

NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter

September 10, 2019

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October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM)! As your state plans any upcoming events or awareness campaigns, please feel free to send any news and information to John Guerriero at jguerriero@nga.org.

Resource Center Announcements

2019 National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Toolkit and Proclamation Released

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and this year's theme is to "OWN IT. SECURE IT. PROTECT IT." You can access the toolkit released by CISA and National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) [here](#).

Additionally, CISA and the MS-ISAC recently distributed the [NCSAM 2019 Proclamation](#) to every Governor and CISO's office across the country to increase local level cyber outreach and awareness. Please feel free to share the proclamation with your jurisdictions for their sign-on.

ResCon Launch

NGA has partnered with ResCon, the premier annual international conference on the practice of successful resilience and disaster management, to host ResCon 2020, held April 28-30, 2020 in New Orleans. You can read more [here](#).

NGA Information Requests:

1. Is your state considering a training of trainers (ToT) program for its citizens around cybersecurity awareness? If so, please reach out to Maggie Brunner [here](#).
2. Is your state providing misinformation and disinformation guidance to campaigns? If your state has advice or custom tools that it provides, please reach out to John Guerriero [here](#).
3. How is your state using DHS's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds for cybersecurity? Do you currently have a statewide program for the benefit of local entities? If you have already launched projects, what promising practices and lessons learned can you share? Please reach out to Maggie Brunner [here](#).

NGA Request for Applications:

Support for Responding to Threats to the Electricity Grid and GridEx V

NGA's Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division is calling for applications to participate in a technical assistance effort to help states address potential physical and cyber threats to the electricity grid. The effort is designed around the upcoming [GridEx V](#) exercise, which is a biennial exercise conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to simulate how utilities, the public sector and others would respond to and recover from a coordinated cyber and physical threat to the electrical grid. NGA will select teams from four states to receive additional support.

The deadline for submitting applications is **Thursday, October 3**. Please direct inquiries to Carl Amritt at camritt@nga.org or Alyse Taylor-Anyikire at atanyikire@nga.org.

Cybersecurity Resources:

Why 5G Requires New Approaches to Cybersecurity

This Brookings [report](#) examines the cybersecurity risks facing 5G and how the public and private sector can collaborate to mitigate them. The report's recommendations include calling for the establishment of a corporate "cyber duty of care" and a reassessment of the current regulatory environment that takes into account the changing realities digital innovations bring.

Election Security: Risk Assessment of State Internet-Facing Infrastructure Identifies Vulnerabilities

NormShield conducted two risk assessments on 56 election commissions and Secretary of State offices. Its [recommendations](#) include updating the operating systems and servers states use to decrease the risk of phishing, botnet and spam attacks.

Attacking Artificial Intelligence: AI's Security Vulnerability and What Policymakers Can Do About IT

Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center released a [paper](#) describing how vulnerabilities within AI can affect the commercial, military and law enforcement sectors. The paper proposes mandatory AI Security Compliance programs to promote stakeholder adoption of best practices.

HAVA Funding and Critical Infrastructure Security

In this [whitepaper](#), Tenable outlines suggestions on how states can utilize Helping America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to acquire cyber tools and solutions that can benefit multiple critical infrastructure subsectors to protect data and maximize resources. The company also provided recent recommendations for funding election cybersecurity in a recent article for [Governing](#).

Recent Resource Center Webinars:

Joint NGA & NASCIO Webinar: States Navigating Seas of Digital Identity

Citizens expect a seamless transaction when doing business with state government, but there are many things that must occur to make that happen. First and foremost, how are states verifying everyone is who they say they are? Hear from Pennsylvania about how they have streamlined the citizen experience with the Keystone Login SSO initiative as well as how Michigan has been working on MLogin and what the next steps are for this enterprise IAM solution. A recording of the webinar is [here](#).

IoT Security: What Is It and Where Is It Heading

Featuring Rapid7's Deral Heiland, attendees discussed the ecosystem structure of IoT and the security implication of its interconnected components, in addition to how to understand and effectively communicate the associated risk organizations will encounter as they embrace our new IoT driven world. A recording of the webinar is [here with additional information on IoT fail states and embedded hardware hacking](#)

Mark Your Calendars:

September 18-20, 2019 – CISA Cyber Security Summit



November 18-20, 2019 – NICE 2019 Conference and Expo

The annual NICE Conference and Expo brings together thought leaders from industry, government, academia and non-profit organizations to address cybersecurity education, training and workforce needs. The theme of this year's conference in Phoenix, Arizona is [Reimagining the Future of the Cybersecurity Workforce: Adapting to a Changing Landscape](#).

Registration Opens for GirlsGoCyberStart

The [GirlsGoCyberStart](#) program is available in 2020. Interested states should contact Alan Paller (apaller@sans.org) by October 16, 2019. As states with gubernatorial announcement of the program have historically increased student participation significantly, NGA is happy to provide governors' offices with additional information. Email Maggie Brunner at mbrunner@nga.org for more details.

Cyber News

Proofpoint Report Finds that Most Adults Lack Cyber Knowledge & Practices

Proofpoint conducted a survey of over 6,000 working adults across six countries, including the U.S., to gauge knowledge of cyberattacks and cyber safeguards. The results found that a significant percentage of adults lack a basic understanding of basic cybersecurity concepts and practices. Read the 2018 User Risk report [here](#).

NIST Requests Comments on Draft Privacy Framework

NIST is requesting public comments on its recently released privacy framework draft. The [framework](#) aims to assist organizations optimize the benefits of data while minimizing privacy issues for individuals. You can refer to NIST's Federal Register notice [here](#). The deadline for public comments is October 24, 2019.

Recent Publications on Ransomware Attacks

A [report](#) published by Barracuda Networks found that nearly two-thirds of ransomware incidents reported from January to July 2019 targeted state and local governments. This LexisNexis [article](#) discusses whether the recent wave of ransomware incidents will prompt state legislators to action, while this New York Times [article](#) examines how cities have adapted to the new threats posed by ransomware.

In July, NGA, along with CISA, MS-ISAC and NASCIO, called on state, local, territorial and tribal government partners to take action to enhance their defensive posture against ransomware. Read the full statement [here](#).

Updates from NGA Advocacy

Congress recently introduced two pieces of legislation of interest. The [Advancing Cybersecurity Diagnostics and Mitigation Act](#) – offered in both the House and Senate - seeks to codify DHS' Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation (CDM) program and expand CDM capabilities to additional agencies at the federal, state and local level. In the House, Reps. John Katko (R-NY) and Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) introduced the [State and Local Government Cybersecurity Improvement Act](#) on August 30 and would direct DHS and CISA to develop resource guides to help state and local governments prepare for and combat cyberattacks.

Upcoming NGA Events:

Invitation to NGA Infrastructure Stakeholder Summit on Security and Resilience in Detroit, MI

NGA welcomes you to attend its [Infrastructure Stakeholder Summit](#) on October 17-18, in Detroit, Michigan. This is the second of four stakeholder summits in support of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's 2019-2020 NGA Chair's Initiative,

[Infrastructure: Foundation for Success](#). This summit will focus on protecting America's critical infrastructure by strengthening security and resiliency. The summit will feature panel discussions on cybersecurity and infrastructure resilience, an informative site visit and peer-to-peer exchanges and networking opportunities with individuals from the public, private, academic and non-profit sectors. Please see the [agenda](#) for more details on this event. The deadline to [register](#) is Friday, September 20, 2019.

NGA Resource Center for State Cybersecurity Sponsors

- American Electric Power
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- Motorola
- Proofpoint
- Rapid7
- Splunk
- Symantec
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