

JAYSON E. STREET



- Global DEF CON Groups Ambassador
- DEF CON Groups

ADAM915



- Global Coordinator / Department Lead
- DEF CON Groups – July 2012 to Present

ALETHE



- DCG Department 2nd Lead
- DEF CON Groups – June 2023 to Present

DEF CON GROUPS (DCG) DEPARTMENT

THE DEF CON GROUPS (DCG) DEPARTMENT

- Made up of DEF CON Goons
- Led by Adam915 and Alethe
- Supported by Global Ambassador Jayson Street
- Staffed by Goons who support
  - Administration
  - Technology
  - etc.
- Report to DEF CON Staff, and ultimately DT





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WHAT DCG DEPARTMENT DOES

- Receive and process new DCG Applications
- Receive and process new DCG POC Applications
- Support Global POCs and DCGs
- Enforce DEF CON DCG Guidelines for DCGs
- Triage CoC Violation Reports etc. within DCGs
- Report DCG incidents to the relevant DEF CON department
- Facilitate running the DCG Community at DEF CON



DEF CON GROUPS

WHAT IS A DEF CON GROUP

- Local, community-led hacker meetups
- Open to anyone - no gatekeeping
- Encourages collaboration, learning, and hacking together
- NOT official DEF CON Groups - grassroots by design
- Free to create, free to join




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DEF CON GROUPS ARE GLOBAL

- 300+ DEF CON Groups worldwide 🌍
- Active across six continents
- From DCG Honolulu to DCG Houston to DCG Hong Kong
- You're part of a global hacker community




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WHY DEF CON GROUPS MATTER

- Builds local hacker culture & skill-sharing
- Keeps DEF CON energy alive year-round
- Great for mentorship and community support
- Connects noobs and veterans alike
- Helps you find your DEF CON tribe in your city





DEF CON GROUP SWITZERLAND | DC4131

GET INVOLVED IN DEF CON GROUPS


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HOW TO FIND YOUR DEF CON GROUP

- Visit defcongroups.org
- Check DEF CON forums for active posts
- Follow local infosec/hacker scenes on social media
- Ask around at DEF CON villages or Discord
- Look for flyers, stickers, or meetups at con!





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HOW TO START A DEF CON GROUP

- Super simple: get in touch!
- Email DEF CON Groups Department
  - DCGroups@defcon.org
  - Get your DCG $Name
  - Verify your Group POC(s)
- Start small: **2 hackers and a pizza is a meetup!**
- Pick a consistent date, a welcoming place, and a topic worth sharing
- You don't need to be an expert—just be consistent





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DEF CON GROUP NAMING CONVENTION

- Format: DCG-[Your Location]
- Examples: DCG-Columbus, DCG-Dallas, DCG-Miami
- Helps support the creation of more groups
- DCG Department will help select an available name
- Legacy Groups keep Legacy Names
  - Also receive a new Alias under the New Naming Convention for alignment and database normalization
- New Groups receive only a name under the new naming convention





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DEF CON GROUP LOGO STYLE GUIDE

- Create an original logo for your DCG
- You may use the DEF CON Jack logo in your DCG logo
- Customize with your local flavor but:
  - Avoid commercial branding
  - Avoid altering the DEF CON Jack
  - Be respectful of the Jack
- If you incorporate any DEF CON Branding or the Jack into your DCG Logo
  - Submit for approval to DCG Dept. prior to use
- Design tips available from DCGroups@defcon.org





DEF CON GROUP DC501

DEF CON GROUP POC VERIFICATION

- Anyone can start a group
- DCG Department will verify Points of Contact (POCs)
- Submit: Request to verify as POC to
  - DCGroups@defcon.org
- Light-touch verification for safety and trust
  - First and Last Name
  - Email Address
  - Phone Number
  - Discord ID – to add DCG-POC role in DEF CON Discord
- Establishes trust and accountability



DEF CON GROUPS ORIGIN STORIES

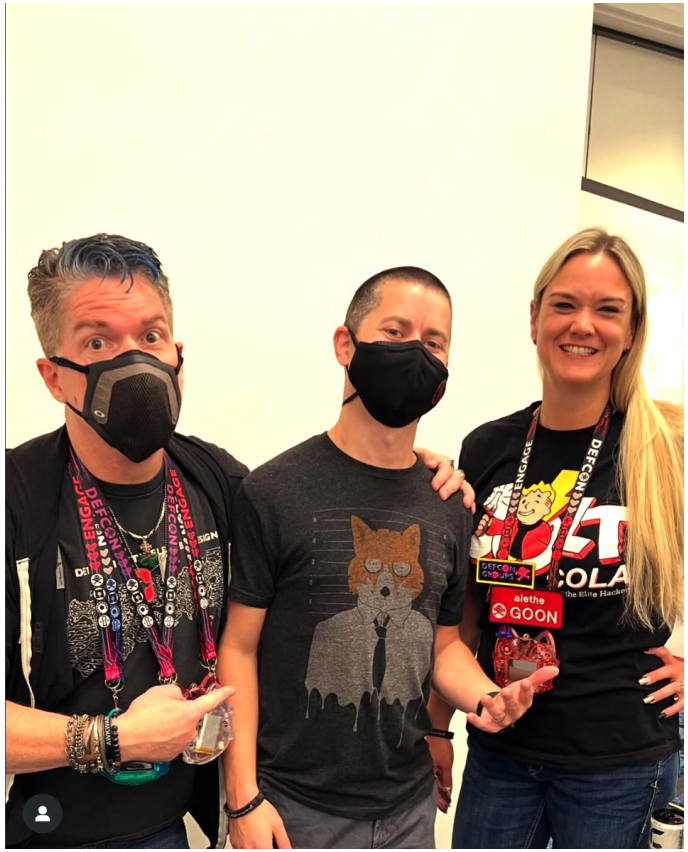


JAYSON E. STREET



ADAM915

ALETHE



KEEP THE SPIRIT OF DEF CON ALIVE

JOIN THE DEF CON GROUP MOVEMENT

- Find your local DCG or start your own
- You are what makes DEF CON happen all year
- Learn more: defcongroups.org
- Find your DCG or Start a DCG
- Reach out to DCG Department for Support



Q & A

DEF CON GROUP Q&A

- Your turn!
- Ask us anything about DCGs, community building, or DCG life
- Follow up after: we'll be around the con all weekend
  - Find us in LVCC - Level 2 – Room W237
- Bonus: Ask for stickers 😄

