

SETA Escape Room: The Matrix



Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB)
Security Education, Training, & Awareness (SETA) Team

Introduction

In May 2025, the SETA Team launched the agency's first Cybersecurity Awareness Week (CSAW). The featured event was a new in-person cybersecurity escape room inspired by The Matrix. Designed to be both fun and educational, the experience encouraged teamwork while reinforcing key cybersecurity awareness concepts.



Objective: Free SecurEd

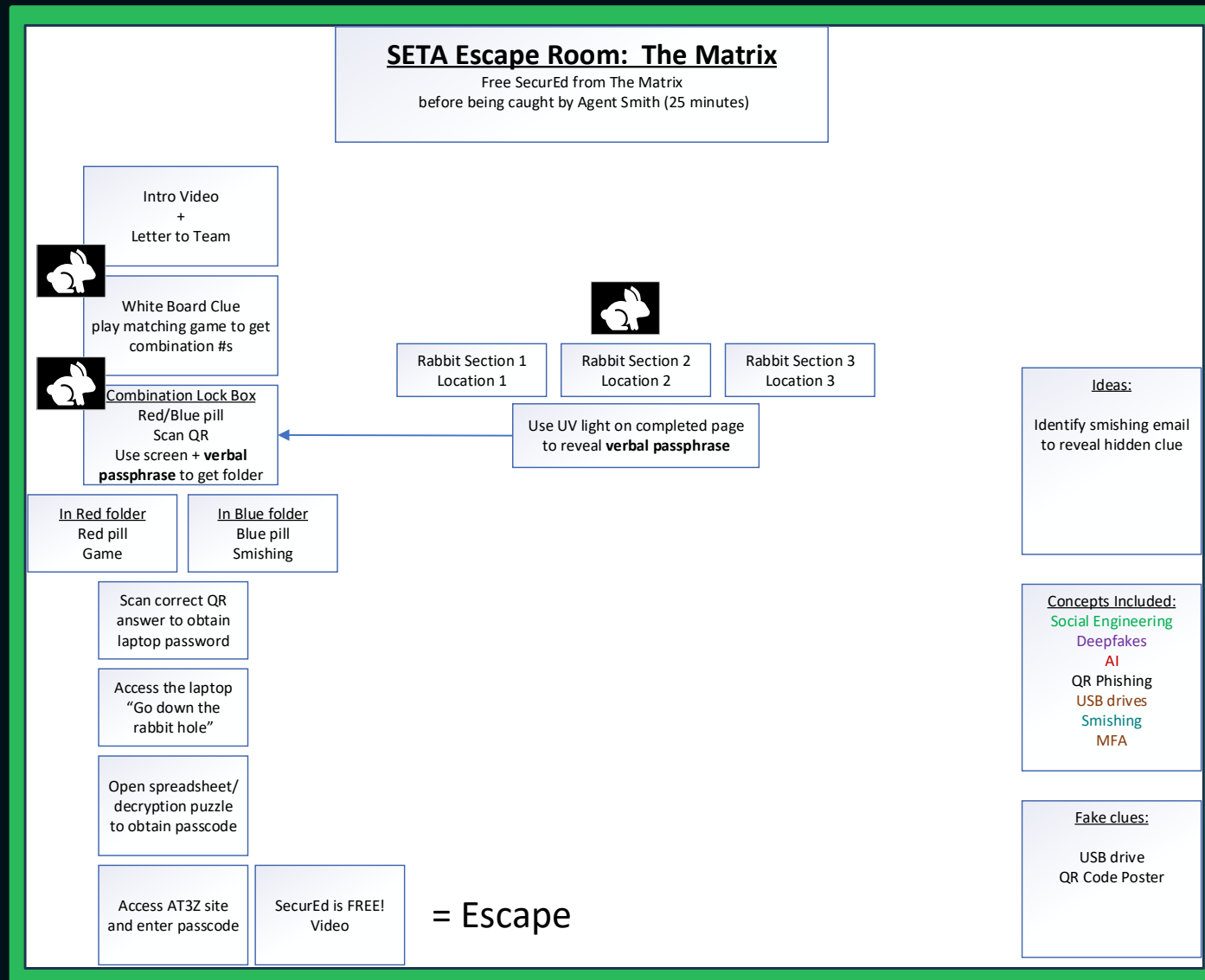


Participants escaped the room by rescuing SecurEd, one of the SETA mascots, from The Matrix, using clues and completing a series of challenges.

Additionally, decoy clues, such as a stray USB drive and a QR code taped to a poster, were planted throughout the room. When participants plugged in the USB or scanned the QR code, they were met with reminders like “never insert untrusted USB drives” and “never scan random QR codes.”

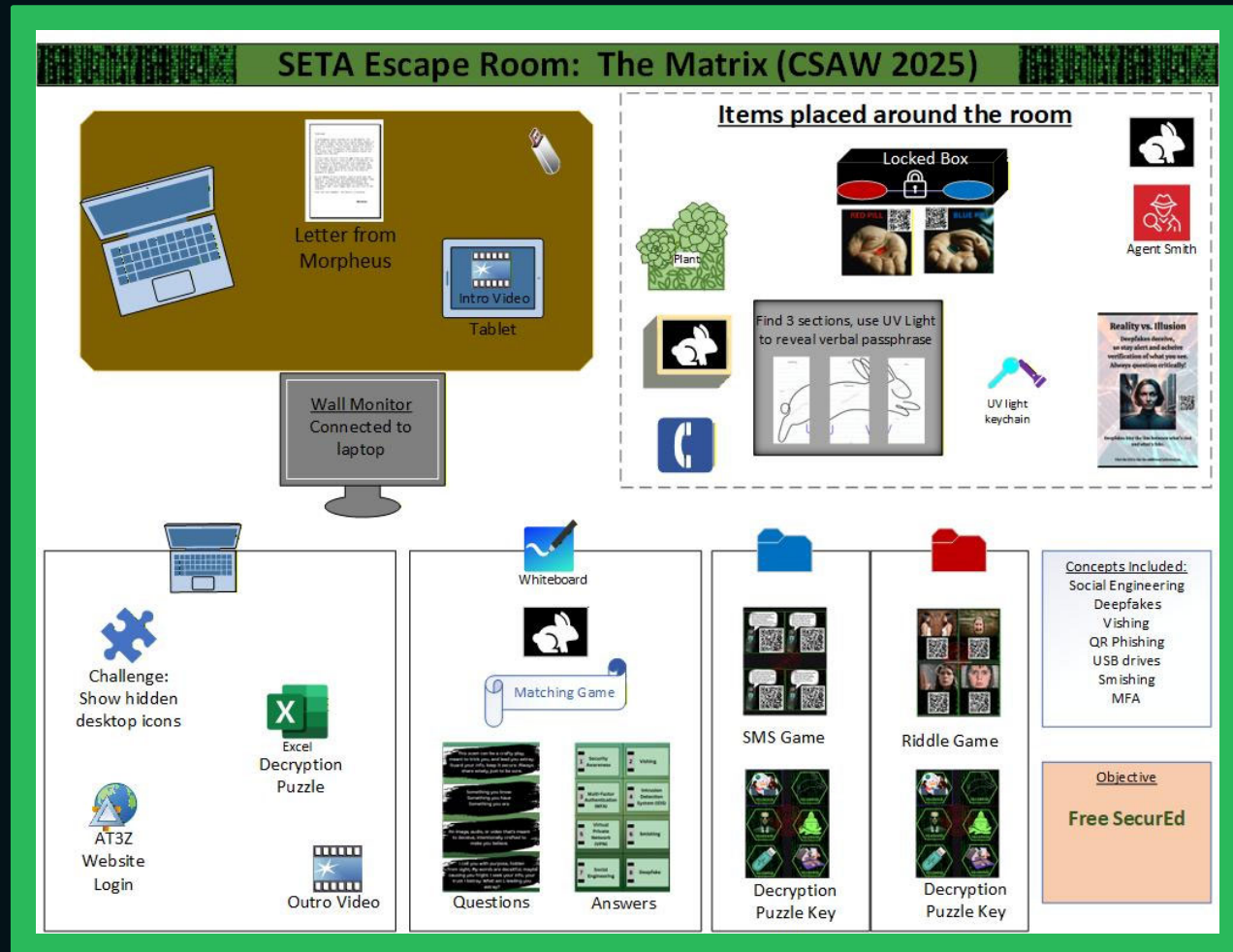
Planning

- ✓ Choose theme
- ✓ Identify security awareness topics
- ✓ Identify resources
- ✓ Determine the objective
- ✓ Create challenges and clues
- ✓ Design Workflow
- ✓ Room Setup



Enter The Matrix

A conference room was fully transformed with a Matrix theme, with challenges and clues placed throughout the space. A large wall-mounted monitor played the intro and outro videos to set the scene and wrap up the experience.



