San Diego Regional Cyber Lab

Bridging Education and Opportunity in Cybersecurity

The San Diego Regional Cyber Lab (SDRCL) was a cornerstone of the San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) summer Cybersecurity Internship Program. Through this partnership, students from SDCOE's Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) gained rare, hands-on access to cutting-edge tools and training inside the Cyber Lab, turning classroom concepts into applied cybersecurity skills.

Thank you for believing in our students and for helping us build a bridge between education and opportunity. Your partnership has enriched this program and has fundamentally made a difference in the lives of these three young students.

— Leonard LeVine, Executive Director, Cybersecurity & Digital Privacy, San Diego County Office of Education

Interns also benefited from a structured schedule of guest speakers, courtesy of the San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence (SD-CCOE) and City of San Diego. Speakers included SDRCL staff, who introduced the Lab and provided Haiku training; Chantel Mesta, Program Manager at CAREERworks; members of the City of San Diego Cyber Team; Chris Simpson, Director of the National University Center for Cybersecurity; Erin Tanner, Client Service Consultant for Journeys' Cyber Career Map; and Aaron Wyant, CEO of Dispatch Tech.

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Upcoming Events:

- *Quarterly Technical Stakeholder Committee Meeting (9/18)*
- *Quarterly Executive Stakeholder Committee Meeting (10/9)*

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Level Up Your Cybersecurity Game w/ These Must-Attend Events in September!

San Diego is buzzing with must-attend cybersecurity events! Join in to network, learn, and connect with industry professionals and fellow enthusiasts—you won't want to miss it.

ISC2 San Diego

When: Thursday, October 9th | 6:00 PM

Where: University of San Diego

Why: ISC2 provides cybersecurity certification, education, and community support to help professionals advance in the field and uphold security standards.

Link Here

OWASP

When: Wednesday, September 17th | 6:00 PM

Where: Alesmith San Diego

Why: OWASP lockpicking events teach practical physical security skills to help identify and mitigate vulnerabilities.

Link Here

San Diego Cyber Cyber Clinic 1 yr. Anniversary

When: Wednesday, October 15 | 10am - 1pm

Where: Snapdragon Stadium – Cox Business Suite

Why: The San Diego Cyber Clinic, launched last summer by local universities and partners, is celebrating its first year of providing free cybersecurity services to the community while training 170 students and supporting over 30 businesses.

Link Here

Bridging Education and Opportunity in Cybersecurity (Cont.)

Sessions covered topics ranging from career readiness to cybersecurity operations, while giving students hands-on practice with Haiku—a cyber range platform that allowed them to simulate network defense scenarios and hone technical skills in a safe, controlled environment.

The SDRCL's unique learning environment—combined with the mentorship and resources provided through CCOE and SDCOE—transformed the program into more than an internship. It became a launchpad for students who have faced significant life challenges, proving that with access, support, and opportunity, they can envision and pursue a successful future in technology.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2025 – Lead the Way

Every October, Cybersecurity Awareness Month unites businesses, government agencies, schools, and nonprofits in a shared mission to strengthen digital resilience. In a landscape where data breaches and cyberattacks continue to grow. This initiative reminds us that protecting data does not have to be complicated. Simple, consistent actions can dramatically reduce risk, and leaders play a crucial role in ensuring their teams and communities understand how to take those steps.

The theme for 2025, Stay Safe Online, emphasizes empathy and accessibility in cybersecurity education. Studies show that nearly half of people find online safety frustrating, intimidating, or confusing. As CISOs and CIOs, you have the opportunity to shift this perception by offering clear, approachable guidance that builds confidence rather than fear. When employees feel empowered rather than overwhelmed, they are more likely to adopt good habits and sustain them.

The National Cybersecurity Alliance has created an easy comprehensive toolkit that organizations can use to engage employees and customers throughout the month. Resources include videos, tip sheets, graphics, sample newsletters, and ready-to-share leadership announcements. By participating as a Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champion, you can strengthen your organization's security culture, demonstrate industry leadership, and contribute to protecting the broader community.

Learn more and register at StaySafeOnline.org.

Enhancing Regional Cybersecurity: SD-LECC Partnership and Threat Intelligence Support

The San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (SD-LECC) serves as San Diego's Regional Threat Assessment Center and designated fusion center for San Diego and Imperial Counties, supporting homeland security efforts through three core functions:

- Delivering intelligence, investigative support, and resources to law enforcement and public safety agencies.
- Operating as the central hub for receiving and analyzing suspicious activity reports.
- Coordinating threat response efforts and facilitating information sharing among local, state, and federal partners including those responsible for critical infrastructure.

