THOUGHTS OF THE DIRECTOR

Jim Silein

The DHS Centers of Excellence (COE) Summit was held from May 17-21, 2021. As a fully virtual event, this summit had a record number of registrants (over 1,200) including government, law enforcement at all levels, academia, and 65 different industry counterparts and more than 1,200 registrants for the event. Leading up to the event, attendees could register and create personal profiles, access research videos and capabilities fact sheets. And 34 student groups presented posters loaded with experts and timely information, successfully pushing the limits of what can be done virtually.

DHS Centers of Excellence Summit: Student Poster Session Spotlight

In addition to event pre-production, CINA Science Director, Dr. Tom Holt, and CINA Center nominated PhD student and Digital Forensic Examiner Dominique Calder participated in the Research Science Week. This year represented another record year for COE pre-production. CINA’s website hosted a digital archive with expert-led webinars and mentorship leading up to and during the COE Summit.

DHS Centers of Excellence Summit: 2021 Keynote Speaker Insights

In 2021, DHS Centers of Excellence Summit attendees were treated to an outstanding keynote address by Speaker Thomas T. White, former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Dr. White’s keynote focused on the evolution of the Department of Homeland Security and his role as an educator and an administrator. He stressed the importance of values-driven leadership and the need for a strong foundation of trust.

RESEARCH

Shining a Light 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, firearms, stolen data and cybercrime services. This rise has been driven in part by the greater anonymity of sites not indexed by search engines, and in part by the increased access to potential customers, which is often posted in vendors’ threads, much as licit goods and services on eBay. A number of academic institutions, and industry partners, all of whom are professionals who give their time and expertise for free, have worked closely with the DHS Office of University Programs, multiple DHS components, and the CINA Center to produce an agenda that reflects the current state of the art in dark web research.

DHS Virtual COE Summit Highlights COVID Operational Impact and Research

The Virtual COE Summit was held from May 17-21, 2021. Leading up to the event, attendees could register and create personal profiles, access research videos, and capabilities fact sheets. This year represented another record year for COE pre-production. CINA’s website hosted a digital archive with expert-led webinars and mentorship leading up to and during the COE Summit. CINA also moderated the virtual COE Summit-related industry and academic events.

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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Digital Archive: Jeffrey Hardy on illicit trade, trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy

Visit our website’s digital archive to view research and capabilities fact sheets. And 34 student groups presented research videos and capabilities fact sheets. And 34 student groups presented posters loaded with experts and timely information, successfully pushing the limits of what can be done virtually.

To learn more about the exploration of the dark web, visit the website of the COE Summit.