Massachusetts Cybersecurity Forum
October 22, 2024

The annual Massachusetts Cybersecurity Forum brings together cybersecurity leaders from across the Commonwealth to promote the competitiveness of the state's cybersecurity ecosystem, facilitate public and private partnerships, and highlight Massachusetts as a national leader for cybersecurity. This year's event will center on the theme of "**Secure Our Data. Secure Our Future.**" underscoring the critical connection between safeguarding personal information and ensuring long-term security and prosperity.

AGENDA

8:00 a.m.　　**Registration and Morning Refreshments**

9:00 a.m.　　**Welcome and Opening Keynotes**

Welcome by John Petrozzelli, Director, MassCyberCenter
Keynote Address: Secretary Yvonne Hao, Secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Development

9:30 a.m.　　**Session 1: Alternative Pathways Into Cybersecurity Careers**

This panel will highlight the importance of pathways into cybersecurity careers that are not part of an academic degree. Leaders from workforce training programs, employers, and students will discuss how non-degree training programs in Massachusetts can prepare young adults and existing professionals to enter the cybersecurity workforce.

Moderator:

Cathleen Finn - Municipal & Community Engagement Director, Verizon

Panelists:

Alex Billen-Calhoun - Director of IT Risk Management, Cengage Group

H. Kay Howard - Managing Director, Per Scholas Greater Boston

Santos Abimael Romero - Security Analyst, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security

Kewuan Cain - Intern, CyberTrust Massachusetts

Albert Augustin - Threat Analyst, Quadrant Information Security

10:15 a.m.   **BREAK**

10:30 a.m.   **Session 2: Small-Business Cybersecurity Resiliency: Navigating the Threats of Today**

This panel will discuss the significant cybersecurity threats confronting small business in Massachusetts and solutions that can be put in place to limit risk. Panelists will consist of leaders from cybersecurity technology and services providers.

Moderator:

John Petrozzelli - Director, MassCyberCenter

Panelists:

Bryan Hume - Security Operations Team, Fortinet

Jeff Cassidy - Security Operations Center Director, CyberTrust Massachusetts

11:15 a.m.   **LUNCH**

12:15 p.m.   **Interactive Tabletop Exercise**

This interactive exercise will immerse you in a realistic scenario that illustrates how one tiny common mistake can trigger a chain reaction of cybersecurity challenges. You'll witness firsthand how a seemingly harmless act can have far-reaching consequences for a company, its customers, and its reputation.

Facilitator:

Meghan Martinez - Director of Cyber Range Programs, CyberTrust Massachusetts

2:00 p.m.   **Wrap-up & Thank You**
 John Petrozzelli, Director, MassCyberCenter

2:30 p.m.   **End of Forum**

Please note that Forum times, agenda, and speakers are subject to change.

Panelist Biographies:

Session 1: Alternative Pathways Into Cybersecurity Careers

Moderator:

Cathleen Finn - Director, Verizon State & Local Government Affairs

Cathleen Finn has over 20 years of experience leading public policy and community engagement efforts in the information technology industry, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between the private, public and nonprofit sectors. As the Director of State and Local Government Affairs at Verizon, Cathleen leads civic engagement in Massachusetts and Northern New England, building awareness and support for Verizon's efforts to bring high speed broadband to our communities.

Cathleen fosters partnerships with policy makers, civic organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and schools. Verizon community investments focus on Digital Inclusion, Climate Protection and Human Prosperity through grant making, sponsorships, and employee volunteerism.

Cathleen graduated with honors from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Psychology and earned a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution from the University of Massachusetts Boston, receiving the academic excellence award. Cathleen is a Director for the Center for Collaborative Education, a Director for the New England Council, and an advisor on the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Women's Network Advisory Board.

Panelists:

Alex Billen-Calhoun - Director of IT Risk Management, Cengage Group

Alex Billen-Calhoun is the Director of IT Risk Management at Cengage Group, responsible for IT Risk, third-party compliance, and system controls. He has worked in both in public and private sectors across industries throughout his career, particularly in health and human services, and now the education technology space. Alex has built an enterprise IT Risk and Controls program that helps appropriately manage system and customer security. Cengage is a happy partner of the Apprenti program, regularly leveraging it to support our business goals and provide an alternate path to employment.

Panelist Biographies Continued:

Session 1: Alternative Pathways Into Cybersecurity Careers

H.Kay Howard - Managing Director, Per Scholas Greater Boston

H. Kay leads the strategy for the Per Scholas Greater Boston campus's no-cost technology training and employment support for over 200 adult learners per year by promoting the campus to local community and employment partners and leading the team to meet and exceed programmatic and fundraising goals.

Prior to Per Scholas, H. Kay served as a Director and co-lead of the Economic Mobility Practice Area at Third Sector, a national nonprofit consulting firm. She fundraised for and led project teams to support governments and nonprofits to improve education and employment outcomes and close equity gaps.

H. Kay received a Bachelor's Degree from Middlebury College and an MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She lives in Boston with her husband, two young sons, and a miniature schnauzer. She enjoys everything outdoors, including running, hiking, and snowboarding.

Santos Abimael Romero - Security Analyst, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security

Santos Abimael Romero was selected for an apprenticeship in 2023 as a Security Analyst for the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS). After successfully completing the required On-the-Job Training (OJT) through Apprenti earlier this month, he officially began his career in cybersecurity.

Prior to his cybersecurity career, Santos served five years in the Marine Corps. During his military service, he developed a passion for technology and knew he wanted to pursue a career in IT. Santos was drawn to the field of cybersecurity due to his concerns about online security and his desire to make a positive impact on his community and loved ones.

