

Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit

May 13, 2026

Program

MassCyberCenter



Welcome

Welcome to the sixth annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit—an event designed specifically for you—our state's 351 cities and towns. You represent municipal communities: leadership, first responders, schools, IT, libraries, public utilities, and more. You are vital to building a culture of cybersecurity across your community. Thank you for being here.

Through sessions on emerging municipal cyber risks, resilience strategies, state-supported defense services, deepfakes and synthetic media, and lessons learned from recent data breaches, attendees will gain actionable insights to help strengthen cybersecurity across their communities.

The program is designed to equip municipalities with a clearer understanding of today's threat landscape and the concrete steps, resources, and partnerships available to build a more resilient cybersecurity foundation.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. **Registration, Networking, and Refreshments**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- John Petrozzelli *Director*, **MassCyberCenter**

9:05 a.m. **Session 1: Safeguarding Communities: Understanding and Reducing Municipal Cyber Threats**

This session explores the evolving threat facing municipalities today, from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks to the operational pressures created by limited resources and expanding digital services. Panelists will break down the most relevant threats impacting local governments right now and discuss practical strategies for strengthening resilience.

- Nick Butts O*utreach Manager*, **MassCyberCenter** (Moderator)
- Gus Serino *President*, **I&C Secure, Inc.**
- Elijah Cedeno M*ember Experience & Engagement Manager*, **MS-ISAC**
- Israel Barak *Chief Information Security Officer*, **7AI**

9:40 a.m. **Session 2: Municipal Cybersecurity Today: Challenges, Trends, and Proven Steps Toward Resilient Communities**

This session will provide an in-depth look at the current cybersecurity posture of municipalities, informed by the frontline experience of CyberTrust Massachusetts with over 50 municipalities. We'll explore the most pressing challenges local governments face, the patterns emerging across communities, and the practical steps that are making a measurable difference in strengthening security. The discussion will highlight real-world insights, common gaps, and achievable strategies that help municipalities build a more resilient and sustainable cybersecurity foundation.

- Pete Sherlock *CEO,* **Cybertrust Massachusetts**

10:05 a.m. **Session 3: State Cybersecurity Defense solutions for Municipalities**

This session highlights how the MassCyberCenter's Security Operations Center (SOC) program is helping municipalities monitor and defend against advanced cybersecurity threats. Attendees will gain insight into how the state-subsidized SOC provides cyber defense for municipalities with Managed Detection and Response and related services. The discussion will cover some newly introduced services and also explain how municipalities can leverage state grants to get started with these services.

- Jeff Cassidy *Vice President & Chief Technology Officer,* **Cybertrust Massachusetts**

10:30 a.m. **Municipal Perspective Keynote**

This session cuts through the noise to expose the real landscape of municipal cybersecurity. You'll learn how the CyberTrust model pairs enterprise-grade technology with a SOC built specifically for municipal realities—people who actually pick up the phone, understand your environment, and stand with you when it matters. Through real-world examples, white-paper insights, and candid discussion of vendor gaps, we'll illuminate what effective support really looks like.

- Ryan Knowles *Chief Innovation Officer*, **Town of Andover**

10:50 a.m. **Break**

11:05 a.m. **Session 4: Deepfakes: Where Reality Bounces**

Deepfakes are blurring the line between fact and fiction, turning the digital world into a place where seeing isn't always believing and hearing might just be an AI-driven scam. In this session, globally recognized security expert David Balcar—Chief Evangelist for NeXasure—breaks down the real security challenges deepfakes pose today. Through eye-opening stories, practical strategies, and advanced detection insights, he'll reveal how these tools fuel disinformation and how you can stay sharp enough to spot the fake from the real. After all, as David likes to remind us, "Security never takes a holiday"—and neither do cybercriminals.

11:50 a.m. **Session 5: Strengthening Security Through Data Breach Analysis**

This session presents key findings from a comprehensive review of recent municipal data breach notifications, highlighting the most common threat patterns, vulnerabilities, and real-world remediation steps identified across Massachusetts communities. In partnership with the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, we'll break down what these incidents reveal about emerging risks, how municipalities can strengthen their defenses, and the practical actions that make the biggest impact in reducing exposure.

- Layla D'Emilia *Undersecretary*, **Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation**
- Jared Rinehimer *Division Chief - Privacy and Responsible Technology*, **Office of the Attorney General**
- John Petrozzelli *Director*, **MassCyberCenter**
- Dave Balcar *Cyber Evangelist*, **NexaSure**

12:30 p.m. **Wrap-up/Lunch**

2:00 p.m. **End of Summit**

Partner Tables

Visit our partner tables in the atrium outside of the Grand Ballroom to hear about federal and state programs to mitigate threats and bolster programs for improved cyber resiliency.

Bay Path University

baypath.edu/academics/graduate-programs/cybersecurity-ms

Bay Path University prepares the next generation of cybersecurity professionals through flexible, career-focused undergraduate and graduate programs designated by the NSA as Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD). The Master of Science in Cybersecurity is a fully online program designed for leadership and decision-making roles across industry, government, and nonprofit sectors, with an emphasis on risk assessment and advanced threat response. The Bachelor of Science in Digital Forensics and Incident Response provides a technically rigorous foundation, with hands-on training using leading industry tools. Across both programs, Bay Path has implemented an updated curriculum focused on artificial intelligence, addressing both emerging AI threats and opportunities to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving cybersecurity landscape.

