Shining a Light on the Dark Web

As many of you know, the DHS Centers of Excellence have staggered life cycles dating back to 2008, and the Darknet/Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA) Center's life cycle ran through June 2021. As a result of our life cycle ending, we are now shifting our focus to the next phase of our work. CINA is going through a tremendous effort and cooperation across multiple entities, and the COEs worked closely with their respective academic institutions, and industry partners, all of whom are professionals who give generously of their time and expertise in pursuit of a safer world for all.

Members of the CINA team worked tirelessly for months leading up to the events to coordinate and prepare for the successful transition. The team engaged with participating institutions and industry partners and hosted the first-ever summit, the 2021 COE Summit, including the DHS Centers of Excellence Summit: Student Poster Session Spotlight, DHS Centers of Excellence Summit: Distinguished Speaker Series, the DHS Centers of Excellence Summit: Academic - Industry Collaborative, a leading exercise which simulated a supply disruption due to COVID-19.

The event was hosted entirely online, and in so doing we engaged with a larger, more diverse, and more engaged audience. As a result of this successful virtual format, the summit had a record number of registrants (over 1,200) including government, law enforcement at all levels, academia, and 65 different industry representatives, 61 speakers to include Secretary Mayorkas, 20 showcase booths, and 135 posters. While the summit was an all virtual event, we were also fortunate enough to have an in-person audience which participated in the student poster session and the table-top exercises. We were able to encourage and support cross-cutting collaboration and engagement with our fellow COE’s to support our collective mission.”

In addition to event pre-production, CINA Science Director, Dr. Tom Holt, in collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Hardy, hosted and moderated the CINA Distinguished Speaker Series with Dr. Jeffrey Hardy. Dr. Holt also moderated the popular DHS Leadership panel discussion on Emerging Threats and Challenges.

For more information, please visit: https://https://www.cios.masonlive.org/