

Summary

Maryland Cybersecurity Council Reception and Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 2016

11:30 am ±1:00 pm

House Office Building

Room 145 (Baltimore)

Presentation by Dr. Vinton Cerf

Sen. Susan Lee introduced Dr. Cerf as one of the fathers of the Internet who has held numerous positions on corporate boards and government commissions, and was awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Obama. He is now an Internet evangelist for Google, she said.

In his remarks, Dr. Cerf warned that the war for cybersecurity is being lost and that the government must get involved in enforcing greater security measures and in creating liability for bad computer software.

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He said that average Internet user must accept some security practices that they find inconvenient. But it is also essential for the industry to create effective security procedures that are easier to use. If security becomes too difficult, he said, users will find ways to bypass restrictions.

He said legislators may need to pass regulations to deal with people who refuse to act responsibly. He compared it to regulations that require people to wear seatbelts while driving or restrict where people can smoke.

He said there is a need to impose a liability on providers of Internet services, equipment builders and software writers to force them to take more seriously their role in protecting against hackers.

But he admitted that even after 70 years of trying, no one is able to write software W K D W G R H V Q • have bugs. Writing software has become more difficult with the Internet because programmers cannot conceive all of the places their software will end up. AS they are writing software,

connections, and we know that all programs have bugs in them, he asked, then how can we protect and monitor all of the devices?

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Dr. Cerf raised the conundrum of privacy and security. With so many things connected to the Internet, people want to share some of that data some times but they also want to guard it at other times. How to make that possible is something for universities such as UMUC to work out.

To get more Internet security, he said, not only does government have to do more, but it also has to provide incentives for the private sector to do more. Incentives are everything, he said. If you GRQ¶W OLNH FHUWDLQ EHKDYLRUV WK Hto find out what incentive is driving that behavior and then change the incentive.

Question and Answer session

Asked about whether providing cybersecurity insurance would be a good thing, Dr. Cerf said this

Another questioner said now people in the private sector are prohibited by federal law from hacking back at attackers. Should that be changed?

Dr. Cerf said that unless you know for sure who is hacking you, then hacking ~~back~~ one of

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Senator Susan Lee said the legislation subcommittee is looking for what kind of legislation should be put together to update and make changes to current cybersecurity laws. Two laws were passed in 2010 to protect infrastructures such as public utilities against cyber crimes. Maryland Commission on Cybersecurity Innovation and Excellence came up with substantive recommendations, which produced legislation on data breaches.

An attempt to update the HIPAA Act dealing with personal information held by commercial entities did not pass because of lack of time. That should come up again, but not this year.

So much more needs to be done to protect personal healthcare information online that it should not be done in a piecemeal manner, she said.

Laws dealing with large-scale data breaches need to be reviewed, she said, to determine the adequacy of the centralized cyber rapid response plan and whether the Department of Information Technology needs more money to implement it.

Statewide Branches With Laws Passed protect the state government. That needs to be reexamined.

Blair Levin said his research found that no state has a good model for cybersecurity legislation. That gives Maryland an opportunity to create such a model that could be used by the rest of the country.

Secretary David Garcia of the Maryland Department of Information Technology, said the state should take the lead in cybersecurity because of the resources in the state, the expertise of the

Belkis Leong-Hong, chair of the economic development subcommittee, said her committee will look about incentives for the private sector to expand the cybersecurity ecological system in the state. It also will want to look into expanding cybersecurity entrepreneurship.

The Council reception and meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m.