

USB Drop Attack Simulation User Manual

Overview and Roles

The USB Drop Attack Simulator is a standalone Windows executable placed on a USB drive.

When a user double-clicks the file, it:

1. Opens a console window with a fake “loading” sequence.
2. Displays a warning popup explaining the risks of plugging in unknown USB devices.
3. Exits cleanly after the user closes the popup.

There are two main user roles:

- **Instructor** – prepares USB drives, deploys them, and runs the exercise.
- **Participant (Student / User)** – encounters the USB and runs the simulator.

This manual is organized by tasks those roles need to perform.

Task 1 – Preparing a USB Drive (Instructor)

Goal: Get one or more USB drives ready with the latest simulator executable.

Prerequisites

- Windows computer with USB ports.
- The latest version of the simulator executable.
- One or more USB flash drives.

Steps

1. Insert the USB drive into your computer.

2. Copy the simulator executable:
 - Locate the .exe file on your computer.
 - Drag and drop or copy/paste it onto the USB drive.
3. (Optional) Rename the executable to match the exercise theme
4. (Optional) Physically label the USB drive to increase realism (e.g., “CNT4403_Fall2025”).
5. Safely eject the USB drive:
 - In the taskbar, click Safely Remove Hardware → select the USB drive → wait for confirmation → unplug it.

Your USB is now ready for the simulation.

Task 2 – Running the Simulator (Participant)

Goal: Experience what happens when the USB simulator is executed.

Prerequisites

- A Windows machine.
- A prepared USB drive containing the simulator.

Steps

1. Plug the USB drive into a free USB port.
2. Open File Explorer, then click on the USB drive in the left sidebar.
3. Locate the simulator executable.
4. Double-click the file “CNT4403_AnswerKey”:

- A console window should open and start showing messages such as “Opening file...”, “Analyzing embedded data...”
 - A “loading bar” will progress as the simulation runs.
5. After the loading sequence, a warning popup will appear:
- Read the message describing the risks of plugging in unknown USB devices.
 - Click OK to dismiss the warning.
6. The program will exit automatically:
- The console window closes.
 - No further action is required.

Afterwards:

You can safely remove the USB drive. The simulator does not install anything, does not save files, and does not change system settings.