

## DEFCON TAKE-AWAYS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE by Ray Murphy August 2014

### **CREDIT CARDS/CASH ADVANCE:**

- NO Credit Card usage at the conference – bring ample cash – request cash advance for registration if possible. Registration prices has been going up \$20 to \$40 each year for a while, so make sure this is included in your budget projection, meals (breakfast/coffee/lunch) while at the conference hotel – credit card can be used for dinner can be away from conference center.

### **REGISTRATION:**

- Arrive the day before registration opens – potentially 30,000 attendees – the earlier the less time spent in several hour long lines. Advance registration is not available nor is it anticipated to change in the future.

### **ATTIRE:**

- Attire: summer wear/comfortable – shorts, gym shoes, tee-shirts.
- Backpack is useful especially if you plan to bring in your own food and water. Hot water is always available from the bar if you need it for camping food (hint – this saves a lot of time)

### **LODGING:**

- Make arrangements/coordinate to stay at the same hotel away (1 to 1.5 miles away should provide a good radius with plenty of choices) from the conference hotel as a group/team. NEVER stay at the convention hotel.
- There is no need for a vehicle. Unless you are planning to practice vehicle hacking on your rental car...

### **LAB TOP/SMART PHONE/BURNER PHONE:**

- Do not carry your lab top or smartphone to the conference – leave them in the hotel room.
- Purchase a “burner” (“go”) phone for group communications while at the conference – via text or tweet or temp g-mail email addresses. This phone is all you will need to carry while at the conference along with a small pocket-notebook and pen.
- Optionally, a WiFi only phone/device is useful to keep up with last minute changes to the schedule – which happens frequently.
  - Make sure all personal information are wiped before using this device
  - Make sure you’re using the certificate issued by DEFCON when connecting to the secure WiFi
  - Make sure you wipe this device at the end of the conference, before you use it on any home or office network you value.
- Any media (CD/USB sticks/data devices) shall be isolated if connected to an office or personal devices. There have never been a case of official media containing a virus, but they frequently

contain exploit tools which can trigger an alert if you have a good security system. Non official media shall be considered highly vulnerable.

#### **SESSION COORIDNATION:**

- Plan out session attendance as a group – each attendee is responsible to provide a session summary/detailed notes – impact on and/or how it may impact transportation not just in our own mode, but surface transportation in general. (FAA and NHTSA have been sending their own people there).
- Session attendance: buddy system if enough attendees – 2 per sessions – to ensure we capture critical information.
- Most of the sessions will be available on YOUTUBE in a few months after the conference. Focus on items of interest and take advantage of Q&A directly with the investigator/hacker while you're on site. This interaction and bridge building is how we can maximize our presence at this conference.

#### **DAILY DEBRIEFS:**

- Set daily debrief/highlights - time & location (maybe some time between 6:30 – 7:30 pm) at registration location by consensus.

#### **SURVIVAL TIPS:**

- DEFCON has a media policy. Explicit permission is required for all photos of people or rigs. No group photos are permitted. Voice recording at session is ok.
- There is only one secure WiFi network at DEFCON ([www.defconnetworking.org](http://www.defconnetworking.org)). All others are rogues and you connect at your own peril.
- Don't screw with the Goons (volunteer security and geek herders), if you do, you will be ejected or banned from the conference.
- There are ample opportunity to learn, from the sessions, to various villages. Don't be shy to get hands on. This is part of your training – coordinate with your partners to find the time.
- Monitor live changes and events using Twitter. DEFCON use multiple feeds on Twitter for various area of interests.
- There is a FAQ: <https://www.defcon.org/html/links/dc-faq/dc-faq.html> and <http://defcon.stotan.org/faq/>