Newsletter

MIT MANAGEMENT SLOAN SCHOOL · Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan

Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS) has transitioned into 2022 with new priorities, research, and member events unlike anything before. Cybersecurity is an increasingly crucial part of today's business. CAMS is thankful to play a part in strengthening organizational security, proud to provide insights and actionable response plans that provide guidance and strength to organizations, and grateful to our Members and Partners whose support allows us to do the important work we do.

CAMS Members Meeting on Log4j- What is the Risk?

The January Members Only workshop highlighted information on the vulnerability, responses, and CAMS research that might inform mitigation plans for Log4J. Found in the Apache Log4j logging utility, Log4j is particularly concerning because of the number of systems it impacts and how easy it is to exploit. On Jan. 5, 2022, the FTC issued a warning that imposed severe penalties on companies who fail to patch it immediately. One CISO in the group described the way his organization pivoted with limited information; they began a response process by figuring out where Log4j was present. They used a search and destroy method to track down and remove log4j on their systems. His team discovered that 3rd party vendor relationships must improve to determine if partners introduce Log4j vulnerabilities, too. Members can access the meeting summary on the Members only page of the CAMS website.

Forum on Economics, Technology, and Public Policy: Ethics of Cybersecurity

Professor Madnick participated in a forum on Economics, Technology, and Public Policy conducted by the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement in Feb. 2022. He discussed the implications of ethics when it comes to cybersecurity. There will likely be many situations of ethical ambiguity as we apply AI to an increasing number of applications beyond autonomous vehicles. Of course, no decision, whether made by a person or AI, will appeal to everyone. But much like how medical professionals triage patients in the aftermath of a disaster, managers need a set of thoughtful principles, and must not leave such decisions to some programmer of the AI. In the end, managers will need to defend the decisions they implement using the programmed in principles.

Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement — HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

COMING IN JUNE: CAMS Cybersecurity Innovation Symposium (CCIS)

The solutions we have today will not be adequate to protect us in the future; we will need new innovative cybersecurity ideas in technology, policy and organizations. This is the topic of our CAMS Cybersecurity Innovation Symposium coming this June! MIT students and CAMS advisors are creating this 1-day, in person symposium to bring together researchers, CISOs, innovators and policy makers to discuss innovations needed to secure ourselves and our organizations for the next 5 years. Participation will be by invitation only to CAMS members and guests for the inaugural event. See more here: https://cams.mit.edu/ccis/

Workshops

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next MEMBERS ONLY workshop is April 7! This workshop will include a keynote speaker and a virtual watercooler session.
Join CAMS today to participate in our next workshop!

Did you know…
Our CAMS team, in partnership with MIT Sloan Exec Ed, offers two cybersecurity management programs for your business partners and non-technical executives

For more information, visit
https://cams.mit.edu/events

Tech Strong Virtual Summit: 2022 Is the Year to Build a Cybersecurity Culture

Keri Pearlson was a keynote speaker at the Techstrong Predict 2022 Conference in January. She predicts that building a culture of cybersecurity will be the critical issue for CIOs and CISOs this year. We continue to see new types of breaches from the latest human errors, which highlight a vulnerability that was exploited. Leaders are still struggling with how to keep their organizations secure and managers need practical solutions for dealing with the human element of cybersecurity. In this session, Dr. Pearlson shared her work from CAMS, discussed some of the current approaches of malicious actors infiltrating our systems, and reviewed actions managers can take in 2022 to change the behaviors of those around you.

Shields Up: How a Possible Cyber Attack Could Affect Americans

Stuart Madnick was interviewed for a WCBV article and an ABC News Video on the topic of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and a possible resulting cyber-attack. As Russia's military continues to strike Ukrainian cities, there is growing concern that Russia could launch further cyberattacks against the West. The potential targets include electrical grids, banking systems and mobile networks, according to the officials. Stuart Madnick said when it comes to individual Americans, there is very little they could do to prevent an indirect attack on the country's infrastructure systems. He likened it to preparing for a big storm and suggested that individuals who are concerned about their money should always have cash available for emergencies. Madnick also urged people to back up their important computer files, including bank statements, important e-mails and other documents frequently and to offline sources such as an external drive.

CAMS Impacted Cyber Management in 2021

In 2021, CAMS Researchers published four impactful articles in the Harvard business review:

- Stuart Madnick and Keman Huang published a paper for the Harvard Business Review: *"Navigating Cybersecurity Risks in International Trade."*
- Keri Pearlson published a paper in the Harvard Business Review: *"How Yahoo Built a Cybersecurity Culture"*
- Keman Huang, Keri Pearlson, and Stuart Madnick published a paper in the Harvard Business Review: *"Is Third-Party Software Leaving you Vulnerable to Cyber Attacks?"*
- Keri Pearlson, Brett Thorson, Stuart Madnick, and Michael Coden published a paper in Harvard Business Review: *"Cyberattacks Are Inevitable. Is Your Company Prepared?"*

Upcoming CAMS Events – Please hold these dates

Member's Only Webinars: April 7, May 5, June 2 (CCIS symposium)
Friday Research Team Meetings: CAMS informal research team meetings are now virtual and open to anyone in the CAMS community who would like to attend. Held most Fridays from 11:30-12:30pm Eastern. The topic for each meeting is announced on Monday of the week. Interested in joining? Send a note to the CAMS directors to join the email list.
Cybersecurity Executive Education Programs Developed by CAMS
Cybersecurity for Managers: A Playbook: April 14, 2022
Cybersecurity Leadership for Non-Technical Executives 2022 March 16-18 & Aug 8-10
NEW: **MIT xPro Professional Certificate in Cybersecurity**: March 29, 2022

CAMS In the News

February 28, 2022: Stuart Madnick was interviewed for a WCBV article: "Concern Growing that Russia Could Launch Cyberattacks against United States, Western Countries."
Link: https://bit.ly/3hLzrwW
February 25, 2022: Stuart Madnick was interviewed for an ABC News Video: "Shields Up: How a possible cyberattack could affect Americans and how to prepare."
Link: https://abcn.ws/3hNi6DI