Cyber sleuths face off

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Hacking skills put to the test in week of hands-on cyber warfare training

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, February 10, 2010—Cyber-security first responders will be put to the test in an upcoming training-and-competition event hosted by Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories. Federal, industry, and New Mexico state computer specialists will meet for a grueling week that combines state-of-the-art training with opportunities to team up, solve relevant cyber problems, and attack one another. In a friendly and collaborative competition, participants will hone their skills against the best in the business.

"Tracer FIRE 2," as the event is titled, will be a collaborative information security training event featuring the skill sets most critical to computer security specialists: malware reverse engineering, computer host forensics, and Internet protocol deobfuscation-all

critical skills to protect computer networks and the information they contain from the modern, worldwide cyber attackers that can destroy systems and steal information.

Media will be invited to observe the cyber training exercise between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Hilton Conference Center at Buffalo Thunder in Pojoaque, New Mexico, just north of Santa Fe on Highway 84/285.

"With the Laboratory's depth of expertise in the cyber world and our unique intersection between government, industry and academia, the national laboratories must take a strong leadership role with programs like Tracer FIRE in educating and catalyzing collaboration in the nation's diverse cyber-defense communities," said Alex Kent, event organizer and Cyber Systems program manager for the Lab's Global Security organization.

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