THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Jones

The DHS Centers of Excellence Summit was held the week of May 17-21, 2021. As a completely virtual format, the summit was more efficient in duration (just 4 days) including breaks, whereas an in-person format would have been much longer to accommodate a dispersed audience and an expanded schedule of events. This format enabled quick delivery of keynotes, plenary talks, panel discussions, and remote learning. The methodology change was also a welcome opportunity to engage a more dispersed audience than ever before. Thank you to all who supported and attended the event. It was a great success, and we are very pleased to continue working with DHS to expand important conversations and collaborations.

For the third time running, the First Virtual DHS COE Summit Highlights Student Poster Session Spotlight. DHS Centers of Excellence, a program sponsored by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of University Programs, is a long-standing, federally-funded research and education initiative with the mission to support cutting-edge research into dark web marketplaces to reveal their size, scope, and economic activity.

The DHS Centers of Excellence have staggered life cycles dating back to 2002, and the CINA Center will soon enter its fifth year of operation. We are proud of the years to come. We are moving into the new program year with a robust and growing team, new faculty and research staff, and a renewed commitment to delivering cutting edge research and innovative educational opportunities.

As many of you know, the DHS Centers of Excellence have engaged the cyberspace dating back to 2002, and the CINA Center has been a part of it from the beginning. We also conducted everything on our own terms throughout the first few years, but we are now more focused on what we can do together. The future holds great promise for our program. As we grow, we will continue to prioritize working within the research and training framework that has served us well, and we are excited to see how our research can make a positive impact on the challenges we face.

There are several projects that are currently underway. For example, our research team conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy, and we are currently working on a project to evaluate the effectiveness of various interventions aimed at reducing the spread of misinformation online. We are also exploring new ways to use artificial intelligence to detect and prevent cyber attacks. Our team is committed to producing high-quality research that can help inform policymakers and practitioners in the field of cybersecurity.

RESEARCH

Shining a Light on the Dark Web

The last decade has seen a sharp rise in criminal activity on the dark web. This rise has been driven in part by the greater anonymity of sites not indexed by search engines like Google, and the appeal of using relatively anonymous cryptocurrencies as payment.

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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Digital Archive: Jeffrey Hardy as he discusses illicit trade in the forms of trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy. Watch the recent CINA Distinguished Speaker Series with Jeffrey Hardy as he discusses illicit trade in the forms of trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy. Digital Archive: Jeffrey Hardy on illicit trade, trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy.