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**Quad Cities
Cybersecurity Alliance**

Press Release

Third Annual QC Cybersecurity Conference & Kids' Hacker Camp

Local organizations band together to raise security awareness for kids and adults

Davenport, Iowa September 8 & 9, 2017: CornCon, as the conference is better known, was founded in 2015 by the Quad Cities Cybersecurity Alliance, in a partnership with the IEEE Computer Society and St. Ambrose University. The third annual Quad Cities Cybersecurity Conference & Kids' Hacker Camp took place on September 8 & 9, 2017. The conference was attended by information security executives, educators, public officials and children from 6 to 17 years old. The event consisted of an adult workshop and conference, a kids' camp and a vendor expo and hacker village.

Friday, September 8 featured a workshop for business leaders and IT professionals, taught by information security executives. **65 professionals from the community** attended the Friday workshop, which took place at the St. Ambrose University, Rogalski Conference Center and included 7 1-hour presentations, a catered lunch and concluded with a social hour.



The general conference was held on Saturday, September 9, with an **attendance of 148 adults**. It consisted of a full day of expert speakers, hands on workshops and contests. Highlights included presentations on election hacking, Internet of Things, developing the cybersecurity workforce, and a cybersecurity diversity panel discussion. A list of speakers can be found on our website, <http://corncon.net>



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The conference included a capture the flag (CTF) contest, in-depth workshops and a vendor expo and hacker village.



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The Saturday conference also offered children an opportunity to learn about the field of cybersecurity. The kids' hacker camp, known as The Children of The CornCon, was **attended by 57 kids, with 40% girls**. The children could engage with adult mentors in two dozen STEM related activities, including: lockpicking, coding, electronics, cryptography, privacy and the ethical use of technology.



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Encouraging diversity in the cybersecurity workforce and bringing in underrepresented segments of the community were top goals of the event. This year, Google provided grants for several children, college students and educators to attend the conference at no cost. Google also helped to cover travel expenses for speakers on the cybersecurity diversity panel.

Key sponsors made this year's event possible. They include: Conventus, Malwarebytes, Facebook, Agari, Google and Microsoft.

ComCon is run by the IEEE Iowa-Illinois Section. IEEE is a 501(c).3 non-profit. All proceeds are used to put on the conference, and additional funds are put toward annual cybersecurity college scholarships, given during Engineers' Week in February.

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CornCon is an annual event that takes place each fall in the Quad Cities. We would like to thank all the volunteers, speakers, attendees and sponsors for making this event successful and impactful on our community.

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