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Quad Cities Cybersecurity Alliance

Press Release

QC Cybersecurity Conference Expands Outreach and Activities in 2018

Local organizations raise security awareness for kids and adults with annual cybersecurity conference

Davenport, Iowa September 6-8, 2018: The 2018 Quad Cities Cybersecurity Conference and Kids' Hacker Camp successfully expanded outreach to new communities and added new activities this year. The conference, better known as CornCon, was founded in 2015 by the Quad Cities Cybersecurity Alliance, in a partnership with the IEEE Iowa-Illinois Computer Society and St. Ambrose University. In 2017 the conference expanded to add an enterprise professional development workshop on Friday, in addition to the conference and kids' camp on Saturday. All events were hosted by St. Ambrose University at the Rogalski Conference Center.

This year, a new event was added on Thursday, September 6, bringing together nearly 100 local high school students and teachers with security executives to learn about cybersecurity as a career and to participate in a cybersecurity competition. The event was led by members of the non-profit, Security Advisor Alliance. A follow-on event is planned for Spring 2019 with local high schools.

The Friday workshop, on September 7, was attended by 90 area business leaders and IT professionals. Expert speakers were brought in to present on enterprise topics, including: Cybersecurity Careers, Privacy Regulations, Mobile Security, Industrial Control Systems Security and Aligning Business and Security Processes.

The general conference was held on Saturday, September 8, with an attendance of approximately 200 adults. It consisted of a full day of expert speakers, hands on workshops and contests. New activities were added to the vendor and hacker village, including: Drone Hacking, Car Hacking, U.S. Army Hacking Workshop, Virtual Reality Demos, and an expanded Lockpicking Village.

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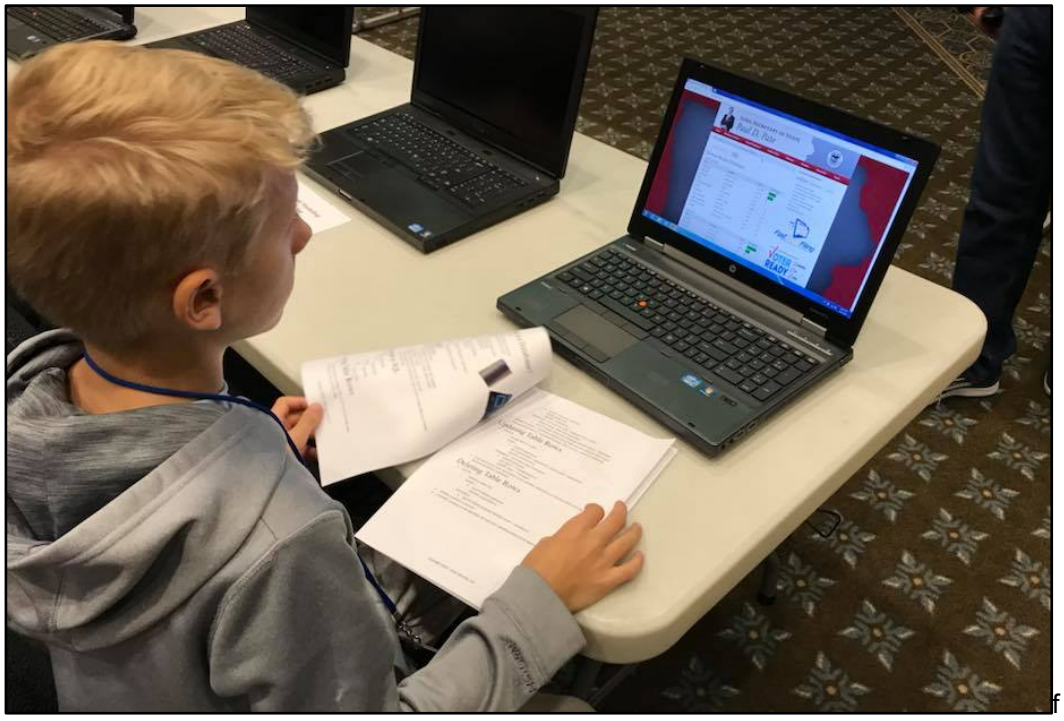
The Saturday conference also offered children an opportunity to learn about the field of cybersecurity. The kids' hacker camp, known as The Children of The CornCon, was attended by over 80 children along with their guardians. The children engaged with adult mentors in two dozen STEM related activities, including: lockpicking, coding, electronics, privacy and the ethical use of technology. New workstations this year included: DroneWarz and Election Hacking. The next kids' camp is being planned for Spring 2019.



This event is intended to raise security awareness in the community and to introduce children and adults to cybersecurity as a career option. "If you understand technology, you have a responsibility to use it ethically and to help make it safer," says John Johnson, President of Quad Cities Cybersecurity Alliance. "Cybersecurity will be a 6 trillion dollar industry by 2021 and we expect to see a demand of more than 2 million additional cybersecurity jobs. We would

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like to show how a career as a cybersecurity professional can be meaningful, and how you can get an education locally and find employment locally in the cybersecurity field."

Key sponsors such as these made this year's event possible: Malwarebytes, Facebook, Attivo Networks, Conventus, Trend Micro, and Microsoft.

CornCon 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.

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.

Please visit our website to see our speakers and agenda, and follow us on social media:

- Website: www.corncon.net
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/QCCornCon/
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