After leaving the military, he began his IT career as a Helpdesk technician and later transitioned to a cloud server administrator role. The experience gained in these positions has provided him with a solid foundation for his current role. Santos was recently hired full-time as a Security Analyst by the company he began this journey with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS).

Panelist Biographies Continued:

Session 1: Alternative Pathways Into Cybersecurity Careers

Kewuan Cain - SOC Analyst, CyberTrust Massachusetts

Kewaun Cain is a dedicated cybersecurity professional with expertise in endpoint detection and response (EDR), security advisory, and implementing effective security measures. At CyberTrust Massachusetts, he currently supports municipalities by delivering advisory services and EDR solutions. Kewaun is a proud graduate of a 2023 Cybesecurity Cohort at Per Scholas Greater Boston and holds a CompTIA CySA+ certification. At Per Scholas, Kewaun was honored with the Core Values Award, presented by his peers in recognition of his dedication and integrity.

Kewaun's tech career journey began with software engineering training at Resilient Coders, providing a strong foundation in technology. His transition into cybersecurity was inspired by a personal experience with identity fraud, fueling his commitment to protecting others. In addition, Kewaun volunteers with the DreamCatcher Initiative, where he shares valuable life lessons with the next generation of black young men.

Albert Augustin - SOC Analyst, Quadrant Information Security

Albert Augustin is a SOC Analyst for Quadrant Information Security, having recently earned that position in September 2024. Prior to his role at Quadrant, Albert was a cybersecurity student at the nationally recognized cybersecurity training organization, CyberWarrior. Before being a student at CyberWarrior, Albert was a bookkeeper in Haiti.

As a Black male who lives in Brockton, Albert is passionate about threat hunting and helping other individuals and employers understand the value of alternate career pathways.

Panelist Biographies Continued:

Session 2: Small-Business Cybersecurity Resiliency: Navigating the Threats of Todays

Moderator:

John Petrozzell - Director, MassCyberCenter

John began his career as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1998 and served in the Republic of Korea in 1999. In September 2001, while supporting C-17 missions, he deployed to Sicily and Germany to support forward operating bases during the initial phases of the US war in Afghanistan. John entered on duty with the FBI as an Intelligence Analyst in 2004. In 2013 John was a day shift intelligence supervisor during the Boston Marathon Bombing manhunt and led the computer forensic review of all subjects' digital media. In 2016 he earned a Master of Science in Information Security from Boston University and became FBI Boston's Chief Security Officer.

Before joining the MassCyberCenter, John was the Director of Cybersecurity for Magna5's Boston Metro Area. He managed day-to-day operations of the company's Boston Security Operations Center.

Panelists:

Bryan Hume - Security Operation Team, Fortinet

Bryan Hume, along with his team of specialists in Fortinet's SecOps group, helps organizations strengthen their security teams with a combination of technology and engineering expertise.

Over the course of his career, Bryan has been afforded the opportunity to work with different organizations across a wide range of industries, each presenting unique challenges. Helping companies to better protect themselves from cyber-attack and respond to security threats while operating more efficiently has become Bryan's core focus.

Jeff Cassidy - Security Operations Center Director, CyberTrust Massachusetts

Jeff Cassidy is a cybersecurity practitioner with over 25 years of experience implementing pragmatic and scalable security solutions across various sectors. His expertise spans security operations, engineering, and architecture, with recent focus on incident management.

Jeff holds a CISSP certification and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Northeastern University, with dual concentrations in Management Information Systems and Management.

Company/Program Overviews

Verizon Skill Forward

Verizon Skill Forward is a collaboration between edX and Verizon aimed at providing career-enhancing online courses focused on high-demand skills to facilitate long-term career growth. Skill Forward is free for any participant for 12 months to earn certifications in Cybersecurity, AI, Coding and other high growth fields, and selected courses are available in Spanish.

[Learn More](#)

Per Scholas Cybersecurity Program

Our tuition-free cybersecurity training based in Greater Boston offers the opportunity to earn the Cybersecurity Analyst Certification (CySA+), equipping you with fundamental concepts in security specialties and hands-on training to enter this ever growing field as a cybersecurity analyst.

[Learn More](#)

Apprenti

At Apprenti, we create alternative pathways to access tech talent and help organizations address digital skills shortages. Through the time-tested model of apprenticeship, we provide economic mobility to underrepresented groups by identifying, training, and placing diverse talent in tech careers.

[Learn More](#)

CyberWarrior

CyberWarrior is a Cybersecurity services provider. We deliver training and consulting for some of the world's top brands and also partner with national systems integrators to augment their teams with our expertise.

[Learn More](#)

Cengage Group

During the last 100 years, Cengage Group has evolved into one of the largest edtech companies in the world. Today, we provide quality digital products and services to millions of students, equipping them with skills and competencies needed to advance their education and careers and improve their lives.

[Learn More](#)

Company/Program Overviews

Fortinet

Founded more than 20 years ago in Sunnyvale, California, Fortinet continues to be a driving force in the evolution of cybersecurity and the convergence of networking and security. Securing people, devices, and data everywhere is our mission. To that end, our portfolio of over 50 enterprise-grade products is the largest integrated offering available, delivering proven cybersecurity everywhere you need it. More than 755,000 customers trust Fortinet solutions, which are among the most deployed, most patented, and most validated in the industry.

Learn More

CyberTrust Massachusetts

CyberTrust is transforming cyber education and training statewide, by introducing hands-on, experiential learning environments—including a network of live, regional security operations centers (SOCs) and access to cyber range technology for all college programs.

Learn More

Thank you to the organizations participating in today's event: