

CyCon 2025 Style Guidance

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides authors with essential information about the style and layout expected for the contribution to the CyCon conference proceedings. Authors must *choose a CyCon conference track* when they submit their paper: legal, strategy/policy, or technology. In case of doubt, consult CCDCOE in advance. The full submissions should have *between 4000 and 6000 words*, including abstract, footnotes, captions and references. Exceptions exceeding the maximum word count by more than 10% require prior consent by CCDCOE.

2. LANGUAGE AND STYLE

Papers must be submitted in English. Please you explain all uncommon terms and abbreviations when they first appear, such as acronyms, initialisms and technical jargon.

The default font is regular Times New Roman 11 pt, single-spaced, formatted in a single column. If you choose to emphasize specific words or phrases, such as when introducing key terminology, use *italics*. Do not use underlining, and **avoid** using **bold** font unless absolutely necessary.

A. Spelling

Authors can use either US English or British English spelling, provided it is done consistently throughout each paper. If writing in British English, please use Oxford spelling.¹

Names of institutional bodies in English-speaking countries retain their original spelling irrespective of the spelling standard chosen in the paper.

B. CyCon-Specific Spelling Guidance

1) Abbreviations

- Names of countries: both U.S. and US, or U.K. and UK, are accepted if consistently used throughout each article;
- Names of international organizations: no full stops, no spaces, all capitals even when an organization's name is pronounced as a word (EU, NATO, UN, ISO, OSCE, UNESCO, WTO, IATA, OPEC, APEC, NASA, NAFTA etc.);
- Please follow BBC guidelines for the formatting of military ranks <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsstyleguide/military>;
- Diseases: all capitals, no full stops, no spaces (COVID-19, AIDS, SARS, MERS, etc.); -
Threat actors: APTxx (no space between APT and the number).

2) Quotations

- Use quotation marks typical of the chosen spelling standard:

¹ More on Oxford spelling: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_spelling.

- British English: single quotation marks for first-level quotations, double quotation marks for second-level quotations (quote within a quote), punctuation outside quotation marks;
 - US English: double quotation marks for first-level quotations, single quotation marks for second-level quotations (quote within a quote), and punctuation inside quotation marks.
- When highlighting individual words or phrases using quotation marks, format them as normal quotes. If you use double quotation marks for regular quotes, do the same for individual words or phrases, and vice versa.
 - Block quotes: For quotations of three or more lines, use a separate paragraph, typically introduced by a colon. Indent the paragraph on both sides, format it as a block, and centre it without quotation marks.

3) *Cyber- terms*

- It is permitted to use 'cyber' both as a self-standing adjective (*cyber security*) and a prefix (*cybersecurity*) as long as the chosen format is used consistently throughout each article.
- Always write 'cyberspace' as one word.
- Do not use a hyphen to separate words (i.e. cyber-security or cyber-attack are not accepted).
- Do not use 'cyber' as a noun.

4) *Serial (Oxford) Comma*

- The serial comma is permitted but not required. It must, however, be used consistently within each article.

5) *Capitalization*

- Capitalization should be avoided where it does not relate to a proper name or title (for rules on headings see below).
- Legal track articles can capitalize the word 'State', provided it is used consistently.

C. *Headings*

Use up to three levels of headings to structure your paper. Predefined heading formats are provided in the article template issued with this guidance.

All headings should be formatted using title capitalization according to the following general rules:

1) *DO Capitalize*

- Always the first word;
- All nouns, verbs, adverbs (incl. then and when), adjectives (incl. this and that) and pronouns (incl. its);
- Prepositions that are part of a verb phrase;
- All words in compound words if one word is a noun or the words have equal weight.

2) *DO NOT Capitalize*

- Articles (the, a), if they are not the first word of the title;
- Coordinate conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or);
- Prepositions of four or fewer letters and 'versus';
- The word 'to' in infinitive phrases.

D. *Page Numbers, Headers and Footers*

Leave the headers and footers empty of any content, including page numbers; they will be used in further editing.

Do not refer to page numbers in your text; refer to article sections instead.

3. FOOTNOTES, REFERENCES AND CITATION

The usage of footnotes and/or references, as well as the styles of quotation/citation, will differ according to the respective academic standard of the chosen conference track (legal, strategy/policy, technology). Please see the respective guidance for your track. As a general requirement, consistency in quotation/citation style is paramount.

Authors are kindly requested to specify which conference track they wish to submit their paper to, and respect the relevant guidance. Exceptions to referencing rules can be arranged individually.

A. *Legal Track*

- Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola>
 - The latest (2012) edition is freely available at https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf
 - See also the 'Citing International Law' Section of the 2006 edition (absent from the 2012 edition): https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_2006_citing_international_law.pdf
 - See also the 'Quick Reference Guide' available at https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012quickreferenceguide.pdf
 - Note: This is the preferred referencing system for papers using British English spelling.

OR

- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st Ed.), compiled by the editors of the Columbia Law Review, the Harvard Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, and the Yale Law Journal
 - Quick style guide available at <https://www.legalbluebook.com/bluebook/v21/quick-style-guide>

- Note: This is the preferred referencing system for papers using US English spelling.

B. Strategy/Policy Track

- The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.
 - Citation Quick Guide is available at:
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
 - For details on the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, see:
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html (Notes and Bibliography system), and
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html (Author-Date system)

C. Technology Track

- The IEEE Reference Guide is available at: <https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/create-your-ieee-journal-article/create-the-text-of-your-article/ieee-editorial-style-manual/>

D. CyCon Specific Guidance on Footnotes

Place the footnote at the bottom of the page in which it was cited. Do not put footnotes in the reference list. Do not use endnotes.

Use letters for footnotes inside tables or figures. The same goes for footnotes in table/figure captions.

4. TABLES, FIGURES AND EQUATIONS

The use of tables and figures is encouraged as long as they support the facts laid out in the paper or enhance the comprehensiveness of the paper.

Both table heads and figure captions should be formatted in all caps and follow the format:

TABLE [Roman numeral]: TABLE HEAD [no full stop at the end]

FIGURE [Arabic numeral]: FIGURE CAPTION [no full stop at the end]

Both table heads and figure captions must be placed above the tables/figures.

Refer to figures and tables in the text as Table x or Figure y, without using expressions like 'above', 'below', 'on page x', etc. Ensure that all illustrations are referenced at least once in the text.

Ensure all tables and figures are numbered consecutively throughout the paper. If you include a picture of a table as described above, it should be described as a table rather than as a figure.

Ensure that table heads and figure captions are not separated from the tables/figures by a page break.

If your paper is accepted for publication, make sure you provide a high-resolution version of all figures and tables (if they are graphics) in order to ensure a high-quality print (see below for details).

A. Tables

Please do not use linked or embedded objects. Do not use tabs or spaces to format your text in order to make it appear as a table.

If you wish to use a table produced in other software and the data cannot be transferred into the table functionality of the word processor, please consider creating and using a high-resolution picture of the table instead.

Tables should be centre-aligned.

B. Figures

Images should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi and preferably be in SVG format. Please consult CCDCOE in advance if you wish to use a different format. Avoid using GIF or JPG if possible. Please be aware that pictures copied from the internet often do not possess the resolution necessary for printing purposes. When using screenshots you are advised to use specialized tools to guarantee the necessary quality and to provide pictures in a high screen resolution.

In general, all illustrations should be centred on the page.

C. Equations

Equations are to be aligned on the left. If you are numbering equations for further reference, please place the number in parentheses on the right-hand margin on the same level as the last line of the equation. The numbering of equations must be consecutive through the whole paper.

Equations are referred to as 'equation [number]'.

5. AUTHORS, AFFILIATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. Authors and Affiliations

Do not fill in the names and affiliations until your paper has been through peer review and accepted.

After peer review, the authors are to be introduced in descending order of their contribution, starting with the lead author. If you wish to state more details regarding the contribution or if you want to underline others' support, please feel free to add an 'Acknowledgments' section at the end of the paper.

The initial/first name must be written out in full. Middle names should be abbreviated and followed by a full stop.

The affiliations of all authors need to show the name of the entity they are serving at the time of submitting the paper (e.g. name of the university, company, state entity), the town, and the country. Other information, namely the author's title/position, subdivision of an organization, and email address, is optional.

B. Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement is optional and should be placed at the end of the paper, before the references list.

For sponsor acknowledgments, please see below.

C. Disclaimer, Sponsorship and Grant (optional)

Disclaimers, sponsorship and grant acknowledgements can be included but are optional. They should be placed in a footnote on the title page, marked with a special symbol, and not numbered. The first section of the article should start on the following page.