

NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter

Thursday, April 26, 2018

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Welcome to the second addition of the NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter! This is not just another cybersecurity newsletter; our goal is to provide you a monthly update on *state* cybersecurity. We will be detailing our own activities in the Resource Center for State Cybersecurity (RCSC) and keeping you abreast of the latest developments in state law and policy. Is something interesting happening in your state? Please send tips about worthy news items or other possible content to David Forscey at dforscey@nga.org.

Resource Center Announcements

NGA Policy Academy on Implementing State Cybersecurity

NGA is pleased to announce the launch of its new Policy Academy on Implementing State Cybersecurity. Through this formal project vehicle, the NGA Center will provide long-term technical assistance to four states that have demonstrated a commitment to cybersecurity policy and planning.

[Applications](#) (from state officials only) are due by **Friday, May 4 at 5:00 p.m. ET**. The NGA Center will only accept one application per state, so please coordinate with your governor's office prior to submission. Please direct any questions or concerns to David Forscey (dforscey@nga.org; 202-624-5356) or Michael Garcia (mgarcia@nga.org; 202-624-5312).

Executive Women's Forum Symposium on May 8th

NGA is pleased to partner with the Executive Women's Forum to host a one-day symposium to celebrate and explore the role of women in today's cybersecurity environment. Female CISOs hailing from across the country will descend on our offices at the Hall of the States to hear from DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, tour federal agencies, listen to state cybersecurity leaders, and build cross-sector relationships. Please email David Forscey at dforscey@nga.org if you would like to know more.

Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) Executive Committee Fly-In

From April 10th – April 12th, the GHSAC Executive Committee gathered in Washington to meet with stakeholders and build relationships. The packed agenda included meetings with top officials at DHS, HHS, Cyber Command, and others. Cybersecurity was a primary focus of discussion.

NGA Cyber Podcast Series

We will soon be releasing three new podcasts on cybersecurity, touching on economic development, the healthcare sector, and critical infrastructure.

Where We Have Been

Election Assistance Commission Advisory Council

Federal law authorizes the National Governors Association to nominate two members to the Advisory Council of the Election Assistance Commission. On April 23rd, Jeff McLeod (HSPS Division Director) was sworn in as one of the newest members of the Council.

NASCIO Mid-Year Fly-In

Jeff McLeod and Alisha Powell (HSPS Program Director) both presented to the National Association of State Chief Information Officers on the third day of their Mid-Year meeting in Washington, D.C.

News Items

You should probably know...

Atlanta's city government was hit hard by a SamSam ransomware attack. [Early estimates](#) suggest that recovery efforts have cost the city over \$2 million.

Colorado [deployed](#) the National Guard to assist in responding to and recovering from last month's ransomware attack that paralyzed the state's Department of Transportation.

The United States and the United Kingdom issued a [rare joint alert](#) on "Russian State-Sponsored Cyber Actors Targeting Network Infrastructure Devices." This underscores a recent pattern of blunt, direct attribution to state sponsors.

You may have missed...

Idaho's new Director of Information Security, Jeff Weak, is [preparing the ground](#) for centralizing the state's cybersecurity management into a single office by July 1st.

A reporter at the Augusta Chronicle [takes a hard look](#) at Georgia's plans to strengthen its role in the cybersecurity community.

Speaking of Georgia, the state's new computer crime bill—currently awaiting signature by Gov. Nathan Deal—has [some researchers](#)

[concerned](#) for two reasons: it could chill good-faith research and encourage reckless active defense.

Pew's Stateline [examines](#) vulnerabilities in state and local transportation networks.

Insurers are finding that cybersecurity insurance is profitable, according to a [new survey](#).

[Another survey](#) reveals how state and local government technology leaders feel they are ill-equipped to confront cyber threats.

Thirty-one state attorneys general have [come out against](#) a new federal data breach notification bill.

For the techies...

Researchers at Princeton University are [suggesting a simple change](#) to the Domain Naming System (DNS) that can better protect online privacy without a total redesign of the DNS structure.

A hacker launched a [hash attack](#) on the Verge blockchain, reaping about \$780,000 in Verge cryptocurrency in hours.

Other Major NGA Events in 2018

Below are the dates for major NGA events in 2018.

Friday, May 4 – Sunday, May 6

2018 North American Summit

Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: Tiffany Shackelford (tshackelford@nga.org; 202-719-2870)

Wednesday, July 18 – Sunday, July 22

2018 NGA Summer Meeting

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Contact: Bob Masciarelli (bmasciarelli@nga.org; 202-624-5355)

Friday, November 16 – Sunday, November 18

2018 Seminar for New Governors

Colorado Springs, CO

Contact: Nikki Guilford (nguilford@nga.org; 202-624-5422)
