1.24. Challenge Checkers

Challenge caches published after April 21, 2015 must include a link to a web-based challenge checker. This requirement is ongoing for the life of the cache listing.

At this time, Project-GC is the only website approved to host challenge checkers.
- Visit Project-GC's FAQ for information about how challenge checkers work, as well as how to create a challenge checker.
- A challenge cache listing can only include one challenge checker.

It is the cache owner's responsibility to make sure the challenge checker functions properly.
- The challenge checker must verify that a player does or does not qualify to log a challenge cache as found.
- A challenge cache may be disabled or archived if the associated challenge checker does not work right.

Challenge cache owners who wish to include a banner with a challenge checker must use an official Project-GC banner, such as shown:

Lab Caches and Challenge Checkers

Challenge caches published after April 21, 2015 are not permitted to use Lab caches as a source of criteria. (*For example, a challenge to Find 50 Lab caches is not allowed.*) However, Geocaching.com user profiles do include Lab Caches in metrics necessary for some allowed challenges: **Total Finds**, **Longest Streak** and the **Finds for Each Day of the Year grid**. Therefore, we are making an exception to permit Lab caches to be used as qualifiers for challenges related only to those metrics.

Currently, Project-GC's statistics do not include Lab Caches. This may lead to confusion when challenge checkers are used in some cases.

Example: *Jim has found a cache every day from May 1 to May 31. On May 10, he found only a Lab Cache. His Geocaching.com profile would show a 31-day streak. However, a Project-GC challenge checker would show that his streak was broken on May 10, so he'd have a 21-day streak.*

We're working with Project-GC on adjustments so that challenge checkers can include Lab caches for allowed challenges (and a challenge checker would give Jim credit for his 31-day streak). In the meantime, if a checker shows that a player like Jim does not qualify for a challenge for which they would otherwise qualify if Lab caches were included (eg. 31-day streak challenge), then the player can reference their Geocaching.com profile as proof of qualification.