THOUGHTS OF THE DIRECTOR

John Bowers

The DHS Centers of Excellence (COEs) will conclude their first five years of operation on July 1, 2021. As a completely volunteer-driven effort, the centers were funded for 5 years as part of a Cooperative Agreement (CoA) including two annual review sessions. The COEs were made possible through a novel academic-industry-government partnership of 30 + academic institutions, 34 Federal and State Government agencies, 61 industry members, and 330 public partners across the United States. The COEs have served as a catalyst to drive cutting edge research into dark web marketplaces to reveal their size, scope, and mechanisms and character. The COEs have also worked closely with DHS, law enforcement, private sector companies, and academic institutions to increase awareness and decrease the level of criminal activity on the dark web.

The last decade has seen a sharp rise in criminal activity on the dark web, including the trade in illicit narcotics, identity documents, stolen goods, and counterfeits. To address this challenge, the COEs have worked to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it.

An important element of the COEs’ effort has been to incorporate students into their work. Over the years, the COEs have sponsored dozens of student-led projects and research efforts. These include academic research, student poster sessions, and student-led tabletop exercises. The COEs have also sponsored student travel to international conferences and workshops in order to expose students to cutting edge research in the field.

The COEs have also hosted several virtual events, including the DHS Centers of Excellence Summit. The Summit featured keynote speakers, student-led poster sessions, and virtual tabletop exercises. These events have allowed the COEs to engage with a wider audience and increase awareness about the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.

The COEs have also worked to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it. The COEs have hosted several virtual events, including the DHS Centers of Excellence Summit. The Summit featured keynote speakers, student-led poster sessions, and virtual tabletop exercises. These events have allowed the COEs to engage with a wider audience and increase awareness about the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.

In addition to increasing awareness, the COEs have also worked to increase the level of collaboration and coordination across the government, academia, and private sector. The COEs have facilitated numerous partnerships and collaborations, including with the Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other government agencies.

As the COEs conclude their first five years of operation, they will continue to work with academic institutions, government agencies, and industry partners to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it. The COEs will also continue to work with students to increase their understanding of the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.

The COEs have also worked to increase the level of collaboration and coordination across the government, academia, and private sector. The COEs have facilitated numerous partnerships and collaborations, including with the Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other government agencies.

As the COEs conclude their first five years of operation, they will continue to work with academic institutions, government agencies, and industry partners to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it. The COEs will also continue to work with students to increase their understanding of the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.

In addition to increasing awareness, the COEs have also worked to increase the level of collaboration and coordination across the government, academia, and private sector. The COEs have facilitated numerous partnerships and collaborations, including with the Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other government agencies.

As the COEs conclude their first five years of operation, they will continue to work with academic institutions, government agencies, and industry partners to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it. The COEs will also continue to work with students to increase their understanding of the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.

The COEs have also worked to increase the level of collaboration and coordination across the government, academia, and private sector. The COEs have facilitated numerous partnerships and collaborations, including with the Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other government agencies.

As the COEs conclude their first five years of operation, they will continue to work with academic institutions, government agencies, and industry partners to increase awareness about dark web criminal activity and the tools and techniques needed to combat it. The COEs will also continue to work with students to increase their understanding of the challenges of combating dark web criminal activity.