Five Years from Now: What is the State of Cybersecurity?

The security of digital transactions could forever be improved by quantum computing. Diving into new encryption and other cutting edge topics were on the table as CAMS kicked off the second annual Cybersecurity Innovation Symposium on May 11, 2023. The conference emphasized that collaboration between regulators, stakeholders, and operators will need to improve as organizations will likely become more accountable for keeping their users and customers secure. AI captured our attention as we learned beating the ‘bad guys’ might just mean harnessing its power for good before they use it to cause harm. This unforgettable event was made possible in part due to the generous donations from KnowBe4, Panzura, Trustwave, and Akamai.

Managing the Organizational Impact of New Cybersecurity Regulations

Some key ways to achieve a higher level of resilience in your organization are to practice threat response, plan to maintain services even during an attack, and collaborate IT and security. Stuart Madnick and Keri Pearlson participated in this year’s CIO Symposium where they discussed how incident reporting mandates will guide what to report and when to report cyber incidents. These regulations may include a prohibition on paying ransomware and new laws on data governance. Keri participated in a panel on building cybersecurity around resilience rather than just protection where she shared resilience-building action plans.

Private Board Directors and Cybersecurity: What’s expected?

What is the role of the director of a private board when it comes to cybersecurity oversite? That was the topic of the May panel for the Private Director’s Association, which included Keri Pearlson. The PDA held the first of a series of webinars discussing the upcoming SEC regulations and how that might also impact private company directors. Keri’s role was to bring clarity to the difference in boards getting involved at the operational level vs the oversite level, and what it looks like to have cybersecurity expertise on a board. She suggested to ask the board about cybersecurity investments and breach detection and response plans.
About Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan:

Formerly the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, (IC)³

MIT is a natural place to study cybersecurity, given its rich history of technology innovation, and the MIT Sloan School of management is the home of the Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS) research consortium. The Consortium is focused on the managerial, organizational, and strategic aspects of cybersecurity. More information can be found at https://cams.mit.edu or by contacting us:

Stuart Madnick
Director
smadnick@mit.edu

Michael Siegel
Director
msiegel@mit.edu

Keri Pearlson
Executive Director
kerip@mit.edu

The Future of Cybersecurity: Predicting Emerging Technologies, Threats, and Opportunities in the Next 5 Years

AI poses challenges that can be met with an adaptive mindset. It has many advantages, such as for early detection of breaches, server monitoring, and enhancing encryption. When all levels of employees are educated on cyber risk and responsibility, an organization gains resilience. CAMS Research Affiliate Nelson Novaes Neto spoke at the Bsides SP conference in June. He elaborated on the topic of the CCIS this year, and how to tackle pressing threats in the next five years.

Boards are Having the Wrong Conversations about Cybersecurity

Information Security Forum CEO Steve Durbin recently read Keri’s article in the Harvard Business Review, Boards are Having the Wrong Conversations About Cybersecurity, and invited Keri to be a guest on his long running podcast. Keri joined Steve to discuss the right conversations for the board and how CISOs might even take the lead. One interesting insight is that CISOs might pivot from their standard reporting of operational metrics to more high-level focus on questions such as “what is the biggest organizational risk from cybersecurity that you see today, and what are we doing about it?”

CAMS In The News

(To view these documents, visit this link: https://cams.mit.edu/in-the-press)

June 2, 2023: Sander Zeijlemaker, Chris Hetner, and Michael Siegel published an article in the Harvard Business Review: “4 Areas of Cyber Risk that Boards Need to Address”.

June 1, 2023: Keri Pearlson was interviewed by Tanium in an article: “5 Ways Boards Can Improve their Cybersecurity Governance”

May 17, 2023: Stuart Madnick was quoted in a Silicon Angle article: “CIO’s relationship with AI is complicated, but they have hopes for a promising future”.

May 16, 2023: Stuart Madnick was quoted in a Silicon Angle article: “We need more breach transparency, but a lot of obstacles are in the way”.

May 15, 2023: Stuart Madnick was featured in the WSJ Printed Newspaper, in a piece on page 29 and 32 titled “A Tool for Hackers”

May 14, 2023: Stuart Madnick was quoted in a Wall Street Journal Article, “How AI Will Change the Workplace”.

May 8, 2023: Ranjan Pal published an article in Forbes India: “How Insurance-Linked Securities can improve cyber-security in India”

May 4, 2023: Keman Huang, Xiaqing Wang, William Wei, and Stuart Madnick published an HBR article: “The Devastating Business Impacts of a Cyber Breach”

May 2, 2023: Keri Pearlson and CAMS Member Lucia Milica Stacy published an HBR article: “Boards are Having the Wrong Conversations about Cybersecurity”

Cybersecurity Executive Education Programs Developed by CAMS

The CAMS team has created several executive education programs. Some are prerecorded online and others are ‘live online’ with instructors teaching in real time over a Zoom link. Here are links and the date of the next class (CAMS members get a discount on registration):

(To view these courses, visit this link: https://cams.mit.edu/events)

MIT xPro Professional Certificate in Cybersecurity: (24 weeks): August 22, 2023
Cybersecurity for Managers: A Playbook: (Six weeks): August 1, 2023
Cybersecurity Leadership for Non-Technical Executives 2022: September 18-20, 2023
Cybersecurity Governance for the Board of Directors: November 14-16, 2023