



National Treasure: TSP Cyber Quest Escape Room

Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB)
Security Education, Training, & Awareness (SETA) Team

About Our Escape Room

For Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2024, the SETA team embarked on an adventure to design our very own cybersecurity escape room. Our goal was to create an engaging, team-building experience where participants could demonstrate their security awareness skills while also gaining new insights.

To make it relatable, we drew inspiration from a blockbuster movie and infused it with elements unique to our agency. The result was: "National Treasure: TSP Cyber Quest!"

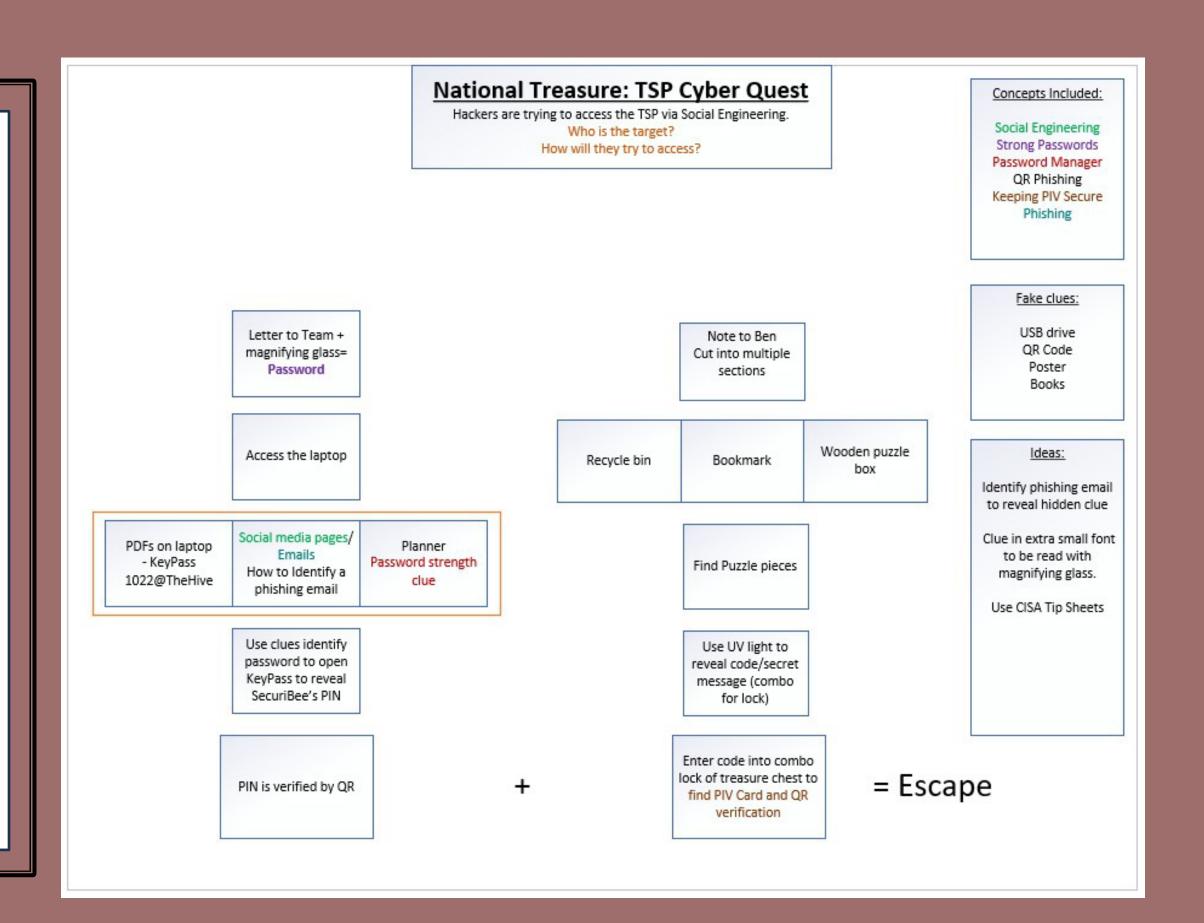
The Objective

To escape the room, teams needed to secure access to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) by finding SecuriBee's (one of our SETA mascots) missing PIV card and determine the strongest password in a password manager. This was accomplished by successfully navigating clues and completing multiple challenges.

Additionally, we included fake clues like a random USB drive and a QR code taped to a poster. When participants plugged in or scanned these clues, they received important lessons such as "never insert untrusted USB drives into your laptop" and "never scan random QR codes".

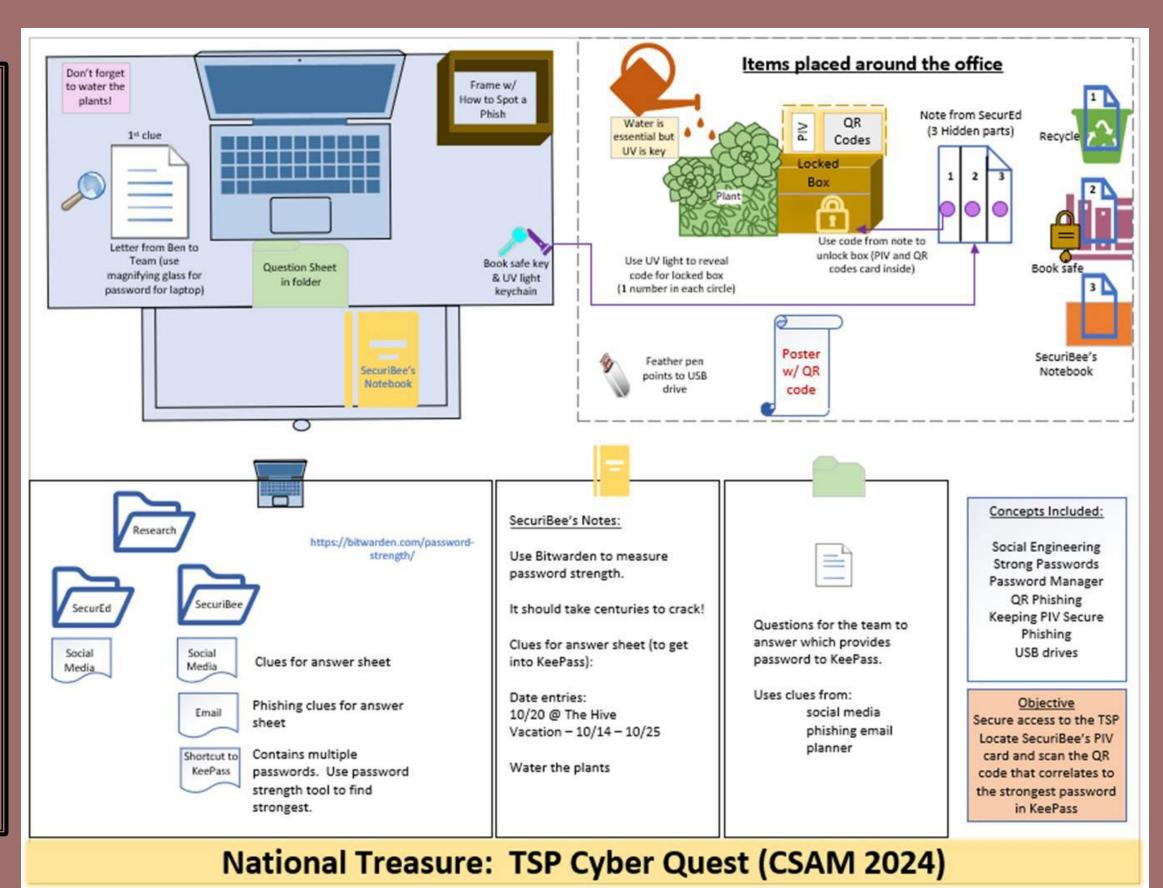
Planning

- ✓ Choose theme
- ✓ Identify security awareness topics
- ✓ Identify resources (what do we have to work with?)
- ✓ What is the requirement to "escape"?
- ✓ Create challenges and clues
- ✓ Design Workflow



Setting the Scene

We transformed a FRTIB office into "Ben Gates' Office", complete with a laptop installed with challenges and clues. Additional clues were strategically placed around the office as part of the quest.



Puzzles & Clues

Greetings Team,

As you know, I have been called away on an urgent matter of national security. This secret mission arises at a most inopportune time as I have received reliable intel that a notorious hacker group has set their site on the "largest defined contribution plan in the world"! The group is led by the sons of my former nemesis, Ian Howe, and they are just as cunning and determined.

This is why I have gathered you all, the best and brightest, to take on the challenge of identifying their specific target and securing access to the TSP. The evidence gathered to this point is in my office, but you will have challenges and puzzles to solve to uncover this information. Follow the *clues* and foil the group's *downright* nefarious plot!

