CIAS Develops Electronic Version of Cyber Threat Defender

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – San Antonio continues to lead the nation as a leader in cybersecurity, and the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University of Texas at San Antonio is continuing that effort by actively working to improve the culture of cybersecurity with an electronic version of its popular card game, Cyber Threat Defender (CTD).

First launched in April 2016, the collectible card game was aimed at encouraging middle- and high-school students to learn about cybersecurity.

“High-profile cybersecurity hacks continue to threaten the nation’s security, infrastructure, consumer data and the public and private sectors,” said Dr. Greg White, executive director at the CIAS. “While these cyber threats increase, so does the demand for professionals trained on how to defend an organization’s computer network. Unfortunately, by 2020, it’s projected that 1.8 million information security and technology positions will be unfilled. In addition to building our future workforce, Cyber Threat Defender is helping students gain interest and knowledge in cyber-related fields in a fun way.”

CTD is a multi-player collectible card game designed to teach essential cybersecurity information and strategies to students. It is an easy-to-play, engaging game regardless of age or skill level.

Players must protect themselves from attacks while building robust networks in order to become a true Cyber Threat Defender. Whether the game is used to introduce middle school students to basic vocabulary, hone high school students’ understanding of defense implementation or provide reinforcement in professional training, CTD is a fantastic complement to any STEM or cybersecurity curriculum.

Approximately 12,000 copies of the CTD card game have been distributed to more than 250 schools across 15 states and four countries. The production and distribution of the game is reliant on sponsorship support. It is the growing popularity of the card game that encouraged development of the electronic version to reach more instructors and schools interested in introducing cybersecurity into their classroom curriculum.

The CTD electronic version is now available to instructors – and the general public – for download to supplement their CTD program. However, the continued growth and management of the electronic version is also dependent on the support of sponsors through advertisement opportunities within the game.

For more information about Cyber Threat Defender or to learn how you can support continued development of the electronic version, visit CyberThreatDefender.com.

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