Clues & Challenges

This scam can be a crafty play, meant to trick you, and lead you astray. Guard your info, keep it secure. Always share wisely, just to be sure.

Something you know
Something you have
Something you are

An image, audio, or video that's meant to deceive, intentionally crafted to make you believe.

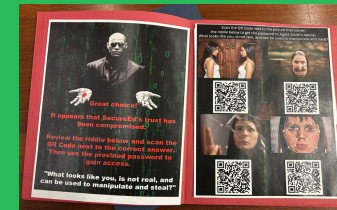
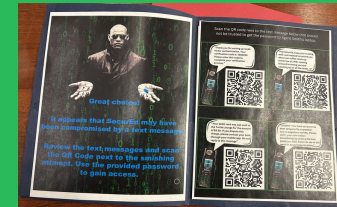
I call you with purpose, hidden from sight, My words are deceitful, maybe causing you fright. I seek your info, your trust I betray. What am I, leading you astray?

Questions

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Security Awareness | 2 Vishing |
| 3 Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) | 4 Intrusion Detection System (IDS) |
| 5 Virtual Private Network (VPN) | 6 Smishing |
| 7 Social Engineering | 8 Deepfake |

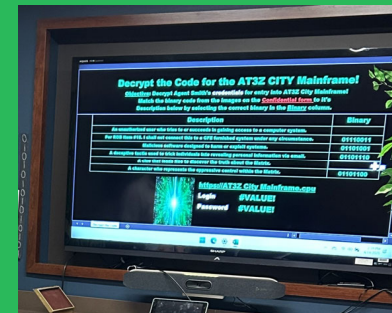
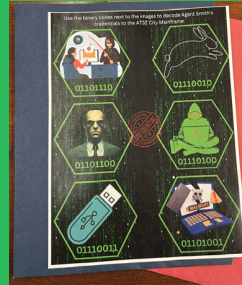
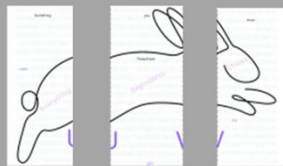
Answers

[Click the Video to Play](#)



UV light keychain

Find 3 sections, use UV Light to reveal verbal passphrase

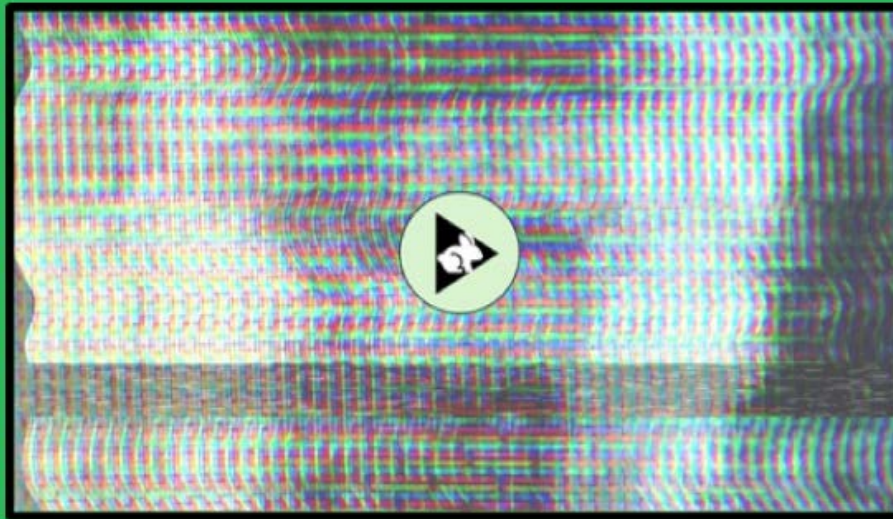


Escaping The Matrix



Mission Complete

[Click the Video to Play](#)



Survey Results

It was fun, engaging and informative

I loved the camaraderie that our team developed. Most of my team I didn't know before this event.

It was very well put together. It was challenging, but doable.

It's a great opportunity for team building with other people in the Agency, who you may or may not know. And I learn more tidbits about information security each time.

The team that puts these together does a great job of making it fun, from the decorations, to the actual planning of the game. Kudos to the SETA team.

It was well planned and organized. It was a better game than I thought it would be.

The Group effort to get the job done. I like that we had to be a team to accomplish the mission.



Fun and well thought out, good clues and activities