



SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Competition Year	2026
Competition Location	MITT – Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology 130 Henlow Bay, Room 209.6
Trade Number	39
Trade Name	IT- Network Systems Administration
Level	Secondary

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the Challenge

To evaluate each competitor's skills and to recognize excellence and professionalism in the field of IT Network Systems Administration.

1.2. Times

Arrival 7:00am.

Orientation starts at 7:30am.

Competition starts at 8:00am.

Lunch 11:00am – 11:30am.

Competition ends at 2:30pm.

1.3. Duration of Contest

6 hours

1.4. Skills and Knowledge to be tested

The competition evaluates a competitor's knowledge of computer and network hardware, assessed across four Domains: Computer Hardware / System Setup, Configuring and Securing a System, Troubleshooting, and Networking.



1.5. Maximum of **5 competitors** per school.

2. Contest Description

Time	Will Competitors have Internet Access?	Assessed Task	Domains
8:00 to 11:00	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building and Configuring a PC* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Hardware / System Setup Linux or Windows
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided VM or VMs that requires Basic, Security and Service configurations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troubleshooting Configuring and Securing a System Linux and / or Windows
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a Network Cable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Hardware / Networking
11:30 to 2:30	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 40 to 60 question quiz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Hardware / System Setup / Cybersecurity / Networking
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VLSM Subnetting questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply configurations and solve communication / operational issues within a simulated computer network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking Troubleshooting

*This Activity may be allowed to go over into the afternoon session with limitations

2.1. List of documents produced and timeline for when competitors have access to the documents.

- No other competition document will be released prior to the competition



2.2. Tasks that may be performed during the contest

Computer Hardware / System Setup

- Identify, install, and test hardware components
- Install and configure virtual machines
- Troubleshooting hardware failures
- Use disk, system, and file management tools
- Prepare hard drives for operating system setup
- Install, set up, and configure corporate productivity software products
- Install, set up, and configure utility software fulfilling corporate computing goals
- Create and test network cabling
- Install and verify correct operation of peripheral devices
- Demonstrate understanding of software licensing and its applications
- Perform structured cabling tasks
- Setup and network workstations
- Joining end devices to network and or domain services

Configuring and Securing a System (Windows 11 / Ubuntu 22.04 LTS or later)

- Configure and verify proper home / small business computer security practices (e.g. anti-virus)
- Perform patch and update management based on best practices
- Create and update security policies and procedures to ensure security and reliability of system, network data, and best practices
- Install, configure, and verify basic security software and cryptographic processes
- Install and Configure Service(s) on Linux servers, including virtual machines
- Use technical documentation including specifications and procedures
- Configure networking including shares, permissions, and printers
- Use utility software to benchmark software or hardware performance
- Utilize virtual environments to perform workstation desktop security
- Configure operating system functionality including tasks such as setting themes and control panel settings, joining domains
- Configure common home office and small business software operations
- Use built-in system tools to automate and or schedule tasks



Troubleshooting

- Fix and document resolution using customer complaint descriptions
- Produce technical and end-user documentation
- Use available documentation and logs to identify and resolve problems
- Analyze and resolve common Desktop problems
- Analyze and resolve common home Network problems
- Troubleshoot software installation problems
- Use utility software to diagnose software or hardware problems
- Choose appropriate programs to troubleshoot problems
- Troubleshoot common home office and small business problems
- Troubleshoot common home office and small business software operations
- Examples of problems might include such things as inability to login, inaccessible websites, machine not starting properly, hardware issues, network or system issues, etc.

Networking

- Interpret network diagrams
- Create network documentation in written and diagrammatic forms
- Operate basic network diagnostic software
- Calculate for and apply to a network, an addressing scheme using Variable Length Subnet Mask (VLSM), Internet Protocol addressing (IPv4 & IPv6)
- Implement static and dynamic addressing services for hosts in a Local Area Network (LAN) environment
- Implement, verify, and troubleshoot hardware and software network configuration
- Implement, verify, and troubleshoot securing of network devices at Layer 2 and 3
- Implement an IP addressing scheme and IP Services to meet network requirements in a Small Office Home Office (SOHO) network possibly using a virtualized environment (Packet Tracer), possibly on actual hardware. This environment would include wired and wireless workstations, static and dynamic station addressing and network security.
- Install wireless hardware and software on client machines
- Configure, verify, and troubleshoot wireless deployment and communication



3. Equipment, Material, Clothing

3.1. Equipment provided by Skills Manitoba

- Suitable computer hardware
- TP-Link SOHO Integrated Router device
- Patch cables
- USB wireless NIC

3.2. Material provided by Skills Manitoba

- Cabling consumables
- Suitable computer hardware
- VMWare Workstation Pro 25H2 or newer virtualization software If your school does not have access to this software, please contact Tavaré Tulloch or Gursharn Wander (see contact information at the end of scope)
- Windows 11
- Ubuntu Linux 22.04 or newer
- Cisco Packet Tracer 8.2.2 or 9.0. If your school does not have access to this software, please contact Tavaré Tulloch or Gursharn Wander (see contact information at the end of scope)
- Graphic Screen Capture program. Competitor may have to use a screen capture program and or the paint program to display/explain the completion of a task
- Presentation software such as MS PowerPoint and MS Word will be provided and may be required for the completion of a task
- Cable crimping and Cable testing equipment

3.3. Equipment and material provided by the competitor

- Writing instruments for written tasks.

3.4. Required clothing (Provided by competitor)

- Competitors must be dressed appropriately for an office environment.

4. Safety Requirements

4.1. No personal protective equipment (PPE) is required



5. Assessment

5.1. Point Breakdown

Note: This list is subject to change

Point Breakdown	/100
Computer Hardware / System Setup	20
Configuring and Securing a System	25
Troubleshooting	30
Networking	25

6. Additional Information

6.1. Use of Cellphones / Smartphones / Personal Media Devices

Use of cellphones, smartphones, or personal media devices **are not permitted**.

6.2. Tie (No ties are allowed)

- First tiebreaker: The competitor with the highest score in the Quiz will be declared the winner.
- Second tiebreaker: The competitor with the highest score in the Apply configurations and solving communication / operational issues within a simulated network task will be declared the winner.
- Third tiebreaker: The competitor who created and successfully tested the network cable first will be declared the winner.

6.3. Competition rules

Please refer to the competition rules for all general CSC information.

6.4. National Competition Eligibility

A mark of **70 % or higher** must be scored by the gold medalist in each contest for them to attend the National Skills Competition.



6.5. The Importance of Skills for Success for Careers in Skilled Trades and Technology

In response to the evolving labour market and changing skill needs, the Government of Canada has launched the new Skills for Success (former Essential Skills) model defining nine key skills needed by Canadians to participate in work, in education and training, and in modern society more broadly. SCC is currently working with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to bring awareness of the importance of these skills that are crucial for success in Trade and Technology careers. Part of this ongoing initiative requires the integration and identification of the Skills for Success in contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. The following 9 skills have been identified and validated as key skills for success for the workplace: 1. Numeracy, 2. Communication, 3. Collaboration, 4. Adaptability, 5. Reading, 6. Writing, 7. Problem Solving, 8. Creativity and Innovation, 9. Digital

7. Manitoba Technical Committee Members

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