UTSA K-12 Cybersecurity Game Now Available in Spanish

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) today announced that their cybersecurity education game, Cyber Threat Defender (CTD), has released a Spanish version to reach more students nationwide.

Cyber Threat Defender, the collectible card game, was created in April 2016 to encourage middle- and high-school students to learn about cybersecurity. Approximately 50,000 copies of the English card game have been distributed to more than 400 schools across 35 states, at no cost to educators, and 10 countries.

“The CIAS is focused on sparking curiosity and interest in the growing cybersecurity field,” said Larry Sjelin, director of game development at the CIAS. “Creating a Spanish language version of our popular cybersecurity card game was a natural step in engaging more students. Cybersecurity is everyone’s responsibility, and as cyber threats continue to impact both the public and private sectors, it’s imperative that we work toward creating a more secure nation by investing in student’s futures and guiding them toward the millions of unfilled cybersecurity jobs projected in the next couple of years.”

Cyber Threat Defender was originally designed as a table-top collectible card game to teach cybersecurity information and defense strategies to players, 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 has become a resource to educators and a complement to any STEM or cybersecurity curriculum.

“The production and distribution of the game is reliant on sponsorship support,” said Sjelin. “Our amazing sponsors enable us to distribute complimentary classroom sets to teachers nationwide, and now we can provide these sets in either English or Spanish upon request.”

In 2018, the cybersecurity card game’s popularity led to the development of an electronic version to reach more instructors, and the general public, interested in introducing cybersecurity into their classroom curriculum. The electronic version can be downloaded for free.

For more information about Cyber Threat Defender or to learn how you can support continued development of the cybersecurity game, visit CyberThreatDefender.com.
About the CIAS at UTSA:
By successfully integrating the efforts of academia, government and industry, the UTSA Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) has become a national leader in the advancement of state and community cybersecurity capabilities and collaboration. These efforts are seen in the CIAS’ focus areas of cyber defense competitions, cybersecurity training and exercises, and educational game development. The CIAS also leads the Information Sharing and Analysis Organization Standards Organization (ISAO SO). Additionally, it is a founding member of the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, which provides research-based, cybersecurity-related training, exercises and technical assistance to local jurisdictions, counties, states and the private sector. Learn more at CIAS.UTSA.edu.