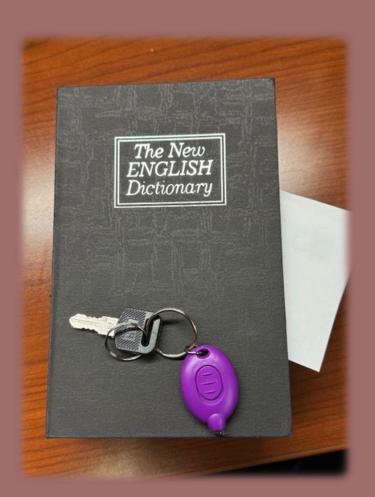
Stay vigilant, trust your instincts, and keep in mind that working together will **magnify** your result. The fate of our participants and beneficiaries rests in your hands.

Yours in the pursuit of knowledge and cybersecurity,

Benjamin Franklin Gates



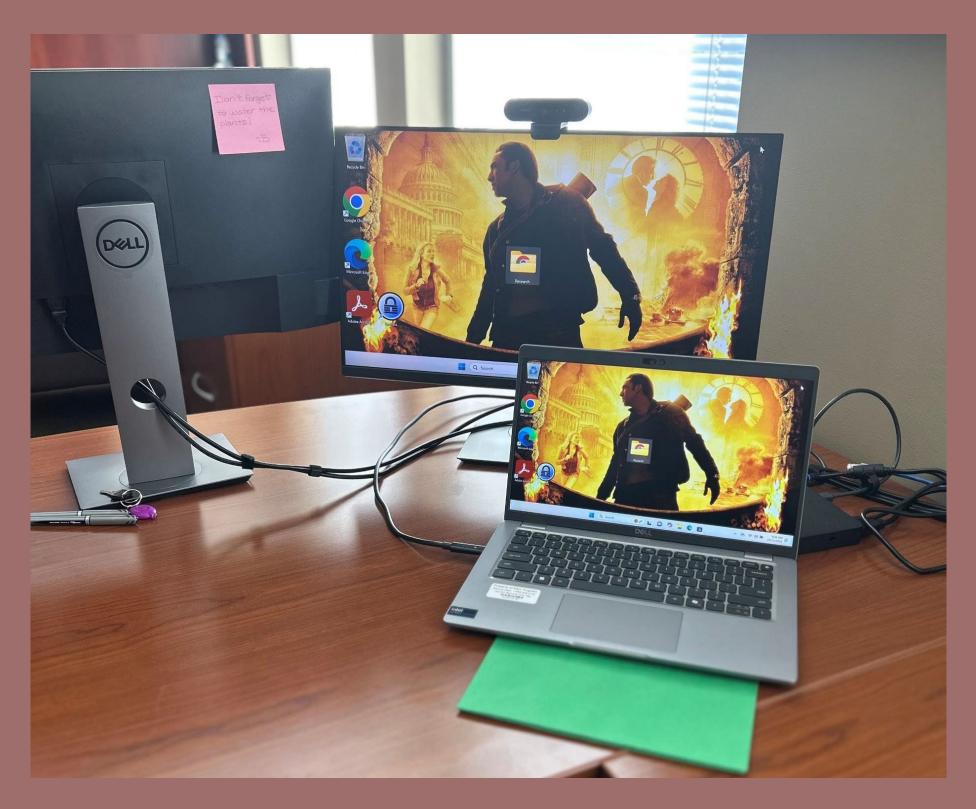


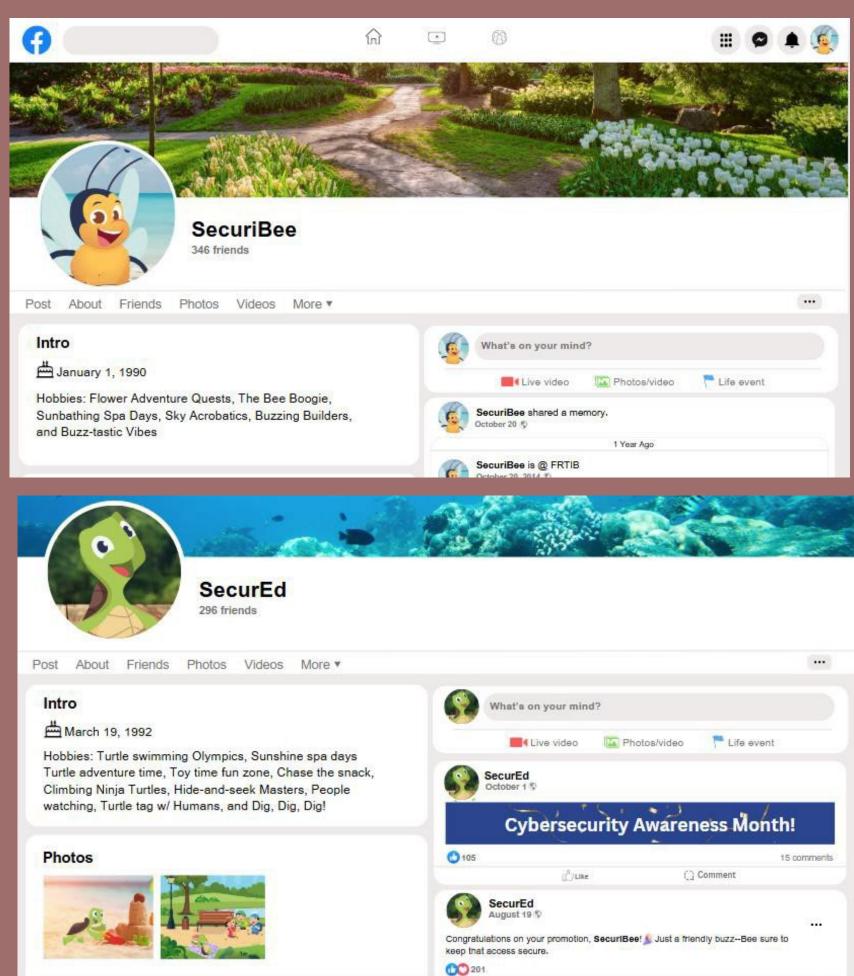










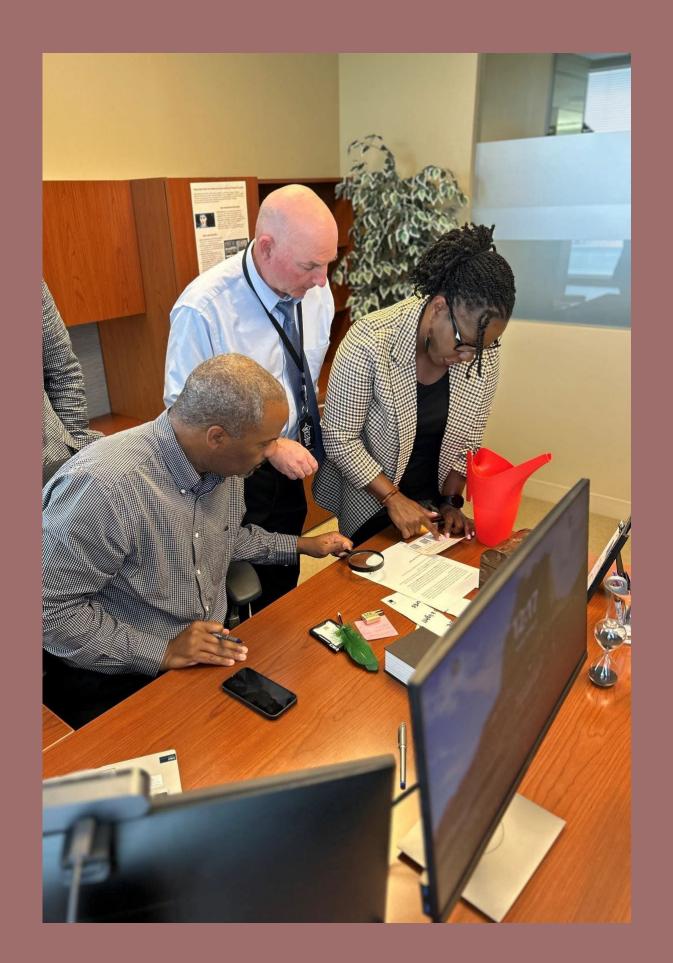


Escaping the Room





















Survey Results

Feedback from the post-event survey was overwhelmingly positive.

"It was a wonderful experience and learned something new about passwords"

"I like that it made us work together to figure out how to recognize and prevent threats."



"It was stressful but fun!"

4.94
Average Rating

"I liked how it allowed me to work with others from the agency that I did not know to complete the quest. It was so much fun!"

"It was fun and I learned something about passwords"

"A fun group activity.
Really well done. I liked the things in the escape room that distracted us/threw us off track."

"The ability to work as a team with colleagues. The level of planning this activity was evident, and the activity was super engaging and fun!"