

From the Executive Director's Desk

April wrapped up with the launch of two new Forums that enhance engagement by providing more role-specific information sharing opportunities.

Through the ACSC Executives Forum, security executives met in an intimate round table environment to discuss their effective practices and lessons learned around contemporary security challenges. In the inaugural meeting, participants representing nearly two-thirds of the ACSC member organizations engaged in lively discussions about distributed data protection and cloud security.

The launch of our Counsels' Policy Forum established a venue for corporate general counsels and law firms to discuss public cyber security policy topics that shape the modern cyber security conversation. Through the ACSC, organizations can channel important feedback on public policy debates to lawmakers and other civil servants without direct attribution to their organizations.

Beyond convenings, the ACSC is progressing with an exciting new research capability that aims to provide broader insight into contemporary security challenges, sharing actionable information that will help aid decision-making. Rather than simply rely on our members to generate value, the ACSC aims to develop fresh analysis of emerging cyber security trends. In this way, we are charting a new course to evolve from brokering interaction to contributing new resources that will help fulfill our mission to establish a new baseline for cyber security in New England. This month, we are pleased to highlight in this newsletter our new project examining cyber technology investment and the associated business climate in multiple regions around the world.

I look forward to sharing more on the ACSC's new events and research over the next several months as we continue to provide more value to our members than ever before.

Michael Figueroa, Executive Director

By The Numbers

7 - The number of research projects that the ACSC will be conducting or hosting this summer. Research will span all ACSC strategic focus areas, including Collaboration (2), Workforce (1), Ecosystem (3), and Policy (1).

Thoughts and Trends

Taken from conversations with community members.

"With SaaS, you're not saving any money, you're buying flexibility."

"Valentines Day and Christmas are bad times for phishing defense."

"Trust is good. Control is better."

"Laws can vary so much, sometimes you have to choose which jurisdiction you are going to violate."

"One-off features are causing cloud creep."

Ecosystem Focus

In April, the ACSC began an economic policy study that compares cyber security investment opportunity in New England against other regions around the world. The study will begin by identifying resources for assessing public (Federal) investment in cyber security technology research and development (R&D) in the United States, European Union, and Israel. Next, we will determine public budgets in the last 5-10 years that have supported cyber security technology R&D in key U.S. markets. Prospective U.S. Federal and State funding may be added pending data availability and time constraints. If time and resources also allow, we are hoping to identify and assess private cyber security technology funding sources and develop a qualitative analysis of the strength of private investment in the target markets by identifying private investors in cyber security technology R&D and the size of their funds.

In the second half of the project, the ACSC will define a standard set of policy features that indicate relatively strong or weak cyber security investment climates. We will use those features to assess cyber security R&D opportunities for U.S. organizations in domestic versus select overseas markets.

The project will conclude with a consolidated report that will examine comparative levels of public (and private, if time/resources allow) funding for general cyber security technology R&D and compare the relative strengths and weaknesses of the target markets' investment climates.

Leading the project is ACSC Research Fellow Angela Palazzolo, a career Foreign Service Officer on practicum detail from the U.S. Department of State. She studies global policy and economic conditions for cyber security technology investment.

ACSC in the Community

May 10: Financial Information Management (FIMA) US - Hybrid Cloud Debate Participant

May 12: Kostas Research Institute (KRI) Cyber Conference - Presentation: "Countering Advanced Cyber Threats with a Stronger Community Defense."

June 12: Cyber Yankee Cyber Seminar - Supporting Organizer and Panel Facilitator

IEEE Secure Development (SecDev) Conference - Call For Papers

The ACSC is pleased to support the upcoming IEEE SecDev Conference being held in Cambridge, MA from September 24-26, 2017. The Call for Papers is now open until May 30, 2017.

SecDev is soliciting two types of contributions. First, SecDev is a forum for short papers that present innovations, experience-based insights, or a vision about how to build security in to existing and new computing systems. New work is encouraged. A summary of an ongoing research agenda is also welcome. Second, SecDev is also interested in tutorials on processes, frameworks, languages, and tools for building security in. The goal is to propose useful and thought-provoking ideas, and to share knowledge on the art and science of secure systems development. Check out <https://secdev.ieee.org/2017/papers/> for more details.