Bridgewater State University

bridgew.edu/cyber-range

MassBay Community College serves approximately 6,000 full-time and part-time students from the Greater Boston and the Metrowest region on campuses in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland. MassBay's Center for Cybersecurity Education Cyber Range is available to municipalities and other community organizations requiring cybersecurity training or certifications.

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

cisa.gov

As the nation's cyber defense agency and national coordinator for critical infrastructure security, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency leads the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to the digital and physical infrastructure Americans rely on every hour of every day. CISA works closely with municipalities to enhance their cybersecurity posture, safeguard critical services, and strengthen local infrastructure resilience, ensuring communities are better equipped to address evolving threats. CISA partners to defend against today's threats and collaborates to build a more secure and resilient infrastructure for the future.

CyberTrust Massachusetts

cybertrustmass.org

CyberTrust Massachusetts is a statewide cybersecurity operation that strengthens the resilience of municipalities, it combines expert led cyber operations, specialized Security Operations Centers, advanced security technologies, higher education partnerships, and workforce development to deliver a simpler, stronger approach to cybersecurity. The result is practical access to national caliber cyber defense for municipalities that need stronger protection but do not have enterprise scale resources of their own.

MA Operational Services Division

mass.gov/orgs/operational-services-division

The Operational Services Division (OSD) administers the procurement process for goods and services for Massachusetts. Through their statewide contracts, municipalities may purchase products and services, including information technology.

Contract ITS78 - Data, Cybersecurity, and Related Audit, Compliance, and Incident Responses Services.

MassBay Community College

massbay.edu/academics/stem/cybersecurity/cybersecurity-program

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Massachusetts Educational Technology Administrators Association (METAA)

techdirectors.org

METAA's mission is to unite Massachusetts PK-12 Educational Technology Administrators – public, private, independent, charter, parochial – into one professional association for the purpose of advocating for and supporting the vision, policies, practices, and funding for historical, current, and cutting edge technology within all aspects of teaching, learning, and professional productivity.

Massachusetts Municipal Association / Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association

mma.org

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) brings municipal officials together to articulate a clear and united municipal message, to develop and advocate for unified policies, and to share information and work together to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal service delivery. As a nonprofit membership service of the MMA, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) offers insurance coverage, risk management, and wellness programs to more than 400 Massachusetts cities, towns and public entities.

Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)

cisecurity.org/ms-isac

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) is a collaborative cybersecurity organization dedicated to improving the cyber resilience of state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments across the United States. Operated by the Center for Internet Security (CIS), the MS-ISAC serves as a trusted resource and central hub for cyber threat intelligence, incident response, and security best practices for the SLTT community.

NeXasure AI

nexasure.ai

With over 75 years of combined leadership experience, Nexasure's help organizations cut through the noise of the cyber market and focus on what matters most: clarity, confidence, and results. Nexasure’s vision is to revolutionize the cybersecurity landscape by building AI-driven intelligence products that deliver real-time insights into organizational security trends.

Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

maoig.gov

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is an independent, non-partisan oversight agency mandated to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse of public resources at the state and municipal level across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The OIG serves the residents of Massachusetts, state, and local governments, and those who work with the government.

EOTSS Office of Municipal and School Technology

mass.gov/orgs/office-of-municipal-and-school-technology

The Office of Municipal and School Technology (OMST) serves and supports local government agencies, which include cities, towns, public school districts, public safety, municipal utility departments, counties and planning commissions, across the Commonwealth. OMST provides guidance and technical assistance to position them and their communities with successful technology initiatives, and implementation, promoting state resources that may improve local government operations, and administering and providing information about available IT and security grant opportunities. Please stop by, introduce yourself and meet the team.

Richard E. Neal Cybersecurity Center of Excellence | Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)

stcc.edu

Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) is home to the Richard E. Neal Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, a cutting-edge facility that fosters cybersecurity education, research, and workforce development. The center collaborates with industry partners and government agencies to develop innovative solutions and provide students and professionals with the necessary skills to combat the ever-evolving cybersecurity threats. Through its comprehensive programs and state-of-the-art resources, STCC and the Richard E. Neal Cybersecurity Center of Excellence are at the forefront of strengthening the cybersecurity landscape in Massachusetts and preparing the next generation of cybersecurity leaders.

Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program

Funding Available for Cybersecurity Managed Services

The MassCyberCenter is providing grants under the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program to **municipalities, small businesses, and non-profits** in Massachusetts to fund *Security Operations Center (SOC) services, including Managed Detection and Response and other related services, from* CyberTrust Massachusetts. Grants provide up to $25,000 to fund MDR for up to 3 years.

Grants are eligible to fund the following CyberTrust Massachusetts services:

- Managed Detection and Response (SentinelOne)
- Extended Detection and Response (XDR)
- Application Control and ZeroTrust (ThreatLocker)

Additional Information

- Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- Applications must include a scope of work for SOC services from CyberTrust MA

About CyberTrust Massachusetts

CyberTrust Massachusetts is a non-profit organization working closely with the MassCyberCenter and is currently supported with grant funding to support the operation of SOC and Cyber Range facilities located at colleges and universities across the Commonwealth that grow and promote the diversity of the cybersecurity talent pipeline, as well as help provide solutions to municipalities, small businesses, and other organizations for protection against cyber threats.

Learn more and apply:

https://masscybercenter.org/notice-funding-opportunity-cyber-resilient-massachusetts-grant-program



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Thank you for attending

MassCyberCenter