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## Cyber security contest pits defenders against hackers

San Antonio Business Journal - by [Mike W. Thomas](#)

While it may not be as spectator-friendly as the Women's Final Four, the annual cyber defense competition, known informally as the Elite Eight, holds the same level of importance for the dozens of college students who will be in San Antonio this weekend to participate.

Now in its fifth year, the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC) is being held April 16-18 at the Hilton San Antonio Airport hotel. The competition was created and is hosted by the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), a nationally recognized leader in cyber security education and training at the [University of Texas at San Antonio](#).

Eight teams, the winners of eight regional contests around the country, will compete over a three-day-period for the title of Cyber Defense champion and the coveted Alamo Cup.

"The National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition continues to grow from the single regional competition five years ago to the eight regional events and several state qualifiers this year," says Gregory White, director of CIAS and an associate professor of computer science at UTSA. "The feedback we get from both the faculty and students is phenomenal. Both are enthusiastic about the real-world training that the competition provides — something that the students don't see in the normal academic lab."

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