



Louisiana Tech University's Department of Computer Science and the Center for Secure Cyberspace held the 2010 Cyber Storm Competition on May 7, 2010 at the Louisiana Tech University Student Center. This event provided an exceptional opportunity for students to experience cyber threats in security first-hand during a day long "hackfest".

During the competition, two teams were battling against each other in an effort to defend networks, while simultaneously attempting to infiltrate the opponent's domain. Throughout the event, an administrative team created a diverse state-of-affairs to orchestrate more challenges to the two opposing teams of students.

"Cyber attacks don't just involve home or office computers. They can also hamper our ability to receive quality drinking water, electricity and food." "Today's cyber threats can be very significant," said Dr. Jean Gourd, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Louisiana Tech. "A sophisticated attacker could attempt to take down our entire infrastructure as happened in Estonia in 2007."

Dr. Gourd developed the Cyber Storm competition coinciding with Tech's 400-level cyber security course, the first of its kind, designed to provide students with practical cyber security experience, while expanding theoretical foundations. Throughout the course, students focused on computer network defense and computer network attack.

The course finale gave each student the opportunity to defend, attack, and adapt to cyber threats as they occurred. This opportunity enhanced the ability of all participants to think about security by being active in operating within the cyber domain. This awareness will potentially increase the security of cyberspace, at least from the vantage point of Dr. Jean Gourd, who feels the weakest link in the fight in cyberspace exists between the monitor and the back of the chair. Dr. Gourd has initiated some stability to that link at Louisiana Tech with knowledge, awareness, and education.