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Welcome to CS78, and let me tell you about DETER!

I'm happy to see that you are enrolled in next month's Santa Monica College CS78 online class on computer security. I'm the instructor. Excuse this intrusion on your holidays, but I want to tell you about a particular, unusual, exciting resource we will have the opportunity to use and let you learn and use it ahead of the official January 5 class start date if you can.

The class will adapt material I created and accumulated when I taught it "offline" twice before. It will also include material from my computer security work elsewhere, particularly at USC. It will be my first attempt at a purely online offering of this information. We will have 5 online vehicles for course delivery:

- email
- a static website
- virtual, remote, per-student linux machines with root access
- the DETER network testbed
- SMC's online course delivery environment at <http://www.smconline.org>

What I want to introduce you to now is DETER. It is a network testbed-- PC equipment that can be wired up remotely through software in arbitrary network topologies. It's located at Information Sciences Institute (ISI) in Marina del Rey. (ISI is closely affiliated with USC, which is how I came to use DETER earlier this year.) Researchers in computer security use DETER as a safe, control environment for testing malware, developing protocols, and such. We are quite lucky that USC has allowed me to use it for this SMC class of ours.

I have written up a fuller explanation plus an exercise for you that, by the doing, will bring you to an understanding what DETER is, does, and offers. It's at:

[http://homepage.smc.edu/morgan\\_david/cs78/smc-deter-account.htm](http://homepage.smc.edu/morgan_david/cs78/smc-deter-account.htm)

The information there is your introduction to DETER. Then during the course we'll utilize it for two lab exercises ("experiments" in DETER parlance). You will be using live, physical networks, remote from you, comprising several computers running at ISI through DETER accounts you will get. The write-up tells you how to get your account, and asks you to do so. After you perform the prescribed, step-by-step activities, you'll have your DETER account for use during the rest of the course and know how to use it. Please see the write-up, and other information sources below. I look forward to the course with you.

David Morgan  
Instructor

DETER network testbed information sources

- home - <https://www.isi.deterlab.net/>
- get/use an account - [http://homepage.smc.edu/morgan\\_david/cs78/smc-deter-account.htm](http://homepage.smc.edu/morgan_david/cs78/smc-deter-account.htm)
- FAQ - <https://users.emulab.net/trac/emulab/wiki/FAQ> ("Emulab" is DETER's implementing software)
- tutorial - <https://users.emulab.net/trac/emulab/wiki/Tutorial>

Later, I'll direct you to the other resources we'll use.