One of the principal capabilities of the SD-LECC is to deliver advanced cyber support and analysis to local, state, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement and critical infrastructure partners in the region. Notably, the SD-LECC will be enhancing the cybersecurity efforts of the San Diego County Office of Education by providing threat intelligence through a service known as Recorded Future.

Recorded Future is the world's largest threat intelligence company. The Recorded Future Intelligence Cloud provides end-to-end intelligence across adversaries, infrastructure, and targets. The platform indexes the internet across the open web, dark web, and technical sources, to provide real-time visibility into an expanding attack surface and threat landscape, empowering users to act with speed and confidence to reduce risk. The SD-LECC is currently leveraging Recorded Future's Brand Intelligence and Threat Intelligence modules.

The Recorded Future Brand Intelligence Module allows for real-time alerting and enables organizations to instantly discover leaked credentials, typosquat domains, code leaks, discussion of your brand on dark web markets, and more. Users can immediately initiate takedowns after identifying fraudulent domains or stolen assets that could pose a risk to organizations.

The Recorded Future's Threat Intelligence Module provides a comprehensive view of an organization's unique threat landscape through a combination of automated analytics, finished intelligence, and advanced search and analysis capabilities. The advanced Intelligence Cloud provides increased visibility into threat actors' infrastructure; tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs); and targets, making it easy to proactively hunt threats to reduce risk.

SLTT and critical infrastructure partners are encouraged to reach out to the SD-LECC Cyber Intelligence Unit to explore how the SD-LECC can support your agency or organization. For any cybersecurity inquiries, please email cyber@sd-lecc.org. For more information about the SD-LECC or to report suspicious activity, visit https://sdlecc.org/ and submit a SAR.

SAN DIEGO LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION CENTER

MFA Push Bombing: The Silent Cyber Attack You Need to Know About

MFA push bombing is an increasingly common cyberattack where criminals flood a user's device with repeated multi-factor authentication (MFA) approval requests, hoping the user will approve one out of frustration or confusion. This tactic is used by the cybercriminal group Scattered Spider, who target large companies by stealing credentials, using social engineering, and bypassing MFA protections to gain unauthorized access to networks.

Scattered Spider combines push bombing with techniques like impersonating IT staff and SIM swapping to control victims' phone numbers, making their attacks highly effective and dangerous. Once inside, they can steal data, deploy ransomware, or move laterally within an organization. Their evolving tactics highlight the need for organizations to stay vigilant and upgrade their security measures.

To protect against push bombing, organizations should focus on employee education to recognize suspicious MFA prompts and adopt stronger, phishing-resistant MFA technologies like hardware tokens or passwordless authentication. These solutions reduce reliance on user approval alone and provide a more secure way to safeguard critical business systems from attacks like those launched by Scattered Spider.

For more information click here.

Unlocking Cybersecurity Growth: How ISSA San Diego Empowers Professionals and Students

On a mission to advance the career of every InfoSec professional in San Diego through the core values of connection, learning, service, and fun, the ISSA San Diego chapter is a vibrant community dedicated to advancing information security. Recognized as the leading local not-for-profit networking association tied into a global organization of peers, San Diego ISSA provides creative community programming, impactful educational forums, and engaging social events aimed at promoting excellence in the cybersecurity profession.

As a local branch of the International Information System Security Association (ISSA), the San Diego chapter brings together cybersecurity professionals, enthusiasts, and students to share knowledge, foster growth, and promote best practices. A key offering of the chapter is its educational programming featured during regular meetings. These gatherings often include expert speakers presenting on topics such as threat intelligence, risk management, compliance, and emerging technologies. The chapter also hosts networking events, creating opportunities for members to connect with peers and industry leaders in a relaxed setting.

For students and early-career professionals eager to invest in their future, ISSA San Diego offers volunteer opportunities that provide hands-on experience, resume-building, and expanded networks. By getting involved, volunteers not only strengthen the local cybersecurity ecosystem but also take a powerful step toward advancing their careers. Join an event this month and be part of a community that blends professional development with service and fun.

For more information or to join an event click here.

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http://www.sandiego.gov/cyber-lab

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CYBER LAB

Stay Secure with My eCISO

My eCISO is a powerful, free, and secure AI assistant designed to help organizations strengthen their cybersecurity posture without the expense of a full-time Chief Information Security Officer. It offers expert guidance and user-friendly cyber "report cards" that make it simple for businesses of all sizes to manage risks, build effective policies, and protect sensitive data. Through the use of Anthropic's Claude LLM and AWS' Bedrock AI platform, My eCISO empowers small businesses, home users, and large enterprises alike to improve their awareness, resilience, and readiness.

Click here to learn more.

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