

NECCDC 2024 Info Session Q&A

Friday Oct 20, 2023 at 6pm ET

Attendees: James Brigden, Coach, RIT, Ben Grooms, Coach, UMaine, Dylan, UMaine, Dave Murray, UBuffalo/NECCDL, Sashank Narain, Coach, UMass Lowell, Chandi Kanhai, RIT, Zach Callahan, Captain Alfred State College, Ethan Viapiano, UBuffalo, Ben Dahrooge, Coach, University Rhode Island, Evan Altman, Coach, Pace University, Marshal Langlois, UAlbany Coach, Russell Beauchemin, Roger Williams University, Li-Chiou Chen, Pace University, Andrew Iadevaia, Black Team, Pace University, Devin, Champlain College*/NECCDL, Federico Cassano, Captain, Northeastern University, Ben Allison (West Point/USMA - Coach), Sergio Ly, UMass Amherst, Allan Ramella, Roger Williams University, Joe Acampora, Pace University/NECCDL, Mathew HeathVanHorn, Emory Riddle/NECCDL, Damira Pon, UAlbany/NECCDL, Joe Eastman, Champlain College/NECCDL, Andrew Aiken Black Team, Andrew Iadevaia, Black Team, Dylan Andrews, James Brigden, Justin Marwad, Black Team, Bahram, Simon Bruklich, Coach, Northeastern

General Black Team Advice: Emphasis on RHEL IDM/FreeIPA, look into automation. For Qualifiers no AWS console access. Will be new technology that you have to learn that will be foreign to you. Credential management and Kubernetes. Some subject to change. Some would be taken out, not put in.

Q: Will the presentation be made available to share?

A: Presentation and Q&A documents will be shared after review for accuracy

Q: Do you have an anticipated time frame for knowing about hotels?

A: Have an idea of what hotels will give a discount rate. Can probably get out within a few days. Will keep trying to get better rates, but have a short list.

Q: What are the discounted hotel rates looking like?

A: <https://www.pace.edu/nearby-hotels> - discounts up to 20%

Q: Travel?

A: Consider travel - parking is not readily available.

Q: For firewalls - there was Palo Alto, training, is there more insight?

A: With host-based firewall rules, lots of iptables, Windows firewall, and other OS that show up. Can provide documentation that will give insight. Want to make sure you're comfortable with services. Talked about virtualized appliances in quals, but believed may be pushing too much. Host-based firewall rules would give a good foundation for a mindset for more centralized management.

Q: Qualifier / Regional Remote

A: Will be remote in that not all teams will be in the same location physically. However, all teams are expected to be physically present together on their campus in the same location. If there is a need for an exception, it needs to be discussed between the Coach/Edu Rep, the Director, and NECCDL.

Q: Is there a time when we should have moderator contact information?

A: Will be near the registration deadline. Please recruit people who have some experience, e.g., alumni, industry, or local professional organizations. Let us know if you are a new team and/or you need help with moderators.

Q: Will AWS resources be provided for blue team prep?

A: Learning materials can have links provided. The free tier for AWS - focus on VPC and Security groups.

Q: What should you advise for AWS setup?

A: AWS offers free training through AWS Academy. Can use the free tier for configurations for security groups, how to backup an instance, take a snapshot and if you can run things on your local hypervisor, go for that. Learn services on own infra and then learn AWS via AWS: <https://aws.amazon.com/education/awseducate/>

Q: The line between Qualifier and Regional?

A: In Qual, will not have AWS console access. Emphasis on host-based firewalls there. Andrew can recommend some labs that AWS Educate provides.

Q: MacOS?

A: AWS does provide MacOS AMI's for virtualization for EC2 instances. Up in the air right now with Black Team in discussing implementing that concept. Not a critical role, but in a typical world, you will see Windows and Mac. Definitely train for it. 99% will see in Quals or Regionals. Difference between AWS and hypervisor, if you were to allocate money to AWS, spin up some MacOS EC2 and play for an hour or two. Wouldn't spend too much time on it, but should know how to do the basics with it.

Q: Will the Regionals be held in Manhattan or Westchester?

A: Manhattan

Q: What about safety concerns?

A: Can get a meeting with the emergency response / security department. The campus location is a pretty safe area and students frequently take a train down there. Can get a more outlined approach for security. Don't have the information at hand now.

Q: RHEL 8 or RHEL 9?

A: Hint: Version listed in AWS AMIs