The Fortinet Ultimate Fabric Challenge (UFC)
The Ultimate Fabric Challenge

UFC or the “Challenge” is a skills-based series that consists of competitions taking place during various Fortinet conferences and training events around the world. Each competition will consist of small teams competing against the clock and against other teams to complete several technical challenges presented to them in a “capture-the-flag” style competition. Top place teams will be acknowledged during each session with top regional teams being offered a place in the annual global competition.

The Challenge will be launched each year to partners through the XPERTS Summits events taking place around the world and virtually. Each XPERTS Summit will act as a qualifying event for the Global Championship which will take place in association with Fortinet’s yearly Accelerate Conference.

Are you up for the Challenge:

The purpose of the Fortinet Fabric Challenge is to provide a forum for people who have invested time and effort to become skilled with Fortinet products to demonstrate their expertise to a wide audience. Additionally, the Challenge is designed to support the larger Fortinet mission of closing the cybersecurity skills gap through the promotion of cybersecurity education and best practices.

This competitive, hands-on workshop will divide the participants into teams, each required to securely deploy Security Fabric core products into a modelled customer network. Using their skills with Fortinet products, each team will solve a series of objectives in a time-based competition.

Aside from Security Fabric, the workshop contains other “levels” (sets of objectives) covering SD-WAN, Incident Response, Zero Trust and others.

How it works:

Each competition session will have participants divided into teams, each required to securely deploy Fortinet products into a modelled customer network. Using their skills with Fortinet products, each team will complete a series of tasks and objectives in a time-based competition.

Competitions will start with a discussion of rules and basic instructions with all participants present. The clock will then be started, and teams will be presented with a realistic network scenario and a list of tasks they must complete and objectives to be met before the designated time expires. Teams are free to choose the order in which they complete tasks and the approach they use to meet the objectives.

Each competition session will typically last 3-hours. For sessions designated as regional or global finals, the time may be reduced to 2-hours based on the anticipated advanced skill level of the participants in these sessions. To keep things fair and consistent, if it is decided that time will be reduced, then it will be reduced for all events competing for the same title.

To ensure confidentiality the tasks and objectives may vary at different sessions. Challenges will include tasks and objectives related to the Fortinet Security Fabric, SD-WAN, Incident Response, Zero Trust and others.
What you need to play:

Given that the Ultimate Fabric Challenge is based on Fortinet technologies and solutions, participants are required to have obtained the Fortinet NSE level 4 certification to register for a qualifying Challenge session. The program will be opened to customers, Fortinet partners or the general public provided they have obtained NSE 4. Once a prospective participant signs up for a session, their NSE certification status will be checked against the official NSE database managed by the Fortinet NSE Training Institute.

Employees of Fortinet will not be permitted to participate in the program.

How to register:

The Fortinet Ultimate Fabric Challenge sessions will typically be conducted as part of a larger conference such as Fortinet Accelerate (Fortinet’s annual customer and partners conferences) or Fortinet XPERTS Summits (regional technical conferences for Fortinet partners). As such attendees wishing to participate in a Challenge session will register for the Challenge as part of their registration for the larger conference. The only additional information that will be gathered is the attendee’s desire to register for the Challenge session. Although NSE 4 certification is required, certification status is already collected as part of the registration process for these larger conferences.

Once confirmed for the Challenge, the participants names and email address will be used to create accounts on the Fortinet Developer Network system to allow access to the hands-on lab environment for the Challenge.

All completion information, scores, standings, etc., will be recorded and managed via the Fortinet NSE Training Institute database. This is the same database that is used to manage all NSE certification information.
Team dynamics:
Teams will consist of groups of two people working together. People may be asked to register for the Challenge together as a team, choose a teammate at the Challenge or be put into a team by the session leader. On rare occasions individuals may compete as a team of one if they feel they have the required skills and knowledge and they acknowledge that they will be scored against teams of two. For the UFC Global Championship, all winners (teams of 2 or more people from the regional events) can participate as individuals. There will be no teams entered for the global challenge.

Judging and scoring:
Each team will be scored based on completing a series of tasks and objectives by answering questions and completing assigned tasks. Tasks and objectives will range from basic recall to more abstract problem solving. Bonus points may be awarded for first team(s) to achieve each task or objective.

At each Challenge session every team will have the same set of tasks and objectives, however to ensure confidentiality across the series of competitions, tasks and objectives may change from session to session.

Competition series:
The Fortinet Ultimate Fabric Challenge will be an annual competition consisting of a series of challenge sessions around the world at Fortinet conferences such as Fortinet Accelerate and NSE XPERTS Summits.

Throughout the year regional sessions will be used to identify the top teams in the 4 regions of North America, APAC, LATAM, and EMEA. The top teams from each region will be invited to the Global Championship.
Prizes:

Every Challenge session will provide medals to the top 3 place teams to designate their status as session winners. These medals have no monetary value.

The top 3 teams from each region will be invited to compete in the annual Global Competition with complimentary registration to the associated conference and will be awarded prizes based on their placement in the competition. The value of these prices is to be determined.